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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice –May 2015

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CHILTERN Open Air Museum has over 25 family events planned for the 2015 season including spectacular historical events and re-enactments and popular evening events 'The Enchanted Museum' and 'Halloween Spectacular'. See the Enchanted Museum come to life on Saturday 16th May! Meet a princess on a real unicorn as well as characters from storybooks and fairy tales in an exciting night-time event at Chiltern Open Air Museum! As part of the national after-dark experience 'Museums at Night' the Museum, in Chalfont St Giles, will open for a unique and exciting family event from 5.30pm - 9.30pm.

Families can enjoy an evening of storytelling in the museum's historic buildings, lit up by candle, lantern and firelight for you to explore. You'll meet a host of fairy-tale and storybook characters including King Arthur and Merlin, Hansel and Gretel and Cinderella's wicked stepmother!

Join in the fancy dress competition by dressing as your favourite storybook character; get involved in crafts, games, activities and treasure hunts and plant your own beanstalk, just like Jack! There are treats for grown-ups too: why not indulge in a glass of Pimms, chilled cider or locally produced premium Chilterns beer as you watch the sun set over the Museum's beautiful Village Green?

Bring a picnic or enjoy a light meal or tasty snack from the Museum's historic Furniture Factory Tea Room. Advance booking is advised. For more information visit <http://www.coam.org.uk/whats-on/events/>
Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newland Park, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, HP8 4AB 01494 871117
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www.facebook.com/chilternopenairmuseumevents

THE first May bank holiday is round the corner and your local policing team is reminding all farmers and landowners to be vigilant to the possibility of unlicensed musical events (raves) being organised on their land.

You should be alert to any of the following rave related activity:-

- * The removal of locks from secure access points
- * Vehicles particularly panel vans or larger, driving off-road
- * Groups of vehicles congregating in rural areas
- * Convoys of vehicles
- * Loud music from remote woodlands

If you spot anyone suspicious who may be conducting early reconnaissance on rural land or even starting to set up an event, please report it to the Thames Valley Police 24-hour non-emergency number 101, as soon as possible.

By receiving early warnings, Thames Valley Police has a much better chance of disrupting the rave and dispersing those responsible for its organisation. Information about securing land boundaries can be found on the Thames Valley Police website. <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>

MAUREEN MARSH has designed a new Chalfont St Peter card showing the Village as it is today. The card is a wraparound design showing a variety of our historic buildings. This follows a most successful "A Hundred Years of Work and Play" design and "The Millenium" cards now out of print.

The cards are A5 in size and in full colour and will be on sale at Feast Day at £2.50 each on Maureen's stand. Enquiries are welcomed by emailing marsh@whitewebbs.co.uk and visits to Maureen's studio on Lower Road to view original paintings or discuss commissions can be arranged by phone 01753 884105. Anita at Office Direct has shown great interest and offers to sell the cards at her shop on Market Place soon.

YOUR new Guide to Bus services in South Bucks timetable is now available in the library, so bus travelers are advised to collect one before they are all taken.

CHALFONT ST PETER Garden Club, meets on Wednesday 20th May at 8pm in the Church hall, Church Lane, when Jackie Brinklow, an award winning Herb Specialist, will talk on 'How to grow Herbs'. There will be plants for sale.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, OVAL WAY, CHALFONT ST PETER –

17th May, The Amberley Wind Ensemble

May Time music with flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn..

Dance tunes from French and English composers, including favourites such as in An English Country Garden.

Tickets, including afternoon tea, adults £10, children free (1 per adult)

Call Paddy Hague 01753 883384 or Robert Cunningham 01753 883997



Fiona Brockhurst spent her childhood in Chalfont St Peter and learned to play the organ at All Saints Church. Her tutor was Dennis Franklin, whom many will remember with fondness as organist for over 30 years and a generous benefactor. At the Royal College of Music, Fiona went on to study the organ with Denys Darlow and the French Horn with Douglas Moore (a colleague of Dennis Brain) and has forged a successful career as a freelance performer and teacher based in Hampshire. Fiona is a founder member of the Salisbury Sinfonia and, in addition to her leading involvement with several eminent music groups, has played with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and appeared on national television and radio. She returns frequently to All Saints and is pleased to be making music for us with 4 of her groups in celebration of Dennis Franklin's legacy to All Saints' vibrant musical tradition.

