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# Chineham

Issue 396  
January 2017

# *Chat*

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Fox Seat in Chineham Business Park. Photograph by Robert Dines.

# January 2017

A quick glance at the Chineham Parish Council map shows how well we are theoretically served with footpath and cycle links. So we should be well placed to do more walking and cycling for reasons of both health and the environment.

However, on one of my regular cycle rides the other day, I was once again reminded of how poor the designs of many of these routes are. Priority, is invariably given to cars and the way routes are set up, just makes walking and cycling so much more cumbersome than it need be. At the Thornhill lights, pressing the button seems to make no difference what-so-ever, the lights still go through their full routine.

And then there's the lack of provision made for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Only if you are using one of these, do you realise just how user-unfriendly the pavements are. Dropped kerbs seem to be scattered willy-nilly, with no thought for the routes people would actually be taking.

Anyway, I do not really wish to start the New Year just with just a grumble, so let's end with a hope that this New Year, councillors and council planners will consider pedestrians and cyclists more when designing new routes.

Wishing everybody a fulfilling year ahead.

Fiona Biermann

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**\*NEXT DEADLINE: 8th January (for ads), 14th January (for editorial)**

Please submit copy to Fiona Biermann, 3 Merrydown Lane 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 may I take this opportunity to wish all of our members and their families a happy and prosperous 2017. Entertainment events in the club during January are as follows:

**Monday 9th:** Bingo in the lounge bar at 20.00.

**Thursday 19th:** Senior citizens' bingo and lunch. 13.30 in the lounge bar.

**Saturday 21st:** Live rock music with Manseti. Come and dance to songs from groups such as The Killers, Muse, Stereophonics and The Rolling Stones.

**Sunday 29th:** Members' draw between 1500 and 1600. £300 must be won.

We are offering a deal on new memberships. If you join the club at any time between January and April 2017, you will not have to pay any further annual membership renewal fees until May 2018. This gives you up to four months' free membership.

We look forward to seeing you all throughout 2017.

John Prince

## Chineham Village Hall

We hope you had a great Christmas, and would like to wish you all a very happy New Year.

The children will soon be returning to school and we welcome back our regulars to the halls following the Christmas break. We are also pleased to welcome back Maria, who will be

returning in January with Yoga classes. Maria can be contacted on 07771 9 2 1 1 8 5 or email maria@therealyouwithin.com for further information.

Whether you are interested in diet, dance, exercise, or activities for young children, you will find details of regular classes/sessions on the noticeboard at the halls and on our Calendar of Events on the website.

If you are looking for a venue to hold classes, events or meetings, please contact our Booking Clerk on 07935 328172 for more details (please leave a message and she will return your call), email us at chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com or check availability and submit an enquiry form on our website [www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk).

As mentioned last month, we will be holding our AGM in February, so if you would like to be more involved with your local community and are interested in joining the Chineham Village Hall Management Committee, you are more than welcome to attend. A Nomination Form will be printed in the February edition of the Chineham Chat, together with more details about the AGM. The Management Committee is a registered charity responsible for the halls, buildings and recreational facilities and is a totally separate body from the Village Club Committee. This invitation is open to ALL adult Chineham residents - membership of the Village Club is not required to join the Village Hall Management Committee.

Lynne Hughes

## Chineham Library

We hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and are feeling refreshed to face the New Year. Our 'Dickens at Christmas' event was enjoyed by those who came and we hope to hold more such events in the future. The children who attended greatly enjoyed the special Christmas storytime. This year also sees the long awaited children's Coding Club begin, please contact the library for further details.

All the regular library activities will carry on as normal in the New Year. There will be **Saturday Craft Sessions** for primary school age children on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February, from 10am - 12pm.

**Storytimes** for the preschool age take place at 10 am on all the other Saturdays.

The popular Tuesday **Rhymetimes** continue in the existing pattern of under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am.

The Thursday **Chatterbooks** group for primary school age children will meet on the 12<sup>th</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Construction Club** where children enjoy playing with Lego continues every Saturday from 2pm - 3.30pm.

The **Crime Reading Group** will meet on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am - 11.30am, the **CHIPPS** reading group will meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February from 10 - 11am. New members are always welcome at these groups.

The **Colour and Create** adult colouring group will resume on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, and then continue fortnightly on 25<sup>th</sup> January, from 2 - 4pm. The Age Concern computer sessions for the over 50s will take place weekly from 11<sup>th</sup> January, between 10am and 1pm. Please book through the local office on: 01256 423874.

The latest information about our events can be found on social media, along side photos from events and our many displays, so do give those a look. In the New Year there will be displays about new interests and new authors. How about making a New Year's resolution to join your local library and to support some of our activities? Wishing you all the best for 2017

Cathy Foster

## Chineham Conservation Group

The group will be meeting on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January to do some coppicing in Great Sorrells Copse. Starting at 10am until 1pm with tools and refreshments provided. Meet on Mulberry Way, near the bridge over the stream. Nearest postcode RG24 8TZ.

If anyone has a woodburner/open fire and would be interested in some fuel in exchange for some assistance, please email the group (chinehamcg@gmail.com).

Please dress for the weather and wear robust footwear. No experience is required.

Helen Haider

## Chineham WI

Chineham WI enjoyed a very successful Christmas Craft Fair back in November 2016. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and to all the crafters and cake bakers who made the event such a success. We very much appreciate your support and hope you enjoyed your Christmas shopping spree with us. A group of members visited The Haymarket Theatre in November where we enjoyed The Full Monty performed by the Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society. A thoroughly entertaining evening! The November monthly meeting brought more musical entertainment, this time from The Chantrelle Singers. The ladies of the choir gave us a varied program of songs and had us all joining in by the end of the evening.

