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# Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

## NOVEMBER 2008

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



**CHALFONTS and Gerrards Cross Hospital** is part of our heritage and was given as a gift to the local people in 1871, by the Hibbert family, who had lived in Chalfont House and Chalfont Lodge. This information comes from Audrey Wheelband, our local historian, (who lived to be 100), in her book – Chalfont St Peter, A Lost Village. She is a great source of local knowledge having lived in the village all her life. Her sharp memory enabled her to write three books on Chalfont St Peter and she says of the hospital, that initially there were six beds and one cot. She used to talk with gratitude of the generosity of the Hibbert family and indeed the philanthropy of the various wealthy families who looked after the local people, as a part of their responsibility of their position.

The hospital has been much enlarged through the years (with various extensions in 1930s, 50s and 60s with upgrade to arrival areas in 1990s) and serves Chalfont and the surrounding parishes very well indeed. Audrey's husband Harold, died there in 1933 (of meningitis) and is buried in the Garden of Rest. You can see his headstone, on the left, as you walk into the garden along the path off Church Lane, beside the Misbourne Surgery.

As a working hospital covering many areas, it is a vital and much appreciated service to local people. Understandably there is now anxiety about its future, since it was discovered that serious refurbishment must be carried out (importantly concerning asbestos) if it is to continue serving the community as it has done for all these years.

From the website the following was posted on September 24<sup>th</sup> by Polly Manser who writes: "Tuesday marked the end of an era at Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital when the last remaining ward in the hospital was closed and patients were transferred to Amersham Hospital. Four remaining patients on the ward were moved to the Waterside Unit at Amersham Hospital. Ten others have been discharged in previous weeks and either returned home, or been moved to nursing or residential care, according to their planned destination, said Stuart Townsend, director of adult's and older people's services at Buckingham Primary Care Trust.

The ward has been closed because it has been condemned as unsafe by fire officers, because it is on the first floor and has insufficient access for evacuation in the event of a fire. It is unclear at this stage whether the closure is permanent or temporary because the hospital requires around £4 million of repairs and the PCT is currently considering whether to rebuild it on the same site or to move parts or all of it to other sites. Views of older people were canvassed by the PCT at a meeting in Chalfont St Peter of the Village Older Persons Action Group on October 16", when over 100 people attended and were very involved in the discussion. At a subsequent meeting on the following Tuesday, Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Assistant Director – Partnership Development, addressed another group in the Parish Council Offices and outlined the PCT's vision for the future of the Hospital, trying to allay the fears that were expressed by those present.

At the moment, though the patients from the C & GX Hospital have been moved for what was originally meant to be about 18 months, we were told that it would probably be 5 years before the Hospital situation was resolved and provision again be made available for patients, or whatever had been decided to be set up as part of the PCT initiative for the replacement of what we have had over the years.

In the cause of hearing from local people, so that an assessment of priorities can be gathered, there is a web address which can be accessed [www.buckspect.nhs.uk](http://www.buckspect.nhs.uk) to record your views. You just click on Service Improvements and then put Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital into 'Search'. You can then give your name and address and tick the various boxes as requested. The bigger the response, the more comprehensive will be the information, so do please try and take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire.

**CHALFONT** St Peter Scouts will be holding their fireworks night on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the scout hut in Gravel Hill (beside the Parish Council Office). Doors open at 5pm and at 5.30 the burgers will be cooking, with drinks available and the Guides will be making mulled wine. Fireworks will of course be part of the occasion a little later on, after everyone is well fed and ready for the excitement. All welcome.

**THE** next Tots Sale is on Saturday, 8th November. from 10-12. in the Chalfont St Peter community centre. For table bookings or more info please call - 07778 427518.

**THE CSP W.I.** meets on the second Wednesday in the month at the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm.  
12th November - Flower Crafts with Christmas in Mind - Kay Paterson and Lynne Catun  
10th December - Merry Christmas - Traditional Customs and Folklore - Janet Dineen, 2pm start.

**CHALFONT** St Peter Garden Club has it's next meeting on Wednesday, November 19, at 8pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane, when Ken Panchen will talk about Garden Birds .



