

Many thanks to CHALFONT OFFICE DIRECT for kindly printing this newsletter

Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

December 2008

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice



CHALFONT St Peter Fun night is St Nicholas Fayre, on Friday 5th December, from 6.30 in the Parish Church Hall. You are invited to join in and try your hand at the fun stalls, buy Christmas gifts, enjoy the Christmas punch, teas, coffees and free mince pies. During the evening, the choir will be rehearsing carols in the church and you are welcome to listen as you enjoy the refreshments on offer. Elsewhere in the village, there will also be lots going on and the shops will be open. Everyone turns out to celebrate the forthcoming festive season - joining in the fun is worthwhile.

THE annual Christingle service is a symbol of Christmas and a lovely way for families to celebrate the Advent season. Last year there were over 6,000 Christingle Services held in this country and £1,240,000 was raised, all going towards the important work of the Children's Society - helping disadvantaged children. Christingle Services which will be held in Chalfont St Peter Parish Church, 4.00pm Sunday December 7th and All Saints Church, Oval Way, Chalfont St. Peter, 10 am. Sunday December 21st.

This is a lovely candlelit service in which each child exchanges a Christingle envelope containing a donation to the Children's Society for a Christingle which is an orange, depicting the world; a candle, the Light of the World; a red ribbon, the blood of Christ; and cherries, raisins and sweets the fruits of the world. It is a short service and the candles are lit for the last hymn and it is a joy to see the children's faces in the light of the candles.

To give us some idea of the numbers attending could you please collect an envelope from the Church office or Wendy Reid 01753 888864, or Kirsten Gibb 01753 892678. This will give us some indication as to how many Christingles to make. I do hope you will support this worthwhile charity

CAREERS 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 www.careersspringboard.info

December 1 - Making a Good Impression.

December 12 - Action Planning for the Christmas break

ST PETER PLAYERS present The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe to celebrate their 60th anniversary and have chosen this because it was written by CS Lewis exactly 60 years ago.

The, Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe performances are: 9th - 13th December - Saturday matinees at 11.30 and 3.30 at the Community Centre, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter Tickets £8.00 Box Office 01753 892310

CHALFONT St Peter W.I. meets on the second Wednesday in the month at the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm. On 10th December - Merry Christmas - Traditional Customs and Folklore - Janet Dineen, 2pm start.

AT All Saints Church, Chalfont St Peter on the afternoon of Sunday 14 December, 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 Corella's *Christmas Concerto* and *Sheep May Safely Graze* by Bach. *Pellegrina* (Kyoto Murat – Soprano; Maria Sanger – recorder; Amanda Seaborg – viola ad samba and Alison Bowler – harpsichord) will be joined by guests Peter Wendland (viola ad samba, viol one) 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

THE The South Bucks Choral Society has been established for 25 years under the leadership of conductor Iain Binghamton and three concerts are given each season. Their next event is on Saturday, 20th December at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Amersham, when the choir will give a concert of Christmas Music and Carols.

New members having a reasonable knowledge of music and sight reading are most welcome. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at 7.45pm in St Joseph's School, Priory Road, Chalfont St Peter. For further details please contact 01753 883684.

VOPAG meets on Thursday 11th December, in the Parish council meeting room, Gravel Hill. Coffee is at 10am and meeting begins at 10.30. This is the chance for everyone over 55 to meet, greet and enjoy the presentation on a subject of interest. Do go along and support this.

FRIENDS OF CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM are welcome to join Hedgerly Historical Society at 8 pm, on Wednesday 3 December Hedgerly Village Memorial Hall to hear a talk by Dr Catherine Grigg (Wycombe Museum) on A Victorian Christmas.

On Wednesday 28 January, Colin Oakes will talk on "London Between the Wars – 1918-1939" This popular and talented speaker reviews the changes which took place, often for the better, contrary to the general national trend. This takes place in the Mary Smith ells 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 – per-booking not necessary.

