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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice - February 2013

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Throughout the coming month, regular updates can be seen on
www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

The picture this month is by Denis Palmer the winner of the Elaine Butler prize at the Misbourne Art Society annual Art Exhibition, November 2012



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LIZ PETTY (1951-2013). It is with great sadness that we pass on the news that Liz Petty, ex Assistant Cub Scout Leader for many years, passed away on 8th January. Husband John and son Mark were with her. Please pass on the news to all who may have known her.

CELFUNDE INHERITANCE. our local Heritage Group, is compiling a living history of Chalfont St. Peter. We are anxious to talk to residents about their memories of the village and to scan any photos or documents relating to the past. If you would like to talk to us and share these memories, we will be in the **LIBRARY** next **SATURDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY 2013** **from 10.00am – 1.00pm.** Please note that if you are not able to come along on this date we will be in the library on the first Saturday of every month until further notice. Please sort through your old photos or share your recollections of life in the village with us. This will be a valuable archive which will otherwise be lost to future generations.

STOP HS2 - There will be an opening ceremony with Martin Tett, of the information point/café at 63-65 Hill Avenue, the former Entertainer Toy Shop, in Amersham on Saturday 9th February at 11am. It will be open for the following 2 weeks at least after this date, from Monday to Saturday, 10am until 4pm. People will be able to see what impact the line will have on the area through detailed maps etc. Worth going along and to see the full picture of what could happen in our area. A question that we could ask is that if the train line will take 20 years or so to complete, will it be out of date by the time it is open and secondly, with greater facility in video conferencing and communication technology, will it be needed? Not forgetting that in our area at least the train will not serve our community in any way, with no access to it unless we travel up to London, which would be counter-productive. Info. hs2amersham.org.uk

ATTIC SALE will be held by **Chalfont Common WI An** on **March 16th 9.30 until 12** at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. To book a table please phone Janet Scholfield on 01494 873331 or email Janet at [\[scholfieldjanet@yahoo.co.uk\]](mailto:scholfieldjanet@yahoo.co.uk) Tables cost £12. There will be the usual cake and book stalls, bric-a-brac and lots of children's games and toys and in the main hall a full variety of stalls. Tea and coffee will be served all morning.

GERRARDS CROSS Sailing Association meets in the Colston Hall of the Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, SL9 7AD, on Wednesdays at 8.15pm -Bar opens at 7.30.

The next talk is **on Wednesday February 6th** when Roger Mustoe will present - A circumnavigation of Sweden. During a recent informal discussion round the office water cooler, Roger's passion, indeed almost obsession, for sailing soon emerged when it became apparent that his story of spontaneous decisions, archaic boats, and dubious maintenance was much richer than many of those overheard on Wednesdays in the GXSA bar. Roger tells an excellent story of his adventures in the Baltic, possibly the most beautiful cruising grounds in Europe, where he lived for several years. You will hear about this wildlife haven, see its extensive photographic delights and learn of some of its surprises: uncharted rocks to Nazi submarine pens. Roger's talk a "Circumnavigation of Sweden" is a tale of endless days, endless gale force winds, endless repairs, a broken engine, a bent prop shaft, wonderful scenery ... and some sailing.

GERRARDS CROSS Flower Club meets next on Wednesday 20th February when there will be a Demonstration by Kathy Stangaard entitled "All the World's a Stage". The venue is Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, East Common, GX. SL9 7AD. Visitors welcome entry fee £5. The Club works with the League of Friends to arrange flowers on a weekly basis at The Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital.

THE next meeting of the **Chalfont St Peter Garden Club** is on Wednesday, 20th February in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 8pm. The talk will be "Orchids for Beginners". Visitors welcome

SCHOOL Crossing Patrollers - better known as lollipop patrollers - play a vital role in making the school journey as safe as possible for children and parents. To highlight their good work and remind motorists and cyclists that they have a legal duty to stop when they are shown the STOP 'lollipop' sign Transport for Buckinghamshire is launching a 'Stop Means Stop' campaign on Monday February 4.

