



Partner Highlights

Here are some of the achievements, successes and news from Chesham Town Council's Town Partners. We are very grateful to all those partners who were able to provide us with these updates.

Chesham Action Partnership (ChAP) has taken over the organisation of Christmas in Chesham, the town's Christmas lights switch-on evening and a key fundraising event for many local groups.



Over the last year, ChAP has provided kickstarter funding for a wide range of local projects, including the installation of the Town Bell in the Clock Tower, Chinese New Year celebrations in Market Square, the town's World War One commemorations and a pilot Summer School held at Chiltern Hills Academy.

ChAP has started networking evenings to enable ChAP member groups to showcase their work and forge links with other groups.

ChAP seeks to become increasingly inclusive and is developing relationships with the town's residents associations.

Chesham Allotments Group have developed an impressive social calendar, including regular Saturday coffee mornings at Cameron Road, a Cheese & Wine Evening and fish & chip supper Quiz Night. Allotment Group members also benefit from a discount reward card with local businesses and the Cameron Road focal point, with seating area, refreshment hut and portaloos. The group hosts an Open Day each year to inform the public and have recently established wildflower beds at the Cameron Road site to promote biodiversity.



Chesham Environmental Group (CEG) hold two working parties per month, calling upon a list of over 100 volunteers to help protect and maintain Chesham's environment. In early 2014, CEG worked in partnership with Chesham & District Natural History Society to do vital management at the Town Council's chalk grassland site at Berkhamstead Field, helping to ensure a fantastic display of orchids and other chalk grassland plants during the summer. Other important areas of work for CEG include maintenance work on the River Chess and litterpicking, including helping the Town Council's Stop The Drop anti-litter campaign.



Chesham in Bloom achieved a prestigious Gold Award in the Thames & Chilterns Regional Round of Britain in Bloom and was also awarded the Best Large Town for the third year running.

A key achievement for 2014 was the creation of new flower bed displays at 5 locations across town, bulb planting on verges and a successful pilot shop planter scheme for the High Street.



Chesham Over Fifties Positive Action Group organised a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum for COPAG members and friends this year. COPAG were accompanied by the Head Girl and Head Boy from Chesham Grammar School, a District Council officer and a Town Councillor on the trip.



The highlight of **Chesham4Fairtrade's** year was their sold-out "Chesham to Bollywood" event; a night of Indian food, Bollywood dancing and a talk by the Chairman of Traidcraft about the importance and impact of Fairtrade around the world.

As well as attending several of the town's key social events to raise awareness, the Chesham4Fairtrade team are already making plans to celebrate 10 years as a Fairtrade Town in 2015.





The **Chilterns Chalk Streams Project** (CCSP) was awarded the Bowland Award from the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in recognition of the project's outstanding contribution to the conservation and well-being of the Chilterns AONB. The CCSP published a riparian landowner advice leaflet specifically targeted at River Chess landowners and facilitated a water vole survey, which revealed a recent decline in the River Chess population, which will require further investigation. The CCSP has helped to establish a local hub to train volunteers to detect pollution incidents through regular riverfly monitoring. Also, the CCSP has been instrumental in the development of <http://www.colnecan.org.uk/>, which hosts an action plan for the River Chess.



The Captain's Wood & Chesham Bois Common Group of the **Chiltern Society** have been focusing on Captain's Wood this year, removing dense holly to increase light levels; improving the habitat for a greater diversity of plants and birds. They have also been working on other local sites including Hyde Heath Common, churchyards at Tylers Hill & Latimer and paths in Chesham. Over 1400 volunteer hours have been worked, and new volunteers are always welcome. Contact Euan on euarrussell@tesco.net

Friends of Chesham Cemetery

The **Friends of Chesham Cemetery's** committee put on a very popular exhibition about World War One in the cemetery's Chapel. The exhibition formed part of the town's commemorations for the centenary anniversary of the outbreak of the conflict, and also part of Heritage Weekend, attracting over 100 visitors both times. The research by the committee identified a local soldier who had died as a result of gas poisoning and trench fever and yet had not been recognised on local memorials. The committee worked with his family to identify his grave in the cemetery, and will ensure that he is commemorated from now on.



The Friends of **Chesham Moor Gym & Swim** have taken a new approach to marketing, promotion and pricing at Chesham Moor Gym & Swim, which has proven highly successful. Their contribution has helped to increase both the usage of, and income received by, the facility.