TOP Crust Sandwich Bar is under new management. Tracey Waller-Rumpus is a lady with a lot of experience in Chalfont St Peter provision of food and drink, as she has worked in most of the eating places and pubs in the village, over the years.

Tracey was brought up in Chalfont St Peter and though she has lived in Chalfont St Giles and Little Chalfont, she belongs to Chalfont St Peter in both preference and history. Her extended family is well known in the village and her grandmother had a house just off the High Street, which she remembers fondly from her childhood.

Having been in the catering business for around 20 years, Top Crust, in the High Street, is now her challenge and she's looking forward to making it a haven for those who like a tasty snack, or even a home-cooked meal, as she believes in feeding people with the type of food that they would cook at home.

To make it a family affair, her son Deccan, who is training to be a chef, is helping her to provide an environment that has good food, especially vegetarian dishes, and a selection of sweet treats, such as giant muffins and all sorts of naughty but nice temptations.

Cooked breakfasts are on offer and there is a homely atmosphere that makes the morning meal feel like a proper set-up for the day.

Tracey has already taken bookings for birthday parties and can do functions both in and out of the premises. She also plans to introduce cream teas soon.

Top Crust will soon be an Internet Safe, as Wei-Fee is being installed and you can take your lap-top along and attend to your emails, as you enjoy your food and the super coffees that are available.

IN November,, St Joseph's Furniture Market made the following donations:- Bucks Mind (Lanterns) - £400and Senior Citizens' Christmas Party - £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.

Request from Mr Harvey Weiner :-

"I have been assisting the website "Buckinghamshire Remembers", to put flesh on the names of a number of Memorials, and as far as Chalfont St.Peter is concerned we have approximately 105 names for WW1 and 63 for WW2, but only the WW1 names are being put on the web. The WW1 names I would like information on for the website are Arthur Butler, Charles Clayton, Harold Fleming, William George Francis, and George Warren. These names are on the Parish Memorial and the Plaque in the Royal British Legion Club in Nicol Rd. There are also some 15 names on the St.Josephs Crucifix Memorial, Austenwood Common, but they have been weathered away, and we have uncertainty about the following:- B.Gresham Brown; Joseph O'Callaghan; A.Smith; I or J.C.Thomas; W.I.or J. Thomas; H.I.Wild;

I would also like information for my research on WW2 names on J.Collins, J.Powell, and Albert Edward Lediard. The last named is buried in the Garden of Rest on Denham Lane, is named like the others, on the Parish Memorial in the Churchyard of St.Peter, but is not known to the Commonwealth War Graves Commision. He died aged 30 in Hersham Surrey, on 1st July 1945, but being born here his family brought his body back here for burial, but no trace of his family can now be found, as his last brother died after him, and his Mother who was a Bolton died in 1942. Another brother, John Charles Lediard, a Gunner, is remembered on the Debt of Honour site of the CWGC. Having died also in 1942

The web address for "Buckinghamshire Remembers", access either through Google or " buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk ", and click on the Memorials at St.Pauls, Horne Hill; All Saints Church Oval Way; St Josephs, Austenwood Common; Royal British Legion Club; and St.Peters Church. Also Gerrards Cross Memorial Hall; and St.James Church, as there is an overlap of names with Chalfont St.Peter." To contact Harvey Weiner - email harjo@harvey2w2.plus.com

THE WORKS is a surprising success, quite unexpectedly. Anthony and Bev Kelly were amazed when they took over the woodturner's workshop in Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter and instead of refurbishing, as originally intended, it they decided(in the light of the current financial climate) to store some building items that needed a temporary home. There were various other things added to the pile when people brought them in as surplus to their requirements and all of a sudden, there was a brisk trade taking place. Bev used to run the photographic shop in the Precinct, but the rents were tripled and therefore the business just wasn't viable, so now she and Anthony are fully occupied not only meeting the needs of interested browsers with their own items, but also taking in goods from local people, for which there seems to be a ready market. Worth a browse.

