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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice, March 2014

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THANKFULLY the Flooding in Chalfont St Peter has subsided, but for what seemed like an inordinate time, the centre of the village was a no-go area.

County Councillor, David Martin, brings us up to date with what is happening at the moment. "The Environment Agency has cleared the River Misbourne culverts beneath the Precinct which has increased the flow of water and improved local surface water drainage.

Transport for Bucks (TfB) on behalf of the County Council has jetted highways drainage gullies at the flood locations. These will work more effectively now the culverts have been cleared. Thames Water has removed the blockage in the sewer adjacent to the crossing on the A413.

Thames Water has installed a temporary pumping and filtering system to the front of the George. Water that would have flooded up from the sewer is now collected, filtered and discharged into to the Misbourne, thus preventing further flooding at this location. Until the danger of repeat flooding has abated, this will continue 24/7.

Residents will be aware that despite continuous requests, Thames water took over two weeks to respond to and fix the issues on the A413 and CSP centre. Their explanation is that the equipment used at both sites had been in continuous use at other locations including Wraysbury and Marlow, which were given higher priority than us. Engineers and plant were made available to us as soon as possible after more serious flooding and sewerage contamination had been dealt with elsewhere.

In the longer term I shall continue to press Thames Water to undertake a full network survey of their infrastructure throughout our village and carry out whatever remedial works are required to ensure that the unacceptable flooding we have experienced in recent years does not happen again.

Finally I pay tribute to the resilience and fortitude of our residents and business people whose homes and livelihoods have been threatened. I will give every assistance that I can to support all claims for compensation made to Thames water. Also, my appreciation of the support given by District Councillors and Officers. Finally, on behalf of all residents, I would like to thank our two brilliant TfB local Area Technicians , Michael Raven and Wayne Fabian, who have gone way beyond the extra mile, often in extremely difficult circumstances, to do whatever they could to deal with the challenge effectively.

The Chalfonts Neighbourhood Policing Team will be holding a "Cops and Coffee" event at Budgens, Market Place Chalfont St Peter on Wednesday 5th March from 1200 until 1300. This is an opportunity to meet with your local PCSO's and discuss any issues that you are experiencing in the village. They will have a supply of crime prevention advice and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

THE Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross at War' by DJ Kelly

The latest book by local author DJ Kelly explores the ways in which conflict throughout the ages - from the Stone Age to the present day and including two world wars - has affected the people, the way of life and the landscape of our beautiful villages.

The book contains recollections and photographs kindly provided by local residents together with the author's own research into official files and open source material. It lists the names of those people from Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles and Gerrards Cross who fell in both world wars, along with some personal detail of most of them, and it features some of our decorated heroes. It considers the effects of past invasions and the threat of further invasion; the way, with the help of the villagers, our farmers managed to feed the nation in time of war; the way the nation pulled together on the home front and how our district has changed as a result of conflict. This substantial, illustrated paperback is now on sale at Gerrards Cross Book shop for £12.99.



GERRARDS CROSS FLOWER CLUB meets next at the Colston Hall, Memorial Centre East Common, GX, at 2.15pm on **Wednesday March 19**, when the title will be Dreams come True, with Kyoko Regan. The competition is “Over the Rainbow”. For more information, contact 01753 884497. Visitors welcome.

V.O.P.A.G. (Village Older Persons Action Group) meets next on **Tuesday, March 18**, 10am for coffee and 10.30 for a talk in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. It is an ideal opportunity for over 55's to socialise and find out useful local information.

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE WITH ANDREW ROBSON Times Bridge Columnist & Britain's leading Bridge Tutor
A new programme General Bidding Review 1 of a Major – 2 of a Major Competitive Bidding Recreation Hall,
National Society for Epilepsy, Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0RJ £45 (including lunch & glass of wine)
Monday 24th March 2014 10 for 10.30am - 3.30pm
For more information call Wendy Reid 01753 888864 Email wendy.michael.reid@gmail.com

CHALFONT ST PETER Garden Club meets next at 8pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane on Wednesday, **19th March**.
The AGM, will be followed by “**Plant Combinations**” – A practical demonstration by Mrs Alexia Balance. There will be plants for sale. Visitors are welcome.

GERRARDS CROSS Scottish Country Dancing Club would warmly welcome any newcomers, especially beginners. Classes are at 7.30pm at GX Memorial Centre, during term time. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please telephone Celia on GX 884217.

