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Chalfont St Peter

Village Voice March 2011

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

The Chalfont Phoenix



THE consultation regarding the HS2 high speed railway between London and Birmingham is supposed to start next week. The number for people to call to get the full information is 020 7944 4908, or they can email hs2enquiries@hs2.gsi.gov.uk. However more importantly, if you want to fill in the consultation form, please phone 0300 3211010 to have it sent to you and make sure you send it back. The more forms that they receive, the more notice they should take.

COMMUNITY Impact Bucks Road Show takes place on Tuesday, 8th March from 4.30-7.30pm in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. If you want to know what is going on in Chalfont St Peter, or to volunteer to help where your assistance is needed, you can pop into this informal and friendly show for a look and a chat with the representatives of the various features on view.

CHALFONT St.Peter W.I has got off to a cracking start in 2011 with 5 new members. They have enjoyed two talks so far this year. Jane Dunsterville came dressed in bonnet and crinoline and led them through Victorian dress in her talk " From Crinolines to bustles". Very beautiful but impractical garments for ladies with money. Sarah Westaby came in February to talk about S.A.A.F.A A charity caring for all ex members and their families,of the armed forces. much needed these days, sad to say.

On March 9th, they have the ever popular Charles Oakes "London between the Wars. 1918_1939", They meet in the Church Hall at 2.15pm. visitors always welcome.

They look forward to Hedgerley W.I ,s Pancake morning on March 5th and to their spring walk in Burnham Beeches, followed by lunch, in April. Most important, March sees the launch of Chalfont St.Peter W.I,s branch of the world wide "Red Hat Club"

TOT'S Sale is on **Saturday 5th March** from 10-12 at the.Chalfont St Peter Community Centre usual bargains to be had. tel; 07778 427518 for table bookings/more details

ANDREW Robson is a Times Bridge Columnist and Britain's leading Bridge Tutor. He is coming to Chalfont St Peter on Monday 14th March - 10 for 10.30am - 3.30pm for a fund-raiser in aid of The Children's Society. Cost is £45 per person which includes lunch and a glass of wine. He is doing a new program which includes Bidding review, Takeout double, Suit establishment and Top defence. He will be teaching and then giving prepared hands to practice the lesson. It is being held at The Recreation Hall, National Society for Epilepsy, Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SI9 0RJ and all proceeds go to the Children's Society. For more information please phone Wendy Reid 01753 888864 or email: wendyandmichael@itsjustit.co.uk

A NEW Off Licence has opened in the former Bottoms Up/Wine Rack premises.

It is well stocked with beers, wines and spirits, as well as sweets and snacks. An added service is a willingness to take customer orders for particular products that they don't stock, but can obtain on request. Currently they are offering Echo Falls wine - 3 for £10 and Blossom Hill wines - 3 for £12. Beers are also on offer. They also have exciting new wines in stock that are not available anywhere else locally. The shop is open from 10am-10pm and can be contacted on 01753 891337.

NEW CONNECTIONS – socials for singles 30+. Thursday 10th March at 8.00pm - join us for an Indian Buffet at Spice in Chalfont St Peter and make some new friends. We have a whole range of activities and are a welcoming bunch! Contact Katrina on katrina.reading@goldhill.org or 01753 887173 to book for the meal or to find out more.

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club has its next meeting on Wednesday, March 16th in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 8pm for the AGM followed by Baird McClellan on the subject of Home Composting. Visitors welcome to attend.

DARREN Howard owns Shetland Ponies which he keeps at Seer Green and is looking for grazing land in the local area. Any size plot, short or long rental, anything considered. Please contact, Darren Howard -07946 153276 -01753 889667

IAIN RENNIE HOSPICE At Home benefited by £550 when Brian Fowler of IHH received a cheque from the Revd. Nigel Coke-Woods of Gerrards Cross Methodist Church. The money was raised at Christmas Tree Festival organised by Gerrards Cross Methodist Church. Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter Rotary Club also benefited with a donation of £450 for the purchase of Aquaboxes.

