



Chesham

TOWN COUNCIL

Chesham Town Hall
Baines Walk, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1DS

CEO/Town Clerk
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Tuesday 7th May, 2024

Dear Councillor,

I hereby give you notice of **THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chesham, on **THURSDAY 16th MAY 2024** at **7.30pm**:

Agenda

1. Town Mayor's welcome and opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Presentations from local community groups
4. Donations annual summary
5. To receive comments and deal with questions from those electors within the Town of Chesham on any matter which affects the town.
6. Town Mayor's remarks and thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Wilford Augustus
The Mayor

Cllr Parveiz Aslam
Cllr Wilford Augustus
Cllr Alan Bacon
Cllr Joseph Baum
Cllr Simon Booth
Cllr Qaser Chaudhry
Cllr Emily Culverhouse
Cllr Majid Ditta
Cllr Mohammad Fayyaz
Cllr Justine Fulford

Cllr Paul Harding
Cllr Umar Hayyat
Cllr Francis Holly
Cllr Chasey Hood
Cllr Jane MacBean
Cllr Rachael Matthews
Cllr Nick Southworth
Cllr Gareth Williams
Cllr Fred Wilson

The agenda will be circulated to all members of the Council
THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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2023

Annual Donations Scheme Feedback



Above: image courtesy of Chiltern ToyBank

Chiltern ToyBank

Chiltern ToyBank collects new and used toys from the public, checks, sorts, cleans and wraps them, to provide Christmas presents for children in families facing hardship.

The team have used their grant of £150 to purchase a selection of toys and gifts, including colouring pencils, fibre tip pens, wax crayons, paints and sketch books, which are always in need of replenishment.

Chesham Education Trusts

There are four educational trusts serving the Chesham area, by the awarding of grants to students attending college, university or undertaking apprenticeships.

One university student has already received a grant of £50, helping her to buy her course books in large print.

1st Chesham Scout Group

The 1st Chesham Scouts is nurturing a growing scouting community in Chesham and the surrounding villages. Much of the inspiring programme run by 1st Chesham Scouts is provided in the Scout Headquarters in East Street, where weekly meetings are held for each section of the 1st Chesham Scout group, from the Squirrel Drey (age 4-6), two Beaver Colonies (age 6-8), two Cub Packs (age 8-10) and the Scout Troop (age 10½ - 14).



The Council's donation of £175 was put towards replacing flooring in the Scout Headquarter's entrance hall and kitchen. This is part of a programme of improvements that not only benefits the scouts, but also the numerous other groups that hire the facilities. This will help to secure the sustainability of the hall into the future.

Left: The new entrance flooring. Image courtesy of 1st Chesham Scouts

Welcome To Running

'Welcome to Running' started in March 2017 with the support of Bucks County Council. After 6 months, Bucks pulled out, but volunteer organiser Steve decided to carry on as the few who were attending were making such good progress.



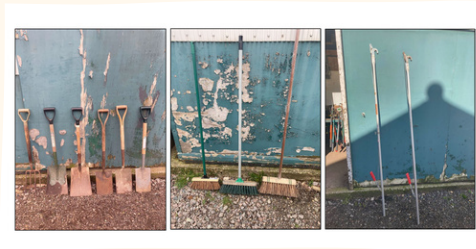
Above: The Welcome to Running group

From the initial 3 people who turned up in the opening weeks, the group now averages 30 with many abilities and a great age range. The long-term future of the group was not secure, being solely reliant on Steve to run it.

The £200 donation from the Council helped to put two of the group through an England Athletics 'Leader in Running' course, making sure the group can keep moving forward.

Chesham Environmental Group

The CEG volunteers work to protect and enhance the environment of Chesham. They hold twice-monthly working parties across town, where they litter-pick and manage vegetation. They work closely with other voluntary groups on projects, such as the work to increase the biodiversity at Co-op Field.



The Council's donation of £500 was spent on the purchase of new equipment to be used during the working parties. This included long litter-pickers, to help safely remove rubbish from the river; spades and brushes to help with clearance work; hay rakes and scythes for wildflower meadow management and bow saws for woody vegetation management, such as working on the willows in Meades Water Gardens.

