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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice – May 2012

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice



THAMES Valley Police is appealing for witnesses after a man was seriously assaulted in Chalfont St Peter on 29th April. At about 7.15pm, a 48-year-old man was assaulted by a man with a baseball bat in Layters Close, Chalfont St Peter. He was taken to Wexham Park Hospital for treatment to a serious head injury, where he remains.

Det Insp Sharon Hill, investigating the incident, said: "This was a nasty attack which left the victim with serious head injuries. He is now recovering well in hospital.

"I would like to reassure residents that this is not a stranger attack. The victim and the suspect are known to each other and we believe this incident is as a result of a financial issue between the two of them.

"We have spoken to some witnesses who came to the victim's aid, however we are keen to speak to anyone who was in the area at the time and saw anything which may assist officers with their enquiries."

Anyone with any information should contact Det Insp Hill via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

If you don't want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

POLICE in Chiltern are warning residents about a door-to-door sales scam involving young men and women claiming to be ex-convicts trying to earn some money.

We have recently been contacted by residents in Little Kingshill, Chalfont St Peter, and Jordans reporting these individuals knocking on doors locally.

The bogus salesmen target one area at a time and knock at doors claiming to be ex-convicts on a young offenders' scheme and try to sell the occupant everyday households products such as dusters and house cleaning products at high prices.

Bogus salesmen are not involved in any officially recognised offender rehabilitation programme and many do not carry Pedlar's Certificates which are issued by the police and permit people to sell door-to-door.

If any salesperson comes to your door, you should ask to see their Pedlar's certificate - these are only issued to individuals under very strict conditions. You can contact the police station it was issued at in order to prove if it's genuine. Selling door-to-door without this certificate is a criminal offence.

Deputy Area Commander, Chief Inspector Bobbi Rai says "I would encourage all our residents not to buy from these people and to take the time to reflect and research before making a decision to purchase. Every year the Police and Trading Standards receive many enquiries from people who have fallen for the sales patter, have parted with their money and then realized they have paid over the odds for products or that the work done is of very poor quality."

"These people may not only be applying pressure on residents to buy their products at inflated prices but may also be involved in other criminal activity. As such it is important that residents call us and let us know this is happening in their neighbourhood to give us the opportunity to check out whether their activity is indeed lawful. Please call us on 101 and let us know."

Residents are reminded that they can request a free no-cold calling sticker for their front doors by emailing their name and address to communitysafety@chiltern.gov.uk and putting 'no-cold calling sticker' in the subject line or by calling the Community Safety Team on 01494 732089. If a doorstep seller comes to your door you can just point at the sticker and ask them to leave. If they refuse to leave or return they are committing a criminal offence.

A DISPLAY of hand-made quilts and patchwork [by the late Polly Read]Saturday **5th May 10.30-12.30** at Christ Church, Chapel Road, Flackwell Heath HP10 9AA. Including sale of quantities of quilting fabrics, books and equipment . All in aid of the British Lung Foundation.

THE AGM of the Village Appraisal Group will be held on **Wednesday, 9th May at 7.30 p.m.** in the Parish Council Offices. Everyone is invited to meet members of the groups and those who want to join one of the various groups, will be very welcome to do so. They are going to try a new format for the AGM this year with displays of all the groups set up around the meeting room, rather than people reading out prepared speeches and it is hope that this will make an entertaining evening. **Celfunde** Inheritance has a new exhibit in the Parish Council Offices entitled "The Tower of London". It depicts 5 men who lived in the village and who ended up in the Tower each in a different century.

JOIN in the Gentle Exercise sessions at Gold Hill Baptist Church on Mondays 10.30-11.30am. For more information contact Natalie on 077872546780

Chalfont Common WI had a quiet April meeting just before Easter, with the usual business followed by refreshments and then an impromptu quiz by Brenda.

Then something quite different, as a group of members went to the BFWI Council Meeting held at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. There were several speakers in the morning including a very interesting talk from Peter Lien, the Head of Cookery at the WI Cookery School at Denman College. The highlight of the day was talk by Adam Henson of Countryfile fame. He loves his job as a farmer and TV presenter and this comes over in his speech. At lunch time he was signing copies of his book and chatting very amiably to everyone.

