Chineham Chat

Issue 350
March 2013

Site clearance ready for the building of Christ Church in c.1987. Picture taken by Michael Morris.

March 2013

If you like arts and crafts then you are in for a treat. Chineham plays host to two exhibitions during March. At the beginning of the month, Christ Church is hosting an Arts Festival with a Peace theme. At the end of the month the Mayor's Festival of Art and Crafts takes place at the Hampshire Court Hotel. Why not visit both to admire the work and perhaps inspire you to release your latent talents.

If that doesn't appeal, there are plenty of other entertainments and activities you could visit or in which to participate. Alternatively, you could watch TV by candlelight (or no light) during Earth Hour.

If you have a local event to publicise, a story of your hobby or interest please let us know. If it interests you it will appeal to others in Chineham. Don't forget we continue to need photographs for the front cover. Just send your material to me at the addresses below.

Dennis Clapp

The Chineham Chat Team Contacts

Editorial articles, notices and contributions		
Dennis Clapp	editor@chinehamchat.com	472720
Children's editorial and contributions		
Year 6 Four Lanes School	kids@chinehamchat.com	
Paid Advertising		
Keith Shergold	adverts@chinehamchat.com	467459
Distribution		
Tony Christmas	distribution@chinehamchat.com	357389
Team Administration	Laura Romney	
Treasurer	Sarah Sharpe	
Advertising Composer	Stewart Ward	
Webmaster	Phil Slater	
Contingency Support	Bridget Hunter	

Plus 100 others who deliver the Chat free of charge to homes throughout Chineham.

Visit www.chinehamchat.com for back issues and information on advertising.

Please Note

The views expressed in Chineham Chat are not necessarily those of the Team. The Team do not accept any liability nor warrant any product or service advertised in Chineham Chat. Copyright on all original material and on © Corel Corporation items in this publication strictly reserved.

NEXT COPY DATE: 14th March

Please submit copy to Dennis Clapp, 21 Reading Road or as above.

Your copy can be accepted handwritten, typed, by e-mail or on common format PC disks.

Chineham Village Club

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to the members who attended the Meet The Members evening on 7 February. I think it is important that the members have the chance to question the committee on key issues and objectives and also put forward their ideas on what they want from the club. We'll have another update as part of our AGM in June but, in the meantime, please feel free to approach myself and the other committee members to discuss any issues or ideas you may have.

Entertainment events for March are as follows:-

Saturday 2: 20.00 In The Lounge Bar, Quiz Night. Come and test your brain power and have some fun. Prize for the winning team and spot prizes throughout the evening. Teams are limited to a maximum of six people and the entry fee is £1 per head.

Monday 4: 20.30 In The Lounge Bar, Cash Bingo. Eyes down for an evening of bingo with cash prizes. The rollover jackpot is gaining momentum and is worth winning.

Saturday 16: 19.45 In The Lounge Bar, St. Patrick's Day Party. OK, it's a day early but we are celebrating St. Patrick's Day with live music from Irish Daniel and an abundance of Guinness.

Thursday 21: 13.00 In The Lounge Bar, Senior Citizens' Bingo & Lunch. Why not join us for some prize bingo, a spot of lunch and a chat?

Saturday 23: 18.30 In The Hall, Wolf Tales (A Hog The Limelight Production). Please see the separate article for more details.

Saturday 30: 19.00 In The Lounge Bar, Family Night. We have a disco and entertainment for members and their children only. Children can stay with their parents until closing time.

Sunday 31: 15.00, Easter Egg Hunt. This is a fun event for members' children only.

Fridays: 19.00 In The Committee Room, Kids' Club. Supervised entertainment and activities for members' children. A nominal fee, dependent upon the type of activity applies to each child. The Kids' Club will run until the end of March.

Sundays: 19.00 & 21.00 In The Lounge Bar, Poker. Come a try your hand at two sessions of Texas Hold 'Em. Small prizes to be won.

John Prince, Chairman

Chineham Village Hall

Firstly I would like to mention that we have installed a recycling bin in support of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight air ambulance in our car park. We live between two motorways and many people in the village use these to travel to and from work; we never know when we may need help from the air ambulance so don't throw your old clothes away – recycle them in our bin. Any contributions are useful and even items unfit for use are recycled as fabric.

Sadly we have lost a couple of regulars from the main Hall and now have some availability on Thursday and Friday mornings, and on Thursday evenings. There are still some odd hours available during the day on weekdays if a whole morning or evening is not suitable. Please call the booking clerk on 842745 or e mail at chinehamvillagehall@hotmail.com if she's not in, leave a message and Wendy will reply to you as soon as she is able. The list on the main notice board has been updated and includes contact numbers where available.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for a much better summer this year so that everybody can take advantage of all the new equipment installed in the field last year. Good fun for all ages and not just the serious keep fit fanatics.

Marion Hitchin, Clerk

The Mayor's Festival of Art and Crafts

Having been so impressed by the volume and quality of creative talent residing all over the borough, Chineham based Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Martin and Chansopha Biermann wished to see these talents displayed collectively. Accordingly, a celebration of art and crafts from local groups, gifted amateurs and professionals, is being organised to raise awareness of what is being accomplished creatively in the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane.

It will be held at The Hampshire Court Hotel, Great Binfields Road, Chineham, Basingstoke, RG24 8FY. on Bank Holiday Weekend - Sunday 31 March and Monday April 1. Opening times are 2—6pm on Sunday and 10am-5pm on the Monday.

Entry will be free - and many paintings and craft items will be for sale. Parking is also free.

A raffle will be held with paintings (from local artists) as main prizes.

The Festival and all proceeds will be in aid of the Mayor's charities: RadCan, Camrose Resource Centre, Basingstoke Consortium and Age Concern Basingstoke.

Please make a note in your diary to visit this Festival and enjoy the talents of local artists, photographers, potters and many craft workers.

Mike Fox

Fitness for Everyone

Come and join in a class for all ages. A session to be held with all income going to the Mayor's Charity Appeal for RadCam, The Camrose Centre, The Basingstoke Consortium and Age Concern Basingstoke.

