
Chineham

Issue 363
April 2014

Chat



A beautiful daffodil in sunshine greeting the spring. Picture by Natasha Selfe.

April 2014

At long last we have sunshine and dry weather. In Chineham we have been fortunate to avoid the worst of the rain and wind but it's still a great relief to have calm and warmer weather.

I thought the better weather together with the upcoming Easter and school holidays would bring about a flourish of events in Chineham. I was wrong—there seems to be less happening this month than “normal”. I'm sure there will be plenty going on in Chineham and Basingstoke to keep everyone happy—it's just that the organisers haven't fully come out of “hibernation” and told us about them!

Maxine Jackson has now taken over the role of Advertising Composer and we hope the first month has not been too onerous. Our thanks go to Stewart Ward who performed this role for five years. Unfortunately I can't say happy retirement as I know you are busier than ever.

Dennis Clapp

The Chineham Chat Team Contacts

Editorial articles, notices and contributions

Dennis Clapp editor@chinehamchat.com 472720

Paid Advertising

Tony Heeley adverts@chinehamchat.com 516072

Artwork Coordination

Sandra Fivaz artwork@chinehamchat.com 462613

Distribution

Tony Christmas distribution@chinehamchat.com 357389

Team Administration

Laura Romney

Treasurer

Sarah Sharpe

Advertising Composer

Maxine Jackson

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 April

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

The Chineham Club is running the following entertainment events during April:

Monday 7: Cash Bingo 20:30 in the lounge bar.

Saturday 12: Live Jazz Night with Quick Fix, 20:00 in the lounge bar. Chill out with a nice bottle of wine and enjoy some Jazz! This is an adults-only event. Nice!!

Thursday 17: Senior Citizens' Bingo & lunch. 13:00 in the Lounge Bar.

Sunday 20: 14:30 in the Community Rooms. Children's Easter egg Hunt and Party, with The Amazing Mr Tall. £5 per child, this includes food and an Easter Egg. Places must be booked in advance.

Every Sunday: Poker, first session 19:00 in the Lounge Bar, second session 21:00 in the lounge Bar

British Summertime began in March so we are hoping that the weather picks up and that families can utilise the patio and play area. This means we will not be running any internal Family Night entertainment events or the Friday Night Kids' Club until the clocks go back later on in the year.

John Prince, Chairman

Chineham Village Hall

The AGM of the Chineham Village Hall Management Committee was held on 24 February when a new trustee, Lynsey Lloyd, was nominated and seconded onto the Management Committee. We would like to welcome Lynsey and thank her for giving her time to the Management Committee and for her interest in the local

community.

If any Chineham residents, aged 18 or over, are interested in joining the Management Committee now or in the future, please contact 07927 649083 for more details.

Easter will soon be here and the regular children's activities in the halls will be taking a break during the school holidays. There is obviously more availability to use the facilities during this time so if you are planning any events or activities and are interested in hiring the halls, the contact details are shown below.

Adult activities such as yoga, Slimming World, Weightwatchers, etc. all continue in the halls during the holidays. Please see the noticeboard for timings of these classes.

To enquire about availability of the halls or meeting room for parties, weddings or meetings, please contact our Bookings Clerk on 01256 842745 and leave a message in order that she can return you call. Alternatively you can email us on chinehamvillagehall@hotmail.com.
Happy Easter!

Lynne Hughes

Chineham Library

ChiPPs Reading Group. Wednesday 16 April, 10 – 11am. Children playing, adults chatting about books! We are currently reading *The Understudy* by David Nicholls. Our next book will be *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Pop into the library for more info.

Crime Reading Group. We will be starting a monthly reading group on Saturday 26 April, starting at 10.30 until 11.30 am. First date – 26 April – Icebreaker! Just bring along any recently read or favourite crime novel.

Over 60's Group. Monthly, from 10am till 11am. Next session Saturday 12 April – Body Mind and Soul part 1. Saturday 10 May part 2. Saturday 14 June part 3. Refreshments available – new members very welcome.

New - Rhyme Time with signing for children with additional needs. Every month – Wednesday 9 April, 14 May, 4 June and 9 July. From 10.30 to 11 am.

For more details on any of the above please ask a member of staff or email chineham.library@hants.gov.uk

Wendy Castle

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to tell you about my fund raising for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, a charity that is very close to my heart. Having worked in the Emergency Services for over 20 years, I know how important this vital service is.

Many people do not know we have an Air Ambulance in this county or that it receives no financial support from the Government or the National Lottery. Today as I write this, the charities helicopter has flown 4951 missions in total since 1 July 2007 and this year 97, it averages between 2 and 3 a

day. The crew of three, Pilot and either two paramedics or a paramedic and doctor, bring lifesaving in many different ways. This can be by way of the speed that it can get to or taking a patient from a scene, where other rescue vehicles will struggle, because of roads blocked or a location on top of a hill for example. Or that a Doctor and Paramedic will bring incident management, prioritising casualties or giving advance medical intervention, which will save a life or increase the quality of someone who has been injured or suffering a medical condition.

The Hampshire Air Ambulance is a local charity that saves lives, a service that none of us knows if one day we might need. It costs somewhere between £3500/4000 a day and £125000 a month for it to operate.

I have volunteered to be part of a team of 30 who will climb Mount Kilimanjaro in February 2015 for the charity to raise over £100,000 and am looking for businesses, shops or social locations to put collecting tins at or will allow me to do a bucket collection, businesses that might consider sponsoring me, taking a company T shirt or small flag to the top and having it photographed there. Or giving a small amount to my just giving page <http://www.justgiving.com/Steve-JONES55> (which is also my blog).

Steve Jones (07738955865)

Did You Know? One single teaspoon of soil contains 1 billion bacteria, 120,000 fungi and 25,000 algae.

