

Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

April 2010

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SIXTY five people joined our MP. Cheryl Gillan, for dinner at The Three Pigeons in Austenwood Common on Friday evening, March 19 to enjoy the company of friends, but primarily to hear the latest situation about the forthcoming General Election and to hear what she had to say.

Cheryl Gillan grew up in Wales and mentioned that she was half Welsh and half Scottish, so she is comfortable with the job of Shadow Welsh Secretary on the Conservative front bench. Her deeply committed approach to her responsibility for Wales was evident in her address to the diners, but it was also evident that her commitment to her Chesham and Amersham constituency and especially to Chalfont St Peter in this difficult time of threat to our village, was a determined stance and readiness to fight our corner.

She started off by saying that in 1979 Britain was in a parlous state with the unions dominating the political scene and the three day week being a fact of life for some time. She then married that up with the current situation of Britain again being in a parlous state and that whoever won the next election was going to be faced with an enormous challenge to try to bring the Country back to an approach to solvency, which could take a long time, but which the Conservatives believed they could handle better than any other party.

Then question time produced queries about how they would handle a hung parliament, and she stated that they were determined that this wouldn't happen. There were questions on the H2 rail link and also on the planned development of the Holy Cross site. She informed the listeners that she had arranged a meeting with Sister Imelda from the Convent and hoped sincerely that she could make some progress in mutual understanding.

What she brought to the fore was the need to be constantly on the case of fighting for our village and survival of its identity, as a comfortable place that is able to cope effectively with supporting its residents.

Cheryl Gillan is an articulate and skilled MP and very sincere and hardworking on our account.

MISBOURNE Art Society is a friendly group of local people with one thing in common- an interest in art. They meet at 2.15pm in the **Tony Graham Room** at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre on the **First Saturday** of the month for demonstrations, illustrated lectures & drawing and painting sessions. Here's a taste of our forthcoming events:- **APRIL 3rd Portrait in Acrylic - a demonstration by Keith Morton** **MAY 1st Creating Sculptures - a talk by John Coppinger** Visitors are welcome at £5 but we also have vacancies for new members at £25 per year. Remember, an interest in art is all you need. It is not necessary to be an artist! If you would like to know more, phone Jean Griffith 01494 873722 or simply turn up.

A MISTAKE in last month's newsletter about the B & B in Chalfont St Peter. The website address is whitewebbs1@tiscali.co.uk I left out the number. Maureen and John Marsh have two comfortable en suite rooms, one double and one twin and can be contacted on. Tel: 01753 884105.

THE Quiz night at Gold Hill Baptist Church at the end of last year, Katrina Reading reports, raised over £600 and they were also given a brand new van to deliver furniture for those in need - worth around £28,000!

WALK of Witness on Good Friday will be one of reflection and silent prayer, culminating with Stations of the Cross in St Joseph's Church. This ecumenical event involves a Walk of Witness from Chalfont St Peter Parish Church commencing at 6.45pm. All are invited to join in this community Easter occasion.

CHALFONT BRIDGE CLUB is remaining affiliated to the EBU. The Club meets every Wednesday at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre at 7.30 pm and visitors are welcome. There is a host system so you can be sure of a game. More information can be found on bridgewebs.com/chalfont. Contact David Burbidge on 01494 873 590 e-mail: david.burbidge.t21@btinternet.com

THE Gerrards Cross Flower Club meets on Wednesday, March 17, when Jackie Eyre will present "Step into Spring", in the Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross at 2.15pm. Guests are always welcome and of course new members. For more details telephone Pam Houchen: 01753 884190 or Chris Edgerton: 01753 884940.

VOPAG meets on Thursday, April 22 in the Parish Council Offices at 10 for Coffee and 10.30 for the talk.

SHARE Miles this Easter with 5 for a Fiver - Looking forward to some great days out with the family during the Easter holidays, but without the hassle and cost of driving? Then hop on board an Arriva or Carousel bus in Buckinghamshire and get the 5 for a fiver go anywhere ticket.