With the arrival of the new year, members look forward to a new and varied program of WI events including intellectual topics, craft demonstrations and social events. This is the perfect time to join the WI because an annual subscription of just £39 guarantees you 11 monthly meetings and six copies of the WI Life magazine, together with the opportunity to join in with the gardening club, Scrabble club and/or the lunch club, as you wish. But you are not limited to events organised by Chineham WI; you will also have the opportunity to attend group, county and national events. You are also entitled to attend workshops and residential courses at Denman College at a reduced rate for members. Sounds like a bargain to me! And, in addition to all that, you will meet a

warm and lively group of local ladies, just like you.

Why not come along to our next meeting at Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham on **Monday 24th January at 7:30pm** and check us out?

Happy New Year to all our readers!

Pam Malcolm

## The Basingstoke Lions Club: A Remedy for the January Blues

It's a mark of their popularity and the unforgettable show they offer that the 'Abba Sensation Tribute Band' have been booked for the 4<sup>th</sup> time by the Basingstoke Lions Club, and will launch the Club's 2017 event programme on **Saturday 21 January**, 7 for 8pm at Queen Mary's Hall, Basingstoke.

In this the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, also coincidentally the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Lions International itself, 'Super Troupers', 'Dancing Queens' and all others besides can be sure of a fantastic evening. Long white boots and floaty sleeves aren't prerequisites, but would be welcome!

Tickets (£12) are available from :  
Toucan Travel, Chineham Shopping Centre

[www.basingstokelions.org.uk](http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk)  
Maurice Hockley 01256 421867/  
mauricehockley@hotmail.com  
John Lincoln 01256 325280/  
jomolincoln@btinternet.com

Ann Vicars

## **NWR Discussion Group for Women**

No meeting last month as we were all busy preparing for Christmas, but we did have a very good Christmas lunch in the Pavilion Tea Room, Old Basing Recreation Ground with lots of good food, drink and chatter plus a quiz to challenge our knowledge of Christmas.

Our first meeting in 2017 will be at 2pm on **Monday 9th January**, where we will be easing ourselves into the new year with "An Alphabet Discussion". Our lunch will be on **Tuesday 17th January** at a venue to be decided and our Reading Group will be meeting on **Thursday 26th January** to discuss "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd. **Monday 6th February** will be our planning meeting where all members' suggestions are taken into account as we put together our programme for the year ahead.

Our meetings are very friendly and informal, usually in the afternoon in each others' homes, although there are some evening meetings. To find out more about NWR generally, visit the website: [nwr.org.uk](http://nwr.org.uk) or to find out more about our group in particular and to arrange to come along to any of our meetings (and check us out with no obligation to join), please contact Diane, Tel: 3 2 5 5 5 4 , e m a i l : [diane.hope@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:diane.hope@tiscali.co.uk) or Evelyn, Tel: 8 1 6 6 3 6 , e m a i l : [evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk)

Diane Hope

## **David Smith Dance Group's Fundraising Event**

On Sunday 20th November, David Smith Dance Group raised £200.00 for the Chineham Village Hall Fund. The afternoon was a mixture of Ballroom, Latin and Sequence and was attended by many dancers who came out in support of the Village Hall. There was also Live music provided by one of this country's top keyboard players for dancing, Larry Green. A Cheque was presented by David to the Committee of the Hall, who were represented by Mr Les Fryer (Chairman) and Mrs Wendy Stait (Bookings Secretary). Les Fryer gave a speech and thanked David and all of the dancers for supporting the Hall.

David Holds a regular Monday Tea Dance at the hall from 2:00pm till 4:00pm and it is a relaxed atmosphere with super music that all that attend enjoy.

If you have been enjoying Strictly and want to learn how to dance, then why not come along to a Beginners Ballroom and Latin 6 Week Dance Course which is starting on **Friday 6th January**, 8:45pm till 9:30pm in Chineham Village Hall. For further details please contact David Smith by phone: 07791 749163, Email: [david@davidsmithdance.com](mailto:david@davidsmithdance.com) or to see what other events and classes there are, check out the website: [www.davidsmithdance.com](http://www.davidsmithdance.com)

David Smith

## Nature Notes

Chineham is lovely when there is a late autumn with dry weather, because the yellow leaves turn roads into golden tunnels. Even with the nights becoming darker, somehow it shortens the time until Christmas. The ivy was still producing pollen until those sudden sharp frosts, so the bees were happy. As usual, the oak trees have kept their leaves until last, although they become brown-coloured. I sometimes pick a few branches and spray a little gold paint on the shrivelled foliage to use instead of a fir tree. Thinking back over the years, I have had a number of different arrangements instead of the standard spruce. One year, we used a Teasel that had grown in the garden to a height of 8ft 2ins, and given a light splash of silver. Of course if there were children visiting, I would purchase a tree.

When I walked down the garden to check that the birds had not eaten the berries on the holly, I noticed that there were several catkins on the hazel already. It's such a short time since the nuts were hanging there. Looking at the other corner, however, I thought the strong winds would have brought down the seeds from the Norway Maple, but they are still up there waving in the breezes, mocking with their numerous wings.

I was saddened to see a squashed hedgehog on Mattock Way and wondered if it was my local one. My fears were confirmed a day later when I discovered a small hedgehog by my front door trying to find some cat food. I moved it into a cardboard box (even

wearing gloves I could feel the prickles) then weighed it and found it was less than 500grams. (that is the minimum weight to survive hibernation.) As it was late in the evening, I placed it in a cat box with water and cat food. Next morning it was curled up in some of the paper lining the bottom so that I could not see it, but had eaten some food. I drove it to the vet, who would deliver it to the rescue centre after examination. I am hoping it may be returned to me, as hedgehogs retain details of the area they roamed.

