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Chalfont St Peter - Village Voice - April 2011

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

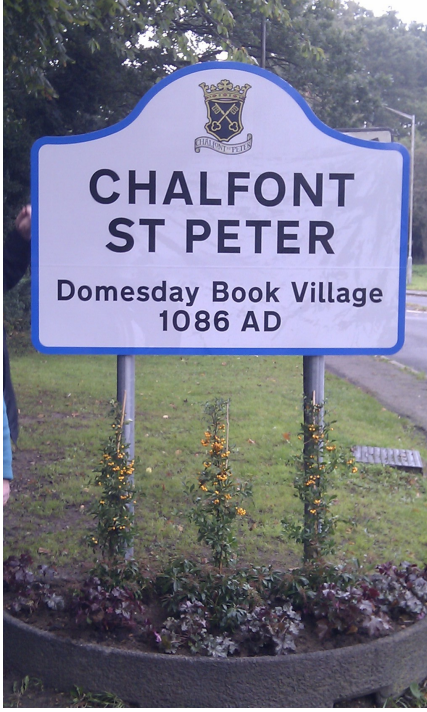

Photo by Nathan Mincham

PUBLIC MEETING – HS2 and You – Find out how the high speed train link through Chalfont St Peter will affect YOU

10am Saturday 2 April 2011. Chalfont St Peter (C of E) School, Church Lane, CSP

www.change4chalfont.org.uk

THE next A40 Choir concert will take place on **Saturday 2 April** at 7:30 in St. Mary's Church, Amersham. It features the now rarely performed Cherubini *Requiem in C minor* which having been popular in its day is also interesting historically. First, Beethoven considered Cherubini to be his best rival; second the work itself was also admired by Brahms and Schumann; and third it has some moments which clearly foreshadow the now better known Verdi *Requiem*, written 60 years later.

David Meacock and his A40 Choir will be joined by Malcolm Hicks, who is often seen playing the organ at the *Last Night of the Proms*.

Tickets - Adult £12, Student £6 - are available in advance via 01753 886005 or via www.a40music.com or on the door

A BEETLE Drive will be held in the CSP Community Centre on Saturday, 2nd April from 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each and include a Fish and Chip supper. There will also be a licensed Bar. Tel: 01753 885778
The Community Centre is a focal point of our village and an amazing number of activities take place there. It is important that we support the initiative to raise funds to ensure it has enough income to keep up the standard that it provides with its many rooms and services, so please do support the Beetle Drive, which is a new venture for the Centre.

CHANGES to concessionary bus passes From 1 April 2011, responsibility for the Concessionary Travel Pass (Bus Pass) for older people and people with disabilities, will pass to Transport for Buckinghamshire.
The scheme allows residents who are registered disabled or are of pensionable age, free travel on buses from 9.30am (9am in Buckinghamshire only) Monday to Friday, weekends and bank holidays.
All enquiries regarding new passes and new applications will be referred to the County Council from 6 March 2011. Residents applying for their first pass can download an application form on-line at **www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport** or telephone 0845 5212521 to request a form.
Existing holders whose concessionary bus passes are due to expire between 31 March and 30 June 2011, will receive a renewal form in the post from their District Council. Passes for those who have already returned this form to their District Council, will be sent out by 1 April 2011. Any queries regarding your renewal form should be addressed to your District Council. Buckinghamshire County Council will be responsible for all bus pass renewals, from July 2011 onwards.

CHALFONT St Peter W.I. Meets on Wednesday, April 13th in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm, when Edwin Rye will talk about Seasonal Plants. Floral Art Cup – Arrangement in an eggcup.

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club has its Spring Show, including Photograph competition on Wednesday, April 20 in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 8pm. Visitors Welcome.

GERRARDS Cross Lawn Tennis Club will be holding Neighbourhood Meetings on the following dates: Monday 4th April ~ Monday 18th July ~ Monday 17th October ~ Starting at 8pm in the Clubhouse, Bull Lane

GERRARDS Cross Flower Club meets in the Colston Hall, GX Memorial Centre on Wednesday, 20th April, 1.30 for 2pm, when Shamima Hasan will prsent 'Around the World'.