Jazz Guitars

Basingstoke Stroke Support Group are organising a fund raising evening of jazz. Featuring Howard Alden and Jim Mullen on guitars the event is at 8pm on Wednesday 7 May in the Basingstoke Irish Centre, Council Road.

Tickets are £15 from 0794 2040779 or blackbird@waitrose.com.

Anne Bennett

Wanted

I am currently seeking to rent a single garage in Chineham which can be accessed during weekends and, on occasion, during the week. Can you help? Please call or text me on 07783 587722.

John Randall

Disgusted

I was disappointed to read in the March Chineham Chat Cllr M Biermann's condescending retort to an anonymous resident.

Why make such a big issue of the 'Fed up Residents' right to remain anonymous? The here and now issues for most local residents, are just as important as Cllr Biermann's causes which reach far beyond the boundaries of Chineham.

I am not sure if Cllr Biermann lives locally in a solar powered residence with a bicycle as his only means of transportation but if he does I am full of admiration for his stance in energy

conservation and climate protection. I am sure we will all see him very soon encouraging all the local parents to walk back and forth to School everyday, and all the local residents to find alternatives to motor vehicles and energy resources. Fully supported and financed by the council.

There are laws for the Police and local councils to enforce but because they don't want to run the risk of upsetting the offenders human rights, they hide behind the what else can I do line or what would you suggest I do.

To be fair to Cllr Biermann and without getting too political, this is society's problem generally.

I am sure I am not the only resident who felt disgusted by Cllr Biermann's comments.

Declan McMahon

As Editor I do not like, or normally print, articles without a name attached. If you need to express your opinions then you should be willing to disclose your identity. If there is a real fear of reprisals then, of course, we will allow anonymity.

Travellers are a big problem and I share your frustrations. Travellers are well aware of the legal processes needed to move them and fully exploit the laws.

Cllr Biermann's articles reflect a broad spectrum of issues for Chineham and the broader community. It would be very boring if he mentioned the same things every month. Just because he doesn't write about something doesn't mean he is not taking some action. Ed

Greening Campaign

I have recently attended a very interesting presentation from the Energy Saving Trust and thought it was worth sharing a few facts and tips with you.

Only 8% of people are aware of the link between their water use and their energy bill: hot water contributes up to 25% of our domestic energy consumption, (space heating accounts for more than 50% of an energy bill). By reducing your hot water use (mainly for personal washing), you will save money on both water and energy bills! I recommend the Water energy calculator available here <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk>. This is a very user friendly tool that will help you to identify the savings you could make. Just answer a few questions (for information we are in South East Water Mid Southern area) about your water usage, it takes about 5 minutes. The calculator will give you your household usage per year in terms of water, energy and carbon. Then download your pdf report at the bottom of the webpage to read the list of customised tips and the estimated annual savings. A really useful exercise!

Among my favourite tips, there are:

- * You should set your hot water cylinder thermostat at between 60°C and 65°C, enough to kill off harmful bacteria in the water. Thermostats are usually fitted between one quarter and one third of the way up the cylinder.

- * Use a 1 litre kitchen jug to measure the flow rate of your showerhead: if you fill it in less than 6 seconds, it is



not a low-flow showerhead and you will benefit from installing a new head.

- * Place a half dozen or so drops of food colouring in the toilet tank. Leave the toilet alone for a half hour or more. Come back and check to see if the water in the bowl of the toilet has become tinted with the food-colouring dye from the tank. If it has, you've got a leak between the tank and the bowl (seen on Wikiphow).

Water efficiency labelling, coming in July, should help you to choose the best products if you need to replace your appliances. This is similar to the familiar A to G energy ratings.

Having just been through the wettest winter on record, you probably do not see the need to save water as a priority. However, we should be aware that extreme weather events such as heavy rain and drought are likely to happen more often. Saving water will reduce the need to extract water from our environment and to build new expensive infrastructures like effluent reuse or desalination plants. Let's be good for our wallet and our environment at the same time and start saving energy!

If you would like to meet the Greening Chineham group and find out more about us come to our next social meeting on Tuesday 13 May from 7.30pm at the Chineham Arms. We are still offering free thermal surveys; remember 50% of your energy bill is for space heating! For more information email to greeningchineham@hotmail.co.uk.

Claire Thiebeauld

News from the Beat

Crime update by PC Charlton:

Overnight from the Sunday 2 into Monday 3 March there was a crime spree in Taylors Farm (Sherfield Park). Burgate Crescent, Compton Way, Gaiger Avenue and Wickham Way were targeted by two males captured on a residents CCTV system as they roamed around. Three car petrol tanks were drilled and emptied of fuel, and 3 garages were entered but nothing stolen. Unfortunately the males cannot be identified from the footage as their faces were obscured, but their clothing can be seen and this may allow us link them to these crimes if they are caught in future in the same clothes.

It is very difficult to prevent the theft of fuel from your car, but the sure way to do it is to park your car in your garage. Cars are 40 times less likely to be targeted by criminals when parked inside a garage. It also helps to keep footpaths and junctions free of vehicles causing obstructions.

It is always advisable to improve the security of garage doors. How important this is, is determined by two factors; 1) What's in it, and 2) Is there access into the house from it via an internal door. Garage doors are expensive, particularly the roller shutter type. Therefore, the better and cheaper options are to add extra locks, preferably fitted inside the door (if possible) so they cannot be tampered with from the outside. And lastly to add an alarm. You can buy a battery-powered motion detector alarm for about £10. Please also ensure that if you have an internal

door into your house that it is locked.

In addition to the spree mentioned above, a sat nav was stolen overnight from an insecure vehicle in Belvedere Gardens around the same period. Once again, I will take the opportunity to remind residents of the importance of ensuring vehicles are locked and secured when unattended, and that all valuables are removed. With most modern cars having remote controlled locks, it is very easy to forget to lock your vehicle when you park it. So please make a point of checking that it is secure when you get home.