Stretch, bend, move—exercise to music. Let's merge fitness and fun. No matter what your age you will be able to join in.

The date still has to be fixed, but look out for posters and flyers.

Further details from Alison Howard – ah.fitnessleague@gmail.com.

Alison Howard

Hog The Limelight

The Chineham Club are thrilled to announce that we have been able to secure funding from 'Hog The Limelight' for our Chineham community.

Hog the Limelight is Hampshire County Council's rural touring arts scheme which provides and supports a programme of professional arts events and activities for rural and urban edge community venues across the County.

In addition to a grant from Hog The Limelight we have been further supported financially by Councillor Elaine Still.

The funding we have secured has enabled us to book a wonderful show for kids "Wolf Tales".

Come backstage and meet Mr B.B. Wolf, renowned thespian and notorious villain, as he takes a break between scenes to set the record straight.

Is Red Riding Hood as innocent as she seems? Is Grandma as sweet as she claims? And as for those three little pigs. Pickled Image uses puppetry, shadows and songs to create a spectacular and hilarious exposé of the truth behind these classic fairy tales for the whole family.
This is for all big kids over 5 who love a tasty tail. Are you afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf? (While a wolf is the central character in the show, he is not scary and will entertain children and adults alike.)

The show is on Saturday 23 March starting at 18:30 in the Chineham Village Hall. With the benefit of our funding we have been able to keep ticket prices at an extremely affordable £5 for adults and £3.50 for concessions. Spaces are limited and this will be a popular event so please book early to avoid disappointment. More details can be found at www.chinehamartswt.eventbrite.co.uk and you can also book tickets here. Alternatively please contact me on 01256 352744 or email me at lorraine.simper@googlemail.com for more information.

Lorraine Simper

MAD Academy

MAD Academy (high energy music and dance classes for children under 5) have started a new baby class at Chineham Village Hall. The class is suitable for babies from around 3 months until they start walking and includes baby friendly action songs, developmentally challenging games and activities, the opportunity to explore different instruments and genres of music, and a large loveable bear called Ralph!

The class is at 10.45 on a Tuesday morning followed at 11.30 by a class for walkers to 4years. For more information, to book a taster session, or to find out about classes on other days, call 0118 9792008 or email elaine.edmondson@madacademy.com

Elaine Edmondson

Greening Campaign

A member of the Basingstoke Transition Network group has been carrying out some market research during the last six months to try and find out what Basingstoke residents and the business community think about the work being done by 'green' groups.

The results are not encouraging. To begin with it seems that any group calling itself 'green' is immediately dismissed as being 'old fashioned hippies', 'treehuggers', or 'do-gooders'. If that is the case Greening Chineham has got a problem! Furthermore, so-called 'green' groups are not seen as providing trustworthy information. There is so much conflicting information in the press and on television that deciding what is truth and what is fiction is impossible for most of us. The whole issue of climate change and sustainability has become a big turn off for the public. Most people are just not interested in engaging with environmental problems because the problems are seen as being too big for ordinary people to do anything about.

So where does Greening Chineham stand as a result of this research? We are not hippies, do gooders or tree huggers, just ordinary people like everyone else in Chineham. We are not trying to do anything to the community, we are simply aiming to persuade people to try and use a little less energy in their daily lives. If we all made a pledge to turn off the lights when we leave a room then we would all save money and help the environment. Incidentally, in France a new law comes into force on 1 July which means that lights in shops and window displays must be turned off at 1am and in offices when the last employee leaves. This will save enough energy to power 750,000 French homes for a year and save an enormous amount of carbon dioxide. Seems like a good idea to us, why can't we do that here?

Earth Hour takes place this year on 23 March. The aim is to raise environmental awareness by doing a small thing in our daily lives that will have a big impact. Simply turn off all the lights in your home between 8.30pm and 9.30pm. Earth Hour is a global event organized by the World Wildlife Fund. In 2012 more than 7000 towns and cities worldwide switched off their lights. This year Westminster Abbey will be one of the many London buildings switching off their lights for Earth Hour. To find out more go to http://www.earthhour.org/

Finally a Wanted Notice – we desperately need more help on the campaign committee, please contact greeningchineham@hotmail.co.uk to find out how you can help.

Sue Juon

Conservation Group

The next work party of Chineham Conservation Group is Saturday 23 March, 10 am to 1 pm. WE will be coppicing in Tollhouse Copse.

Contact Ann Henty on Ann.Henty@serco.com for details.

News From The Beat

Crime Update: PC Jim Charlton:

Some residents may have heard of a violent assault that occurred in mid January at an address in Simons Close. Those involved appear to have been friends and somehow one of them ended up with a nasty injury which has required surgery. A male has been arrested and charged with wounding and is awaiting his court appearance. This was an isolated and bizarre incident which posed little or no risk to residents.

Apart from this incident, there has been very little crime of note over the last month. However one incident occurred which I am appealing for witnesses and information about. This occurred at about 11:00 hrs on Wednesday 16 January on the footpath that runs along the southern edge of Great Binfields School, between Binfields Farm Lane and Pyotts Copse. A lady was pushing her 1 yr old twins along in a pram and walking her dogs along the path when a large, muscular dog came running towards them and viciously mauled and attacked one of her dogs, breaking one of its legs in 3 places. The female owner came running along and retrieved the dog, called 'Boris', but seemed unconcerned about what had happened.

I am trying to identify the dog and its owner/s and would appeal to anyone who can assist to contact me on the details below. The dog was described as having short golden-red hair, about the size of a large Labrador, possibly a pit-bull crossbreed due to its build and wide-gait. It had slanted eyes and a pointed snout and had a thick black harness on.

Bearing in mind the immediate proximity to the primary school which was open at the time, coupled with the fact that lady had her two children with her, it is more than fortunate that nothing more serious occurred. So if you know something that could be of use, please contact me.

