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Bluebells in Welders Lane

# Chalfont St Peter Village Voice -

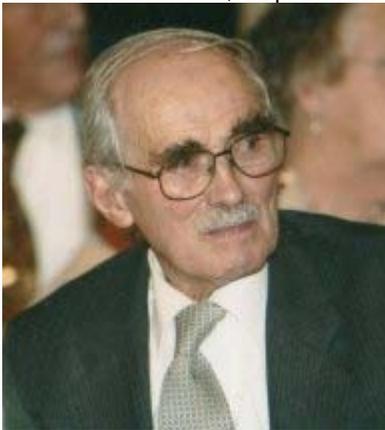
June 2009

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

Photo: by courtesy of Anne Leitch



**STEPHEN BACON** was known to so many local people through his genuine kindness and contribution to local activities, to which he gave unstinting service generously. This was prominently the Chiltern Open Air Museum and the St Joseph's Furniture Market, but many other areas as well. As he never drew attention to himself in all his charitable activities, much that he did quietly and without fuss, possibly went unnoticed except by the particular recipients, but whenever a willing pair of hands was wanted, Stephen's were always ready and able.



Stephen was born on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1919, and died on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, a few weeks after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, after a varied and impressive life of practical skills and boundless energy. He was a great advocate of the Scout movement and firmly subscribed to the ethos of healthy activity that it offered for young people to mature with a set of values that would stand them in good stead as worthwhile and sincere adults. Stephen certainly practised this approach and was a great example to all.

He started in the RAF in 1936 with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Entry of the Halton Apprentices as an apprentice cadet fitter, and here his talent for engineering and handiwork came to the fore. He did well in service life, which suited him, and when the War came he saw early service in France and Belgium before being stationed in the UK, mainly at Detling in Kent, which was severely bombed by the Luftwaffe. During this time he was mentioned in despatches. Stephen was an engineer, whose job it was to make sure that the planes were able to fly – in other words, and this is so very typical of his life, Stephen quietly got on and did the unglamorous and unshowy but so very necessary work to enable others to go out and perform on the more public stage. Clearly he did

it well; he was commissioned during the war, and ended the war with service in Germany.

Stephen met his wife Pamela at a Fighter Command Ball at Stanmore in 1950 and, typically thoughtful, having proposed, he insisted that she took her degree at Exeter before they married, which they did at St Joseph's Church in Austenwood, which has been such a large part of their life ever since.

Stephen then had various UK postings, but the family gravitated back to Chalfont St. Peter, and to this church and to the Holy Cross Convent where Pamela taught. Following a posting in Cyprus they returned to Chalfont for good in 1961. Stephen's RAF career concluded with a posting in the Air Ministry in Whitehall, and he retired as a squadron leader in 1968. He became a lecturer at George Stephenson College, Watford, passing on his engineering skills and experience to another generation. He continued there until he retired in 1984.

Amongst his other achievements, Stephen found time to become an accomplished sportsman in a number of fields. He was a first class shot, a regular at Bisley, and represented the RAF in both pistol and rifle teams. He was an accomplished skier and tobogganer, tackling the legendary Cresta Run on a number of occasions, coming 3rd in the Inter Services Title, and was a member of the Shuttlecock Club, membership of which was exclusively reserved for tobogganers who had crashed at the notoriously hair-raising Shuttlecock corner on the Cresta Run. He was a good horseman, and rode with the Berkeley Hunt. He also played hockey with the RAF. Later he joined Gerrards Cross HC with the rest of the family, where he umpired at all levels.

Following his retirement, Stephen became active in a number of voluntary roles – he was not a man who could take to a life of leisure, and was always active, even into his last year of life. He thoroughly enjoyed his involvement with the Chiltern Open Air Museum where he worked as a steward and volunteer builder. Some of the knowledge he took to the Open Air Museum came from his involvement with Historic Buildings, where he spent time visiting buildings in Buckinghamshire and learning about different techniques used in them. He was an enthusiastic gardener, a regular visitor to National Trust gardens and to Kew Gardens and was a keen member of the Chalfont St. Peter Gardening Club, where he won prizes for his onions and his cakes. Amongst all this he found time to deliver meals on wheels with the WRVS to those who needed them.

Stephen was always interested in politics – with his background he was a natural conservative, with both a small and large C. Typically of Stephen, his interest developed into hands-on involvement with local politics, putting his beliefs into action. He was Chairman of the Chalfont St. Peter branch, Ward Chairman for Chalfont Common and ran a local Policy Discussion Group. But far more than simply chairing meetings, he was always active if there was a need for people to do work – such as canvassing and delivering leaflets – that is the bedrock of all political parties.

