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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice, October 2013

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice



Blood tests (Phlebotomy) – easy parking.

If you usually go to Amersham Hospital for a blood test, remember there is free and plentiful parking at Chalfonts & Gerrards Cross Hospital, which makes a visit for a blood test much easier and stress free. The clinics there take place on Tuesday morning, Wednesday morning and Friday morning. To make an appointment, telephone on any weekday, 01494 555233, between 10am to 1pm. The telephone line can be busy but it is well worth persisting for easy, free parking on site.

ACTIVITY Chest Toy Shop: New competition - Young Games Inventor of the Year Great new competition for Budding Inventors!

Why not enter the Green Board Games 'Young Games Inventor of the Year' competition and bring your idea of a new game to life with the help of one of the leading games companies in the UK.

Activity Chest in Market Place, CSP, has details of the competition and entry forms. The competition is open to anyone under 16 and closes on Monday 4th November 2013. Receive a free pack of BrainBox Snap cards when you return your completed entry form to Activity Chest in Chalfont St Peter.

On Saturday 5th October Activity Chest are having an Young Games Inventor Open Day and anyone who would like help completing the entry form can go and get some help.

One winner from all entries received at Activity Chest will receive a prize of a BrainBox game and the national winner will be picked by Green Board Games at the end of November.

The overall winner will receive their height in BrainBox games and have the opportunity to develop their idea into a physical project with Green Board Games. The Young Games Inventor trophy will be presented at Toy Fair 2014 in January. So ...**Pick up entry forms at Activity Chest right now. Open Day at Activity Chest on Saturday 5th October.**

Competition closes 4th November 2013.

THAMES Valley Police is investigating a burglary dwelling which occurred on Thursday 3rd October 2013, between the hours of 1100 - 1230. This occurred on Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter (between numbers 10 - 20 odd numbers) This is an appeal for information!... Did you see any suspicious persons or vehicles within the area at this time? Do you have any overlooking CCTV? Can you help?

Please ensure that you are securing your windows and doors before leaving your house.

Report ALL suspicious activity to Thames Valley Police by calling 101 - If it is a crime in progress, a crime has just been committed or a crime is likely to be committed, please dial 999 straight away.

If you have any information in relation to this incident, please dial 101 and quote reference number 615 03/10/13

CHALFONT ST PETER ARTIST, Gordon King, is holding an exhibition of original paintings in oils and water colours from 5th to 19th October - opens Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10am to 5pm.

This will be at the Hawker Gallery, The Maltings, off School Lane, Old Amersham, HP7 0ET Tel: 01494 724850 www.thehawkergallery.co.uk enquiries@thehawkergallery.co.uk

RECOVERING from divorce or separation? Why not attend this 6 week practical course? Mondays 7th October to 18th November 2013 – 7.30 – 10pm at Goldhill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter. office@goldhill.org 01753 887173 £30 per person including refreshments and course notes. For those divorced or separated recently or for many years, or for those seeking reconciliation.

OPEN DAY at ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL invites prospective pupils and parents to Open Day on Tuesday, October 8 from 9.30 – 11.30. The children are looking forward to showing you around and sharing their stories. The prospectus will be available on the day, or please drop in and collect one from the School Office. Alternatively, do call them on 01753 887743 and a copy will be posted to you.

MISBOURNE Art Society meets next on Saturday October 5 at 2.15pm in the CSP Community Centre. The demonstration is "Textures. Ink/Inktense blocks, by Celia Madison.

BERKS, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is calling for donations of plants or bric-a-brac for a sale on Saturday 5 October 2013 from 10am – 1pm. BBOWT is holding a produce market at Great Missenden Memorial Centre, off Link Road HP16 9AE. You are promised excellent value indoor and outdoor plants, tasty homemade produce, books, crafts, gifts, refreshments, free entry and one hour free parking. Email John Catton richard.catton1@ntlworld.com or call 01494 726616. Support your local Wildlife Trust.

