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# Chalfont St Peter Village Voice – August 2013

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



**ON** the weekend 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th August, visitors to Chiltern Open Air Museum in Chalfont-St-Peter can take part in a historic Tudor court room drama, and listen to tales of intrigue, violence and deceit!

Visitors can meet the Tudors and learn about life in the Chilterns in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The historic re-enactment group History Re-enactment Workshop specialise in the Tudor and Stuart periods. Chiltern Open Air Museum has two fascinating medieval barns from Northolt and Arborfield, and a medieval hall house allegedly used as a hunting lodge by Henry VIII. Visitor Experience Manager Sian Hammerton-Fraser said, "The beautiful collection of historic buildings at the Museum is the perfect backdrop for events like the Tudor Court Room. Visitors can enjoy the atmospheric setting and the exciting court room drama."

Chiltern Open Air Museum has a 43-acre site just outside Chalfont-St-Peter. The museum is a charity which rescues threatened historic buildings and restores them with the help of volunteers. Chiltern Open Air Museum, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4AB [admin1@coam.org.uk](mailto:admin1@coam.org.uk) [www.coam.org.uk](http://www.coam.org.uk) 01494 871117 Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newland Park, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont-St-Giles, HP8 4AB, 01494 871117 @Chilternoam



### **IT'S sunny. It's summer. Time to get your bike to the Bike Doctor!**

In a new initiative, Change4Chalfont is encouraging everyone to get those bikes out of the shed, dust off the cobwebs and go for a ride! Roland Collicott, the Bike Doctor himself says 'Bikes are the ideal way to get to school, to the station, or out into the countryside and a great way to keep fit. And you'll be saving money and fuel, which is great for you and the environment'.

We will be holding regular surgeries on Market Place in the centre of Chalfont St Peter where you can get a free bike health check. If you have any questions about bike maintenance, such as how to mend a puncture, change an inner tube, adjust the brakes, or if you want advice on routes, off-road riding, or general bike safety, come along and speak to us.

**Next surgery – 10 August from 4pm to 6pm**

**WHAT'S** on this summer at Chalfont Leisure Centre? **e** Active Zone week days until 23<sup>rd</sup> August **e** Roller-Flate every Mon/Weds/Fri 10.30am – 2.00pm **e** Pool Inflatable Sessions every Mon/Weds/Fri 1.00pm – 2.00pm **e** Snorkelling session 30<sup>th</sup> Aug **e** Splash 'N Tumble every Thursday 10.30am – 12.00 noon **e** Swimming Lesson Crash Courses (3 days) 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug and 12<sup>th</sup> Aug – 14<sup>th</sup> Aug Please speak to reception or see our holiday board in the centre for more information. **01753 887812.**

**TEEN** Zumba is on Tuesdays from 4-5pm at the Studio in the Chalfont Leisure Centre. Cost for the initial 7 week course is £31.50 for members and £45.50 for non-members.

Call 01753 88781 and speak to reception to book onto this Brazilian Dance sensation! or email: [julia.mills@gll.org](mailto:julia.mills@gll.org)

ST JOSEPH'S Furniture Market made donations of £350 each to CAPD Endowment Fund (home dialysis) and Sign Health and £300 to Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal). It is open Saturdays from 9am – noon, behind the Parish Centre just off Priory Road. They have some superb bargains and they are always happy to have good furniture donated, to raise funds.

**MISBOURNE** Art Society meets next on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.15pm in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, when Anthony Slinn will give a talk on "Guernica". Visitors are welcome.

**CHILTERN** District Council is organising a Community Fun Day and Information Event. The event will take place on **Wednesday 7 August, 1pm to 4pm**, at the Beechcroft recreational area in Chesham (Beechcroft Road). Residents are invited to enjoy a whole host of fun activities including face painting, football, arts & crafts, bounce & rhyme, and more. There are information stands so residents can find out more about recycling, composting, greener travel and community safety. Paradigm Housing will also be on hand to offer housing surgeries. Residents will be invited to make a 'Change for Chesham' pledge - which will get them entered into a prize draw to win one of the following prizes: an Owl energy monitor, patio planters for vegetable growing, solar powered 'baglite' for cyclists or £20 Ethical Superstore voucher. The whole event is free of charge, thanks to Local Area Forum (Buckinghamshire County Council) funding. For more information, contact Georgina O'Dell at Chiltern District Council on 01494 732103.

