

Please read and pass on, thank you.

Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

APRIL 2007



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Chalfont St Peter website www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

All Systems go at Your Local Museum

REGULAR visitors to Chiltern Open Air Museum at Newland Park in Chalfont St Giles will be delighted to know that the long awaited new toilets in the middle of the Museum's site will finally be open from Saturday 31st March [the start of the 2007 season]. After several years fund raising undertaken by the Friends of the Museum and individual Museum volunteers,



the project finally got underway a couple of years ago. A new timber framed building was designed to be in keeping with other Museum buildings nearby. The Fabric of the building was constructed by the Museum's Buildings Manager, John Hyde-Trutch and his skilled team of volunteers. Professional contractors were brought in to fit out the interior of the building, and an environmentally friendly reed bed filtering system has also been fitted. Thanks to a generous grant from Biffaward last year, the fitout of the building has now been completed.

Museum Director, Sue Shave said: "This project has been a real team effort involving everyone associated with the Museum. I would particularly like to thank Len Baker, one of our volunteers, who has campaigned tirelessly with the help of many other volunteers and friends for this much needed facility, over the last few years - as an acknowledgement of his contribution the new toilets are now affectionately known as the Bakerloos!"

The new toilet building will have a fully accessible toilet for disabled visitors. The Museum receives more than 10,000 school visitors each year, many sign-up for activity workshops during their visit which take place in the buildings close to these new facilities - the new loos will be particularly useful for them. The Museum's site is 45 acres in total but long and thin in shape and its about half a mile from one end to the other. Until now, visitors in the centre of the site were faced with a very long walk to the established toilet facilities at each end of it.

Rev. Derek Upcott, the Chairman of the Museum's Board of Trustees said: "I'm absolutely delighted that this project has finally been completed. The whole thing would not have been possible without a large grant from Biffaward and we are extremely grateful for their support."

Biffaward is a multi-million pound environment fund managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), which uses landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services. Chiltern Open Air Museum is a registered charity which has no regular core funding. In December 1997 Biffa Waste Services agreed to donate landfill tax credits to the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to administer under the fund name Biffaward. Grants made from the fund currently amount to more than £80 million, supporting many worthwhile environmental projects.

Chiltern Open Air Museum is run by a small dedicated staff who rely heavily on a large amount of voluntary help. If you are able to spare a few hours on a regular basis, contact the museum on 01494 871117 to see how you could help - there are a wide variety of jobs and tasks that you could undertake.

An exciting start to a busy new season at your local Museum

Chiltern Open Air Museum opens for the new season on Saturday 31st March with an exciting 1940's Weekend [31st March & 1st April] featuring more than 100 re-enactors in both Military and Civilian dress. The group will be taking part in a training weekend in preparation for a major ³Prelude to D Day² event to be held at the Museum at the end of May, at which more than 600 re-enactors and more than 40 military vehicles are expected.



Monday 2nd to Thursday 5th April sees daily holiday activities for all the family on an Easter theme, and then over the Easter Weekend [6th to 9th April], the Museum will be holding a Victorian Village Fair. Member of the Living Social History Group will be bringing some of Museum's Victorian buildings to life. The Village Green area at the centre of the Museum's site will be the focus of the weekend's activities.



Visitors will be able to try their hand at a wide variety of traditional games and activities, including: egg & spoon race, horseshoe pitching, swede bashing, Aunt Sally, quoits and ball & hoop. The Museum will be running its ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt and children will have the chance to try on replica Victorian clothes. Visitors will also love the chance to play with replica Victorian toys and enjoy traditional games. There'll be lots to see and do for all the family throughout the season and as always, all the Museum's buildings will be open to visitors.

Chiltern Open Air Museum is an independent charity which is open to the public every day between 10:00 am & 5:00 pm, from 31st March to 26th October 2007. Now the biggest tourist attraction in Southern Buckinghamshire, it was established 30 years ago in Chalfont St Giles with the aim of preserving some of the historic buildings which are unique examples of the heritage of the Chilterns. There are now more than 30 historic buildings all rescued from demolition that have been re-erected on the museum's 45 acre woodland and parkland site.