SOUTH BUCKS HOSPICE SHOP in Market Place has a superb patchwork quilt in the window. It has been made by members of the Rotary Club of Misbourne Matins and it is being raffled for charity. Tickets, from the shop are £1 each and if you win, you will have a prize that could become an heirloom. The raffle will take place on 23rd October 2013 in the Bull Hotel.

GERRARDS CROSS Sailing Association Autumn Update

The Association held three rallies: Ocean Village in April, A 'Muster' in the Channel islands in August and then a rally at Bembridge earlier this month. All of these events seem to have been well attended and enjoyed by all.

The autumn programme is now on the website and can be viewed and downloaded as a pdf. The chairman and committee have worked hard to find a varied programme with something for everyone, you should enjoy it. To start with on **Wednesday October 9th**, they have something very special: - **Steffan Meyric Hughes**, the news editor of Classic Boat Magazine will tell us about his book – 'The Circle Line' which is the story of his 2009 circumnavigation of London which took ten days, with a little assistance from the noisy Japanese topsail, in a Swallow Boats 15' Storm sailing and rowing dinghy. The trip followed the rivers Thames and Brent, and the Grand Union and Regents canals.

DANCE the night away with Cool Beans Dance Band that plays music from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's.

www.thecoolbeans.co.uk on Saturday, 12th October from 8 - 11.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Hall, Austenwood Lane, Chalfont St Peter SL9 8RY.

Tickets are only £10 each. Advance purchase as numbers will be restricted.

Licensed bar with attractively priced drinks. Take your own nibbles.

Raffle with great prizes.

To obtain tickets: Please send £10 plus a stamped addressed envelope to Events at St Joseph's Austenwood Common, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 8RY Contact events@stjosephs.org.uk Tel: 01753 886581

CHALFONT COMMON WI reports: Despite August often seeming to be a quiet month due to holidays we have been very busy. Instead of a normal meeting we had our annual summer party. It was extremely well attended and we all enjoyed the homemade food and games together with some of our partners. The evening was very warm and we were able to go out in the Community Centre garden.

Stoke Poges and Wexham WI invited us to join them at St Giles Church and Memorial garden. It was a wonderful very interesting afternoon followed by tea at Stoke Village Hall

The previous week we went to Chenies Manor, where a bee keeper gave an interesting talk all about her honey bees. We intended to tour the garden but the weather was too wet so that will have to be for another day.

We had a most enjoyable lunch at Harewood Downs golf club and we look forward to another lunch in September in one of the local villages.

We continue to attract new members and are always pleased to see new faces, so come along and have a chat or contact us on 01494 872133. Our meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month in the Tony Graham Room at the community centre 7.30 for 7.45.

NEWS from Chalfont St Peter WI, who enjoyed a pleasant meeting in their President, Maureen's pretty garden on a sunny August day and later in the month a trip to Banbury and Broughton Castle, where Lord Saye was a guide in one of the rooms and Lady Saye had made the delicious cakes and was clearing tables in the tea room, so they felt very spoilt. After the business part of their September 10 meeting a 'happy birthday' was sung to the ladies who were a year older and they had a talk about Magistrates and their Court robes from Caroline Shorten-Conn, a volunteer, unpaid magistrate, who works part time mostly in Amersham or Aylesbury. She described the courtroom and everyone in it and the different types of people she meets and listens to, which was very interesting indeed. Their next meeting will include their AGM and is on October 9 in the Church Hall, Church Lane. There will be a bring-and-buy sale and quiz. Visitors are always welcome.

The autumn **group** meeting is on October 15 in the CSP Community Centre at 2pm

The Changing nature of Quaker testimony
Ben Pink Dandelion

Wednesday 2 October 7-9pm
Jordans Meeting House, HP9 2SN

The way Quakers have strived for social justice and peace – have sought the Kingdom of heaven on earth - over their 350 year history is, perhaps, how they are best known to the world. Today, Quakers typically speak of their witness in terms of four, sometimes five, testimonies - to truth, simplicity, peace, equality, and community. Ben will suggest, however, that we don't always understand the concept of testimony and how its usage has changed over time. Such misunderstanding undermines our ability to live as 'patterns and examples' and to bring about effective change.

