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## Chalfont St Peter Village Voice – September 2009

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**IN** July the South Bucks Choral Society (see above) which is based in Chalfont St Peter, made a very successful visit to Italy to sing in the Cinque Terre (a World Heritage Site in Liguria). 84 people came, plus 14 students from the Royal Academy of Music in London and the choir, under the baton of their Music Director, Iain Ledingham, gave three concerts during the course of the week. They performed Durufle's Requiem and music by Faure and Vivaldi. Choir members visited Portovenere and Portofino by boat, and a coach trip to the walled town of Lucca proved to be a memorable day out. The choir meets on Tuesdays at St. Joseph's School in Chalfont St Peter and rehearsals for their next concert, when they sing Handel's Messiah, commence on September 1st at 7.45 p.m. New members are welcome, but please contact the Secretary, Ann Whaley on 01753 883684 or the Chairman, John Norrish on 01753 884682.

**CORRECTION:** In last month's newsletter there was a mistake about dates for the Speech and Language Drop in Centre. This is every alternate month not every month and the next is October and then December.

**GOLD HILL 2009** Open Gardens Scheme Sunday 6th September 2.30-5.00pm  
Michael & Janine Thomas, White House Farm, Cryers Hill Lane, Widmer End, Bucks, HP15 6AA  
'A garden for the non gardener' with blackberries and windfall apples to pick - good for children.  
Teas and cakes for sale.

**IF** you played the piano as a child, or wish you had, it's never too late to start or return to it. Piano lessons for adults and children of all ages and standards are given at your home or at the home of teachers David Meacock M.Mus., G.R.S.M. (Hons.), Dip. R.C.M. And Kate Meacock M.A., B.A. (Hons.), A.B.S.M., based in the Goldhill end of Chalfont St Peter. They both have Masters degrees and piano teaching qualifications and teach all ages from beginner to diploma standard, with theory as required. For further details, including biographies, please see the Piano Teaching page of [www.davidmeacock.com](http://www.davidmeacock.com), or call 01753 886005.

**CHALFONT ST PETER** WI meets on Wednesday September 9 - Diamonds; A Girl's Best Friend – Mr C Clarke. Display: Perfume Bottles. The meeting is in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm. Visitors welcome.

**THE Friday Market** in the Church Hall, Church Lane is open **from 8am – 4pm**. It has bargains on all its stalls : Books, Jewellery, Housewares, Cards and wrapping paper, Pet products etc/. Drop in and browse.  
**THE ROYAL** British Legion, Women's Section, will be holding a Cake and Produce sale at the Friday Market in the Church Hall, on 11th September. Do please go along and support them.

**AT** the August meeting of **St Joseph's Furniture Market**, donations of £250 each were made to Iain Rennie Hospice at Home; Myeloma UK (a form of bone cancer); South Bucks Crossroads (Caring for carers) and CAPD (Royal Berkshire Hospital home dialysis unit). The Furniture Market is on every Saturday from 9.30am-12.30pm in the Furniture Store behind the Church, via Priory Way.

**CAREERS SPRINGBOARD** meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30 pm each Monday at St Andrews United Reformed Church hall (above the shops) in Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross. [www.careersspringboard.info](http://www.careersspringboard.info)

**Sept 7** Making a new start

What you thought was the end of the road may turn out to be the first step to a new and better destination. Practical suggestions to help you move on. Speaker: Richard Lambert (Volunteer)

**Sept 14** Building a winning CV

Advice on how to make your CV an interview winning tool. Speaker: David McMullan (Volunteer)

**Sept 21** "Who says you can't be a lion tamer?!"

Exploring new career options and pursuing your dreams! Guest Speaker: Graham Smith, Lifestyle & Performance Coach Mycroft Group

**Sept 28** Get to know *your* skills. Your skills are your key assets in your job search.

This session is about realising your true value, discovering your hidden talents and creating your key skill profile as the basis for your job search. Speaker: Tony Hodgson (Volunteer)

**Oct 5** Tell me about yourself...How to polish your response to this frequently asked question.

Speaker: Peter Roycroft (Volunteer)**New members are always welcome and membership is free**

**FRIENDS OF Chiltern Open Air Museum WINTER TALKS 2009-10**

**2009**

**Wednesday 23 September** – "The River Misbourne, Past, Present & Future" by John Norris, Chiltern Society Rivers & Wetlands Group

**Wednesday 28 October** – "Beginner's Guide to Fungi" by Chris Ryde, Woodland Ranger, Wycombe District Council

**Wednesday 25 November** - "History of Brick Making in Chesham" by Keith Fletcher, Chesham Museum.

**Wednesday 9 December** – "History of the Victoria Cross" by David Callaghan. Please note that this is a fund raising event at the Barn Hall, Amersham Community Centre. Tickets will be available later.

