

chineham

Issue 417
October 2018

Chat



Binfields Sculpture. Photograph by Peter Malcolm.

October 2018

If you are a regular Chineham walker then you may have noticed the additions to the railings of the A33 footbridge. Affixed to both sides were multiple hand written laminated signs with messages of hope, positivity and encouragement, each listing the contact details of the Samaritans. Having read quite a few it was very uplifting. We don't seem to have many people desperate enough to consider that final jump—thankfully—but you would have to hope that anyone even considering it might have thought again and sought the help that could make the difference.

It was therefore very saddening to find that recently they have been entirely removed. I'm not sure why—against regulations? Hard then to explain the huge recruitment sign hanging off one side for drivers to enjoy. It seems more likely that there is a requirement to pay to hang signs. If this be so, shame on those that removed them. To remove messages of hope for the desperate for a few pounds—that's extremely disappointing. Or is it professional signs only? Well, perhaps it would be a great investment to have a proper, permanent sign on the bridge with the contact details of organisations that can help. Samaritans: free phone 116 123.

Jo Appleford-Cook

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NEXT COPY DATE: 14th October

Please submit copy to Jo Appleford-Cook, 16 Guinea Court or as above.

Your copy can be accepted handwritten, typed, or by e-mail.

Chineham Village Club

The club is going through a relatively quiet phase now as we build up to the festive period but keep your eyes open for details of an event we are planning for in November. Entertainment details for October are as follows:-

Mon 1: Bingo, in the lounge bar at 8pm

Sat 6: Live music in the lounge bar with Darragh Finan at 8pm

Sun 28: Members' monthly draw, between 3 and 4pm

Every Sunday: Meat raffle with prizes from Graves The Butchers

John Prince, Chairman

Chineham Village Hall

The current list of children's and adult activities are listed below and are also shown on the Calendar of Events on our website. Please be aware that most children's activities usually take a break during half term later this month.

Main Hall:

Monday: Gym Minis, 9.30–11.30 am, Shelley 07769 916299; Pilates, 12-1pm, Pam pamsteele@idnet.com; David Smith Dance, see www.davidsmithdance.com for further details/timings, David 07791 749163; 3rd Chineham Brownies, 5.30–6.55pm; 1st Chineham Guides, 7–9pm.

Tuesday: Caterpillar Music, 9.40–11.40am, Jasmin 07952 935021; Aerobics, 7.30-8.30pm, Tracey 07707 681070 or tcxercise2010@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday: Tots Play, 10.15am–12.45pm; Lynden School of Dance, 3.45–6pm, Lyndendance@aol.com; Weight Watchers, 6.30-8.00pm, 07884 240215; Zumba, 8.30-9.30pm, Rina 07971 553658.

Thursday: Slimming World, sessions at 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm, Faith 07966 933994.

Friday: Caterpillar Music, 9.30–1.15pm, Jasmin 07952 935021; Lynden School of Dance, 3.45–6pm, Lyndendance@aol.com; David Smith Dance (as above).

Sunday: Karate, 6.30-8pm, Sam 07919 338556; David Smith Dance (as above).

Community Rooms:

Monday: 1st Chineham Rainbow Guides, 5.30-6.30pm; Craft Circle, 1st and 3rd Monday each month, 7.30-10pm

Tuesday: Yoga, 7-8pm, Chris 07712 427428

Wednesday: Yoga, 9.45–11am and 7.15–8.30pm, Maria 07771 921185

Thursday: Little Pumas, 4-6pm, Kate 07887 993207

Saturday: Young Yogis, 9.30–11.30am, youngyogiswithg@gmail.com

Lynne Hughes

Chineham Library

We are now entering well into autumn with the children probably already looking forward to half term. The Summer Reading Challenge finally finished on 15th September. It was a great success at Chineham with over 800 children taking part, assisted by a lovely large team of volunteers. We really appreciate your support in this.

Everything is now back into its normal pattern at the library, so for children this includes rhymetimes on Tuesday mornings, for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Crafts resume on the first Saturday of every month, between 10–12, and storytimes at 10am on the other weeks. Construction Club with Lego to play with meets 2–3.30pm. Then in the week, the Chatterbooks group meets on **18th October** from 3.45–4.45pm, and there are now two coding clubs with places bookable through the library.

Age Concern are back here on Wednesday mornings providing computer training for the over 50s between 10am and 1pm. Places are bookable through their office on 01256 423874. The Crime Reading Group are meeting on **13th October** from 10.30–11.30 and the general reading group at these hours on **27th October**. The CHIPPS group for parents and pre-schoolers meets on **10th October** from 10–11am. The writing group is trialling meeting on a Saturday this month, the **6th**, from 10–11.30am, so if Thursdays have not been possible please do come and support this meeting. Future dates will then be arranged. Further information about these groups is available from the library.

There is also an event coming up in November, to commemorate the centenary of the First World War finishing. 'Lest we Forget' takes place on **15th November** at 7.30pm, with tickets costing £5 bookable through the library or online. It features Jonathan Jones presenting themed readings and poetry, including works by the war poets. This performance was a sell-out at Newbury Festival this year, so don't delay in booking your tickets! For the most up-to-date information please check social media.

Cathy Foster

Chineham WI

Seventeen of our members gathered at Tidal Bay Adventure Golf Centre at Wildmoor (near Wyevale Garden Centre, off the A33) for a game of crazy golf one Tuesday evening in late August. We had a lot of laughs as we attempted to negotiate the 18 hole course. The centre was well equipped and well organised as we set off in small groups, some starting partway round the course at different holes to

reduce the waiting time and ensure we all finished at roughly the same time. A splendid time was had by all, with three members hitting a hole in one (one with her very first shot!) and final scores ranging from 60 to 90! After the game we headed for the 19th hole - Longbridge Mill on this occasion - for a drink and a chat.

On **Saturday 17th November** we are holding our annual Christmas Craft Fair at Chineham Village Hall between 11am and 3pm. We are welcoming many new crafters this year to join previous favourites. All the crafters are local and have been invited on the basis of the quality of their work and value for money of their products. Everything is made by hand, not by robots, and you'll find very little plastic at the fair (apart from a few buttons - probably recycled)! Some items can be personalised too, making them extra special. Chineham residents have been very enthusiastic supporters of the fair in past years and we hope you will be this year. Please visit us for unique, eco-friendly, inspirational gifts for you, your family and friends, all at a local venue for one day only. Free entry and free parking!

