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## Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

September 2013

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**AFTER** years of planning and hard work, Chiltern Open Air Museum's new heritage adventure playground has now been opened officially for the Museum's visitors to enjoy. The bespoke new play equipment models the historic buildings and landscapes at the Museum with a replica Toll House, Shepherd's Living Van and Anderson Shelter, exciting play features including a rope swing, slides, cargo nets and a fireman's (or shepherd's) pole!



Designed by Yorkshire playground company "Image Playgrounds" and generously funded by Biffa Award with a grant of £50 000, the new playground is a dream come true for the staff and volunteers at the Museum. Says Museum Director, Sue Shave " We are absolutely delighted to see the final results of Image Playground's innovative designs now being enjoyed by children visiting the museum. Playgrounds are an important resource for families and our Museum now has a flagship bespoke playground that the local community can enjoy and be proud of!" Many of the local community helped to contribute ideas and consult on the designs over the last few years and the Friends of the Museum also helped with a significant financial contribution.

The official opening was conducted by Councillor Linda Smith, (above) Chairman of Chalfont St Peter Parish Council, along with her grandson Nathan Lockwell, who assisted her with this official duty! Councillor Smith said " This playground is a fantastic new addition to our local open air museum and I am delighted that the designs reflect the Chilterns buildings and landscapes around us. My grandson just loves playing here and this has given my family yet another excellent reason to visit this hidden gem here in Chalfont St Peter"

Visitors can enjoy the playground over the coming months at the Museum, as well as visiting for Terrific Tuesdays – family holiday activities every Tuesday during the Bucks state school holidays, join the holiday club on the same days and come to see re-enactors at a Medieval Pageant this bank holiday weekend. Further details available on their web site [www.coam.org.uk](http://www.coam.org.uk), Tel : 01494 871117, @chilternoam.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month in the Tony Graham Room at the community centre 7.30 for 7.45.

**CHALFONT ST PETER W.I.** will meet next on Wednesday September 11, at 2pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane, when the lecture will be Role of a Magistrate and the Magistrates Court.

**FRIENDS** of Chiltern Open Air Museum invite you to a talk – THE FFESTINIOG & WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAYS – YESTERDAY AND TODAY - at 2.00 pm, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September at *Chiltern Open Air Museum*

Admission - £2.00 for Friends, £3.00 for others – *all welcome*

Richard Ogden (FR Volunteer Guard) recounts the fascinating stories of the origins, death, rebirth and vibrant present of 40 miles of Narrow Gauge Railway in North Wales for further details contact Richard & Jenny Ogden; tel 01494 261782; E Mail [richard.ogden@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.ogden@btinternet.com)

**FROM** Chiltern Voice: The first ever Amersham Town Show features the best of the Amersham area in a free community town show. Four bands and choirs, competitions, exhibitions, a hog roast, bouncy castle, refreshments and more. The Amersham Town Show will be on **Sunday 8 September** 2013 from **11am – 5pm** at King George Field, King George V Road. It will be opened by guest of honour, Chesham and Amersham MP Mrs Cheryl Gillan. Immediate past Mayor of Amersham Cllr Mimi Harker said, *'It will be a fab day of family fun with something to enjoy for everyone.'*



This is the first Amersham Town Show to be held on King George V field and the organisers are looking forward to it being the first of many. Highlights include all day entertainment by local bands, barber shop ensembles, choirs and musicians on a grand stage erected especially for the event. There will be displays of classic cars including an original Le Mans Jaguar. Local businesses, volunteer and charity groups will also have stands on the field, so you can go and support your favourites.

Amersham Museum will host an exhibition which celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Metropolitan line with Amersham as the catalyst for the growth of the town as Metroland. Vintage buses will be running between Amersham On the Hill, King George V Field and Amersham Old Town, and vintage trains will be running between Amersham on the Hill and Harrow on the Hill. Rotary will be holding photographic competitions – if you're a young photographer, this is your moment to shine.

As if that wasn't enough, there's an all-day fun fair, and a ride-on train called Tich for little people. A beer tent, food stalls and other refreshments will keep you going all day and the green fingered can enter your prize plants and veggies into the horticultural show and competition. There will be a prize for the best fancy dress costume and lots of other on the spot prizes during the day.

Visit [www.amershamtownshow.org.uk](http://www.amershamtownshow.org.uk) and prepare yourself for an amazing day out with all the family. *'Looking forward to seeing you there. It's the biggest show for miles'*, concluded Mimi.

**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](mailto:office@chilternsaonb.org) [www.chilternsaonb.org/shop](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/shop) Visit our website to order single copies:

**V.O.P.A.G.** (Village Older Persons Action Group) meets next on Tuesday, September 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.