The table tennis and book clubs continue to thrive and we enjoy our monthly walk weather permitting. Anyone interested in joining this lively group of ladies please do come along on the first Thursday of the month to the Tony Graham Room at the Community centre – 7.30 for 7.45 or contact Chris on 01494 872133 for more information and we will make you very welcome.

CHALFONT St Peter W.I. members really enjoyed the speaker at the last meeting. Bob Harding- Jones spoke on "Laughter in the village". characters that he had met in his farming days. In the cow shed, pub or village summer outings in a charabanc. He had read his poems at the Glastonbury Festival which gave him a one up over his children who had never even been there.

Items are rolling in for the " Welcome morning" which is being held on May 12th in the Church Hall 9.30--12pm.

Several members went to Aylesbury on Friday 13th for the 1/2 yearly council meeting. This was held in the new Waterside theatre.

In the morning there was an amusing talk "Are modern women better cooks than their mothers" from Peter Lien , head of the W.I cookery school at Denman college, a charming young man, who urged the group to visit him at the college. In the afternoon, Adam Henson from BBC,s Country file talked about his life in farming and anecdotes about filming for the Programme. He runs a Farm Park in the Cotswolds which should be well worth a visit. An amusing and eloquent speaker. .

Chalfont St Peter W.I. received a Certificate for reaching the splendid age of 90 years - amongst the oldest in the county. A good day. Next month on **May 9th at 2.pm**, Edwin Rye talks about " Making a garden for BBC Gardener of the year". Visitors are invited to go along and join them.

Chalfont ST.PETER W.I. also extends a warm welcome to their 90th celebration on May 12th in the Church Hall from 9.30 am -12pm. display table, stalls, coffees, teas , raffle. Go and meet them! Bring a friend and /or find a new friend.

BUCKSVISION, Chalfont division – drivers required. Do you have an hour to spare twice a month? Bucksvision is a local charity for the blind and partially sighted. It holds social meetings twice a month and drivers are needed to collect members from their homes and take them to the meetings in Chalfont St Giles. The Charity covers Chalfont St Giles, St Peter, Little Chalfont, Seer Green and Jordans. If you are interested in helping, please contact Val Robbins (01753 885752) or Wendy Stevens (01494 874844)

VILLAGE Older Person's Action group (VOPAG) has been set up as part of Chalfont St Peter Village Appraisal to give the over 55s of Chalfont St Peter the opportunity to meet together and exchange views, news and information. VOPAG meets once a month and speakers talk on various topics of interest. There is also an information point in Budgens, the dates of which are displayed on their notice board. The next meeting is on **Tuesday, May 15**, at 10am for coffee and the meeting begins at 10.30, in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. Further information from 01753 884729

HEDGERLEY Historical Society has its next meeting on May 16 at 8pm in Hedgerley Memorial Hall, Kiln Lane, Hedgerley, SL2 3UZ, when Philip Littlejohn will present Titanic 100th Anniversary Cruise. Visitors always welcome.

LOCAL resident Ken Walker needs your support on his trek through the Samaria Gorge, Spinalonga. He has supported the Leprosy Mission for many years and recently read the excellent book "The Island" by Victoria Hislop. He writes:

"The story is based on the historical fact that Spinalonga, an island off the coast of Crete, was used as a Leper Colony until 1957. There are still hundreds of thousands of lepers; many of whom are ostracised by their friends and families as leprosy still carries a stigma, although it can be cured with multidrug therapy for just a few pounds if caught early enough.

I have decided to trek through the Samaria Gorge in Spinalonga to raise funds for The Leprosy Mission. I shall be flying to Crete a few days before the trek in order to acclimatise myself to the warmer weather there, paying my own expenses to be one of a small group of about a dozen for this trek.