MISBOURNE Art Society's annual exhibition lived up to its quality reputation with some super works of art. Many fine pieces, showing just how skilled our local artists are. The standard was so good that it was difficult to vote for just one to win the Elaine Butler trophy, but some that caught my eye as being special were Charles Grierson's Band of the Coldstream Guards, Brian Isherwood's horse and rider (A Half Pass) and J Mason's Seascape, though many others were also excellent. The exhibition always seems to attract great exhibits and is a special treat and feast of colour during cold November.

FRIENDS of Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Chairman, Mrs Sara Sabine, welcomed the big turnout of 'Friends' and other interested local people and gave a summary of the activities that are taking place to ensure the hospital provision that has been provided for so many years in Chalfont St Peter, will continue. However, she said that though assurances were given on a number of occasions that when Memorial Ward was moved to Amersham Hospital it would not be linked in any way to the existing Waterside Ward, almost at the last minute, Memorial has been amalgamated with Waterside and is now known as the "Waterside and Chalfonts Community Hospitals". The move took place on 22nd September and went pretty smoothly thanks to the expertise and professionalism of the wonderful staff. A number of beds and other pieces of equipment have been transferred to Amersham and a list is being kept so that all such items can be traced In turn, beds etc previously used by Waterside are now stored in the Chalfonts Hospital turning the Memorial area into a large "cupboard" – a very sad sight.

The PCT is consulting various groups and many people will have already completed the Survey which has been circulated. This stage of the process will be completed by analysis of the feedback data and a report will be produced for the PCT's November Board Meeting, listing three or more realistic options. The second round of engagement, relating directly to the options agreed by the PCT's Board, will be in December 2008 and in January 2009 and the aim of this stage will be to explain the actual Options available and engage the local community to ensure the most appropriate one is chosen. The PCT's Board will be required to approve the final option at the end of January 2009.

It is envisaged that inpatient facilities are to be served by a ground floor Ward with a minimum of 24 beds comprising a range of four bedded units and some single rooms. This would provide the possibility of configurations which would enable women and men to be housed separately and also have privacy and peace for those with infections and the seriously or terminally ill. Separate toilet and bathing facilities must be available for women and men.

The comprehensive provision that was anticipated gives hope for a vibrant medical service in Chalfont St Peter. The patients' care could include Rehabilitation, Respite and Palliative care and admission could be from the acute hospitals or via GPs' enhanced services.

There will need to be more staff for the ward plus medical cover both day and night. This medical cover could be provided by local GP surgeries on a rota basis.

Outpatient facilities should provide an enhanced range of outpatient services including:

physiotherapy, X-rays, phlebotomy, transfusions, chemotherapy and tissue viability, diabetes, podiatry, asthma, pain relief, minor injuries and operations, family planning, pain clinics, rheumatology, post operative orthopaedic clinics and medical assessment (saving a journey to the acute hospitals)

The outpatients department including physiotherapy could be better used during the day and also offer out of hour's courses and health promotion activities such as: dietetics, control of alcohol intake, sexual health screening and advice, smoking cessation, well-man clinics, well-woman clinics and falls prevention for the elderly plus

A day centre for the elderly, with provision for Alzheimer's sufferers, with the bonus of providing respite for carers.

Also complementary therapies such as Pilates, reflexology, acupuncture together with exercise classes, weight loss etc

Extended and out-of-hours GP services could be based at the Hospital and could include a walk-in surgery open until 10pm and for a period of time on Saturdays.

The absolute need for repair or replacement of the old building, that is part of our heritage. There is asbestos he “out of hours GP” based there could provide 24 hour cover for inpatients and medical expertise for outpatients’ minor injuries.