You don't have to be "crafty", nor to make jam, to join the WI. So, if you're curious to see the many and varied activities we enjoy, you are very welcome to come and check us out for free in the Shaftesbury Room at Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham from 7:30–9:30pm on **Monday 22 October**. Chineham WI usually meet on the fourth Monday of the month at Christ Church.

Future meetings include:

22 Oct: Street Pastors

26 Nov: You, the jury

17 Dec: Stories for Christmas

Pam Malcolm, Treasurer, Chineham WI

Events at Anvil Arts

October events:

Tue 2, 7.45pm, The Anvil

Russian State Symphony Orchestra: British violinist Chloe Hanslip joins for a programme that includes Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake suite, Prokofiev's Violin Concerto no. 1 and Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. Conducted by Vasily Petrenko. Tickets: £41, £37, £30, £23, £15; under 25s and f/t students £11

Wed 3, 7.30pm, The Haymarket

One Man Stranger Things - A Parody. Charles Ross single-handedly recreates season one of the Netflix sensation; all the characters, dialogue, special effects, music and Eggos in one superb, upside-down show. Tickets: £24

Wed 3, 7.45pm, The Forge

Josienne Clarke and Ben Walker. Josienne and Ben blend Walker's intricate guitar playing and arrangements with Clarke's compelling song writing. Tickets: £16.50; over 65s, under 16s and f/t students £14.50

Thu 4, 8pm, The Anvil

Ross Noble: El Habladur. Ross Noble returns to dance around the stage, spinning out all the nonsense in his head into a hilarious stand-up show. Suitable for ages 15 and over. Tickets: £28

Fri 5, 7.30pm, Sat 6, 2pm & 7.30pm, The Haymarket

The Goon Show by Spike Milligan. In 1951, Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers, and Harry Secombe brought a brand of chaotic humour unlike anything that had been heard before. Now enjoy the first major theatrical production of the show on stage. Tickets: £20; over 65s, under 16s and f/t students £18

Thu 11, 4.30pm, Fri 12, Sat 13 & Sun 14, 10.30am & 1.30pm, The Haymarket

The Gruffalo's Child. Songs, laughs and scary fun for children aged 3 and up, and their grown-ups, in the smash-hit West End show which follows the Gruffalo's Child on her adventures. Tickets: £14.50

Thu 11, 7.45pm, The Anvil

Passion, by Pascal Dusapin. Music Theatre Wales and National Dance Company Wales present the UK premiere of the beautiful and sensuous dance-opera by Pascal Dusapin which explores the pain and passion of two lovers who are forced apart to separate worlds. Springing from the myth of Orpheus but with an intriguing contemporary take. Tickets: £25; under 25s £10

Sun 14, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Joan Armatrading. 2018 brings Joan into her 46th year in music and only the second time that she will be performing a tour completely solo. Joan has written new music for this tour and will be singing many of those songs, plus favourite hits from the past will also be included. Tickets: £35.50

Tue 16, 8pm, The Haymarket

Jamie Raven, Making Magic. The lovable magician who headlined the West End box office smash The Illusionists will take you on a journey through the magical world, explaining how magic works, why magic works and what it means to so many different types of people. Tickets: £22; over 65s and f/t students £20.50; under 16s £20

Wed 17, 7.45pm, The Anvil

London Philharmonic Orchestra. British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor joins for a programme that includes Glinka's Ruslan and Ludmilla overture, Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto and Dvorak's Symphony no 8. Conducted by Alondra de la Parra. Tickets: £41, £37, £30, £23, £15;

under 25s & f/t students £11

Thu 18, 7.30pm, The Anvil

The Russian State Ballet and Opera House present Swan Lake. The Russian State Ballet and Opera House return to The Anvil for another spellbinding, lavish, full-production ballet. Tickets: £36, £34; over 65s, under 16s and f/t students £2 off

Fri 18, 7.45pm, The Forge

Andreas Tophøj and Rune Barslund. The accomplished Danish duo perform with violin, accordion and viola. Tickets: £15; over 65s, under 16s and f/t students £13

Fri 19, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Michael Portillo, Life: A Game of Two Halves. Since leaving the House almost a decade ago, Portillo has endeared himself to many with his respect for our great Victorian railways and the daily life of ordinary hard working people. Listen to his story and ask him questions. Tickets: £20.50

Sun 21 Oct, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Paul Young, 35 Years of No Parlez. Paul Young performs his much loved debut album No Parlez in celebration of 35 years since its release. The album produced his first UK no.1 single Wherever I Lay My Hat, and hits Come Back and Stay and Love of The Common People. Tickets: £45.50. £33

Wed 24, 1pm & 4pm, Thu 25, 10am & 1pm, The Anvil

Peppa Pig's Adventure. Join Peppa as she gets ready to go on an exciting camping trip to the woods with George and her school friends. Full of games, laughter and live music. Suitable for ages 3 and over. Tickets: £19; under 16s £17

Wed 24, 7.30pm, The Haymarket

Neil Oliver, The Story of The British Isles in 100 Places. Neil was born to love Great Britain. During his 20 years travelling to every corner, and whilst filming BBC2's Coast, he's fallen in love all over again. Hear in his amusing and entertaining way what it all means to him. Tickets: £25.50; under 16s £18

Fri 26, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Joe Pasquale, A Few of His Favourite Things. Joe Pasquale is now on his 30th anniversary tour, treating audiences to a comedic mega mix of some of the best bits, plus some surprises on the way! Tickets: £24

Sun 28, 7.30pm, The Anvil

10cc make a welcome return to The Anvil to perform their hits including I'm Not in Love, Donna, Rubber Bullets, and Dreadlock Holiday. Tickets: £38

Tue 30, 7.30pm, The Haymarket

Benedict Allen. The adventurer-explorer tells the truth about his most recent adventure - a solo expedition to Papua New Guinea during which he filmed his journey to visit a community he had befriended thirty years earlier - when he hit the headlines as friends and family thought he was missing. Hear the highs and lows of this awe-inspiring trip. Tickets: £19

Wed 31, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Sons of Pitches, 100 Number One Hits. The multi award-winning British vocal group perform fast-paced medley and mashups as they attempt to hit 100 tracks in just one evening. From Michael Jackson to The Beatles, ABBA to Eminem, the show caters to audiences of all ages. Tickets: £28; meet and greet tickets £53

Andrea Bath

Nature Notes

We have arrived in early September, so on some days it feels like autumn with the air quite chilly in the mornings, but in the afternoons it is hot like summer. Although that sounds like an Indian Summer, I am not sure it is.

