

# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2008

Chalfont St. Peter Community Association

## Yes there is life

At last a contribution:-

The Chiltern Branch of the Young Archaeologist's Club was formed in 1999 and started meeting at the Community Centre a couple of years later (our previous venue having no heating and a leaking roof!).

YAC is the junior wing of The Council for British Archaeology, which lobbies for the protection of our heritage, and there are 70 branches for children aged 8 - 16 all around the country. Most branches are run by volunteers and many are hosted by museums and other historic sites. To our knowledge we are the only one based in a community centre.



We currently have more than 20 members and meet on the morning of the last Saturday of each month (except July and August). Our activities for the members are many and varied. Viking ships and prehistoric burial mounds, Egyptian gods, Roman food, natural plant dyes, textile weaving and medieval warfare, to name but a few. In 2003 we even carried out an excavation on the allotments and did actually find some small evidence of prehistoric activity as well as a shed that burnt down in the 1960's.

Next year we will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday-perhaps we shall have to organise a special event.

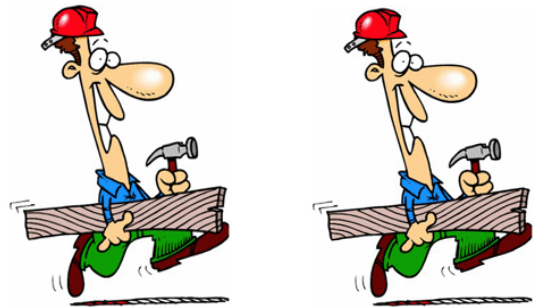
Anyone interested in finding out more about Chiltern YAC is welcome to contact us at:-

[all@sunjester.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:all@sunjester.freeserve.co.uk)

*Graham, Towse, Janet, Rosie and Elizabeth  
- The Chiltern YAC Leadership Team.*

## Mad September

This is, more or less verbatim, the report by the Chairman of the Premises sub-committee Peter Brown, to the Executive Committee in September. He failed to add that everyone put up with the resulting disruption with remarkable good humour:-



The first week of September was exceptionally busy, with glaziers, electricians, central heating engineers and painters all working at the Centre.

The Hall double-glazing major contract was completed. The heating system was overhauled with new thermostatic valves on almost every radiator. The smoke alarms were serviced, and the Hall fluorescent tubes were replaced and the diffusers cleaned. The gents cloakroom was redecorated.

With all the rooms double-glazed (except the Tony Graham room with Perspex windows), we anticipate a saving in heating costs. The heat loss through the very large single-glazed windows in the hall was wasteful. With the decayed woodwork below the windows in the hall, Office and Mary Smithells room renewed and insulated, we are contributing to energy saving.

The intensive pre-winter maintenance programme cost £11,934 - more than half the annual budget of £20000.

## No Change at the Helm!



At the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 the officers of the Association were all returned unopposed (Jonh Tappin President, Beryl Brown Chairman, Meg Sheppee Vice Chairman, Peter Partridge Treasurer)

The treasurer reported that, subject to External Examination as required by the Charity Commissioners, the Association appeared to have achieved a surplus of about £3,000 in the year, on a turnover of about £86,000. However he did point out that lettings were down on last year, and below estimate, and he felt that the Association's reserves still needed to be increased to meet any unexpected crisis.

Questionnaires on the possible format of a new centre were launched by David Meacock

## Memorial Garden

This subject is clearly intended to run and run.

In response to a query, there is a memorial plaque, almost outside the fire exit from the Main Hall nearer the stage (left hand side as you enter the Hall)

## Past

The fabric sale was a considerable success. About 130 visitors, lots of volunteer helpers organised by Meg Sheppee for the fabrics and by Rhona Fazakerley for the refreshments (the ploughmans lunch was good!)

Total surplus to the Association around £400. On the other hand, the second hand book sale was rather disappointing.

Thanks to all who donated.

From the Association's point of view, the Craft Fair at the end of November was also successful. 32 exhibitors took space and the quality of goods on offer was high. Rhona Fazakerley and her team of helpers again provided refreshments, and the Association ran a raffle and second hand book stall. The overall profit to the Association was more than £400 (nearly £500) although the number of visitors was perhaps a little disappointing.

## Future

The Centre will be closed from noon on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 until 9.00am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. January 2009.



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR USERS.**

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