FOR 20 years Careers Springboard has given a service helping people get back to work. The April meetings are on the 4th - Bridging the Gap from my Past to my Future Recognising job market trends and transferring your motivation and on the 11th - Refreshing your CV & Action Planning for the Easter Break. Improving and fine-tuning your CV to secure interviews in the summer, and an opportunity to build a well organised and successful action plan for the four weeks of the Easter holiday period. A new programme will be published in April for meetings starting Monday 9th May 2011.Meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30 pm each Monday at St Andrew's United Reformed Church hall, Packhorse Road, GX SL9 7QE.

VOPAG is on Thursday 21st April, coffee 10am and meeting begins at 10.30, in the Community Centre, for a talk and get together to keep in touch with local activities and make new friends.

STREET PARTIES FOR THE ROYAL WEDDING
The wedding of Prince William to Miss Catherine Middleton on Friday, April 29, 2011 gives everyone a great opportunity to celebrate with a wide range of events, including traditional street parties.
In order to make it easy for residents to hold street parties on the public highway Transport for Buckinghamshire, in conjunction with the District Councils has raised the

necessary temporary traffic regulation orders allowing the closure of almost any unclassified road to allow street parties to go ahead. There are just a few roads where closures cannot be permitted and these include bus routes and rural access roads.
Application forms and the associated guidance notes are available on all council websites in Buckinghamshire (see links below). The completed forms should be returned to the relevant district council.
If you are planning a party, Transport for Buckinghamshire recommend that you check that your event doesn't clash with other events in your area as two or more events held at the same time in a local area could cause traffic problems. We realise that communities may not be able to arrange their party on the actual day of the Wedding, therefore, we will also consider applications for parties to take place on one of the following dates: April 29 and 30, 2011, May 1 and 2, 2011
Valerie Letheren, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Transport, said "Usually Councils do not encourage events on the public highway, but the Royal Wedding is a fantastic opportunity to get together in local communities and celebrate this very special national occasion. Safety is our prime concern but we will do our very best to advise you so that your party can go ahead.
Where to apply:
Chiltern District Council - www.chiltern.gov.uk/royalwedding
Aylesbury Vale District Council - www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/street-parties
Wycombe District Council - www.wycombe.gov.uk/events
South Bucks District Council - www.southbucks.gov.uk

COFFEE Morning in aid of The Leprosy Mission at Gerrards Cross Methodist Church Hall Saturday 30th April 2011 from 10 am – 12 (noon). *Bring & Buy Stall* Come - Bring your friends and neighbours We *need* your help!

On average it costs The Leprosy Mission just £20 to cure someone of leprosy. This covers a doctor's diagnosis, meetings with a physiotherapist to test for nerve damage and plan treatment (re constructive surgery/physiotherapy/ disability aids, etc) and counselling. It also includes following up those who have stopped coming to collect their medicines, to ensure they finish their course of treatment. In other cases it pays for outreach programmes for health professionals to visit and test in remote communities at a high risk from leprosy.

The crucial factor in providing all this at such a low cost is that the cure for leprosy, multi drug therapy (MDT), has been provided free since 2000 by Novartis, a Swiss-based pharmaceutical company. Last October Novartis signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to continue providing MDT until the end of 2015 – this is a real point of praise.

Without Norvartis's commitment, organisations like The Leprosy Mission would have huge additional costs. Patients treated through public health centres might also have to pay for the drugs or go without

Readers may be surprised to know there are cases of leprosy in the UK too. About 12-15 people are diagnosed at the London Hospital for Tropical Diseases each year. All have contracted the disease overseas. Fortunately, leprosy is not highly contagious and is easily curable.

Perhaps more surprisingly, in England and Wales we still have legislation which could be used to isolate people affected by leprosy or deny children access to school, even though this is not carried out in practice.

Throughout the world, a person is diagnosed with leprosy every two minutes.

GERRARDS CROSS Sailing Association meets in the Colston Hall of the Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, SL9 7AD, on Wednesdays at 8.15pm The bar opens at 7.30. To find out about the illustrated talks that are held at each meeting, please go to http://www.gxsa.org.uk/prog.htm

A MAY Fayre in aid of The Children's Society is on Saturday, 21st May, 10am to 2pm in the Chalfont St Peter Church Hall, Church Lane. - Pony Rides, Gifts, Jewellery, Plants, Books, Cakes, Bric-a-Brack, Plants, Tombola, Children's activities, Delicious lunches and refreshments.

