

Thank you to Chalfont Office Direct for printing this Newsletter

## Chalfont St Peter Village Voice March 2009

Editor: Elaine Quigley 01753 886412 [equit.text@virgin.net](mailto:equit.text@virgin.net)  
[www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice](http://www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice)



February Snow in Hill Rise Crescent

**THE** Council has responded speedily to the damage wreaked on its roads by the recent bad weather. It has hired four new road maintenance gangs who will target the recent damage. This will cost an extra £150,000 over the next six weeks.

The rain, snow and icy conditions during recent weeks have caused noticeable damage to Buckinghamshire's roads, resulting in a significant increase in the number of potholes. The situation in Buckinghamshire is no different to roads across the country. The main cause is water penetration and the freeze/thaw cycle accelerating damage to road surfaces.

The Council now has 13 gangs working on making our roads safer and smoother. The gangs can repair between 25 and 30 potholes per day per gang which means, with all 13 gangs working at full capacity, we are repairing around 1600 to 2000 potholes per week.

The repair gangs are organised as follows: the existing nine gangs (four in Aylesbury Vale and five in Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe) are dealing with potholes reported through Highways on Call and through highway inspections. The four additional gangs (one in each district area) are concentrating specifically on the salting routes (i.e. A and B roads and key routes into settlements). A weekly review of progress and performance is being undertaken to ensure we get on top of the problem quickly, effectively and efficiently. Members of the public should report road problems to Highways on Call by phoning 0845 230 2882.

**Fr RAPHAEL O'CONNELL**, who ministered at St Joseph's for over 30 years in all, died on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February and on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, after a beautiful funeral service, he was buried in the churchyard, behind St Joseph's Church. It was with much sadness that parishioners and his family bid him farewell, as he was a much loved pastor and everyone had happy memories of his time in Chalfont St Peter. St Joseph's Church was full, for the funeral Mass and there were many priests from not only the Carmelite Community but others who were friends and wanted to share his farewell. Fr Raphael's family came from Ireland and his sisters, brothers, nephews and niece played a significant part in the ceremony, which started at noon, with the Bishop also being present.

The Parish Priest, Fr Tony Parsons, spoke eloquently and amusingly, as he paid tribute to Fr Raphael and shared memories with the congregation and recognized by those who knew him well.

He said that Fr Raphael had a superb memory and could speak at least 10 languages. As he was very gregarious, he got into conversation with all sorts of people, in many languages and, by asking them about their countries etc, he learned a lot about places without actually travelling to them, and then could learn about the way life was lived there.

Pope John Paul sent Fr Raphael a rosary, when he couldn't manage the trip to Rome because he was ill, and this, plus other special items that represented parts of the devotions of his life, was brought up to the front of the church, along with many other special items that represented parts of the devotions of his life, were brought to the front of the church, by members of his family.

St Joseph's was his favourite place and he absolutely loved being part of the Parish. He spent about 30 years here in all.

The music played during the ceremony was beautiful. The singers were terrific and there was also a contingent of school children of all ages, who provided both soloists and choir. There was some really haunting music and it all felt very 'right' for the occasion and the flowers on the altar were all white and beautifully arranged.

After the mass, there was a huge crowd at the graveside and singer from the church, sang unaccompanied, by the side of the grave. It was a great send off for a much loved member of St Joseph's.

**GERRARDS Cross Sailing Association** will welcome Peter Poole on Wednesday, March 4, to present "Holly's Circumnavigation of Britain in 1994". Member Peter Poole is a regular speaker at GXSA with his unforgettable stories from his extensive solo and shorthanded cruising. In June 1994, he left Birdham and turned right with the intention of seeing as much as possible. In his Nicholson 32, Holly, he went round Great Britain and included interesting diversions in Orkney. It took eleven weeks with mainly good weather. Peter will tell us about the experiences he had and the interesting people he met.

**A QUIZ** night to help the homeless will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 7.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Hall (behind the church in Austenwood). Tickets £12 per person – teams of 8 are required, but you can go along and make up a table with others. Light refreshments provided and there is a cash bar. To enter call 01753 892136 or 01494 674569, or email [shoc.events@googlemail.com](mailto:shoc.events@googlemail.com)

**THE Chalfont Common W.I.** is holding an Attic Sale on 14<sup>th</sup> March, at Chalfont St.Peter Community Centre. To book a table - £10, ring Brenda on 01753 885293. Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month in the Tony Graham room, at the Chalfont Community Centre at 7.30 for 7.45. Visitors welcomed.