**BOOK REVIEW - MARY'S LETTERS** Edited by Laurance Reed. Phillimore & Co. Ltd. £20

We forget that 80 or so years ago, letters were an important means – possibly the only means – of communication. These letters were written between 1932 and 1945 by Mary Reed living mainly in Gerrards Cross, to her husband Doug, who was absent either on business or in the RAF.

During the war years, Mary obviously didn't want to worry her husband about life on the home front, but her optimistic and capable personality shines through the book. Had she been a worrier, the letters would have been very different and the book unsettling. As it is, I found it cheerful and reassuring.

In the first letters, her infant son is her main concern. Later on, Mary has five children to write to Doug about. In those days mothers had help in the house but even so, she is clearly capable of coping with them all and, when war came, is undaunted by the frequent sound of air raid sirens: "Nobody takes any notice of them." Nor did she seem to worry too much about the crack of distant bombs and 'doodles.' Only in 1944 when London was: "getting it in the neck," did she give up her frequent visits to the theatre.

Mary was energetic. She played tennis regularly, worked in the WVS at a services canteen and was generally helpful with war work. At a time when there were few cars and rationed petrol, she and various of her children would make long bicycle rides which we would hesitate to make today. They biked as far as Amersham, Cookham and Beaconsfield.

Food rationing came in, but the large gardens in Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter grew vegetables and kept hens and ducks. Doug was stationed in the RAF in Iceland, an unlikely place you might think, to send home sweets, clothes and other requested items.

One can't gloss over the fact that absent husbands left a big gap in families, and in almost every letter, Mary is longing for Doug to come home. But while he was away I'm sure he could rest assured that his young family was in good hands. The book, which is elegantly produced and has some family photographs, is obtainable at **Gerrards Cross Bookshop**.

**BETWEEN** 12:00 and 14:00 on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2013 an event is being held at **Equine Essentials on Gorelands Lane in Chalfont St. Giles**, specifically surrounding the issue of rural crime. Members of your local Neighbourhood team will be in attendance to mark any equine equipment and to discuss any issues you may have. For further information please contact PCSO C9749 LAURA BURNS from The Chalfonts Neighbourhood Policing Team, telephone number 101.

**CHALFONT** St Peter WI report reminds us that the weather was perfect for the Chalfont St Peter Feast Day on Saturday, June 29. There was a great variety of stalls and the WI did well with their teddy bears tea party. Lots of home-made teddy shaped biscuits, jams, marmalade and greeting cards were sold. The knitted bears and bran tub dip for the children were also very popular. Guess the name of the giant Teddy Bear was won by a lady who chose 'Lewis'.

This month's speaker was Roger Askew, who spoke about the Saville and Valley gardens in Windsor Great Park, with which he is involved. He knew the history of the gardens going back to before Charles II, which was fascinating. There is no meeting in August, so there is a visit to Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire. The September meeting, hopefully will include a talk on - The role of a Magistrate and The Magistrates' Court.

Visitors are welcome to join meetings and the next is in the Parish Church hall at **2pm on Wednesday, September 11**.

**THANK YOU** from Gold Hill Care to those who supported their Auction of Promises on behalf of Rock House Care Home. The whole project was a huge success, raising an amazing £6,790.55 for the benefit of the residents of Rock House. This was entirely due to the generosity of so many Companies and individuals in Gerrards Cross, Chalfont St Peter and surrounding areas. The money will be spent on special armchairs that enable people with limited mobility to sit, stand up, or relax, depending upon what they require. This will make a huge difference to the comfort of the residents.