FAMILY LIFE group is providing a day for couples to get together with a seminar for couples to invest in their relationship **10.00am - 4.45pm Saturday 15th March 2014** At Gold Hill Baptist Church, Gold Hill East, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9DG. £30 per couple. Lunch & refreshments provided.

What others have said... “a breath of fresh air, a renewed relationship”, “time well spent”, “a great day, put us back on track”, “every couple should do this” **For more information...** TELEPHONE: 01753 887173 WEBSITE: www adaytogether.org EMAIL: office@goldhill.org

THAMES Valley Police is advising people who own smart phones and other electrical items to protect them by installing a “tracker” application. Smart phones, laptops and tablet computers have become indispensable accessories and desirable to thieves. With recent Apple products an iCloud account will be installed. You can check this by looking in the “settings” menu and locate the Find my iPhone app. Ensure this is activated by swiping it to “Yes”.

Not all devices have this capability, but new iPhones, iPads and Samsung Galaxy phones have tracker apps provided by the manufacturers. It is best to consult the manufacturer about which applications are appropriate. If your device is stolen, act quickly. Inform the police and tell them you have a tracker application installed. You will need to have your username and password details available. Do not attempt to retrieve the device yourself as it could put you in danger. Your safety is more important than items of property.

Gerrards Cross Sailing Association Talk –

Wednesday March 5th – GX Memorial Centre 7.30pm Claudia Myatt - Pierhead Painters

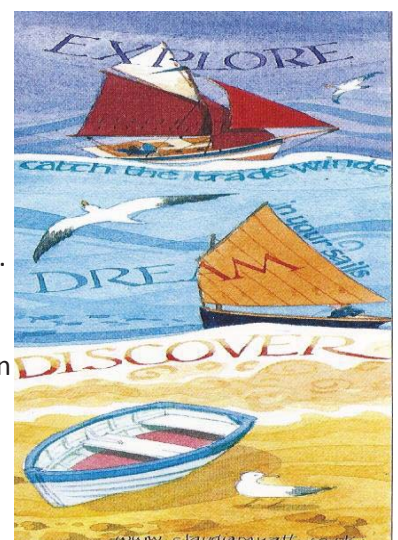
Claudia Myatt is best known as a marine artist and book illustrator... but that's not all - she is also a cartoonist, tutor and an historian who is passionate about gaff riggers and the East Coast. She works from her studio in Suffolk adjacent to the stunning river Deben.

She will tell us the story of the 19th century harbour-side artists who earned a living by painting ships portraits when they anchored or moored alongside. These works were then sold to the ship's captains and officers.

These paintings are nowadays a key source for maritime historians.

Come along and meet this famous East Coast personality, you'll be inspired.

www.gxsa.org.uk



ARIVA the bus company that runs the 353, 335 and A 40 buses will announce a big change on 31st March. It is proposed that the number of buses will be reduced and the 353 will only go from Slough to Amersham 2 hourly. It will only go to Amersham Hospital during the week and it doesn't run on Saturday at all. During the week it terminates at Amersham Station. The 335 will continue to run from Slough to Chalfont Common, with a new timetable (to be advised) and the A 30 will change to 730 and run from Uxbridge to Hemel Hempstead. Those who want to travel to Heathrow, will need to change to the A40 somewhere along the route.

This is going to mean a lack of provision for senior citizens who want to visit relatives and friends in Amersham Hospital and also a most irritating change of buses for those who want to avoid driving to Heathrow. I have only just heard about this and immediately sent a comment to the consultation committee at County Hall, but the deadline is 3rd March, so you have just one day to air your views to Mr A Clarke, Business Contracts Manager, on passtrans@buckscc.gov.uk

THE BUCKS Cut Films competition launched on Saturday 22 February in Eden Shopping Centre with local Wycombe Youth Action urban artist Dien Holland drawing a mural to demonstrate the negative influence of tobacco companies on Bucks youth. Local young people got involved by drawing their name in a graffiti style to a pledge wall to say 'no' to smoking.

Cut Films is working with Buckinghamshire County Council's Public Health Team on the competition, which tackles the issue of young people and smoking using film and social media. Almost 600 people have died this year in Buckinghamshire from smoking related diseases.

The competition gets local young people to research the effects of tobacco or smoking, make a two minute short film about it for their friends, upload it to the competition website and share it on their social media.

This innovative peer-to-peer approach engages young people with the issues around smoking. Their film will persuade their friends not to smoke and to give up if they already do.

James Skinner, Bucks Cut Films Youth Worker, said: "We're really excited about seeing the talent of young film makers across Bucks. This isn't just an anti-tobacco film competition, it's a way for young people to learn new skills, campaign against tobacco companies and protect their friends."

