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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice – March 2013

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9th March-1st April Easter Weekend –
American Civil War battles and Easter Fun at
Chiltern Open Air Museum.



BRIDGE STRENGTHENING AT CHALFONT ST PETER

Strengthening work on the bridge over the River Misbourne in Chalfont St Peter High Street is planned by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) from **Monday March 11 for up to 12 weeks.**

Temporary propping, installed in 2009, will be removed and the concrete bridge deck will be reconstructed, and the existing concrete abutments will be used to support the new reinforced deck. Work will include waterproofing, kerbing, surfacing, pedestrian railings and street bollards.

The bridge will be closed to vehicles while the work is carried out so that the work can be done safely, and the High Street will be closed to through traffic between the A413 Greyhound Roundabout and the mini roundabout junction with Market Place.

Temporary traffic diversions will guide vehicles to alternative routes while the road is closed, although vehicular access for residents and businesses will continue to the limits of the site, but not across the bridge. Pedestrian access will be maintained while work goes on.

Temporary signage, including "BUSINESSES OPEN AS USUAL" signs, will direct traffic around the closure via Lower Road, Kingsway, and the A413.

To minimise the effects TfB has considered valuable feedback from local councillors and consulted with the parking enforcement team. To improve traffic flow, increased patrols will operate in the area during the works to discourage illegal parking in High Street, Market Place and some of Lower Road.

Every effort will be made to carry out the works with minimum disturbance and TfB apologises for any inconvenience that may be caused.

Enquiries about the works may be made to the TfB Contact Centre on 0845 230 2882. www.buckscc.gov.uk

300 + see options for signal controlled Gerrards Cross junctions

More than 300 residents attended two exhibitions last week to see a range of possible options for changes to a set of signal controlled junctions in Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross.

Hosted by Transport for Buckinghamshire at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, the events gave local people the opportunity to discuss their concerns about the junctions and give feedback about the four options on display.

Possible changes include two options for junctions with traffic lights, and two without.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, attended both events and said: 'I am pleased to have had such a good turnout to these events with lots of positive comments and interest in some of the options.

'The county council does not have a preferred option at this stage. All the options are feasible but I await the report letting me know what the general public feeling is. We will then start the process of seeking funding to take a new scheme forward.'

Residents can now take part in an online consultation, which runs until Monday 8 April. The preferences expressed online, along with all the comments raised at the exhibitions, will be collated into a report to be presented to Mr Hardy. The outcome will be published towards the end of May 2013.

To take part please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/haveyoursay

DENHAM against HS2 group will welcome Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve MP and Martin Tett Leader of Bucks County Council, who will welcome you to the Memorial Hall, Denham Village UB9 5BN **on Saturday 9th March from 11am - 1.30pm** to Have Your Say. Please go along and support this.



HS2 AMERSHAM Action Group "ENTERTAINS" in aid of the HS2 PAN CHILTERN CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE TRAIN GRAND BINGO fund raising evening, SATURDAY 9th MARCH 7PM – Eyes down 7:30PM at 63/65 Hill Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5BH Where the Entertainer shop used to be. Tickets only £12 including six games and a hearty ploughman's supper. Cash prizes, raffle, bar. To reserve your place please contact Penny Wilson: 01494 433376 or 07803 901588. Chris Wilson: 01494 432059 or

07803 901588. or email: bingo@hs2amersham.org

ST MARY'S SCHOOL, Gerrards Cross, Independent Day School for Girls 3-18

Senior House Open Afternoon. 2.30 - 4.00pm Thursday 7 March 2013

Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 8JQ 01753 883370

www.stmarysschool.co.uk

Junior House Open Morning 10.30 - 12.00pm Thursday 14 March 2013

An opportunity to: Take a tour with a pupil - See the school in action - Meet the Headmistress - Talk to teaching staff- Find out about entry requirements



CELFUNDE INHERITANCE our local Heritage Group are compiling a living history of Chalfont St. Peter. We are anxious to talk to residents about their memories of the village and to scan any photos or documents relating to the past. We are not going to ask you to give these to us. We will take copies on the day and you can have them back. If you would like to talk to us and share these memories, we will be in the **LIBRARY, SATURDAY, 2nd MARCH 2013 from 10.00am – 1.00pm.** Please note that if you are not able to come along on this date we will be in the library on the first Saturday of every month until further notice. Please sort through your old photos or share your recollections of life in the village with us. This will be a valuable archive which will otherwise be lost to future generations.

THE A40 Choir invites singers to join them singing infrequently sung *Stabat Mater*s by Rossini and Verdi as well as Mascagni's better known *Easter Hymn* at two open rehearsals on Saturdays 9 & 16 March in the Beaconsfield United Reform Church from 09:45 to 1 pm.. For just £25 - including all music provision - participants will also have the option of singing in the choir's forthcoming concert on the following Saturday, in Amersham, on 23 March.

A40 Choir conductor David Meacock, who recently sang the tenor solo of the Verdi *Requiem* alongside Members of Welsh National Opera, in Cardiff, said: "As we've lost three rehearsals due to the snow, we decided to run these Saturday rehearsals in lieu and open them up to people who perhaps would like to sing in a choir but can't make evening rehearsals. We programmed the two *Stabat Mater*s to give the interest of comparing the two main Romantic opera composers' approach to the same text and the Mascagni as it's so marvellously uplifting. As you'd expect from Italian opera composers, this whole Passion programme will be a great sing!"

Please contact the conductor David Meacock on 01753 886005 or via the www.a40music.com website

VOPAG (Village Older Persons Action Group) invites you to their next meeting in the COMMUNITY CENTRE on **TUESDAY, 19th March**. Meet at 10 a.m. for coffee, with the business starting at 10.30 a.m. Entry charge £1 and includes a free raffle ticket, if you wish to have one. www.bucksvoice.net/vopaThe next meeting will be held in the Community Centre. C.S.P. on Thursday, 18th April.

GERRARDS CROSS Flower Club meets next on Wednesday 20th March when MIG Kimpton will present "In the Potting Shed". The Competition is 'In a Flower pot'. The venue is Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7AD. Visitors welcome entry fee £5. The Club works with the League of Friends to arrange flowers on a weekly basis at The Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital.

FROM Chalfont St Peter W.I: At our W.I meeting this month, Dr.Brenda Howard, was an interesting speaker with glorious slides to illustrate "Wild Flowers on a country walk".

Our ladies were quite well informed as to the names of various flowers but there were several uncommon ones we didn't know. There are still patches of wild orchids in Bucks, but wild flowers are disappearing every year due to intensive farming crop sprays amongst other things.

On **March 13th** we are looking forward to welcoming Mr Edward Dixon, who will be speaking about "Postcards of the 1st world War." If you have such a postcard, please bring it along for display.

This talk should be well worth a visit and you would be very welcome to come along at 2pm to the Church hall and join us as a visitor. If you enjoy the afternoon you might consider becoming a member.

On March 19th our spring Group meeting takes place in the community centre at 2 pm. Members from W.i's in the Misbourne Valley group get together and hear what the other institutes have been enjoying and achieving. The talk will be "Secrets of a Store detective" By Mrs Josie Jeffrey.

CHALFONT Common WI Annual Attic Sale will held be held on **March 16th 9.30 until 12 noon**, at the Community Centre in Chalfont St Peter. Anyone wishing to book a table please **phone Janet Scholfield on 01494 873331 email janetschofield@yahoo.co.uk**.

Also there will be cake and book stalls, bric a brac and lots of children's games and toys and in the main hall a full variety of stalls. Tea, coffee and home= made cakes will be served all morning.

THE Gerrards Cross Scottish Dancing club meets at 7.30pm in term time at the Memorial Centre. Beginners very welcome. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please telephone Celia on GX 884217.

NOTICE is hereby given that the **72nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **Chalfont St Peter Garden Club** will be held on Wednesday March 20th 2013 at 8pm in The Parish Church Hall, Chalfont St Peter. For further information please contact the secretary on 01494 874683, to whom apologies for absence may also be sent.

Please note that only fully paid up members are entitled to attend and vote.

AT the February meeting of St Josephs's Furniture Market it was decided to donate as follows: £500 to Thames Hospicecare, £400 to St John Ambulance(South Bucks), and £300 each to Slough Refugee Support and Kidney Research U.K. The Furniture Market is open each Saturday from 9am to 12.30pm, behind the Church in Austenwood Lane. Entrance to the Market is via Priory road. Parking is available in the Church car park. If you have furniture in reasonable condition that you would like to donate to the Market, please phone 01753 888340. Email:

furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk

FAIRTRADE BIG BREW is on Wednesday 6th March in the Parish Church Hall from 10am – 3.30pm. Teas, coffees and homemade cakes, and Fairtrade products to buy. Special lunch menu – home-made soup, rolls, cheese and fruit.

New Season of Family-Friendly Events at Chiltern Open Air Museum

Award-winning Chiltern Open Air Museum in Chalfont St Giles (HP8 4AB) has a full programme of exciting family-friendly events for 2013. First up, there's 'Go Green and Carry On: 1940s Ideas for Today' on 23rd-24th March, with entrance by donation. Discover more about 1940s fashion, dig for victory in our Prefab garden, try new crafts and be inspired by green tips from community groups like Change4Chalfont. Bring your old tools to local charity WORKAID's collection point (see www.workaid.org/donate_tools.html for details) and join our 1940s dance on the Saturday. Please dress up in your best fedora or Victory Rolls if you like!

The main season kicks off on Easter weekend 29th March-1st April, with an American Civil War event. ([see picture at the top of the newsletter](#)). It's the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and you can learn about the Chilterns men who crossed the ocean to fight in the war. You can visit the Union and Confederate camps, watch battle skirmishes and weapons drills, and take part in fun Easter activities.

It's a packed schedule this year, with plenty of new events – including fine art, unicorns, gladiators and much much more! So please come along, enjoy the countryside, and be entertained.

23rd-24th March – Go Green and Carry On: 1940s Ideas for Today (entry by donation)

29th March-1st April Easter Weekend – American Civil War battles and Easter Fun

PHOTOGRAPHER / ARTIST, Charlie Blewett, has some super photographs that are works of art, on display around the walls at Chalfont Savers in Market Place. A variety of super pictures to enhance your walls - lovely animals, seascapes, local flowers in bloom and many more are well worth seeing, so do pop in and see what the 'art exhibition' has on offer.

ST PETER Players will be performing 'The Diary of Anne Frank' at The Chalfont St. Peter Community Centre on **March the 21st and 22nd and 23rd March 2013.**

Performance times are 8.00pm each evening with a matinee performance on Saturday at 3.00pm. The theme of this production is often studied as part of English, Drama and History curriculum work, and sometimes P.S.H.E. This may therefore be of interest to teachers and students. Tickets will be priced at £12 for adults and £10 for students and concessions. However, there will be a discounted group rate of 10% on parties of over 10.

To book tickets, please contact the Box Office on 07928 161419 or email info@stpeterplayers.co.uk

A FREE event on Saturday (2 March) at Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury, will kick off public registrations for an exciting mass abseil charity event taking place on 7 September. The Almighty Abseil Challenge will offer 100 people across Buckinghamshire the opportunity to abseil 200 feet down the side of Buckinghamshire County Council's County Hall building in Aylesbury.

Saturday's launch event, running from 10am until 4pm, will give people the chance to test their head for heights for free on a climbing wall and sign up to take part in the abseil itself. The 'Youth space' bus, offering young people internet, music, gaming and more, will also be in Kingsbury Square all day.

The Almighty Abseil aims to raise money for Youth Bank, a project run by a group of dedicated young people which raises its own money to give grants to other young people for a variety of activities such as dance, drama, music workshops, community safety and volunteering. In addition to grant-making, Youth Bank builds young people's self-esteem and confidence and gives them valuable skills in teamwork, decision-making, problem-solving, interview skills and more.

Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, wants people to get involved in this historic event. Martin says: "The last time an abseil took place at County Hall was 1993, 20 years ago. In 2013 we're hoping to raise a lot of money for Youth Bank, an innovative project run by young people for young people.

"I'm going to be braving the 200 foot drop in September. It's going to be slightly terrifying but exhilarating – dare you sign up and join me?

Participants in the Almighty Abseil will be asked to secure sponsorship (£100 minimum for under 18s, £150 minimum for adults over 18), every penny of which will go to Buckinghamshire Youth Bank. Registrations for the Almighty Abseil will close on 1 April.

Find out more and sign up from Saturday at www.bucksc.gov.uk/youthbank

Find out more about what Youth Bank does at www.bucksc.gov.uk/youthbank

DRIVING Instructors from Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire were invited by the Road Safety Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire to attend one of the popular 'Coaching for Driving Instructors' courses.