The spiders are very busy and I have spotted ones I haven't seen before. As there are over 200 species in the UK, I reckon I won't have seen more than a quarter at most. For those people who collect conkers to place in their houses in order to prevent the intrusion of these arachnids, they are going to have more of a search this year as there seemed to be fewer on the trees, and those were small. The scientists have warned that there won't be any in 15 years, because more and more trees are suffering from leaf miner moth or bleeding canker.

Other fruits that were smaller this year were the blackberries. I did not find many around the skate park, so I wandered down the path by the brook and discovered myself in a world of white fluff—the seeds of the creeping thistles. At one time these plants would have been covered in chaffinches, but they too have disappeared.

However, the magpies are increasing and I spotted 7 or 8 on a lawn in Four Lanes Close pecking for the leather jackets, I assume, or ants. Last week I saw two magpies and a fluffy grey baby on the grass further down the road. This baby bothered me because it didn't have a long tail. I continued watching, then the adults

flew away and the baby wandered into the road. A bus came down the road, and slowed to allow the bird to fly away. At that stage I was able to see that it was in fact a wood pigeon!

There was a new batch of dunnocks on the bird feeder. Normally, they are ground feeders, but by waiting several minutes on the branch above, the two youngsters copied their parents and moved down to cling to the wire. The suet pellets are very popular.

The hedgehogs are being fed nightly with a mixture of hog food (two types), cat biscuits, dried worms and sunflower hearts. I shall continue to feed them with this until about the end of November, but leave out hog food and water even through the winter. Remember, if you find one during the day, especially if it is small, it needs to go to a vet, who will contact the local Sanctuary.

There is a fantastic Russian vine (mile a minute plant) at the side of the road in Mattock Way and several buddlejas further along, so there is still plenty for the bees.

I haven't been bothered too much by the wasps, but I gather they will be around until October.

Thank you to the lady in Farm View Drive who kindly paused from her weeding to show me how the fish came to the surface at feeding times.

Ginny Wright
ginny.wright24@gmail.com
479562

World Sight Day

World Sight Day will take place on **Thursday, 11 October**, 9am-3pm, at Old Basing Mall. 45 million people in the world are blind and 90% live in areas with little or no access to treatment. The top causes of blindness are cataracts, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration. 80% of blindness is curable and preventable and 66% of the blind are women or girls. Astoundingly, 1.2 billion people don't have access to glasses.

World Sight Day sees the Basingstoke Lions Club for the 6th consecutive year inviting people to bring their redundant spectacles to the Club's stand, this year situated in Old Basing Mall (by Boots), on **Thursday, 11 October** between the hours of 9am and 3pm. (No spectacle cases, thank you.)

Visitors to the stand can also find information leaflets, receive advice on help available locally and see small items of equipment, all relating to those with impaired vision. Various local sight loss organisations are supporting the day through the supply of literature and equipment, and opticians in the town are also supporting the event.

As part of SPECKTREK, a programme for recycling spectacles developed by Lions Clubs International, over 300,000 pairs were collected last year across Great Britain and Ireland and sent to eye camps in Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

It is hoped that once again the kind people of Basingstoke will retrieve any old glasses for which they have no further use, and bring them to the

Lions' stand for rehoming; such a simple act can change the lives of the recipients beyond measure.

Ann Vicars

Chineham Medical Practice Vandalism

It is with regret that I should like to inform our local community of the vandalism recently perpetrated on the Chineham Medical Centre building. On Tuesday 28 August ingress of water was discovered inside the building. On investigation staff noticed that the lead on the flat roof had been removed exposing bare wood. It transpired lead had been removed from under the roof tiles as well as on the flat roof and a window fascia was been damaged. In all around 70 kilograms of lead was removed and although it was only worth about £70 for the lead itself, the damage and repairs to secure the building will far exceed this amount. The police are involved.

As the building is now being targeted in this way there is a possibility it could occur again. Please help us by reporting to the police if you are passing by and notice any untoward activities outside the surgery premises. Thank you.

K Ashton

Did you know?: Autumn according to the meteorological calendar begins in September and ends in November. In the astronomical calendar, the beginning of autumn is marked by the autumn equinox which occurs around the 22 September.

Basingstoke Lions Club

This month we celebrated the lazy, hazy days of summer with a finger food dinner in one of the member's garden. The weather was obligingly balmy and it provided a great opportunity for us to meet and mingle. It wasn't a BBQ, but you can understand the attractions of the BBQ as a form of socialising with its casual atmosphere in which everyone can relax and interact. And the great news is that we'll be doing the same sort thing again very shortly in aid of the MacMillan Nurses Coffee Morning. I hope you are all going to join in.

Welfare: We spent £854. This covered 4 cases of breakdowns of family equipment and a long winded tarradiddle about swapping beds which I couldn't follow and in any case cost us nothing. We also funded medals for disability footballers and donated £200 towards the hire of a sign language interpreter by St John's Ambulance for a candidate on a First Aid course. The largest commitment was the purchase of a mobility aid for a 2 year old Down's Syndrome child – money well spent!

Fundraising: The Hampshire Police Band play for us at QMC on **13th October** and The Caerphilly Male Voice Choir sing for us on **17th November**. These are both exceptionally high quality performances. Our ticket prices are very low, you get free parking, you get to sit at tables with your friends enjoying a drink from our modestly priced bar – what's not to like? Give yourself a treat, get in touch with us via the website at www.basingstokelions.org.uk or by contacting one of the organisers:

tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk, mauricehockley@hotmail.com or jomolincoln@btinternet.com.

Quiz Night at the Cliddesden Millenium Hall is on **3rd November**. Invitations have already been issued to our regulars. So if you want to join in the fun, apply direct to philipjhwilson@btinternet.com. I'm expecting some really high scoring this time. Even I knew some of the answers!

Thursday 11th October - World Sight Day: This year we are celebrating this UN sponsored day at Old Basing Mall, Basingstoke, RG21 7LW. We'll be situated between Boots and Blue Inc. This is your chance for an informal chat about any sight concerns and the help available locally. And please don't forget to bring your redundant spectacles for recycling to the 3rd world.

Membership: We are rapidly becoming a Club of GOPs (make up your own interpretation!). Our business meetings are usually good for a laugh or two, so do send us a message via our website and you'll get an invitation to come along and see what we're like – no pressure, it's all up to you.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you.

Philip Wilson

Chat Distributor Needed

We are seeking a new Road Distributor for Warbleton Road, please get in touch if you would be able to take on this role.

Mike & Kathryn Price
distribution@chinehamchat.com, 479594

Variety Show

The Basingstoke Variety Show 2018 is on **Saturday 6th October** at 7.30pm at The Anvil. It showcases some of Basingstoke and Deane's most talented groups, schools and soloists in a one night only show. Featuring a live house band, the show will include music, dance, theatre and more - a programme that will appeal to all. With over 300 local performers in a 'one night only' show, this evening should not be missed!

Tickets are available via The Anvil Box Office. Adults £16; over 65s, under 16s and full-time students £12 (includes £2 booking fee). Book online at The Anvil box office at www.anvilarts.org.uk or telephone 01256 844244

All proceeds from the evening will go to the Mayor's Charity Appeal 2018/19:

- Basingstoke Mencap
- Naomi House and Jacksplace
- Basingstoke NeighbourCare

Come and support this local show!

Z McLaren

Community SpeedWatch

Many of you will have seen the Chineham Community SpeedWatch (CSW) team out and about monitoring traffic on our roads. The purpose of this, according to Hampshire Constabulary, is to enable members of the community to become police support volunteers and take action against speeding on the roads within their area. Volunteers use equipment that can monitor the speed of passing traffic and then record the details, later adding them to a database. Vehicle checks are then undertaken by police and letters are sent to the registered keepers advising them of their speed and reminding them of why it is a community concern.

Please note: Community SpeedWatch is an educational scheme, not enforcement. It is considered as the first tier response to speeding issues. If a problem persists, it can be escalated to tier two, meaning that enforcement can be undertaken by the neighbourhood policing teams. Chineham has a problem with speeding traffic. We are instructed to record the details of all vehicles detected as travelling at 35mph or above. In 2018 we have recorded 175 vehicles of which:

- 116 were doing 35+ but less than 40
- 55 doing 40+ but less than 50
- 4 at 50+ all on Hanmore Road (3 these on a Saturday morning).

In August 2017, we even recorded a car travelling at 65 mph on Hanmore Road on a Saturday morning.

Why does it matter?

- If hit by a car at 20mph, 2.5% of pedestrians will be killed. 97.5% survive
- At 30mph, 20% of pedestrians will be killed – 80% will survive
- At 35mph, 50% of pedestrians will be killed – 50% will survive
- At 40mph, 90% of pedestrians will be killed – 10% will survive

Currently there are six volunteers in the Chineham CSW team. For the results to be registered, there has to be at least three volunteers on duty each time. Some of these are at work during the week so coverage is limited. If you would like to know more or to join the CSW team, then please contact the parish clerk at clerk@chineham.gov.uk. There is no limit to how many volunteers a scheme can have nor any minimum number of attendances for each one. PS Anyone is welcome to attend any of our sessions as an observer to see what we do.

Peter Vincent,
Chineham CSW Coordinator

County and Borough Councillor Elaine Still

I would like to give you all an update on the progress of the major road works around Chineham. Hampshire County Council's highway improvements to the A33 corridor are progressing well. The scheme is designed to increase capacity and make journey times more reliable on this important strategic route.

Work to widen the Ringway Roundabout is now complete and traffic is flowing at full capacity. Surfacing on Crockford Roundabout is complete but lane closures will need to remain in place to enable completion of works at Binfields Roundabout safely and as quickly as possible.

A programme of night-time closures is currently underway with around 10,000 square metres of new surface material being laid in the coming weeks. While the County Council will do all it can to minimise disruption to those who live, work and travel through the area, road closures will be needed and I would encourage people to leave more time for their journeys during this time.

I have asked for signage on Reading Road to alert diverted traffic that they are entering a residential area and to drive with care. Thank you for your continuing patience and support. For updates see www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportschemes/.

Elaine Still

Tel: 880926 / 07747 862913

elaine.still@hants.gov.uk

cllr.elaine.still@basingstoke.gov.uk

Website: elainestill.com

Borough Councillor Paul Miller

Traffic issues appear to dominate our lives at the moment and I know I have asked for patience until the A33 works on the junctions have been completed so we can expect a return to some form of normality and hopefully smoother and safer traffic flow. The rerouting of night time traffic along Reading Road while the A33 was closed had proved to be unsatisfactory especially as local councillors insisted that HGVs were not to be routed that way during the early planning stages of this work. The highway planners obviously did not listen and sought the 'easy' option for them and continued anyway. I have protested on behalf of all our residents affected especially having experienced that shambles myself. I fully sympathise with the two residents who addressed the Parish Council this week and can only express my regret that in spite of all our efforts, this disruption has been the worst outcome for all.

Speeding on Hanmore Road has once more been highlighted and I would like to flag the Chineham Parish Council website that has published traffic speed data from several roads in Chineham. Notwithstanding what we all witness from time to time, the evidence shows that it is only a small proportion of drivers who exceed the 30mph speed limit. I do not know precisely what evidence we need to initiate 'traffic calming' but that will be investigated immediately but requests have been made for more frequent police speed checks whenever possible.

Paul Miller

Borough Councillor

01256 467400

07777 659022

Four Lanes Infant School

We have only been back at school after the summer holidays for 8 days but we have already been really busy at Four Lanes Infant School.