Anti-social Behaviour Update: PCSO Richard Strauss:

ASB has remained low this month and I am please to report that we do not have any 'hotspots' at this time. However, we continue to come across groups of youth hanging around the schools in the parish. Due to the fact that the schools suffer incidents of damage and drink and drugs are often consumed on the premises after dark, we will always speak to these groups and may search them if grounds exist. We will also move these groups on if on the premises after dark as they have no reason to be there. This way everybody is treated equally and we can protect the schools as best we can.

Until next month, keep safe

PC Jim Charlton 21015 and PCSO Richard Strauss 14735

Tel: 101 (or request to leave a message using our collar numbers).
james.charlton@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
richard.strauss@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
Beat surgeries on the 1st Wednesday of every month in Costa Coffee in Chineham at 16:30-17:30

Chineham Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly:
All residents are invited to attend the Annual Parish Assembly which will be held on Wednesday 29 May. At this stage we are planning to have presentations from the Station Commander at RAF Odiham and a Borough Council Officer from the LDF Team. Please look out for further details in forthcoming editions of the Chineham Chat.

Community Speedwatch:
The equipment for this project has now been purchased through funding from Hampshire County Council, the volunteers have undergone the necessary vetting procedures and final arrangements are being made. The initiative will be carried out for the first time in Chineham during April, so look out for the volunteers in their "Community Speedwatch" high visibility jackets. Additional volunteers are always welcome and if you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

We are soon to receive a supply of stickers to deter cold callers and advertising mail being delivered through your door. If you would like one, please come along to any of our monthly Parish Council meetings to pick one up.

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on 11 March. It starts at 7.45 pm in the Community Rooms at Chineham Village Hall (the public session will start at 7.50 pm).

The Parish Council is here to help the residents of Chineham, so if there is a Chineham issue you are concerned about, please feel free to contact the Clerk, Sally Jackson on 01256 474500 or email clerk@chineham.gov.uk or the Assistant Clerk, Julia Johnston on 01256 324345 or email assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk during office hours only please.

Chineham Library

As reported in the last issue of Chineham Chat, the library will reopen after redecoration on Tuesday 2 April.

Rhymetime sessions for babies and toddlers will continue to go ahead every Tuesday in the children's centre.

The monthly **Chatterbooks** group will be held on Saturday 9 March, also in the children's centre. This group is aimed at 8-11 year olds, we not only chat about books but participate in a variety of activities.

Knit and Knatter: We are about to start a knitting club, so don't knit on your own. You can now join our knitting group every other Friday, starting 12 April, from 1.30 to 3pm and natter while you're knitting! This will be an informal drop in group, no need to book, just turn up and knit. Bring your own knitting project with you, or come along and learn to knit! If you already knit for charity, come along and share your ideas, maybe you will find some new recruits !

Wendy Castle.

Did You Know: Plastics can take up to 400 years to break down in a landfill.

Open Access Play Scheme

This is on Saturday 2 March, 2-3.55pm at Chineham Scout Hut on Hanmore Road.

The Scheme is for school children up to the age of 11 years. All we ask is for a 50p donation towards drink and biscuit.

There will be clay modelling, painting, parachute games, team games and lots more.

Just turn up on the day—there's no need to book.

Jo Slater

Children with Autism Help Chineham Chat

Just outside the boundaries of Chineham is the Loddon School, opposite the Sherfield on Loddon Garden centre. This is a residential school for children from 8 – 19 who need 1:1 care all year round. The children have autism, severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviours. Many are at the developmental age of a toddler and often have communication problems.

Now some of the older students (with staff) have started a new task of delivering the Chineham chat. This is a type of work experience for them. This may sound a simple task but consider the many small steps of learning that are taking place: the magazines have to be posted through a variety of letter boxes, which are not all in the same place. Some letter boxes are sealed up and a separate box is on the wall. Some letter boxes push through; others have to lift a flap. We only need 1 magazine per house so the 2 students have to take note of where their peer has delivered. Some houses may have dogs inside which may bark and startle the youngsters. Then there are road safety issues to consider, remaining on a pavement and not stepping out into the road.

We are proud that our students have taken on this task and glad to be a beneficial part of the community.

Ruth Jones
Safeguarding Coordinator, Loddon School

We're pleased to have your help. Ed

Beginner Running Course

After the success of last years beginner running course, taking 12 non runners to 5K in 10 weeks, Chineham Park Running Club is doing it all over again!

We are looking for 15 non runners, so people that have never run before and can't currently run for more than a minute. You can be any size, shape, fitness level, as long as you are signed off by your GP as fine to exercise. This is an opportunity to learn how to run, in a structured and safe way, and with like minded people.

If you are interested, please get in touch TraceyHowardCPRC@gmail.com.

Tracey Howard

SOLVE

The Council Planning and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee (P&IOSCOM) have completed three evenings of debate (around 11 hours) on proposals for housing sites in the Local Plan over the next 16 years. Their recommendations and comments now go to the Council Cabinet on 28 February.

Several speakers and Councillors continued to criticise the current proposals to build between 730 and 770 houses per annum around Basingstoke. SOLVE has given our evidence to the Cabinet for an alternative number much closer to the original locally derived figure of 594 hpa.

The good news is that the SE Plan, introduced by the last Government, requiring Basingstoke and Deane to build 945 houses a year is being revoked by Eric Pickles MP the Local Government Secretary.

Members of the P&IOSCOM, at their meetings relating to Site Selection, may have been given misleading information, surrounding the purchase of BAS121 (Basing Lodge Farm, stock buildings and land, east of Chineham). Councillor Cubitt has since clarified matters for the benefit of the Officers and Councillors. BAS121 was purchased at auction by Hampshire County Council (HCC) in 1953. Sixty years ago this land was open countryside far from any town and Chineham was a village. It was purchased as agricultural land, not for development.
Further, it is understood that the reason for the present location of the Incinerator and the Sewage Works is to avoid being near human habitation and housing development. In the early 1960s the Director of Town Development and the Chief Development Group Surveyor said on public record that it "would be wrong to site an Incinerator and Sewage Works close to human habitation." We ask what has changed in 2013 to make the Borough Officers think it is acceptable to house our residents immediately next to the Incinerator and Sewage Works.