A departure at 5 am on the morning of Monday 21 May 2012 will mark the start of the day of the Samaria Gorge Challenge. Its 18 kilometre long ravine is the longest in Europe. We are driven through the White Mountains to the starting point: the Xyloskalo staircase, which zigzags 700 feet down into the gorge. I understand the highlight is the "Iron Gates" marking the narrowest section of the gorge where the 1,000 feet walls stand just three metres apart. (Valerie says I shall have to diet!) It is anticipated that we should get back to our hotel at about 8 pm so it will be a long and strenuous day. My aim is to raise at least £1,000.00 for The Leprosy Mission so I rely very much on sponsorship. I have a supply of sponsorship forms and I have set up a website so that people can also contribute online if they wish. To do so go to <http://www.justgiving.com/Ken-J-Walker>.

A hundred people contributing £10 or 200 people contributing £5 or lots of people contributing less will achieve my target. Please help. Ken Walker Tudor Acre, South Park Crescent, Gerrards Cross SL9 8HJ 01753 885874

THE Chiltern Shakespeare Company will be performing Macbeth at Hall Barn, Beaconsfield in June. Surplus funds from this year's production will be donated to Iain Rennie Grove House Hospice Care, which is a very worthwhile local cause. Contact: meriel.riseley@sky.com

A Help For Heroes Charity event "HER MAJESTY'S MUSIC JUNE 3rd 2012

This is a major celebration of The Jubilee in the Gardens and Thames Suite Theatre of The Bull Hotel Gerrards Cross. As well as a musical treat, the day will be an acknowledgement and thank you for the sixty years of dedicated service from a very amazing lady,

It starts with an afternoon street party including the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Rock Choir, music and dancing, and then the evening cabaret concert containing top twenty hits of Her Majesty's reign, plus "The Last Night Of The Proms," all of which is under the musical direction of Jennifer Morton

We will also donate all the profits to Help For Heroes in recognition of the debt we owe our armed forces. A debt which continues to increase. For further information contact JohnDraper on 01753 888666 or johncdraper@aol.com

OUR Community Library has been running rather successfully for the last 3 months, and the working group are now keen to extend the service they have been providing. To this end, they are asking for donations of **new books** you have enjoyed reading (published in 2010 or 2011, please), **new magazines** once you are done with them, and boxed **puzzles** in good condition.

The library team is very keen to improve on the service and facility they provide for our community. They have a team of 60+ dedicated volunteers, but they are working on a limited budget, and donations from our community would go a long way to helping them improve their stock. They are also very keen to improve their Teenage section which has been sadly neglected over the years and donations of **teen novels, teen magazines** and especially **study guides** and work books would be put to very good use. Please consider supporting this worthwhile cause.

THE HS2 summit at Aylesbury District Council's Oculus Building attracted more than one hundred individuals and groups from across Buckinghamshire.

On the day, the topic of Community Forums was high on the agenda, as was Benefit Cost Ratios, and HS2 Chief Executive Alison Munro was also there in the afternoon to answer questions.

For those that weren't able to make it on the day, Buckinghamshire County Council has produced, in house, a video report of the proceedings that can be viewed by clicking on - <http://tinyurl.com/czkn6hq>

Media organisations are more than welcome to embed this link into their reports on the summit and you can also check out more of our online video content by visiting www.youtube.co.uk/buckinghamshirecc.

CHILTERNs branch of the RNLI is putting on an Evening with Paul Boissier , RNLI Chief Executive Officer, at Great Missenden Memorial Hall, Link road, Great Missenden HP16 9AE on Friday May 11th 7.45 for 8pm. Tickets are just £3 (to cover costs and refreshments are included. Just turn up.

ST JOSEPH'S FURNITURE MARKET: At the April meeting, it was agreed to donate £400 to each of the following charities; The Stroke Association, Macmillan Cancer Support, and Helen and Douglas House. The Furniture market is open every Saturday from 9am to 12.30. The Store is off Priory Road and you can park in St Joseph's Church car park entrance off Austenwood Lane. Worth a visit to browse through the interesting contents available. To donate furniture in good condition, please contact furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01753 888340.

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.

We get together every month at the Chalfont St Peter Community Association 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.

