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Chalfont St Peter

Village Voice JULY 2010

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THE Feast Day was a huge success, crowds gathered on Gold Hill Common. 90 stalls and various games attracted old and you alike. It was a fabulous occasion - between 6000-8000 people during the day.

Cllr David Meacock was in fine voice both during the day and in the evening. A splendid tenor, he provided a selection of operatic arias on the big stage (above), before the evening gig by The Bohemians which was awesome with around 6000 attending.



IT is always good to welcome new businesses to the Village and have all the shops in Market Place occupied. We have two new shops, Estate Agents Hilton King and Locke and **hush boutique**.

Mark and Jann Prieg have another estate agents in Iver, but as they live in Chalfont St Peter, they decided to open up here as well and have settled in nicely to the former Bucks Building Society premises. The staff at 20 Market Place, Melody Lubin, Jade Burton and Paula Atkinson, also live locally and the team are ready and willing to give their best efforts and to that effect they are open 7 days a week and open until 7pm on weekdays.

They believe that having an Iver office is beneficial to local homeowners, as the majority of people who look to move to Iver, also consider this area because Chalfont Community College also serves Iver.



hush boutique is the brain child of Evie, who is a great advertisement for her clothes, bags, shoes and belts, as she looks elegant in items that are also available in the shop. Evie has always been interested in fashion and designed her first handbag at the age of 15. Her plan is to have affordable but elegant clothes that are right up to the minute and a visit to the shop at 6 Market Place will reveal that the fashion conscious are spoilt for choice. Open 10-6 weekdays, 9-6 Saturdays and till 9pm Thursdays.



Ford has a narrow, twisting lane through the village. Over two years ago Ford Village Society (FVS) began a comprehensive programme of research to find a realistic and cost effective speed reduction solution. FVS also worked closely with Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish Council and their local County Councillor, Margaret Aston, who lent her full support to the scheme and participated in the associated fundraising programme. With her assistance, FVS approached Transport for Buckinghamshire who have assisted FVS in providing an innovative solution to their problem, with support of the Thames Valley Local Area Policing Team.

The villagers of Ford have invested their own time and money in the scheme and have initiated several fundraising initiatives and events. By purchasing only one VAS they have managed to keep the costs of the new scheme to a minimum. Working with Transport for Buckinghamshire 5 sites were found where the VAS would be effective. There are five ground screws installed throughout the village into which the pole supporting the VAS unit can be attached. The Thames Valley Local Policing Team has also committed to make a specified number of visits to Ford equipped with laser speed guns to complement the effectiveness of the trial.

AT the June meeting of St Joseph's Furniture Market, **£250 each** was donated to: -The Stroke Association, Macmillan Cancer Relief and Helen & Douglas House (Hospice for Children).

The Market is open on Saturdays from 9 – 12.30 in the premises of Priory Road, but park in the Church car park. To donate good quality furniture, email furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk

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.

The next meeting is July 21, with Lorena Dyer presenting "Memories are made of This"

Guests are always welcome and of course new members. For more details telephone Pam Houchen: 01753 884190 or Chris Edgerton: 01753 884940.

DID you know that across the country today there are about one million trustees running charities and community organisations? What do trustees do? Their job is to make sure that the organisation is properly run, whether it is a small group working locally or a large charity with paid staff.

Trustees need not be professional people, and no one trustee is expected to be good at everything. They come from all walks of life with a wide range of skills, experience and knowledge. Organisations do need people with up to date business skills, and legal and financial know how, but they also need people who can encourage team working, who are good at problem solving and even at asking difficult questions. It is important that boards of trustees should be in touch with the communities they serve, and people with knowledge of the community – for

example, as users of services or local residents – can make very valuable trustees.

Why become a trustee? Because it is a great way to make a difference to a cause you care about. It is a respected and responsible role, and can also help you develop new skills, gain experience and meet new people.

Abbeyfield in Chalfont St Peter is looking for volunteers to join the executive committee to help run Austenmead, a home for 12 people. The present committee, which meets at two-monthly intervals, consists of five volunteer directors or trustees who oversee the running of the house and each of whom has a special area of responsibility be it health and safety, finance, admissions, publicity. Each of which requires at least some additional input beyond the two-monthly committee meetings. At the present time the committee would welcome volunteer help from anyone with fund-raising and events organisation.

Abbeyfield is also looking for a trustee/facilities director to oversee the maintenance of the fabric of the home, including the heating system, power supplies etc., and to select and liaise with suppliers and contractors as required. This role is flexible in that it can be carried out at times to suit.

For more information about volunteering with Abbeyfield or other opportunities in Buckinghamshire please look on www.do-it.org.uk, call 0845 3890389 or email 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.

BLACK Park Country Park has completed a three-year wildlife restoration project following a donation of £23,000 to Buckinghamshire County Council from SITA trust.

The aim of the project was to protect and preserve the park's alder 'carr' or wet woodland as it is often referred to. This is also the only known site in the county for white sedge, and it is now hoped that many other flora and fauna can benefit from the improvements.

Some of the larger native but invasive trees, such as downy birch, which were crowding out young alder trees were removed. A new reed bed has been planted in Black Park Lake to help further improve the biodiversity at the site. The funding also helped to pay for a clear up of the Park area where alien species such as bamboo and rhododendron ponticum had become established.

As well as the clearance works, a dead hedge has been erected around the wet woodland in a bid to reduce disturbance from dogs, especially for ground-nesting birds and mammals which will not successfully breed if they feel threatened.

The Park also boasts red-listed nightjars, redpolls and tree pipits, as well as many uncommon invertebrates, reptiles and native plants.

SITA Trust provides support to community and

environmental improvement projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S 'electrical lovers' urged to let their unwanted technology and gadgets go this Recycle Week!

The Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire's Recycle Now campaign (21-27 June) is focused on overcoming people's emotional barriers to recycling, particularly when it comes to unwanted electrical items.

According to new research our modern reliance on electrical goods and the emotional bonds we form with them are preventing people from recycling unused items. To mark the sixth annual Recycle Week, Recycle Now and the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire are encouraging us to recycle more.

The recent research revealed that many of us continue to hang on to small electricals when we no longer have a use for them, whether they are broken or have been replaced with the latest model. Respondents admitted keeping their unused electrical items for both sentimental and practical reasons:

* 40% feel too sad to part with an item they no longer use

* 41% hoped the item might come in handy some day, or they might be able to pass them on to someone

* 23% feel that small electrical items seem too valuable just to throw away

* 29% hang on to them because they are not sure what to do with them

Psychologist Linda Blair explains the motivations behind the emotional barriers to recycling:

"We value our electrical items because they make life easier and because so many of them connect us to the wider social world, either practically or because of the memories associated with them.

"Even when we no longer use them, we may be reluctant to let them go for a mixture of rational and sentimental reasons. A key factor is the sense of connection, control and safety these items give us."

For more information and top tips on recycling visit www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk

THIS is a Community Message from Amersham Watch Office.

Police trap houses across Buckinghamshire are being used in a crackdown on criminals who break into people's homes.

The homes are fitted with covert high-tech specialist equipment including property marking such as SelectaDNA, which can link offenders directly to a crime scene through its unique code.

Trap cars have been used successfully in the county before, but this is the first time a tactic such as this has been used in houses in the county.

The scheme has already been successful with a number of persons prosecuted and police have the ability to run several houses in Buckinghamshire at any one time. Further operations of this type are planned across the county.

Detective Inspector Dominic Williamson said:

"Individuals are not always aware that they have been caught as a result of a police trap house operation because the covert tactics we deploy are often withheld. So far this year the county has seen a reduction in burglaries to people's homes of 12 per cent compared to the same period last year, which also saw a reduction.

"These operations are excellent examples of partnership working where both private and social landlords have supported the police in tackling burglary.

"The police warning to burglars is that any house you are looking to break into could be a police trap house."

Det Ch. Insp Philip Standish, said: "The increased deployment and use of technology forms a major part of criminal investigation in this area. This successful combination of technology and professional investigation not only secures evidence, but often leads to other offences and those who benefit from burglary being detected and brought to justice."

BE aware of rogue traders who usually show up unannounced on people's doorsteps and offer to do work like gardening or fixing the roof for a minimal fee. The work they carry out is often sub-standard or not required at all, and ends up costing significantly more than the original quote.

They often choose elderly and vulnerable victims because they see them as 'easy targets'.

Police work closely with Trading Standards and other partners to catch rogue traders and to help educate people to prevent them from becoming victims of crime but they need YOUR help.

Police need to know if they are in the area, so if someone knocks on your door offering tree pruning, hedge trimming, gutter cleaning, etc please call the police non emergency number 0845 8 505 505 straight away.

Try to obtain vehicle registration numbers and description of occupants if possible and the direction of travel.

Above all avoid agreeing to any work being carried out until you have received a written quote and had time to consider the contract.

COUNTY awards £11.5m Short Break Care contract to Action for Children

Action for Children has been awarded a contract worth £11.5million to run the county-wide Residential Short Break Services for Disabled Children, for the next five years.

The decision was made by Buckinghamshire County Council and NHS Buckinghamshire (Primary Care Trust) following a public tender. The new service will incorporate services currently provided by the County Council at Merryfields and the Grove, and the Wing Unit provided by Community Health Buckinghamshire.

In addition to this service, an investment of almost £2million per annum from the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme is being used to expand other types of Short Break services for disabled children and their families to give additional opportunities and a greater choice.

Parents are being kept informed of all changes through information sheets and meeting