Chesham Guide Headquarters

The headquarters is available to all Rainbow, Brownie, Guide & Ranger units in Chesham, as well as being hired by community groups. The Council's donation of £175 has helped the Guide Association reach their funding target, which means that vital work to refurbish the Guide Hut toilets can be in the summer of 2024.



Above: The County Banner, courtesy of Girlguiding Buckinghamshire.

Dementia Carers Respite

The Council awarded £315 to this new charity that offers free respite at home to give family carers a real break from their 24/7 physically and mentally exhausting role. Thanks to their excellent fundraising efforts, the charity raised more than predicted to invest in market stall furniture and exhibition material. Therefore, the remainder of our donation is being put towards other charity costs, including helping to pay for carers' respite.

The Francis Trust



The Francis Trust was set up to care for and promote the Chesham Town Picture. The Town Painting is thought to have been painted c.1760 by John Harris and depicts features of the old town that are still recognisable today.

The original Town Painting is kept safely in the Town Hall offices, where it is only available to view on request. The Francis Trust applied for a donation to help fund the creation of a digital copy of the painting that will go on display in the library. The digital copy has been created and will be unveiled once the renovations of Chesham library have been completed.

Chesham Connect

Chesham Connect runs the incredibly popular Hats Off, Chesham! annual festival, which sees huge numbers of people brought to the town centre for a day of free fun for people of all ages. The 2023 festival was the biggest yet, and despite challenging weather, saw the largest attendance in the event's history with High Street businesses reporting a very busy day of trade.

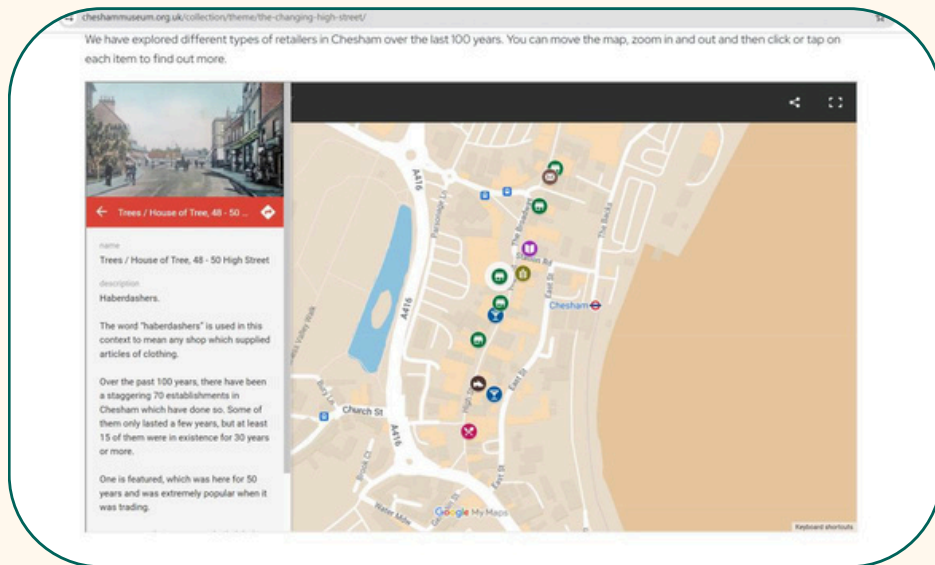


Chesham Museum

The Museum were awarded £250 towards their shops project, designed to celebrate the history of the town's shops and shopkeepers, to instil a sense of civic pride and promote local retail.

Using research undertaken by volunteers, the Museum created new interpretation, including displays in Chesham library, The Elgiva Theatre and an interactive trail on their website:

<https://cheshammuseum.org.uk/collection/theme/the-changing-high-street/>



Left: the interactive trail of historic High Street shops on the Museum's web site

The exhibition in Chesham Library encouraged people to share their memories of local shops, which many people responded to and the Museum has now collated that feedback. They have continued to share the learning of the project with a shops-themed reminiscence session in the new Museum this spring and a display of artefacts from local shops in their new displays.

Right: the display in Chesham library

Far right: the display in The Elgiva