He took his support of St Joseph's Church seriously and gave time to many activities associated with it, such as being a Eucharistic minister and a lay reader and was at one time Chairman of the Chalfont Fair and also of the Furniture Market. The same words kept cropping up in the many condolence cards and letters, that he was – "a thoroughly decent man", "a gentleman". Many remark on his sense of humour – often a little eccentric – and the near permanent twinkle in his eye. His wife Pamela, daughters Catharine and Susanna, grandchildren Guy, Clare and Kate, will have many happy memories of this very special man.

**ALL SAINTS MUSIC FESTIVAL** presents a concert by the band of the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers on Saturday 20th June at All Saints Church, Oval Way, Chalfont St. Peter at 7.00pm. Tickets:- £18 for adults & £14 for children to include BBQ. Apply: Anne Hatton 01753 882425 or Paddy Hague 01753 883384. Two further concerts are arranged for later in the year, more details nearer the time.

**ST PETER** Players' next production is a musical called '**A Man of No Importance**' in the Community Centre from Thursday 23rd July to Saturday 25th July. The music is terrific, the story is funny, poignant and thought-provoking. Our cast includes many young performers (several being from Amersham College) being directed by Ruth Corner, so a show full of energy and enthusiasm is guaranteed.

Box Office contact is John Sharp on 01753 892310 or [johnmsharp@supanet.com](mailto:johnmsharp@supanet.com)

**ST PETER** Players need an accent coach for Dublin. The person who was supposed to help with this is not now able to do so. Can anyone else help? If so, please get in touch with me at the email, or phone number at the top of this newsletter and I'll pass on the information. Elaine Quigley

### **COURSES for June at Gold Hill**

Saturday

6th June - HANDLING YOUR FINANCES IN THE CURRENT RECESSION - Free practical seminar/workshop presented by a Chartered Financial Planner - 10.00am to 1.00pm at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter. If you need any help in this area or would like to be able to help others, please book your place by contacting the church office on 01753 887173 or email: [office@goldhill.org](mailto:office@goldhill.org).

Monday 22nd June - MAKING THE MOST OF THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - Come and be inspired and informed about all kinds of ways to enjoy the school holidays. Morning session: 10.00am to 12.00 noon (with free creche) and an evening session from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. A suggested donation of £5.00 is invited to cover costs and support our work in the community. To be held at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St. Peter Please book your place by contacting Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or email [katrina.reading@goldhill.org](mailto:katrina.reading@goldhill.org).

**FREE Bikeability Cycle** training. Cycle Aylesbury are offering FREE Bikeability level one cycle training to families and children over 7 years at Thomas Hickman School in Aylesbury throughout the summer.

Bikeability is described as 'Cycling Proficiency for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' and Level One training provides training in bike handling skills in a controlled environment away from roads.

Two types of training sessions will be held, half for just children aged 7 and over and the other half for the whole family to get involved. Each of the sessions last for two and a half hours, by the end of which trainees should successfully complete their level one training. Training is available on the following dates:

#### CHILDREN 7+ TRAINING

#### FAMILIES TRAINING

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June-9.30am-12

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June-9.30am-12

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July-9.30am-12 or 1pm-3.30pm

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August-9.30am-12 or 1pm-3.30pm

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September-9.30am-12 or 1pm-3.30pm

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June-1pm-3.30pm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June-1pm-3.30pm

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August-9.30am-12 or 1pm-3.30pm

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September-9.30am-12 or 1pm-3.30pm

Cycle Aylesbury Team Leader Lee Stevens said "These free training sessions are a great opportunity for children and families to learn or refresh their cycling skills in a safe environment equipping them with the basic abilities required to cycle safely in Aylesbury. We are launching these events to coincide with national family week, they are a great fun and free activity for families to do together during this half term's holidays."

All training sessions will be delivered by Haddenham Cycle Training on behalf of Cycle Aylesbury at Thomas Hickman school. To book your place/s on a session please email: [info@haddenhamcycletraining.org.uk](mailto:info@haddenhamcycletraining.org.uk) or call 01844 29090

**IN MAY** St Joseph's Furniture Market made the following donations:-Chalfont Heights Scouts - £450 and £250 each to - Multiple Sclerosis (Maidenhead & Slough). Bucks Association for the Blind (Chalfont) and Slough Refugee Support St Joseph's Furniture Market is on every Saturday morning from 9am-noon in the Market Room behind the Church in Austenwood Lane. You can enter it through the gate in Priory Road and there is car parking in St Joseph's car park beside the Church. There are many bargains of used furniture and a big selection to choose from. Proceeds go to charity.

