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## Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

November 2009

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

**ON** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, a special memorial service will be held in the Parish Church at 3pm, to commemorate all those whose funerals have taken place in the last year or so. It is hoped that people will join in and share this occasion and the tea afterwards in the church hall.

**THE** RNLI saves lives at sea, so this is a worthwhile charity to support at the **Quiz Night in the Church Hall, Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009 - 7.00 for 7.30 pm**

For an evening of fun and friendly rivalry. **Tickets £10.00 each and include a Buffet Supper. Available from Chalfont Office Direct, Market Place, Chalfont St Peter or phone 01753 886412.** Bring your own drink and glasses.

### **VILLAGE Information: Anti Social Behaviour Campaign.**

**3rd November** - There will be a gazebo at Leachcroft between 12.00 - 16.00 hrs. during "Not in My Neighbourhood Week" when residents will be informed about activities being undertaken to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

**10th November** - "Wintertime Burglary Campaign" - timer light switches will be given out between 15.30 - 17.30 hrs. in Market Place.

**THE** latest Neighbourhood Newsletters are now available for viewing on the police website at

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

In the run up to Halloween police are getting ready to tackle any anti-social behaviour incidents or crimes and have a number of proactive operations in place.

This is all part of Operation Confidence, which started on Monday 19 October, and is a two-month Force-wide campaign to reduce crime and disorder and raise public awareness of what police and partner agencies are doing to make communities safer.

"No Trick or Treat" posters, to display in your window, are available from local police stations and council offices or you can print one off via the following link

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crprev-home-hols-halloween>

**THE** super new A30 bus which comes through Chalfont St Peter every half hour has proved valuable to those who want a reliable bus service to Chesham, Amersham, Uxbridge, Gerrards Cross, Chalfont St Giles and Heathrow. If you are a senior citizen and have a bus pass, you can reach all these places FREE and not pay out for petrol or add to the carbon footprint. It also means that you can relax and rely on the return journey. The new timetables are now available and there should be some in the Community Centre, as well as the Library, or of course from bus stations. If you haven't tried the A30, it's worth giving it a trial run.

**THE** County's Household Waste Recycling Centres are open from 8am to 5pm from Sunday 25th October. Our local site is London Road East, Amersham HP7 9DT. All sites are open seven days a week, except for 25 December, 26 December and 1st January.

**BEWARE** of a company called SAS Fire and Security which is cold-calling residents and offering to install 'free' security systems with a 'small' ongoing monitoring and maintenance cost. The company is also saying that the security systems are being offered in conjunction with Chiltern District Council's wintertime burglary events that are currently being run at local train stations and town centres. This is untrue, Chiltern District Council is not linked in any way with this company.

If you are approached by SAS Fire and Security or indeed any organisation you are unsure about, please do not allow them into your home or give them any of your personal details. Contact our community safety team on 01494 732089, or call Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506 or call the police on 0845 8 505 505.

**VOPAG - for the over 55's**, meets next on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Council Building in Gravel Hill. Coffee is at 10am and the meeting begins at 10.30. Always a stimulating morning of special presentations and friendship, which keeps everyone up to date with what is happening in the Village.



**MISBOURNE ART SOCIETY will hold its Annual Art Exhibition in the Parish Church Hall, Church Lane on Friday and Saturday, November 20-21 from 10am to 5pm. Free entry and ample parking, as well as home-made refreshments. Always worth a visit.**

**CAREERS SPRINGBOARD** (getting people back to work) meetings take place **7.15 for 7.30 pm each Monday at ST ANDREWS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, PACKHORSE ROAD, GERRARDS CROSS.**

- Nov 2 Networking n Making contacts – the essential ingredient to job search
- Nov 9 Using technology to support your job search Making the web work for you and an introduction to the LinkedIn Group for Careers Springboard members
- Nov 16 Networking in action Polishing your telephone networking skills in live practise activities
- Nov 23 Break-out groups A chance to work in small groups to revisit some of the topics covered over the past three months
- Nov 30 Making a good impression Feeling, looking and sounding confident
- Dec 7 Action planning for the Christmas break An opportunity to build a well organised and successful action plan for the Christmas holiday period

A new programme will be published in December for meetings starting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

**THE** Chalfont St Peter Chamber of Commerce which has operated for over sixty years has commissioned a new logo to better reflect a modern, forward looking organisation. The logo will shortly be appearing on all Chamber publications, their notice board in the village and on their revamped website [www.cspchamber.org.uk](http://www.cspchamber.org.uk). In addition, a new logo has been created to help publicise the annual Christmas Fun Night which will take place in the village on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Both logos are the work of local marketing agency and Chamber members, DML marketing.

Chamber President Michael Day said “The new image will help take us forward as we look to build on the excellent work we already do for businesses and the community. I hope it will help further establish a clear and positive brand for the Chamber.”

He added “This year we were heavily involved in the excellent Feast Day event in the Summer and we are now looking to create a bigger and better winter event with Fun Night. This year we have arranged for Market Place to be closed and the carol singing will take place from a stage in the centre of the village. In addition we shall have the Chalfont Wind Band playing festive music, a kiddies fun fair and up to thirty stalls providing a range of products and information on local organisations and community activities. We shall, as always be providing the Christmas Tree on Gold Hill Common.