PC Jim Charlton 21015 and PCSO Richard Strauss 14735

Beat surgery – 1st Wed. of the month at Costa Coffee in the Chineham Centre at 16:30-17:30

Tel: 101 (or request to leave a message using our collar numbers).
james.charlton@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
richard.strauss@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Family Fun Day

Chineham RFC play at the Basingstoke Sports and Social Club and will be participating in a free "Community Family Fun Day" on Sunday 4 May between 12pm to 3pm at Mays Bounty. We will be open to the whole community and all ages for this free event which will include Rugby, Football, Cricket, and Squash fun sports activities, all run by fully qualified coaches.

John Tinker

Garden Shop

Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society shop in Riley Lane (opp bolton arms pub) is open Saturday 5 April 2 30 pm to 4pm and every Sunday until 29 June 1030 to noon. There is a plant sale on 11th May.

Membership £5 per year. Contact Tony Stoney 01256 479951.

Tony Stoney

Fame Jnr by Limelight

Fame Jr. is the bitter-sweet story of a group of students at New York City's celebrated High School for the Performing Arts in the 1980s. The students are starry eyed and hopeful – and haven't the faintest idea just how hard the next four years will be. Along the way, friendships develop, ambitions are realised and the kids learn a lot about themselves and each other.

Could there be a more appropriate choice for the theatre-mad youngsters of Limelight, the youth arm of BAOS (Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society) to tackle as their next production? Among the group, all aged between 13 and 16, is local girl Lydia Moynihan.

The Limelighters will be taking to the stage at the Everest Community Academy on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 April. The Saturday performances start at 3.30p.m. and 7p.m. while the Sunday matinee performance starts at 2p.m.

Tickets (£10 adults, £7.50 children,

Family £30) are available from www.baoslimelight.ticketsource.co.uk. For more information, please follow us on www.facebook.com/baos.limelight or @BAOSLimelight on Twitter. Group discounts (10+) available, please contact baoslimelight@yahoo.co.uk.

Karen Baldwin

Expedition to Lidl

I decided to go for a walk today with my baby in his pram. I live in Little Copse and walked to Lidl. I wish I hadn't bothered!

The underpass by Crockford Lane was flooded which meant pushing the pram across a field, workmen were laying tarmac on another path which meant walking through mud and then when I finally pushed the pram down the ramp which leads to the duel carriage way opposite Lidl the traffic lights were not working.

That's such a busy road, I wouldn't want to cross it even without a pram. A quick dash was needed. Finally, on reaching the shop my shoes were muddy and I was extremely annoyed knowing that I had to go through the same scenario to get home.

It got me thinking of people less fortunate than me and how they would cope with such a simple journey. In short they wouldn't. Any elderly person, a wheelchair or mobility user would have no hope achieving what for most people is a weekly occurrence to buy food.

Laura Cox

Chineham Parish Council

Transport Consultation. Hampshire County Council is undertaking a County wide review of subsidised bus & community transport services together with a review of the discretionary elements of the Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme. The consultation process runs until 31 May 2014. For further details & for an online response form, please visit www.hants.gov.uk/transportconsultation2014. For enquiries, please contact environment.bus.review@hants.gov.uk or telephone 01962 846785.

Volunteers. The Parish Council is always looking for volunteers. Are you concerned about the speed of traffic through Chineham? Would you be able to volunteer a couple of hours of your time every other month to become part of the Community Speedwatch Team? If you're interested, please contact the Clerk. The Parish Council is in the process of installing a defibrillator on an external wall at the Village Hall. The South Central Ambulance Service suggests that we could have a core number of volunteers who could be called to pick up the defibrillator and attend a local resident in need. Please contact the Clerk if you feel that you could support this initiative.

Inquiry – Razor's Farm. The Parish Council has been advised that the Inquiry into the appeal concerning Razor's Farm commences on 8 April 2014 for the duration of 8 days. A copy of the appeal decision will appear on the Planning Portal website (www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/

[appeals/online/search](#)) or the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website in due course.

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on 14 April. 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 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. The Parish Council website can be found at www.chineham.gov.uk.

Tesco Shame

So fed up am I (as I suspect you are too) of Tesco trolleys being stolen and abandoned on paths, in ditches and by the sides of the road in Chineham, that I have set up a Facebook page called 'Tesco Trolleys Dumped in Chineham' and have begun to post photographs of the trolleys, in an attempt to shame Tesco into doing something about it.

Please feel free to visit the page and to 'like' it. The more 'likes' it gets, the more likely Tesco are to take note.

If you would like to submit pictures of trolleys that you see on your travels around Chineham for the page, please feel free to email them to: tescotrolleys666@yahoo.co.uk

Mick Thompson

Breast Cancer Group

The Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self Help Group has been in existence for 11 years and meets once a month on a Tuesday between 7pm - 9pm at the Ark Conference Centre, Dinwoodie Drive, Basingstoke, (behind the North Hampshire District Hospital).

The purpose of the Group is to give women the opportunity to meet other women who have had a similar experience of breast cancer and to provide support, help and friendship and to let them know they are not alone at a very difficult time in their lives.

We have guest speakers, who talk on a variety of different subjects, quiz/skittle evenings, social outings and raise funds for specific projects. All ladies attending the Group are warmly welcomed with tea, coffee, cake or biscuits.

Dates of future meetings are: 22 April, 20 May, 24 June, 22 July, 19 August, 23 September, 21 October, 25 November, 16 December.

If you would like to speak to someone from the Group, please call Angela Bennett on 07939 641187 or Renee Smith on 07717 873090. Or visit our www.basingstokebreastcancer.org.uk

Sue McCarthy

Did You Know? There are 10x more bacteria in the average human's digestive system than there are cells in the entire body. This is approx. 1kg of bacteria

Borough Councillor Martin Biermann

You may have noticed quite a large number (eight in all) of detector cables laid across roads throughout the section of Chineham between the A33 and the railway line.