By the time you read this copy of the Chat, the festive season may have finished, so I will wish you a Happy New Year. Please continue to watch out for sightings . It's great to know so many care about our area.

Ginny Wright  
email: [ginny.wright2@btinternet.com](mailto:ginny.wright2@btinternet.com)  
Telephone: 479562

## Chineham Chat Distributors Required

I am still looking for a Lillymill Chine Area Distributor and I am also looking for road distributors for Upper Stroud Close.

At the moment I have to cover the first level distribution, 2 area distributions and a road distribution in addition to many other volunteer commitments. Please, please could someone offer to help me out?

Laura Romney  
[distribution@chinehamchat.com](mailto:distribution@chinehamchat.com)  
01256 817893

## Chineham Parish Council

Parish Councillors and staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents a Happy New Year.

### 2017 Meeting dates

The dates for the Full Parish Council meetings in 2017 are scheduled as follows:

- January 9<sup>th</sup>
- February 13<sup>th</sup>
- March 13<sup>th</sup>
- April 10<sup>th</sup>
- May 8<sup>th</sup>
- June 12<sup>th</sup>
- July 10<sup>th</sup>
- August 14<sup>th</sup>
- September 11<sup>th</sup>
- October 9<sup>th</sup>
- November 13<sup>th</sup>
- December 11<sup>th</sup>

Meetings start at 7.45pm in the Community Rooms at the Chineham Village Hall (the public session will start at approximately 7.50pm). Agendas are available on the Parish Council noticeboards and on the website three clear days before the meetings.

### Grit Bins

There are a number of blue or yellow bins filled with salt and/or grit for use in Chineham on public roads and pavements. They are not provided for private use. Residents can report that a bin requires refilling via the Hampshire County Council website [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk). Alternatively, please contact the Parish Council with the location details and we will report it.

### New seating

We have agreement in principle, to install some more seats around the Parish. If there is a spot that you would like to nominate for a new seat, please contact the Assistant Clerk at the email address below with details of the location and your reasons for suggesting it.

The Parish Council is here to help the residents of Chineham, so if there is a Chineham issue you are concerned about, please contact the Clerk, Sally Jackson on 01256 474500 or email [clerk@chineham.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@chineham.gov.uk) or the Assistant Clerk, Julia Johnston on 01256 324345 or email [assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk) during office hours only please. The Parish Council website can be found at [www.chineham.gov.uk](http://www.chineham.gov.uk).

Sally Jackson

## Festive Rubbish and Recycling

In Chineham, rather than the collection being on Thursday 29 December, it will be on **Friday 30 December** instead. Collections should return to normal the following week, from Monday 2 January 2017.

Don't forget to recycle your real Christmas trees at one of the 22 drop-off points across the borough from Tuesday 3 January until Sunday 29 January.

More information on what can and can't be recycled is available on the council's website at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle) or by calling the council on 01256 844844.

## Great Binfields Primary School

Ash and Beech Classes have had a busy Autumn 2 continuing the term with the theme of Funnybones. We spent time out in the woods finding and creating shapes to help us design our own Funnybones towns. Children worked in teams to do this and then developed an adventure story that their scatty or funny character would go on.

We then researched the Fire of London. Both classes loved acting some of these scenes out which they then used to write a diary entry as if they were Samuel Pepys or another person from that time. They found it very funny to think Samuel Pepys buried his cheese in order to keep it safe!

Towards the end of term we were extremely busy practising for our Christmas play *Super Star!* The children worked so hard to learn their lines and some learnt dance routines too. There were certainly some tricky songs to learn, with quite a few having rounds in them, however they all persevered and delivered an excellent performance. All the staff and parents were very proud!

In Spring we are looking forward to our new topic Traditional Tales. We will certainly have lots more exciting adventures in store, designing our own healthy cereal bars and growing our very own beanstalks...I wonder which tale this could be linked to?

Mrs Barnhouse, Year 2 teacher

## No Strings Attached

Award-winning BATS Next Gen's next production has a couple of Chineham children involved and is very different from the usual musical show - this one involves puppets!

The cast of 32 youngsters will be performing Avenue Q School Edition at The Haymarket, Basingstoke from the **23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017**. Avenue Q School Edition is a laugh-out-loud musical that tells the timeless story of a recent college graduate named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. He soon discovers that although the residents seem nice, it's clear that this is not your ordinary neighbourhood. Together, Princeton and his new-found friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life. The show has been slightly adapted to cater for the younger age of the performers.

Avenue Q School Edition is directed by Sally Manning, recent winner of The Daily Echo for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical (Sister Act) and Musical Director is Rachel Glover, voted Best Musical Director.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York.

Tickets are on sale at The Box Office, Anvil Arts, Tel 01256 844244 or via the link on the website [www.batsnextgen.co.uk](http://www.batsnextgen.co.uk) where you can find more information about the show.

Sandie Thomson

## **Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship**

Following the Christmas festivities, we are now looking forward to a new year of meetings and outings which we hope will appeal to all present and future members.

On **4th January**, Anne Court will be giving a talk on her year as Mayor of Basingstoke and then in February, Alan Grace is speaking about Amazing Berlin 1914–1989. Then in March we will have our AGM followed by lunch and in April the speaker is Mel Rees on Brought to Book – My Family and Other Setbacks. At the May meeting Gina Ireland will be giving us a History of Greeting Cards and then in June at our open meeting we will be having Alix with a Punch and Judy Show. In July the speaker is Mark Watts on Winchester Prison – Past and Present and in August Rose Hardy is coming to give a Demonstration of Live Planting. Tony King is paying a return visit in September to talk about Vanished London and in October we have another return speaker, Iain Kennedy, with a topical talk on Cuba Libre. In November Vicky Chulworth will be giving a presentation on the work of the Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance and the year ends in December at the Christmas Party along with some musical entertainment.