This year in Year 2 the topic is 'Amazing Me' and we have just started to learn about the amazing jobs and exciting things we will be doing. We will be learning to draw ourselves, make fruit kebabs to keep our bodies healthy and make models of ourselves. We have been learning about the story 'The Jolly Postman' and have been writing about the characters. We have been thinking about the British values and democracy. We have started writing our manifesto if we would like to be a school councillor or eco councillor. After that we have to vote for who we think would be the best and help the most. Some Year 2 children have got jobs to help in school like helping to get the laptops out and help with the new Year R children at lunchtimes.

The new Year Rs have been going on a tour around the school and meeting people who keep them safe in school, like the teachers, LSAs and other adults in the school. The children have also been learning about where things are and where to put things and have been making new friends.

On Monday the Year 1 children dressed up as fairy tale characters for their 'Once upon a time' topic. They had to go on a fairy tale hunt to look for objects as they had blown away in a storm from fairy tale land. The children wrote a letter to the fairy

godmother to tell her where the things were in and around the school. They have started to make fairy tale puppets.

We are looking forward to all the exciting things we will do this year.

Orlando Benton, Neha Sankar

Basingstoke Choral Society

Our concert on **Sunday 18th November** in The Anvil features the ever-popular work of Karl Jenkins. The Peacemakers, a work dedicated to peace, was composed by Jenkins as a sequel to his much-loved Armed Man. In seeking to extol peace, Jenkins takes his text from the writings of iconic figures such as Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Anne Frank and the Dalai Lama. We will be singing this piece one week after Armistice Day and we hope the work will offer inspiration and solace for a time in need of both.

The New London Sinfonia will also perform Palladio – a work for strings which any regular listener of Classic FM will instantly recognise. This is a celebration of harmony, order and restraint and very recognisably in the Baroque style.

These two pieces showcase the enormous appeal of our most famous contemporary composer. Tickets are available on 01256 844244 or from www.anvilarts.org.uk.

A Hurst

Minister's Letter

Restoring the broken: I had the privilege of visiting the Lost Gardens of Heligan last week, while enjoying an unexpected holiday in Cornwall. Having wanted to see this restoration project for a long time, I felt that God gave me a real treat in making this possible.

Many years ago the garden had been completely self sufficient, attached as it was to a large stately home. It had been created with skill and creativity and had a large team of gardeners to tend it.

Then many of those gardeners became involved in the first world war and a considerable number of them died in service. The result of this was that the gardens were abandoned and the flourishing garden became overgrown and many of its characteristics hidden from view. The buildings became dilapidated and the large house had to be sold.

And then...many years later one man had the vision to reclaim and restore the lost treasure of this beautiful garden. Volunteers began to gather and now it is visited by many holiday makers and horticulturalists who want to revel in the beauty of this renovated garden which awakes in everyone the delight of seeing that which was broken becoming complete and whole again.

As you can imagine, I found this story very moving and couldn't help but relate it to how God takes us in our brokenness and brings us into new and purposeful life. But often, in the background of such a story, someone had a vision of the impossible and worked tirelessly to see the transformation. And so it is sometimes,

when we are praying for great brokenness in people or situations that seem irredeemable. But as we intercede and tirelessly bring people before God, we know that there are many stories of lives totally transformed and of the lost becoming whole again. So our encouragement is that God is the one who redeems, restores, transforms and answers our heartfelt prayers, even when all may appear to be lost and broken. Nothing is so hidden that God can't reach in and do his incredible work of restoration and redemption.

Hazel Marchment
Basingstoke Community Churches.

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 along with the sermon text at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk.

Prayer: is there something you would like prayer for? Do let us know – contact details below. 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).

Weekly Groups

Sparklers: Thursdays, 9.30am to 11.15am. This group is for pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/carers for free play, refreshments, games, stories from the Bible and songs. Each week there is a craft for the children to take home. There is no charge although we do ask for a contribution towards the cost of refreshments. All enquiries to Katy Lowe c/o the church office.

Coffee and Co: Mondays, 9.30-11.30am, term time only. First one Monday 3 September. Home made cakes, freshly brewed coffee, plus lots of toys for babies and tots.

This month:

Shoebox Christmas Appeal: Monday 1st October. This is a fun afternoon as we prepare and fill 300 boxes for our annual Christmas appeal – they are sent to Eastern European countries for children who may not otherwise receive any presents. If you would like to join us for an hour or two from 12.15pm, please contact the church on 01256 474280 to let us know. Tea and cake is provided.

Alternatively fill your own box – we can advise on the best things to include – pop in the church and pick up a leaflet. Boxes must be returned to the church by Monday 5 November latest.

Messy Church: Monday 8 October. A time of creativity, worship and food! We enjoy fun activities and share a meal. 3.45-5.45pm, carers must stay with their children.

123 Matinee Group: Tuesday 9 October, 1-3pm. This social/support group is aimed at “older friends” although everyone is welcome; no

charge. You will find a warm welcome, plenty of people to chat with and there will be refreshments and a range of activities. If you need it we may be able to arrange a lift - just let us know in advance. If you are interested in coming along and/or helping you would be most welcome.

Daytime Holy Communion: Tuesday 30 October at 11.00am followed by Luncheon Club.

Luncheon Club: Tuesday 30 October 12.00pm. The cost is £3 – tickets are available by contacting Jan Markey on 01256 356829. If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know. Also call if you would like a lift as we may be able to arrange this.

Everyone is welcome to attend either or both of the above.

Charity collections: we continue to collect stamps (new and used), postcards, spectacles, socks, tools, tins and packets of food, and tops from supermarket milk bottles for charity. We also collect most items of men's clothing for the Camrose Centre for the homeless. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to collect all bedding as there has been a change of management at the local homeless shelter, however, we can receive single bedding and can find a home for most things so if you have anything you would like 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 which can be found at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk. Prices start at £8.50 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 Guides, Chineham Board Gamers and Bridge, along with a range of University of the Third Age groups including Patchwork and Latin.

Further information: if you would like to know anything about the life and activities of Christ Church please contact Gill on 01256 474280 or at office@christchurchchineham.org.uk or drop in to the office which is open on from Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 2.30pm. You can also find out information about Christ Church on our website which can be found at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk, or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/christchurchchineham) and follow us on Twitter @ccChineham.