Some months ago, the parish council was offered a "free" week of monitoring at a location of its choice. In view of existing traffic problems and anticipated exacerbation of this if the Razor's Farm development were to progress, the parish council requested the monitoring location to be on Hanmore Road, just south of the bridge into the business parks.

This proved to be both interesting and important by way of providing clear evidence of the existing high levels of peak hour traffic volumes. Given the success of this exercise, I requested that we conduct more thorough and widespread monitoring of the existing traffic patterns and periods of heavy traffic in order to inform us of potential further degradation so that we could provide robust evidence to planning inspectors in the future.

By the time you read this column, the surveys should be completed and we should have anonymous evidence of vehicle volumes, types and speeds at all the chosen locations.

The intention is to make this information digestible and subsequently available to interested parties. Keep an eye on the Chat for further information.

Martin Biermann

Tel: 01256 352434

cldr.m.biermann@basingstoke.gov.uk

Facebook: Chineham Spotlight

County & Borough Councillor Elaine Still

As I write this article the sun is shining and may it continue (14.03.2014).

The Executive Member for Environment at Hampshire County Council, welcomed the Government's acknowledgement that more money is needed to help repair roads damaged by the unprecedented floods this winter, and the promise of extra funding. However, he warned that the full extent of the damage had not yet been assessed as many parts of Hampshire's road network are still under water because groundwater levels have not fallen.

He said: "We don't yet know what Hampshire's share of the £140m national funding is, but our estimate is that, to fix the extensive winter damage on Hampshire's roads would cost between £25m and £36m. We have 5,280 miles of road in Hampshire to take care of - many of which have suffered prolonged flooding while all of Hampshire has experienced extremely heavy rainfall over many weeks. Excessive water seeping into the road surface, followed by freezing overnight temperatures, causes it to break up from underneath, causing damage, and creating defects and potholes which are costly to repair."

Hampshire County Council worked around the clock to keep the roads open, clearing water and fallen trees, and, in Buckskin constructed a temporary road above flooding to keep major routes open. Plans are now being drawn up for resurfacing the worst affected roads and pavements, drainage works and edge repairs all over Hampshire.

Good news The Borough Council and Hampshire County Council at their budget meeting have both agreed to freeze the Council tax for another year!

Hampshire maintains one of the lowest level of council tax in the country and yet provides amongst the highest level of service.

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

Borough Councillor Paul Miller

By the time you read this the Draft Local Plan should be nearly ready to be issued for the final public consultation before preparation for examination by the Planning Inspectorate in early 2015. It is anticipated that the Local Plan will then be formally 'adopted' and Basingstoke can move forward with a more controlled, delivery of development.

This month, preparatory work is due to start on the regeneration of the Black Dam roundabout and Junction 6 of the M3 with the construction scheduled to begin in July. This essential work will, we have been assured by HCC, keep disruption to a minimum and try to encourage traffic not to create new 'rat-runs' to avoid the inevitable congestion. We may see more traffic on the A33 to add to the current slow flow in the morning and evening peaks but we are assured that the current disruption will lead to a long term improvement. Let us hope.

As an update on the Fitness Trail along Petty's Brook, the contractor is waiting for the ground to dry out before applying the final gold coloured binding surface that once laid, will allow us to open the Trail after the handover from BDBC.

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

Sherfield on Loddon War Memorial

At the end of January, several reports were made to the Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council that the village war memorial had been attacked by vandals.

The memorial is located in the middle of the village, and is in the form of a mounted masonry cross which stands about 15 feet high, with a bronze sword, about a metre in length, mounted upon it. Somebody had obviously tried to remove this sword using a crowbar, but had only succeeded in bending it into a contorted shape.

This news was received by the villagers with horror and disbelief that anybody would mutilate this monument to the men who had given their lives in two world wars for their village and country.

An article appeared in the Basingstoke Gazette describing the damage, where it was noticed by David Priest, a Chineham resident who does voluntary work for the Watercress Line, and he offered to repair the damage to the sword using their metal working facilities. This left the Parish Council with the problem of how to dismount and remount the sword to the masonry, and after speaking to Spencer and Peyton (Monumental Masons), Adrian Spencer offered to undertake this work on behalf of the community.

It is refreshing to note that all of this work has been done voluntarily by members of the community, and this

shows that the spirit to which the memorial is dedicated is still alive and well.

The sword has now been completely restored (and DNA fingerprinted), and will soon be returned to its rightful position. The village will then be holding a short service, presided over by the Reverend Sammie Armstrong, to rededicate the memorial.

Alan Ball, Chairman
Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

The monthly meeting held on Wednesday 5 March was the Group's AGM. After the business, Keith Sullens from CSRF HQ spoke about the financial difficulties facing the Fellowship.

Future trips are to Eltham Palace on 28 April, The Hawk Conservancy on 16 May and Portsmouth Dockyard on 17 June.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am – 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. On 2 April the speaker will be Tony Strafford on "The Sex Lives of Kings".

Details about future trips can be obtained from Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791 and for further details about the group please contact the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com.

David Cowling

Minister's Message

With its many footpaths, wooded areas, playgrounds, skate park and the recent addition of several fitness stations, Chineham residents don't need to go far to get a spot of fresh air and exercise.

Whilst trying to keep ourselves in good shape physically can be quite straightforward, if a little challenging, it can be more complex to nurture and nourish our souls and our spirits. These immaterial parts of our beings, intangible, but making us the people we are, need caring for too, if we want to have a complete sense of wellbeing.

It was interesting to read Ian Bentley's message in March's Chat where he refers to the idea of finding times to reflect, rest and reset ourselves as we move through our days. It got me thinking about the kind of things that help us manoeuvre our own way through the challenges of life, without becoming overwhelmed by them.