A variety of trips are planned from February onwards to The William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow, Chichester, Parham House, Exbury Gardens, Waddesdon Manor, Beaulieu, Stourhead, a Thames River Trip to Greenwich, the ever popular Mystery Trip and a visit to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Christmas Victorian Market.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil

Servants and their partners are welcome. Further details about meetings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at [bjmapbr@ntlworld.com](mailto:bjmapbr@ntlworld.com) and if you would like to join us on any of our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

David Cowling

## **Parkinson's UK, Basingstoke**

The Basingstoke Branch of Parkinson's UK is one of 370 local groups across the UK, run by volunteers, which together support thousands of people affected by Parkinson's. It provides an opportunity for people to share experiences and build friendships, gain access to specialist advice in times of need, and take part in activities that enable them to stay active and maintain a social life in a safe, welcoming environment.

We have introduced a programme of Information and Support Meetings for Newly / Recently Diagnosed patients. These run quarterly at the Ark Conference Centre, and expert speakers present the latest on research and medication. The sessions provide great comfort for the attendees, at a time when they have recently learned of their diagnosis. They also have the opportunity to meet and discuss with other patients in a friendly and relaxed environment.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th March 2017, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. For further information, please contact Parkinson's Local Advisor, Sarah Robinson on 0344 2259825 or email [srobinson@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:srobinson@parkinsons.org.uk)

Julian Strong

## **County and Borough Councillor Elaine Still**

Welcome to 2017!

One of the successes in 2016 was the installation of a zebra crossing on Thornhill Way close to the Village Hall.

The first news of 2017 is of further improvements to the crossing area following feedback and comments from crossing users and local residents. I reported last month that I had requested these concerns to be reviewed by HCC officers.

Firstly, the vegetation around street light 11 will be pruned back.

Secondly, and most importantly, an additional crossing floodlight will be provided to better illuminate the immediate area of the crossing. A quote has been requested from SSE and an order will be placed as soon as this is received.

Lastly, the provision of railings is being reviewed.

Hopefully, all these improvements will make the crossing safer for both pedestrians and motorists. As with any road crossing we all (motorists and pedestrians) need to take care and be considerate of others.

Happy New Year

Elaine Still

Tel: 880926 / 07747862913

elaine.still@hants.gov.uk

cllr.elaine.still@basingstoke.gov.uk

Website: elainestill.com

## **Chineham Medical Practice**

Dear Editor,

Today (12 Dec 16) I called the surgery to make an appointment to see a Doctor. My ailment is not life-threatening and to give you an idea, the last time I saw a Doctor was 3 years ago - I am not a hypochondriac!!

I was disgusted to hear that the earliest I could see a Doctor would be the 5th Jan 17, thank goodness that I am not that 'sick' that I need to see a doctor more urgently!

My point is that that prior to Sherfield Park being built we didn't seem to encounter these issues, but since then, more houses have been built without consideration for the impact on local resources. The local school is fast running out of space and 'temporary' (although I believe it will be more 'permanent') accommodation has been built to accommodate the increasing population.

Why is it that the local planning department do not insist on these builders building more schools and doctors etc to cope with the increase of population? With more houses now being built at the back of the trading estate is it not about time that we insist on additional resources being built?

Chineham used to be a lovely quiet 'village' to live in; since they opened up the road through the trading estate and to Sherfield Park it has now become a rat run for commuters to cut off the 'Red Man' round about and it can be difficult to move around Chineham at peak times, how will it be when the new houses are built?

*Continued on page 20*

Last month there was an article about 'closing' the roads of Chineham to commuters, I think it's a really good idea but practically I have no idea how it would or could be policed. How about making the roads narrow to a single lane (similar to what has been done up at Hatch Warren), it wouldn't be a great impact on local residents but to the commuters it may make them change their routes?

M Snowden  
.....

### **Zebra Crossing**

Dear Editor,

Elaine Still referred to a Safety Audit (December's Chineham Chat) focused on the new zebra crossing. I would echo the desirability of better lighting, and would add, if it's not in the report already, moving the bus stop. One final thing - can the yellow lights not be synchronised to make them more authoritative and less like distracting Christmas lights! After all, warning lights at level crossings are not random, like the ones we have been given.

M Jones  
.....

### **Parking on Hanmore Road**

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to your attention the parking on Hanmore road to drop off children at Four Lanes school. I have to join Hanmore Road via Tangway and am appalled at the blatant disregard of the parking restrictions while parents drop off their children. Cars are parked on the yellow line at the entrance to Tangway meaning to exit you have to move to the middle of the

road as it's impossible to see along Hanmore Road to make sure it's clear. On many occasions I have had to stamp on the breaks as a car only comes into view meters from me. If a car has to swerve to avoid me creeping out of Tangway it will hit other cars and worst a child. Do these people who park on the yellow lines think they have a right to do so? Do they realise they are putting children's and their own safety at risk?

Name withheld by request  
.....

### **Traffic through Chineham**

Dear Editor,

I support Martin Biermann's idea of 20 mph zones in cul de sacs in Chineham (last month's Chineham Chat). The road architect clearly wanted to slow traffic down, by creating the idea that the "road" is a space shared by cars, pedestrians, prams, and cycles, so appropriate care is needed.

You could say we are lucky to have our road concept, and with the link footpaths, Chineham hosts a good proportion of residents making their way on foot. Makkinga in Holland takes the notion a stage further with its Woonerf or "Shared Space" roads with no road markings etc. They are contentious.

Back to Chineham, we DO have chicanes, and footpaths that don't extend the whole route. It should make people drive more slowly and considerably, but unfortunately some residents don't "get it". Maybe 20 mph signs would make drivers take stock.