You can register on www.solveloddon.org for updates. Follow us on Twitter @SOLVE2010. Telephone contact Kate Tuck 324043.

Peter Bloyce

Lion's Shows

The Basingstoke Lions have an interesting and varied programme of new shows all at Queen Mary's Hall.

23 March: The Apollo Big Band. 25 musicians plus singers reliving the swing era.
4 May: The Heritage Band. 30 musicians plus singers. An original project thought up by Neil Streeter of BATS fame featuring local musicians and players.

Tickets for all shows are available from Maurice Hockley on 01256 421867 or mauricehockley@hotmail.com or from Toucan Travel, Chineham Shopping Centre.

Maurice Hockley

Borough Councillor Martin Biermann

The local housing drama continues to drag on with no clear outcomes and so I thought that this time I would break my past reticence in bringing forward matters mayoral. However, I feel I should take this opportunity as I start the final quarter of my term of office to say what a truly fascinating and educational experience it has proved to be.

Apart from civic duties and chairing responsibilities at council meetings, mayors have traditionally nominated one or more charities to support during their year of office. I have chosen to support Radcan, Age Concern Basingstoke, Basingstoke Cosortium and the Camrose Centre. More information about these very worthy recipients can be found on the council website or by giving me a call. Suffice it to say **I want more cash!** In this vein, I thought I would share with you the details of some forthcoming fundraising events. They are:

31 March / 1 April: "Mayor's Festival of Art and Crafts" – Hampshire Court Hotel – free entry

6 April: "Fitness for Everyone" – local venue to be confirmed, cost to be confirmed.

13 April: "Mayor's Dinner Dance", – Audleys Wood Hotel, £50 per ticket

5 May: "Basingstoke in the Mix" The Anvil, approx £15, Family tickets available.

For further details or to check booking arrangements please contact Debbie Collins (my coordinator) at mayor@basingstoke.gov.uk or call 845591.

Martin Biermann
Tel: 01256 352434
cllr.m.biermann@basingstoke.gov.uk
www.spotlightonchineham.co.uk

County & Borough Councillor Elaine Still

With the national pressures to create additional housing, it is essential that we do not have over-development of Chineham and the east of Basingstoke. In Chineham, we already have significant development and it is essential that development is also spread to the west of the town. Fortunately, as part of the Cabinet, I have been appointed to the Manydown Executive Committee, where I have been able to ensure that Manydown is promoted for development.

I will continue to represent the Chineham and Basing Wards in every way I can. I am concerned that some people are intent on littering development to the east of Basingstoke and this is clearly unacceptable. The right development with the right infrastructure is one thing, but it is clear to me that we have already endured a high percentage of development in Chineham and the current infrastructure is not capable of sustaining significantly more development.

We should all remember that the Local Plan and Planning Applications are two very separate things. The Local Plan merely says that development is possible on a site; a Planning Application has to demonstrate that it will actually work. I have been opposed to the application for development on Razors Farm, as I don't think it will! I requested a meeting with the County Council's Highways Officers several weeks ago, on site at the proposed Razors Farm development site. I wanted the officers to see the full extent of potential traffic problems if another 400+ homes were to be built on this site. As a direct result of that initiative I am pleased to report to you that their recommendation at this present time is refusal, on highways grounds.

As a member of the cabinet and a member of the Manydown executive committee I am well placed to ensure that the concerns of the residents of my division are considered at all times. You can rest assured that I will be looking after your interests to the best of my ability.

Elaine Still
Tel: 01256 880926
Mobile: 07747 862913
cllr.e.still@basingstoke.gov.uk

Borough Councillor Paul Miller

The Local Plan defining the future housing development for Basingstoke and Deane is currently being worked up by BDBC for its second iteration. Hopefully, we have learnt from the first attempt the importance of identifying sites that can be supported by the right infrastructure provided when residents need it, that is, when they move in. Local Councillors have consistently adopted this stance over the past three years for the necessary provision of the essential roads & highways, health and school provision, public transport and social amenities and will continue to do so. Without this provision, any new and all existing communities will see a degradation in their quality of life.

You will see elsewhere in the Chat that I have made available a quantity of: HCC "No Cold Calling" door stickers to Neighbourhood Watch and the Parish Council for distribution. These will also be available for collection at Parish meetings as the start of a replacement and new issue drive within Chineham. If you have particular requirements please contact me.

As I write, the frost and freezing weather has gone – but for how long? – the trees are starting to produce buds and the flowers are appearing and the days are longer; is this the welcome start of Spring?

Paul Miller
Tel: 01256 467400
Mobile: 07777 659022
cllr.paul.miller@basingstoke.gov.uk

Please Sponsor Me

I am running the Reading Half Marathon again, in aid of Robbie The Robot (and getting myself fit). If you would like to sponsor me I would be very grateful! The link is.... http://www.justgiving.com/Helen-Haider1.

I think you all know about Robbie by now, but if not Robbie is working against prostate cancer at the Royal Berks Hospital, helping men with the disease to a quicker recovery. More info at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/robotappeal.

Thanks all in advance and if you know anyone with some spare cash please pass this on!

Helen Haider

Free Help

I received my Chineham Chat today and thought how grateful I am to those people who deliver the chat free of charge. So a big thank you to them all.

I would like to offer my help to Chineham residents who are more vulnerable and need assistance with day to day stuff, ie shopping, some cleaning or maybe just company and a chat.

My name is Kristina, I'm 29 years old and I live in Chineham. The help I am offering is voluntary. I have a family and two young children so I wouldn't be available at all times in the day, but please contact me and I will see if I can help. My phone number is 07854704996.

Kristina Martin

Squirrels Class

After a snowy start to the New Year and staying open even when we had a lot of snow, we are all settled into our learning. We are looking forward to the new things we will be finding out about this term. So far we have learnt about the early days of flying. We have found out about the Montgolfier brothers and how they built the first hot air balloon. They didn't fly in it themselves but instead they put a rooster, a sheep and a duck into the basket and all the people in Paris came out to watch.