**THE CHILTERN** Shakespeare production this year – their 21st - is "Romeo and Juliet". It will be performed in the open air in the grounds of the Hall Barn Estate, Windsor End, Old Beaconsfield. The audience will be in raked seating under cover, as usual, and only the cast will get wet in the unlikely event of rain.

It runs from Wednesday 10 to Saturday 13 June and from Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 with performance starting at 8 p.m. There is also a matinée performance on Saturday 20 at 2 p.m. The grounds are open for picnicking from 2 hours beforehand.

Ticket prices range from £10 to £20 at different performances and the number to ring is 08700 667720. For further information go to [www.chiltern-shakespeare.co.uk](http://www.chiltern-shakespeare.co.uk) Any profits are going to Thames Hospicecare.



**THE Chalfont St Peter Feast Day celebrations on June 27<sup>th</sup> will be a fantastic family orientated event that involves the whole community.**

Organising committee member Michael Day (who is President of the Chalfont St Peter Chamber of Commerce) said "Plans are really coming together now on a fabulous day's entertainment and an event that will showcase everything that is great about life in Chalfont St Peter. In addition, we will be supporting a number of local charities (including the Youth Centre and Parish Church) by distributing any surplus profits"

The day will start at 10.30am and there will be a wide range of displays and performances in the main arena, many from local schools. This will be followed at 3pm by a "battle of the bands", an opportunity for local musical talent to pitch themselves against each other in friendly competition. In the evening, starting at 8pm there will be a free concert by top UK tribute band, Platinum ABBA.

It is anticipated that there will be around 40 stalls promoting local organisations, demonstrating various craft and musical activities and supplying food and drink. There will be three beer tents open throughout the event as well as tea and soft drink provision.

A vintage car display, five a side football tournament, Punch and Judy, wandering minstrels and kiddies fun fair will all add to the excitement. Other entertainment and activities will be confirmed in the coming days.

A 32 page souvenir programme is being produced and will be sold before and during the event.

Further details on the event can be found at [www.feastfstpeter.org.uk](http://www.feastfstpeter.org.uk)

The stunning Feast day logo was designed by Chalfont St Peter based marketing company DML.

The event has already attracted a number of sponsors including:

Platinum level – Chalfont St Peter Parish Council

Gold level – Gold Hill Baptist Church and Chalfont St Peter Parish Church

Advertisers, sponsors and those wishing to take a stall still have a short time left to get involved and should contact Sandra Clark by email at [enquiries@feastfstpeter.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@feastfstpeter.org.uk) or by telephone on 01753 880067.

**CHALFONT COMMON W.I.** welcomed a new member and reported on most enjoyable outings to Guys and Dolls at Watersmeet, Wimpole Hall Gardens and Farm, and to Lane End to take part in a fun quiz.

Future outings were being planned to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh and Wendover Garden Centre in July and the Minstrels Gallery at Hall Barn in October.

They continue to enjoy planned morning walks and the book club meets every month to discuss the current book they have all been reading.

They were very fortunate to secure Mr. Peter Smith as the May speaker. He gave a most interesting talk on bees and bee-keeping, first describing the functions of the inhabitants of the hive. There is grave concern at present about the decline in bee population. They are threatened by the burrowing varroa bugs and also by CCD - colony collapse disorder, for which no explanation has yet been found.

The talk at the June meeting will be Daily Life in the Tudor Times.

They meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Tony Graham room at the Chalfont Community Centre at 7.30 for 7.45. Visitors welcome.

**CHALFONT St Peter** Garden Club has coach outings during 2009 for Club members, their spouses and friends, so if you fancy joining in and you are not a member, it might be worth joining. Membership of the Garden Club is only £6, with a joining fee of £2 and this gives you monthly meetings and the Club hut for purchasing most of your garden needs at competitive prices (members only), and of course the outings:

Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> to the Cotswold Wildlife Park – Burford.

Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to Loseley Park – Guildford.

Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> to Borde ill Gardens – Haywards Heath.

*These Events are arranged by Mr K Gould, Tel: 01753 884012 and are in each month's Club newsletter.*

**THE GERRARDS** Cross Flower Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except August), at 2.15pm. in the Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross.

On **June 17<sup>th</sup>** Jan Laws's demonstration is entitled "Come to the Cinema"; Competition for members is "It's a Black and White World".

For more information contact Pam Houchen on 01753-884190. Guests are always welcome.

On **July 4<sup>th</sup>** the Flower Club is holding a Race Evening in aid of Breast Cancer Care in the Colston Hall, Memorial Centre. East Common, Gerrards Cross at 7.00pm. Tickets £12.50 to include supper. There will be a licensed bar. For tickets please contact Stella on 01753-887933 or Gloria on 01753-885788.

**CHALFONT St Peter W.I.** meets on the second Wednesday in the Month, held in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm.