FRIENDS of the Chiltern Open Air Museum will hold the next meeting on Wednesday, 20th April at 8pm. The speaker is Helen Moorcraft, Chairman of Bucks, Berks & Oxon Trust of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, who will give a power point pretension on Plant Heritage. This **should be a most interesting evening and everyone is welcome, so it's worth sharing with a friend. Entry is £2.50,**

WARTIME sounds will echo around Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre on Tuesday April 5 when Dame Vera Lynn look-alike and sound-alike Fiona Harrison help to launch the 2011 Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Day.
The official launch, from 10am to 11am, signals the first day that tickets go on sale for Armed Forces Day to be held on Saturday June 25 at Aylesbury Rugby Club, between Aston Clinton and Weston Turville.
Armed Forces Day, organised by Buckinghamshire County Council and the Buckinghamshire Lieutenancy, is a 12-hour celebration and funday, starting at 11am and closing at 11pm. It will be packed full of live music, including military bands, jazz bands, local bands and will end with a headline act, which will be announced on launch day.
The day will include an air display, including a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire, live cookery demonstrations, and military vehicles, alongside exhibitions from service charities and Buckinghamshire groups.
The event gives residents of the whole county an opportunity to express gratitude to serving personnel, veterans, volunteer reserves, war widows, cadets and their families. The Armed Forces Family will be given free tickets.

ART at Christ Church is coming up very soon. Artists wishing to submit work should apply for a entry form to Hilary Unwin email hilaryunwin@yahoo.co.uk or by post to Moreton, Chiltern Rd, Chesham Bois, HP6 5PH before **Tuesday 26 April** 2911. Call 01494 725228. The exhibition will run from **Friday 6** to **Sunday 8 May** 2011 at Christ Church in Waterside. The theme this year is Sun Spots. - from Chesham News.

NEW Jordans retreat day 'Experiment with Light' – Friday 8th April from 10am – 4pm (refreshments from 9:30am)
An opportunity to learn how to use guided meditation to put your life under the guidance of the Light
Advanced booking is required, and to reserve your place please call or email New Jordans Programme Office or send a cheque for £35 or what you can afford to the address below.
New Jordans Programme Office, Jordans Quaker Meeting

House, Welders Lane, Jordans, HP9 2SN
For more information on any of our events please call 01494 876594 or email: office@newjordans.org

DEALING WITH SPEEDING TRAFFIC Community Concern' Scheme

Thames Valley Police are responsible for all matters concerning enforcement of traffic laws. The Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership is currently running a Community Concern scheme where requests from the public about speeding are considered for enforcement, either by Police presence/speed checks or mobile camera enforcement through a "dealing with speeding traffic" scheme.

A request for this enforcement can be made by contacting the Thames Valley Police either by email at: SpeedSolutions@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or by post to: Speed Solutions, Thames Valley Police, Roads Policing, Three Mile Cross, 270 Whitley Wood Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG28FT

Following a request a decision would be taken by the Police, who will then contact you .

Police Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

A speed check can also be requested via a Police Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) if there is one in your area. For further details on NAGS please see: http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-nag

Neighbourhood Policing deal with reported speeding in various ways, depending on the nature of the problem (i.e. the number of speeding motorists and the number/type of collisions on the road length).

Community Speedwatch

Local residents can also volunteer to carry out speed monitoring in a scheme called 'Community Speedwatch' which is organised by Buckinghamshire County Council and Thames Valley Police but run by volunteers in the community. Further information on this scheme can be found at: http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/speedwatch.page

Make the Commitment (MTC)

If the majority of users are local residents it may be the case that our 'Make the Commitment' scheme is suitable. The scheme asks drivers to sign a pledge that they will try to keep to the speed limits at all times. The idea behind this is that it will focus a driver's attention on the speed at which they travel and help them maintain a lower speed. This initiative is most effective when the majority of users are local residents who travel the road regularly and therefore if leaflets regarding this scheme could be distributed within the local area alongside further publicity on concerns it could help to reduce the speed of the majority of the road's users. Further information on Make the Commitment can be found at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/mtc

If you think this scheme would be suitable for your area they will be happy to provide some leaflets for distribution through the Parish Council.