THE GERRARDS CROSS Flower Club Meets in the Colston Hall Memorial Centre at 2.15 on May, when the speaker will be Charmaine Grace-Woodham , on the subject " Awash with Vegetables". Visitors are welcome : entrance £5.00.

CAREERS SPRINGBOARD THE CHILTERNs, SOUTH BUCKS & HIGH WYCOMBE SELF HELP GROUP FOR MANAGERS AND PROFESSIONALS SEEKING WORK

May 7 Bank Holiday – no meeting

May 14 Telephone Networking in Action = Perfect your telephone networking skills in live practice sessions.

May 21 Tell Me About Yourself ! Get the 60 seconds right. How to polish your response to this frequent and important request.

May 28 Your LinkedIn Profile How do you present yourself on LinkedIn ? It's key to your chances of success. What should be included / not included ?

June 4 Bank Holiday – no meeting

Careers Springboard meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30pm each Monday at St Andrews's United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7 QE. Free Membership. **New Members Welcomed.**

GERRARDS CROSS Scottish Country Dancing Club would warmly welcome any newcomers, especially beginners. Classes Tuesdays at 7.30pm at GX Memorial Centre. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please phone GX 884217.

CASH boost to help keep Bucks School Children on the right road

Five thousand Buckinghamshire school children are set to benefit from increased road safety training thanks to £200,000 worth of funding that's on its way to the county.

The money comes after Transport for Buckinghamshire successfully bid for it, by showing the Department for Transport that they could deliver Bikeability cycle training to youngsters.

£180,000 will come from DfT, with an additional £20,000 on its way from Buckinghamshire County Council.

The grant will be used to deliver both Level 2 on road training for children aged 9 to 14, and Level 3, advanced cycling for children of secondary school age, who have already completed Level 2.

Bikeability is a national initiative offering "cycling proficiency" for the 21st century which has been adopted by Bucks County Council as the cycle training standard in the County.

It provides trainees with a real cycling experience to equip them to confidently deal with traffic on short journeys such as cycling to school. The aim is to encourage greater use of cycling as a sustainable form of transport in order to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

Additional information can be found at www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/cycle_training.page or call 01494 586639

STREET lighting improvements to save Buckinghamshire over £280,000

Transport for Buckinghamshire is replacing over 10,000 street lights in the county with modern energy efficient units. The four year programme, which will start later this year, will replace larger, more powerful lights located on mainly non-residential traffic routes. The new lights will contain energy efficient equipment which will allow the lights to dim during off peak hours and maintain full power during peak traffic flows. Each new lamp has a life of 6 years, twice as long as the current lighting stock.

The dimming system allows for a reduction in energy used of up to £283,000 per year with the reduction in maintenance costs due to the longer life of each lamp adding to this value.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport said "It is good news for the people of Buckinghamshire that we can make further savings from this initiative whilst providing an improved lighting stock on these traffic routes."

Steven Adams, Cabinet Member for Environment said: "By replacing our street lights with modern, energy efficient ones, we are not only going to be saving council taxpayers a considerable amount of money, but we are also reducing our carbon footprint quite significantly."

The cost of the project is £3.7m and has a payback period of 14 years. £1.4m of funding has been provided by Salix Finance Ltd and the remainder of the budget will come from the County Council.

COUNTY Councillors approved an important Health motion, after a strong and at times heated debate, at their full County Council yesterday (Thursday 26 April). The Motion, as passed, demanded that the future of Buckinghamshire's Acute hospitals is safeguarded. This was in response to the changes proposed in Buckinghamshire NHS Trust's 'Better Healthcare in Buckinghamshire' consultation.

The Motion comes after the Council responded to the consultation, which ran from January to April 2012, with a number of concerns and issues which it said needed urgent action before any decision is made on the NHS Trust's proposals.