KELLY Gardiner manages the Affordable Warmth Project across Buckinghamshire which advises residents how they can keep warm over winter whilst keeping their fuel bills down. The project is funded by Buckinghamshire County Council, the four district councils and Bucks Primary Care Trust. There is a free phone advice line which is available to all residents in Buckinghamshire, giving free impartial advice on insulation options, energy efficiency grants, energy bills, fuel debt and government payments. United Sustainable Energy Agency, WODC Depot, Avenue 4, Station Lane, Witney, OX28 4BN. Tel: 01993 894 835 Fax: 01993 834 890 Mob: 07500 822 980

NEW JORDANS EVENTS -

Due to much popular demand they will be repeating the following retreat days:

'Myers Briggs and the Spiritual' - Friday 11th March from 10am – 4pm (refreshments from 9:30am)
An opportunity to examine your personal type and explore the relationship with your spiritual journey
Facilitated by Hilary Pinder, MBTI practitioner for nearly 20 years

'Experiment with Light' – Friday 8th April from 10am – 4pm (refreshments from 9:30am)
An opportunity to learn how to use guided meditation to put your life under the guidance of the Light

For all retreat days advanced booking is required, and to reserve your place please call or email New Jordans Programme Office or send a cheque for £35 or what you can afford to the address below.

*New Jordans Programme Office, Jordans Quaker Meeting House, Welders Lane, Jordans, HP9 2SN
For more information on any of their events please call 01494 876594 or email: office@newjordans.org*

CHANGE4CHALFONT is a group of people who live in and around Chalfont St Peter, who want to take action to combat climate change. Rather than feeling overwhelmed by the issue, we think that there are loads of positive things that we can do, particularly as a community, to reduce our impact on the environment, save money, and take the edge off predicted increases in our fuel bills.

Change4Chalfont is joining up with the Transition movement (www.transitiontowns.org/), a grass roots movement that is growing fast across the country. The Transition movement is based on the idea that if we wait for politicians to act they'll do too little too late; if we act as individuals, then probably, it'll be too little, but if we take constructive action as communities, it might just be enough, just in time.

Change4Chalfont is therefore a community-led initiative that aims to reduce our average carbon footprint, make our village less dependent on fossil fuels, and make our community more self-reliant so that it has a better chance of being able to withstand the impact of climate change and increasing fuel prices. We would like to reduce the waste from this area that ends up in landfill, increase the available recycling provision and energy efficiency, encourage local food production and improve public transport services. In short, we would like to prepare for climate change in a positive, hopeful and inclusive way rather than feeling anxious and disempowered.

We would like to involve the whole community in this movement; kids, teenagers, adults, older people, schools, the local business community and faith groups as well as our local authorities.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us on Their regular film nights are really interesting and informative. They have some great projects under way and more planned. info@change4chalfont.org.uk

A BEETLE Drive will be held in the CSP Community Centre on Saturday, 2nd April from 7 - 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each and include a Fish and Chip supper. There will also be a licensed Bar.
The Community Centre is a focal point of our village and an amazing number of activities take place there. It is important that we support the initiative to raise funds to ensure it has enough income to keep up the standard that it provides with its many rooms and services, so please do support the Beetle Drive, which is a new venture for the Centre.

VOPAG for the over 55s, meets next on Tuesday, March 15th in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre at 10am for coffee and, at 10.30am, the talk by Davida Allen on the subject of Living on a Ration Book. May bring back some memories. Do go along and enjoy the morning.

CHALFONTS Branch of the RNLI raised £4225.56 in 2010 and already has started well this year with fund-raising. Thank you to all those generous Chalfont St Peter residents who supported them – please keep up

the good work.

COUNCIL Stops, Looks and Listens to Residents on the decision not to cut School Crossing Patrol service. Transport for Buckinghamshire want to make sure that all school crossing patrol sites are filled after planned cuts were reversed by Council members following appeals from the public. Residents have shown their support for the much valued school crossing patrollers through petitions and letters and in hearing this call the County Council has made the decision not to cut funding. Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Transportation, Valerie Letheren said "The County's School Crossing Patrollers provide an invaluable service, ensuring that thousands of children get to and from school safely everyday. The level of public feeling and support that was shown in response to the proposed cut has really helped in making our budget setting decisions and clearly demonstrated our residents' priorities. We are having to make some difficult budget decisions this year but are really pleased that we have been able to secure the future of this locally important service."

The following sites are currently vacant in Chiltern District:

Elengeni School Middle School
St Joseph's Catholic School
Woodside County Middle

The importance of the school crossing patrol service has been recently recognised in Flackwell Heath with the award of the Best Patroller in the South East being given to Gilly Fryer. The pupils of the Carrington schools helped persuade the judges that Gilly was the best in the region and the extra support from the local residents helped him win his prize. Gilly has been patroller on Chapel Road, Flackwell Heath for the last nine years helping children get to and from school safely everyday.