Top of the list seems to be finding a quiet place to draw aside from the busyness of the day. Making time to be still and connect to our God or to our inner wisdom through prayer, reflection or meditation is key to our wellbeing. There will always be distractions but cultivating this as a regular practice helps us to process and adapt to our constantly changing circumstances, one day at a time.

Ritual, whether special celebrations or more casual but regular remembrances, also adds to the sense of the sacred in our lives and the marking of milestones is an immeasurably valuable activity.

Choosing happiness might sound idealistic, especially in times of anxiety, disappointment and loss, but true happiness ultimately comes from within and does not have to be dictated by our circumstances. I love this quote from Helen Keller 'Resolve to keep happy and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties'.

Opening ourselves up to creative opportunities which combine feelings, imagination and thought, also builds our spirits. The root of our creativity comes from deep within and as we engage in creative activity or contemplate meaning or beauty in our surroundings, we move into that spiritual zone. The appreciation of that which is good, does us good!

Finally a quote from John Templeton, 'If we try hard to bring happiness to others, we cannot stop it from coming to us also. To get joy, we must give it, and to keep joy, we must scatter it'. In our care for and service of others, appreciating how we are all interconnected, we transcend the material world and nourish our innermost beings.

Liz Duke

Did You Know?

Microbes have been around longer than anything else on Earth, longer even than dinosaurs. If you imagine Earth began in a single day, microbes appear at 5am, dinosaurs appear at 10pm and humans appear seconds before midnight.

Christ & Community Church Activities

Welcome to Christ Church!

During April we will continue our look at what it is that God has said to the church in the past about service in the body of the church. Through this we can reflect on the gifts that God has given us and see how we might use them or are using them in God's service. Our Sunday services are at 9am and 10.30am – all welcome! We have groups for children and young people of all ages from 0-18+ at our 10.30am service and a worship band with drums and guitars – the 9am service tends to be quieter and more reflective. For details of all our services take a look at our website www.christchurchchineham.org.uk. You can also find up-to-date information on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/christchurchchineham) or on Twitter @ccChineham.

On Maundy Thursday, 17 April, at 7.30pm we will be holding a special service and meal to commemorate the Last Supper. There is no charge, but please let us know if you are coming by 13 April so we know how many people to cater for! We will have a service of All Age Worship on Good Friday at 11.30am and our Easter Sunday services will be at 9am and 10.30am. Come and join us as we celebrate the risen Jesus!

Our prayer room is open when the building is open – you are welcome to come and sit quietly in prayer and reflection either in the prayer room or our worship area. If you have any

prayer requests do let us know and we will pray for you. We will be meeting for prayer on Monday 28 April from 8-9pm – topics include our church, our community and our world. All are welcome – you do not have to pray out loud and prayers are led.

We will have a service of Holy Communion on Tuesday 29 April. This will be followed by Luncheon Club at 12noon. You are welcome to attend either or both. Lunch costs £4 for adults and £2 for children. You can be assured of good company and a tasty two-course meal!

We will also be hosting a monthly service of Holy Communion on Thursday 31 April at 10am in the Club Room at Binfields' Close. All welcome.

Our Monday morning cafe, **Coffee and Co**, will be open on Mondays during term time from 9.30-11.30am. There is a range of delicious cakes on offer, together with cafetiere coffee and drinks for the children. There are craft activities for children, and a selection of books, cards and fairly traded grocery items on sale. All welcome!

CCBBies is our Thursday morning group for pre-school children and their parents/carers from 10-11.15am – they meet every Thursday during term time. Activities include free play, refreshments, a Bible story, prayers, songs and crafts. Each child has the opportunity to make something to take home, there is no charge and all are welcome.

There is no **Kids' Club or Messy Church** during April.

Young people in school year 6 and up are invited to **TGIF Youth Club** every Friday from 8-9.30pm during term-time. Entrance costs only £1 per person – bring extra cash for tuck and bring a friend too! Special activities this month include a sleepover.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Curry Night in March. We enjoyed an excellent meal and good fellowship, and raised £200 for the House of Hope in India in the process. Our other mission partners include Mission Aviation Fellowship, Flavel Church in Dartmouth and London Street URC Youth and Community Cafe.

You may have already noticed that we now have a recycling bank in our car park in aid of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. You can deposit donations of clothes, shoes and textiles in the bank. Here at Christ Church we can pretty much find a home for anything (via various charities) including plastic tops from supermarket milk bottles, used stamps and postcards, foreign coins, badges, spectacles, old tools and haberdashery, socks, bedding, flasks, and inkjet cartridges! We are also collecting for the rotations charity shop in Whitchurch as they will be supporting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance in June – suggested donations include toys, DVDs, CDs and bric-a-brac.

We continue to offer our rooms for hire within the community so if you are looking for a venue for a party, special occasion or training event do contact us. There are details on our website at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk or

drop in to see us. Prices range from £7.50 per hour and that rate includes use of the nearest kitchen where tea, coffee, sugar and squash are available. A range of community groups already hire rooms at the church including Slimming World, Brownies and various U3A groups. A new art group is starting in April.

We are looking to employ a **Facilities Co-ordinator** (part-time, one day or two half days a week) here at Christ Church. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and managing an effective maintenance capability. The role will be initially for a six month period but may be extended. If you would like details please contact Ruth in the office. The closing date for applications is 18 April.

Ruth Randall

Spring Concert

Basing Singers' first concert of 2014 will be held in St Mary's Church, Old Basing, on Saturday 26 April.

Accompanied by Paul Wright on the church organ, the Singers will perform a wonderful version of the Magnificat, by Pergolesi, and the programme will also include a selection of choruses from The Messiah by Handel.

The concert will start at 8.00pm. Tickets are £6 for adults, £1 for children under 16 – available at the door or at Linden Market, Old Basing and Dawsons in Festival Place.