Speaking at the meeting also were first, Rachel Corser, Clinical Quality and Development Lead - Community Hospitals, who gave reassurances about nursing provisions and suggested that matron run services would be the best option. Then Ed Macalister-Smith, Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire NHS Primary Care Trust, who gave a most impressive presentation of all the options and thoughts that were being considered to ensure that the hospital provision was as wisely created and implemented as possible and his deep involvement and commitment were evident, so it seems the project is in safe hands. The final speaker, David Wood, Chief Executive of Attend (formerly the National Association of Hospital and Community Friends spoke on behalf of Attend and how valuable volunteers are in the hospital system. His positive message encouraged people to see how much can be done by the generosity of those who donate their time.

The packed Colston Hall was evidence of the degree of interest in the hospital and people were reassured that every effort was being made to find the best solution to the problem, in the light of the that has to be considered, so though there is a £4million pound expenditure of refurbishment proposed, the possible danger in this may mean that a better option would be to demolish and rebuild, as we were told by Mr Macalister-Smith that the difficulty in refurbishing piecemeal could be avoided by demolition and a direct rebuild. To help with implementing the work when it has been set in motion, Treasurer of the League of Friends, Martin Stevens, mentioned the £53,000 legacy that has been invested awaiting the right moment for its use.

COMMUNITY COURSES

Two 8 week PARENTING COURSES are on offer again for parents or carers of children aged 0 – 6 or 7 – 13. These courses are suitable for all and give you some great tools to give your children the best start in life. They will run on Monday mornings from 26th January to 23rd March from 10.00am to 11.30am with a free crèche provided. The cost is £30 which includes course book and refreshments (concessions are available if necessary).

RECOVERING FROM DIVORCE OR SEPARATION COURSE for those who are at varying stages in this process who would like some practical guidance and support from others in the same position. This is a 6 week course running on Monday evenings from 26th January to 9th March from 7.30pm to 10.00pm and the cost is £25 (concessions available).

SEMINAR FOR COUPLES – A DAY TO TREASURE - for those who wish to strengthen and invest a little time into their marriage. This is being held on February 28th from 9.00am to 5.00pm and costs £20 including a light lunch and refreshments.

GLAD YOU ASKED - a new 7 week course to explore spiritual issues in a fresh way. An opportunity to give your opinions and ask questions on a whole range of topics. This will be on Thursday mornings from 29th January to 19th March from 10.00am to 11.30am and will be free of charge

All of the above courses are being held at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter but are suitable for the whole community. Places are limited and early booking is therefore recommended. Please contact Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or email her on katrina.reading@goldhill.org to book or obtain further information.

DO you know the Law? Are you sure that your child is safely secured in the car. Any child under the age of twelve, or 1.35m (4ft 5in) in height must be in an appropriate car seat for their weight and age.

In September 2006 the law changed on child car seats and now, two years on there is still confusion about it and what, how and if the change affects you. If you have a child under the age of twelve then the changes will affect you.

Across the county throughout October the Road Safety Team and Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership (TVSRP) will be educating parents on these issues, at schools during the morning and afternoon ‘school run’. The aim of the campaign is to educate and advise parents and carers on how to fit child seats correctly and raise the issue, but not in a way which may frighten parents/carers, who ultimately face being fined if they don’t comply with the law.

Buckinghamshire County Council is working in partnership with Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) to advise parents of newborn children on choosing and fitting car seats.

A new ‘Child car seats and in-car safety’ information pack has been developed and will be given out to all new parents in Buckinghamshire by their Health Visitor. The pack includes information such as a DVD that provides the viewer with a step-by-step guide to protecting children whilst travelling in vehicles. It also gives advice on choosing, fitting and buying appropriate child car seats.

The pack also contains leaflets giving information on wearing seatbelts, the new law on child restraints and how the height and age rules work together. The advice is that the best way to reduce the risk of your child becoming injured in a crash is to always use a properly fitted, purpose made car seat. Check that it meets the current safety standards and make sure it is appropriate for your child’s weight and height.

It is important that parents take time to make sure child restraints are properly fitted before every journey.

Seatbelts are designed for adults, children are not small adults, but Children who have grown out of child seats still need to use booster seats or booster cushions until they are big enough to graduate to seatbelts.

For more information please contact Malcolm Stowe 01296 382450.