**2010**

**Wednesday 27 January** – "Buckinghamshire's Rotten Boroughs; Bribery and Corruption in Local Elections before the 1832 Reform Act" by Julian Hunt, well known Researcher, Lecturer and Writer on English Local History

**Wednesday 24 February** – "Birds of the Colne Valley" by Steve Carter

**Wednesday 24 March** – "Past & Present" Work of the CVAHS Chess & Misbourne Valley Landscape Characterisation Group", by Richard Hoyle

All talks (except that in Hedgerley) take place in the Mary Smithells 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 – pre-booking not necessary.

**VOPAG's** next meeting is Tuesday, 15 September, in the Parish Council Office,. Coffee ~10am, Meeting ~10.30. All over 55's are welcome to share this entertaining and informative occasion.

**THE** Gerrards Cross Flower Club meets on September 16th. at the Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross. Area demonstrator, Lucinda Sanderson, will present "A Journey Through France". The competition members title is "A French Basket". Guests are always welcome. For more information, contact Pam Houchen on 01753-884190.

**THROUGH** The Wardrobe Children's Theatre Company is now registering for September 09, Theatre classes for children aged 6-14 years. Check the website for prices/class times.

[www.throughthewardrobe.com](http://www.throughthewardrobe.com)

**ALZHEIMER'S Bee-Friending Scheme** There are many people with dementia in Bucks who are living alone and feeling isolated. Some of them are housebound and spend most of the week not seeing anyone. Reliable, caring volunteers are needed who would be interested in providing companionship to a person with dementia in their home or out and about. If you get on well with people and enjoy a good chat you may really enjoy being a volunteer befriender. It is very rewarding and an hour of your time each week can make a real difference to someone's life. Looking for volunteers throughout Bucks.

**Good communication skills and empathy are essential. All volunteers will be offered training and out of pocket expenses. For more details, please contact Joy Johns, 01895 837545, e mail [joy@voluntaryaction.org](mailto:joy@voluntaryaction.org)**

**COMMUNITY** and family initiative classes feedback from people who go on these courses is always very positive and many wish they had gone sooner, so why not give them a try?

8 week PARENTING COURSES for parents and carers of:

0 -6 year olds: Mondays: 28th September to 23rd November. Mornings from 10.00am to 11.30am with free creche or evenings from 8.00pm to 10.00pm.

7 - 13 year olds: Mondays: 12th October to 7th December

These courses equip you with the skills to be the best parent you can be.

6 week RECOVERY FROM DIVORCE OR SEPARATION COURSE

Monday evenings : 5th October to 7th December from 7.30pm to 10.00pm

This course helps you come to terms with what has happened and gives practical advice and help to move forward.

All of these courses will be at Gold Hill Baptist Church. Contact Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or email her on [katrina.reading@goldhill.org](mailto:katrina.reading@goldhill.org) for more information or to book your place.

ALPHA COURSE AT COSTA CAFE

Very informal 10 week free course to explore and discuss the Christian faith at Costa Cafe in Packhorse Rd, Gerrards Cross. . Introductory session on Thursday 24th September from 8.00pm to 10.00pm with free coffee and cake. The course runs every Thursday evening from 1st October to 10th December. All are welcome to come along and try it out and meet some local people.

Contact Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or email her on [katrina.reading@goldhill.org](mailto:katrina.reading@goldhill.org) for more information or to book your place.

**ALL** Saints Church Music Festival - 'A HARVEST CELEBRATION' on Saturday 19th September at 7.30 pm.

This evening's entertainment sees the welcome return of Esther King, a graduate of the Royal College of Music, with her String Quartet and featuring Professor Grenville Hancox MBE, clarinettist and Head of Music at Christ Church University, Canterbury. A varied and exciting programme celebrating the Harvest Season.