**GERRARDS CROSS** and Chalfont St Peter Flower Club meets at 2.15 in the Colston Hall Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross on September 18, when Linda Travis will demonstrate *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

**THE** Oxon & Bucks branch of the Western Front Association meets on Saturdays at the Guide Centre, School Lane, Chalfont St.Giles, HP8 4JJ, commencing at 2.30pm. The next meeting is on September 21st, when Sue Light will present – 'Nurses & Nursing in the Great War' 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](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com)

**PLEASE** support Macmillan Coffee Morning, scheduled for Friday September 20th from 10:00am till 1:00pm at the Ethorpe Hotel. The event is arranged by the local fund-raising Committee for Macmillan Cancer Support. Coffee will be served, Christmas cards will be on sale and there will be a chance to have a mini beauty treatment. The coffee morning is a week earlier than the official Coffee Morning because they try to avoid clashing with the big Jumble Sale in GX.

**SPECIALIST** dementia care home will open in October.

Leading Aylesbury-based charity and care provider, The Fremantle Trust, is set to open a new luxurious specialist dementia care home, Mulberry Court, in Chalfont St Peter this October.

Formally known as Hibbert Lodge, the site, which was the first to be acquired by the Trust earlier this year, is being given a complete overhaul and major upgrade and is intended to become one of the most sought after care homes in the area.

With just 24 bedrooms, it will be home for up to 28 private residents including four couples, depending on demand, who require long term as well as shorter term respite stays. Residents will each receive tailored, personal care by specially trained staff, experienced in caring for people living with dementia.

The Trust's ongoing partnership with well-known local landmark and tourist attraction, Waddesdon Manor has, with the support of head chef, Shaun Blythe, been used to inspire the catering at Mulberry Court.

With beautifully appointed interiors throughout, generously sized en-suite rooms as standard and secure, peaceful landscaped gardens outside, including a vegetable plot for green-fingered residents, the Trust is confident it will meet the care needs of people living with dementia from right across the region.

Hazel Greenway, currently manager at the Trust's Meadowside home in north London, who will become manager at Mulberry Court, in her hometown of Chalfont St Peter, commented: "I'm really looking forward to working much closer to home and being part of this new service and its exciting future.

"It's a wonderful place set in a beautiful environment, with superbly experienced and caring staff. We are confident that Mulberry Court will have all the attributes to make it the area's care home of choice for people living with dementia."

For more information or to arrange a visit contact 01296 737366 or visit [www.fremantletrust.org](http://www.fremantletrust.org)

**THE** plant van that comes to Church Lane most days of the week will be having winter pansies any time now, 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.

**NO** More Beaconsfield Concerts

Music lovers who used to enjoy performances of classical music arranged by Beaconsfield Concerts (formerly Beaconsfield Music Society) won't be putting dates in their diaries for this autumn. Sadly the society held its final AGM in May when a jolly buffet party was held at Beaconsfield High School where the concerts took place. Sally Willison, chairman, officially confirmed that Beaconsfield Concerts was winding up and thanked those present who had helped over recent years, together with patrons and also the Earl and Countess Howe who attended. The followed the final concert given by three young soloists from The Purcell School, Bushey.

The society was founded in 1943 as the Penn Music Club so it has contributed to Beaconsfield's musical life for the last 60 years. Regular concertgoers enjoyed performances by internationally-known musicians including some who are locally based, among them Tasmin Little (violin), Emma Johnson, (clarinet) and the pianist Marina Nadiradze. Remaining funds in the society have been shared between six similar local organisations promoting classical concerts.

**LEARN** to play Bridge - Exercise the brain and have fun!

Bridge is one of the most popular and enthralling games in the world. The Bridge School at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre start their Beginners Bridge classes this autumn with new sessions on Friday mornings and Tuesday evenings. To find out more about these and other bridge courses - 'phone Rob Wilkinson on 01494 563423 or email [rob@bridgeschoolgx.co.uk](mailto:rob@bridgeschoolgx.co.uk)

**FARNHAM** Common Community Library is holding a Quiz night on **Saturday 14th September** at 7.30pm in the Farnham Common Village Hall, to raise funds for this important community facility. Make up a team of 6 with your friends, family or neighbours and bring your thinking caps along. Come in pairs or singles and be welcomed into a team. Fish and chip supper (other options available) included in the price (see below). Wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale – bring your own nibbles. Bookings must close on 7<sup>th</sup> September - or when all places are filled. Book early to avoid disappointment! For further information please telephone Helen on 01753 648319.

**NEWS** from Hedgerley Historical Society. The first meeting after the summer break will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013** when Dr Simon Townley will present '*Henley-on-Thames: Inland Port to Inland Resort*'. Henley is a classic medieval planned town, laid out probably in the 12th century, and in the Middle Ages closely involved in the Thames river trade, shipping grain and other foodstuffs into London. In the 18th century it became a coaching town and a social centre for the surrounding area, before reinventing itself as a fashionable inland resort from the 1830s, partly on the back of the annual Regatta. The talk will explore Henley's development from the Middle Ages to modern times, looking at its buildings, its people, and its changing relationship with the river. Simon Townley is editor of the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire (VCH), part of a national local-history research and publication project. For the VCH he has researched and written histories of Henley, Witney, Bampton, and numerous rural villages, and is currently working on the Ewelme area. He is also the author of *Henley-on-Thames: Town, Trade, and River*, published in 2009.