We will also be learning about the early days of space travel and how Neil Armstrong was the first man to land on the moon.

We have had a sponsored Fun Fit day and have raised money to buy new equipment for our school.

All of Year 2 will be walking up to Christchurch in Chineham to visit Ian and see where he works. Ian comes into school and leads lots of our assemblies.

We hope you have enjoyed reading about some of the things we have been doing in school.

(Four Lanes Infant School)

Volunteer Interpretive Guides

An opportunity to join the small, friendly team at the Museum of Army Flying and help to engage groups and individuals with our incredible collections.

We are looking for enthusiastic, outgoing individuals with an interest in museums/history to work as tour guides at the museum in a volunteer capacity.

For further details and a job specification please call me on 01264 784421 or e-mail marketing @flying-museum.org.uk.

Rebecca Clay

Quilting Show

Loddon Quilters are holding a One Day Show on Thursday 18 April in the Village Hall, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, Hampshire. RG27 0EZ. Quilts and more 10:00am - 4:30pm.

There's a Raffle, handcrafts for sale and excellent refreshments. Entry by donation to Sue Ryder charity.

Check out our website www.loddonquilters.org.

Joan Bond

Child Behaviour

We will also be running a one-off 'Understanding Your Child's Behaviour' session on 14 March at the Lilypads Children's Centre from 5.30 - 7.30pm.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Lilypads or Pebbles Children's Centres on 843955 or 357028 .

Veronica Wastell

Minister's Message

What is your favourite book/film? This is a question I find difficult to answer because for 50 plus years I have enjoyed so many of both. However, on reflection I think that I can isolate a factor which determines my real enjoyment of stories and that is seeing true friendships forged and growing through good times and bad. Indeed, how bland our own lives would be without our friendships.

"We'll be Friends forever, won't we, Pooh?' asked Piglet. "Even longer" Pooh answered. A.A. Milne *Winnie the Pooh.*

Stories like *Winnie the Pooh* give us lovely examples of not only how much fun friendships can bring but also how important they are for our happiness and wellbeing.

It is interesting to note that one of the most popular sitcoms of all time was *Friends* which began back in 1994. The interaction between the characters and their shared experiences brought the fun and challenges of friendship right into our living rooms. Older ones among us will recall another hit series a decade earlier giving us a glimpse of the ups and downs staff faced, working in the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (M*A*S*H), where growing friendships had to endure the difficulties and uncertainties of operating in war torn Korea.

"A true friend is the greatest of all blessings." Francois de La Rochefoucauld. We can all relate to this quote and for most of us we will have an assortment of friendships, which have never been easier to nurture as phone, email, Skype and social networking have become so integral to our lives. However, it is those together times which are the most valuable and there is nothing to match the depth of connection that occurs when we spend time in each other's company (walking, talking, laughing, eating, watching a movie, helping, comforting, supporting and encouraging). There is an old Turkish proverb which states "No road is long with good company." Our life journey takes on meaning and value because of our friendships.

Friendship can certainly blossom in the most unlikely of places and this is beautifully evident in the stories of Christmas truces where parties of soldiers, fighting on the Western Front in WWI, began to exchange seasonal greetings, songs and even gifts with their opposite numbers in the week leading up to Christmas. German and British troops were also friendly enough to play games of football with one another.

In the Bible we see that relationships are at the very heart of God's plan for humanity and as we consider the lyrics of the *Friends* theme 'I'll be there for you*'* it's as clear today as it was in the beginning, that one our deepest needs is for friends who will be there for us, love us and accept us as we are. As we journey into 2013 let us look forward to deepening existing friendships and embracing new ones, even those we find in the most unlikely of places!

Liz Duke, Community Church

Christ & Community Church Activities

We have two services each Sunday morning – why not come along and join us? We would be delighted to welcome you! Our 9am service tends to be quiet and reflective and more traditional in style – it lasts for one hour. We then have a second service at 10.30am during which we have guitars and drums in our worship band, with separate groups for children and young people of all ages from 0 to 18+. There is no charge. In March we will continue to be looking at Models for Mission, looking at how people and churches in the New Testament shared the "good news". For details of each week's readings do take a look at our website www.christchurchchinheham.org.uk.

Each Sunday evening during term time **the edge**; Chineham youth congregation meets at Christ Church. This is aimed at young people from year 7 upwards – different age groups meet at different times from 6pm onwards.

We will have special services for Mothering Sunday on Sunday 10 March, with Morning Prayer at 9am and All Age Worship at 10.30am. There will be flowers for all the ladies in the congregation. Hands Up; Puppets 4 Jesus, our puppet ministry team, will be taking part in the 10.30am service. We will have a reflective service on Good Friday at 11.30am – all welcome. On Easter Sunday we will celebrate Christ's resurrection with two morning services, one at 9am and one at 10.30am. All welcome – our theme will be "I will not believe".

Our Prayer Room is open while the building is open. Everyone is welcome to come and sit quietly in prayer and reflection. On the subject of prayer, if you have any prayer requests please let us know and we will pray for you. Our next prayer meeting will be on Monday 25 March from 8-9pm - all are welcome as we pray for our community and our world.

There is no **Kids' Club** in March but children at primary school are invited to join us for Kids' Club on Saturday 13 April from 5-6.30pm for fun and games – crafts and activities such as table tennis, pool and Wii games will be on offer, along with a tuck shop. The entrance fee is £1 – bring some extra cash for a hot snack and tuck. Bring a friend too! All welcome, whether or not you come to Christ Church on a Sunday!

TGIF Youth Club – young people from year 6 upwards are invited every Friday during term time from 8-9.30pm for our usual youth activities plus an extra activity each month e.g. Scalextric, table tennis. The entrance fee is £1 each – do bring some extra cash for tuck and bring a friend too!