Mike Leaming

Jesus Christ Superstar

Jesus Christ Superstar was the first blockbuster musical from the most successful theatrical composer of all time - Andrew Lloyd Webber. With lyrics by Tim Rice, Jesus Christ Superstar is a stunning show set during the last seven days of the life of Christ, seen through the eyes of the man who betrayed him – Judas.

Six performances of Jesus Christ Superstar run from Tuesday 13 - Saturday 17 May. Performances start at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 17.

Prices £20 (adult) and £16 (Children 16 and under). All prices include Anvil Arts £1 booking fee per ticket. Concessions apply for all performances for over-60s, groups and full-time students.

Book your tickets online via www.bats.net, www.anvilarts.org.uk, call 01256 844244 or visit The Haymarket or Anvil box offices.

Laura Balment

Rotary Events

The Rotary Club of Basingstoke are holding three special events in the first half of 2014.

On Sunday 27 April from 10.00 we are holding our **Garden and Craft Festival** at Milestones, Basingstoke Leisure Park. There will be garden exhibitors selling plants and dispensing free garden advice. We have 30 craft stalls in our large marquee, and there are musical and dancing events for the

whole family. There are food and refreshment stalls, face painting, temporary tattoos and much more. Proceeds towards Basingstoke Mencap, Spotlight, and other Rotary charities.

At The Lord Wandsworth College, Long Sutton, on Friday 2 May at 18.30, we are holding our popular **classical music evening**. A varied programme is performed by the Steinberg Duo. There will also be performances by local young musicians, and you can enjoy the beautiful college surroundings, beginning with the reception and art exhibition by college students, followed by canapés and wine. The event supports the College Foundation and Basingstoke Rotary local charities.

Sunday 18 May is the date for our annual **Charity Walk**. Starting at Hannington radio mast near Kingsclere, there is a choice of three circular walks of approximately 4, 7 and 10 miles. The start time is between 09.00 and 10.00 and after the walk a BBQ and refreshments can be enjoyed, this being included in the entrance fee. This walk is an excellent vehicle to raise money both for your favourite charity and local Rotary charities.

For full information on all the above events please visit www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org.

Richard Keast

Did You Know? There are more microbes on one person's hand than there are people on the planet.

Four Lanes Infant School

We have had a fun filled 4 weeks since the last magazine. Four Lanes Infant School children fully embraced World Book Day this year with a 'dressing up as a book character' day as well as lots of activities during the whole week. Children came as characters from traditional tales such as Cinderella, Fairy Tales and more modern classics such as Harry Potter. The teachers took part as well with one little boy saying "my teacher looks so pretty in her dress" (Sleeping Beauty), and another noticing that her teacher "looks good with short black hair" (Fred Flintstone). Children in year 1 wrote their own stories and became 'authors' when they rewrote them to make into books.

Year 2 had a special assembly last week when they invited their parents into school to find out all about their learning. They told them all about their work about Kenya and how they had helped a school there by sending them books and some laptops. The school had sent some pictures back to the pupils which made them very proud to see how they had helped some other children. They also learnt how to sew, making book marks, which proved to be a challenge for some. One girl said "it was difficult, but I got there in the end, so now I feel very proud that I have learnt a new skill!"

Year R have been enjoying their new covered outdoor area, allowing them to access the outdoor area more often. This coupled with the good weather has enabled them to do much more of their learning outdoors. They have also been concentrating on their

handwriting, making sure all the letters are started on the line and look nice and neat.

Miss Allen and the children of Four Lanes Infant School

Hook Choral Society

Hook Choral Society's Spring Concert will be held on Saturday 26 April at 7:30 pm at St John's Church, London Road, Hook RG27 9EG.

Along with professional soloists, the choir will be performing Haydn's *Theresienmesse*. Also on the programme is Morten Lauridsen's *Lux aeterna*, a rich and intensely moving five-movement, non-liturgical requiem.

The choir will be accompanied by organist, Philip Aspden, and conducted by their musical director, Nicholas Woods.

Tickets cost £12.00 (£10 concessions, accompanied children under 11 free) and are available from Trees Newsagent, Hook or ring 01256 882067.

Diana Charnell

Did You Know?

Dr Winkle Weinberg an infectious disease expert, reckons that when we have a cold and cough the virus particles can travel at 320 kilometres per hour and up to 900 metres. That is faster than a passenger jet at takeoff.

Microbes generate at least half the oxygen we breathe.

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

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

How to Read a Graveyard: With Author Peter Stanford Thursday 3 April at 7pm. £5 Writer, journalist and broadcaster Peter Stanford will explain the role of graveyards, his travels and what you can learn from graveyards in your own neighbourhood.

Amazing Creature Carving: Saturday 12 April at 10am. £10 Team up with professional fruit carvers 'Carving Magic' and discover how to carve all kinds of creatures from fruit and vegetables. Suitable for adults and children aged 7+.

Pop-Out Easter Cards: Children's Crafts Saturday 12 April between 1pm and 3pm. Free drop-in for ages 5+ Come down and get arty by learning to create your own multi-coloured, pop-up card this Easter to impress your schoolmates and family with!

Time To Grow: Kick-Start Your Gardening Year Thursday 24 April at 2pm. £3 Get your gardening year off to a flying start - Join Nick Lightfoot, Gardens & Countryside Manager from the National Trust property The Wyne, to find out all about the jobs to be doing in the flower garden and veg patch to ensure you have a fantastically successful 2014.

Paper Planets: Children's Crafts Saturday 26 April between 1pm and 3pm. Free drop-in for ages 5+ Create stunning but simple planets made with only a few clever cutting and folding techniques using a variety of coloured paper. Ideal for hanging from the ceiling in any young space cadet's bedroom!

Steven Hunt

Floral Society

The Bramley & Romans Floral Society were asked to do a demonstration for the Womens Institute Loddon Group meeting in March. This was enjoyed by all WI members at the meeting.