M Jones

## Minister's Message

In December 1939 King George VI in his Christmas message quoted from the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins those now well-known words, "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." The nation was in the early months of the Second World War and no one knew what lay ahead.

Fortunately we are not in such a situation as we step into 2017. Yes, as we face Brexit there is uncertainty but nothing in comparison to 1939. However on an individual level as you look into the new year you may wonder what lies over the horizon and that thought may cause you some anxiety. If that is so, then let me encourage you as you look ahead and as you step forward to do what the poem suggests and put your hand in the hand of God and find your strength and comfort from him.

I remember one day not long after having started school I arrived there in the company of my older brothers but dare not go in and so I clung firmly to a lamppost outside the school gates. My brothers were unable to persuade me to go any further and then my Mum appeared. She took my hand and led me into the school. For a while she sat there holding my hand and things were not as bad as I feared. As suddenly as she had appeared she was gone but things were fine.

I don't want to down play the fears and concerns we may have as we approach the New Year, but I do want to affirm what I have found over many years to be true, and that is the power of God to help us face the difficult circumstance and to bring us peace in the face of the unknown.

This year I personally face the unknown as I shall be retiring. That means leaving my job, home, church, friends, sports teams and much more. People have asked me how do I view retirement and what will I do? My answer is I don't know because I don't know what lies ahead. But I do know God and I do know that his presence can bring strength and comfort to face the unknown.

I wish you God's presence and peace in 2017.

Ian Bentley  
Minister at Christ Church, Chineham

## Christ Church Activities

**Sunday services:** 9am and 10.30am – no charge, all welcome! The 9am service tends to be quieter and more reflective; we have a music band with drums and guitars at the 10.30am services when we also have groups for children and young people of all ages from babies to 18+.

Our sermons are recorded and are available on our website along with the sermon text at [www.christchurchchineham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk)

**Prayer:** Is there something you would like prayer for? Do let us know. If you would like to come and pray at the Church you would be most welcome. Our Prayer

Room is open whenever the building is open – you are welcome to drop in to sit and pray in silence, or if you would like someone to pray with or for you, we can arrange that. We meet weekly to pray on alternate Sunday and Monday evenings; you would be most welcome to join us (please contact the office for details).

**Coffee and Co:** Our café is open to all every Monday during term time, 9.30am to 11.30am. Delicious coffee and cakes are available, along with toys for the children and a warm welcome!

**Luncheon Club:** 31 January, 12noon. Everyone is welcome to join us for a tasty two course lunch and good company. The charge is just £5 per person (£2.50 for children), a slightly increased charge to cover costs. Lifts may be available so if you need transport please let us know. There is no need to let us know in advance if you are coming, apart from if you have any special dietary needs.

**123 Matinee Group:** 10 January, 1-3pm. This social/support group is aimed at the more mature although everyone is welcome; no charge. This month Doris Kay will be sharing stories and photographs of Windsor Castle, and we will be doing seated exercises as usual. There will be plenty of people to chat with and there will be refreshments. If you are interested in coming along and/or helping you would be most welcome.

**CCBBies:** Thursdays, 10-11.15am. Our Thursday morning group for pre-school children offers free play, Bible stories, crafts, refreshments, friendship and fun and starts up again on 12 January 2017. Each week the children have a

simple craft to take home and if the weather is good we will play out on the patio. Parents/carers are required to stay with their children – all welcome!

**Messy Church:** 9 January, 3.45pm onwards. 3.45pm games/refreshments (so you can come straight from school), 4.15pm activities, 5.15pm supper, 5.45pm time to go home! Families are invited to join us as we learn about Jesus and the Bible together in a creative way. There is no charge although we gratefully receive donations towards the cost of the food. If you have any special dietary needs we would appreciate knowing in advance, but otherwise please just turn up!

**Kids' Club:** 14 January, 5-6.30pm, £1 entrance fee (first visit free), bring your friends and some change for tuck and a hot snack. Crafts, music, fun and games for children at primary school. All welcome!

**C3Y:** Fridays, 8-9.30pm. Our youth club for young people in year 6 and upwards is open for fun and games every Friday during term time in the Wesley Hall. The entrance fee is just £1 (first visit free); bring a friend as well as some spare change for tuck.

**Comedy Night:** 4 February, 7.30pm, £10 per person. BYO drinks, light refreshments provided.

Come and enjoy a night out with the Christian comedian Mark Palmer! Originally from South Africa, Mark now lives in the UK and tours with his special brand of comedy reflecting on current themes and topics.

*“Mark Palmer is one of a rare breed of comedians: he can make you laugh*

*without having to pepper his routine with expletives or venture too far below the belt. He's great at slice-of-life comedy, and deftly gives a wide range of subjects a sharp nudge in the ribs..." Cape Times*

Invite the people you know and book your tickets now via the Church office.

**Charity collections:** We continue to collect stamps (new and used), postcards, spectacles, socks, tools, bedding, tins and packets of food, and tops from supermarket milk bottles for various charities. We can find a home for most things so if you have anything to pass on, do contact us! Thank you everyone for your continued support.

**Room hire:** Rooms are available to hire either on a one-off or regular basis. Contact us for details or look on our website. Prices start at £8.25 per hour (Community Rate), which includes use of the kitchen/snack bar where tea, coffee, sugar and squash are provided. Groups that regularly hire the church include Tiny Talk, Bridge and Breathe Easy (British Lung Foundation), along with a range of University of the Third Age groups including Family History and Latin.

**Further information:** If you would like to know anything about the life and activities of Christ Church please contact Ruth or Gill on 01256 474280 or e-mail [admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk) or drop in to the office which is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 2.30pm. You can also find information at [www.christchurchchineham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk), on Facebook and/ or Twitter (@ccChineham)

Ruth Randall

## Samaritans Basingstoke

Samaritans' vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We work to achieve this vision by making it our mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviour.

