

Stay Secure this September

Police advice

As we enjoy what is left of the summer, remember that open windows and doors are an invitation for opportunist burglars. If you are outside enjoying the garden, make sure the main access to your house is locked. Contents of your shed and garage are also at risk especially if you are out and about or away on holiday. Lock away all your equipment at the end of a day's gardening, make sure your property is security marked with your house number and postcode using a permanent ink marker and consider installing security alarms for both the house and the shed/garage.

Summer is the one time of the year when youngsters can enjoy playing outside, sometimes becoming a little boisterous and noisy. Please be tolerant, we were all young once and enjoyed letting off steam in similar fashion. Besides, let's face it, summer doesn't last long before they are back at school – let the youngsters enjoy it as well!

As autumn approaches and the nights draw in, be aware that a house left in darkness has a higher risk of burglary than one with rooms lit. If no light is on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that no-one is in. Consider using a timer switch to give the impression that people are at home. Make sure the light is on in a room and not the landing as burglars know that no one tends to spend long periods of time on the landing/stairs.

For further guidance on crime prevention visit our websites:

www.southbucks.gov.uk/homesecurity

www.chiltern.gov.uk and www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Police news

Thames Valley Police Chief Constable Sara Thornton said recently that the force is still looking for a new Gerrards Cross base for the local officers and staff. They hope to move to the town centre as they are at present located in Oxford Road.

A new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) will be joining the Gerrards Cross and Denham neighbourhood team in September.

100 Classic Cars

A colourful bird's eye view of the Memorial Centre's grounds on August 13 when over 100 classic cars were on show.

This was a joint venture between the Centre, Abbeyfield and the Rotary Club and it drew many admirers. Visitors saw a range of classic cars from MGs to Mustangs along with a selection of old bicycles and tricycles.

Inside, the tearoom did a roaring trade serving out scones and home-made cakes to the many visitors.

Next year's date is already set for August 12.

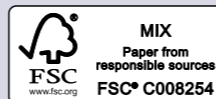


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Voice



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Legacy blooms brighten up High Street

Gerrards Cross underwent a make-over recently thanks to the Gerrards Cross Traders Association (GXTA), with the welcome addition of hanging baskets now adorning many of the lamp posts on Packhorse Road.

GXTA member Paul Fisher has commented on the poignancy of the floral additions to the village and remembered founding member Peter Banner who sadly passed away last year.

"The GXTA would like to acknowledge Peter's passion and commitment to the business community and we see this achievement as recognition of all his hard work," said Paul.

"Peter was certainly the driving force behind the desire to have hanging baskets and flags in the centre of town. With his goal finally attained, it is very sad that he will not witness this success."

Tim Greenfield, association member and owner of appliance store Fields in Station Road, was instrumental in organising the hanging of the baskets and thinks the end result was well worth the wait.

"The Traders Association is always looking for ways to brighten up the High Street and make Gerrards Cross a more welcoming environment for shoppers and we're delighted that the hanging baskets are now up and in full bloom," said Tim.

"Whilst it took longer than anticipated to organise the necessary equipment to hang the baskets, these, coupled with the recently erected flags also organised by volunteers of the GXTA, the Packhorse Road is certainly looking more cheerful," he concluded.

The GXTA has been welcoming new volunteers, having recently undergone a change of management, enlisting Ian Everett, branch manager of Waitrose Gerrards Cross, to oversee the group.

"Our new committee members are bringing with them fresh ideas and bags of enthusiasm around how the GXTA can support the business community, alongside existing members with a wealth of local knowledge and experience. This dynamic combination aims to deliver a robust and resilient structure for achieving great things in the near future," said Ian.

"However, the GXTA is a not-for-profit company and relies heavily on the support of volunteers and regular donations from local businesses to help achieve its goals. We desperately need more contributions and participating members to ensure we can continue to make a difference."

Ian notes that the GXTA is currently developing a new website to help local business promote its services and organising a French Market early next year. It is also focussing its efforts on tackling issues regarding parking problems and road and pavement repairs in conjunction with the Parish, District and County Councils.

The GXTA can be contacted on 01753 202210 or by emailing traders@gxtraders.co.uk



*New hanging baskets brighten up
Gerrards Cross town centre*

Targeting potholes



This Jetpatcher, seen in Bulstrode Way, repairs 10 to 15 holes an hour. The vehicle has a driver, a patcher, his assistant, and a traffic manager.

