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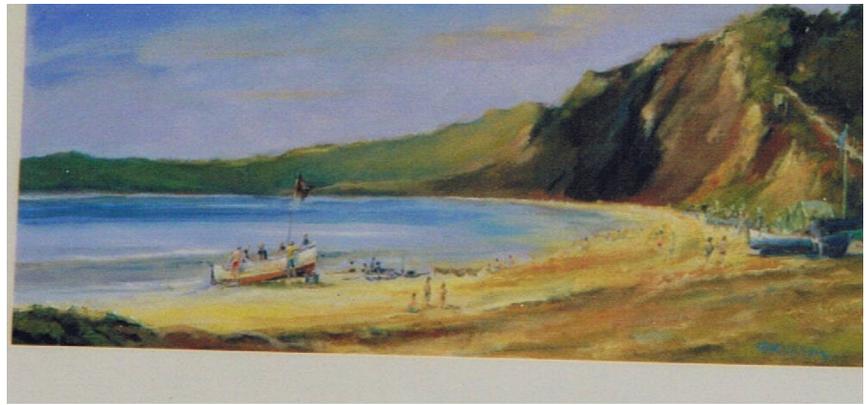
Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

JANUARY 2011

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice



**The Beach at Buddleigh by Charles Grierson, winner of
the Elaine Butler Salver**

THE MISBOURNE Art Society is pleased to announce that Charles Grierson won the Elaine Butler Salver following the public voting at the recent Annual Exhibition in the Parish Church Hall. As the quality of the pictures submitted was very high, it was difficult to make a final decision, but the votes showed that Mr Grierson had the appreciation of the largest number of visitors and, as you can see, he certainly produced a stunning piece of art.

PLEASE support Shannon Hinds, who is raising money for an expedition to China in 2011. The event is a World Challenge China Expedition Fundraiser presenting - **Fight like a Girl** – Effective Self Defence. This is a demonstration in Chalfont St Giles Memorial Hall, in School Lane and it takes place on **Tuesday, 11th January** at 7pm – 9.30pm.

All ladies, including teenagers, may benefit from the evening, £10 per person or £15 for a mother and daughter

Contact: shannon@flexmore.org or Vicky on 01494 874826 to book www.flexmorefarm.co.uk

Did you know?

20% of women across the globe will be sexually assaulted at least once in their lifetime

You will know the person who assaults you 90% of the time

58% of the time assaults take place in your home or a home of a friend, relative or neighbour

57% of sexual assaults happen on a first date.

FRIENDS of Chiltern Open Air Museum has its next meeting on Wednesday, 26th January when Keith Fletcher will present The History of the Co-operative Movement. This will be held at 8pm in the usual venue, the Mary Smithells Room in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. Visitors welcome, entry is £2 for members and £2.50 for visitors, Light refreshments will be available. Contact: 01494 793017 for more information, or just turn up on the night.

THE Alzheimer's Society is the largest and oldest dementia charity in the UK and has daily contact with more people affected by dementia and their family carers than any other organisation. So it should come as no surprise that volunteering is crucial to its success. There are many volunteering roles which can be fitted into today's busy lives and will match the skills and commitment level that you can offer.

What do the South Buckinghamshire Alzheimer's Society volunteers do? Some help regularly at activities and events for people with dementia - such as Singing for the Brain sessions, parties and summer outings, Memory Café meetings, or giving lifts. Some of these roles are an easy introduction to the work of Alzheimer's Society, but if you have specific skills or would like something to stretch you a little, then there are several opportunities for "self-starter" roles, where managerial and/or particular skills with people are required.

For more information about volunteering with The Alzheimer's Society or on the hundreds of opportunities in Buckinghamshire please look on www.do-it.org.uk Tel: 0845 3890389 or volunteering@communityimpactbucks.org.uk
The Volunteer Centre for Buckinghamshire is part of Community Impact Bucks, an independent charity helping members of the public to get involved in community activity.

PLEASE support your local store. Budgens is an important part of our village and with the new foodstore in Gerrards Cross customers are making the journey to the next village to find out what it has to offer. Fair enough, but if everyone continues this, we won't have enough shoppers to keep our store open. What will happen to those who have no easy transport to Gerrards Cross? Use it or lose it will be worth remembering and local people need Budgens

WE want to find practical and local solutions to ensure a library service that meets your needs. Develop ideas in discussion at the workshop session to take forward ideas that could work for our community

Date: **25 January 2011 Time: 7pm—9pm** Venue: Community Centre, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter

SERIOUS ASSAULT - Chalfont St Peter - Police are appealing for witnesses after an assault in Lovel Road, Chalfont St Peter, on Saturday morning (1/1).