Tickets £12 to include Bucks Fizz and 'Nibbles', from Paddy Hague 01753 883384.

A MODEL RAILWAY SHOW of trains and layouts with toy trains from late 1930s to late 1960s will be in the CSP Community Centre on Saturday 26th September from 10am – 4pm. The fascination of toy trains never wanes, once you see them in action. Entry is £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. Don't miss it.

**SIMPLY WALK** – IT REALLY CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE! Buckinghamshire's Simply Walk scheme really can change your life, as walkers Clive and Elaine Gulliver from Flackwell Heath in High Wycombe discovered when they got married this summer, after meeting some three years ago on one of the county's Simply Walk routes. Simply Walk programme has over 50 walks available around the county led by trained volunteer walk leaders and back markers who ensure no one gets left behind. Clive had been going on the Lane End walk in the Wycombe area for some years and met Elaine on her very first Simply Walk, having been invited along by an old friend. Clive said, "Elaine and I had started walking...and talking... and discovered that we had a lot in common and enjoyed each other's company. We both felt we had lived long enough to know what was valuable in life, so when we met there was a certainty that we had found something very special." Elaine added, "We got married on 26<sup>th</sup> June and shared our happy day with our closest friends and family which included some of the walkers from the group."

Our local Simply Walk is a vopag initiative and everyone is welcome to meet at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, for a walk of approximately 45 minutes on mostly flat terrain with no styles to climb, but do wear practical footwear. While walking in the fresh air of your local countryside, you can admire the scenery and make new friends as you enjoy the exercise.

**A LOOK** Back In Time As Second World War Marks 70th Anniversary This September marks the 70th anniversary of the start of the second world war and the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies has been looking through its amazing collection of records which provide a fascinating insight into what life was like back then.

A year prior to the war beginning, an evacuation scheme was drawn up and Aylesbury was earmarked to provide sanctuary to over 4000 evacuees. Once the war did break out, the scheme was put into action and 4000 women, children and elderly were put onto trains to Aylesbury and taken to the old town hall to be given full medical examinations, issued with ID and then housed. The children consisted of pupils from Mile End Central school, St Johns Cass Foundation school, Ealing County Boys school and Ealing Technical school. Harold Crookes, the Town Clerk was in charge of the scheme but the Women's Voluntary Service played an enormous part and they decided which mother, child and elderly person would stay at whose house. For those not staying in Aylesbury itself, buses were waiting to take them to more rural villages, such as Wing and Waddesdon.

Although records show that the evacuation scheme ran brilliantly and indeed the Bucks Herald did a front page congratulating the government on their excellent and seamless work, things did start to fall apart very quickly.

The host families complained of not being able to understand the children's Cockney accents, of a huge epidemic of head lice and of unruly behaviour. An overriding complaint though was the lack of money that had been given to keep the children and how they simply couldn't afford to feed them. Records show that the hosts were given 8 shillings and 6 pence. Parents were also complaining as they didn't know where their children had been placed and schools were under enormous pressure with all the extra children.

The records also showed that as well as the 4000 planned evacuees, there were also many more unplanned evacuees who simply fled London and paid their own way to stay. This was completely unexpected and further put a strain on the scheme. Fortunately the situation did rectify itself because the evacuees started to trickle back into London when time showed bombs were not being dropped. If anyone is interested in viewing the documents, please feel free to go along to the Buckinghamshire Centre for Studies.'

#### **MESSAGE from Thames Valley Police. - VAMOOSE BURGLARIES**

A lot of vehicle crime results from criminals seeing opportunities and taking them. But residents can easily outsmart the car thief by keeping their keys safe. According to the British Crime Survey 2007/2008 vehicle related thefts account for 15% of all crime. A break-in to steal keys is known as a 'Hook and Cane' burglary or 'Vamoose'. So far in 2009, approximately 1 in 10 of the domestic burglaries committed in Buckinghamshire are those where cars are taken after the key to the vehicle has been taken from a property.

A 'vamoose' burglary is a name used by Thames Valley Police for a burglary that takes place specifically to steal the keys of a high-value or new vehicle. 'Vamoose' burglaries often occur when car keys are left next to an open building door or window. In some extreme cases, thieves have put a long stick or fishing rod through letterboxes to hook the car keys and make off with the vehicle.