**CHILTERN** Open Air Museum in Chalfont-St-Peter is launching a new Chilterns-themed art and writing competition. Museum Development Manager Sally McIver said, "In June, the Museum held a new arts festival, Chiltern Arts Fest Live, in association with Bucks Open Studios. Following its success, the Museum has launched this wonderful Chilterns-themed art and writing competition, so that everyone has a chance to show off their creative talents. We're hoping people will find inspiration in the Chilterns history and landscape preserved and celebrated by the Museum. We're very grateful to the Jonny Rhythm Foundation and all our prize sponsors for supporting this competition."

The competition has categories for young children, children, young adults and adults, so that everyone has a fair chance of winning. Prizes include publication in the Bucks Advertiser for winning writing entries, afternoon tea with bestselling author Carole Matthews, a one-day framing course with DIY Framing, an art workshop with leading Chiltern artists Susan Gray and afternoon tea with children's book designer Katie Rowbottom.

Entering the competition costs £5 for adults and £3 for children. There will be a free child ticket to Chiltern Open Air Museum for everyone under 16 who enters the competition. Full rules, information about the judges and an application form can be found on the Museum's website: [www.coam.org.uk](http://www.coam.org.uk) The final deadline for entries is 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Chiltern Open Air Museum has a beautiful collection of historic buildings, and a working historic farm, on a 43-acre site just outside Chalfont-St-Peter. The museum is a charity which rescues threatened historic buildings and restores them with the help of volunteers. The collection includes a 1940s Prefab from Amersham, a Victorian Tollhouse from High Wycombe, and its most recent addition a Croft Cottage from Haddenham.

**DIOGENES SUN CLUB** [www.diogenessunclub.co.uk](http://www.diogenessunclub.co.uk) Twitter: @DiogenesSunClub

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/diogenesuk](http://www.facebook.com/diogenesuk)

#### **Diogenes Enjoys a Bumper Year!**

Diogenes Sun Club is a family-friendly naturist club located near to Rickmansworth and Chalfont St Peter set in six acres of beautiful grounds, around a country house.

Established in the 1930's, the Club has been at its current location since 1964 and numbers around 300 members, drawn from all walks of life and of all ages. Facilities include two pools, a sauna, plunge pool, sports facilities and a children's play area. Diogenes, a member club of British Naturism, can report an almost 100% surge in membership applications so far in 2013, fuelled in part by the recent heat-wave.

A club spokesman explained "Naturism is the natural choice during a warm spell and it is clear that many people are now considering naturism as a leisure pursuit, perhaps after trying it on holiday or enjoying a skinny dip. The benefits of naturism in terms of relaxation, self-confidence and positive body image are massive and it is amazing to see so many newcomers wanting to try this liberating experience for themselves with their families. Nakedness in a naturist environment causes no embarrassment and the first time nerves that many people have soon evaporate when they realise what a great place we have here. All our evidence shows that there is a real increase in the popularity of naturism in the UK and our recent experience proves it."

Diogenes was also filmed by BBC Newsnight at the end of July as part of a piece on how people were coping with the heat-wave.

British Naturism, the national organisation for naturism in Great Britain, represents over one hundred naturist clubs and around 11,000 naturists. For further information please email: [publicity@diogenessunclub.co.uk](mailto:publicity@diogenessunclub.co.uk)

Web links: Diogenes Sun Club: [www.diogenessunclub.co.uk](http://www.diogenessunclub.co.uk)

British Naturism: [www.bn.org.uk](http://www.bn.org.uk)

**CHALFONT** St Peter Garden Club Summer Show is on Saturday 17th August, from 1.30-4pm admission £1 children free. Refreshments are available and there is also a raffle.

This is an open show, so non-members are welcome to enter. Schedules are available from the library, or phone Claire 01494 870619 or email [CSP-gardenshow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:CSP-gardenshow@hotmail.co.uk) Always an occasion worth putting in your diary.