A Category One pothole measures over 40mm deep and 300mm wide with jagged edges. Compensation is awarded by the county council for accidents caused by potholes this size or bigger. According to the Buckinghamshire Advertiser dated August 14, 241 claims from those injured by potholes have been received by the council since 2009 of which five have been successful. David Martin, who represents Chalfont St Peter, is to appeal to Transport for Bucks for a policy change.

The Government announced as part of this year's Budget in March, that £168 million would be made available for councils to bid for to use for pothole repairs. As part of this, BCC will be awarded the sum of £1,463,514.

BCC received further extra funding of £2.5 million from the DfT previously as part of the Severe Weather Recovery Scheme. BCC will now work with Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) to determine the most efficient way to use this funding to repair as many potholes throughout the county as possible. Further information will be made available in due course.

A Tribute to Ann Mitchell Selfless worker for the community

Jennifer Woolveridge

Ann died on August 13 aged 95 after a brief stay in Wexham Park Hospital after a lifetime of work for the community.

She joined the Parish Council in 1970 and was a very active chairman for three years, only retiring at the age of 90.

I have known Ann since the 1970s when I joined the local Age Concern. Ann had been instrumental in forming it in 1992 and she held many posts in the group. She started the lunch club, which she was running until she died.

Ann also took a weekly exercise class in Chalfont St Giles and was a strong chairman of the Gerrards Cross and District Age Concern.

Ann was a President of the Memorial Centre, later Honorary Vice-President. For many years she ran the hugely successful jumble sale.

Ann was a very keen Guider and had been a Divisional Commissioner for Guides and a District Commissioner for the Guides; she was always ready to advise and help younger members.

Ann's other activities included chairman of the local National Council of Women, member of the local National Trust, chairman of the Gerrards Cross Club Flower Club, chairman of the Abbeyfield Management Committee, chairman of the Social Concern Committee at St James Church in Gerrards Cross, chairman of the Gerrards Cross Horticultural Society and she also played her part as the road representative for Bulstrode Way, forever delivering leaflets and collecting jumble.

Whilst Ann Mitchell was all of the above, she was also a deeply caring person, always ready to help others and was frequently stepping in to fill a position no-one else wanted to do.



Ann had a deep understanding and love for all older people and went to great lengths to raise the quality of their lives.

Ann will be sorely missed by her family and her many friends, as well as by the wider community and colleagues. It was a privilege to have been counted as one of her friends and I will remember her with great affection.

Support our library by becoming a member

The trustees of the GX Library Charitable Trust recently reviewed the progress made since the trust took on running our library well over a year ago. The focus has been largely on recruiting and training our volunteers. The trustees were delighted to find that much had been achieved during this period, for instance:

- We have delivered a high level of service to library users
- Library opening hours have been increased
- Layout and signage in the library have been significantly improved
- Local businesses have become more involved, with a higher profile in the community.

Having successfully achieved its main objective, namely **keeping the library open**, the Working Group is now standing down and handing over the operational reins to Bucks C C staff. As a community, we will still depend heavily on our volunteers, to whom the trustees owe an enormous vote of gratitude for all that they have done to make the continued operation of our library possible.

It will also still be vital to have the support of the community in future through our valued library members.

Are you already a member? If not, do please JOIN US NOW.

The library staff in Station Road will give you the necessary application form.

Annual Jumble Sale - More Volunteers Wanted

The jumble sale in the grounds of Gerrards Cross Community Centre is known far and wide. This year it will be held on Friday and Saturday 26th and 27th September, but help is also needed during the preceding four days, Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th September.

More people came to the sale last year than ever before and spent more money for the Community Association. But as Ken Piercy, Director of Services, emphasises: "Its success is down to one thing – our volunteers. Without our volunteers, there would be no Jumble Sale. What pleases me the most during this event, and especially during the four days leading up to the actual sale, is the sheer enjoyment expressed by everyone who helps. The pleasure of the social contact and renewing of acquaintances make all the hard work put in by our volunteers worth while. All volunteers experience a sense of achievement and a feeling of pride towards the contribution they make to the Community Association.

To do even better than last year, we require more volunteers to help us unload the sheds, sort the items for sale, price items, display and sell the items, etc. Other volunteers help with ticket sales, catering, car park duties, cashiering, crowd control, etc.

We would be very grateful for any help you could give us during the Jumble Sale week. Some people help us throughout the whole six days, others for a day and others for a few hours. We greatly appreciate whatever you are able to offer.

If you would like to a volunteer for this event, please call Ken on **01753 883759** to discuss what you would like to do, or call in to the Memorial Centre to see him.