Come and listen, engage with, and debate this central aspect of the Quaker way – and, hopefully, gain a renewed sense of how we are to live in the world.

Professor of Quaker Studies at Birmingham University, a tutor at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, and the author of numerous books and articles on Quaker history and spirituality'

All welcome, donations to cover expenses

Dickens and Philanthropy
Dr Tony Williams

Sunday 6 October 1:30-3:30pm
High Wycombe Meeting, HP11 1BJ

The influence Dickens had on social reform through his writings and philanthropic endeavors will be explored. Donations accepted

Walking with a smile into the dark
A workshop with Jennifer Kavanagh

Saturday 19 October 10-4pm
Jordans Meeting House, HP9 2SN

Accepting that there is much that we do not know, and cannot control, frees us to walk the path of faith. We will use this day to explore alone and together how we can be more open to the guidance of the spirit.

Jennifer is an associate tutor at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and has published 6 books on the spiritual life.

£35 (concessions available); bring your own lunch; hot drinks provided

A Contemplative Day
A retreat with Ginny Wall

Saturday 16 November 10-4pm
Jordans Meeting House, HP9 2SN

Ginny is a spirituality tutor at Woodbrooke and author of 'Deepening the life of the spirit'.

£35 (concessions available); bring your own lunch; hot drinks provided

For further information phone 01494 876594 or email events@jordansquakercentre.org

Jordans Meeting House, Welders Lane, Jordans HP9 2SN

GERRARDS CROSS FLOWER CLUB meets at the Colston Hall, Memorial Centre East Common, GX, at 2.15pm on October 16 when Suzie Barwick will present Let's Go Ga-Ga. The competition is "Autumn Magic" - foliage only. Visitors welcome.

THE Chalfonts Neighbourhood Team has been contacted by residents informing us that they have received telephone calls from "security companies" offering to visit and conduct a "crime and awareness survey". Another incident involved the caller saying they were working on behalf of The Police (this was untrue).

We are urging residents, especially Pensioners and their families, to be on their guard and not to buy anything based on a "cold call"

If you are interested in purchasing a house alarm please contact a member of The Chalfonts Neighbourhood Team by telephoning 101, where we can advise you of approved companies in the area.

BMW cars built between 2004 - 2012 which have a cartridge type key (with a stop / start button) may be vulnerable to 'key cloning'.

This is a high tech method used by criminals where a device is used to communicate with the car's ECU (Engine Control Unit) thus creating a newly programmed key.

Another method used is to stage a simple break in and create a cloned key, then wait until the victim has repaired their windows or locks before taking the car.

These keyless thefts may be prevented by a software upgrade performed by BMW. If you have any concerns please contact your local BMW dealer.

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club meets on Wednesday, October 16 to hear History beneath my feet, metal detecting, by Michael Hughes.

V.O.P.A.G. (Village Older Persons Action Group) meets next on Thursday, October 17, 10am for 10.30 in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. It is an ideal opportunity for over 55's to socialise and find out useful local information.

THIS is a reminder email that residents can get their catalytic converters engraved free of charge at a crime prevention event to be held on **Thursday 10th October 2013, 9am-5pm** at the following location:

STS Tyre Pros, Amersham Road, Chesham, HP5 1NG

A Tamperproof display sticker will then be fitted to your window to highlight the fact that your catalytic converter is marked and provide a visible deterrent to would-be thieves.

At the same time, to prevent the easy removal of number plates, we will issue tamper proof number plate screws. Officers from the Chesham Neighbourhood Policing Team and Chiltern District Council's Community Safety Team will be on hand to offer advice about vehicle security while you wait for your catalytic converter to be marked.

THE next meeting of OX & BUCKS BRANCH of the Western Front Association will be on October 19, when Dr Stephen Barker will talk on the 8th East Lancashire Regiment in the Great War.