Vehicle Activated Signs

There is a new policy in place to enable Parish/Town councils to provide signs which 'flash up' a message to drivers who exceed a predetermined speed. Details of this policy can be seen at:- http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/vehicle_activated_signs.page

Temporary Speed Indicating Device (TSID)

A Temporary Speed Indicating Device (TSID) is available at each area office. These devices can only be booked by parish or town councils or by county councillors and cost £100 for two weeks. Please contact us online, by email via tfb@buckscc.gov.uk or call 0845 2302882 to request an application form.
The police still have their own versions of these signs which other organisations or community groups can borrow or hire. Please contact your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or local neighbourhood police office for further information. This can be done through the police non-emergency number 0845 8 505505.

FEAST Day shaping up nicely This years major event in Chalfont St Peter will take place on Saturday 25th June on Gold Hill Common.The organisers have pulled out all the stops to build on the last two year's fantastic events with a superb line up of activities and entertainment.

During the day, some one hundred stalls will be operating and a full programme will be taking place on the stage and in the arena. Local schools will be presenting gymnastics and dancing displays and there will be performances by David Meacock, Trapdoor Drama, Urban Pulse, Gerrards Cross Rock Choir and others The main feature of the day's activities will be series of medieval re-enactments by Black Knight Historical including dance and music, archery and a fighting display.

Vintage cars, Punch and Judy and a funfair will also all be present. Top Rolling Stones tribute band, The Rollin Stoned, will headline the evening concert. In addition, top Thin Lizzy tribute band Pheel Lizzy will be supporting.

Sponsorship and advertising packages are still available, as are stalls. Around 60% of pitches have currently been sold for what will, undoubtedly be the local event of the year. Around 6,000 people attended in 2010 and, given similar good weather, the organisers are hoping for at least a similar number this time. Whilst the entire day's activities are free to attend, it is hoped that visitors will be generous in donating money and local charities will benefit from profits made.

More information on Feast Day can be found at www.feastofstpeter.org.uk or by following on Twitter @FeastOfStPeter

BUCKS LAUNCHES ITS BIG SOCIETY BANK
Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Buckinghamshire will get a major boost to their funds with the launch of Bucks Big Society Bank. Buckinghamshire County Council is the founding contributor to the new bank, providing a contribution of £75,000.

The Bucks Big Society Bank will be administered by Buckinghamshire Community Foundation, and the idea has been developed in partnership with Community Impact Bucks and The Clare Foundation.

The bank will provide a low-cost loan fund for smaller voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in all parts of the county. Its aim is to help these organisations achieve their objectives by providing loans to enable them to access other sources of income, including grants, private

donations, lottery funding and trading income, which will help them continue to build and develop their capacity to meet the vital needs of local communities.

Organisations eligible to apply for funding from the bank need to be situated in Buckinghamshire and be providing services or support, just for local residents. The loans, starting from just £1,000 to £25,000, may be used for a variety of purposes, equipment and premises costs. They could also be used as a bridging loan pending receipt of other funds due, or to allow the organisation time to change its business model.

As well as showing ability to repay the loan over a term of up to five years, loan applicants will need to show broad community support and public benefit, either directly through the services provided or indirectly through the generation of income to support activities for wide public benefit.

Bill Chapple, Deputy Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, said: "We're proud to be a founding contributor to the new Bucks Big Society Bank. The county has a thriving voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, with almost 4,000 organisations carrying out vital work. The launch of this bank recognises the vital role that the sector plays in running local community services and is part of what Big Society is about in Buckinghamshire."

Richard Dickson, Director of Buckinghamshire Community Foundation, said: "A low-cost loan from Bucks Big Society Bank - as part of a mix of different funding streams including grants - may help some groups and social enterprises to become more self-reliant. The success of Bucks Big Society Bank will also depend upon the extent to which other local individuals, businesses and trusts get behind the idea and also contribute towards the bank's funds."

The first loans are expected to become available in the summer and anyone wishing either to contribute towards the bank or to apply for funding should contact Buckinghamshire Community Foundation on 01296 330134.

NEW habitat mapping to ensure conservation is a priority in planning, development and countryside care across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes has been launched.

The Habitat Mapping Project, set up by Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Record Centre, and Milton Keynes Council, charts and records for the first time in one place a detailed analysis of protected habitats across the area.

It's the result of six years research by Buckinghamshire County Council's Natural Environment Team. Already, the information is helping the county council assess the impact of the proposed High Speed 2 rail on Buckinghamshire, to support the current national consultation on the route.