In addition, we hope that all the shops and businesses in the centre of the village will stay open late and demonstrate to the community what an excellent and diverse range of products and services are available on the doorstep.”

Stall pitches for the evening are now being sold and already 50% have been snapped up. Anyone interested in either this or in joining the Chamber of Commerce should contact Michael Day on 07717 295369 or by email at [msd@integra-ps.com](mailto:msd@integra-ps.com)

**IT'S** already one of the safest places to live in Britain -and crime prevention agencies in Buckinghamshire are working hard to keep it that way.

Buckinghamshire's Community Safety partnership will be running various activities and events across the county during 'Not In My Neighbourhood Week' (NIMNW) during 2 - 6th November 2009. The week will demonstrate how agencies including the Council and the Police work and how residents can play their part. NIMNW is about residents joining forces with local agencies to say no to local crime, robbery and burglary, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug misuse. Work in Buckinghamshire will involve targeting residents' specific concerns about the area in which they live, stepping up environmental awareness, and raising awareness of trading standards rules.

Ideas of activities planned during the week by the partnership agencies include:

- . NIMNW beat surgery bus touring the Wycombe district.
- . Speeding Enforcements and advice on crime prevention across South Bucks
- . Clear - up days in Chiltern Districts
- . Fireworks safety and education talk with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service in Aylesbury Vale area

During the week, Buckinghamshire's Community Safety aim to:

- . Increase awareness among the local community of what the police and local agencies do to tackle crime and disorder
- . Increase public confidence in the work the police and local agencies are doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and make communities feel safer.
- . Encourage the public to engage with the police and local agencies and play their part in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

**Help Buckinghamshire Mark the 1000 Day Countdown to the London 2012 Olympic Games** October 31st 2009 marked the 1000 day countdown to the opening ceremony for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The Buckinghamshire 2012 Partnership are looking for 1000 people who live or work in Buckinghamshire to help mark this occasion by taking part in a special **Reactivate Bucks Community Challenge** and by getting up and completing 1000 metres in a way they would not normally do on an average Saturday.

Ian Barham the Buckinghamshire Manager for the 2012 Games said "It doesn't matter whether you run, walk, cycle, row or swim there is no limit to how you can take part. Alternatively, you may want to set yourself a unique physical challenge based around the number 1000. Maybe you fancy climbing 1000 steps rather than taking the lift for the day, getting out in the garden or allotment and pulling 1000 errant weeds before the onset of winter or by completing 1000 seconds (16minutes 40 seconds to save you the maths!) of vigorous hoovering or polishing to get the house looking good for the weekend.... the choice is entirely yours."

Let us know how you intend to mark this occasion for the chance to win some great prizes and to be part of the Bucks 1000 Day Countdown Reactivate Challenge. So rather than spending your Saturday sitting around, **get up and give it a go**, and be part of the Buckinghamshire 1000. Register now, and then tell us what you plan to do, by visiting [www.buckssport.org/2012](http://www.buckssport.org/2012) and completing the simple registration form.

Everyone that confirms their participation by November 6<sup>th</sup> 2009 will be listed in a 1000 day roll of honour to be included as part of the Bucks 2012 Archive record and will be included in a free draw to have the chance to win some great prizes to help keep you fit and active over the next 1000 days.

If you would like to discuss how you can take further inspiration from the London 2012 Games please contact Ian Barham the Buckinghamshire Manager for the 2012 Games [ibarham@bucks2012.org](mailto:ibarham@bucks2012.org) or tel. 01296 585184 0784 3311837

**GERRARDS** Cross Flower Club will be meeting on November 18th at 2.15pm in The Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, Centre, East Common. With thoughts of Christmas the meeting has a demonstration by Jamie Burnside, a National Demonstrator from Northern Ireland and his title will be "My Christmas Collection". An enjoyable afternoon not to be missed!! New members and guests each month are welcomed to meetings. For more details phone Pam Houchen on 884190.

**CHILDREN'S** New and Nearly New Table Top Sale in the Chalfont St Giles Scout Hut on 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10am-noon. To book a table call Nicola on 01494 581 033. Only £10 per table. This is in aid of the Chalfont St Giles Village Pre-School Playgroup.

**RAISING** funds for the Sharing Project, there will be a Quiz night on 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30 on £10 to include a hot supper, at Gerrards Cross Sports Club, Dukes Lane, SL0 7JZ. Cash Bar, Raffle, Tables of 8. **Tickets are available from the Baptist Church office on 01753 887173**

**THE POPPY APPEAL** Honorary Poppy Appeal Organisers: **Chalfont St Peter:** Anne Wainwright 01753 883935 **Chalfont St Giles:** Alan Armstrong 01494 874665

Over £18,000 was taken towards the Poppy Appeal 2008-9 by collectors in our catchment area last autumn. This was an increase of £465 over the previous year, so, very many thanks to all who helped so splendidly. The Accounting Year, which previously ended in May, from now onwards is to end in September. Money comes in all the year round so it is not possible to give you the final total for this year yet. However, on the 17th of July, the National total was in excess of £30 million, towards which Bucks contributed £533,136.

**Collecting Dates** for the Poppy Appeal **2009-10** are as follows:-

House to House Sat. 24 October – Wed. 11 November

Street Collecting Sat. 31 October – Sat. 7 November

Businesses Sat. 24 October - Wed 11 November

N.B. Collectors standing in shop premises count as Business Collecting.

**ALL SAINTS** church music festival 2009 - a feast of Christmas music & carols with the APOLLO BRASS QUINTET. Sunday 6th December at 4.00pm. £12.50/person. Nothing captures the essence of festive Christmas music quite like a brass band. Enjoy an afternoon of wonderful favourites to put you in the holiday mood, including the opportunity to join in with some carol singing. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served during the interval. Tickets are on sale from Anne Hatton - 01753 882425 or Paddy Hague - 01753 883384.

**GERRARDS** Cross Sailing Association, meets on Wednesday, November 4 at 7.30 in the Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards, when Norman Lynagh will talk about "Weather". He is a keen sailor who is a Chartered Meteorologist and Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. He provides weather forecasts to a range of industries and is an acknowledged expert for legal and insurance companies. He will explain how to interpret weather forecasts and how to develop our own forecasting systems. This is something we all wish to get right – come along and learn how the professionals do it.

**CHALFONT COMMON WI** meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Tony Graham room at the Chalfont Community Centre at 7.30 for 7.45 Visitors most welcome.

**CHALFONT ST PETER W.I.** Always welcomes visitors to their meetings on the 2nd Wed. in the month at 2.15 p.m .in the Church Hall, Church Lane.

**POLICE** are warning people to be on the alert when withdrawing cash from ATM machines. There have been several incidents recently in Beaconsfield, Chesham and Amersham.

In Beaconsfield on Tuesday evening suspects had attached a mobile phone in a blue box directly above the keypad, and a false grey card slot had been placed over the genuine card slot. At least one member of the public had attempted to withdraw money and had lost their card to the device.

This sort of skimming device is often referred to as a Lebanese loop. The perpetrators will target ATM's that are not covered by CCTV, generally those outside the banks or in other public places. They are usually set up when the banks are closed to avoid detection and prevent customers alerting the bank immediately.

By this method they obtain both the card and the PIN number, allowing them to withdraw the maximum amount of cash the bank will allow in seconds. They will make as many withdrawals as they can until the card is stopped. Offenders will move around an area, targeting banks on consecutive days in neighbouring towns, so people across the whole of Bucks and Berks need to be aware.

Do be vigilant when using any ATM. If anything looks unusual, or parts do not seem to be properly attached, do NOT use the machine. If the bank is closed, move away from the area and phone the police immediately dialling 999, as this is a crime in progress. Often the offenders will be hanging around in the vicinity and a quick response from police can result in significant arrests.

DO NOT TRY TO REMOVE THE DEVICE or approach anyone acting suspiciously around an ATM. The devices are very valuable to the scammers and they have previously used violence to retain them. The police are also keen to preserve any forensic evidence that may lead us to a suspect

**ON** Saturday 28th November 2009 there is a Fabric Sale in Chalfont St Peter Community Centre 10.30 am - 3.00 pm. Light refreshments. Magnificent selection of high quality cotton fabric at very competitive prices. You can ring Matthew Doughty beforehand on 01432-267542 if you have any particular requests.

### **National survey shows Buckinghamshire residents enjoy a high quality of life**

The vast majority of Buckinghamshire residents think their county is a good place to live, a major Government survey has revealed.

Eighty-six per cent of respondents to the nationwide Place Survey reported themselves satisfied with their local area – a jump of 7% since an equivalent study carried out two years ago.

Buckinghamshire residents' levels of satisfaction with where they live are way ahead of the national average, which stands at under 80%, as well as the rest of the south east region.

The county also scored highly for the well-being of residents and their perceived low levels of anti-social behaviour. A greater proportion of residents in Buckinghamshire assessed their health as good or very good than anywhere else in England, while fewer respondents cited drunk and rowdy behaviour as a problem here than any other part of the country.

The Place Survey also showed that Buckinghamshire residents are among the most generous with their time in England, with over 30% giving unpaid help at least once a month.

Buckinghamshire County Council leader David Shakespeare said: "These findings confirm what we already knew – that Buckinghamshire continues to be an extremely attractive place to live, work and raise a family.

"However, we are far from complacent. We remain determined to work with our partners across the county to build and maintain strong, health and safe communities.

"We know there is much more to be done, and together with our district council colleagues in Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe we are striving to improve services and offer our residents value for money."

Among the areas the survey highlighted for improvement in Buckinghamshire included the need for improvements to roads and pavements in the county.

To address this, Buckinghamshire County Council invested an additional £3.25million into highway maintenance in 2008/09 and £4million for 2009/10. This year's commitment brings the total budget for routine maintenance and repair to £7.1million. The work is targeted at those areas identified as being a priority and ranges from sign cleaning through to patching work.

All councils in the country were surveyed as part of the study and data was collected in late 2008 with responses drawn from across all four districts in Buckinghamshire.