THE Friday market in the Church hall has now been replaced by a Craft display of locally made or sourced items of real quality. It is well worth calling into the Church Hall in Church Lane to have a browse and maybe, like me, find an original and useful gift to take instead of chocolates or alcohol, when visiting.

There is a table with lovely hand-made bowls and other items, antiques in quality metals, beautifully made useful items for around the house, greeting cards, some wonderful, cosy quilts, which fold inside a cushion and produce a rug to snuggle under when you want to put your feet up in the cushion covering, as you get comfortable under the blanket which it previously contained.

There are many other items, so do go in each Friday and have a browse. The craft people don't all exhibit each week, as they have to spend time creating their items, so there should be a good reason to see what is on offer each week.

THE A.G.M. of the Chalfont St Peter Chamber of Commerce was held in The Greyhound, when Chairman, Andrew Welch welcomed local business people and members of the local councils, to hear what has been happening over the past year.

Over the last few years the committee has tried to breathe life into building a membership of committed local traders, who will make it a vibrant group that brings new ideas. This is now happening and we can see the hanging baskets and flags that enhance the Market Place, as well as the Christmas lights that always bring cheer.

As the Precinct (St Peter's Court) is not managed locally, there have been complaints that traders there miss out. Now though the St Peter's Court owners are paying towards it being decorated in line with other parts of the village and traders are also contributing. The Chamber of Commerce is fully aware of the needs of parking provision being planned and monitored and also of the businesses that need to be encouraged and supported. Fortunately, the skills of local people on its committee provide a source of knowledge that makes the committee effective on our behalf.

At festive times such as Feast Day celebrations in June and Christmas Fun Night, there is plenty of support needed to prepare, when those who enjoy being involved can join in the committee's contribution of putting up flags and organising the various activities that make these occasions so successful. Keep it local key text <http://www.keepitlocalcsp.co.uk/> keep it local is a site that you might like to investigate, as it is a way of encouraging commitment to keeping village amenities used to the fullest extent.

There is a form on line for you to complete. See information below

Keep it Local is a new campaign powered by the Chalfont St Peter Chamber of Commerce. It is aimed at increasing trade for all businesses based in the area and serving the local community, through an online directory of all Chalfont St Peter businesses with a simple and intuitive search facility. Raising awareness among local residents of the campaign and therefore the volume and range of goods and services available, including email and printed newsletters, media spots, posters, window stickers, banners and business stationery.

“Word of mouth” marketing initiatives:

Encouraging businesses and residents to make the most of all opportunities to promote the campaign and local business; Tapping into existing community networks such as local websites, church, school, sports, social and community groups.

Search for your business name now and let us know if changes are needed. If your business is not found then you need to provide details. <http://www.keepitlocalcsp.co.uk/> so that we can add you to the website. This advert is FREE!

VOPAG meets next in the CSP Community Centre on Tuesday **19th May**. The talk will be *Memoirs of a Magistrate* - 10am for 10.30. Following the undoubted success of the recent trip to the East End of London, they would like to let you know that there are still places available on the trip, on **Thursday, 21st May**, entitled **Royal London**.

As before we have the services of the excellent Blue Badge guide, Sally Botwright. The coach will take us to Pall Mall for a first stop and then we proceed to Buckingham Palace to see the changing of the guard. Following this we shall drive past a number of interesting buildings to arrive at Covent Garden for lunch. After this we will go to Westminster Pier and join City Cruises for a trip down the river to the Tower of London. Throughout the trip Sally will give us her commentary. The cost, as before, is £25 per person.

Please note that walking will be kept to a minimum.

