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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice –

January 2013

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



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO HEALTH SERVICES. The NHS is asking for your views on changes to three services: **Minor injuries Rehabilitation Maternity.**

These services are currently provided at Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot. The proposed changes could affect you if you live in east Berkshire or south Buckinghamshire.

For more information visit www.berkshire.nhs.uk/shaping the future

For a copy of the consultation document: call 0118 982 2709 or email STFteam@berkshire.nhs.uk Copies should be available at the CSP Library. There are three consultation events. Wednesday 9th January in Ascot, 6-9pm. Thursday 10th January in Bracknell and Friday 18 January in Slough 6-9pm. They are asking people to register in advance to help make each event run well. To book your place, call 0800 148 8572 or visit www.berkshire.nhs.uk/shapingthefuture.



**AMERSHAM
FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC**

ORCHESTRAL Concerts 8 pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Amersham. Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra, Friday 4th January 2013: Vivaldi Corelli & Rossini including guest recorder soloist Charlotte Barbour-Condini who reached the recent final of the BBC Young Musician competition

On Friday 1st February 2013 the final concert is same venue to hear Tchaikovsky, Holst, Mozart & Haydn.

CHALFONT St Peter Library notice. We regret to inform you that Buckinghamshire County Council will be closing our community library for the week of 7th January to 12th of January, while necessary building improvements are being undertaken. A mobile library service will be provided on site for Tuesday the 8th and Wednesday the 9th January.

We apologise for the late notice, and the inconvenience.

The Chalfont St Peter Community Library Management Committee

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, 5th JANUARY 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.

SCANNAPPEAL SPONSORED SLIM on 14 January 2013 from 17:00

Get together with friends, family and colleagues, or if you prefer, go solo and lose lbs to raise £££'s for Scannappeal by taking part in our annual sponsored slim. Weekly dietary and fitness tips and optional weigh in and weigh out sessions will be provided and all information is kept confidential. Raise the most sponsorship and win top prizes.

Weigh In: 1700-1800 Wycombe Hospital and 1830 - 1930 High Wycombe Cricket Club

The sponsored slim lasts for eight weeks.

Download the registration pack from www.scannappeal.org.uk/events or contact Scannappeal on 01494 734161 for more information.

Make a secure donation to Scannappeal [HERE](#)

Please support our current fundraising for:

- Digital Breast Screening Appeal (Wycombe Hospital & Mobile Units around the county)

- The Brain Injury Unit Appeal (Amersham Hospital)
- The Cancer Fighting Fund (Stoke Mandeville Hospital)

Tel: 01494 734161 Email: info.scannappeal@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk Web: www.scannappeal.org.uk

Find us on [Facebook](#) Follow us on [Twitter](#)

Text a donation of up to £10 to 70070 with the code SCAN01 followed by £1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 10

GERRARDS COSS Scottish Dancing Club would warmly welcome any newcomers, especially beginners. Tuesdays during term time, at 7.30pm at GX Memorial Centre. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please telephone Celia on GX 884217.

WINTER swimming has been introduced at **Chesham's** outdoor heated pool at The Moor Gym & Swim. The water is heated to 21 degrees centigrade which is the optimum temperature for triathletes. (Triathletes compete in a triathlon – three continuous sequential endurance disciplines of swimming, cycling, and running). The management contacted nearby clubs, asking if they would be interested in using the facilities where they may wear wetsuits all year round, as they normally swim at indoor pool which only allow wetsuits at certain times. Because triathletes need to maintain their fitness in swimming all year round, they approached the manager of Chesham Moor Gym & Swim Danny Essex. The cost of heating the pool has to be balanced by the amount of money it takes in from users, but Danny has bravely *taken the plunge* to see if the initiative will be viable. He has been supported by the Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim. So far Jackie Wylie tells me the response has been most encouraging.

Anyone is welcome to use the pool during the new opening hours. Visit www.cheshammoorfitness.org.uk for the Winter Timetable or call Danny Essex or Alex Jones on 01494 776975. (Information from Chiltern Voice)

VOPAG meets next at the Community Centre on Tuesday 15th January, 10am for 10.30. There is always a topic of interest to discuss as well as a chance to chat to friends and make new acquaintances.

PARENTING ... not as easy as it sounds

An **8-week course** designed to improve communication and improve family life. **For parents of 0-6s.**

Thursdays: 17th Jan to 21st March, 10:00 to 11:30am and **for parents of 7-11s.** Thursdays: 24th January to 21st March, 8:00 to 10:00pm at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter

Cost: £30 (reductions available)

Contact Katrina for more information: (for information on the course, go to www.familycaring.co.uk)

T: 01753 887173 **E:** katrina.reading@goldhill.org

THE BIG PICTURE *and where you fit in. An opportunity to explore the big questions of life and faith over 8 weeks in a relaxed setting.*

Monday Evenings (with supper) 28 Jan to 25 Mar, 7.30 - 9.45pm, or...

Tuesday Mornings (with coffee & cake) 29 Jan to 26 Mar, 10.00am - 11.30am

To book your place or find out more, email katrina.reading@goldhill.org or call her on 01753 887173.

RECOVERING from Divorce or Separation? Why not attend this 6 week practical course?

Mondays: 28th Jan to 11th March 2013, 7.30pm to 10.00pm at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter (£30 per person, including refreshments and course notes)

For those divorced or separated recently or for many years, or for those seeking reconciliation

“So helpful to be supported by people who have been through the same experience themselves, knowing that I wasn't alone.”

Email katrina.reading@goldhill.org or call her on 01753 887173 for more information

THE CHALFONTS Friendship Club was established locally in May 2009 for people who are retired/ of retirement age to meet to share company. It is focussed on reaching out and promoting companionship and sharing in our community.

They get together over a lunchtime meal on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Austenwood Common, Chalfont St Peter and have regular Theatre Trips, Sunday Lunches, Talks on Art, Quiz Evenings, Outings, Days Out & Visits to Stately Homes & Seaside.

Retired & living on your own or a couple? Know somebody who is alone or in need of company?-

Interested or know someone who might be? All welcome

Contacts: Pat Kelly on 01494 875264 Charles Watters on 07966 349945 Mary Cross on 01494 875264

GERRARDS Cross & District Committee for Macmillan Cancer Support invite you to Bridge Afternoon at The Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, **East Common**, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7AD (Parking available) On Monday, 28th January 2013 at 1.30pm prompt (doors open 1.15pm), £32 a table. Tea included in the price. Chicago Bridge and raffle. Please reserve your table and purchase tickets in advance from:
Pat Chapman: Telephone 01753 883573 Nan Perkins: Telephone 01753 885124
Macmillan Cancer Line 0808 808 2020 www.macmillan.org.uk Helping people living with cancer

GERRARDS CROSS Sailing Association meets in the Colston Hall of the Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, SL9 7AD, on Wednesdays at 8.15pm The bar opens at 7.30. To find out about the illustrated talks that are held at each meeting, please go to <http://www.gxsa.org.uk/prog.htm> or go along and find out. .

HAPPY Houndz is a dog-walking service that started up last year. Liz and Katy have asked me to let people know about their service and if you need some extra support to keep your dog fully exercised then why not look them up on their web site 'happyhoundzchalfont.com'. Phone 01753888389 + mobiles Liz 07801016238 / Katy 07732112230 and e-mail happyhoundzchalfont@gmail.com

OPEN LETTER TO BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RESIDENTS from Martin Tett, Leader of Bucks County Council

We have much to be proud of in 2012, although it was a tough year for many in Bucks. We were a major host for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. Dorney Lake gave Team GB its first Gold Medal and Stoke Mandeville was proudly recognised as the birthplace of the Paralympics.

As we enter 2013, top priorities for me are continuing to freeze council tax, pressing on with investment in our roads, carrying forward our opposition to HS2, and helping grow local job opportunities.

Last year there were some encouraging signs in the local economy and in 2013 we'll continue to work with our district council colleagues and local businesses through the new Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership to stimulate jobs and growth – vitally important if we are to provide opportunities for our young people. Particularly important for long term success is securing High Speed Broadband across all of Bucks, and driving up skills for our young people by championing modern apprenticeships.

Investing in our roads and railways is also essential. We have just finished a £30 million road resurfacing programme and I will be asking the Council to approve a new £25 million programme to start this Spring. We have resurfaced almost 300 roads but I recognise far more needs to be done if we are to catch up from long neglect and meet the expectations of our residents. Importantly, we are also investing in the planned new East West Rail service to open up the Chiltern Line to Aylesbury by providing better links to the growing centres of Milton Keynes, Reading, Oxford and Bedford.

You won't be surprised to know that I remain determined that we will protect Buckinghamshire's unique and beautiful environment. This will involve continued opposition to the discredited HS2 project and a strong challenge to changes in planning laws if they encourage 'urban sprawl'.

A priority for me has been holding council tax unchanged for a third year despite rising costs. I am determined that we should do this whilst protecting our frontline services and supporting our voluntary and community organisations. These are certainly tough financial times for local government. A reduction of 28% in our funding has required making significant savings, principally in our staffing and 'back office'. I recognise we have taken some tough decisions, such as introducing charges for home to school transport, but these were essential. I would particularly like to thank our staff, who have contributed so much during difficult times.

In conclusion I am really optimistic about this country. 2013 will begin to see our economy turn the corner and I want the County Council, in partnership with our colleagues in other local Councils and Community organisations to play its part in driving economic recovery whilst still delivering vital services for the benefit of all Buckinghamshire residents.

CHALFONT St.Peter W.I. meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Church Hall.

CHALFONT Common WI meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month in the Tony Graham Room at the community centre 7.30 for 7.45. If you would like to join this thriving group of ladies just pop along or ring Chris on 01494 872133 for more information.

ST JOSEPH'S Furniture market is open on Saturdays from 9am to 12.30pm for the sale of good quality furnishing items. Park in St Joseph's Church Car Park in Austenwood Lane and the entry to the market is from Priory Lane which is adjacent to the car park. furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk

HEDGERLEY Historical Society meets next in the Memorial Hall Kiln Lane, SL2 3UZ at 8pm on Wednesday, Visitors welcome.

GERRARDS Cross Flower Club meets next on January 19 at 2.15pm in the Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, GX. Presentation will be Floral Profusion, by national demonstrator Pat Dibden.

POTHOLES are a real trial just now, so the latest innovation in technology, the velocity patcher, is successfully tackling potholes in a bid to improve conditions for drivers and cyclists. Since April 2012, nearly 20,000 potholes have been repaired in the south of the county alone.

The efficiency of the operation is gained by initially using a hose to blast the pothole with air, to force out any loose material, dirt or water. A bitumen emulsion bond coat is then forced deep into every crack of the pothole. Finally, the chippings are fired at speed through a bitumen spray into the pothole. The fact that the chippings are sprayed individually helps create a stronger bond than with other methods.

The trained operatives are able to repair both CAT 1 potholes along with any CAT 2 whilst in the one location, making it particularly useful for repairing roads with a larger number of potholes, whilst keeping disruption to traffic on the network to a minimum.

These machines enable the operatives to repair both the more serious and more minor potholes whilst in the vicinity. This produces 50% more output than with the conventional methods and there is the added benefit of the speed of operation meaning there is less disruption to the travelling public.

WORK has begun on resurfacing footways across the county. The one that affects us is **Market Place**, Chalfont St Peter.

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) will be working until June 2013 in a near-continuous programme that completes one scheme in each of the county's 19 Locality Areas. This work is being funded by additional central government funding, with one extra scheme in the programme being part-funded by a utility company.

Peter Hardy, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, said: "Transport for Buckinghamshire is not currently able to maintain a rolling programme of footway resurfacing, so I am delighted that we are able to carry out this programme with the additional funding we have received. I am aware that residents may feel that footways have been neglected, so we are trying to target those most in need of attention."

The programme has been put together in consultation with TfB's Local Area Technicians and draws on analysis of data, focusing on sites that have generated the most customer reports. The sites were discussed and agreed with Peter Hardy and the programme has been developed to target one site per 'Local Area Forum' area.

Some of the sites will need two separate operations: the first to patch the more significant defects and the second to overlay the length of the footway with a slurry treatment which effectively repairs more minor issues and seals the surface to reduce future maintenance. The sites in Phase 3 need more substantial repairs due to their poor condition and will be completed in a one off operation.

WHILE you were sleeping... Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) undertakes work all year round, 24 hours a day - much of it under cover of darkness.

Night scouts

Every three months, during the hours of darkness, TfB carries out countywide patrols to identify faulty street lights and illuminated signs and bollards. This is easier to do at night when all lights should be working. Although this is an effective way of proactively identifying faulty street lights and illuminated signs and bollards, TfB still encourages local community members to report faults that may not have been identified during the patrols. The last round of patrols picked up 3,354 faults, which will all have been repaired by Christmas. The next round of patrols will take place during January and February 2013.

Road resurfacing

In order to cause as little disruption as possible, a large proportion of the 'We're Working On It' road repair programme is carried out at night. This ensures that as few drivers are inconvenienced as possible and rush hours will not be impacted. In a lot of cases, these repairs require some kind of carriageway closure which may cause long delays if closed during the day time. Any residents that front on to the work will receive notification in advance and TfB endeavour to carry out all noisy operations before midnight. 39 different

roads have had resurfacing work done at night since April 1, 2012. This is an invaluable way to deliver road resurfacing and at the moment, between 40% and 50% of normal resurfacing work is undertaken at night.

Jet Patching

Smaller planned road repairs such as pothole filling or patching work can be undertaken at night to make the most efficient use of the jet patcher vehicle. The machine carries all the necessary equipment to repair road defects and the treatment is carried out without the need for vibrating tools or rollers so there is no noise pollution. Two crews will use the machine - one during the day, and one during the night, to maximise the use of the vehicle and make as many repairs as possible.

Winter gritting

Spreading salt on the roads is most effective when the gritting lorry can complete the route without getting stuck in traffic. It is also helpful to get the salt down before the road temperature drops in the evening and then before the morning rush hour. The runs are usually carried out at 7pm and/or at 4am. As of December 13, since the beginning of the winter season in October, the gritters had been out 20 times.

Gully emptying

Gully emptying is sometimes carried out after dark as the kerbsides tend to be less busy, particularly around industrial estates.

Emergency works

If there is an incident at night, crews are ready to attend the scene. Crews are always on standby to go out at short notice and there is an out of hours emergency number to report issues that require an immediate response. Incidents such as fallen trees, vehicle collisions and flooding will all see TfB staff in attendance, even at night if it poses a danger to road users. Also undertaken are emergency road closures for the police.

Working after hours

TfB staff don't just work 9am to 5pm. Gangs will stay out on the job until the work's done, light permitting. Sometimes the roads throw up unforeseen issues or incidents occur on the network that require emergency repairs. If a temporary repair can be made without too much hassle during the day, then a planned permanent repair can be carried out after dark to minimise disruption to the traffic.

Cabinet Member's quote

Peter Hardy, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport said: "It is often the hardest working teams that are rarely seen. Our operatives and emergency crews are ready and willing to work through the night to get the best result possible. The safety of our residents is of the utmost importance and sometimes it is necessary to ensure this safety by completing works at night, where possible causing as little disruption and disturbing as few road users as possible."

To report a fault or road defect, visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport or call 0845 230 288