**A COFFEE** morning in aid of the Parish Church Hall Refurbishment Fund is being held in the Hall on Saturday, 14th March from 10am-noon. Lots of stalls, a raffle and friends to meet and greet. Do go along and support it.

**FIRST** Chalfont St.Peter Trefoil Guild meets in the Guide Hut at 2 pm the 1st Wednesday in the month. They say: "We, with friends, have just knitted 611 little hats for premature babies for "Save the Children". A friendly group, we have talks, visits, craft days and outings, cups of tea and conversation. We welcome visitors any time. Come along and join us."

**On the 21st January, 2009 a team of volunteers from the Chiltern Society spent a day working on the footpaths in Chalfont St Peter. They installed a waymark post on the path near Roberts's Wood and repaired the stiles on either side of the road near Lodge Cottage.**

The Chiltern Society is a local charity which aims to conserve and protect the natural beauty, environment and heritage of the Chilterns. The Society's area includes 650 square miles across parts of four counties: Bucks, Beds, Herts and South Oxfordshire. The Chiltern Society Rights of Way Group actively protects and restores open access land and public rights of way in the Chilterns — some 5,000 paths. It surveys every individual path and takes up irregularities with parish, district or county councils to preserve and enhance public rights.

The charity has over 6,500 members and organises weekly walks and cycle rides, as well as volunteer work parties to carry out footpath maintenance and other conservation projects.

The Chiltern Society is a local charity with more than 6,500 members .We rely on the income from membership fees to fund our work and have more than 400 volunteers running campaigns or doing practical conservation work to care for the Chilterns.

We welcome new members - come and join people like you who love the Chilterns. For more details please contact The Chiltern Society, The White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham HP5 1AG tel 01494 771250 [www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk)

**A MESSAGE** from Chalfont St Peter W.I, noted that nearly all their members turned up for the February meeting. Mrs. Barbara Lyme, President, welcomed everyone especially the three new ladies. Mrs .Lucy Bagley, a past President, who had died recently, aged 103, was thought of with warmth. She had attended the lunch held in her honour for her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Christine Nesbit judged the Competition "A buttonhole in any medium". Mrs. Pat Orriss won the prize - a lovely yellow freesia with foliage.

Mrs. Nesbit then spoke of the work of the "Iain Rennie Hospice at home". A charity run by highly qualified Nurses to care for patients, with any terminal illness, in their own homes.

Help and respite for Carers too. They cover every hour of every day in the year with all hands-on nursing given. A lot of fund raising has to take place to pay for all this.

Mrs. Nesbit had greetings cards and pretty fabric bags for sale to swell their funds. Mrs .Judy England thanked her. Next month, March 11th in the Church Hall at 2.15pm, the talk is "Scillies and Gardens of Tresco" to be given by Mrs J Hall. Art cup: "Corner of the Garden". All are welcome.

**AN** innovative cooking oil recycling facility means that residents can now take their used cooking oil to the local Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) in Buckinghamshire where processes are in place for the oil to be re-used to generate electricity for householders and businesses.

The county council is working in partnership with Living Fuels, which has developed a process for purifying the oil and enabling it to be re-used for the generation of electricity. Residents will be able to safely dispose of their used cooking oil in collection tanks at all recycling centres. When oil is poured down the sink it can clog up drains and sewers which can be hazardous to wildlife.

Councils across the country have also been told to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill to meet stringent targets or face fines.

Councillor Martin Tett, Member for Strategic Planning and Waste said, "It's so easy to be careless and pour old cooking oil down the drain or sink but this is both wasteful and damaging to the environment. Each of the collection tanks at our nine Buckinghamshire sites has a capacity of 1,000 litres, and 9,000 litres of used cooking oil could generate enough electricity to power seven average UK homes for a year. I would really encourage householders to use this service, as it will help to protect the environment and generate renewable power."

The use of used cooking oil in electricity generation reduces carbon emissions meaning that everyone can play a part in building Britain's renewable energy capacity.

Residents are asked to bring their oil in containers, which can be taken home and re-used for this purpose. This service is free of charge and available to householders only.

**Style Update Spring/Summer 2009** brought to you by Jan Foster and Julia Cumming, image consultants are helping ladies to inject some lighter, brighter colours into their wardrobes and update their look without spending a fortune. The morning session will include:- **How** to use what you already have in your wardrobe by updating it with accessories. **Learn** which current styles will flatter your body shape. There will also be the chance to buy some accessories, books and other extras whilst you are there.

