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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice – June 2013

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

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Adult Learning at Missenden Abbey is having an OPEN DAY on Saturday 15th June from 11am to 4pm. You can visit workshops and draw inspiration from the work of students and tutors in a wide range of subjects. Get discounts on selected courses when you book on the day. Plus there will be supplier stalls, student exhibition, a prize draw to win a one-day course at the Abbey and there will be tea and cakes on the lawn. Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden HP16 0BD is a beautiful place with lovely gardens and it is well worth visiting it.

MISBOURNE Art Society meets in Chalfont St Peter Community Centre at 2.15pm on the first Saturday of every month. On the 1st June, Tonal studies in Conte/Pastel will be demonstrated by Virginia Mull. Visitors welcome.

CHALFONTS **NO** to HS2 invites you to a Quiz Evening with Fish and Chip Supper on Friday 7th June, 7 for 7.30pm at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, Gravel Hill, SL9 9QX. Tickets £10 per person. The last occasion was great fun, so this is well recommended. Please send your cheque payable to HS2 Amersham Action Group for £10 per person, to Isobel Darby, 2 Cophthall Corner, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0BZ, Tel: 01753 888055 To save costs tickets will not be issued.

AUCTION of PROMISES to raise money for Gold Hill Care charity is on Saturday 8th June, 7 for 7.30pm start. This will also include a fish and Chip Supper plus a pudding and it will be held at St Joseph's Church Hall, Austenwood Lane. SL9 8RY. Park in the church car park. This charity is in real need of extra funds. Tickets are £10 each to include the supper. There is also a bar available. Tickets from Ian Thomson 01753 885788, Edwina Simmons 01753 887968 or Steve Kirkpatrick, 01494 815984. There are some amazing items for auction available, so don't miss out on a great evening.

THE Oxon. & Bucks. Branch of The Western Front Association is aware of increasing interest in next year's commemoration of the start of The Great War. For those who may like to be more involved, the meetings are on Saturdays at the Guide Centre, School Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, HP8 4JJ, commencing at 2.30pm apart from the AGM and Social lunches in summer and at Christmas. The next meeting is on June 15th – Pete Starling from the AMC Museum will be talking on White Smoke Rising; Gas Warfare and the RAMC Response. Non-members are welcome, entrance-fee at the door, inclusive of tea and cake is £3.00per person, and meetings are normally over by 5pm. Car parking is available either at the Centre or possibly behind the Memorial Hall which is opposite. Details of the Association and all branches are available on-line at www.westernfrontassociation.com

VOPAG (Village Older Persons Action Group) meets next in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre on Thursday, 20th June at 10am for coffee and the meeting starts at 10.30. This group provides an authoritative voice to take up issues with people who can do something about them. It's also a great way to meet up with others to share news and views and to listen to interesting speakers.

A WORKSHOP "Managing Children's and Young People's Behaviour" is being held on Saturday 15th June from 10am – noon in St Peter's Church Hall. This workshop will offer a chance to explore how to encourage positive behaviour in children and young people. There will be opportunity to discuss and ask questions and plenty of helpful hints and tips. Workshops are aimed at anyone helping with children's work in the parish, but may also appeal to others, such as grandparents and parents. The course is run by Amy Turner, Children's and Families Worker. 01753 899345 / 07846827496 / children@csp-parish.org.uk

SCANNAPEAL'S Open Gardens scheme for 2013 has been launched to raise funds for life saving equipment at Wycombe, Amersham and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals and in the community. To request a copy of the Scannappeal Open Gardens leaflet which gives details of all gardens or to book tickets in advance (including a discounted multiple entry ticket), telephone 01494 734161, email info.scannappeal@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk or visit www.scannappeal.org.uk

Bucks Open Studios - Simpatico

8th to 23rd June 2013

St Michael and all Angels Parish Church

Sycamore Road, Amersham, HP6 5DR



Beverley Parkin, Cécile Gallina, Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos will be Exhibiting as well as Demonstrating Their Various Painting Techniques at St. Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Sycamore Road, Amersham, HP6 5DR Everyday from 9am to 6pm and From 12.00 am to 6pm on Sundays For a Preview of their works, go to www.simpaticart.com You can also find them under

Studio no. 180 on the Bucks Open Studios' booklet which is available in local shops and libraries and on Bucks Open Studios website

<http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk/exhibitorlisting.asp?ArtCat=Painting&keyword=Simpatico&postcode=&searchdate=&button=Search>

ALL SAINTS' Church Music Festival 2013 welcomes **Gerrards Cross Rock Choir** in performance on Saturday, June 22 at 7pm at the Church in Oval Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8PZ.

Please join them for a fantastic, toe-tapping concert featuring music from Pop, Motown and Chart hits. Rock Choir is a phenomenon – attracting more than 16,000 members in the UK, making by far the most popular contemporary choir in the country, leading the way for the singing public. They rehearse in over 240 towns nationwide and All Saints' welcomes their local group to perform for them. Rock Choir is all about having fun – for both the singers and the audience!