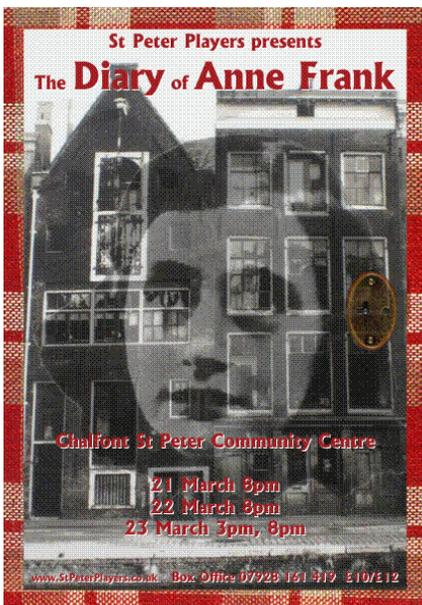
Failing to stop when requested can lead to a £1,000 fine, three penalty points and disqualification.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, said: "This important campaign aims to raise the awareness of the valuable contribution made by School Crossing Patrollers and we also hope to encourage more people to get involved at the sites where we currently have vacancies."

Drivers are advised to allow more time on the daily journey if it takes them past a school, particularly at the beginning or the end of the school day, as they may be requested to STOP by a lollipop patroller, allowing them to cross children safely over the roads.

If you would like to become a lollipop patroller, please call The School Crossing Patrol Supervisors on 01494 586639 or 01296 383432.

THE Parish Church has given notice that, as from the beginning of February, the bridge in front of the church and the Greyhound, across the river Misbourne (High Street) will be CLOSED for repair for at least 10 weeks, from 11th March. Traffic will be diverted to the Kingsway roundabout and then back to the village along Lower Road. Please allow more time for your journey and you will be informed of a firm date for the commencement of these works when it is decided.



A MUST-SEE production near you!

The **St. Peter Players** will be performing
'The Diary of Anne Frank' at The Chalfont St. Peter Community Centre
on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd March 2013.

Performance times are 8.00pm with a matinee performance on Saturday at 3.00pm. We are aware that the theme of this production is often studied as part of English, Drama and History curriculum work, and sometimes P.S.H.E. This production may therefore be of interest to you and your students. Tickets will be priced at £12 for adults and £10 for students and concessions. We will however, be offering a discounted group rate of 10% on parties of over 10.

We are also offering a Q&A session with the actors and director of the show, and if this is of interest to you, please enquire on the number below. If there is a specific aspect to the show re performing it, designing it or directing it, or you would like to focus a discussion for your students on any aspect of rehearsal or performance etc, please let us know!

We're enjoying the rehearsals of such an important story and hope we do justice to the bravery and camaraderie of such a courageous group of people.

Please do inform any teaching staff of relevant departments in your school if you think it would be of interest to them. If you require any further information about the production or would like to book tickets, please contact the Box Office on 07928 161419 or email info@stpeterplayers.co.uk

VOPAG (Village Older Persons Action Group) invites you to their next meeting in the COMMUNITY CENTRE on Thursday 21st February 2013. Meet at 10 a.m. for coffee, with the business starting at 10.30 a.m. Entry charge £1 and includes a free raffle ticket, if you wish to have one. What's on: Tony Shinner to speak on VAG and street security, Using the world wide web – Richard Fenton will answer 8 questions with an internet - demo on screen, and Kenneth Arton will provide information on road closures in the village this spring.

www.bucksvoice.net/vopa
The next meeting will be held in the Community Centre. C.S.P. on Tuesday, 19th March 2013.

THE GX Scottish Dancing club meets at 7.30pm in term time at the Memorial Centre. Beginners very welcome. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please telephone Celia on GX 884217.

STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION will be sung at All Saint's Church on Passion Sunday, 17th March with Iain Ledingham, Conductor and Richard King, Organist and you are offered the chance to attend a rehearsal in preparation for you to join in with the specially selected soloists from the Royal College of Music. Rehearsal starts at 2.30pm and ends at 5.30pm to be followed by a performance at 6.30pm. This is a unique opportunity and you don't need to have any experience, to sing this lovely work in the fantastic acoustics of All Saints' Church. Music will be provided. Tickets £12 from 01753 883384 or 882425.