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.

ST PETER Players are holding Auditions for their summer production - Brighton Beach Memoirs – a comedy play written by the famous American playwright Neil Simon, on Monday 4th April at 8pm at the Community Centre, This show will take place on Thursday 14th July – Saturday 16th July 2011 at the Community Centre. Importantly they are looking for men aged between 18 – 35 for a particular part. Please call Ruth Corner on 07815157823 or email sfcorner@hotmail.com

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Local charity, Iain Rennie Hospice at Home (IRHH), offers care and advice in their own home for patients with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

IRHH's philosophy of care includes offering support to patients' families during their period of bereavement, and this may involve one to one support from a volunteer, attendance at regular social support groups, telephone or e-mail contact.

A 10-session training course is offered - a pre-requisite for this work - and IRHH is planning a new course to start in May. It should be noted that attendance does not automatically mean that you would be invited to work as a Bereavement Support Volunteer but, if selected, it is hoped that you would be willing to volunteer for a minimum of two years after completing the course.

Bereavement Support Volunteers need to have their own transport – and IRHH will pay a mileage allowance.

Due to the nature of this role, IRHH asks people to wait at least two years after a close bereavement or after suffering from a serious illness.

For more information about volunteering with IRHH or on the hundreds of opportunities in Buckinghamshire please look on www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk , www.do-it.org.uk call 0845 3890389 or email volunteering@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

LAST month the following charities were sent a donation of **£250 each** from **St Joseph's Furniture Market** sales: Chiltern Cheshire Home, Magdi Yacoub Institute (Heart Science Centre Harefield), Madelene Paton Luncheon Club and Age Concern Chalfonts.

The Furniture Market is open every Saturday from 9am to 12.30pm in the market store off Priory Road Chalfont St Peter. furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk. Donations of good quality used furniture always welcome.

THE Gerrards Cross Flower Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at The Memorial Centre, East Common Gerrards Cross at 2.15pm. On 16th March, Christine Saunders will present - "Anything Goes".

Visitors always welcome. Details from Chris on 01753 884940, or Maureen on 01753 884497.

IN AN age of austerity and faced with the toughest budget challenges in memory, Buckinghamshire County Council agreed a budget delivering a council tax freeze for the first time in its history, and gave some glimmers of hope for the future.

Council Leader David Shakespeare made it clear that while difficult times lie ahead, the authority's priorities would remain helping the most vulnerable, working with 'you'- communities - to find better solutions to local concerns, helping people to help themselves and working to keep Buckinghamshire as a great place to live and work.

The County Council has to make savings of £56m over the coming three years, having already achieved savings of £57m.

But unexpected changes in the Coalition Government's funding system means Buckinghamshire will receive an additional £31.6m capital funding for the coming financial year. This much-needed injection of money will help the county make a start on addressing the maintenance back-logs in property, particularly schools, and the highways infrastructure.

Following the public consultation on the draft budget proposals, and January's Overview and Scrutiny feedback, it's been possible to reinstate some services - such as lollipop ladies, grant funding for the voluntary sector, assisted shopping and help with cleaning services. Savings in youth services and libraries have been delayed, to allow more time to develop community-based solutions.

The county's revenue budget for 2011/12 is £318.7m, excluding the Dedicated School Grant. This includes £8.45m of further savings from transforming the Council, introducing greater efficiencies, streamlining internal processes, and centralising back office services. The DSG for 2011/12 is expected to be about £344.8m.

Cllr Shakespeare said: "Buckinghamshire remains a floor authority, and our formula grant funding from the Government has been reduced by 14.3% for the coming financial year - that's just over £11 million we could have put to good use.

"Services across the board face pressures - we are dealing with an ageing population, more children being referred to us and coming into care: landfill tax is rising and we are taking on new responsibilities such as concessionary bus fares, flood management and some areas of public health.

"Having listened to the public, and taken on board the views from the scrutiny process, changes have been made to the draft budget. Needless to say, I would like to be in a position to do more - but we have gone through the budget with a fine toothcomb to protect services wherever possible and done the very best we can in these challenging times.

"We simply cannot afford to continue providing services as we have. We are making significant reductions as an organisation, slimming down and finding new, more efficient ways to operate. But there will be changes to some of our services, and reductions cannot be avoided. Councils all over the country are having to face this, and in many ways we are better placed than many to weather the current financial storm."