This will be at the Guide Centre, School Lane, Chalfont St.Giles, HP8 4JJ, commencing at 2.30pm. Non-members are welcome, entrance-fee at the door, inclusive of tea and cake is £2.50 per 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

AS THE AUTUMN SETS IN, it's time for those at greatest risk from flu to protect themselves and their families by having a free flu jab.

Flu is not just a bad cold and does not just affect older people- it is a highly contagious infection that anyone can catch, and it can be a serious illness which leaves some people in hospital and causes deaths every year. Those at greatest risk from flu include people aged 65 or over, pregnant women, and those with chronic health conditions.

The flu jab is available now. It is completely safe and cannot give you flu. It's safe for pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy and not only protects the woman, but protection is also passed on to the baby in the first few months of life, when it is particularly vulnerable.

Flu vaccinations are offered free of charge to the following 'at risk' groups:

- All people aged 65 years or over
- All pregnant women
- People with a chronic respiratory condition such as asthma, bronchitis, or emphysema
- People with chronic heart, kidney, liver or neurological disease
- People with diabetes
- People with a weakened immune system
- Main carers of older or disabled people
- People living in residential care or nursing homes

The best time to be vaccinated is at the start of the flu season from October to early November, so you can be protected for the whole winter. Simply contact your GP to arrange a convenient appointment and get your jab. Even if you are not in an at-risk group yourself, if you know anyone who may be at risk from flu do tell them how important it is that they get protected. People who are carers and frontline health and social care staff are also encouraged to get a free jab to protect themselves and those around them. This year, for the first time, all healthy children aged two and three years on the first of September 2013 will also be offered the flu vaccine as part of the seasonal flu programme. Most children will receive the vaccine via a quick and painless nose spray, used because it has been shown to provide greater protection for children than the flu injection. Immunising children not only protects them against unpleasant and potentially serious flu infection, but means parents will not have to take time off work to look after their children while ill. It also reduces the risk of passing flu on to other children or family members, some of whom might be at increased risk of being seriously ill from having the disease.

"Even if you've had a flu jab before", points out Doctor Lucy Jessop, Consultant in Public Health at the Council, "it's important that you have one every year, as the flu vaccine is changed each year to protect against the virus that is expected to be around this season- previous years' vaccines may not protect you this time round".

IF a neighbour of yours with dementia had gone missing and you were free to help search for them in your immediate vicinity, and maybe save their life, would you be prepared to help? If the answer is yes, and you have a mobile phone, please consider registering for the new, innovative, scheme called Neighbourhood Return.

Neighbourhood Return, is a voluntary scheme independent from Thames Valley Police, run by Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network. The scheme needs volunteers in your area. Neighbourhood Return is looking for volunteers to help find people with dementia should they ever get lost. This may never happen, and even if you do get a call, if you are not available, you just have to text back 'no'. We know people aren't available all the time, which is why we want as many people as possible to register.

You can register for NR very quickly through Thames Valley Alert. Just log into your account by clicking **Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network**

The Police or visit your settings page [here](#). Tick Neighbourhood Return, and this will then present you with some questions that the National Lottery, who are funding the project, have asked to be collected from all volunteers. No identifying information is given to the Lottery. If you have any difficulty doing this please contact info@ourturn.org.uk or phone 07584 051004.

For more information about the Neighbourhood Return Scheme and how it works, visit their website, www.ourturn.org.uk. (Please do not register again as you can access all the facilities directly from your Thames Valley Alert account). You can also download an [information sheet](#) and a [safe searching guide](#).

KEEPING Older People and Vulnerable Adults safe from Doorstep Crime Workshop

Doorstep Crime

is the name given to an offence committed at the door, in the garden and via the post by conmen. Rogue traders, distraction burglary and scam mail are all forms of doorstep crime. The elderly and other vulnerable adults are faced with aggressive tactics and convincing stories by people posing as officials, tradesmen or as needing help, and who want to trick them into letting them into their homes to commit crimes.