Tickets £15/adult and £10/child. Includes a BBQ supper during the interval. Contact Paddy Hague, 01753 883384, or Anne Hatton, 01753 882425 to book and for further information.

Have YOU ever thought about FOSTERING?

www.pactcharity.org

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 old.

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 contact PACT now on **0800 731 1845** e-mail fostering@pactcharity.org

CHALFONT ST PETER Garden Club meets next on Wednesday 19th June at 8pm in the church Hall, Church Lane when Paolo Arrigo will present: From seed to plate, Franchi seeds of Italy. (discounted seeds will be for sale) Visitors welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S FURNITURE MARKET is open each Saturday from 9am to 12.30pm in the market store behind the church and the hall. Entry off Priory Road and parking is in the church car park. If you have any furniture in good condition that you no longer need and would be happy to donate it to this charity, you can contact 01753 888340.

furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk

GERRARDS CROSS FLOWER CLUB meets in the Colston Hall Memorial Centre, East Common, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm. New members welcome.

ZUMBA classes Monday 6-7pm Curzon Centre, Beaconsfield, HP9 1RG Monday 7:45-8:45pm, Chesham Grammar, White Hill, HP5 1BA Wednesday 6:15-7:15pm, Chalfont St. Giles Memorial Hall, HP8 4JJ - visit www.zumba.com for details.

FLOWER AND VEG. plants are available in Church Lane most days of the week and at weekends. They are good quality, mine have lasted very well.



Daniel Simpson and Toby Rutter building a shelter in the woodland at Chiltern Open Air Museum

ON Sunday 9 June, from 10am to 5pm, the Chiltern Open Air Museum is throwing open its doors and becoming a traditional working common for the day. Lords, ladies and commoners are all invited to roll up to *Bricks, Bodgers and Broomsticks*, a free family event where you can experience some of the fascinating ways our ancestors lived on, celebrated and eked a living from common land. Visitors can have a go at brick-making, flint-knapping, bodging, making wattle and daub, plus bread-baking, corn-plaiting, candle, lace and basket-making. You can make pegs, spoons and besom brooms and see traditional workers in full costume. It's like all your favourite nursery rhymes thrown together and made real.

The occasion is organised by the Chilterns Commons Project, there will be a lively village fair atmosphere with story-tellers and wandering minstrels bringing their stories to life. But commons were not just for village events – people lived off them in the most basic sense, using them for grazing their animals, gathering firewood for fuel and warmth and foraging for food.

This event celebrates the vital role of commons in our history with working sheepdog shows, fire-lighting demonstrations and a food foraging expert will be on hand to show what commoners would have gathered from commons to eat.

With all this shared activity, you might think that commons were real 'anything goes' kinds of places, but on the contrary, the Lord of the Manor owned the land and there were some quite bizarre bye-laws. On some, you couldn't play music, hang out your washing, whistle or even laugh. The bailiff will be present on 9 June to remind everyone of the rules. If there's someone you'd like to see clapped in the stocks, why not tip him off? Wet sponges will be available!

One of the most valuable laws regarding common land and probably the one that ensures their survival as open green spaces today, is the ban on construction. However, there was one ancient legal right that got around this. If a squatter could build a hovel and have a fire burning in a hearth before being caught, the construction could stay and he would claim that piece of common.

At *Bricks, Bodgers and Broomsticks* the race will be on to see if we can build our own hovel in a day before the bailiff discovers what's happening. In actual fact, many bailiffs turned a blind eye to the practice, as it meant that the landowner could levy a regular tax on the squatter in the form of an 'easement' for right of access over their land to the new building. Don't try this at home, by the way. The practice is no longer recognised and any requests for construction on common land have to be referred to and approved by the Secretary of State personally, in addition to the usual permissions.

Another interesting practice which will be re-enacted on 9 June is the annual hiring fair. Many of the poorest people in the parish survived on a patchwork of jobs throughout a calendar year that might involve brick-making and bodging for the men, basket or candle-making for the women, but also for both sexes a degree of agricultural labour and 'service'. The hiring fair was an opportunity for employers to engage staff for the following year. Sometimes the workers would bring an item which signified their trade; for instance, a shepherd might carry a crook or tuft of wool and a housemaid a mop.