Coffee and Co, our morning cafe, opens every Monday from 9.30-11.30am for coffee/tea and delicious cakes during term time. Everyone welcome! There are toys for the children and opportunities to meet new people, as well as fairly traded goods, books and cards on sale.

CCBBies – every Thursday during term time from 10-11.30am pre-school

children and their parents/carers are invited to join us as we learn about Jesus with stories, songs and crafts. There are toys and refreshments; no charge! Sometimes the group meets for "come and play" sessions during the holidays – please check for details.

There is no **Messy Church** in March or April – our next Messy Church will be in May so watch out for details.

Saturday 2 March- **Arts Festival.** Come and display your hidden talents! On the theme of "peace" you are invited to exhibit your hobbies and skills in the form of sculpture, painting, needlework, photos, models, woodcarving….. Staging will take place during the morning from 9am to noon and the exhibition will be open to the public from 2-5pm when refreshments will be available to purchase. Exhibitors are asked to contact Ruth in the office for further details and to book their place – there is no charge to exhibit or view the exhibition. Christ Church reserves the right not to display items that are deemed to be inappropriate to the setting.

Discover re-creation: Two unforgettable evenings of live entertainment featuring performers from BBC's Songs of Praise and national radio!
MUSIC - an evening with Philippa Hanna. Saturday 9 March, 7.30 pm. Inspirational songs, uplifting, hopeful, searching for the best in the human spirit. Admission £12.50 (includes a glass of beer, wine or a soft drink or ice-cream during the interval).
LAUGHTER – stand-up comedy with Andy Kind. Saturday 16 March, 8 pm. Joyful exuberance … comedy that helps to develop a real sense of self-worth and value. Admission £10 (includes soft drinks and nibbles; bring your own beer or wine)

Tickets for all events are available from Ruth in the Christ Church office.

Discover, Change – following the success of the recent men's breakfast we are planning another one on Saturday 23 March from 9.30am. James, formerly a sports agent and now studying at Oak Hill Theological college, will be coming to share his story. Tickets for a full English breakfast cost £5 and must be booked in advance.

"Who let the Dads out?" is a new venture to Christ Church – Dads and pre-schoolers are invited to join us for fun activities (playdough, giant Jenga, ride on toys, cars, ball pool, baby corner, puzzles and more) as well as bacon butties and newspapers on Saturday 23 March from 10am to 11.30am. No booking required, no charge, just turn up!

The Great Hot Cross Bun Hunt – activities for children from 5pm on Saturday 23 March from year R to year 6. Join us as we set off to discover the story of Easter and Jesus. Take a look at our website, Facebook page or Twitter for details or contact Ruth in the church office. Places must be booked in advance.

Family Mini Golf – 3-5pm at Basingstoke Golf Centre. Tickets cost £2 for adults and £1.20 for children. Tickets available from Ruth in the Church Office. Join us for a family fun afternoon!

A Long Road Home – on Maundy Thursday, 28 March, the Saltmine Theatre Company will be performing an adventure that brings the story of the Prodigal Son to life in ways you will have never seen before! Suitable for all ages, tickets are now on sale - £5 for adults, £2.50 for children, £12 for a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children). Under 2s are free sitting on an adult lap. Showings at 5 & 7pm .

Various other social events are planned for March including a curry night, a film night for ladies, a treasure hunt for teenagers and a progressive supper – do take a look at our website, Facebook page or Twitter for details or contact Ruth in the church office.

The **Blood Donation Clinic** will be at Christ Church on Tuesday 19 March – for details and to book your appointment to give blood take a look at www.blood.co.uk

We have a range of rooms that you can hire out on a one-off or regular basis. Perhaps you are looking for somewhere to host a party or a special celebration meal? Or maybe you run a group that is looking for a venue. Our prices start from £7.25 per hour – that rate includes use of the nearby kitchen/snack bar and fairly traded tea, coffee and sugar are provided, as well as squash for any children

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring in items for our various charity appeals – as well as collecting used stamps and postcards, the tops from supermarket milk bottles, spectacles, food (e.g. snack pots, tins, tea, coffee, breakfast cereals) for the Camrose Day Centre, and bedding for May Place, the hostel for the homeless in Basingtoke town centre, ladies' shoes and clothing for a "safe house", we are also currently collecting socks (new and used, particularly men's socks) for May Place. You can drop your donations of bedding and socks into the Church office, or take them directly to May Place. We also collect used inkjet cartridges so if you have any you would like to donate we would be delighted to receive them.

We have a **vacancy** for a **part-time Caretaker** (10 hours per week). You will need to be flexible in terms of days worked according to the needs of the role, but the hours are mainly daytime although occasional evening/weekend work is necessary. The job involves general caretaking duties and routine maintenance. As the role brings you into contact with a wide range of people you will need to be friendly and self-motivated. Ideally you would have your own transport. For a copy of the job description please contact Ruth in the Church office (01256 474280 or admin@christchurchineham.org.uk).
The closing date for applications is 31 March.

For details about any of our services or activities please contact Ruth in the office (Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham, RG24 8LT, tel 474280, admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk) or take a look at our website www.christchurchchineham.org.uk.

Community Church: To find us come to Four Lanes Junior School for 10am on Sunday or check out the web site at www.bccnet.org.uk/east. You are welcome to visit us anytime. Alternatively you can make contact via our office on 01256 316000 and ask for Phil Norris.

FHC for Hair Show

Preparations have started for FHC for Hair's 8th annual hair show in aid of St Michael's hospice.

This years show will be held in conjunction with Basingstoke Academy of Dancing at The Studios in Joule Road on 8 April. The theme will be the 1940s and to set the mood FHC are running a free to enter completion to win 2 tickets for the evening. All competitors have to do is identify 4 famous people from the 1940s, entry forms can be collected from the salon at 55 Kingsclere Road and the first correct answer drawn on 31 March wins.

Sponsors this year are chartered accountants Lane Monnington Welton and Aristokat Disco and Balloons for U have already promised their support. Individuals and companies who are able to offer raffle prizes should contact salon owner Graham Kent on 0 1 2 5 6 4 6 4 3 9 2 or info@fhcforhair.co.uk.