Our own meeting this month was also a demonstration by Mrs Cherie Mendes. Cherie is a great raconteur whilst demonstrating, the tale of her `broken foot` really was amusing. We were very pleased at the great attendance at this meeting & welcomed several new members & visitors.

Our next meeting on Thursday 3 April will be an in-house teach in by Margaret Cropper, one of our members.

The society meets on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall at 1.30pm. Visitors are welcome please contact Eileen on 01256 881125 for more info.

Eileen Gulston

Nature Notes

What a difference a few weeks can make in Nature. When I submitted my last report in mid-February, it was still very wintry, with only a patch of Daffodils at the top of Saffron Close giving a hint of spring. However, a sunny day finally arrived, so I drove my "Travelmobil" round to the Moat to check out the Snowdrops. I must have arrived just after Phil Slater because I admired the same scene as that on the front cover of the Chat.

Whilst in the wood, I hunted through the piles of scrunched-up Horse Chestnut leaves and discovered some conkers which looked as shiny as if they had fallen from the tree that day. In addition, I was delighted to find patches of Primroses, Violets and Ground Ivy in flower. Also found a mass of Periwinkle leaves with a few bright purple flowers.

What was not so delightful was finding a large pile of garden waste dumped there as well. Why are some people so inconsiderate? The free waste disposal place is only a few minutes away on Wade Road.

I wonder if today's children touch the sticky buds of the Horse Chestnut? My grand daughter will carry on the tradition, when she comes to stay and also look for the "horseshoes". It's a simple thing, but generations before us have welcomed in the new growth in this way (I still cannot resist the stickiness on my gloves!).

A few more days of fine weather brought forth the yellow Crocus around Chineham, followed shortly by purple

and white ones. I was interested to hear that Crocus close their petals in bad weather to protect the pollen. Logical as the flowers point upwards! Continued sunshine produced Daffodils all over the place and I spotted some Lesser Celandines in Cibbons Road. I have a garden version with bronze leaves called Brazen Hussy but I think it needs a sunnier position as there are no flowers at present.

This week, I was driving along the A33 and although the sky was overcast, I felt surrounded by veiling, with blossom on the Buckthorn, Wild Cherry or Sloe covering the hedges. There is a different look on a sunny day, but I like our area at both times.

The tree at the bottom of the garden survived through the bad weather, which is as well because a number of birds sit in it every day. The regulars are two or three Pigeons and a pair of Collared Doves, but for the last few weeks they have been joined by two Magpies. I am wondering if any of them are going to nest there or are they just enjoying the view. The smaller birds don't seem bothered - yet. Magpies raid nests. Yesterday I was entertained by a Blackbird singing to its mate on the roof. It was a lovely song. Evidently, like Robins, they are territorial and will fight foreign birds later in the year. I saw this happen last year, but was unaware of the reason.

Many thanks to Robert Dines, who informed me that on 7 March he had seen frogs basking in the sunshine by Pettys Brook and frogspawn. Although I had encountered several frogs in my

garden, it wasn't until 13 March that frogspawn appeared. Robert also spotted the Egret asleep by the brook.

A red kite circled over the house this afternoon. It has appeared more frequently in the last month, so it must be searching for carrion for its young. My friend Sheila tells me that they frequently come into her garden for the dog's food.

Thank you to my "fans". It's good to know that my hours of slaving over a hot computer are not in vain!

Please send your sightings and notes to me on 479562 or ginny.wright2@btinternet.com

Ginny Wright

Lest We Forget

On Saturday 12 April, Basingstoke and Bagshot Concert Bands will join together to mark the centenary of the First World War, in a concert at Rotherwick Village Hall.

This performance will feature a whole new programme with the evening resounding to military music from history and patriotic anthems from the last 100 years.

The combined 50 strong concert band will have plenty of opportunity to showcase its talent for military music through pieces such as The Blue and the Gray's compilation from the Lincoln and American civil war era, a selection of Marching Songs from World War 2 and the evening's finale –

Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No 1.

The evening will also feature music from stage and screen with the atmospheric Hymn to the Fallen from Saving Private Ryan and the rousing score from Les Miserables, which recently successfully made the transition from stage to the big screen.

The concert bands are also delighted to welcome special guests - The Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums, who will be making a stirring contribution to what promises to be an outstanding evening acknowledging the great sacrifice made by many millions on our behalf.

The concert will start at 7.30pm and admission is £8 for adults, which includes a glass of wine, and children go free. Tickets are available in advance from band members or by calling 07503 881241.

For information on and directions to Rotherwick Village Hall please visit their website: www.rvh.org.uk.

For more information on the bands including future concerts and vacancies please visit www.bcband.org.uk and www.bagshotband.org.uk or call 07503 881241. You can also follow the bands on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thebcband and www.facebook.com/BagshotBand.

Sue Foster

Did You Know? Most microbes do not cause disease—less than 5% do.

Four Lanes Community Centre

Messy Play for Dads: Saturday 26 April 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Great fun for children and adults alike, using their senses to explore and develop their co-ordination, fine motor control and to develop number skills. Booking is essential.

Knit and Natter: This course is suitable for all abilities. It is a great chance to see what other people have made, to find new patterns and pick up some wool and along the way make some new friends. Don't be shy about coming along to join us. If you think this is something you would like to do, contact the office to discuss what days and times works best for you. We will set up a register of interest.

Get My Digital SLR on to Manual: 5 week course. An introduction to Digital SLR/Bridge Camera photography. Starts Monday 12 May 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Cost £45.

Creative Digital Imaging: 5 week course. Starts Tuesday 13 May 7pm to 9.00pm. Cost £45

Intermediate Digital SLR: 5 week course. Starts Wednesday 14 May 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Cost £45.

Fitsteps: (Junior Hall) All the moves from ballroom and latin dances set in a fitness class. Contact Helena on 0 1 1 8 9 8 8 9 7 4 4 or Helena.housego@btinternet.com for more information. Thursdays, 7.45pm to 8.45pm. Cost £6.00 per class or £20.00 per month.