Community Impact Bucks is facilitating a pilot project (funded by The Big Lottery and Bucks County Council) with events across the county in partnership with colleagues from Thames Valley Police and Trading Standards who will deliver the workshop to:

- **Professionals** (e.g. Social Workers, Health Care Workers, Community Practice Workers, Doctors, District Nurses)
- **Carers** (e.g. Day Care Centres, Domiciliary Care Providers)
- **Statutory and voluntary organisations/groups** (e.g. Befriending Services, Meals on Wheels, Community Car Schemes. Home Library Services, Community Laundry Services, Family Carer Support) who directly support vulnerable adults and elderly people at home

This workshop will raise awareness amongst delegates enabling them to support the people in their care and reduce the risk of older and vulnerable people becoming victims as well as being able to recognise the signs when someone in their care is already a victim of doorstep crime.

To register for a '**FREE**' place on this workshop please see links below:

October 21st Multicultural Centre, Aylesbury

<https://doorstepcrime21oct.eventbrite.com>

December 4th South Bucks District Council Offices, Denham

<https://doorstepcrime4dec.eventbrite.com>

Here is a link to a [Doorstep Crime Poster](#) - please forward to individuals or organisations who you think may benefit from the workshop. For further assistance contact Jenny on 01844 348820

jenny@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT will present **An Evening of Music, Songs and Poetry** featuring **David Ashford** and **Members of the Pinner and Hatch End Operatic Society** 7.30pm Saturday November 9th 2013

Doors open 7.00pm Teikyo School, Framewood Road, Wexham SL2 4QS Tickets £17.50 – please reserve in advance from Pat Chapman: 01753 883573 Kathie Keizner: 01753 883664

(Ticket includes complimentary glass of wine and canapés in the interval)

Please note there is **no** wheelchair access to the concert room, which is on the first floor of the school

Arranged by Gerrards Cross and District Committee for Macmillan Cancer Support

Registered Charity Number 261017



AMERSHAM FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Winter Series of Orchestral Concerts Amersham Festival Chamber Orchestra Conducted by Iain Ledingham. Music for String Orchestra

Friday 1 November: 8 pm at St Mary's Parish Church Amersham Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No.1 and Handel (Water Music)

Friday 6th December: 8pm at St James' Church Gerrards Cross Mozart & Haydn

Box Office: 01494 87 6465 www.amershamfestival.org Tickets on the door

NATIONAL Customer Service Week will offer a variety of activities that are being run by Bucks County Council to mark National Customer Service Week, which runs from October 7 to 13.

This aims to raise awareness of customer service and the vital role it plays in business. The week also gives employers the opportunity to recognise the efforts and achievements of their staff members working in customer-facing roles.

- People are being asked to nominate a staff member who has gone the extra mile as part of their job. The Outstanding Customer Service Award will recognise staff members who have given great service to customers.
- The County Council is launching its new Customer Promise, which sets out the Council's four commitments to its customers.



- Councillors and senior officers will be taking a turn during the week to take phone calls from customers in the Council's Contact Centre and will help customers visiting the Council's Reception areas.

- Contact Centre staff members will be about and about during next week talking to customers in Friars Square shopping centre, Aylesbury, on Tuesday 8 October and the Eden Centre, Wycombe on Thursday 10 October.

Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, said: "I will be working in the Contact Centre one afternoon next week, something I wish I had time to do more often, as it's the best way to understand what our customers want from us.

"Ensuring that our customers receive good customer service is very important to us; just one example of how we are trying to improve what we do is that our Contact Centre staff have received specialist training from the charity Action on Hearing Loss, on handling calls from people who are hearing impaired, so that when they call us they can be confident that we will be able to help them."

Make a nomination for the Outstanding Customer Service Award by email to ncsw@buckscc.gov.uk with the subject "National Customer Service Week", telling us who and why, by Thursday October 12.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES: Helen Fincher, Media Team, 01296 382444

Here are the four key commitments of Buckinghamshire County Council's Customer Promise
Personalised Service

We will treat you as an individual, protect your personal information and treat you with dignity and respect. We aim to resolve your enquiry the first time you contact us. If we are unable to help, we will advise you who can and give you the relevant contact details.

Listening To Your Needs

We will listen carefully to your needs and explain clearly our decisions and the reasons for them. If the outcome is not what you hoped for, we will explain why and let you know the next steps.