Gill Godfrey

Probus Club

November sees the centenary of the end of the Great War, the war to end all wars. In the last four years many have travelled to see the battlefields to gain a sense of what our forefathers endured during this appalling period in our history which cost the lives of so many. As well as seeing evidence of the trench warfare, they have seen the War graves, those silent battalions who lie in such tranquillity. Fewer people realise how these outstanding scenes came about and who were responsible for those temples of serenity we so admire today.

Rhydian Vaughan, who is Vice President of the Bramley Royal British Legion, has been Battlefield Guiding

since 2000 with eclectic groups, large and small, old and young. Passion is his driving force and bringing history to life: his strap line is "Without a passionate Guide a battlefield is just a field." The Probus Club was enlightened to hear about how the War Graves and Memorials to the fallen of WW1 were designed and laid out by the three great architects of the time, Lutyens, Blomfield and Baker. Despite the fact that they all clashed with mighty egos, their legacy and architectural genius is responsible for the impressive array of headstones and memorials to be seen across this part of northern France and Flanders.

The Imperial War Graves Commission was set up in 1917 and is today called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission whose headquarters are in Maidenhead. Regional offices are in France, Belgium, Cyprus, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The fallen with no known grave are listed on the Memorials to the Missing including the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme and the Menin Gate, Ypres, where buglers play Last Post every day. See www.cwgc.org or www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com

Paul Flint

Linguatastic

Did you know that October is "Positive Attitudes Month"? At Linguatastic, we always try to have a positive attitude towards learning other languages and learning about other countries and cultures and so this "celebration" got us thinking...

Are there differences between nation(s) in terms of levels of positive attitudes?

Indeed, what does it really mean to have a positive attitude? Well, there's certainly not enough space in this article to delve into these philosophical questions, but we did read about a report looking into positive emotions. It was published by Gallup in 2014 and was based on survey data from around 1,000 residents in each of 138 countries. The report stated that nine out of the top 10 countries with the highest percentages of residents experiencing positive emotions were located in Latin America! Paraguay came in No. 1, followed by Panama, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Colombia. Denmark was the only country in the top 10 not located in Latin America.

But what did the researchers define experiencing positive emotions as? Well, here's the list:

- smiling or laughing
- experiencing enjoyment
- being treated with respect,
- feeling well-rested
- learning or doing something interesting on the previous day.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Linguatastic would claim to offer an environment conducive to all of the above (apart from maybe being somewhere to rest!). So, if you'd like to get your positive emotions going, you know where to come! We have a variety of classes for both adults and children (e-mail: info@linguatastic.com/telephone 471474). And remember that this month is "Positive Attitudes Month" so, think you CAN find some time to learn another language and you WILL gain from lessons, not only academically, but socially too.

Fiona Biermann

Chineham Parish Council

Grants: Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Parish Council to spend some of its money, subject to limits, on purposes that it considers to be "in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area, or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants." Grants under Section 137 are only available to Groups or Organisations (personal applications cannot be considered) and any grant requests must be supported by a Chineham Parish Council Grant Application Form which is available to download from our website or by contacting the Clerk. The request must be from a Group or Organisation that supports or has a direct benefit to the residents of Chineham.

Overgrown vegetation: This is a plea to keep an eye on your boundary hedges and borders. Please keep them cut back and don't allow them to encroach on public footpaths.

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on **8 October** at 7.45pm in the Community Rooms at the Chineham Village Hall. If there is a Chineham issue you are concerned about, please feel free to contact the Clerk, Sally Jackson, on 01256 4 7 4 5 0 0 or e-mail clerk@chineham.gov.uk or contact the Assistant Clerk, Julia Johnston on 0 1 2 5 6 3 2 4 3 4 5 or e-mail assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk during office hours only please. The Parish Council website can be found at www.chineham.gov.uk.

Sally Jackson

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

The speaker this month was Eric Marsh who gave an interesting talk on Victorian Sports. He said that it was during the Victorian era, and as a result of the Industrial Revolution that gave most workers Saturday afternoons off, that sports that had previously been amateur started to become professionalised. One of the first events in April 1860 was a bareknuckle fight held at Farnborough between Tom Sayers of England and John Heenan of the United States which lasted 39 rounds, and involved a lot of gambling. Rugby League and Association Football soon followed and was initially based in Northern England. He went on to tell members that the first University Boat Race was held in 1829 at Henley and was switched to Putney in 1836. Cycling started to catch on in the 1870s and the Cyclists' Touring Club was formed in 1878, and instigated penny-farthing races at Herne Hill. The Open Golf Championship started at The Royal & Ancient Club in 1860. Captain Matthew Webb swam the English Channel in 1875, taking 22 hours; it is now completed in around 13 hours. In horse racing, The Grand National had started in 1839, and the modern Olympics were first held in 1896 with just 9 sports.

The next meeting is on 3rd October when the speaker will be Malcolm Nelson on Forty Years Catching Smugglers. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Details can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 07715 640171 and for

information about our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

Tony Brazier

Bramley Primary School Open Days

Is your child turning 4 before 1st September 2019? If so, you have reached that time of looking at schools which can be both exciting and daunting! To help you make the all-important decision as to where to send your child, schools host open mornings. This will allow you to make an informed choice.

At Bramley Church of England Primary School, our open mornings are:

Thursday 11th October

Thursday 18th October

Thursday 1st November

Thursday 15th November

All of these sessions start at 9am and finish approximately at 10am. This is an opportunity for you to see the school in action, meet the staff, talk to some of our Year 6 pupils, pick up a prospectus and ask as many questions as you like to the Headteacher and Early Years Leader. We appreciate that this is a huge decision for you so, if you would prefer, you can make an individual appointment to view the school and have a tour with the Head.

Please phone the school on 01256 881339 to book your place on one of our open days or book an individual viewing. Bramley C of E Primary School, Bramley Lane, RG26 5AH. The application deadline is the 15th January 2019.