Buckinghamshire has hosted a number of successful 'Coaching for Driving Instructors' courses in recent years and more than 100 Approved Driving Instructors have attended since they were first run in 2010.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, said: "We believe in supporting Driving Instructors by giving them the relevant expertise to help raise standards of overall driving which, in turn, benefits all residents of Buckinghamshire. From the feedback we receive Instructors tell us these courses are beneficial and represent value for money."

The course has a strong focus on the participant developing practical coaching skills, as well as a theoretical understanding of coaching. It aims to raise awareness of the latest research and consider how Instructors can deliver it on road in a practical setting. Coaching can help to address the behavioural issues people face when learning to drive by looking at the fundamental beliefs and emotions that trigger a driver's behaviour. If Instructors can help drivers to learn these skills at the beginning of their driving career then the effect may be far more likely to last beyond the driving test. Feedback from the attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, with Instructors commenting that the course was something that they could apply instantly following the course. Driving Instruction can be quite an isolated job, and many instructors highlighted that the course was a good opportunity to The courses are delivered by Ian Edwards from e driving solutions and supported by Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service who provide venues at Fire Stations throughout Buckinghamshire.

PROBLEM flooding in Chesham and West Wycombe can be tackled by Buckinghamshire County Council thanks to £375,000 in Government funding.

The funding also includes a contribution towards an on-going study into surface water flooding in Marlow.

Welcoming news of the funding, David Schofield, Chairman of Buckinghamshire's Strategic Flood Management Committee, said: 'The impacts of flooding can be devastating, and with the past year's exceptionally high rainfall this risk has been increasingly in the public's eye.'

'Since the county council took on lead responsibility for local flood risk in 2011, we have been working hard to develop a strategy to tackle the most at risk areas. Securing this funding is the first tranche of our work programme and we are really pleased to be able to implement measures to protect up to 35 properties.'

Wycombe and Chesham are at high risk of surface water flooding, ranked 50th and 67th most at risk urban areas in England.

In January 2012 the county council adopted a surface water management plan to address this risk. The plan outlined sustainable improvements and schemes to improve drainage, increase flooding awareness, and help residents to be better informed and prepared for flooding.

Improved flood protection schemes are being developed for around 25 **Chesham** properties in:

Fuller's Hill – a flood storage area and environmental improvements to reduce blockages to gulleys and ease maintenance.

The Spinney – improved drainage to redirect flood flows to additional storage.

Broad Street – property level protection, such as flood boards and raised electrics.

West Wycombe has suffered the effects of surface water flooding four times in the past five years causing disruption to roads, residents and businesses. The proposed scheme improves the drainage to reduce the chances of water ponding on the High Street and make sure it can flow into the River Wye.

At **Marlow** there is significant risk to 1,900 properties from surface water flooding, and the government funding will help pay for a surface water management plan. This plan, already started by Buckinghamshire County Council, will look more closely at properties at risk and identify ways to tackle this.

Marlow is also at risk from the River Thames, and wider flood prevention work is going on with the Environment Agency to tackle this.

Buckinghamshire fights back against rural crime

A new scheme which aims to stop farmers from being left thousands of pounds out of pocket, has been launched by Buckinghamshire County Council.

The Council is working in partnership with the local neighbourhood police teams to offer Buckinghamshire's farming community discounted Cesar plant machinery identification systems, and Selecta DNA property marking kits.

Around 500 farms across the County will benefit from the scheme, which also offers rural crime prevention packs and face to face visits from local neighbourhood officers to vulnerable residents, or repeat victims of crime in the community.

Rural crime comes in many different forms, ranging from offences against wildlife, such as hare coursing, theft of fuels including diesel and heating oils and stealing metal.

Farms are increasingly targeted by thieves, due to the high value of metal and plant machinery (tractors, trailers, quad bikes etc) held on the land combined with the remoteness of many farms making them easy to target and more vulnerable.

The DNA kits will enable people to permanently mark any of their property with a special solution containing a unique DNA code. If a marked item is stolen and recovered, police can analyse the code and trace it back to the registered keeper. Signage will also go up at properties using the DNA technology, warning possible burglars that Cesar and Selecta DNA are in use in the area, to act as a deterrent.

Inspector Emma Garside, rural neighbourhood Inspector for Aylesbury Vale, said: "We want to continue to reduce crime across our rural communities and reassure local people that this type of offending matters as much to us as it does to them. The use of forensic marking products sends a clear message to potential criminals that we will identify them, signs and stickers act as a visual deterrent to prevent thefts occurring in the first place."

