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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice February 2009

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

CONGRATULATIONS to **Brian Isherwood** who was awarded the Elaine Butler Salver – with this superb painting, A Half Pass, being voted favourite, by visitors to the Misbourne Art Society's Annual Show last November. This compelling painting of a dressage horse was admired by many visitors to the Society's most successful exhibition for ages. The raffle painting of a Turner-esque landscape, painted by Peter Atkins & generously given to the Society after his demonstration, was won by the holder of ticket no 46. & is much admired by its new owner Dr Gwen Grant. The organizers want to thank everyone for their support for the exhibition. Visitors are always welcome to monthly meetings which take place on the first Saturday of the month at 2.15 in the Tony Graham Room at Ch St Peter Community Centre. Cost £3 for visitors. Full membership of M.A.S. costs £20 a year. Apply to Jean Griffith 01494 873722.

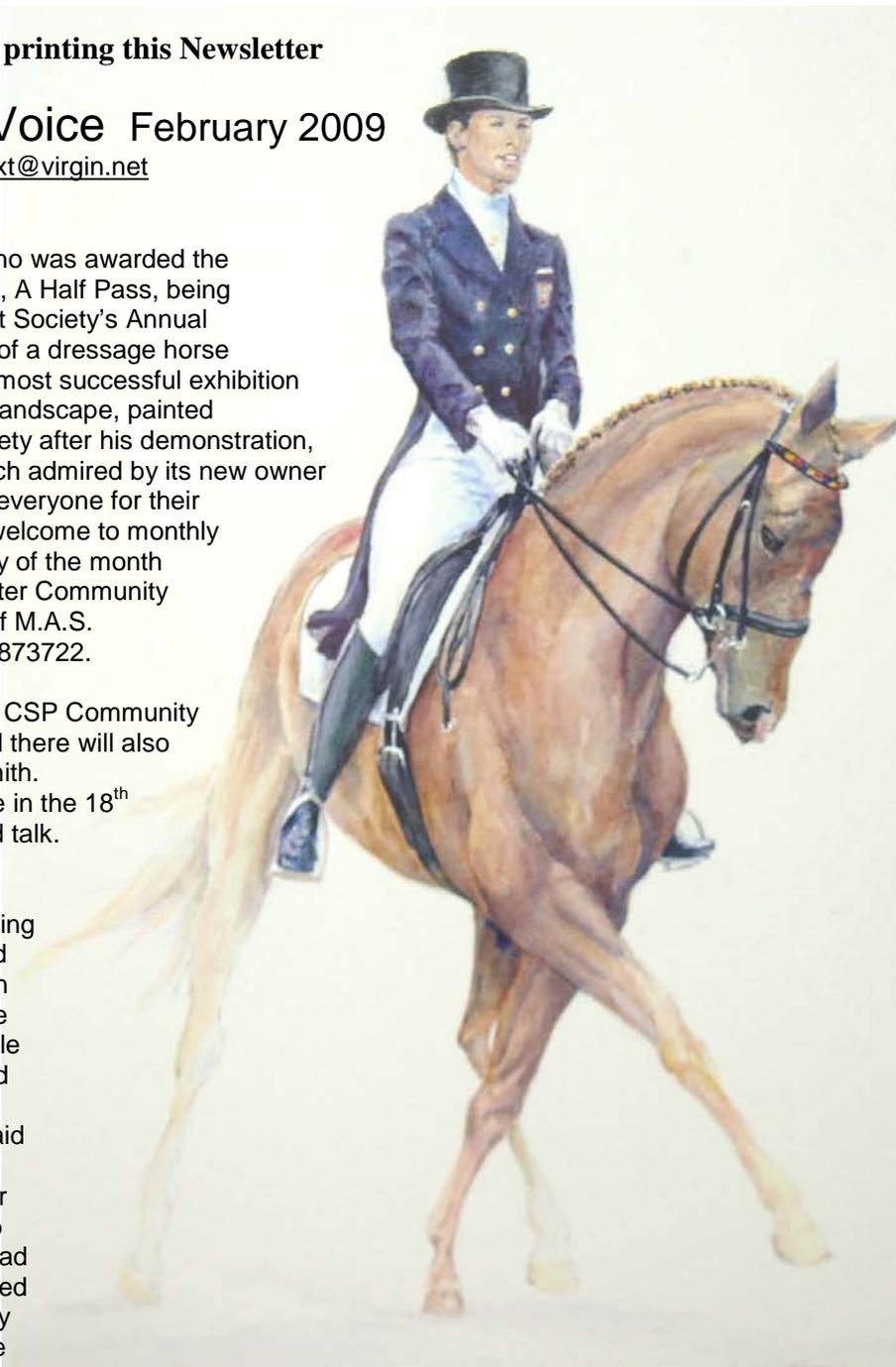
THE Misbourne Art Society has its AGM in the CSP Community Centre on Saturday, February 7 at 2.15pm and there will also be a critique of members' work, with Martin Smith. On March 7 the topic will be English Portraiture in the 18th Century - with Brian Cairns giving an illustrated talk.