Between 1st and 18th April, the ticket allows up to two adults and three children a full days travel for just £5. You can travel to many fantastic destinations - ideal whether you like museums, sight-seeing, shopping or simply enjoying the beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside. So you can sit back, relax and let someone else do the driving!

Transport for Buckinghamshire is also giving you the opportunity to win 5 for a fiver tickets plus £100, so you can treat the family (or yourself!). Just listen to Mix 96 'Share Miles' competition during lunch times in the week commencing 29th March for your chance to win. Cabinet member for transport, Valerie Letheren said 'This is an excellent scheme which gives families the opportunity to enjoy some great value days out during the Easter holidays - a smarter alternative to car travel.'

For further information contact: Amanda Back Transport for Buckinghamshire Email: aback@buckscc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01296 387671 Fax: 01296 383363 County Hall, Walton Street Aylesbury, HP20 1UY

WARNING for BMW drivers. Overnight of 21-22 March wheels were stolen from 3 separate BMW vehicles in Chiltern Hills and Woodside Hill, Chalfont St Peter. Thieves used bricks stolen from driveways in the area to prop up the vehicles.

This is a continuing problem for BMW owners and where possible police recommend cars are parked in garages or close to a wall or hedge.

Ensure your wheels are as secure as possible and that your vehicle is fitted with 'Thatcham' approved locking wheel nuts. Whilst your vehicle may have been fitted with locking wheel nuts these may not be of the right standard, it is worth checking this with your BMW dealer. Alternatively see www.mcgard-europe.de or www.thatcham.org/products/ for the type of locking wheel bolts that 'Thatcham' approve.

Please be vigilant and if you see or hear anything suspicious call the police on 0845 8 505 505 or if it is a crime in progress dial 999.

GERRARDS Cross Flower Club meets in the Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross at 2.15pm, on April 21 for "My way with Flowers". Guests are always welcome and of course new members. For more details telephone Pam Houchen: 01753 884190 or Chris Edgerton: 01753 884940.

2010 Village Feast Day plans take shape. The right to hold an annual fair in Chalfont St Peter on the eve of and on St Peter's Day was conferred by the King to the Lord of the Manor in 1229 and has been celebrated in the village almost continually since. In 2009 the event was spectacularly revamped and over 6,000 people attended a fantastic days' activities on Gold Hill Common, culminating in a free concert in the evening by top ABBA tribute band, Platinum ABBA.

This year an even better event is planned with a series of displays and events, stalls, food and drink concessions all taking place on Gold Hill Common on Saturday 26th June. The day will culminate in a free-to-attend concert in the evening featuring top Queen tribute band, The Bohemians. It is anticipated that several thousand people will attend what, it is hoped, will be the village event of the year. The event website at www.feastofstpeter.org.uk provides more information and is regularly updated. Any surplus profits from the activities will be used to support three local charities.

The Feast Day committee has members from the Parish Council, the Parish Church, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Centre and others and are keen to hear from any individuals or organisations that have any records, photos etc from previous events that they can borrow for inclusion in the souvenir prize draw programme being produced. Advertising support is being sought by way of adverts for the prize draw programme and sponsors are being sought who will benefit from a package of sponsor benefits, including advertising and PR and tickets to the subsequent Feast Day Sponsors Night.

Stall pitches are now being booked and are available from just £50, with significant discounts for local charitable or not for profit organisations. Full details are on the website. www.feastofstpeter.org.uk

Local businesses are being contacted directly during February regarding advertising and sponsorship and, despite the current challenging economic conditions, it is hoped that there will be sufficient generosity to ensure a hugely successful event that showcases everything that is great about Chalfont St Peter.

To pledge support or enquire further with regards to advertising, sponsorship or taking a stall, please contact Sandra Clark at The Parish Church office on 01753 880067 or Michael Day on 07717 295369 or via email at enquiries@feastofstpeter.org.uk.