Buckinghamshire based organisation Rafe's Place have recently launched a new initiative with Chiltern District Council to encourage the young people of Amersham and the surrounding areas to take up new hobbies and gain practical hands on experience in the creative arts sector.

RAFE'S PLACE, established in 2007, was set up in memory of the late Rafe Chiles, a local musician who touched and influenced the lives of many people, young and old, in the Bucks area. The organisation now aims to create projects and workshops for the local youth, as well as to inspire college and University students to volunteer, and gain valuable work experience relating to their courses.

Funded by grants from Bucks County Council Local Area Forums, Rafe's Place will be holding free weekly workshops in Amersham and the Chalfonts, where talented local professionals will be giving their time, knowledge and advice to encourage and motivate young people to try out some fun and creative activities. Rafe's Place Active Sessions will offer people aged 13 – 19 the chance to gain skills in areas such as music production and DJing, fashion design, hair styling, beauty and make up.

Claire O'Regan, founder of Rafe's Place says "We're all really excited to be working with Chiltern District Council to offer the young people of Bucks something new and exciting, and we've researched the interests of young people who live in these towns enabling us to provide exactly what they want to do in their free time. All Active Sessions will be drop in workshops, and we're hoping to create a friendly atmosphere so that anyone can come along and learn some new skills as well as just hang out with their friends in a relaxed environment.'

Rafe's Place Active Sessions will kick off on 7th February at 7.30pm, and will run every Monday at Amersham Youth Centre, and every Tuesday at Chalfont St Peter Youth Centre, for 12 weeks. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/rafesplace.

CHALFONT Common WI Attic Sale will be held on 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.

HAVE your say at the Police Surgery in The Library, Chalfont St Peter 10:00 – 12:00 on Tuesday 8th March.

CHANGES to concessionary bus passes

From 1 April 2011, responsibility for the Concessionary Travel Pass (Bus Pass) for older people and people with disabilities, will pass to Transport for Buckinghamshire.

The scheme allows residents who are registered disabled or are of pensionable age, free travel on buses from 9.30am (9am in Buckinghamshire only) Monday to Friday, weekends and bank holidays.

All enquiries regarding new passes and new applications will be referred to the County Council from 6 March 2011. Residents applying for their first pass can download an application form online at

www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport or telephone 0845 5212521 to request a form.

Existing holders whose concessionary bus passes are due to expire between 31 March and 30 June 2011, will receive a renewal form in the post from their District Council. Passes for those who have already returned this form to their District Council, will be sent out by 1 April 2011. Any queries regarding your renewal form should be addressed to your District Council. Buckinghamshire County Council will be responsible for all bus pass renewals, from July 2011 onwards.

EVERYBODY needs good neighbours (Bucks)

While the government has been calling on councils to cut bureaucracy and encouraging communities to be more active, the good neighbours of Buckinghamshire have been quietly getting on with improving life for local people who need a little help.

Encouraged by a strong Buckinghamshire County Council Localities network, it is estimated that around 50,000 households now have access to an active neighbourhood group. And there may be more who have not yet been counted.

'These are the unsung heroes of our communities,' says David Shakespeare, Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council. 'Being a good neighbour is an integral part of the change in community emphasis we're going through at the moment, and the residents of Buckinghamshire are showing they're already extremely good at it.'

Mr Shakespeare points to the recent publication of the Coalition Government's Localism Bill as paving the way for Big Society and, with it, the handing back of power from government to councils and communities. 'This gives individuals new opportunities to help shape where they live and to find local solutions to local issues,' he says.

If you could bottle 'good neighbourliness' then County Council Localities Managers are in a good position to do so. They are currently mapping the county to find out the extent of local community groups and networks, many of which are Buckinghamshire's 'hidden neighbours'.

These range from innumerable neighbours who 'look out for' the 11,000 vulnerable adults benefiting from the county council's social care service, to more formalised networks, such as the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, one of the most prolific of organised community groups. Across the county around 3,600 voluntary co-ordinators organise more than 2,000 groups.

Rebecca Carley, Localities Services Manager, says: 'We're gathering vital information about the groups and networks that exist, however formal or informal, so that we can offer help and support if needed and identify new places where there may be a need for a community group.'

'Some groups work on a day-to-day level, looking out for neighbours, giving lifts, doing errands and fetching shopping, while others are geared up for emergencies, like snow and floods. We'd like to encourage all groups to have some kind of plan for community emergencies, and if we know who and where they are, we'll be better placed to support them.'