This will be followed by a special Saturday meeting at 2.30pm on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** when Angela Spencer-Harper will present her talk on *The Maharajah's Well and local inhabitants*

Angela Spencer-Harper, local historian and lecturer as well as author of two local history books, *Dipping into the Wells* and *The Old Place*, is to give an illustrated lecture on the history of Stoke Row and Highmoor in the Chiltern Hills. These are based on her collection of 2000+ monochrome photographs taken between 1850 and 1950. About 50 photographs are shown during the talk, which includes anecdotes about the villagers and their way of life at that time.

**ONE** of their members (Ruth Brogden) is organising a Concert on the evening of **Saturday 28th September in St Mary's Church Hedgerley** at 7.30pm featuring the Forest Madrigal Society (conducted by Michael Kibblewhite) singing a selection of Sacred and Secular Choral Works from 5 centuries. **A Voice From The Past** showcases 5 Centuries of Sacred and Secular Choral Works. Tickets £12 From Ruth Brogden tel: 01753 892076

**THE Stoke Poges Society** hosts the second Edward Coke Memorial Lecture. **Justice and Sir Edward Coke** to be presented by **Sir John Laws**, The Rt Hon. Lord Justice Laws, a Lord Justice of Appeal since 1999. This will be a fascinating evening - Sir John Laws is a most entertaining and stimulating speaker. Attached is some information about the Lecture and Sir John Laws himself **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013** **7.15 for 7.30 start St Giles' Church, Church Lane Stoke Poges Followed by a Reception at Stoke Park** **Proceeds will go towards St. Giles' Church and The Thomas Gray Anniversary Fund**  
**Contact details: Jane Wall, Tel: 01753 645954**



**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.

**FOUR** apprentices from Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) are celebrating after gaining their construction skills certification scheme (CSCS) accreditation.

The apprentices who started with TfB in November 2012 are now fully qualified highway operatives, and can be found putting their newly acquired skills to good use maintaining the highways network for Buckinghamshire.

The CSCS accreditation is a construction industry recognised qualification which shows that the holder has attained a level of competence to carry out their work on site. All TfB operatives working on the highways are required to hold a current CSCS card. To find out more, or to apply for an apprenticeship at Buckinghamshire County Council visit

[www.buckscc.gov.uk/jobs/apprenticeships/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/jobs/apprenticeships/) or <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/>

**CHILTERN** District Council (CDC) has agreed to allow Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) access onto its **London Road East Depot** site to undertake ecological and ground condition surveys. These surveys form part of BCC's preliminary work prior to submitting a planning application to use the site as a Waste Transfer Station (WTS). The surveys are likely to start in September 2013 and take several weeks to complete.

In 2009, BCC submitted a request to CDC to lease land at the London Road site to operate a WTS. CDC agreed to this in principle subject to BCC providing further information about how the impact on neighbouring properties would be mitigated and subject to the granting of planning permission from the County Council. In 2011 the proposed WTS's operator (FCC Environment) submitted a planning application which was subsequently rejected by BCC's Development Control Committee due to the impact on the green belt and on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and the unacceptable impact of the proposed buildings on local amenities.

However, London Road Depot has been identified as a suitable site for a WTS by BCC in its Minerals and Waste Core Strategy adopted in November 2012. BCC has now approached CDC again requesting permission to access the land at London Road so they can survey the ecology and ground conditions prior to any further planning applications being submitted. Further information on FCC Environment's proposals <http://www.fccenvironment.co.uk/buckinghamshire-efw.html>

**A NATIONALLY** recognised technology initiative that is already saving millions for taxpayers could bring in further cash windfalls as County Council staff aim to share the scheme with other public bodies.

Buckinghamshire County Council joined forces last year with a number of other local authorities as well as over 200 schools to merge the county's IT systems into one Public Services Network (PSN).

The new network provides internet to the majority of the area's public buildings. And the 'economies of scale' created by the partnership will bring in an estimated £12m savings over the next decade across all the authorities linked into the PSN. But now the County Council, which led the project, is determined to try to make the network even more profitable for taxpayers by sharing it across additional local authorities and schools.

The PSN partners currently include Wycombe, Chiltern, South Bucks, Dacorum and Aylesbury Vale district councils, as well as academies, schools and Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue.

The network, managed by a company called Udata, allows partners to share information safely and securely and can lead to greater efficiencies through joint working and sharing of services. Meanwhile, users of council information technology services have benefited from faster internet connections, improved security, and improved reliability.

The project earned IT staff at County Hall a runner-up place in a prestigious national competition, the Real IT Awards, in June.

Building on the successes, County Council officials believe several other neighbouring organisations could join up, and staff are now ready and willing to sell the benefits to them at every opportunity.

This sales policy is now a common theme in the Council's IT department, because other systems pioneered in Buckinghamshire are also being offered to local authorities in the area. For example, the new Contracts Management System – due to go live on August 26 – is being actively promoted after the Council did a deal with the software developers to take a share of any sell-on profits.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, said: "We are delighted with the success so far of our Public Services Network but simply cannot rest on our laurels. Instead we have to aim to make further savings for taxpayers, and that's why our staff have been tasked to go out and present its benefits to other organisations at every opportunity.

"Councils have to find new ways to raise and save money in this very difficult climate, so it's gratifying to hear that we are blazing a trail for other authorities."