A hiring fair where men, women and children will get auctioned to the highest bidder will be another activity at the event. Prepare for much hilarity and mild humiliation for all involved, so go along to the Chiltern Open Air Museum on the 9th and have some fun, as you find out more about the vibrant lives of commons and their people. More details: www.chilternsaonb.org/events

CAREERS SPRINGBOARD is the Chiltern, South Bucks and High Wycombe Self Help Group for managers and professionals seeking work. Meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30pm each Monday at St Andrew's United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7QE. New members are always welcome –Membership is FREE
E-mail address: careers.springboard@virgin.net www.careersspringboard.info

CHALFONT St Peter Feast Day - 29th June

This year's Feast Day event will take place on Gold Hill Common on Saturday 29th June starting at 10.00am. Over 100 stalls will surround the Fairweather Insurance Arena providing a range of goods, activities and information on local clubs, societies and organisations. There will also be a Fun Fair, Morris Dancing, a traditional Punch and Judy show, a dog show (sponsored by the Goddard Veterinary Group) and a classic car display. The arena will also host several activities during the day including school dancing and gymnastics displays and the classic car drive through.

The Parish Council stage will showcase a number of singing and dancing acts during the day and is the setting for the evening concert by Ultimate Elton, the UK's leading Elton John tribute act and his band. He will be supported by the band Leech. The evening will culminate with the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon by the Parish Council.



Programmes will be available free from the Parish Church offices in Church Lane and will be being distributed in the village on the 15th and 22nd June from a stall opposite Budgens in the village. Donations will be sought and every penny raised goes towards local good causes. Programmes will, of course, also be available on the day.

The organisers would like to thank all of the other sponsors for their support – the Parish Church, Gold Hill Baptist Church, Tim's Dairy and Thorpe House School. They are looking to build on last year's success and make this year's event the "greenest" yet and, working with Change4Chalfont and Chiltern District Council, will be seeking to recycle as much litter and refuse as possible from the day. Those attending are asked to dispose of litter sensibly in the bins provided or take it home with them.

Michael Day of the organising committee said: "We have enjoyed fabulous Feast Day events in recent years and, last year, we were able to distribute around £12,000 to local good causes in the community as a result of the activities. We look forward to another fabulous day this year." Full details of the event can be found at www.feastofstpeter.org.uk

GET INVOLVED in FEAST DAY - The Feast Day team is looking for volunteers to help with stewarding, selling raffle tickets and collection buckets at Feast Day on Saturday 29 June 2013. Volunteers can work for just a few hours during the day or evening although we are looking for people to help out all day as well.

If you feel like getting more involved in this fun event which helps to raise money for local charities, then please contact: Teri McAvoy on: 07831 712977 or email: terimcavoy@yahoo.co.uk

THE Chalfonts Friendship Club is for people who are retired/of retirement age to meet to share company. It is focussed on reaching out and promoting companionship and sharing amongst people in our local Community. They get together every month at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre and have regular Outings, Theatre Trips, Sunday Lunches, Quiz Evenings, Talks on Art, Days out & Visits to Stately Homes & Seaside. All welcome. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Pat Kelly 01753 885534 or Mary Cross on 01494 875264.

CHALFONT ST PETER WI's next meeting on Wednesday, **June 12th** for the Summer Tea Party, in Chalfont St Peter Church Hall at 2pm. The May meeting covered some interesting activities that happened in April, when some members went to Aylesbury for the AGM and heard Michael Portillo give an excellent talk.

At the May meeting Mrs Maggie Taylor introduced members to the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth in South Devon, situated about 5 or 6 miles from the centre of the town and well signposted for those who might like to pay a visit. The sanctuary was opened 40 years ago by Dr Elizabeth Svendsen MBE, who lived in a house on the site. Donkeys are sociable animals and need the company of a friend. They can pine away and die if parted, unless another donkey can be found as a companion.

The refuge does very good work with special needs children, who relate well to the animals. It also fosters donkeys out to experienced people who are visited every three months to see that all is well.

There was a fire at Hemel Hempstead near where three fostered donkeys were being looked after. Firemen would not let anyone go near the stables for twenty four hours, as it was dangerous. Everyone was very worried, but the Fire Service turned up trumps. They had fed and watered the donkeys, making sure they were comfortable.

Work is also being done abroad to teach owners how to care for their animals. Donkeys do not have waterproof coats, so need shelter from rain or snow. The Sanctuary also employs vets and farriers for their needs.

Prince Edward and his wife, Sophie, visited the special needs centre at Sidmouth and were very impressed, staying for three hours instead of one and a half, as scheduled. If you would like to adopt a donkey, it costs £16 a year and they all have names. New members are welcome to join the WI monthly meetings They are in the Church hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm, except August, when they have an outing.

DIOGENES Sun Club is holding a special women-friendly day on Saturday 13 July to encourage more women try naturism for themselves. Local resident and Diogenes member Emma James who is organising the day said, "We often hear women say they're quite keen to try naturism but they worry their bodies are not 'good' enough or they imagine they'll be too self-conscious, so they don't tend to tick the interest off their 'Bucket List'.

The reality is that people come in all shapes and sizes and a naturist environment is a safe, welcoming and wholesome one, where people are accepted for who they are, not what they look like.