**KEYP SAFE** is a simple crime reduction initiative launched by the Bucks Community Safety Partnership. 10,000 KEYP SAFE key rings and advice postcards have been produced for release across the County. The key rings act as a constant reminder to residents to keep their keys safe, whilst the postcards offer crime prevention advice in relation to Vamoose burglaries. The Bucks Community Safety Partnership is working with local garages, car dealerships and car washers to deliver this important crime prevention message.

Simple Steps:

The Bucks Community Safety Partnership is advising residents to consider the crime prevention advice below in order to make sure that you're not a victim of this type of crime:

- . Park your car in a well-lit area - either on your driveway, or on the roads under a street lamp, for example.
- . Make sure that your vehicle is properly dead-locked and that the alarm is fully activated.
- . Lock all windows and doors of your car.
- . Do not leave your keys in full view of any windows or doors.

If you would like more advice on how to protect yourself from crime, telephone one of our crime reduction advisers on 0845 8 505 505. If you have any information on car crime and do not want to speak to the police, call the Crimestoppers charity anonymously on 0800 555 111. Just tell them what you know, not who you are. For information about vehicle security: Thames Valley Police website - [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).

**CARD MAKING WORKSHOPS AT BLUE HAZE2 Church Street, Market Square, Chesham Tel/Fax: 01494 782030 Email: [info@blue-haze.co.uk](mailto:info@blue-haze.co.uk) EXCITING NEW WORKSHOPS With Kay Lockie CRAFTING FOR CHARITY** Card making for beginners – a selection of courses limited to five participants per session. All proceeds are donated to animal or environmental charities. All materials are supplied. Have a fun, crafty morning and raise money for good causes. £20 per person Wed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept : Card making for beginners – using punches All proceeds to IFAW

Wed, 7<sup>th</sup> Oct : Card making for absolute beginners – Hummel figures All proceeds to Network for Animals

Wed, 4<sup>th</sup> Nov : Card making for beginners – Shaped cards All proceeds to SPANA Workshops take place in the workroom above the shop. 10 am until midday Tea or coffee with biscuits is always served. All day parking is a 2 minute walk away in water meadow car park. **To book** :Hazel Hopkinson Blue Haze Arts & Crafts 2 Church Street, Market Square, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1HT Telephone - 01494 782030 Fax - 01494 782060 Email - [info@blue-haze.co.uk](mailto:info@blue-haze.co.uk) Opening Hours - Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm [www.blue-haze.co.uk](http://www.blue-haze.co.uk) Or with Kay Lockie, 01494 729163 [Kaylockie@btconnect.com](mailto:Kaylockie@btconnect.com)

**PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE MEN TO TEACH** Buckinghamshire County Council is continuing to work to increase the number of men embarking upon teaching careers in primary schools. In 2001-02 around 1,500 men began primary teacher training, since then a Government campaign to increase the number of men embarking on a career in teaching has led to an increase to 2,341 in 2008-09.

With men representing just 15% of full time teaching staff in Primary Schools nationally, Buckinghamshire County Council are holding their second annual men-only teacher taster course in September 2009, which will give those considering a career in teaching an insight into the profession and an idea of what the training will involve.

The three day course will include a one-day school placement, and is designed to help participants to decide whether to apply for initial teacher training. Marion Clayton, Cabinet Member for Achievement and Learning, said: "Children benefit from having both male and female influences from their teachers, so it is important that we attract more men into teaching, particularly in our primary schools, where teachers have traditionally been mainly women. This course will offer an opportunity for men to see for themselves what opportunities there are, and hopefully persuade them that teaching is a really rewarding career for both men and women."

The Training and Development Agency reports that it is not only education officials who are calling for a greater male presence in our junior schools, with boys currently in primary education admitting that the presence of a male teacher makes them behave better (51%) and work harder (42%). There are also more intangible qualities, with many boys saying that male teachers help them enjoy school more (44%) and feel more confident about themselves (37%).

The Primary Taster Course is being trumpeted as an instrumental way of helping men into teaching. Those interested should contact Nigel Currums on 01296 382765, or by e-mail at [ncurrums@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:ncurrums@buckscc.gov.uk). Further information is available on the Buckinghamshire County Council web pages (<http://jobs.buckscc.gov.uk>).