At about 4am, a 50-year-old man was assaulted by three men in an apparently unprovoked attack. He was taken to Wexham Park Hospital with head injuries but has since been released.

The attackers are white and between 18 and 20-years-old. One of them reportedly had bad teeth.

Det Sgt Kerry Bradfield, the officer investigating the assault said: "We believe the attackers damaged a number of cars in the run-up to the assault and I would like to speak to anyone who witnessed this, or the assault itself, to come forward."

Anyone with information can contact DS Bradfield and Amersham Police Station on 0845 8 505 505 and quote Crime reference number: URN 782 1/12010.

If you do not want to speak to the police, call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111. They don't need to know your name, just what you know.

You can also give information to the police in person by visiting any police station. Find the opening times of your local police station via our website or by phoning 0845 8 505 505.

GRAPHOLOGY for Beginners is on at Missenden Abbey on Saturday 15th January. This one-day course will be a great way to find out about what makes you and your friends tick, how to make the most of relationships and interpersonal situations and generally to enjoy what you learn for long-term usefulness.

If you have never been to Missenden Abbey, it is a great opportunity for you to enjoy the ambience and energy that comes during the learning experience and to encourage you to share this with a friend, there is a special offer at the Abbey that makes it financially attractive.

Invite a friend to enrol on this course and receive the following:

- Your friend gets a discount on the course fee as indicated below
- You receive a voucher to the value of the discount to be used on any future course in the 2011 Weekend programmes at Missenden Abbey

This offer is not limited to new students, but it does apply to this course only, subject to availability: To book your place the course number is **X09HU03A10 Graphology for Beginners – Tel: 01296 383582** and if you do invite a friend, please ask your friend to ring **01296 383582** to book on course **X09HU03A10 Graphology for Beginners (£15 discount)** and quote **X09PR1** – your friend needs to mention your name as well!

Please note that the terms of this offer are strictly limited and all bookings are subject to standard terms and conditions of booking.

CHALFONT COMMON WI's Christmas Gathering held on 2nd December was a very cold evening but nevertheless there was a good turnout to be entertained by the 'Gang of 4' – the local Barber Shop Boys who were brilliant. They gave renditions from Oliver and lots of other hits including Elvis. A brief history of the barber shop boys was most interesting.

Their first meeting in January is a talk on the history of Westminster Abbey which is very topical as that is where the Royal Wedding will be taking place. It will make the wedding even more interesting.

Their tour of The Royal Opera House in March is keenly anticipated, but before that they will be having their annual fish and chips lunch and for the first time they plan to hold a beetle drive. The Attic sale will take place in the Community Centre on April 2nd – bookings for tables are now taken. Their quiz teams have been very busy and the walkers will continue to meet weather permitting.

The table tennis thrives as does the reading group and there is a visit to the cinema in January.

They are hoping for lots of new members this year so if you are interested do go along to the Tony Graham room in the Community Centre on the **first Thursday of the month at 7.30**. If you would like to make enquiries please ring Chris on 01494 872133 and she and the committee will make you very welcome – don't be shy.

CHALFONT ST PETER W.I. had a most successful Christmas lunch at the December Meeting. Everyone had brought something good to eat plus a knife, fork, spoon,

plate and glass. With the tables decorated with crackers and tea-lights a good time was enjoyed by all.

Mr.Robert Sacco gave a very amusing talk about "Comedy Greats of yesteryear" - just the thing for the occasion.

A fruit tree as been planted in the Institute's name in one of the Change4Chalfont orchards.

Members are sorry to be losing Sheila next year but will welcome Bronwen and Ann. The next meeting is in the Church Hall on the 2nd Wednesday in January – the 12th - at 2.15 and the talk will be From "Crinolines to Bustles". There will be a Bring and Buy too. Visitors are always welcome.

CHALFONT COMMON WI Attic Sale will be held on 2nd April at 10am at the Community Centre. To book a table please phone Brenda on 01753 885293. There will be all the usual bric a brac, book and cake stalls. Coffee will be available together with our delicious home made cakes.

CHIEF Inspector Ian Hunter circulated the latest performance figures which, compared to last year, are very encouraging and Chiltern Local Police Area (LPA) had some of the best results in the force.

- . 28.1% reduction in serious acquisitive crime (211 less victims) -
- . 16.7% detection rate for serious acquisitive crime (32 more detections)
- . 43.8% detection rate for serious sexual assaults
- . 44.9% detection rate for serious violent crime
- . Total Crime in Chiltern down 17% - (700 less victims of Crime.)