The habitat mapping database provides information not only for council planning and transport officers, land managers, and commercial developers, but also for environmental interest groups, schools, colleges and universities, and academic researchers.

It shows the locations of more than 65,000 habitats, how sites are managed, and acts as a trigger for further ecological investigations which planning regulations may require. It has drawn on sightings, records and data generated by more than 30 organisations around the county, dating back 20 years.

The map will be updated annually from information and sightings by local conservation groups, and data from national organisations.

HORN HILL VILLAGE HALL - In September it will be 100 years since the Hall at Horn Hill was given to the residents of the hamlet. Celebrations are planned for Saturday September 10th. If anyone has old photos of the Hall or events taking place would be kind enough to share these with us. Any photos or memorabilia will be copied (with your permission) and the originals safely returned to you. We would like to have any memories from those who went to school at the hall to residents who may have moved away as well as present residents. Please contact Helen Watson on 01494 874269 or Margaret Sheppee on 01494 873533.

HOUSEHOLD waste recycling centre's summer opening hours
As clocks have gone forward, the county's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be extending their opening hours to 8am to 6pm, from Sunday, March 28.

Buckinghamshire has the following ten recycling centres that residents can use to dispose of household waste:

* London Road East, Amersham HP7 9DT *
* College Road North, Aston Clinton HP22 5EZ*
* Rabans Close, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury HP19 8RS *
* A40 London Road, Lower Pyebushes, Beaconsfield HP9 2XB *
* Wigans Lane, Bledlow Ridge HP14 4BH
* Yonder Slade, Buckingham Industrial Park, Buckingham MK18 1RZ
* Crowpiece Lane, Burnham SL2 3TG
* Latimer Road, Chesham HP5 1TL
* High Heavens, Clay Lane, Booker, High Wycombe SL7 3DJ *
* Langley Park Road, Langley SL3 6DD

* Trade waste facilities available (charges apply)

All sites are open seven days a week, except on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January.

A PARTNERSHIP between Buckinghamshire County Council and Community Impact Bucks (CIB) is helping volunteers to set up and co-ordinate car schemes for their neighbourhoods.

CIB, an independent charity that helps people to get involved in community activity, is working with the county council's Local Area Forums (LAF) to support interested groups with mentoring, advice and a tool kit for setting up a transport project.

Rural residents' transport needs cannot always be met by a one-size-fits-all solution like a bus, which runs only at certain times, and requires a minimum number of passengers to give best value, says county council Passenger Transport Contracts Manager Andy Clarke. 'Often people need to get to the doctor or the library, and a community car or bus scheme is a much more effective solution because it's more flexible and more closely matches their needs,' he said.

Last July Princes Risborough launched a community bus

service, with county council support, after the need was identified through a community appraisal. The county council's North West Chiltern Local Area Forum contributed £1,500. Thirty volunteers take turns to drive the bus, which carries more than 200 passengers a week.

The birth of another community transport project looks likely at Chesham where a car scheme has been running for 30 years, taking people to doctors' and hospital appointments. Next week residents are getting together with CIB to discuss the possibility of a new car scheme to serve social needs, like shopping, picking up prescriptions and visiting friends.

Sally Hussey, CIB's Rural Transport Partnership Officer, who is working with LAFs across the county to equip local volunteers to run their own schemes, said: 'It's often issues like insurance and CRB checks that volunteers need help with - and that's part of our tool kit to help them set up a needs-led service.'

Bill Chapple, Buckinghamshire County Council's Deputy Leader and Champion for Big Society, said: 'Transport needs change over time and a solution that was right 20 years ago may not be the right one for today. Volunteer car and bus schemes recognise residents' needs for flexibility, and their desire to find Big Society solutions to their community transport needs. This is a local need being met by a local solution.'

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Registration Services is introducing the new system, to enable residents to book their appointment at any time by going on-line at www.buckscc.gov.uk/registration. Bookings can be made at a date, time and location to suit you in, Aylesbury, Wycombe, Amersham and Buckingham.

Anyone interested in the history of Buckinghamshire can also order and pay on-line for copies of certificates, which date as far back to the year 1837.

Cabinet Member for Adults and Families, Patricia Birchley, said: "This new system allows residents to book their appointment at a time convenient to them as we understand that many people are at work or busy during the time the office is open. The booking system is quick and easy and will enhance the current service delivered through our Register Office."