Fitness Freestyle Yoga: (Infant Hall)

Yoga based fitness class without the spirituality. Mondays 8.10pm to 9.10pm. Costs £5.00 per week on a pay as you go basis. Contact Louise on loubevmit@gmail.com or 07985 676201.

GOL: Mondays at Junior School and Tuesday at Infant School. 3.40pm–4.40pm. Contact Doreen at GOL on 01256 381652.

Holiday Play Scheme: Easter holidays Monday 7 April to Tuesday 22 April. Open to school children aged from 4 to 11 years. The Holiday Play Scheme provides a fabulous day of activities supervised by our friendly and professional team to keep the children amused with arts and crafts, sports, games and fun food. The Holiday Play Scheme runs through every school holiday and inset days and is lots fun. We have 2 options for sessions times:
Session A 8.30am to 4.00pm – price £14.75
Session B 8.30am to 5.30pm – price £18.00

Virginia Wyatt Tel: 810499
www.fourlanescentre.com

Check Your Bills

When I checked my BT telephone bill recently I found two charges included for BT Privacy at home Caller Display for a total of £6-60. I have never, ever had a Caller Display on my telephone.

Multiply this by the huge number of customers and you have a good income.

Tony Davie

Café Scientifique

Café Scientifique meets on at The Tea bar, 9-13 London Street, Top of Town (next to the Post Office), 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

To see our full calendar of events, details of the talks below and receive email reminders of what's happening, join our Meetup Group at: www.meetup.com/cafesci-basingstoke

Future talks for 2014:

Monday 28 April: Dr Jon Copley, Southampton University – “Discovering new life and new resources in the deep ocean: a choice for our future”

Monday 19 May: Prof John Shepherd, Southampton University – “Climate Change: What's happening and what can we do about it?”

Monday 30 June: Dr Ken Collin, Southampton University – “Cetaceans: from whaling to dolphin healing”

Monday 28 July: TBC

Monday 18 August: TBC

Monday 29 September: Dr Rob Ewing, Southampton University – “How do proteins communicate? Mapping the network of proteins in the human cell”

Bob Clifford

Museum of Army Flying

This Easter the MAF is hosting an array of exciting events for all ages.

Saturday 12 April: Glider Competition

The museum is encouraging families to get creative this Easter by hosting a

glider competition. We're keeping it simple: gliders can be made from any material but must not exceed 60cm wingspan and most importantly must be able to safely transport precious cargo – a crème egg! It is free to enter your glider and with great Revell model aircraft giveaways, this a fantastic opportunity for family fun. The event will be held on the grass outside of the museum. Gliders to launch at 2pm. For more information on the day and the rules please visit our website. Museum entry is ticketed as normal.

Thursday 17 April: Battlelines Theatre

As part of the World War One Centenary Commemorations, the Museum is hosting an evening of theatre looking at the experiences of War. 'Battle Lines' will explore the way three wars have shaped the lives of generations. This will be the final date of the Battle Lines tour and the museum will be hosting the full trilogy of plays: WW1, WW2 and Modern Warfare.

Tickets are £7 for adults and £4 for children. Event time: 7pm

Saturday 19 –20 April: Egg Raid

Come enjoy a museum visit with an Easter twist: An egg hunt around the hangars!

This Easter weekend the museum will be visited by the Easter Bunny who will be hiding clues around the museum. Use the clues to collect all the egg token and claim a chocolatey reward! No booking required and this event will run free all day with museum entry.

James Burrows

SOLVE

The Council Planning Infrastructure and Scrutiny Committee (P&IOSCOM) met on 5 March to consider a revised pre-submission Local Plan (LP). This was prepared following the consultation at the end of last year and Cabinet approval of an unchanged (LP) housing target of 748 houses per annum.

The revised plan, thanks to the leadership of Council Portfolio Holder, Mark Ruffell, did not propose any new Greenfield sites. This means that the threat to Hodds Farm, Lodge Farm and Poors Farm has receded for the time being. Unfortunately Redlands Farm, Razors Farm and Upper Cufaude Farm remain.

A further public consultation is due to begin in April for 7 weeks but will be restricted to the changes made since the previous draft. As far as housing development is concerned changes include: East of Chineham brought forward to 2017 from 2019 but reduced to 450 houses from 900 during this plan period.

Although it is good news that no new greenfield sites are proposed the lack of a Local Plan, adoption due in July 2015, leaves the Borough open to speculative applications from developers. This is already happening in other parts of the Borough. There is also no guarantee that the Planning Inspector will approve the plan. The new planning rules enable massive increases in development allowing developers to ride roughshod over local councils and residents throughout the country.

CountryWatch and SOLVE submitted our alternative proposal to reduce the Local Plan period to 15 years, 2011-2026, instead of the proposed 18 year plan to 2029. Some councillors were sympathetic but the majority, clearly weary of the process, did not wish to take this forward at this stage.

Thanks go to Councillors Cubitt, Godesen, Biermann, Still and Tobin for their continued support. The difficult bit is yet to come as we continue to defend our Loddon sites.

For more information go to <http://www.solveloddon.org/>

Peter Bloyce

Probus Club

Andrew Goddard, the Commercial Director of TNT Post, gave an overview of the history of the postal service in UK. Started as the Royal Mail by King Charles 1 the recipient of the letter had to pay for its delivery. This was changed by Roland Hill in 1840 by the introduction of the Penny Black.

Even after the impact of email there are still over 13.8 billion letters posted each year in UK. A lot of these are what is known as transactional mail, those utility and credit card bills, direct mail and of course the Christmas card market.

If you are retired and want to know more about the Probus Club of Basingstoke then see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or phone their secretary Gerry Anslow on 01256 325253 for an informal chat.

Paul Flint