Jo Wilson, Public Health Practitioner at Bucks County Council, said: "We are really excited to be running another Cut Films project in Bucks. Last year some great films were submitted showing how young people think about the dangers of smoking. Currently around 58,500 adults smoke in Bucks, and some 80% of these will have started before the age of 18. We need to stop today's children becoming tomorrow's smokers through engaging with them on their level and encouraging them to think about the impact smoking can have on individuals, families and communities."

The competition closes on 2 May 2014. Young people will then have three weeks to get their friends, parents and community to vote for their favourite film. A special Bucks panel of judges will choose the overall winner of the Buckinghamshire Cut Films Competition.

For more information and to find out about **free filmmaking, campaigning** and **anti-tobacco workshops**, visit www.cutfilms.org/Bucks

BUMBLE Bee Bailout. Join the buzz to save our bees by supporting the coffee morning at Chenies Manor on Tuesday 8th April. Numbers are limited so it is essential to get your tickets in advance. These cost £7, which includes coffee/tea and cake, free entry to the gardens and there will be a guest speaker, followed by a tour of the Physic garden. To book please telephone 01494 873143 or email Chrissecoy@hotmail.com

ATTIC SALE

Chalfont Common WI Attic Sale will be held on **Saturday March 15th 9.30 until 12** as usual in the CSP Community Centre. There will be our 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.

We look forward to seeing you. For details, phone Janet on 01494 373331.

ONLY NATURAL Therapies had to move to another Chalfont St Peter address when Only Natural health shop closed. Fortunately Parviz Sachdev, D.Hom HMA, is still available to provide Holistic Massage, Indian Head Massage, Thai Foot Massage, Hot Stone Massage, Homeopathy, Allergy Testing and Reiki/Chakra Healing. Parva's early study was in Pharmacy, then she qualified as a Homeopath in 1985 and has been making people feel better ever since. She also runs a meditation group. She can be contacted on 07985 216360. Email: parvisachdev@yahoo.co.uk

THE Fremantle Trust, a local charity, opens Mulberry Court, a new luxury care home for people living with dementia. Leading Buckinghamshire based charity and care provider, The Fremantle Trust, has added a new luxurious specialist dementia care home, **Mulberry Court** in Chalfont St Peter, to its existing portfolio of nine homes, which it already manages across the county.

Mulberry Court, the first to be acquired by the Trust has undergone a complete overhaul and major upgrade, to become what is hoped will be one of the most sought after care homes in the area.

Accommodating up to 28 private residents who require long term as well as shorter term respite stays, four of its all en suite rooms will be for couples, should the need arise.

Residents will each receive tailored, personal care by staff highly experienced in caring for people living with dementia.

Other popular services run by the Trust in the area include **Sir Aubrey Ward House** in Marlow, offering residential and dementia care and **FreeTime Bourne End**, the day centre (formerly run by the Red Cross).

For more information, please call the Family Liaison Manager on 01296 737371 or visit their website:

www.fremantletrust.org

E-ACT Academies in Buckinghamshire

The DfE has recently announced that E-ACT, a charity that sponsors 34 state-funded schools, is planning to transfer control of ten of them and that new sponsors will be sought.

It has been confirmed that the three existing E-ACT academies in the south of the County are not among the schools affected. They are (with their previous names in brackets):

- Chalfont Valley E-ACT Primary Academy, Little Chalfont (Bell Lane Combined);
- Burnham Park E-ACT Academy (Burnham Upper) and
- Denham Green E-ACT Academy (Tilehouse Combined).

However, this decision does mean that the transfer of Little Spring School, Chesham to E-ACT will not be taking place as planned. The County Council is now working with Little Spring School, the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust and the Department for Education to agree alternative long-term management arrangements for the school.

Mike Appleyard, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills said, "I want to reassure parents that the County Council maintains overall responsibility for school standards regardless of the provider. On behalf of ourselves and schools, the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust looks to work with all schools including academies to ensure that the highest standards are maintained and, where issues emerge, they are resolved as quickly as possible."

THE Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee, which owns and operates the Chilterns Crematorium in Amersham on behalf of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils, has signed an option agreement to purchase a piece of land to the north of Aylesbury on which a new crematorium could be built, subject to planning.

Councillor Mike Smith, Chairman of the Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee said: "The Chilterns Crematorium was opened in March 1966 and serves the local community well. With the population of Bucks growing, particularly in the Aylesbury area, it has become apparent over the last couple of years that there is a need for a new crematorium in the north of the County. We spent many years looking for a site and this one was found to be the most suitable."