YOUTH EVENTS and activities organised by Parish Church members: If you are 11-16 this is what you could try. Your Space youth café – 3-5pm every Tuesday in term time. Drop in, have a drink and catch up with your friends. Every now and then they have special events, so look out for advertising on workshops, trips and other stuff through the year. iTruth from 5-6pm, after Your Space. Starts Tuesday 5th February. A chance to hear more about what Christians believe, but also say what you think. Discuss your views and ideas without being judged for it, plus there'll be food and plenty of time to have fun and get to know each other. Each week you can watch a short DVD clip about Jesus and find out that he wasn't the meek, mild character he's sometimes portrayed as and ask the question – is there more to him than you think?

CHALFONT ST PETER W.I. (which includes Gerrards Cross members) reports that 2013 got off to a good start with their January meeting. The speaker was Ms Maureen Dennis who spoke about women in the 1800s whose education was sadly lacking, in comparison to the menfolk.

One of these ladies, Jane Dove from High Wycombe, worked hard to redress the situation and was successful in promoting women's rights to a good education. She was the founder of Wycombe Abbey School.

On February 13th, Dr Brenda Howard's talk is entitled "Wild Flowers on a country walk" which will remind us that spring is not far away.

The group outing in August is yet to be arranged and suggestions were asked from members at the January meeting. Ladies, if you'd like to make new friends and find a new interest, you will be very welcome to the meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Chalfont St. Peter Church Hall.

ALPHA COURSE – explore the meaning of life. Following the success of the evening Alpha last autumn, there will be a course again this spring for those who cannot make it in the evenings. Two daytime Alphas, each starting in March are being planned. Senior Alpha is focused on people of retirement age – this is designed as a Christian basics course and is popular as a refresher course and a great opportunity for people to meet and make friends. Daytime Alpha with crèche, is focused on younger adults, particularly mums and dads with young children at school or preschool. This course provides the opportunity for people to come together and discuss contemporary issues in an informal setting. The likely venue is the Church hall. To book: office@csp-parish.org.uk jim.king@csp-parish.org.uk or Maggie.rode@csp-parish.org.uk

DIOGENES Sun Club has scheduled an extra session of their Great British Skinny Dip swims on **February 23rd** from 7 till 9p.m. and they also have spaces on February 9th at the same times. The sessions (which must be booked in advance through website www.diogenessunclub.co.uk) are proving really popular, with several local people experiencing naturism for the first time. Sessions are held in their beautiful heated indoor pool, which also has under-floor heating so people certainly won't get cold! Sessions cost £4 for adults, with under-eighteens going free (though they must be accompanied by an adult). Diogenes Sun Club is one of the UK's best naturist clubs with a great family friendly environment and has been operating from its site at Horn Hill, Chalfont St Peter since 1964. www.diogenessunclub.co.uk
Twitter: @DiogenesSunClub Facebook: www.facebook.com/diogenesuk

CORNERSTONE Contemporary Worship Service is a new activity being held in the Parish Church Hall. 11.15am-noon, with coffee in the hall beforehand. Cornersone for Kids, groups run for 0-15year olds upstairs, so please feel free to drop your children there before going into the service and return them downstairs at 11.50 each week. The current theme – Questions I would like to ask God. 3rd Feb: Why does God allow suffering? 10th Feb: Do miracles happen today? 17th Feb: Why doesn't prayer work? 24th Feb: Why does God want to be worshipped? www.csp-parish.org.uk

WHEN Ria Metcalf and Alex Gibbs tie the knot on Monday, February 11, they will be making history. Theirs will be the first wedding in the Disraeli Room at Buckinghamshire County Council's new registration office in Beaconsfield Old Town.

Their wedding will mark the first week of full registration services at Beaconsfield, following transfer from High Wycombe on Monday February 4.

The new Mr and Mrs Gibbs will walk out of a registration office itself steeped in history: it was the town's former police station and magistrates' court built in 1870 and latterly the film set for Causton police station in the television series *Midsomer Murders*.

The building, also housing the county coroner's court, has been refurbished to provide two ceremony rooms - the Disraeli Room and Midsomer Court - to give residents in the south of the county greater choice.'

Beaconsfield's registration office, in Windsor End, opens with full registration service on Monday February 4, following a transfer of services from Easton Street offices in High Wycombe, which closes on Thursday January 31.