Leader of the Council, Martin Tett, commended the Motion to full Council. "Let me make our stance absolutely clear", he said. "We recognise that the hospitals in Buckinghamshire are under significant financial pressure and will need to change. What is important to us is that these changes are medically led and meet the needs of Buckinghamshire's residents. The proposals are only at the consultation stage. It is important that we not only support them where appropriate but also set out our major concerns. These relate, for example, to ensuring the future viability of all the hospitals that serve Buckinghamshire and that a substantial Emergency Medical Care Unit is maintained at High Wycombe. We are also concerned about transport links for patients and their visitors between Wycombe and Aylesbury and car parking for people at Stoke Mandeville. The County Council is also keen to support the Buckinghamshire Hospitals in achieving Foundation Trust status. If they don't do this there is the danger that Buckinghamshire's services could be taken over by adjoining Trusts, with unpredictable consequences. The very professional responses of both the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the County's Cabinet sets out our full response in detail."

Cllr Patricia Birchley, Cabinet Member for Adults and Family Wellbeing, said: "This is a response to the consultation, not a final decision. I hope the concerns raised will be looked into. The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board has consulted with residents on what the main areas of focus should be and are now working on how this will be done. That is a voice for us. Care in the community is carried out partly by the County Council, and we have an excellent record in terms of supporting older people to remain in their own homes.

"As the Leader has said, we have concerns, particularly on transport links. We need to support the hospitals in getting Foundation status. But we can't insist on duplication of services - that would risk hospitals being closed. We are working closely with our NHS colleagues to develop more integrated services for vulnerable people in Buckinghamshire and that gives me cause for great optimism."

County Councillors urged the NHS Trust to take all responses and representations to the consultation into account at the next stage of the decision-making process.

CAMERA enthusiasts may be interested in joining the Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Camera Club.

<http://www.candgxcameraclub.org.uk/section321554.html> - If so, the person to contact is Dave Trotter Phone: 01628 524332 E-mail: dave-trotter@tiscali.co.uk

BOOK your Birth and Death Registration Appointments Online

Starting from today (October, 19), 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.

CABINET Members have agreed to set up a charitable trust to manage the operational running of Buckinghamshire County Museum in Aylesbury, and the museum resource centre in Halton.

The development of a trust will provide greater flexibility to develop the museum as a testament to Buckinghamshire's life and heritage. In addition, it will help to develop and protect the Museum as a valuable resource for the county and enhance this for future generations.

A new Trust will also help to provide a sound opportunity to raise funds from other external sources to further the work, provide a service at a lower cost to the taxpayer. County Council funding for the museum has reduced in the past three years from £650k to £520k, and plans to reduce this to £400k over the coming three years will be factored into the Trust business plan.

The County Council considered trust status after work commissioned by the Museum Friends to look at alternative business models, and to see what would be involved in a Trust. This work identified the potential to offer heritage training opportunities, including apprenticeships, at the Halton site, which could be marketed to other museums.

Cabinet's decision follows extensive consultation with local Members and Local Area Forums, along with Museum Friends and Patrons, and Bucks Archaeological Society.

Cabinet Spokesman Margaret Aston said: 'In these challenging economic times we need to find new ways of maintaining our most valued services. By setting up a charitable trust like this, we're giving the museum and resource centre the chance to tap into external funding not open to the council.'

Buckinghamshire County Museum attracts 96,000 visitors a year, and provides educational visits for 14,000 children every year. It has 130,000 objects that represent the county's rich heritage. Pre-1957 collections are owned by Bucks Archaeological Society, which owns the museum building in Church Street, Aylesbury, and with which the County Council works in partnership. The changeover will take place in 2013/14.

AN examination of Buckinghamshire's Local Area Forums (LAFs) is being carried out as part of a review by a cross-party group of County Councillors.

The aim of the review which is being done during April and May, is to examine the current function of LAFs, explore the role they can play in the future, and what improvements or additional support are needed by them.

As LAFs are open to the public, the review is keen to hear from anyone who already is, or would like to get involved in their LAF. Comments can be made at www.buckscc.gov.uk/scrutiny or by emailing scrutiny@buckscc.gov.uk by Friday, May 18.

LAFs play a key role in bringing together local communities, their elected representatives and local public service delivery agencies. They are open to the public and are a way for the community to hear about, influence and improve local services. Most parts of the county are now covered by a LAF, which meet three to four times a year. The meetings are held at various local venues on weekday evenings.