Samaritans Basingstoke Branch was established in 1969 and registered as a full Branch in 1972. Callers can contact Samaritans by telephone (Free Call 116 123), by visiting the Branch, by letter, email or SMS. We offer a confidential and non-judgemental listening service, to support people through difficult times.

New Volunteers are critical in supporting the ever-increasing needs for our listening services, and we hold regular information evenings on the second Thursday of each month. The next information evening will be held on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January** at the Basingstoke Branch commencing at 19:30 and lasting approximately one hour. If you would like to find out more information about becoming a member of Basingstoke Samaritans, please call our volunteer recruitment and admin number on 01256 353473, or alternatively email [recruitment@basingstokesamaritans.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@basingstokesamaritans.org.uk) or drop in at 5 Essex Road, Basingstoke, RG21 7TA. You can also visit our website at [www.samaritans.org/basingstoke](http://www.samaritans.org/basingstoke)

The work of Samaritans Basingstoke depends entirely on public donations to continue our work, so your support of our charity is very much appreciated.

## Linguatastic

How did you see in the New Year? Did it involve throwing old plates at friends' doors? Well in Denmark, the throwing of dishes symbolises friendship and the sending of good luck! So maybe you wish you had woken up to a large heap of broken crockery on your front doorstep?!!

On the other hand, some say "you make your own luck". Indeed, as it's a new year and time to think about what changes we would like to make in our lives, maybe one of your New Year's resolutions will be to learn another language? Or to improve on a language you already know?

A study conducted by the European Commission a few years ago, found only 39% in the UK - a quarter of whom are native speakers of other languages - can, in practice, have a conversation in a foreign language. This compares to an EU average of 54%. Fourteen per cent in the UK can speak two languages other than their own, compared with 25% across the EU. So, if you would like to improve our "performance" in languages against other European countries, whilst also improving your health (yes, there is also research on the benefits to the brain of knowing/learning another language), then do consider signing up to some classes, starting to use some of the numerous language-learning apps available or if you are lucky enough to be in a position where travelling to and staying in another country is possible, spend some time there and make an effort to meet the locals and practise the language.

Feliz Año Nuevo, Frohes Neues Jahr, Bonne Année, Felice Anno Nuovo!

Fiona Biermann

## Probus visits the Mini Plant

Fourteen of us ventured to Cowley to see how Minis are made. We were given an overview of the plant and shown some old models and some specials including one covered in cow skin and some from "The Italian Job". Then into a mini bus to a huge building where the pressed steel parts were assembled involving about 900 bright orange twisting and nodding robots making 6000 spot welds per car. The large parts arrived from holes in the ceiling but the smaller pieces were loaded at various stages into hoppers by hand.

The group then went to the main production line where the painted and baked body shells arrived for the fitting of the rear axle, fascia, glass etc. by more robots but also people. Each car was made to a specific order with no two cars having identical specifications. The engines are produced at Hams Hall in Birmingham and were pushed in from below. Only then was the pre-made front of the car connected. Cowley only has a supply of major components for two hours' production at any time so the logistics of "just in time" supply is critical. The seats, trim and eventually wheels were fitted and exactly 11 litres of fuel inserted before each car was thoroughly tested. A car comes off the assembly line every 68 seconds 24 hours a day. They go straight to car transporters or trains to reduce storage for eventual delivery to over 110 countries.

Probus Club Vice President Nick Waring said "The future is here, being able to produce cars so efficiently but with even more on the road it doesn't bode well as this was a good trip spoiled by the horrendous journey home caused by too much traffic"!

Paul Flint

## Citizens Advice Bureau

Income tax is a tax on income including:

- earnings from employment, including benefits in kind such as a company car
- earnings from self-employment
- most pensions income, including state, occupational and personal pensions
- some social security benefits
- interest on most savings
- income from shares (dividends)
- rental income
- income from a trust.

Not all types of income are taxable because you will be entitled to a certain amount of income tax-free in each tax year. The tax year runs from 6 April one year to 5 April the following year. There is no minimum age at which you become liable to pay income tax. What matters is the amount of your taxable income. If this is below a certain level, no tax is payable.

To calculate roughly how much income tax is payable for a particular tax year, use the following steps. The income tax rules are complex so this will not necessarily give you the precise answer in every case:

**Step 1** Add together all your taxable income, **before tax**, from all sources, including employed earnings and self-employed profits, taxable social security benefits, income from renting out accommodation, pensions and interest from bank and building society accounts, for the year. Leave out non-taxable income such as housing benefit, pension credit, maternity allowance, child benefit, child tax credit and working tax credit, personal independence payment, premium

bond prizes and lottery winnings. You must use gross amounts in Step 1, that is, the amount of taxable income **before** any tax was deducted. This will give you your **total income** for working out how much tax you have to pay.

**Step 2** Check whether you can claim tax relief for any money you have spent out over the year. For example, on your contributions to a pension scheme (but not on pension contributions where tax relief is given at source – these are taken into account in Step 4) or for paying certain employment expenses. Take these off your total income here. If you are self-employed, business expenses are deducted before reaching your taxable profit.

**Step 3** Check which tax free allowances you are entitled to. If you live in the UK on a day to day basis, you will be entitled to a basic Personal Allowance. If your income is over £100,000 your personal allowance is less. If you were born before 6 April 1948, you will be entitled to a higher age-related Personal Allowance, although this may be restricted depending on your income. If you are blind, you could get a Blind Person's Allowance. These allowances are deducted at this stage of the calculation, leaving an amount of income on which tax is payable. This amount is called your **taxable income**.