Births and deaths can continue to be registered on Tuesdays and Thursdays in High Wycombe, at the Library in the Eden Centre, until the beginning of April when a full range of services and a new ceremony room will open there.

During the transfer, registration services will continue at Aylesbury Register Office and phone lines will be open on 01494 475200.

The new 25-seat Disraeli Room - named after Victorian statesman, Prime Minister, and Earl of Beaconsfield Benjamin Disraeli - is available for ceremonies Monday to Thursday. The 60-seat Midsomer Court - named in memory of its connection with the television series - is available Fridays to Sundays. Midsomer Court saw its first wedding in December when former Beaconsfield registrar Clair Williams and Ray Coe were married.

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/Registrars/Births_marriages_and_deaths.page?

VICTIMS of hate crime in Buckinghamshire no longer have to suffer in silence following the launch of a new 24-hour helpline.

Run by national charity Stop Hate UK, the scheme is supported by Buckinghamshire County Council, Thames Valley Police (TVP), Victim Support and the District councils.

The helpline number - 0800 138 1625, is now active. People can also text, skype, instant message, email or even write a letter to get free and confidential help from Stop Hate UK.

Hate crime is any criminal offence committed against a person or property, motivated by the hatred of someone's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. It can take many different forms including physical attacks, threat of attack, or verbal abuse and insults.

While the county has relatively low crime rate, including hate crime, the County Council believes the problem in Buckinghamshire may be under reported and this mirrors research from across the UK. Over 230 hate crimes were reported in Buckinghamshire last year.

Speaking at the official launch on Tuesday (29 January), Martin Phillips, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Engagement said: "We are fortunate to live and work in one of the most pleasant and low crime areas of the UK, but I am aware that some of our residents and visitors may be subject to abuse simply because of disability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, faith, beliefs or sexual orientation.

"However, it is widely acknowledged that hate crime often goes unreported as some people don't have the confidence to report things to the police, but hopefully the new helpline will make things easier for victims of hate crime to come forward."

Chief Inspector Colin Seaton, Deputy Area Commander said: "Hate crime amounts to bullying, harassment and abuse. It destroys lives and damages communities. It is not only unacceptable but also a crime. I encourage anyone who is a victim or witness to report incidents of hate crime to the police but if whatever reason are unable to do so, reporting any offence to Stop Hate UK would ensure that these incidents are reported and investigated in an appropriate way." For more information visit www.stophateuk.org/about/

FAIRTRADE BIG BREW is on Wednesday 6th March in the Parish Church Hall from 10am – 3.30pm. Teas, coffees and **homemade cakes, and Fairtrade products to buy. Special lunch menu – home-made soup, rolls, cheese and fruit.**

BEETLE DRIVE and Fish and Chips are on offer if you go along and join in the fun at All Saints' Church Hall on Saturday 9th March. Tickets £8 adults and £5 children. (Family discount available). Tickets: Caroline Wiggins on 01753 884230

Budget Review Group puts Council spending plans under the microscope.

Detailed spending plans for the future funding of County Council services have been closely examined by a special Budget Review Group of Council members.

Following a three-day hearing, the Group's report containing 19 recommendations was accepted by the Overview and Scrutiny Commissioning Committee on Monday (29 January).

The report, which will now be presented to Cabinet on February 11, includes recommendations to further improve budget consultations with local residents; closer working with the voluntary and community sector; better planning to manage rising costs in adult social care and statementing and further lobbying of Government on key issues like Council funding, education standards and social care.

Chairman of the Budget Review Group, David Shakespeare said he was pleased that a number of last year's scrutiny recommendations were implemented and he encouraged Cabinet to take on board this year's report.

"Agreeing where the Council should spend its limited resources is a huge challenge in today's financial climate. It's therefore vital that the Council funds the right services for the needs of the residents of Buckinghamshire and the Budget Review Group is able to bring that challenge and rigour to the Council's proposals."

Martin Tett, Leader of the Council thanked the Budget Review Group for their detailed work. "It's absolutely right that our spending plans are fully scrutinised in public. My Cabinet colleagues and I must be accountable for our proposals and I look forward to considering their recommendations fully at our next Cabinet Meeting."

The Council's final budget plans, which includes freezing Council Tax for a third successive year, will be agreed at the full Council meeting on February 14.