Modelling neighbourliness in High Wycombe, the Pinions Neighbourhood Watch is more than an anti-crime network. Under the leadership of Sue Cavalier the group has grown to cover 250 homes and with 15 co-ordinators who try to make life better for residents, based on old-fashioned neighbourly values.

'We've found lost cats, helped people to get jobs, and voiced their concerns about issues like rat runs,' says Sue. 'When things do happen, it helps to have a network of people to rally round and support you.'

Modelling neighbourliness, Chesham Action Volunteers (CHAV), aims to ensure life continues as best it can in an emergency - organising volunteers to enable people to go about their daily business and support vulnerable groups in the community when services are stretched. Set up after the snow of winter 2009/10, CHAV is a formally constituted group that has developed plans to ensure normal life continues in emergency conditions.

Modelling neighbourliness, rural communities in the east of Aylesbury Vale without a bus service have responded to the need for people to get to family doctor surgeries, hospitals, dentists and shops by setting up a volunteer car scheme.

The EDaN community car scheme, spearheaded by resident Kathy Bovington, and supported by the county council's Local Area Forum along with Community Impact Bucks, involves 24 volunteers serving Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall. Peter Williams, the retired chairman of a retail group, stepped forward to co-ordinate the scheme, which is due to start in February.

Community Impact Bucks is working with council services, such as Adult Social Care and Locality Services, as well as civil society organisations such as Age Concern to enable communities to establish good neighbour schemes which provide a structure for communities to rally together in times of need.

Chief Executive Cora Carvey said: 'From our extensive experience of working with communities to support each other we know the 'Big Society' has been alive and well for many years across Bucks where there are thousands of 'hidden volunteers' informally supporting their neighbours to remain well, safe and independent, saving the state millions of pounds.'

Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member responsible for volunteers, says the neighbourly spirit of Buckinghamshire is second to none. And it covers all age ranges, as the recent Young People of the Year Awards demonstrated, honouring 20 Buckinghamshire young people who made a difference to people's lives through voluntary work.

'Great things are achieved by neighbours together looking out for each other,' she said. 'Like the group I know that saw off a cowboy tradesman who was being heavy with an elderly woman. When he next called, all the neighbours came outside and stood by their gates in a united show of strength. They never saw him again.'

LONG-SERVING army horse retires to The Horse Trust 28 February 2011: A horse that has spent nearly 19 years working for the army has retired to The Horse Trust in Speen, Buckinghamshire. 19-year-old Denzil, a 17.2hh dark bay gelding, has spent the last six years working for the Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company in Windsor, taking part in ceremonial duties and teaching people to ride. Denzil started his army career with The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, before moving onto the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and then the Royal Engineers Saddle Club.

He is one of the most popular horses owned by the Light Cavalry HAC, according to Stable Manager Caroline Quedsted.

"90 percent of the people who ride here have sat on Denzil - he's probably the most ridden horse we have," said Caroline. "Denzil was a popular horse as he was good for both beginners and advanced riders. He was really good with beginners as he was very patient. But if you knew how to ride, you had to know what you were doing as he didn't suffer fools gladly."

In his time with the Light Cavalry HAC, Denzil had various ceremonial duties, including escorting the Lady Mayoress at the Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London each November. He also took part in equestrian displays, such as tent pegging, and taught people of all ages to ride, including trainees from the Defence Medical Services Training Group and children from local schools and Windsor Horse Rangers.

Although Denzil behaved like a gentleman most of the time, he has a reputation among staff at the Light Cavalry HAC for being cheeky. On one occasion (in January 2008), he chewed the fire alarm box next to his stable and set off the alarm at 2am. Windsor Fire and Rescue Service responded to the call, and the incident made it into The Sun newspaper and Capital Radio.

Irish Cross Thoroughbred Denzil is retiring as he has an arthritic condition, which has worsened over recent months so he can no longer be ridden. Caroline is delighted that he is retiring to The Horse Trust where he will spend the remainder of his years, with access to 200 acres of paddocks in the Chiltern Hills.

The Horse Trust depends on the support of the public to look after retired working horses such as Denzil. It costs the charity around £10 per day to look after each horse at the sanctuary, which includes the costs of grooms, forage, farriery and veterinary care. To donate to The Horse Trust, please visit www.horsetrust.org.uk, or contact the charity on 01494 488 464 or info@horsetrust.org.uk