Community Messages are only one way of keeping up to date with what is going on in your community and sharing information with other watch members. You can find out information via the local radio station Mix 96, by visiting our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk and viewing the 'news' section or visiting your neighbourhood home page, also via our website. www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

CHRISTMAS is typically a time when waist lines expand, but this year residents are being urged to make sure they keep an eye on another kind of waste.

People in Buckinghamshire will have received more than eight million Christmas cards, got through enough foil to cover an area of 11.5 square miles, and used so much wrapping paper that it would stretch from Buckingham to Beaconsfield almost 50 times if every sheet was laid end to end.

The Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire is reminding residents that cards, foil and wrapping paper are just some of the items that can be recycled rather than being sent to landfill. Each district has different recycling arrangements from home and when collections will take place over Christmas, so residents are encouraged to check their district council websites for details.

A wide range of materials including cardboard packaging, household electrical items, domestic batteries and used cooking oil can be recycled at Buckinghamshire County Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres. See www.buckscc.gov.uk for the full list of materials accepted.

Real Christmas trees can be recycled at a Household Waste and Recycling Centre where they will be composted. Alternative arrangements for recycling Christmas trees vary between districts - see district council websites for more details. Rooted trees can be planted in the garden or transferred to a larger pot so the roots have room to grow, and it can be reused next year.

FREE Film and Refreshments in Chalfont St Peter 'In Transition: From Oil Dependence to Local Resilience' Friday 14th January at 8pm Parish Church Hall, Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter

'In Transition' is an hour long documentary about the Transition movement. It shows how people and their communities are taking practical action at a local level in the face of depleting fossil fuels and climate change. Using creativity, imagination and humour to create a more self-reliant existence, they are positive and solutions-focussed. Presented and funded by Change4Chalfont, a group of local residents who aim to work with their community by helping to reduce our impact on climate change and our dependence on fossil fuels, this film encompasses its aims for Chalfont St Peter very well and is not to be missed by anyone with an interest in this new take on responding to the challenges of the 21st century. Wine, coffee, tea, savouries and home-made cake will be served. There will be the opportunity for discussion following the showing. For more information, please contact robin_summerell@yahoo.co.uk or visit our website: www.change4chalfont.org.uk

AT the December meeting of **St Joseph's Furniture Market** the following donations of £250 each were made to: Chiltern Cheshire Home, Samaritans Amersham, British Red Cross – Bucks, Padstones (Helping young homeless people) and £300 to Chalfont Scouts. The Furniture is open on Saturdays from 9am – 12.30 in the market store behind the church hall in Austenwood. Park in the church car park and the entrance to the Furniture Market is in Priory Road. Furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk

AID FOR THE AGED in Distress U.K. (AFTAID) welcomes applications from individuals, or their family and neighbours, of state pensionable age (60 years old for women and 65 for men), that are UK citizen and resident, on lower income and have minimal savings. AFTAID aims to help older persons that are financially stretched beyond their means to the point of genuine distress. AFTAID can provide grants for many varied items such as; mobility scooters; walk-in showers; radiators; cookers; Cleaning; central heating boiler; Video intercom; 'blind' software for PC. AFTAID to not make grants for ongoing or retrospective payments, nor can they consider repayment of debt. Referrals can also be accepted on behalf of members of the caring professions and voluntary organisations. Applications can be made at any time....

Basic qualification criteria **The beneficiary of the grant MUST be:**

- of state pensionable age (60 years old for women and 65 for men)
- a UK citizen, residing in the UK
- on a lower income and have minimal savings

More information can be found on their website <http://www.aftaid.org.uk/grantapp.html> or you can contact them as follows Grant Application Dept., AFTAID - Aid for the Aged in Distress, Epworth House, 25 City Road, London, EC1Y1AA Tel: 0870 803 1950

NEW and prospective dancers are invited to a **Folk Dance Workshop** to be held in the Guide Head Quarters, Lowndes Park (off Bury Lane) **Chesham** HP5 1HX from **2 – 4pm** on **Saturday 15 January** and **Saturday 5 February** 2011.

Callers Ian and Val McFarlane will explain and demonstrate English folk dance steps and figures. There will be practical tuition to help you get started. If you are interested in joining these workshops you are welcome to go along. Call the secretary June Pearce 01494 785191.

BOOK your Birth and Death Registration Appointments Online Now people in Buckinghamshire can book their appointments for registering a birth or death online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/registration.