CHALFONT COMMON W.I. reports that at its January meeting David Ball gave a most amusing talk about Magic and the Magic Circle. He said his interest was aroused at the age of 11, when given a conjuring set for Xmas, and he became a professional magician, joining the Magic Circle on his retirement. The Magic Circle was formed in 1905 and there are now 1,500 members worldwide from 38 different countries. David said magic took various forms, escapology and manipulation acts, magic of the mind, magic for children and comedy magic and, with regard to the latter, he cited Tommy Cooper, whom he had known personally. David enthralled and mystified with his magic tricks and amused with his many jokes, providing a most enjoyable evening. The talk at the February meeting will be about the remote areas of south-west China. 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 welcomed. Another venture is the **Attic Sale** that they are holding on March 14 in the CSP Community Centre. Tables cost £10 to book by contacting Brenda Aldworth on 01753 885293.

VANESSA SHEPHERD S.A.C. (dip) SHPT offers a chiropody service at The Health and Beauty Pharmacy in Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross every Wednesday. To book: Tel: 01753 883484 This is a private chiropody service - cost £25 and it is very popular with local people, and she has been well recommended. She also works at the Denham Medical Centre and at the Mill Barn Medial Centre in Beaconsfield,

VOPAG (Village Older Persons' Action Group) meets next on Thursday, February 19 in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. This is for the over 55s, who can meet and greet and listen to interesting and useful information about local services and activities. Coffee is at 10am and meeting begins at 10.30am.

CHALFONT ST PETER W.I. welcomes Mrs.J.Hall as speaker, to present "Scillies and Gardens of Tresco", on March 11 at 2.15 in The Church Hall." The Art Cup is "A corner of the Garden". Visitors welcome.



THE latest Achievement and Attainment Tables published by the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) show that Buckinghamshire came top of all shire authorities in the country for GCSE or equivalent results with 63.4% per cent of our pupils achieving five or more A* to C grades, including English and Mathematics, at the end of KS4. An increase of 2.9% when compared with last year - double last year's increase. Our results are also the highest when compared with those of similar councils known as our statistical neighbours.

Eight schools in Buckinghamshire were identified as National Challenge schools. All of these schools improved their performance in 2008 and only four are still below the threshold of 30% of pupils gaining 5+ A*- classes including English and mathematics.

Three of our schools - Beaconsfield High, Dr Challoner's Grammar, and Sir William Borlase's Grammar - achieved 100 per cent of their pupils gaining five or more grades A* to C including English and mathematics.

A number of schools have been particularly successful in supporting their students to make good progress from entry compared to similar pupils nationally (as measured by Key Stage 2-4 Contextual Value Added measure). These schools are: Dr Challoner's Grammar, Highcrest Community, The Royal Grammar, Waddesdon Church of England, Alfriston, Stony Dean and Wendover House.

Results in the post-16 attainment tables for Buckinghamshire schools and colleges are also considerably higher than the national averages. The average QCA point score per exam entry GCE/VCE A/AS or equivalent examinations in 2008 was the highest when compared with those of similar councils known as our statistical neighbours, and also when compared with other shire authorities.

Marion Clayton, Cabinet Member for Achievement and Learning, said: "Once again, Buckinghamshire schools have achieved outstanding examinations results. Continual improvement from a high base is always a challenge and this is a well deserved recognition of the excellence of the education that all our schools provide.

"Our Upper schools have made a 4% increase at 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics, contributing almost exclusively to the increase in performance at this level. Our Grammar schools continue to achieve very high results - 98.5% 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics - higher than the average for grammar schools nationally.

"Pupils, parents, teachers and other staff in schools, governors and those in the Local Authority who support schools, should be justifiably proud of the outcome of their efforts."

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR there was a "Dig for Victory" campaign and the need to use resources wisely is upon us again. Now is the time to think about being more self-sufficient and healthy and we have the impetus of the credit crunch to spur us on.

The **Chalfont St Peter Garden Club** was formed in 1940 in response to the Dig for Victory campaign and the club is currently 600 strong in the SL9 area. As they operate on a 'not for profit' policy, it also makes sense to be a member and take advantage of savings in seeds, compost, fertilisers tools and a wide variety of goods, to order from the members' trading hut, at prices less than retail and nursery outlets.

In the current and still gathering recession we are in a position that gardening is not only a healthy activity, but is a way of helping finances and enjoying fresh produce. Maybe some people now have more time on their hands and this can be used productively by growing food for the table. Think of the carbon footprint as well. If you are growing your own food, it cuts down the miles travelled by what you might otherwise have bought.

The CSP Garden Club annual subscription is only £6 and of course this can be quickly recouped by savings on purchases from the garden hut as well as from your home grown produce. Another benefit for amateur gardeners is the free advice offered through the monthly newsletter, monthly lectures and knowledgeable members at the garden hut.

Coach trips, shows and a plant sale are organised during spring and summer and seeds are available at up to 40% discount. With all these benefits, the yearly fee is a good investment.

Membership secretary is Richard Fenton, who can be contacted at 01494 871308 (or you can just go tot he hut on a Sunday morning (10 - noon), just at the back of the CSP Community Centre in Gravel Hill

The next meeting is on Wednesday, **18th February**, when **Martin Finney** will talk on **Garden Design**, starting at 8pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter.

CAREERS SPRINGBOARD meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30 pm each Monday at St Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, 12 Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross.SL9 7QE. New members are always welcome – membership is free. Email address: careers.springboard@virgin.net

- February 2 Determining your Personal Brand *Really understanding your unique selling points*
Guest Speaker: Linda Denny, Director – The Smart Coaching Company
- February 9 It's a Job to Find a Job - *How to be a well organised and successful job seeker*
Speaker: Tony Hodgson (Volunteer)
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- February 16 Networking Skills
Making Contacts – the essential ingredient to job search
Speaker: Peter Roycroft (Volunteer)
- February 23 Using Technology to Support your Job Search - *Making the web work for you*
Speaker: Jeremy Fletcher (Volunteer)
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- March 2 Networking in action - *Polishing your skills in live practise activities*
Speaker: Derek Lloyd-Rees (Volunteer)
- March 9 Breakout Groups
An opportunity to work in small groups to revisit one of the topics covered since January
Group leaders
- March 16 Working Independently - *Find out more about a career in interim management or consultancy*

Guest speakers:
Clive Bennett, Ashton Penney Interim Management Solutions
and Tracy Hough Experienced interim executive
- March 23 Interviews – Part 1
Preparation is the key to a successful interview.
- March 30 Speaker: Julie Morosco (Volunteer)
Interviews – Part 2
Focusing on what happens during the interview itself,
Including a discussion on tough interview questions
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- Speaker : Julie Morosco (Volunteer)

Meetings also provide the opportunity for you to share your views and problems with others. Volunteers are available to give 'one to one' advice and support.

Regular participation in our Monday evening meetings will help to improve your job search skills.

QUITE a few people from this area have studied Graphology over the years and some may like to refresh their knowledge by attending a Saturday school at Missenden Abbey on Saturday 28th March. Graphology –Further Study. Course Number X21HU12A8. These courses are always stimulating and people can learn from the group energy, as well as developing areas of knowledge that are particularly interesting to them.

Cost for the day: Course only - £47 Course & lunch £62.

Bookings: Telephone 01296 383582 email:dcevreham@buckscc.gov.uk

website: www.arca.uk.net/missendenabbey

THE Thames Valley police website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk has a number of useful pages relating to neighbourhood policing and local crime trends. Information on these pages includes photos of Neighbourhood Officers, Neighbourhood News and updates from the Neighbourhood Action Group(NAGS). This link will take you to the Neighbourhood policing pages from where you can select your area.

http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news_info/info/neighbourhood_policing.htm

Another link shows figures and maps detailing recorded crime by neighbourhoods on a monthly basis.

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/Instant-atlas/atlas.html>

BALLROOM and Latin American beginners dance class is every Monday evening 8.30-10pm, at Chalfont St Peter Parish Church Hall. Enquiries: 01753 893440.

THE Chalfonts Children's Centre has a range of activities for parents/carers and their children, under 5 years. The activities provide a chance for you to spend some quality time with your children and meet local families too. The activities that the children's centre runs include: Mighty Messy Mondays - every Monday afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30 at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. The activity provides a range of messy play activities for you and your child to do together and ideas for messy play in the home. They also run Bounce and Rhyme on a Thursday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 at Chalfont St Giles Scout Hall. Go along and sing your favourite songs and rhymes and learn new ones too! In Little Chalfont they run Stories and Rhymes at Bell Lane Combined School from 9:00 to 10:30, listen to exciting stories and pick up some helpful ideas for story time at home. If you would like more information please contact Bethany Paget on 07826 892196 or e-mail at bpaget@buckscc.gov.uk.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE residents can now take their used chipboard or other man made wood such as MDF, hardboard to their local Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) where processes are in place for the material to be recycled. (At High Heavens this service will be available at the new HWRC)

The Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire is committed to increasing recycling rates in the County and hopes that this new service will encourage residents to use this facility and help divert large amounts of waste from landfill.

Man made woods such as chipboard are valuable resources that can be used in the composting process.

This service is free of charge to Buckinghamshire householders. Traders can use this facility at trade sites (charges apply).

GERRARDS CROSS SAILING ASSOCIATION has meetings Wednesdays 8:15pm prompt - Bar opens 7.30 pm Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross

Feb 4th	A Fleeting View of the Black Sea - Doreen and Archie Annan. Hon Club members Doreen and Archie recount with photos their experiences and curious incidents during preparation of their yachtmens' pilot 'Cruise the Black Sea'.
Feb 11th	Meandering through the Midi - Don and Jacky Wark Don & Jacky, Sailing Today contributors, took the lazy way from Honfleur to the Med in their 29ft Snapdragon then on to Biscay along the Midi & Garonne canals. They will share this relaxing but fascinating experience.
Feb 18th	Overlord - Bob Hazell Past Commodore of the Offshore Cruising Club Bob Hazell outlines the history of Windfall Yachts and illustrates some of "Overlord's" past cruises and future sailing plans.
Feb 25th	A Passion for the Sea - Jimmy Cornell In the last 35 years, Jimmy has sailed 200,000 miles, including 3 circumnavigations and 2 voyages to Antarctica. He will talk about planning an offshore voyage: to the Med, across the Atlantic or right round the world, with a detour to Antarctica.
Mar 4th	Holly's circumnavigation of Britain in 1994 - Peter Poole Member Peter Poole set off in June with the intention of seeing as much as possible. Holly, his Nicholson 32, went round Britain including most of Orkney in 11 weeks with mainly good weather, lots of wonderful experiences and meeting many interesting people.
Mar 11th	AGM - followed by Cruising to Hell and Back - Rod Paton Member Rod Paton describes where things went badly wrong on cruises in the Baltic and across the Atlantic - and tries to draw sensible conclusions.
Sat Apr 4th	Annual Dinner at Beaconsfield Golf Club (Ticket event)