Alison Tarrant

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

October events:

**Flying the Vulcan—a personal perspective:
A talk by Squadron Leader Joe Marsden.**

Tues 16, 2pm, £4. Joe's talk, illustrated by photos and film clips, will briefly cover the history and capability of the Vulcan, but will concentrate on the personal aspects of flying this famous aircraft, in a journey which took him all around the world.

Adapting Great Expectations: Tues 30, 6pm, £8. Join Cyphers Theatre Company for a discussion around the themes of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations and adapting this classic novel for the stage. The workshop will include readings from the original novel and Cyphers' script. Whether you're studying the text, a keen Dickens fan or just curious about how stories are brought from page to stage, come along for a relaxed session and ask questions!

Children's Events:

Children's Craft: Sat 13, 10am – 12pm, ages 3+, free. Celebrate Libraries Week with crafts and activities!

Charlie's Storytelling Party: Sat 13, 1.30 & 3pm, for ages 3+, £3.75. Join children's entertainer and actress Charlie Sanderson for a fun and interactive 40 minutes storytelling party, including a story, singing, comedy, a little magic and parachute cool down.

Comic Book Drawing: Mon 22, 1.30pm, for ages 7+, £5. A children's workshop with local artist and teacher, Russell Bignold. Back by popular demand, Russell will continue to design and develop your comic book character, focusing on action poses and clothing in this 90 minute drawing workshop. He will also look at colouring alternatives.

Suitable for children who attended his previous workshop or for new participants (bring along your comic book character outline drawing).

Quirks Animal Roadshow: Tues 23, 2pm, for ages 4+, £5. 1 hour animal handling workshop. Come along to meet some quirky animals from around the world at the Quirks' Animal Roadshows workshop. You can stroke and hold the animals as well as discovering lots of interesting facts about where they come from, what they eat and what makes them unique.

Halloween Costume Fun: Thur 25, 10am, for ages 8-11, £4. Get ready for Halloween with this fun and creative 90 minute sewing and textiles workshop. Bring along a T-shirt or similar garment to dress up for Halloween. Scrap material and embellishments provided, although you are welcome to bring your own.

Learning in Libraries courses:

Dressmaking for Beginners: Wednesdays 3-17 Oct, (a 3 week course), 9.30am-1.30pm, £60. Learn how to use a basic pattern to produce a simple garment. Learners will work with different levels and techniques of sewing, like hand and machine sewing. You'll need a sewing machine (not for first session), although there will be some available to use.

Mandarin Chinese for Beginners 1, Tuesdays 18 Sept-4 Dec (12 weeks), 5.15-6.15pm, £60. This course aims to help you to start speaking Mandarin Chinese in order to get more from your visit to a Chinese-speaking country. You will learn and practise some of the language needed to deal with day-to-day situations and gain confidence in what is being said to you. No previous knowledge or experience is required.

Scott Hyde

Avoid Rogue Traders

Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards Service operates Buy With Confidence, an independent and not-for-profit 'approved trader' scheme. The initiative began in Hampshire nearly 20 years ago and is now a national scheme supported by over 50 local authorities. Buy With Confidence aims to support and promote local, responsible, reputable businesses, at the same time as providing assistance to consumers looking for businesses they can trust. All members have passed a stringent audit process, including a face-to-face meeting with a Trading Standards Officer.

Residents can search the online directory of local trusted traders:

- Every businesses has been assessed and approved by Trading Standards
- All members are monitored to make sure they continue to provide a good service
- Customer reviews and ratings can help you choose the right trader
- In the event of the dispute, the Buy With Confidence team will help to mediate
- There are hundreds of businesses to choose from

Visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk. Residents can now also pop into their local library to pick up a copy of the latest version of the free Hampshire Buy With Confidence directory or call Trading Standards on 01962 833620 to request a copy.

If you are a local business who would like to appear in the directory and be able to offer your customers the reassurance of being Trading Standards Approved why not give us a call on 01962 833620.

H Woods, Trading Standards

Old Basing Tennis Club

Finals' Day on Saturday 1st September was a great success - fine weather and excellent tennis! Well done to the runners up and congratulations to the winners! Here are the results:

Men's Singles: Jamie Thomas beat Mike Chamberlain 6-0 6-0

Ladies' Singles: Penny Luke beat Bev Cleaver 6-4

Men's Doubles: Jamie Thomas & Andy Mountford beat James Chamberlin & Del Salter 6-3 6-3

Ladies' Doubles: Penny Luke & Jane Hatter beat Sandie Benham & Bev Cleaver 3-6 6-4 10/5

Mixed Doubles: Lynne Thomas & Jamie Thomas beat Penny Luke & Andy Mountford 6-1 6-1

Men's Handicap: Graeme Robertson & Nigel Hatt (0) beat Clive Barham & Rob Lewin (-15) 3-6 6-3 10/8

Ladies' Handicap: Lynn Pullen & Jan Petto (0) beat Robyn Lewin & Lynne Thomas (-15) 6-3 6-1

Our AGM is on **Tuesday 6th November** and on the Saturday we shall be holding our Annual Quiz - **Saturday 10th November**, 7.00 for 7.30pm start at Old Basing Village Hall. Teams: 6 people (please think of a name for your team), cost: £6 pp. Please bring your own food and drink. A raffle will be held during the evening.

We hope you can come and join us for this enjoyable evening! To book a table please contact Carol Torselli, email: OBTC.Information@gmail.com or phone: 01256 818149.

Lynne Thomas, Chair.

NWR

Our topic for September was a discussion on the advertising industry. This included what adverts we liked and which we really disliked, and what we thought influenced our choice of purchases. We thought that catchy jingles and tunes helped us to remember past advertising campaigns. Internet reviews were considered increasingly important as many of us skip through the adverts on the TV when watching a recording.

The Reading Group have been reading "Then We Came To The End". The story takes place in a Chicago advertising agency so an appropriate choice following our September meeting.

Our next discussion meeting on **1 October** will be "Modern Inventions – love them or hate them". On **6th October** some members will be travelling to Salisbury for a national day conference entitled "The Audacity to Dream: Celebrating our NHS". There will be a mix of keynote speeches (including by former MP Ann Widdecombe) and thought-provoking afternoon workshops exploring both the history and future of the NHS in these uncertain times. November's meeting will be in the evening when we participate in the National Telephone Quiz. This is always a brilliant evening as we test our cryptic and general knowledge skills against hundreds of other groups. The ability to think "outside of the box" seems to help as we bounce ideas off each other for a collaborative answer.