June 10 - Falkland Islands Life and Wildlife – David Lee

July 8 - Flower Arranging – Mrs Ann Middleton - Produce Cup: Bowl of Delights.

**MORE** than three hundred children from **Robertswood School**, took part in the **National Young Pavement Artists Competition** that has been devised by *The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign*. The children showcased the 2008/9 theme of **endangered species**, as they chalked their drawings in Robertswood playground. Money raised from entry fees for the competition will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, which is the only UK charity focusing on all muscular dystrophies and related muscle diseases. The art competition is the first major art-based initiative to encourage children and young people to use the pavement as their canvas and chalk as their medium. Mrs Slocombe, the school's art co-ordinator, was delighted that the children took part in such a fantastic art and education project.

The national winner will win the chance to discover and to see grey whale migration along the Canadian coast, courtesy of Earthwatch. Their chalk drawing will be exclusively produced as a poster and distributed with National Geographic Kids magazine whose editor, Lauren Jarvis, said: "We are sure that this year's theme of endangered species will inspire some fantastic work and we look forward to seeing the entries." All winners and runners-up will also be featured in an open public exhibition and in Anorak, the happy magazine for kids. Founder Cathy Olmedillas and creative director Supermundane said: "We cannot wait to see pavements turned into works of art."

A **special award for originality** has been created in honour of **Mark Speight**, a poignant tribute to the popular children's TV presenter who died earlier this year and who had championed the muscle charity and competition for many years. (Some pictures from the competition will be shown in next month's newsletter, as space doesn't permit it this month). If you would like to contribute to 'William's Fund' please contact Sue Moffat direct at [smoffat@chalfontstpeter-pc.gov.uk](mailto:smoffat@chalfontstpeter-pc.gov.uk). Cheques should be made payable to 'The William Fleming Fund'.

**PARENTING MATTERS AT JUGGLERS CAFÉ** 10.00am - 11.30am every Thursday during summer term 2009 at: Gold Hill Baptist Church, Gold Hill Common East, Chalfont St Peter Tel: 01753 887173  
Parenting Matters at Jugglers' Café - Coffee, cake and chat with free creche available Inspirational talks and parenting tips

#### Special Events

Parenting Workshops

Pop-In talks: Parenting

FREE creche for babies and pre-schoolers.

June 4 Walk & Picnic (venue tbc on May 21 a/c weather!)

July 16 Walk & Picnic in the grounds of WEC @ Bulstrode Park, GX

2-hour workshops running morning and evening:

Jun 22 Surviving (or making the most of) the school holidays.

For booking and info call Katrina Reading on 01753 887173

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

Jun 11 Discipline and children,,,,,,,,,,,,,Tom Wharin

Jun 18 The media maze and children,,,,,Fiona Irving

Jun 25 Children and friendships,,,,,,,,,Joy McCulloch

July 2 Social activities and children,,Dilys Saunders

July 9 Building memories for children,,Jan Gaukroger

**THROUGH** The Wardrobe Children's Theatre Company is now registering for September 09, Theatre classes for children aged 6-14 years. Check the website for prices/class times. [www.throughthewardrobe.com](http://www.throughthewardrobe.com) Register before the end of June to receive a free trial class. Call Nicki on 01753 892000.

#### Misbourne River Action

Misbourne River Action is a group of volunteers from the Misbourne Valley area who are willing to put their time and effort into rescuing and cherishing the river. At regular intervals working parties are tackling specific lengths of the River, particularly between Amersham and Chalfont Park at Chalfont St Peter, alleviating problem areas and tending the river bed and margins.

They also have ambitions to involve our local schools and other groups in the Community in celebration of our river, its history and its wildlife.

The next working parties at Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. If you could join the group then or on another day or are interested in helping in any other way, please get in touch on the contact information below. Do you perhaps have some old photos of the river – wet or dry – or family stories to share?

Are you a wildlife photographer, or a naturalist who could help survey and record the returning flora and fauna.

To find out more, visit [www.misbournriveraction.org](http://www.misbournriveraction.org) or contact Bob Older on 01753 885131 or [bob@theolders.co.uk](mailto:bob@theolders.co.uk)

**THAMES** Valley Police's 4th annual Open Day will be held at the Force Training Centre, Sulhamstead, near Reading, on Saturday 8 August, from 10am to 4pm. The day will showcase the work of specialist roles and departments in TVP, such as the Air Support Unit, Roads Policing, the Mounted Section and the Dog Section. The Dog Section and Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service will be performing displays throughout the day. Admission is £2 per adult and children under 16 go free. Parking at the site is limited and will be available on a first come first served basis. No dogs are allowed on site except guide dogs.