The site is in a mainly rural area off the A418 between the villages of Rowsham and Bierton.

Surveys of the land have started and will be followed by a pre-planning consultation during March to seek the views of local residents and their representatives on the proposed scheme. The consultation will include an exhibition and drop-in sessions on Thursday 13 March at the Jubilee Hall, Aylesbury Road, Bierton HP22 5DL from 3pm to 8pm.

Letters with more details have been sent out to residents. It is anticipated that the Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee will put a planning application into Aylesbury Vale District Council in late Spring/early Summer.

THE Chalfonts Friendship Club aims to provide the opportunity for people who are retired or of retirement age to meet to share company. It is focussed on people in our community whether living on their own or couples and aims to promote companionship and sharing amongst its members. Regular monthly lunches are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and these are currently held at St Joseph's parish centre, Chalfont St Peter and there are other varied activities each month. For further info, contact: Pat Kelly: 01753 885534 / Mary Cross: 01494 875264 / Charles Watters: 07966 349945

A NEW DEBT Counselling centre in Chalfonts named as one of 239 centres across UK. LOCAL people struggling with overwhelming debt are set to get free help from an acclaimed charity opening a new hub in the Chalfonts.

Growing debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has partnered with churches in the area to extend its in-depth service from Chesham, Amersham and Beaconsfield to the Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross area. Chalfonts CAP Hub manager David Fletcher from Gold Hill Baptist Church, located in Chalfont St Peter said: "The Church has always been about offering hope and we're really pleased to be able to give a tried-and-tested route out of debt alongside other great free debt advice in the area like the Citizens Advice Bureau.

"There is a lot in the Bible about looking after the poorest but in our society a lot of poverty is debt-related and it's not at all unusual for many apparently well-off people to be held hostage by debt. That's why our congregation has been working hard to open a CAP hub to help get people back on track."

CAP offers people a uniquely in-depth, caring service to people with spiralling personal debt. Every client is visited in their own home, the charity does all the negotiating with creditors and local volunteers offer support to each person face-to-face until the day they are debt free.

The charity has 239 centres around the UK currently supporting £73m of secondary debts for its clients regardless of income, age, gender, background or faith. The free debt counselling has won a string of accolades including being described as "unsurpassed" by TV's Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis.

To find out more www.capuk.org or call **0800 328 0006**

About Christians Against Poverty: Christians Against Poverty is a home-grown debt counselling charity which is determined to reduce poverty in the UK caused by debt. It partners its financial expertise with the care of the local church to offer free debt help and a solution to people through 239 centres. For more about CAP see www.capuk.org
For further information Contact CAP's National PR Manager Marianne Clough marianneclough@capuk.org or telephone 01274 761924

CHALFONT View is a new eMagazine with news and opinions on national and local issues which affect all of us who live in the Chalfonts community. Whether it is development, roads, potholes, clubs, people or business, Chalfont View provides an interesting slant on what makes our community tick. The first issue has articles on Bucks County Council's proposed council tax increase and why councils need more teeth to ensure 'planning localism' works. Please go to <http://chalfontview.blogspot.co.uk/p/home.html> to read the first issue and register for further issues.

THE GERRARDS CROSS FUN RUN EAST COMMON SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2014 12-4PM

Get the date in your diaries!

The 8th Gerrards Cross Fun Run is all set for **Sunday 11th May 2014**. This biennial event will be held as usual, on East Common, Gerrards Cross. The day begins from 10.30am for T-shirt collection followed by race registration and at 12.00 noon the 5K race starts from The Memorial Centre following a route along the local roads behind the Centre with the grand finale on East Common. On the Common will be lots of fantastic entertainments and activities for all the family. Music and live bands, Grand Draw, BBQ & Beer Tent, 9m rock climb plus many more stalls providing entertainment and fun. The 5K Fun Run is open to all ages from the age of 8-99 years! There are separate under 8's Children's Races and even dogs can enter!

The web site www.gxfunrun.org.uk is now up and running and you can register on line to take part in The Fun Run.

The Fun Run has raised a total of £215,000 over the last seven Fun Runs, an amazing amount of money which has been donated to various charities. This year the Fun Run will be supporting two local, worthwhile charities - Kids in Sport, for the third year, and Home-Start, Slough. info@gxfunrun.org.uk [fb.com/GXFunRun](https://www.facebook.com/GXFunRun) @GXFunRun