If you would like to join us on this trip, please contact Tony Offord, our organiser, asap on 01753 886706

COULD you give a child a loving home? It's a sobering fact that more than 50 per cent of children in care in Buckinghamshire have to be placed in homes outside this county. That's because there simply are not enough people in Buckinghamshire coming forward to volunteer as foster parents.

Some people may find this hard to believe given the fact we live in such an affluent area of the country, but this something we all need to work together to change.

It is also terribly disappointing that we have, on average, 430 looked-after children at any one time here – and yet only have one foster carer per 1,000 households. Currently we have 125 fostering households

The County Council has embarked upon a lengthy awareness campaign to try to encourage more people to foster. It is working, but not quickly enough, and that's why I am appealing to you.

Fostering is a career choice, where excellent support, brilliant training and an allowance will be provided. There are lots of different ways to foster – respite, emergency, short term and long term.

At the moment we need short term carers to look after teenagers, sibling groups and children with disabilities. We also need long term carers for children aged 8-12 years. Around 20% of children in care come from black or ethnic minority backgrounds, mainly African, Caribbean, Pakistani or dual heritage backgrounds.

We know there are many wonderful caring residents who could be perfect foster carers, but they probably don't realise just how rewarding it is, or perhaps just don't know how to get started. Meanwhile, a lot of people wrongly think they can't foster and therefore rule themselves out.

We encourage you to give us a call today and find out how you can make a big difference to a child's life. If you are unable to foster, please help us spread the word by sharing this with friends and family.

Find out about fostering today www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering firststep@buckscc.gov.uk Facebook
/FosterBucksAnushka Desai - Senior Customer and Communications Officer
Customer and Communications Team, Business Enterprise, Head Quarters **01296 387677**

A **MESSAGE** from the police to all of you who have iPhones or iPads to download the 'find my iPhone' app and to register your devices. This is a very effective tracking device for your iPhone and iPads and can be used within seconds of a device being stolen. It is really easy to do and involves using your email address and a password. If your device is stolen or if you simply mislay it you can track it using this app. You can sign in on any device to track yours. For those of you who have never downloaded an app:

1. Go to the App store on your device,
2. Put in 'find my iPhone' in the search field. This is the first app on your screen. It is free.

3. Set it up as per instruction. We have had a number of cases where devices have been stolen and because of the 'find my iPhone' app being activated the police have had great success in tracking the device and then recovering it and arresting the suspects. On one occasion the time between the theft and arrest was about 30 minutes due to the speed of using this tracking device.

On a reverse note we have also been very frustrated when iPhones' and Pads have been stolen because the tracking device has not been activated on the phone we have no way of being able to recover it or bringing the offenders to justice.

WORK AID in Chesham does wonderful work recycling tools and machines and sending them to where they are desperately needed abroad. They also take care of the volunteers who give their time so generously by providing useful courses that may be of interest.

One course being offered is **Crochet for all levels**. Crochet is quick and easy. It is very portable and versatile and such fun to do. Starting from scratch with a basic project and progressing to more challenging patterns.# to create beautiful and individual items, from cushions to lovely flowers, to complete blankets or bedspreads, that could become an heirloom to be proud of.

All materials for the first session will be provided and projects for your level will be discussed at the start.

Four sessions of 2 ½ hours should get you underway for your chosen project. Dates (below) can be negotiated so that you can have 10 hours of assistance. The dates suggested are Wednesdays 6th and 20th May and 3rd and 17th June, 10am to 12.30. £32 for 10 hours, includes coffee and biscuits.

Contact details: **Workaid, The Old Boot Factory, 71 Townsend Road, Chesham, HP5 2AA.** www.workaid.org
01494 77500 Registered Charity No. 1041574

What else is taking place – see their newsletter and maybe get the urge to have a tour of the premises to see just how much input volunteers contribute:

EASTER TREATS - the knitted baskets and nests with Easter eggs generated just short of £200. Well done knitters and thank you all very much indeed.

THE HUB - has just got larger! The wall has come down, the new curtains will be going up very shortly and the hub looks like a different place altogether. Come and see for yourself.

ETSY - is now well established as our online shop and I'm delighted to report that we have had 2,673 views from all over the world including Zambia, Uzbekistan, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Poland, Peru and USA to name but a few countries that support our shop. The 35 orders we have had have generated nearly £300 and they have shown great demand for vintage items - from books to patterns to craft accessories.

We now also have many favourable reviews, but feel free to add yours after a purchase. The more reviews the better credibility.

Claire and Avril, our new 'Etsy' volunteer, are now able to upload new things on a regular basis to constantly generate interest. So, do keep the donations coming of vintage and hand-made items so that we can offer variety and increase sales.

SUMMER MARKET - I hope you're all busy knitting, stitching, painting and/or planting for our market stall in Amersham on 6 June. Don't forget, the theme is 'Gardens and Flowers' and almost anything fits!

FABRIC - we're still very short of cotton and lightweight fabric to send to Africa, so any donations will be very gratefully received. Please drop them off at Workaid at your convenience

CHALFONT ST PETER W.I. meets on Wednesday, 13th May in the church hall, Church Lane at 2pm, when Ken Brazier will talk about Mercy Ships. That seems appropriate in the current world need.

CHILTERN and South Bucks local police area (LPA) has a new police commander and deputy police commander. Yvette Hitch moved to the LPA as the new commander upon her promotion from Chief Inspector to Superintendent on Monday 7 April. Supt Hitch replaces Supt Steve Hockin, who has since moved across to HQ on promotion as Chief Superintendent.

Supt Hitch said: "I am looking forward to heading up a policing area and working with local partners to deliver a high quality service to local residents. "I have already started to get to know my team and partner agencies and the public but will continue to do this over the forthcoming weeks and months. This is helped by the fact that I already know the area having worked in Bucks before."

Supt Hitch, who has been a police officer for 27 years, joined Thames Valley Police (TVP) as a police sergeant in 1997. She moved from Staffordshire police where her policing career began.

Since joining TVP, she has worked in every county of Thames Valley starting in Windsor, before moving to West Berkshire and Pangbourne. She worked at HQ for several years where she helped to deliver the Airwave project, which saw the introduction of a new radio and communication system for the Force.

In July 2004 she took a career break and moved to France for 18 months. Upon her return to work in December 2015, she worked at Milton Keynes as a uniform inspector and then as a detective inspector.

In 2007, she was promoted to chief inspector and took charge of a unit which deals with 'Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP)' for Buckinghamshire. Four years later, she moved across to the 'Professional Standards' department as detective chief inspector. Promotion within the department meant that Supt Hitch worked as an acting detective superintendent between 2013 and 2014.

Prior to her move to Chiltern and South Bucks earlier this month, she was the deputy local police area commander for Oxford City. Supt Hitch is married with two Labradors and an elderly father who keeps her busy outside of work. As well as welcoming Supt Hitch, the police area appointed a new deputy local police commander in January this year.

Sarah Grahame moved to the police area following promotion from detective inspector to chief inspector.

She said: "I have really enjoyed the past few months working as deputy LPA commander for Chiltern and South Bucks and look forward to the weeks and months ahead.

"There is some great work that goes on across the LPA, which has seen some great reductions in overall crime and certain crime categories."

Chief Inspector Grahame joined Thames Valley Police in 2009 from Surrey Police where she had worked for seven years.

She brings with her a wealth of experience having worked within several departments across both Forces. This includes working in intelligence as an intelligence officer and sergeant; control room sergeant; neighbourhood sergeant; acting neighbour inspector; and patrol inspector.

Prior to taking up her new role as deputy commander for Chiltern and South Bucks LPA, Ch Insp Grahame worked as a detective inspector for the Child Abuse Investigations Unit (CAIU) for Berkshire West and the ViSOR unit.

Ch. Insp Grahame is married to a police officer and they have three young children. She said: "I am proud to be a working mum in the police."