Tickets are £7.50 each or 2 for £12.00 and are available from the salon now.

Graham Kent

Divorce Recovery Workshop

Are you currently going through divorce or a separation? Divorce Recovery Workshop can help.

DRW is a six session course which helps divorced or separated people to come to terms with a relationship that has irretrievably broken down.

It is run and facilitated, not by professionals, but by those of us who have experienced the breakdown of a marriage or relationship and who have benefited from the support both during and following the workshop.

The workshop can enable people to have a better understanding of what they are going through, provide them with support from others in the same situation and assist in the process of adjustment in their lives. We offer a secure environment for discussion and understanding of feelings. A new circle of friends is often made during the workshop and afterwards in the social events. The DRW is a registered non profit making organization.

Our next Workshop will start on 11 April in Basingstoke.

For further information telephone Alan on 01256 325329 or visit our website www.drw.org.uk.

Alan Fletcher

Anagrams

More anagrams of Chineham road names:

Cosy helmet
Cowslips lane
Cruel aloofness
Dowdy oarsman
Dumfries elms
Fiddlers chair
Gnome recipes

Answers in the next issue.

Nature Notes

During the first fall of snow I saw a Red Kite leaving my garden, and a solitary Long-tailed Tit on the bird feeder. This was unusual as they normally fly in flocks of about twenty. The other bird that was seen (munching on a chocolate-flavoured biscuit) looked like a Mistle Thrush, although the spots were not very prominent. I cooked up a Christmas pudding so that it could enjoy the fruit rather than the biscuit I had discarded.

As soon as the motorway was clear, I had to travel down to the South Coast. I was able to see longer distances through the hedges. Perhaps the snow hid all the grass and dead leaves leaving the black branches clear. I hadn't noticed that before but I usually stay indoors in adverse conditions. My cats found jumping from the doorstep into deep snow rather disconcerting as their heads were the only visible part. They had to be rescued ,and after that, ,joined me in the warmth, refusing to go outside until the thaw.

The snowman across the road slowly melted but there were still small piles of the white stuff in shady corners. My mother always said that it was hanging about for more. Sure enough we had another fall.

If Candlemas (2nd February) be fair and bright, winter will have another flight. If Candlemas be shower and rain, winter is gone and will not come again.

The old saying was correct this year. Surprisingly the previous day had been dull as was the 3rd of the month.

Despite the weather, people have told me that their gardens are full of Cyclamen and Primulas. My own clumps of Snowdrops have again flowered well, although I will never have as many as the house on the A33 just past the turning to Wyvale.

On one of the fine days we wandered round Chineham enjoying the sunshine. Looking up into the trees, the remaining Ash keys together with the twisted branches and shrivelled berries of the Hawthorn bush were silhouetted against the clear blue sky. The Hawthorn is a very useful plant to grow in your garden, if you don't mind the sharp thorns, as it will bring interest from blossom-time (may) through the berries and multi-coloured leaves in Autumn to attractive branches seen against winter skies. The berries are a good source of food for the birds.

Although February is the coldest month, it is also the last of Winter. There was a Blackbird nesting in one of the bushes in Reading Road. Workmen have begun the hacking of the verges, so, Spring is on the way. Watch out for frogspawn.

Keep sending your sightings to ginny.wright2@btinternet.com or 479562.

Ginny Wright

Did You Know: In one year, approx. 684,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions were saved by recycling the UK's plastics, the equivalent of taking 216,000 cars off the road.

Four Lanes Community Centre

Scrapheap Challenge: Saturday (date to be determined) 10am to 4pm. Andy Luchesa was a member of the hugely successful Cops & Bodgers Team and also the Allstars Team and he will be joining us for our very own Four Lanes Family Scrapheap Challenge 2013. This event will be open to 10 teams, made up of adults and child(ren), no one excluded. If you would like to take part please start thinking about getting your teams together. Further details will be provided nearer the event. This is an ideal day for adults and children to work and learn together. To avoid disappointment register your interest now!

Zumba: Places will be limited so early booking is recommended. Starting Mondays 8.00pm to 9.00pm. Ring Community Office for more details. Cost £40.00 for 10 weeks.

NCFE Certificate in Maths: Starting date & time to be confirmed. Free to those who do not hold a level 2 qualification (GCSE in or equivalent in Maths & English).

Sensory Learning & Play: A free 5 week course (2 hours per week), starting Friday 19 April 9.30am to 11.30am. Sensory learning and play is great at developing children's cognitive, communication and language skills

Getting Crafty : A free 5 week course starting Friday 7 June 9.30am to 11.30am. A joint course for parents/ carers of pre-school children to identify a range of different craft activities to support a child's development.

Get My Digital SLR on to Manual: 5 week course starting Monday 15 April to 20 May 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Cost £45.

Intermediate Digital SLR: 5 week course starting Wednesday 17 April to 15 May 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Cost £45.

Creative Digital Imaging: 5 week course starting Tuesday 16 April to 14 May 7pm to 9.00pm. This course will concentrate on creativity which relies on good technical knowledge. Cost: £45.

Fitness Freestyle Yoga (Infant Hall): All abilities are welcome. Mondays 8.10pm to 9.10pm. Cost £5 per week on a pay as you go basis. See www.taylored-fitness-training.co.uk or contact Louise on 07590 714078 if you have any questions.

Pilates (Community Room at Junior School): All abilities welcome. Tuesdays 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Cost: £5 per week on a pay as you go basis.

Virginia Wyatt, Tel: 810499
Www.fourlanescentre.com

Anagram Answers

Answers to last month's anagrams:
Alien grocers = Longacre Rise
Android gear = Reading Road
Bladed evergreens = Belvedere Gardens
Cold eagles = Glade Close
Congealed mush = Aghemund Close
Cool spadework = Parkwood Close
Cornflake cord = Crockford Lane

Three Steps to a Greener Home

Holding on to more of the heat you pay for is a sensible way to reduce your energy bills. In an older home 3 key steps will help to achieve this:

1. Draught-proofing

Start by draught-proofing doors, windows, letterboxes, keyholes and cat flaps. Install extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms so you don't need to open windows.