Buckinghamshire Registration Services is introducing the new system, to enable residents to book their appointment at any time by going online 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.

The booking system is quick and easy and will enhance the current service delivered through our Register Office.

VOPAG meets next on Tuesday, 18 January in The **CSP Community Centre** starting at 10am for coffee and the talk by Kareen Stuart on Law and the Elderly starts at 10.30. All over 55's are welcome to attend.

THERE will be a **CHRISTINGLE** service in aid of the Children's Society on Sunday 16th January 2010 – 4.00pm

Chalfont St Peter Parish Church, Church Lane Refreshments and children's activities in the hall after the service!

The annual Christingle service is a lovely way for families to celebrate together the coming of Christ's light and love into the world for all people.

6,000 Christingle services are held throughout the country raising vital funds which the Children's Society needs to carry out its projects, helping the UK's most deprived and disadvantaged children.

All children and their families are invited to this short, candlelit service when children will receive a Christingle which is made up of

an orange (depicting the world),

a candle (the light of the world), a red ribbon (the blood of Christ), fruit, raisins and sweets (the fruits of the earth).

THE Gerrards Cross Flower Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month, except in August, in the Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross at 2.15pm. Guests are always welcome and of course new members. For more details telephone Pam Houchen: 01753 884190 or Chris Edgerton: 01753 884940.

IF you're worried about the World Wide Web, scared of social networking and think a virus is something you see a doctor about, then you should take a trip to your nearest library.

Every library in Buckinghamshire has signed up to Race Online 2012, a scheme that aims to get as many people as possible in the UK using the internet. More than nine million adults have never used the web but the goal is to make this country the first in the world where everyone has been online.

In the County there is a higher proportion of adults using the web, compared to other parts of the country, and now our libraries are offering internet taster sessions run either by library staff or volunteers.

Net newcomers that sign up for a free one-hour session will be taught basics on a one-to-one basis like working a mouse and keyboard, using a search engine, printing information and getting their own internet account. If they want to learn more, library staff can direct them to classes to suit.

If you're interested in coming along to one of the taster sessions, you can either visit your local library or call 0845 230 3132. They are also still looking for more volunteers to run the sessions that are expected to run until 2012 - if that interests you, you should also visit your local library or call 0845 230 3132.

Patricia Birchley, Cabinet Member for Adults Family and Wellbeing said: "It is so important that people see learning as a lifetime experience and it isn't just for the classroom. Gaining better confidence online will allow many more people to explore the web. It is vital that everyone has the same access to these opportunities and I fully support this scheme."

Hazel Edwards, Library Support Manager for Buckinghamshire said: "Being comfortable using a computer is becoming more and more important. These days you can only apply for some jobs online for instance. If you're booking a holiday or shopping, a lot of the best deals are online and it's also great for keeping in touch with friends and families via email and social networking."

AN award winning scheme run by Buckinghamshire County Council which rewards children travelling to school by environmentally friendly means, is ten years old this month.

Go for Gold was an original idea from Holmer Green First School and Nicky Batkin (a parent governor and School Travel Plan co-coordinator at the school) who developed the scheme during Walk to School Week in October 2000 as a way of encouraging more children and parents to walk to school. The scheme was adopted and adapted by Buckinghamshire County Council and went on to win the first International Walk to School award in 2004.

The scheme means children are rewarded for using an environmentally friendly form of transport for their journey to school. This can include walking, cycling, using the school bus, train or sharing their car journey with another family.

Each time that they travel sustainably they receive a stamp in their 'passport' which once completed can be exchanged for a variety of free activities around the County.

From its early days the scheme has proved popular with children, parents and schools alike and has been instrumental in reducing congestion around Buckinghamshire schools from 43% in 2000 to 30% in 2010.

Transport for Buckinghamshire has released a new 'limited edition' passport and stickers for the children to collect during the coming year in celebration of the anniversary.

For more information on Go for Gold or School Travel Planning please visit the website: www.schooltravelplanning.com

HORN HILL Village Hall (Chalfont St Peter) is celebrating its centenary in 2011. To mark this special occasion there will be a celebration event. The Horn Hill Village Committee are in the process of gathering information of the hall over the last 100 years and would like to hear from anyone who has had any involvement in the hall to share information, pictures etc and also to be part of this great celebration. Please contact Helen on 01494 874269 or Margaret on 01494 873533.