The Museum holds hands-on activities and demonstrations during the season where you can find out about brick making, straw

plaiting, candle making or rag rug making and many other crafts and building skills. You could also get the chance to try some of these out yourselves and make something to take home. There is also the chance to join special workshops which give you the opportunity to study a particular craft or activity in greater depth. For details of our upcoming special events, call the information line on 01494 872163 or visit the web site at www.coam.org.uk.

Museum admission prices

Adults - £7.50 Concessions - £6.50

Friday Only - Over 60s pre-booked Group Rate (Minimum group size - 10 people) - £3.50

Children (5-16 year old) - £4.50 Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) - £21.50 Under 5 years – FREE

Chalfonts & Gerrards Cross Hospital

LINDA Smith, who serves on both the Chalfont St Peter Parish Council and the Chiltern District Council, attended the Primary Care Trust Board Meeting on our behalf and reports back to allay the fears that have been circulating locally, of possible changes at the Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital, a subject that has never been discussed at the meetings before. She says:

“ The Chairman was extremely pleased that I had brought this up as he too had heard some rumours and they have in fact issued a Press Release. He thinks that it could have come because of an article in the Telegraph which listed a number of hospitals in the country which are threatened with closure and some of ours were on the list. He said that they have absolutely no plans to close any of their Hospitals. He said that our Community Hospitals are valued and they recognise the good work that they do. With regard to the beds, they will go on using them as required. They have sometimes used additional beds when the need arose but at the present time they feel that throughout Bucks they seem to have the right balance. The Chief Executive said that if in the distant future they decide to make some changes as to how these hospitals are used, they would always consult first.

Following the meeting the Chairman, Chief Executive and one of the Board members came to talk to me. They thanked me for raising the issue and requested that anything I can do to get this message across and to put a stop to these rumours would be appreciated. They added that they are always available to talk to and they are anxious that members of the public are not misled, particularly the elderly.”

CHALFONT St Peter Library has a speaker coming on on Thursday, April 26 from 2-3pm to talk about World War One. Entry is free for adults and tickets can be obtained from the Library.

FRIDAY night is Bingo night at the CSP Community Centre. It is on from 8-9.30pm for some light entertainment and perhaps an exciting win.

A ROTATING leaflet holder has appeared in the hallway of the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, with the most amazing amount of information of all sorts of groups and activities. You just can't fail to find something that is worth looking into, so do go along to the Community Centre and check it out.

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club has its Spring Show on Wednesday, April 18 at 8pm in the Parish Church Hall. Wine and cheese, followed by the photographic competition. Entry £1. Judges will be Pat Tayklor, Florence Hallam, Marina Long and Ken Hall.

VOPAG (Village Older Person's Action Group) meetings are held once a month on alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays. The next meeting is on Thursday 19th April, followed by Tuesday 15th May, Thursday 21st June, Tuesday 17th July, Thursday 16th August, Tuesday 18th September, Thursday 18th October, Tuesday 20th November and Thursday 13th December. All start at 10.30 am for coffee/chat with the meeting proper starting at 11 a.m. Do go along and have your say.

POP-IN meets every Thursday morning during term time from 10-11.30am in the Gold Hill Baptist Church and there is a creche for babies and activities for pre-school children, to enable you to concentrate and enjoy the speaker and the company. This is a non-denominational group and all ladies are welcome to join the Thursday meetings.

THE CSP WI mets on the second Wednesday in the month at the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm. The presentation on April 11 is Plants for a small Garden - Speaker: Edwin Pye. Display: Flower of the Month.

THIS is the 50th Anniversary year of the Gerrards Cross Flower Club and to celebrate they have a programme, with five demonstrators at National Level. The Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross, at 2pm. On April 18 - Jayne Edmonds presents Raindrops on Roses. Competition is - A Rosy Richness.