Date : Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009 10am-noon at St Joseph's Church Hall, Austenwood Common, SL9 9JR

ONLY £10 per person (which includes refreshments and handouts) To book, please call or e-mail Jan Foster or Julia Cumming Tel: 01494 762720 or 01753 882636 e-mail: janet.foster@cmb.co.uk or jhssfoster@hotmail.com or Julia.cumming@dsl.pipex.com.

**St Patrick's Dance** and Social Evening on Friday, 13th March is in St Joseph's Hall and Parish Centre, behind the Church. Live Irish band with bar facilities and food. Tickets £12 supper £5, booked on 01753 886581.

**CHALFONT** St Peter W.I. meetings:

March 11 - Scillies and Gardens of Tresco – Mrs J Hall. Art Competition - Corner of the Garden.

March 17 - Spring Group Meeting is at 2pm Community Centre. Hostesses Chalfont St Giles Afternoon W.I.

April 8 - Burnham Beeches – Mrs Judy Tipping

**AT CHILTERN** Open Air Museum, Gorelands Lane – **March 28-29**-Campaign '44 – Meet 1940's Soldiers and The Great Penny Trail. **April 4-5**-Grymms Tooms Museum of Victorian Curios. Open daily from 10am-5pm.

**CHALFONT** St Peter classical musician David Meacock has a busy night ahead of him when he will be leading a performance of Handel's Messiah with his A40 Choir this coming Saturday, 7 March, at 7:30 pm, in St Mary's, Amersham. In addition to conducting the choir, David will also be accompanying the young Soprano, Contralto and Bass soloists on the piano and singing the Tenor solos, accompanied by his wife, Kate.

Recently, David was the editor/conductor of the recent Concerts from Scratch edition of Messiah, which has been endorsed by Sir David Willcocks; highly commended by Classic FM; and was recently used at a Beaconsfield church roof fund-raising event.

Concerts from Scratch organises huge London bring and sing events, with an annual Messiah event at the Royal Albert Hall attracting between four and five thousand singers. It is conducted by world-renowned doyen of English Choral Conducting, Sir David Willcocks. After the A40 Choir's conductor David Meacock led some successful workshop and concert events for the Concerts from Scratch organisation, he was invited to be the editor and conductor of their new Edition of Messiah, which is now being used world-wide and is selling particularly well in the USA. The four-part edition is unique in its novel score layout which makes it easier for choral singers to follow their own part and get their notes from others. It comes with two CDs: one has a complete performance of the choruses with whichever part you choose made more prominent so you feel you are singing in the middle of your voice section, and the other has basic voice warming up exercises and help to learn the more difficult passages of Messiah.

**Tickets for Saturday's concert are available from 01753 886005** or [www.a40music.com](http://www.a40music.com) and cost £12; but on the door cost £15-00. Students get in for just £6 in advance or £7-00 on the door.

**THE CHALFONT'S CHILDREN'S CENTRE** has activities for children under 5 years and their parent/carer. Activities include Cook and Eat, Mighty messy Monday, Tots and Tales and Drop in and Play. The list and dates are on the Chalfont St Peter website address at the top of the newsletter, but you can also contact Caroline Campion Children's Centre Co-ordinator Mob Number 07867 674024 [ccampion@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:ccampion@buckscc.gov.uk) Bethany Paget Family Support Worker Mob Number 07826 892196 email [bpaget@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:bpaget@buckscc.gov.uk)

**FULL** Council today approved a budget for next year involving a 3.7 per cent increase in council tax - the equivalent of £37.70 a year for a Band D property or 72p a week. That means the annual amount of tax for this council's portion will be £1,056.61 for a Band D property - this year it was £1,018.91.

The Government grant for next year will be £58.7million and the proposed net Council revenue budget is £282.4million. The Council has still been required by Government to find efficiency savings in the face of mounting costs for power and fuel. This draft budget identifies £9million of savings through working more efficiently. Council leader David Shakespeare said: "Given the funding issues we face I think we have done very well to keep the council tax increase this low while protecting frontline services for the public. We are facing a really major shortfall by the financial year 2010/11 and have gone through a rigorous process to come to this result. We are also taking a very detailed look at how the council works to avoid doing this sort of salami slicing exercise each year. We are looking at ways to improve the way we work in every single area to make long-term savings. As always, we committed to providing excellent, value for money services while keeping our council tax rate as low as we possibly can."