2. Insulation

You've put 270mm in the loft. Now to the walls. If they aren't cavity walls which are easily insulated, solid wall insulation may suit. Adding it externally should be easier following a recent change in planning advice. If not, internal wall insulation adds real comfort and is best installed just prior to redecorating. All these approaches are supported by the government's Green Deal.

Improved Glazing

Energy efficient glazing is now available to replace single glazing, even in original sash window frames. If upgrading isn't affordable, consider removable secondary glazing. Failing that a thick pair of curtains helps!

You can see these and other improvements in exemplar homes in March and September when SuperHomers host free events around the country. For more information and to meet a homeowner who has already had the work done, see www.superhomes.org.uk.

Gordon Glass

Everest Silver Sherpas

Everest Community Academy would like to welcome new people to the Everest Silver Sherpas Club (formerly the Over 50's Club). We meet every Friday during term time from 3pm - 5pm.

We try to have a main activity each week (the programme, is chosen by the club members at the beginning of each term). We have enjoyed many of the facilities at the school, including the music department to learn the steel pans, the drama department to do slapstick improvisation, the cookery department to have baking and cookery sessions (taking home our efforts for tea!). We have also had Zumba sessions, pilates and yoga too (all tailored to our older bodies). A favourite is wine tasting, but if you prefer to enjoy some exercise we have use of the school's gym and sports hall, for a bit of a work out or a game of badminton or table tennis.

There is always a cuppa and biscuits available for those who just want to socialise in the community room.

The cost? £1 week as a contribution towards the tea and biscuits.

If you want to know more then telephone Dean or Danielle on 01256 33573. Hope to welcome you there soon."

Janet Aris

Did You Know: All types of plastic are recyclable—it's just a matter of who has the facilities.

Basingstoke Job Clubs

Call in at one of our weekly drop-in sessions around Basingstoke
We can help you:

- write your cv
- set up an email account
- register with Universal Jobmatch
- search for and apply for jobs
- Prepare for interviews

You can also gain a qualification in Work Preparation with us.

Sessions are from 9.30am to 12.30, at the following venues and days:
Monday - Ridgeway Centre, Buckskin
Tuesday—Community House, Sth Ham
Wednesday—Chute House, Church St
Thursday—Oakridge Hall for All
Friday—Popley Fields Centre

Philip Hatto

Townswomen's Guild

Ladies—are you looking for another interest? Then why not consider joining the Basingstoke Morning Townswomen's Guild.

We meet once a month at Sarum Hall, Sarum Hill on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 10.00am

We have Speakers of varying interests, plus an Arts & Crafts group, coffee morning and lunch group. We also have outings during the year. These groups give you a chance to meet and get to know your fellow members with similar interests. Also many other activities are held during the year with our local Federation.

Before deciding, why not come along as a visitor to our next meeting. You will be very welcome.

To find out more about the Townswomen's Guild and their history and achievements you can visit www.townswomen.org.uk.

Irene Stepto

Real Life Detective

My glass recycling box went missing last December.

Like any TV detective, I started an investigation.
Step one - interview the neighbours.
'No we haven't got it', was their response. 'But someone else's has gone missing too'.

Step two – search the ground.
Nowhere to be seen.

Step 3 – ask for a replacement
No success so far. Council still trying to find my address to deliver another, although the bin men know where I live.

Go back to step 1 – re interview neighbours.
'Ours was nearly taken away too. The bin men throw the boxes and bottles into the refuse cart, without tipping out the bottles'.

Mystery solved!

PS If you've had a green box delivered that you haven't asked for – it's mine.

Penny Courtney

Basingstoke Embroidery Guild

The Basingstoke branch of the national Embroidery Guild are a friendly group, meeting each month at the Viables, to share a love of textiles and embroidery with like minded people. We cater for all ages and all abilities from beginners onwards and even have a Young Embroiderers group to pass our skills on to the next generation. Each month we have the good fortune to have a speaker from the wide world of Textiles to talk about their work and experiences. These meetings are often followed up by workshops which allow the members to learn new skills and have fun.

On 21 March from 1.30 – 3.30pm in the main hall at the Viables Craft Centre, Anne Butcher will be coming to speak on 'Wessex Stitchery'. Why don't you come along to find out more, enjoy a cup of tea and make new friends. Admission for visitors £5.

For further details please contact Mary Barker 01256 471576

Discovery Centre

Events in March:

Film: A Beginner's Guide. Starts Fri 1 March at 2pm. £30 for six weeks. An informal course that will unlock the mystery of movies in an easy and enjoyable way. Led by tutor Steve Richards.

Meditation and Relaxation. Sat 2 March, 1 - 3pm. £7 Learn some of the basic techniques to help you create a better state of well-being of mind and body.

Gardening with Rosy Hardy. Mon 4 March, 2pm. £3 Award-winning gardener shares her tips on early spring flowering perennials, with plants to buy.

The Mysterious Death of Miss Austen Wed 6 March, 3pm. £3 Author talk with Lindsay Ashford: Natural causes or murder for Jane Austen? This historical fiction may be closer to the truth than we know.

Chemistry in WWI Thu 7 March, 2pm. £3 Find out how Chemistry influenced the course of the First World War with local author Michael Freemantle.

What Would Jane Say. Mon 25 March, 3pm. £3 About internet dating, celebrities and shopping? Trisha Lewis shows us using Jane Austen's own words.

Meet BBC's Nicholas Owen Mon 25 March, 7pm. £5 including refreshments. Journalist Nicholas Owen will share stories from his television career.

To book a place visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

To find out more about Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Hampshire Libraries visit www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc.

Steven Hunt

Did You Know: The world's annual consumption of plastic materials has increased from around 5 million tonnes in the 1950's to nearly 100 million tonnes today.