**LEARN** to play Bridge - Exercise the brain and have fun!

Bridge is one of the most popular and enthralling games in the world. The Bridge School at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre start their Beginners Bridge classes this autumn with new sessions on Friday mornings and Tuesday evenings. To find out more about these and other bridge courses - 'phone Rob Wilkinson on 01494 563423 or email [rob@bridgeschoolgx.co.uk](mailto:rob@bridgeschoolgx.co.uk)

**THE** local Macmillan Coffee Morning is scheduled for Friday September 20th from 10:00am till 1:00pm at the Ethorpe Hotel. The event is arranged by the local fund-raising Committee for Macmillan Cancer Support, which cover, Chalfont St Peter as well as other parts of the district.

They will be serving coffee, selling Christmas Cards and there will be a chance to have a mini beauty treatment. Their coffee morning is a week earlier than the official Coffee Morning because they try to avoid clashing with the big Jumble Sale in Gerrards Cross.

### **TRACKER software for electrical items**

Smart phones and other electrical items such as laptops and tablet computers are becoming an indispensable accessory. As they get better and smarter the cost of such devices is increasing, making them more desirable to thieves.

Many of these new devices are now termed 'Smart' devices. This is a name given to devices that do more than just make calls or have a camera. They have the ability to run applications such as email and games and connect to social networking.

Some devices also have the capability to run 'tracker' applications. These applications track the device's location using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology. If the device is lost or stolen, the owner can use a computer to log on to their account and see on a map where the device is. The location of the device will be shown in real time and is usually accurate to within yards.

Not all devices have this capability, but the new iPhones, iPads and Samsung Galaxy phones do have tracker apps provided by the manufacturers. A tracker app may come pre-loaded on the device or it may need to be installed. It is best to consult the manufacturer about which applications are appropriate.

### **Crime prevention advice**

- **Consider installing a tracker application on your smart phone, tablet computer/laptop – it could help trace your device if it is stolen**
- **Always seek advice from the manufacturer of your device about which tracker application to use - downloading unknown software could damage the device and invalidate your warranty**
- **If your device is stolen, act quickly. Inform the police and tell them you have a tracker app installed**
- **Do not attempt to retrieve the device yourself as it could put you in danger**

### **Tracker apps as an investigative tool**

There is potential to use tracker devices as an investigative tool, but time is a factor.

Offenders can quickly take action to disable the device and render the tracking software useless. For example, the device must be switched on for the GPS to work. Switching the device off or removing the battery or SIM card will prevent tracker software from locating the device.

If the application is on the device and can be activated this may give the owner the option of tracking the device, and it could enable the police to retrieve the stolen item.

**Victims are advised not to try to retrieve the device themselves as it could put them in danger.**

**Which tracker apps are recommended?**

Lots of tracker type applications are available but it is best to use applications recommended by the manufacturer of the device. If there is no tracker software pre-installed on your device, the manufacturer should be able to provide details of an appropriate application for your needs. Be careful about downloading tracker applications online, as they could damage your device and invalidate your warranty.

**AYLESBURY College Roundabout, Oxford Road** Work on re-modelling the roundabout outside of Aylesbury College on the Oxford Road starts on Monday August 5. The work will involve removing the current raised roundabout, and replacing it with three 'bell' bollards. These will help give greater resilience should they be struck by vehicles in the future and will also increase visibility of the junction for road users.

As well as the roundabout, Transport for Buckinghamshire will also be undertaking other works around the site. Minor patching work will be carried out on the road, road markings will be refreshed, and signs will be replaced. The work is planned to last for three weeks, and a 24-hour contraflow system will be in place whilst the work takes place.

**HOW healthy and happy are we in Bucks?** People in Buckinghamshire are living longer than ever before. These extra years of life may not all be spent in good health, but people can take steps to improve their health and wellbeing at any age. This is one of the key findings of a report released today that takes an in-depth look at health and wellbeing in Buckinghamshire.

Put together jointly by the County Council, the NHS and the district councils, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) report doesn't only look at health issues at all stages of life, but also at the wider economic and social factors that affect how people live and how they feel.

A range of factors such as education, employment, housing and community relations have a profound effect on how people live their lives. Information on these factors, together with a range of health and wellbeing statistics, are used in the JSNA to provide insight into the issues affecting health and happiness in Bucks today and in the future.