National Women's Register (NWR) has groups across the UK that connects women who are interested in everything and talk about anything!

You would be very welcome to join us for lively conversation and make new friends. We meet at 2pm on the first Monday of the month in each other's homes. We also meet up for trips to the cinema and theatre and any other activity that has enough support. We have a regular Lunch Club which is sometimes preceded by a walk (next date **17 Oct**) and the Reading Group meet in the evening every 4th Thursday. For information about NWR please look at the website: nwr.org.uk. To check out the local group do come to any of our meetings. There is absolutely no obligation to join. If after trying a couple of meetings you decide to join the membership fee is £23 per annum. Please contact Evelyn Jones, email evelyncjones@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01256 816636 for more details.

Sandie Tapping

News from the Beat

This month, I would like to take the chance to compare the crime figures from our area to that of others, with special focus over the summer holiday. Before that however, I am sad to say that we are saying goodbye to one of the team on East Beat NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team). Matthew is continuing his career as a Police Constable in Southampton.

So, some facts and figures. I am often approached during my patrols and just the other day was told about how 'downhill' Chineham is going. I will always take issue with this as I believe it is one of the safest areas to live. After doing a bit of research of all reported crime in the last 4 months for the Basingstoke area, East Beat (which

includes Chineham, Sherfield Park, Old Basing and Lychpit) represents less than one-third of the average per beat area of Basingstoke. If you take just Chineham, crime figures represent less than 5% of all reported crime in Basingstoke. I hope this gives some indication about the general dynamics of the area. Of course Hampshire Constabulary fully understand that this does not help those who are victims of crime and we will do everything we can to support victims.

In the last few weeks I have made a conscious effort to increase the amount of pre-planned community engagements ranging from a coffee morning at Costa to lectures at the community centre. This month I have had the pleasure of presenting to the over 55s group at Sherfield Park Community Centre. We discussed many things, not least about the current policing picture. It is a sad fact that the police presence in the area is not what it used to be, and to be brutally truthful I do not believe it will improve greatly in the immediate future. We have lost a great PCSO on our beat, and many others from across Basingstoke. I say this because we have to be sensible to the fact that officers, especially Police Constables, are likely to be stretched further than ever across the district. Safeguarding, scene-guards, neighbour disputes etc. still eat into our time in the community and the workload per officer is only likely to increase. County and District level priorities are always going to be there, with more PCs getting abstracted to assist with other investigations. Please do not be alarmed however, as Chineham still has a designated PC and PCSO. I still spend much of my time in the area on bike

and try to get to speak to as many people as possible, which might not always be apparent to residents as just today I was spotted by a cyclist who cried out in genuine surprise/amazement that she could see a Police Officer on a bike! I will endeavour to spend even more time on my bike. Feel free to check out my Strava when I put it on Basingstoke Cops facebook/twitter!

In other news, ASB continues to fall, with only five reports in the last month. Of course this is still important so please continue to report any issues that are affecting you. In some cases, we might refer you to another agency but please do not let this distract you from making us aware just in case.

In summary, we must be reassured by the figures, but as always do keep in touch with your local policing team if you have any concerns at all. There are new staff replacing old staff, and you still have your Council Safety Patrol Team. Basingstoke Police are in talks with Neighbourhood Watch to modernise how we work together. NHW is a valuable tool that the police can sometimes overlook, we will work more effectively in future with new ideas being tested. With the current demand on policing, it is vital to utilise all tools possible to help make keeping communities safer more efficient. I am a keen advocate of partnership working and am always open to new ideas.

To finish, I have planned more community engagements so please check our Facebook or engagements page through 'your area' on the Hampshire Constabulary website.

East Beat NPT
PCSO Rich Green, PC Aiden Blackwell

Development and GP waits

I have just seen the invitation by the Razors Farm builders to come and consult on the development plan for all this land down Cufaude Lane. Aside from being deeply depressed at the unrelenting development of this area and the erosion of countryside walking and access that this presents together with my belief we should be developing sustainable eco-housing on brown field sites it is unfortunately a done deal.

More importantly I would like to focus on the dramatic impact these developments have had on our local community services. It is impossible to get a GP appointment within any reasonable timescale at the Chineham Medical Practice due to these knock on effects NOW and the existing developments are not yet complete. I had to wait 6 weeks to see my own GP. Usual waits are a month. Yes, emergencies are fitted in, but this is still unacceptable. This is not the surgery's fault. Things are only going to get worse...we still have the land by the incinerator being developed too. PLEASE can we have fast tracked, urgent attention for additional medical facilities to be developed within these new areas FIRST THING. Surely if we all make our voices heard we cannot be ignored? I am hoping I have missed something and this is already planned! Hopefully!

K Hare

RSPCA

It's been a busy summer for us here at Basingstoke & Andover branch and so we just wanted to let you know some of the things we've been up to lately. First a big thank you to everyone who came to see us at our latest

fundraisers in the Malls, and in Tesco Chineham. Your contributions really do make a huge difference and it's always a great encouragement to us to see so many people wanting to help improve the welfare of animals in the local area. We're sure that the dog and cat food you generously donated will also be very well received by the animals currently in our care too!

A lot of our support comes from our shop in Basingstoke and so we've recently made a few improvements which we hope will make your visits there more fun; feel free to pop in and say hello and have a browse at our selection. We're always in need of donated items if there's anything you can spare and do be sure to look out for more shop improvements on the way soon.

And last but by no means least is some amazing news about one of our local Animal Collection Officers, Phil. He's recently been honoured with an Animal Hero award for his work with exotic animals. His work with exotics isn't just local and sometimes he can find himself travelling nationwide to help exotics in need, so it's very well deserved indeed.

We've got plenty more in store for the rest of the year and we hope to see some of you either at the shop, or some of our events. Please check out our website (www.rspca.org.uk/local/basingstoke-and-andover-branch) for more information, and a link to our Facebook page where you can find further information, and news about upcoming events.

D Hubert
RSPCA Basingstoke & Andover