I HAVE been contacted by a gentleman called Christopher Hall, who is trying to find Maureen Landers. Can anyone help with information please? Here is what he says:

Regarding Maureen Landers.... the only information I have is her husband's name is Barry, retired a couple of years ago from owning a Commercial Cleaning/ Janitorial business located somewhere in the Harrow area, Maureen's mother lived off Harrow View before she passed away, I believe the address was 42 Hill Street.... located about halfway between Rayners Lane and North Harrow (how's that for almost 40 year recall).

Her family (Landers) owned the Landers Building Supply Company in Pinner, it was sold to a larger company a couple of years ago, at the time of the sale I believe Maureen's brother John was running the family business.

HS2 - County and partners set up 'fighting fund' to fight the line every inch of the way

With the Government's announcement yesterday (Monday) on its preferred route for HS2, Buckinghamshire County Council, with other Councils both inside Buckinghamshire and other Authorities affected by the proposal, is putting together a 'fighting fund' to continue actively opposing the proposed HS2 rail scheme.

Funds will be used for co-ordinating the efforts of the several protest groups and for any necessary expert advice and legal costs. Expenditure will be carefully regulated and monitored.

Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, David Shakespeare, said: "We have a once-in-a-lifetime battle on our hands with the prospect of HS2 cutting through the heart of our county. We do not have at our disposal the level of expertise to battle alone, and acknowledge that we will need experts to guide and advise. This will entail some expense, and the County with our partners are pooling our resources so we can present a stronger, more cohesive and united opposition to this scheme.

"The decision to make these funds available has not been easy. We are facing difficult economic decisions, which will inevitably impact on the services we can provide. Our dilemma is, quite simply, can we afford not to defend our countryside at a time when it is in such peril?

"I am mindful of the fact people whose homes and communities are not affected by the spectre of HS2 may wonder why we are taking this step. HS2 is a contentious issue for Buckinghamshire people. It poses a threat to our unique and fragile Chiltern countryside, and to the way of life in many communities. We cannot stand by and allow swathes of our countryside to be decimated by HS2. Once gone, our environment will be damaged forever, and I believe we have a duty to fight to protect Buckinghamshire for future generations

CAPITAL Grant Funding for School Travel Plans removed. Central Government has been providing capital funding to schools to develop travel plans since 2004, running until 2009/10. With the allocation of funding coming to an end in April 2010 the School Travel Planning Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) had a big push to encourage the remaining schools without travel plans to develop their plans and take advantage of the funding.

Unfortunately, Central Government has now made the decision not to pay the final year of School Travel Plan (STP) Capital Grants (those which were approved in 2009/10). Through the Comprehensive Spending Review the Coalition Government Ministers have decided that further School Travel Plan Capital Grant payments cannot be afforded in monetary or value for money terms.

Consequently, all of the schools that had a STP approved last year will not be getting the funding they were expecting. All secondary schools received £5,000 plus £5 per pupil and primary, received £3,750 plus £5 per pupil. Each school was entitled to use this funding for any capital measures on the school site which would aid their travel plan, which aimed to promote and increase the use of healthy and sustainable travel on the journey to school.

68 schools in Buckinghamshire will be affected by the removal of this grant with an estimated total saving to the Government of £320,000 on Buckinghamshire alone.

NEW YEAR, New You? Why not Refresh Your Journey to Work?

If you've made a New Years Resolution to get back into shape and be greener, Transport for Buckinghamshire can help with tips on different ways to 'Refresh Your Journey to Work' every day.

Using sustainable travel choices like walking, cycling, car sharing or catching the bus or train just once a week can make a reduction of 20% in traffic and CO2 emissions.

You'll also be saving yourself some money and could get fitter and healthier if you choose the option of walking or cycling as part of your commute.

For more details on alternative travel choices in Buckinghamshire, please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/travelchoice.

Have YOU ever thought about FOSTERING? There is a recognised shortage of 10,000 Foster Carers in the UK. PACT, founded in 1911, is also known as the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work inc. We are a registered charity working to improve life chances for children. The focus of our work is within Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and aims to build and strengthen families. We are an approved Adoption and Fostering Agency. We have a history of finding safe, loving families for children in care. Here are a few facts about Fostering:

1. Did you know you don't have to be married to become a Foster Carer?
2. You don't have to have children already although you do need to have experience of caring for children.
3. Did you know you get paid a Fostering Allowance of £335.70 a week to be a Foster Carer which is tax free and won't affect

any other benefits?

4. Most of the children who need fostering are known as 'hard to place' children, they will usually be 8+ years of age.

Fostering is a hard but very rewarding job. If you think you might have what it takes to become a Permanent Foster Carer or you want to find out more then contact PACT now on 0800 731 1845 e-mail fostering@pactcharity.org