For example, did you know that:

- Most people living in Bucks are not sufficiently active to benefit their health. Being physically active is one of the most important things people can do to improve their health and wellbeing.
- At least 21,000 people have a diagnosis of diabetes, but around a quarter of diabetics in Buckinghamshire may as yet be undiagnosed. The NHS Health Checks programme should help identify many of these people.
- There are more than 49,500 carers in Bucks. Carers carry out a vital role, but the support they provide can take a toll on their own health and wellbeing.
- The number of people aged 85 and over is set to increase by 84% between 2011 and 2025.

The findings and recommendations of the JSNA report underpin the delivery of health and social care services within Buckinghamshire through the Health & Wellbeing Strategy. In addition, the JSNA informs strategic planning for other local services delivered at both county and district levels.

Most people in Buckinghamshire can expect to live a long life, achieve well and have access to good quality employment. But preventable illnesses are increasing and not all groups enjoy the same achievement and health as the majority of residents. The current economic downturn may also impact on people's physical and mental health.

Among the strategic recommendations of the JSNA to address this are:

- The need for a good start in life, by ensuring a healthy pregnancy for all, parenting support and early years education
- Increase the number of people with healthy lifestyles, with a focus on physical activity, healthy eating, alcohol consumption and smoking at all ages
- Early detection of long term conditions and good care for those that have these conditions, including increased support for people to look after themselves
- Promotion of mental wellbeing and emotional resilience for all, including young people

- Increased support for carers
- Addressing the health and wellbeing of people with specific needs such as physical or learning disability
- Meeting the needs of increased numbers of older people
- Improving health and wellbeing through continued action on wider factors such as education, employment and the environment.

Commenting on the report's release, Buckinghamshire County Council cabinet member for Health & Wellbeing Patricia Birchley said: "The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment shows that people in Buckinghamshire have better health and wellbeing compared to other parts of the country. But there's still much that can be done to ensure that everyone enjoys excellent levels of health and wellbeing.

**CHILTERN** District Council's Council Tax Reduction scheme is changing and the Council is asking residents to have their say on proposed changes to our Council Tax Reduction scheme which replaced Council Tax benefit this April. The proposed changes mean that all working age claimants are likely to have to pay more towards their council tax from April 2014.

In April 2013, the Government abolished the national Council Tax Benefit scheme and each council is now required to introduce its own local Council Tax Reduction scheme. The amount of money the Government gives councils to fund a local scheme is now at least 10% less than the grant that was given for Council Tax Benefit. This means that Chiltern District Council has at least £435,000 less to help low income households with their Council Tax. The Government has also indicated that funding for councils will continue to be reduced in the future.

The current scheme for pensioners will not be changed so changes to the scheme will only apply to working age people. When devising the scheme for 2013/14, the Council adopted the 'default' Council Tax Reduction scheme which meant the scheme was very similar to Council Tax Benefit, with the funding gap covered by Council Tax payers, and not by anyone currently in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction. The Council made it clear that this would only be the case for the first year. Now, in order to balance the impact of the funding reduction between claimants and all Council Tax payers, the Council is preparing for a revised scheme to take effect from April 2014.

**Changes for working age claimants**

The Council's

proposed scheme means that most working age claimants will be asked to pay 20% more towards their Council tax than they do now. Customers in receipt of disability benefits or carers allowance and lone parents with a child under five will be expected to pay 10% more. In addition, people in Council Tax bands E,F, G and H will have to pay more. Their Council Tax reduction will be worked out as if they were living in a band D property.

We are also suggesting some other changes, such as increasing the amount of savings a person can have, changing the way we calculate earnings and taking into account some incomes that have previously not been counted e.g. child maintenance.

**Have your say:** To find out more and have your say, visit our website and check out the Council tax reduction scheme consultation page - ([www.chiltern.gov.uk/ctrchanges](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/ctrchanges)).

**The consultation runs until 31 October 2013.**

**What happens next?** We will take the consultation responses we receive into account when deciding our final scheme later in the year. We have to decide on our new scheme by January 2014 so we can put it in place for April 2014.