Welcoming the initiative, Martin Phillips, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Engagement said: "This project will help us in our crackdown on metal thieves and give more farmers and residents the opportunity to get their valuable possessions marked. As well as the property marking, this initiative will give us the ideal opportunity to speak to people and offer them crime prevention advice."



AMERSHAM FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

AMERSHAM FESTIVAL OF MUSIC - CELEBRATING OUR 31st YEAR OF SPRING CONCERTS

<p>Saturday 30th March at 7.15 pm Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth</p> <p>Tuesday 2nd April 7.15 for 7.45 pm Chenies Manor House, Chenies</p> <p>Friday 5th April at 7.30 pm St James' Church, Gerrards Cross</p> <p>Saturday 6th April at 7.30 pm Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth</p> <p>Sunday 7th April at 3 pm Amersham School, Amersham</p> <p>Wednesday 10th April 10.30 am – 3pm Memorial Hall, School Lane Chalfont St Giles</p> <p>Thursday 11th April at 8 pm Dr Challoner's High School, Little Chalfont</p> <p>Saturday 13th April at 7.30 pm Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth</p> <p>Sunday 14th April at 3 pm St Mary's Parish Church, Old Amersham</p>	<p>PAUL LEWIS (Piano) With the Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra</p> <p>SONG RECITAL with Rachel Fisher and Iain Ledingham (piano)</p> <p>MASTERCLASS FOR OPERA SINGERS With John Copley</p> <p>LONDON CHAMBER STRINGS with Bjorn Bantock & Iain Ledingham (organ)</p> <p>CHILDREN'S CONCERT Travelling by Tuba III – The Return</p> <p>STUDY DAY on VERDI'S REQUIEM With Iain Ledingham</p> <p>AN AUDIENCE with JONATHAN VEIRA (Bass Baritone)</p> <p>VERDI'S REQUIEM with the South Bucks Choral Society and Amersham Festival Orchestra</p> <p>YOUNG ARTISTS' CONCERT with the Chiltern Youth Chamber Orchestra.</p>
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FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE: 01494 87 6465 Website: www.amershamfestival.org

CONCERTS for CHILDREN

The Amersham Festival is performing two concerts on Sunday afternoons in April specifically designed to appeal to children of all ages during the Easter School holidays.

Sunday 7th April at 3 p.m.
at the Amersham School, Amersham HP7 9HH
TRAVELLING BY TUBA III - The Return
Chris Cranham and Steward Death

"This popular duo of tuba and piano are experts who really get their enjoyment of music across." (The Times)

By popular demand, the duo are returning to Amersham with a vast array of Wind and Brass instruments. They owe their success not only to their virtuosic performances but also to their ability as irrepressible entertainers to communicate with children of all ages. The show begins with two animal horns, a Bavarian shepherd with his gemshorn and a Zulu warrior with his warlike kudu horn. Hear the trumpet and trombone. Why are they different? Be amazed by the big bass drum. Pretend to make some thunder and join in with our very own trumpet tune. Travel to the Far East; to see the two and a half metre long high Tibetan Buddhist Dung encrusted with jewels to thank the gods for their music. Watch out for Larry the Llama! See how the modern day tuba with its valves has developed and put to the test in *Rimsky Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumble Bee"* and follow us as we head for the stars in our intergalactic finale.

Tickets £8 (adults) £4 (Children)

Sunday 14th April at 3 p.m.
at St. Mary's Parish Church Old Amersham

YOUNG ARTISTS' CONCERT: CHILTERN YOUTH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

This highly talented group of young players offers a delightful and varied programme including Holst's splendid St Paul's Suite, some very engaging 20th century works and a piece specially written for this orchestra by Roger Jackson. Their conductor, the violinist Peter Hanson, is also well known as a leader of both modern and period instrument orchestras, including Sir John Eliot Gardiner's "*Orchestre Romantique et Revolutionnaire*". His outstanding work with young string players is well known locally through the concerts of the Chiltern Youth Chamber Orchestra which he directs.

Tickets £8 (adults) £4 (children) Sponsored by The John Lewis Partnership

BOX OFFICE: 01494 87 6465 67 DEANWAY, CHALFONT ST GILES BUCKS HP8 4JX

More information available on our website at: www.amershamfestival.org