**Step 4** To calculate the tax payable for 2016/17, you should:

- calculate tax at 20% of your taxable income up to the basic rate limit of £32,000. If you are on a low income, savings income will only be taxable at 10%, even if your bank or building society has taxed it at 20%, so

a repayment could be due. Then:

- if you have taxable income over £32,000, calculate tax at 40% of your taxable income over £32,000 and up to £150,000, then
- if you have taxable income over £150,000, calculate tax at 45% of your taxable income over £150,000, then

- add the last three figures together. This is the amount of tax that is payable for 2016/2017, but

if your household is receiving Child Benefit and one member of the household has income above £50,000, you may have to pay extra tax in addition to the amount above.

Example: Your taxable income is £11,000 after deducting your personal allowance from your total income.

You have no taxable income above the basic rate limit of £32,000, so you pay tax at the basic rate of 20% on all your taxable income.  $20\% \times £11,000$  is £2,200. You can find out more about income tax rates on the GOV.UK website at: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

You should now be able to work out the amount of tax due for the year, unless you are entitled to Married Couple's Allowance (see Step 5). When you have calculated the total tax due, take off tax already paid – that is, PAYE tax deductions from employment earnings and occupational pensions, and tax deducted at source from savings income.

**Step 5** If you are married or in a civil partnership and one of you was born before 6 April 1935, you can claim Married Couple's Allowance. If this applies to you, 10% of the Married Couple's Allowance is deducted from your tax bill at this stage.

Following these steps may not give the right result if:

- you are self-employed and have made a loss for the year
- you were born before 6 April 1948, you make charitable payments under Gift Aid and your age-related personal allowances are reduced because
  - of the level of your income
- you have overseas income that is taxed abroad.

### **Need further information or help?**

Citizens Advice Basingstoke, (located within Basingstoke Discovery Centre) can help you with queries you have on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10am-3.30pm, Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is pre-booked appointments only) and Saturday mornings 10am-12noon. Wednesday evenings we are open until 6.30pm. The Advice Line telephone number is 0344 111 306.

Online help can be obtained from the main Citizens Advice website:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) and/or via the Basingstoke website:

[www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk](http://www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk)

## **Cable My Street**

At the time of writing, areas of North Binfields are being dug up by Virgin Media contractors as part of preparations for wiring up to fibre broadband. For those interested in hearing more about plans, a “community information” exercise is being held on Thursday 19th January, 5-7pm in the Parish Community Room at Old Basing Recreation Ground, RG24 7DA.

## Four Lanes Community Centre

**Happy Hands and Dancing Feet for Mums, Babies and Pre-School Children (Dads welcome):** Life with young children can be exciting, exhausting, rewarding, challenging, joyful and daunting. Come and join us and have fun. There will be a range of activities including indoor and outdoor toys, arts and crafts, stories and rhymes, drinks and biscuits. All based in a safe and welcoming environment. Wednesdays, 9.30am to 11.00am on-going. £12.00 for 6 weeks or £2.50 per week on a drop-in basis. Please contact us to register your interest.

**ZUMBA:** Zumba is a popular fitness programme inspired by Latin dance. Zumba means to move fast and have fun and is easy to learn. It's the best way to lose weight while enjoying high energy and motivating dance moves alongside fantastic dance music. Mondays, 7.30pm to 8.30pm and Tuesdays, 7.00pm to 8.00pm. £5.25 on Mondays and £6.00 on Tuesdays or pay as you go. Contact Lisa (Mondays) 07884 267722 or Candice (Tuesdays) 07843 979340.

**Clubbercise:** Bringing a night out to your workout. Fun, easy to follow dance fitness routines using glowsticks to club anthems from the 90s to the latest chart music. Taught in a darkened room with disco lights. Thursdays 8.00pm to 8.45pm. Classes to be booked in advance on <https://bookwhen.com/clubbercisewithaimee> or [www.facebook.com/clubbercisewithaimee/](http://www.facebook.com/clubbercisewithaimee/)

**Hath Yoga:** No previous experience required, suitable for all levels. Yoga's combined focus on mindfulness, breathing and physical movements brings health benefits. Payable in blocks of 6 weeks cost £30.00 or drops in welcome £6.00 per class. Tuesdays 6.15pm to 7.15pm at the Infant School. For further information and to book the course please contact Kati on 07450 226719 or email [pumpkinyoga@gmail.com](mailto:pumpkinyoga@gmail.com)

**Linguatastic:** Languages include French, Spanish and Italian. For further information please email [info@linguatastic.com](mailto:info@linguatastic.com) or phone 471474.

**Good Companions, Over 55's group:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Come along and enjoy tea and homemade cake with a variety of speakers and activities. Events available on request.

**Holiday Play Scheme:** A great idea to keep your children entertained during the school holidays. 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 of fun. We have 2 options for sessions times: Session A 8.30am to 4.00pm (£14.75), Session B 8.30am to 5.30pm (£18.00). The above clubs are available to Infant and Junior children who attend school full time.

Virginia Wyatt

## **Basingstoke Discovery Centre**

Special Events for January:

### **Meet the Author: Adele Parks**

On Saturday 28 January at 2pm. Cost is £5.

Come and enjoy some book banter with one of the leading ladies of fiction. With 15 novels over 15 years, Adele Parks is one of our bestselling authors. She has written a wealth of compelling stories: vivid, powerful and lasting. Her forthcoming novel 'The Stranger in my Home' is already out on eBook and the paperback is due to be launched in early February with advance copies available for sale on the day.

Tickets for Adele's talk can be purchased at the Discovery Centre, by telephone (01256 478670) or online: [www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home](http://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home)

### **Miniprofessors**

Monday 9 January – Monday 3 April (not Monday 20 February):

- 9.40am (Ages 2-3)
- 10.40am (Ages 3-4)
- 11.40am (Ages 3-4)

Cost is £78 for the 12-week course.