AT the March meeting of St Joseph's Furniture Market £250 each was given to British Red Cross (Bucks), Magdi Yacoub Institute, (Harefield Heart Foundation), Madelene Paton Luncheon Club and Age Concern (Bucks). The Market is on every Saturday from 9 – 12 in the building behind St Joseph's church, entrance via Priory Road, off Austenwood Lane for the sale of Good quality second hand furniture. Bargains galore.

GERRARDS Cross Lawn Tennis Club will be holding Neighbourhood Meetings on the following dates: Monday 19th April, Monday, 19th July. Monday 18th October. Start at 8pm, in the Clubhouse, Bull Lane.

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club will have its Club Spring Show on **Wednesday April 21**. Once again there will be a photographic competition during the Show. Photos may be in B & W or colour. Each exhibitor can only enter **one** A4 sized mount per class, but his can contain more than one print. Class 1 – A Garden Class 2 – Spring Flowers Class 3 – A Landscape.

The Club's next outing is to R.,H.S. Wisley in Dorking, on Wednesday April 28. This should provide an opportunity to get some super plants. Central attraction is the huge glasshouse complex, with every type of plant life. As the Club is affiliated to R.H.S. members get in free so only need to pay the coach fare. The coach will leave Church Lane at 9.30am and exit the venue at 4pm. Coffee or tea and biscuits included in the price and served on arrival.

Please make cheques out to Chalfont St Peter Garden Club and post to Mr K Gould, 10 Leachcroft, CSP, SL9 9LG, or hand in to the hut on a Sunday. Postal bookings will be acknowledged by phone – Keith/ 01753 884012. Tickets are £15 for club members and £17 for all others. Make sure you get your booking in early so that you don't miss out.

The Garden Club had success at a horticultural quiz evening with other local garden clubs, hosted by Gerrards Cross Garden Club. The CSP team, comprising Alan Davison, Marina Long, Jane Campbell and Claire de Carle proved to be the winning team at a very enjoyable evening. Congratulations.

Change4Chalfont – next meeting: 8pm Monday 26th April

Change4Chalfont is a local group, which aims to work with our community to reduce our impact on climate change and dependence on fossil fuels. We hold an open meeting once a month; the next one is **on Monday 26th April at 8pm in the Village Hall pub (Jolly Farmer Room)**, and we'd be delighted to see you there.

This month's Ten Minute Talk is '**Knowledge is Power (Saving)**'. Each time you get a fuel bill you probably wince at the expense and wonder how you might be able to reduce the amount you use, and save money. The bad news is that energy is likely to get more and more expensive as resources diminish. The good news is that there are loads of easy ways to save.

Based in the Chalfonts, Paul Tanner is a self-confessed energy nut, driven by distant memories of the post-war era "make do and mend" culture. He's been watching and analysing his household energy use and has noticed how an awareness of what you are using leads almost magically to savings. Why not save money while you help save the planet?

In this 10-minute session Paul will discuss some of the readily-available gadgets that he has found useful and suggest ways to raise your awareness and set a course for saving.

Please come along, or to find out more contact Robin and Stephanie Summerell on 01753 279855/ Hugh and Erica on mail@stokesneustadt.plus.com.

Change4Chalfont - Film Night: Home by Yann Arthus Bertrand (Cert PG 93mins) Friday April 30th 8pm

'Home' is a stunning documentary from the master of aerial photography. It chronicles the present day state of the Earth, its climate and how man as the dominant species has long-term effects on its future. The film highlights the interdependence of all living things with the planet: all organisms and the Earth are linked in a "delicate but crucial" natural balance that is critical to each one's survival.

Come and see **Home on Friday 30th April at 8pm in the Parish Church Hall, Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter**. Have a glass of wine, cup of coffee or tea, and home-made cake. Entrance is free; contributions would be very welcome.

We will be showing films on the last Friday of every month at St Peter's Church Hall, Chalfont St Peter. For more information, please contact robin_summerell@yahoo.co.uk

Change4Chalfont launches EcoTeams - Want to reduce your impact on the environment and save money? Join one of our EcoTeams!