We want to encourage women to come and try the liberating experience of naturism for themselves which is why we're organising this special day, so that local women can see the Club and the amazing facilities and dispel any fears they may have".

The day will cost £8 which will include mini-massage treatments (subject to availability), light refreshments and full use of all facilities. Places need to be booked in advance at publicity@diogenessunclub.co.uk. The day is clothing optional so there no pressure to undress, although the environment is perfect for a nervous newcomer to do so.

Diogenes Sun Club has been in existence since the 1930s and based at its current site in Chalfont St Peter since 1964. It has an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, a sauna, plunge pool, sports facilities, a children's play area, a newly refurbished children's room and is set in six acres of lovely grounds, around a big country house.

With an active year-round sports and social calendar, Diogenes is a great place to unwind, relax and spend quality time plus, it's far cheaper than expensive gyms!



ALZHEIMER'S Bee-Friending Scheme

There are many people with dementia in Bucks who are living alone and feeling isolated. Some of them are housebound and spend most of the week not seeing anyone. Reliable, caring volunteers are

needed, who would be interested in providing companionship to a person with dementia in their home or out and about. If you get on well with people and like a good chat you may really enjoy being a volunteer befriender. It is very rewarding and an hour of your time each week can make a real difference to someone's life. Volunteers throughout Bucks are being sought. Good communication skills and empathy are essential. All volunteers will be offered training and out of pocket expenses. More details from Joy Johns. 01895 837545, e mail joy@voluntaryaction.org.

REVAMPED website makes it easier on the go.

Easier ways to report fly-tipping and greater capacity to cope with peak demand feature in the revamped Buckinghamshire County Council website launched this week.

A new feature allows residents who see fly-tipping to take a picture on their mobile phone and log it on the website.

<www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly>

The improvements have also created greater capacity at peak times to cope with demand 'spikes' and minimise the risk of breakdown.

And the website is now more accessible on the go: it is easier to look up information, find local services and do business with the council on mobile equipment like iPads and smart phones. Other innovations include:

- A 'Your Buckinghamshire' interactive map showing where you can find your local County Councillor, along with services, like recycling centres, libraries, schools and wedding venues.
- A 'top tasks' area on the home page, making it easy to find and use the services you're looking for.
- A more powerful search facility, making it easier to find information.

New in the coming months will be an easier-to-use 'Report It' feature for reporting highway problems like potholes, flooding and blocked drains.

Buckinghamshire County Council Leader Martin Tett, who announced the website redevelopment at today's (Thursday) annual meeting, said: 'These are fantastic improvements, which do just what our residents tell us they want. We're a modern council, and we need to use modern technology to make it easy for our residents to do business with us on any device at home and on the go. The more people can do online, the more we can save the council taxpayer.'

The cost of the website redevelopment project is £148,600. For every 1,000 phone callers who use the website instead, it is estimated to save around £2,600.

HAPPY HOUNDZ is a dog-walking service run by two dog lovers. contact 'happyhoundzchalfont.com'. Phone 01753888389 + mobiles Liz 07801016238 / Katy 07732112230 and e-mail happyhoundzchalfont@gmail.com

Additional £3m to be spent on improving the county's roads this year. Council Leader, Martin Tett, has announced a one-off spend of £3m to be spent improving the county's roads in this financial year. The announcement was made at the County Council's AGM and Debate meeting after a Notice of Motion was proposed by new Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, Janet Blake, and seconded by Martin Tett. The Motion was voted in unanimously by Council Members.

The £3m spend is in addition to £25m already budgeted to be spent on road maintenance over the next two years.

The additional funds will be used to help reduce the backlog of roads maintenance across Buckinghamshire and will come from the Council's capital reserves.

The Notice of Motion called on the Government to provide substantial additional capital funding to Buckinghamshire to enable existing roads to be repaired and new roads to be built where genuine need exists, to help relieve congestion and aid economic development.

The Notice also called on the Government to cancel its HS2 project and to instead use the funds to resource a national programme to repair and upgrade road and rail infrastructure.

Speaking at the meeting, Janet Blake said: "In direct response to concerns raised by our residents to all County Council members during the elections campaign, we want to help further reduce the roads maintenance backlog. Roads affect every single person in the county, so we need to enable safe and efficient travel.

"We also call on the Government to cancel HS2 to give us more funds for roads."

Martin Tett said: "It's very important that we are seen as a County Council to respond to what residents want. This is not just £3m, it is an extra £3m in addition to the £25m already committed in the budget for road surfacing over the next two years. And this is on top of the £11m we spend each year on basic repairs.

"Even with this extra money we don't have enough resources to repair all of our roads so we call on the Government to capital fund a major upgrade."

Find out more about the roads programme and TfB's 'We're Working on it' campaign here:
<http://www.transportforbucks.net/Transport-and-roads.aspx>