Keeping You Informed

We will acknowledge that you have contacted us and respond in the time we said we would, letting you know how long things will take. If a delay is likely, we will let you know and keep you informed of progress.

Easy To Reach

We will offer you different ways to contact us that are simple and easy to understand, and where possible give you options to access services by the method you prefer.

HEDGERLEY Historical Society has just published a 2014 Calendar, which includes historic images of Hedgerley from their archives and highlights the dates for their meetings next year. Copies are available from Londis Stores Hedgerley Hill and at Society Meetings price £5.

CAN YOU HELP? Harvey Weiner is still trying to identify the men behind the names on the War Memorials, and the following are still unknown from WW1:-

Charles Clayton, Harold Fleming, William George Francis, George Warren.

From WW2:- James Collins and James Powell.

From the St.Joseph's Memorial of WW1:-Alfred Jackson Ox & Bucks L.I., A.Smith Royal Irish Rifles, H.I.Wild, B.Gresham Brown.

From Gerrards Cross Memorial for WW1:- L.J.Sanderson.

I would be grateful if you could republish these names again and ask for any information known about these men to be sent to me at < harjo@harvey2w2.plus.com >

The good news is that 4 identified names on the Chalfont St.Peter Memorials have now been positively linked with the area as follows:-

1.Three men through "Danecourt", North Park,Gerrards Cross, which is in the 1915 Kelly's Directory, as occupied by Major

-General Shakespear, father of 3 daughters, one married to Major-

General Thuillier, the father of Capt.George Fleetwood Thuillier,MC, another married

to Capt. Egerton Lowndes Wright,MC, and the third married to Lt.-Col. Samuel Arthur Cooke. All

3 soldiers were killed or died from wounds in 1918 and are on the Parish War Memorials of

Chalfont St Peter. (See < "Buckinghamshire Remembers" >)

2.A fourth soldier, Private Alban Reginald Strickland, also on the C.St.P. memorials,(died in 1917),

lived in the house that is named from 1933 as "Greenacres" in Latchmoor Avenue, but was originally

"Fairstead" from before the Great War, owned by his father, Robert Strickland,a banker

(who died on 15th Nov.1925, leaving the house to Mary Katherine Strickland, according to

the record of Probate).

"Buckinghamshire Remembers" (for WW1 only) are aware, and will eventually amend their published details of these men, and I have copied in Colonel Jolliffe, President of the Royal British Legion, for Chalfont St.Peter & Chalfont St.Giles.

I have also notified the Parish Church who hold all the details of the men who have been identified from both Wars.

CHILTERN District Council has recently invited residents to have their say on the changes it is proposing to its Council Tax Reduction scheme from April 2014. The Council is now holding two open days for residents to attend to talk to officers about the proposed changes and how they will be affected.

These will be held from 9.30am until 3.30pm at Chesham Town Hall on Wednesday 11 September and at the Chiltern District Council offices in Amersham on Friday 20 September. Residents are invited to drop in at any time but there will be presentations giving more information on the proposed changes at 10am and 2pm.

The proposed changes mean that all working age claimants are likely to have to pay more towards their council tax from April 2014. In April 2013, the Government abolished the national Council Tax Benefit scheme and each council is now required to introduce its own local Council Tax Reduction scheme. The amount of money the Government gives councils to fund a local scheme is now at least 10% less than the grant that was given for Council Tax Benefit. This means that Chiltern District Council has at least £435,000 less to help low income households with their Council Tax.

The current scheme for pensioners will not be changed so changes to the scheme will only apply to working age people.

The Council's proposed scheme means that most working age claimants will be asked to pay 20% more towards their Council tax than they do now. Customers in receipt of disability benefits or carers allowance and lone parents with a child under five will be expected to pay 10% more. In addition, people in Council Tax bands E,F, G and H will have to pay more. Their Council Tax reduction will be worked out as if they were living in a band D property.

To find out more and have your say you can attend one of the open-days or visit the council's website at www.chiltern.gov.uk/ctrchanges.