EcoTeams (www.ecoteams.org.uk) is a programme designed to help your household improve its energy efficiency, reduce its environmental impact and save resources. The success of EcoTeams can be judged by their results: on average participants reduce their landfill waste by 20%, heating energy consumption by 21%, water usage by 15%, electricity consumption by 7% and carbon emissions by 17%, saving an average of £170 per year. EcoTeams meet once a month for 5 months. Leaders provide their group with a set of resources to enable them to discuss one topic at each meeting, share information, and effect changes together. They focus on waste, shopping, energy, water and transport. We have 4 trained EcoTeam leaders waiting to welcome new participants. If you would like to join one please contact Stephanie on 01753 279855 or by e-mail: stephanie_summerell@yahoo.co.uk

FRANCES Chidell reviews Piano Recital:

Marina Nadiradze, piano recital at Beaconsfield High School, February 20. This young pianist is used to getting superlative reviews and from the outset the audience at Beaconsfield could see why. She has won many prizes and about 10 years ago was given a postgraduate scholarship at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama to study with Philip Jenkins, whom she married. She also won there all the major prizes. Her husband and their young daughter and son were at the concert. They live in Bucks at Milton Keynes.

From the opening bars of Scarlatti (1685 to 1757) we realised here was an artist with extraordinary technique and ability. Every note was crisp and crystal clear and even in the many rapid runs up and down the piano, which the composer liked so much, each note had its precise value. The short melodious passages embedded in this brilliance could get lost, but no Marina clearly put across Scarlatti's messages.

After Scarlatti's sonatas in F major and D minor Martina played Haydn's Sonata in B minor. Although he was born only 50 years after Scarlatti, this work, written in 1776, was much more modern in feel and with more legato melodies. There was further contrast in Ravel's set of five Miroirs composed in 1904-5, a showcase for variation in the pianist's technique, where she presented scenes depicting languid torpor, then stormy seas, to the solemn, slow, last item, Valley of the Bells.

We had a surprise treat after the interval. This was to hear Marina, (who first studied piano in Tbilisi, Georgia) play a rousing piece by the Georgian composer Laghidze, It was energetic with folk themes and rhythms, in typical Georgian character, she told us. With unsparing energy, Marina ended with a bravura performance of Chopin's well-known Sonata no 3 in B minor. This was taken faster than some, and the Minute Waltz as an encore was certainly not more than a minute. The audience drifted out starry-eyed with appreciation.

Do you get out enough? The Thursday Coffee Club is on from 10.30-11.30 in the Community Centre and is a great way for senior citizens to meet and greet, make new friends. Do go along and enjoy the company

PROVIDING healthy and nutritious food for young children is a key aim of Daycare Nurseries in Buckinghamshire - so Trading Standards have been putting them to the test.

As part of a national survey our Daycare Nurseries were invited to take part and 25 volunteered. We then selected 10 participants to reflect the County's diversity.

Participants collected sample meals that would be given to a three year old for a whole week including drinks.

These were sent to our Public Analyst who analysed the food for Fat, Saturated Fats, Sugars, Energy, Carbohydrate, Protein, Salt, Fibre, Calcium, Iron and Zinc.

The portion weights were recorded and the results of the nutritional analysis and were analysed against the Caroline Walker Trust standards for children in day care.

Summary of Buckinghamshire results:

- * All nurseries who took part provided the correct serving sizes of their meals.
- * Six nurseries provided adequate energy,
- * All nurseries supplied adequate protein in their food.
- * All nurseries food contained a little too much sugar.
- * All nurseries failed to meet the requirement for iron. This can be rectified with the inclusion of meat, fish etc as part of the evening meal.
- * All but one nursery's food was low in zinc.
- * All nurseries provided enough calcium. This is due to the inclusion of milk as a drink and other dairy foods across the menus.
- * Six nurseries were able to produce food to meet the stringent guideline for salt.
- * Half of the nurseries provided oily fish once a week, which is the recommended level.