**A NEW** shoe shop has opened at 18 Marketplace and it is just right for our village needs. Bev Tapner (pictured) decided when the shop became available beside Gold Hill Jewellers, run by husband David, it would be just the thing to provide good quality and affordable shoes for all ages and the display is enticing and attractive well appointed clever positioning lower part of the how your feet is full of people. The styles are great and the Hush Puppies for children offer the special feature of being



for those who love good footwear. The shop is and not crowded, with a of mirrors around the wall, where you can see look even when the shop



sold individually in each size, so that if one foot is wider than the other, both feet can be comfortably shod in different widths. A great idea. Not only shoes are available, but silk handbags and scarves in wonderful colours. There is a super range of men's shoes also and stock will always offer fresh designs.

**MARKET PLACE** is full of colour and interest so not only will you enjoy visiting the new shop, but the Bucks Leather Centre is full of some superb leather jackets and all sorts of other smart outfits. There seems to be a gathering of clothing shops at the top end of this street and those who enjoy some retail therapy, or even just browsing through beautiful clothes, will give themselves a treat by visiting this great selection of shops.

**A SPECIAL** treat for music lovers will take place at All Saints Church, Chalfont St Peter on the afternoon of Sunday 14 December, when the Baroque Chamber Ensemble *Pellegrina* will give a candle-lit Christmas concert starting at 4.00pm as part of the All Saints Festival.

The programme will feature Baroque Christmas music from across Europe, including Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* and *Sheep May Safely Graze* by Bach.

*Pellegrina* (Kyoko Murai – Soprano; Maria Sanger – recorder; Amanda Seaborn – viola da gamba and Alison Bowler – harpsichord) will be joined by guests Peter Wendland (viola da gamba, violone) and Peter Wells (recorder). Tickets will be £12.00 to include mulled wine and mince pies and available from the Box office on 01753 882425 or 01753 883384

**CHALFONT** St Peter Youth Club Charity Auction raised an amazing £3000 for club funds. More than 50 lots generously donated by local businesses were auctioned in a lively atmosphere whilst those attending were entertained by volunteer auctioneer Paul Morris of Fineland Forestry, with food and drink organised by volunteer youth workers and simultaneous activities such as a treasure hunt, tuck shop, guess the weight of the cake and raffle organised by the youth club members. The Youth Club is most grateful to the businesses and members of the community who gave their support. (01753 883712 office @CSPyouthcentre.org.uk)

**VOPAG** (Village Older Persons Action Group) is a great support for activities and useful facts for everyone over the age of 55. The next meeting is in the Parish Council Building in Gravel Hill on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, with Coffee at 10am and the meeting beginning at 10.30am. Your support for this excellent provision is very much welcomed.

**THE** Chalfont St Peter Community Association, will have a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 10am-2pm. Hundreds of ideas for Christmas presents – Refreshments available.

**SPRINGBOARD** is The Chilterns, South Bucks and High Wycombe self help group for managers and professionals seeking work. It meets at St Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross (above the shops) - 7.15 for 7.30pm each Monday. New members are always welcome and membership is free. Helpline: 01753 890990 [careers.springboard@virgin.net](mailto:careers.springboard@virgin.net) [www.careersspringboard.info](http://www.careersspringboard.info)

- November 10 - Telephone Networking Practice
- November 17 - An opportunity to work in small groups
- November 24 - Alternative ways of Making a Living
- December 1 - Making a Good Impression
- December 12 - Action Planning for the Christmas break

**A TABLE top** sale in organised by the Community Association, will be held on Saturday, November 22 in the Community Centre between 10am and 2pm. RNLI Christmas cards will be on sale there 10-12.

**ON THE** subject of RNLI Christmas cards, there is a large selection, so if you can't get to the sale on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, you can phone -01753 886412 to ask about them.

**ABOUT** a year ago there was a piece in the Village Voice sent by Ken Walker about Farnham Common lady Jackie Smith, who was seeking a Bone Marrow Transplant. Ken had been contacted by a long-standing friend who now lives in Australia, because he knew that Ken lived reasonably near Jackie and wanted his help to find a Bone Marrow donor. Ken has never met Jackie, but he put the word around and the Village Voice was one of the areas where the information was published.

A donor was found in Central America and at 5 pm on Thursday, 11 September Jackie received the Bone Marrow Stem Cells. There was just under ½ litre of pink liquid (looking a bit like a strawberry milkshake apparently). The transfusion took just over an hour with a transplant nurse in close attendance.