**IN February** St Joseph's Furniture Market made the following donations: Chiltern Cheshire Home - £250, Padstones (Helping young homeless adults) - £250, S H O C (Slough Homeless Our Concern) - £250 and The Samaritans - £250. The Market is open every Saturday morning from 9.00 to 12.30, selling second-hand furniture donated by the local community. Please go and browse or better still buy! All proceeds are donated to charity. The Market is situated in Priory Road, the first building past St Joseph's church car park. Helpers, who can spare perhaps as little as two hours per fortnight to collect, deliver or just move furniture, would be welcome..

**FRIENDS OF CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM** next meeting Wednesday 25 March – “St Albans Abbey & Cathedral”, by Gail Thomas of the Abbey Friends, in the Mary Smithells Room, Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, Gravel Hill at 8 pm. A small admission charge of £2.50 is made - £2 for Friends of the Museum. Light refreshments are available. All welcome – pre-booking not necessary.

**Pop-In Talks = “Well Dressed 4 Life”**

Mar 5 Wife, mother, nurse, sock-finder (If the cap fits!) Helen Rayner.

Mar 12 Being the best you can be. (Pull your socks up!) Jane Evans.

Mar 19 Roles in relationships. (Who wears the trousers?!) James Simmons.

Mar 26 Passing on values. (In-vesting in our children!) Sally Parkin. Free Creche for babies and pre-schoolers

**10.00am - 11.30am every Thursday during spring term 2009 at: Gold Hill Baptist Church, Gold Hill Common East, Chalfont St Peter Tel: 01753 887173**

**UNMISSABLE** Bargain sale will be in St Joseph's Parish centre on **Friday, March 20 9am-4pm**, featuring Joules Clothing, up to 50% off, Silver Editions silver & leather gifts and lots more.

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** primary school pupils learn about recycling from a fantastic theatre show 'Waste Watchers', which will be visiting over 1800 primary school pupils, to teach them about the importance of the 3R's; Reducing, Reusing and Recycling.

Performed by Pals Productions, the play delivers this very important message by showing the Super hero's Waste Watchers Crew travelling to planet Earth for a Rubbish Adventure! With action and excitement from the word go this comical and vibrant performance teaches students WHAT they can recycle, HOW they can recycle and WHY it is important to recycle.

The one hour play will be visiting 10 primary schools in the county between Monday 2nd - Friday 6th March. (Please see notes to editor for list of schools). The production, funded by Buckinghamshire County Council, will be visiting pupils aged between 5 and 11 years old as part of the Rethink Rubbish at School waste education programme.

**BUCKS** students are being encouraged to put on their aprons and take part in a 'Rescue Recipe' cookbook competition, as part of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign. The Competition involves making up some tasty leftover recipes and designing the front cover for the recipe book. Taking part in the competition will make children aware of the impact of food waste and how they can help to stop perfectly good food going to landfill. In Buckinghamshire 23,000 tonnes of food is thrown away every year. Food waste produces highly potent greenhouse gas when disposed at landfill. The embedded energy used to produce, package, transport and store food which could have been eaten, but instead ends up being thrown away, produces the equivalent of at least 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. The recipe book will be used to promote the Recycle for Buckinghamshire's Love Food Hate Waste campaign in schools. This is an excellent way for children to have some fun and learn a very important message. There are two parts to the competition; you can enter ONE or BOTH parts;

**1. Write a Rescue Recipe** - Write a recipe using food which might otherwise be thrown away, such as leftovers, food that goes out of date quickly or food that goes off quickly.

**2. Design the Front Cover** – Design an image for the front cover of the cook book that encourages people not to throw away or waste food. There are 3 age categories: Key Stage 1: Years 1 to 2 (5-7yrs old), Key Stage 2: Years 3 to 6 (7 – 11yrs old) & Key Stages 3 & 4: Years 7 to 11 (11- 16yrs old)

There will be one over all winner plus a runner up from each category for the design part of the competition and a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 runner-ups from each category for the recipe part of the competition. All of the winning recipes and designs will be included in a recipe book that will be used to promote Recycle for Buckinghamshire's **Love Food Hate Waste** campaign. For more information and entry forms please visit, [www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk](http://www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk) or call Simone Singleton on 01296 387195.