The **Friends of Lowndes Park** were awarded a £25,000 grant from Biffa Award, which made it possible for the Town Council to install a bespoke skatepark during the Spring, providing a major attraction for Chesham's young people. The Friends hold regular working parties to help maintain Archena Gardens and the performance area in the park. The on-going contribution of the Friends to the care of the park was a key factor in Lowndes Park being awarded the Green Flag for the fifth year in a row.

Ken Denham Trust

The **Ken Denham Trust** provides grants to enable young people to further their education and development. This year, grants included one that assisted local scouts to attend a jamboree in Japan. Due to the high level of demand for assistance, the Trust's annual allocation was used quite early and the fund had to close to applications until October 2014.



Transition Town Chesham (TTC) works in partnership with the Town Council to run the award-winning, monthly Chesham Local Produce Market which provides a regular opportunity for residents to discover local food, drink, plants and crafts. This supports local farmers and producers, while helping to reduce the community's food miles. TTC also led to the start-up of the highly successful Chesham Community Orchard, which has seen the expansion of the existing orchard in Lowndes Park and plans are afoot for the creation of a mini-orchard at Chesham Moor Gym & Swim.



Chesham Walkers Are Welcome (WaW) launched four new, free walking leaflets covering 'station to station' walking routes encouraging walkers to visit Chesham. The leaflets are available to download from the Town Council web site and hard copies can be picked up at the Town Hall, Chesham Library and Chesham Museum. WaW promoted Chesham as a walking destination to all members of the Ramblers in the South East of England through an article written for their magazine.



Left: **Chesham Environmental Group** working in partnership with Chesham & District Natural History Society to manage the chalk grassland habitat at the Town Council's Berkhamstead Field

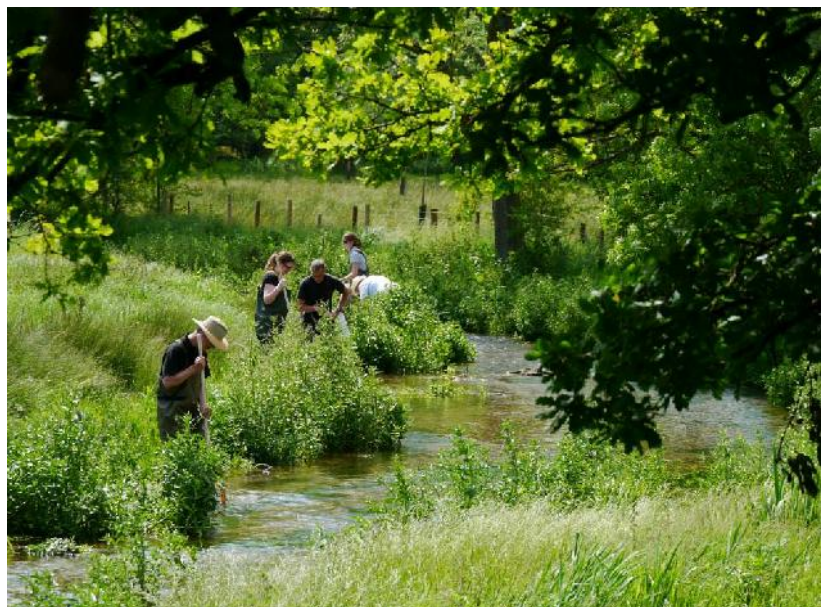


Above: **Chesham Allotments Group** displaying allotment produce at the Cameron Road allotments Open Day



Above: **Chesham4Fairtrade** supporters raising awareness with County Cllr Mark Shaw & Town Mayor Cllr Mo Fayyaz

Right: Volunteers being trained to riverfly monitor for pollution on the River Chess through the local training hub run by the **Chilterns Chalk Streams Project**





Left: **Chesham in Bloom** volunteers celebrate their Gold Award from Thames & Chilterns in Bloom



Above: Chesham Local Produce Market run by **Transition Town Chesham** in partnership with the Town Council brings lots of visitors to the newly regenerated Market Square every month



Above: Volunteers from the **Chiltern Society** working at Captain's Wood in northern Chesham.

Right: Some of the new Station to Station walks produced by **Chesham Walkers Are Welcome**