Rebecca Kaya, Trading Standards Officer and project co-ordinator said: "The level of detail obtained from having samples of the nursery food is immense. Food samples gave information on portion sizes and the precise nutrient levels of the food given to the children which would not have been obtained from questionnaire data alone. The key messages for parents and childcarers to come from this project are;"

- * Fat is Good! Unsaturated fats are needed by very young children.
- * Give a diet higher in Fat for under 5's than for over 5's and use full fat milk for the under 5's.
- * Cook with healthier oils such as olive oil or sunflower oil.
- * Young children have high nutritional needs relative to their size. Kilo for kilo they require a more nutritionally dense diet than at any other time of life. The food they have provided to them needs to be high in calories to ensure that they have enough energy for growth and development coupled with the energy needed for high levels of activity.
- * The government recommends that all children under 5 have vitamin drops to prevent vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D comes from exposing the skin to sunshine rather than from food, however as children at the nursery has suntan lotion applied before they play outside, they won't be receiving vitamin D. To improve this: ? Seek advice on vitamin supplements from health visitor or GP
 - ? Use margarine which has vitamin D added
 - ? Give oily fish once a week such as salmon, sardines, mackerel, or pilchards.

FRANCES CHIDELL reviews Beaconsfield Concert.

The **Barbirolli Quartet**: Rakhi Singh and Katie Stillman, violin; Ella Brinch, viola; Ashok Klouda, cello with Simon Crawford-Phillips, piano. At Beaconsfield High School, March 20, 2010.

This dynamic and well-travelled quartet, formed in 2003, gave a varied programme in the final concert of the 2009-2010 series, playing works by Mozart, Janacek and Elgar. For Elgar's Piano Quintet in A minor the pianist was Simon Crawford-Phillips.

It was clear why the quartet is known for its Odynamic approach to performance¹ and its diverse repertoire. They played wonderfully together and the works they chose called for unbounded energy.

Mozart's Quartet No.22 in B flat major was written the year before he died. The first two inventive movements seemed to break new ground and were perhaps leading on to Beethoven. Then the ending reverted to recognizable Mozart.

Rakhi Singh told us what to expect in the Janacek Quartet No 1 'Kreutzer Sonata'¹. It described an account by a man of how he stabbed his violinist wife to death on a train journey. Expressed by the music was the momentum of the train combined with jaunty light chatting. But this turned to extreme fury, almost to uncontrolled hysteria, from the violins. After the murder, indicated by the viola, the train continued more sadly.

Surprise items were two charming Miniatures by Frank Bridge. Simon Crawford-Phillips introduced the Elgar Quintet. Like all music written after the end of the first World War, he said, it was affected by the war.

Camber music was an intimate way for Elgar to express himself, unlike the Igar of the more famous works.

Angry protest in the first movement meant a double forte as it did when the ork ended. The adagio seemed to tell a sad story and in spite of some lighter melodies, as the pianist had said, the disquiet of the opening was not finally resolved -- though I like to think there were hints of survival! Members and non-members are invited to the AGM of Beaconsfield Concerts on May 15 at 7.45pm at Beaconsfield High School. Come and join the audiences who enjoy high quality live classical music performed by professionals.

FUNDING from Buckinghamshire County Council for the county's Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) has helped around 350 residents manage more than £7 million worth of debt through its Money Advice Project. Last year the county council agreed to give the four CABs £200,000 over two years to provide advice to people with money and debt issues as the economic downturn took its toll. In the first nine months of the Money Advice Project the CABs have given 1,559 additional support hours, advising 346 clients, who are collectively responsible for 277 children, on managing a total debt of £7.35m. In addition, they have provided financial capability training sessions for 183 people in the Chilterns and put in place 86 debt repayment plans.

Buckinghamshire County Council Leader David Shakespeare and Chief Executive Chris Williams dropped in to the Chesham-based Chiltern CAB to catch up on the progress of the Money Advice Project. David Shakespeare was delighted that county council funding was helping the CAB to deliver vital advice at such a difficult time.

'Unsecured debt and money worries can cause stress and ill health and contribute to family breakdown, as well as putting people's homes and livelihoods at risk,' he said. 'As a result of this project over 350 people and their families have had this burden reduced.'