Thursday 12 January – Thursday 6 April (not Thursday 23 February or Thursday 23 March)

- 9.40am (Ages 3-4)
- 10.40am (Ages 2-3)

Cost is £71.50 for an 11-week course.

These 40-minute classes are specially tailored for young scientists aged between 2 and 4 years old.

Experiments – Singing – Stories – Interactive – Come along and nurture a lifelong passion for science!

Tickets for these courses can be purchased at the Discovery Centre, by

telephone (01256 478670) or online: [www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home](http://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home)

Regular Events:

### **Rhyme Time**

On Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.30am.

Thirty minutes of songs, rhymes, rhythm and action for young children.

### **Spanish Rhyme Time**

On Thursdays from 3.30pm.

Learn through music, singing and fun. For children of all ages and all languages!

### **Story Time**

On Fridays from 10.30am.

Half an hour of stories and colouring for the under 5s.

### **LET's GO Construction Club**

On Saturdays from 2pm until 4pm.

For ages 3+. Do you love making things using Lego® bricks? All budding builders are very welcome to come and join. Lego® and Duplo® available.

### **Painting for Fun**

On Thursday 5 & 19 January, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

Informal group of painters who share tips and conversation in the coffee shop area.

### **Children's Crafts**

On Saturday 7 January from 10am. For ages 3+

### **Board in the Library**

On Saturday 7 January, 11am – 4pm and Wednesdays 11 & 25 January, 2pm – 6pm.

Bring out your competitive streak with

games like Splendour and Carcassonne. Or working cooperatively – try a game of Pandemic to help save humanity!

### **Chatterbooks**

Monday 9 January, 4pm – 5pm. Ages 8-11.

Books, Puzzles and Games.

### **Discover Board Games**

Saturdays 14 and 28 January, 10am – 1pm. Ages 3+

### **Wonderful Wordsmiths**

Wednesday 18 January, 4pm – 5pm  
Creative Writing group for ages 8 - 13

### **StreetPass**

Saturday 21 January, 11am – 4pm  
Experience a new level of social gaming with your Nintendo and other gaming consoles. Drop-in.

### **Family Chess Coaching**

Saturday 28 January, 10am – 1pm (drop-in). Hints, tips and guidance for complete beginners as well as those with some knowledge and experience.

### **Baby Clinic**

Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.30am – 11.30am

### **Drop-In Surgery with Local Councillor**

Saturday 7 January, 2pm – 3pm. Meet your Hampshire County Councillor for Basingstoke Central.

### **Memory Box Project**

Fridays 13 and 27 January, 10.30am – 12.30pm

### **Family History Drop-in**

Tuesday 17 January, 10am – 12pm

## **Basingstoke and District Disability Forum**

Join Basingstoke Disability Connections for a free cuppa and chat in a friendly atmosphere about anything disability-related on the first Tuesday of the month, 12:30-2:30pm in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre's Community Room.

Do you have a disability-related question and don't know which way to turn? Pop in to the Basingstoke and District Disability Forum's Signpost Service on the **first Tuesday of the month**, 10:00-12:00 in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

Do you want to know more about becoming a volunteer Trustee of Basingstoke and District Disability Forum? Join us in The Orchard on **Monday 23rd January 2017**, 10:00 - 12:00 for an open recruitment meeting.

Would you like to get involved with a disability awareness raising event in Basingstoke town centre on Saturday 1st July 2017? Everyone is welcome. We need volunteers to help run the event and teams to take part. Are you part of a club who would like to earn sponsorship for your chosen charity and for BDDF? If so, please get in touch.

Amanda Knowles

Email: [info@bddf.org.uk](mailto:info@bddf.org.uk)

Tel: 01256 423869

# **Basingstoke NeighbourCare needs you!**

## **Drivers Required**

We provide a service for elderly people in YOUR community. Particularly for those who find it difficult to use public transport or lack the confidence to go out on their own. We provide a driving service to pick them up from home, take them to their appointment and bring them home again, using our volunteers' own cars. We also take clients shopping, to social events such as lunch clubs, helping them remain part of their community.

We need drivers who can spare a few hours a week during the day time, Monday to Friday, and who have a car that is comprehensively insured and suitable for carrying an elderly person. In return, we will cover your petrol cost from home; currently we pay 45p per mile. Some of our current drivers work shifts and can only offer one or part of a day per week but even this amount of time can help us. You can choose what hours/days you are available and what duties you undertake.

## **Befrienders Required**

Would you have an hour a week free in the daytime (Monday to Friday)? Many elderly people would love to have someone to come and see them for a cup of tea and a chat. You could be the first person they see that week who has time just for them. You will gain great satisfaction and help them to relieve their loneliness. We try to find you someone who lives near to you so that if you do not have your own transport, you can walk to them. But if you have to use your car or public

transport, we will reimburse your costs.

We need people who have time and patience and like talking to elderly people. You need to have good listening skills and be able to show empathy. We will provide you with training and support and match you with one of our clients. Our befriending co-ordinator will take you to your first meeting with our client and support you as necessary.

If you are interested in either or both of the above opportunities please contact us by phone on 01256 423855 or email [volunteering@neighbourcare.com](mailto:volunteering@neighbourcare.com). See also our website [www.neighbourcare.com](http://www.neighbourcare.com) for further information about our service.

Hazel Tilbury

## **News from the Poppy Appeal**

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the amount raised for the Old Basing, Hook and District this Poppy Appeal and remembrance time is £23,442.55.

I cannot thank everyone enough for making this amount possible.

We are planning several fundraising events for 2017 so please watch out for future notices.

If you would like to help out or have your own ideas for fundraising please contact Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser Tim Russell on 0777 288 3964 or [hampshire.committee3@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.committee3@rbl.community)

Tim Russell