She was told that she would have to wait for about 3 weeks for the donated stem cells to “take root” in her bone marrow and start producing the blood cells she needs. During this period Jackie was treated with drugs to prevent rejection and antibiotics to prevent serious illness while she had no immune system. Earlier this month Ken heard that the stem cells appear to have taken root but there is a long way to go. Jackie has a lot of chemo side effects, one of which was that it made her digestive tract raw “from end to end”. She wasn’t able to eat at all and was given the “happy juice” (morphine) to control the pain.

Then there was a blip.....

Jackie was just starting to try drinks, yoghurt, etc. when she became sick again. She became disorientated and confused and thought it was 1985. She also took a “gentle tumble” to the floor during the night. The hospital has done loads of tests, including a CT scan as a precaution and they think it was caused by the anti-rejection drug. They think the effects are temporary and she is improving, which is good news, but she has a way to go yet. Updates will be posted so that we can keep a track of the progress of this brave lady.

**AT** this month’s meeting, St Joseph’s Furniture Market made the following donations:-

Claire Sadler Trust Fund (helping teenage cancer patients)	£500
St Vincent de Paul Society	£250
Multiple Sclerosis	£250

The Market is open every Saturday morning from 9.30 to 12.30. It is situated in Priory Road, the first building past St Joseph’s church car park. All proceeds are donated to charity.

**THE** Iain Rennie Hospice at Home held a Street Collection in Chalfont St Peter on 11 October, which raised a total of £323.31. Thanks to all organisers and supporters for all their time spent in this, which will help Iain Rennie Hospice at Home provide specialist nursing care for patients who wish to be cared for in their own homes during the final stages of terminal illness. They offer a 24 hour on call service, without charge, to patients and their families throughout the Chilterns area of Herts and Bucks.

**REPORT from Chalfont Common W.I.** In September we had a talk on the Gardens of the City of London. Not the sort of place you would think of for green spaces, mostly money. Nature provides the inhabitants with a redress from the pressures of urban living. There are sports of all kinds, skating, netball, tennis and broomball. Roof gardens, attracting wildlife, and somewhere for lunchtime breaks. Many of the gardens are around the churches of which twenty three still exist. Much more greenery than one would expect to see in the one square mile of the City of London.

Our October meeting was a talk by a young man who had taught English in Czechoslovakia and on his return to England found that his grandmother who lived in the Aylesbury area, was where the Czech government had resided during the second world war.

Twenty thousand Czechs came to England to escape the invading German army. Five and half thousand were in the armed forces, some as pilots. In the Battle of Britain, the Ace of Aces with the most ‘kills’ to his name was a Czech flyer. The president and his entourage stayed at the top secret location at Aston Abbots Abbey, Wingrave. The Bulls Head in Aylesbury was the favourite haunt for the odd pint or two for the servicemen. After the war, President Benesh went back and formed a Czechoslovakian government. Also returning were six hundred war brides and their families. Three years later the communists took control and many came back to live in England with their families in the Bucks area and cemented this local relationship.

Some of us attended the Dorney Rowing Lake and enjoyed a wonderful talk on the research and development of the Olympic size rowing lake which will be used for the 2012 games. We have also had walks and our book reading group continues to thrive. We meet on the first Thursday of the month, in the Tony Graham room at the Chalfont community centre 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

**THE** Flower Festival at the beginning of September at Gerrards Cross Methodist Church, Oak End Way, was a huge success and raised £1,060 for Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.

Between four and 5 hundred people saw the amazing flower display, arranged by the Gerrards and the Chalfont St Peter Flower Clubs’ members and musically accompanied by soft background music, as well as 6 organists who took it in turn to play.

Valerie Walker, who masterminded the event, has asked me to extend her thanks to all who helped with this most enjoyable way of raising such a splendid sum of money for the Hospice.

**THE** Misbourne Art Society 's aim is to further the interest of artists in the locality by arranging programmes of regular meetings for discussion, lectures, outdoor sketching and painting and to promote exhibitions of members' work and visits to art centres. Meetings are held at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre at 2.15pm on the first Saturday of the month. Workshops and Tutorials start at 10am.

November 1st - Landscape in the style of Turner. Illustrated talk, Peter Atkins

**NOVEMBER 20TH- 22ND ANNUAL EXHIBITION IN PARISH HALL, CHURCH LANE**

December 6th - Christmas Party, Competition "Christmas list". Quiz. Presentations by members.

**THE** Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire is pleased to welcome 'Little Green Earthlets' a thriving and established real nappy enterprise to the county. The shop will be the first to open in Buckinghamshire, operating as a casual drop in session for parents to see the products and receive some expert nappy advice. Little Green Earthlets will be officially opened by Avril Davis, local councillor for Ivinghoe, and David Carroll, Lead Spokesperson for Waste on Friday 31st October 2008 at 2.30pm. The shop is located on 17, High Street, Ivinghoe, LU7 9ED.

Owners Michelle and Mike Riley will be offering a variety of demonstration nappies and have library kits of real nappies, where parents can borrow nappies to try out at home for free (small returnable deposit required). The couple emphasise that, "you don't have to be an "eco-warrior" to use 'real nappies', every family can benefit. The information is totally free and the nappies won't "cost the earth" either!" The shop will be opened Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm for a casual drop in session and a no obligation demonstration of products. Also available is a monthly drop in sessions in the evening for dads and mums using real nappies. To support parents even more Little Green Earthlets will be open by appointment at any other time.

Michelle Riley adds, "We started using real nappies when our twins Samuel and Mia were born and we had very little income! Parents considering real nappies can either drop into the shop or get in touch with our real nappy advisors. Please visit [www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk](http://www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk) for more information."

**THE** Gerrards Cross Sailing Association meets on Wednesdays 8.15 prompt (bar opens at 7.30pm) in Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross.

**On 5<sup>th</sup>** November the topic is – A year at sea – Malta to the Caribbean – presented by John Dawson and Bernie Smallman. Club members John and Bernie tell how they took their charter-scheme boat, adapted it for living aboard and sailed through the Mediterranean Sea and across the Atlantic Ocean to explore the Caribbean.

**Nov 15<sup>th</sup>** - To Russia with Love - Jonathan Walmsley, Jonathan describes his cruise from the East Coast of the UK in his Shipman 28 with his all girl crew to St Petersburg in Russia. Highlights include being shot at by the Polish border authorities and running into a Baltic port without an engine in a full gale.

**Nov 19th** Arctic Circle & Iceland - almost - and back, single-handed - Roger Taylor. Roger cruised non-stop from Burnham-on-Crouch to Plymouth last year passing the Shetlands and almost reaching the Arctic Circle en-route. He describes his 'amazing' summer on Mingming - a junk-rigged Corribee 21 - with the help of video footage.

**Nov 26th** Weather, IT and Gypsy Moth IV - Andrew Ecclestone of the University of Plymouth and weather adviser to Gypsy Moth IV will give an academic's view of yachting.

**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Going West slowly: Falmouth to the Canaries - Simon Fraser. Simon returns to describe Falmouth to the Canaries in two leisurely summer cruises. Ten weeks meandering into Spanish Rias and down the Portuguese coast to Lagos for the winter of 2006, then on to Madeira and the Canaries in 2007

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** Cast off for Christmas Mulled wine - mince pies - good company - short stories *Spring 2009 Programme will start on Wednesday January 7th*

**JUGGLERS** Cafe is open from 10am-11.30am every Thursday during autumn term at Gold Hill Baptist Church. Tel: 01753 887173. Everyone is invited to join in for coffee, cake and chat with free crèche available. There are inspirational talks and parenting tips and a chance to make new friends.

Special Events. November 20th is a Pampering morning and December 11 will have a Christmas Brunch at the Cafe.

**POP-IN TALKS at Gold Hill Baptist Church are non-denominational and everyone is welcome.**

November 6th It's all my fault! (Women and guilt) Sally Parkin

November 13th What is good for health?! (Finding a balance) Sarah Newbery

November 27th Frustration or fulfilment?! (Enjoying parenthood) Jean O'Regan

December 4th Christmas calm?! (Contentment during the countdown) Maria Bond

**There is always a crèche for babies and pre-schoolers at these meeting**

**CHILTERN Open Air Museum**, Gorelands Lane, is holding its annual Charit Auction on November 15.

**DIARY DATE: CHALFONT St Peter Fun night is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, starting around 6pm. The village will be transformed and lots of activities and special bargains in the shops to be had.**