VOLUNTEER Drivers needed by The League of Friends of the Chalfonts & Gerrards Cross Hospital which operates a voluntary car service to take patients from their home, to and from the hospital for their various appointments. These drivers commit to do a morning or an afternoon session each month and typically have to take only one patient each session. The service is provided to people who are unable to drive and cannot easily get a lift from a friend or relative. More drivers are needed to fill up the rota so if you think you are able to help please contact Vivian Nederkoorn on 01753 884227.

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MISBOURNE Art Society has a meeting on Saturday, April 7 in the Community Centre at 2.15pm, when Sharon Hurst will give a Demonstration entitled Fantasy. Visitors are welcome.

THERE will be a Police Surgery at Budgens on Tuesday, April 17 from noon to 2pm. Go along and have achat with PC Jim Clarke, our friendly village bea officer – perhaps you would like to discuss with him any policing issues which are concerning you and your neighbours, or would like to see a Neighbourhood Watch in your road, if you do not already have one. Do you know that aeround 75% of burglaries occur in roads without Nmeighbourhood Watch? You might also like to hear more about the new village policing policy and its connection with the Neighbourhood Action Group. He and his colleagues can help you in many ways and are anxious to meet village residents.

YOUTH leader Avtar Hunter-Singh, has reported to the recent Management Committee meeting that plans have been underway for some time for some of our young people to be involved in the repainting of the subway. All levels of local, district and county councils are involved and the Parish Council has endorsed its support and offered financial assistance should this be necessary. In total the project is likely to cost £12,000 and they hope to encourage the County Council to repair the subway, after which an undercoat will be applied by the beginning of August and painting should start at the end of August. They will be applying to the Youth Opportunity Fund for a significant part of this money. A group of four of their young members is now involved in the planning and grant application - they will need to make a presentation to the Youth Opportunity Fund themselves to make a case for releasing this money. In addition two professional street artists have been identified and they have agreed to be involved in the project. The young people have held some street art sessions as well as one design session. More workshops are planned later this month, in April and in June.

The three evening openings are still proving very popular and as the end of their second anniversary of the present club set-up approaches , over 400 different young people have attended the centre. On average 120 members attend each week.

In February 2007 they received a visit by the Metropolitan Police Dog Handlers Unit. The display was fascinating and the young people were gripped by the intelligence and training of the dogs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD Watch advice. One third of all robberies involve a mobile phone

- Victims of mobile phone robbery tend to be younger than victims of other types of robbery – 48% of victims are under 18
- In 23% of incidents victims were using their mobile phone or had it on display when it was targeted.

What can you do?

- Register the details of your mobile (free) on www.immobilise.com
- When you are not using your mobile, keep it out of sight and lock it with a PIN
- Mark your handset with your postcode using an ultraviolet pen
- Make a note of the IMEI number – this can be found on the label on the back of the battery, or by entering *#06# on your phone
- If your phone is stolen, inform the police and let your mobile phone company know

Remember: do not draw attention to the fact you are using your mobile if you are in an isolated or dark area.

Thames Valley Police: 0845 8 505 505

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 11

Theft of purses is on the increase especially at supermarkets in Beaconsfield. Your handbag is vulnerable when left open or unattended even for a few seconds. Keep it in your possession at **ALL** time

PARISH Council and District Council elections take place on May 3, it is your right to vote, so do take time to do so.

MONDAY, May 28 is the date for the annual Chalfont Fair, held in the grounds of St. Joseph's school. It is always a major fun day and there is lots to do and see, plenty of car parking and fun for all the family. For 10 years the Chalfont Fair music and media stall has dealt with computers but now with new computers costing a tenth of their 1997 prices and newer versions of Windows much more complex, they have decided to change to music and video equipment, CDs, DVDs etc so that others can enjoy them after you. Mike Burton on 01753 893390 is the man to call to donate your surplus music and video items.

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Sincere thanks to Sue Moffat, the Parish Clerk and the Chalfont St Peter Parish Council for support and printing this newsletter and to Chalfont Office Direct, 3 Marketplace, for donating the paper.

There is only a limited printing, so when you have read this newsletter please pass it on.