The consultation runs until 31 October 2013.

FOSTER carers needed for Bucks children in care outside county: Parents whose children have 'flown the nest' by going to university or pursuing a more independent life are being urged to consider if they could offer vulnerable children and young people a safe and loving home.

With forty per cent of children currently living in care out of county, more foster carers are urgently needed to bring these children home to Buckinghamshire.

June Sutton from Aylesbury, who has two grown up children of her own has been a foster carer for the County Council for almost twenty years.

She said: "It was my sister also a foster carer who originally gave me the idea. I had just been made redundant and had some health issues so really didn't think I would be eligible and my daughter was still living at home.

"But following approval the council's fostering team welcomed me with open arms, and I started looking after children aged 0 - 17 year olds," she says.

June said that she knew very little about fostering before deciding she wanted to do it, believing it was only for children who needed short-term care. So was a little surprised when her first foster child ended up staying with her for over two years.

After successfully adopting a baby boy who came into her care eleven years ago, she now only fosters babies and is currently caring for a 6 month old.

She said: "Fostering is a challenge but it's also really rewarding to watch the children thrive in your care. You don't have to be rich, live in a mansion, be married or even in a couple to foster. I'm proof that anyone can do it.

"I've felt really supported by the fostering team, as there's loads of training you can do and always someone at the other end of the phone if you need them."

"Angela Macpherson, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services said: "There are many reasons why a child may need to spend time in our care, and foster carers can give them a loving, family environment to grow in.

"We are looking for more foster carers in the Bucks area to come forward. Children thrive on familiarity, so we try to place them with carers in their local area to enable them to remain close to their school and friends, as well as people and places they know.

"People from a variety of backgrounds can apply to foster, regardless of marital status or sexuality. But it is important that our carers have personal skills like patience, a good sense of humour, tolerance, energy and ability to treat children and young people as individuals."

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer or adoptive parent and would like to find out more visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 160 1900.

MEMBERS of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) use each October to encourage you to try draught real cider and perry. Each year more of you do, so every year more places stock it. We are also lucky in having local producers, Millwhites in Hertfordshire and the Radnage Cider Company in Buckinghamshire.

During the month you will find real cider (and sometimes perry) at the Boot & Slipper and the Kings Arms (Amersham); the Blue Ball (Asheridge); the Bell (Chartridge); the George and Dragon, the Misty Moon, the Nashleigh Arms, the Pheasant, the Red Squirrel Brewery Shop and the Waggon & Horses (Chesham); the Chess Suite (Chesham FC); the Black Horse Inn (Chesham Vale); the Rose & Crown (Hawridge); the Crown and the Swan (Ley Hill) and the White Lion (St Leonards).

In Chesham real ciders will be served at the Chesham Royal British Legion Beer Fest (McMinn Centre, East Street) from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October 2013. The Crown (Ley Hill) will hold its fifth annual Cider & Perry Festival on Apple Day weekend, starting on Saturday 19 October, with ciders, perries, live music and a barbeque.

THE plant van that comes to Church Lane most days of the week has winter pansies, so you can get them planted and established in good time for some colour in garden and hanging baskets later in the year. Also to be had are fresh eggs, both chicken and duck eggs

A FULLY-ILLUSTRATED attractive 48 page glossy booklet on famous people from the past who have lived in the Chilterns was published May 2013. This new publication from the Chilterns Conservation Board contains lots of information and quirky stories about famous figures like Oscar Wilde, Roald Dahl, Agatha Christie, Charles de Gaulle and Elizabeth I who all spent time in the Chilterns. Full of colourful images of the Chilterns countryside and its attractions, the booklet is a great read and makes a great gift. Retail price: £4.99 plus £1 p&p each
Special Offer to local history groups: Buy 5 and get an extra 1 free! Total cost £24.95 plus £2.25 postage (to be posted to 1 address).

To Order Please contact us to place an order for the booklets: tel: 01844 355500 or email office@chilternsaonb.org
www.chilternsaonb.org/shop Visit our website to order single copies: