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# Chineham

Issue 367  
August 2014

# *Chat*

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Why not join the Neighbourhood Watch Cycle Treasure Hunt on Sunday 14 September. See page 6. It might be better to keep your feet on the pedals!

## August 2014

Once again the seemingly ever present problems of litter and dog fouling are raised in the Chat. Why is it that people just chuck litter away rather than putting it in a bin or taking it home? Why do a few dog owners spoil our paths by not clearing the deposits left by their pets? Obviously they have no pride in where they live or they would take more care to keep it a clean and safe place to live. Travellers are another problem as they are transient and most seem not to care what mess they leave behind. Why do we tolerate such behaviour? Why can't they be "moved on" more quickly?

I've just returned from holiday in Austria and Germany. I didn't see any dog mess and very little litter in the street. Perhaps they have zero tolerance of such anti-social behaviour. I did notice the streets are cleaned regularly. I wonder what attitude they have to travellers and the mess they leave.

If other countries can do it, why can't we? Are we too soft, liberal and lenient?

Dennis Clapp

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**\*\*\*NEXT COPY DATE: 14th August\*\*\***

Please submit copy to Dennis Clapp, 21 Reading Road or as above.  
Your copy can be accepted handwritten, typed, by e-mail or on common format PC disks.

## Chineham Village Club

We are currently running a promotion whereby people joining the club as new members will get half of their annual membership fee credited to their card so that they can enjoy a few drinks as a welcome gift to the club. Also, any existing member introducing someone to the club will get £10 credited to their card.

We have recently renewed our arrangement with Weybrook Park Golf Club whereby our members can enjoy a round of golf for £20. Tokens can be bought from members of our bar team. If you are a golfing bandit you may also be interested in joining our golf society, which runs regular events throughout the year.

**August** is a quiet month on the entertainment front as a number of people are away enjoying themselves on holiday. However, we are running the following events:-

**Monday 4:** Bingo 20:00 in the Lounge Bar. Cash prizes for lines and the full-house.

**Thursday 21:** Senior Citizens' Bingo and lunch. 13:00 in the Lounge Bar.

**Saturday 30:** Race Night in The Lounge Bar 19:45. Families welcome.

**Every Sunday:** Poker – First Session 19:00, Second session 21:00 in the Lounge Bar.

Please make a note in your diary for Saturday 6 September, when we will be running a fun day in the field. This will include BBQ, bouncy castles, giant slides, face-painting together with other activities. It will be open to everyone.

John Prince

## Chineham Village Hall

**Please note:** We have a new booking line number and email address, both are shown below.

**Ensuring children's safety:** The playground and fields are a lovely area to take young children to let off steam during the summer months, but it was extremely concerning to see a large area of the playground recently covered in broken and crushed glass. This was found early in the morning and cleared as quickly as possible. Children use this playground from morning to evening, and the possible consequences of a child playing near a sea of glass don't bear thinking about. If any glass gets broken, whether it is glasses from the Club, or perhaps a bottle you have taken to the playground, please ensure it is cleared away immediately.

For anyone wishing to attend the regular diet/fitness sessions in the halls, including during the school holidays – the timetable is shown below:

### Main Hall

Aerobics: Tuesdays, 7.30–8.30pm

Kickbox Fitness: Fridays, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Pilates: Mondays, 12 – 1pm

Zumba: Tuesdays, 6 – 7pm

Zumba: Wednesdays, 8.30 – 9.30pm

Weightwatchers: Wednesdays, 6.45 – 8.15pm

Slimming World: Thursdays, 9am – 1pm

### Community Rooms

Yoga: Beginners Thursdays, 6.50 – 8.15pm

Intermediate Thursdays, 8.30 – 10pm

Contact details for these activities can be found on the noticeboard.

If you would like to book either of the halls for a one off event such as a wedding, party or meeting, or you are interested in hiring the facilities on a regular basis, please call the booking clerk on 07932 328172, or email [chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com) for more information and to check availability. Our website also contains answers to many frequently asked questions – check out the FAQ pages at [www.chinehamvillagehall.com](http://www.chinehamvillagehall.com).

Lynne Hughes

## **Chineham Library**

**The Summer Reading Challenge.** The theme this year is “Mythical Maze”. Don’t forget if you are aged between 4 and 11 come and sign up at Chineham library, all you have to do is read 6 library books of your choice, collecting stickers and other rewards along the way. If you complete the challenge you will be awarded with a medal and certificate. Why not pop into Chineham library and pick up a ‘Design a Mythical creature’ form, hand your completed creation to any member of staff and we will display it on our SRC board. We also have Mythical maze colouring sheets, and word searches. The challenge ends on Saturday 13 September.

**Story Fun Sessions.** A fun session for children with additional needs and their siblings, ages 4 and up. Start time 10am, Thursday 7 August, Saturday 16 August, Thursday 21 August.

Reading Groups. There will be no CHIPPS or Crime reading groups this month.

The over 50s group will return in September.

Wendy Castle

## **Thank You**

I would like to thank the lady who very kindly went out of her way to hand in my lost phone to Christ Church. I was so relieved to have it back, I would be lost without it.

Also on behalf of my family I would like to thank the person who found the letter my mother dropped and kindly posted it.

Thank you again, God bless.

Grace

## **Ark Cancer Centre Charity**

The Ark Cancer Centre Charity needs help to raise £5 million towards a much needed cancer centre that is to be built in Hampshire. The aim is to provide a range of support and complementary services alongside chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments in one unique, state of the art, local cancer centre.

If you would like to become a volunteer, or make a donation, please contact 01256 360419, [www.arkcancercharity.org.uk](http://www.arkcancercharity.org.uk) or [info@arkcancercharity.org.uk](mailto:info@arkcancercharity.org.uk).

Julian Strong

## **Neighbourhood Watch Cycle Ride**

Come and join us in our annual cycle treasure hunt on Sunday 14 September. Discover parts of the Basingstoke area that you never knew existed that are easily (or at least relatively easily) accessible by bike, It will help you get to know the local area, and some of the hidden treasures around us.

Our cycle ride is suitable for everyone, so whether you are 5 or 80 years old, or even somewhere in between, come along for an afternoon of fun.

For even more encouragement, prizes will be awarded to the teams with the most correct answers in the treasure hunt and refreshments will be provided on the day.

So, for an afternoon of discovery and enjoyment with some added healthy exercise, don't forget to put Sunday 14 September in your diary - but for safety's sake, we would prefer you have a cycle helmet.

Starts between 2 & 2.30 pm at the Chineham Scout Hall on Hanmore Road, Chineham. Family entry £6, Adult £2, Child £1.

For further details contact Chris Bale on 327769 or Dave Spokes on 346027.

Chris Bale

## **Tesco Trolleys Latest**

Whilst I wholeheartedly agree with the articles by James Dean and Carol Budd in the July Chat, that it is the residents taking the trolleys that are causing the problem, my gripe is that it is Tesco that is permitting the theft (and let's face it, it is theft) to take place.

I also agree with Carol about dog fouling which is also a major problem in Chineham - though I doubt a Facebook page packed with photographs of said deposits would receive the same amount of 'likes' as the trolleys page!

The vast majority of trolleys commence their journey at the pathway into the woods opposite the Tesco bus stop. A Tesco security person could easily stand there to stop it happening.

I have had a number of Tweets from Tesco since I placed the article from the Gazette on Twitter and they said they now have two members of staff responsible for the collection of stolen trolleys.

I have to take their word for it as, to date, I have never seen one, let alone two.

Mick Thompson

## **The Gist of It**

Employees from Gist Ltd (Crockford Lane) took over four Naomi House charity shops to raise money for Naomi House and Jacks Place. They raised a total of £9,728. Leanne Minnikin

## Greening Campaign

Last month we wrote about the new recycling banks where plastic items including yoghurt pots, margarine/butter/ice cream tubs, food trays, fruit and vegetable punnets and food and drink cartons (including Tetrapaks) can be deposited. The nearest collection point for Chineham residents is at Lychpit Centre and when I took my mixed plastics there last week the collection bin was full. It is encouraging that Basingstoke and Deane have at last recognised that there is an appetite in the community to participate in recycling schemes such as these but it is disappointing that a collection point is not available in Chineham itself. Driving some distance to a recycling point is somewhat counterproductive in terms of carbon savings.

Basingstoke Green Week, now in its second year, runs from Saturday 20 to Saturday 27 September. You can join in this event in a number of ways:

- \* volunteering to help at events
- \* helping Incredible Edible with their community vegetable planting
- \* organising your own green event (with support if needed)
- \* giving us your ideas and suggestions for activities
- \* providing a free venue for events
- \* if you are good at repairing and fixing things your help would be appreciated at Basingstoke's first Repair Café.

Incredible Edible North Hampshire (IE-NH) is a group of local volunteers who are sharing responsibility to create more resilient, vibrant and cohesive

communities in North Hampshire through encouraging the production and sourcing of local food. For more information see <http://www.incredible-edible-north-hampshire.co.uk/>



Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things together. In the place where a Repair Café is located, you'll find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need on clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances, toys, et cetera. You will also find repair specialists such as electricians, seamstresses, carpenters and bicycle mechanics.

Visitors bring their broken items from home. Together with the specialists they start making their repairs in the Repair Café. It's an ongoing learning process. If you have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Or you can lend a hand with someone else's repair job. You can also get inspired at the reading table - by leafing through books on repairs and DIY. There is more information at <http://repaircafe.org/about-repair-cafe/> but you will appreciate that a Repair Café only works if people with the necessary skills are prepared to give their time.

To offer help with the Green Week contact 01256 356449 or email [info@basingstoketransition.org](mailto:info@basingstoketransition.org)

Greening Chineham is planning 2 events to run within Green Week and there will be more information about those events in the September edition of Chineham Chat. If you would like

to help Greening Chineham email [greeningchineham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:greeningchineham@hotmail.co.uk) or go to our website [www.greeningchineham.hampshire.or.g.uk](http://www.greeningchineham.hampshire.or.g.uk) and use the contact form.

Sue Juon

## News from the Beat

Very little has occurred in the parish over the last month (June-July). Consequently I have little to write about in this month's article. However, I have received a request via the Safer Chineham Panel to provide residents with information on how to identify evidence of drug dealing activity and cannabis factories in our community.

### Drug Dealing:

- \* Lots of visitors to an address at all times of day and night who stay just a few minutes
- \* The occupants frequently meet people/cars a short distance from the address
- \* Anti-social behaviour by occupants and visitors.
- \* Strong pungent smells.
- \* Drug paraphernalia.
- \* Occupants who are seemingly unemployed with an unusually lavish lifestyle

### Cannabis factories:

- \* Can be found in any type of premises, and can be small to very large scale
- \* Lights being left on day and night
- \* Electrical wiring tampered with
- \* Sudden increase or decrease in electricity bills
- \* Curtains constantly drawn or windows blacked out
- \* Strong pungent smell

- \* High humidity in the property (condensation on windows)
- \* High heat output from the premises (snow melts very quickly on the roof)
- \* Lots of different people, coming and going at strange times.
- \* No one seems to be living there and they only visit for a short period
- \* Occupants not seen or unwilling to socialise
- \* Venting protruding from the roof and constant noise of cooling fans
- \* New occupants bringing in lots of equipment into an address (pots, venting, etc)
- \* Large amounts of bin bags containing gardening waste being thrown away.

### Advice for landlords

- \* Tenants may pay their rent in cash up-front or by other strange means.
- \* Tenants may be vague or not available at the property
- \* Make thorough checks on prospective tenants
- \* Tenants avoiding meeting at the property.

We would always encourage you to report any suspicions for us to investigate. We have had two cannabis factories in Chineham before and the chances are we will have one again.

PC Jim Charlton 21015 and PCSO Richard Strauss 14735

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

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

## **Charity Bike Ride**

I am undertaking a 52 mile bike ride in aid of blood related cancers in London on 31 August.

As a survivor since 2011 with the help of the good people at Basingstoke Hospital this is my chance to give something back so am trying to spread the word as wide as possible.

Please support me and help people with blood related cancers. Please look at <https://leukaemia-lymphoma-research.org.uk/people/peter-robertson/peters-bikeathon-challenge-2014>

Peter Robertson

## **Found**

Found in the Guinea Court area, three almost new books in a plastic shopping bag, total value approximately £46. One history reference, one biography and one railway enthusiasts handbook. If you would like them back, please email me on [rrwchineham@live.co.uk](mailto:rrwchineham@live.co.uk) with details of the books.

John Filbey

## **Thank You**

I would like to thank the person who found my credit card at Tesco car park. Unfortunately I can't thank you personally as I wasn't aware I had lost it until the company contacted me.

Having just moved to Chineham I was very impressed so thank you again.

E Hammond

## **Linguatastic, School of Languages**

It's been a busy last few months of term, joining the Old Basing Carnival dressed up as Cartoon Characters "from around the world" and coming third in our class, leading the parade and performing on stage at the World Party at Eastrop Park and of course, our usual academic activities. However, summer is now here and most of our classes have broken up for the holidays. That said, we are not completely "out of action". Over the holidays, we are running classes in English as a Foreign Language for those who have come over to the UK for a few weeks to improve their language skills and/or those who have come over for work purposes.

We are also planning for the new academic year when we'll be starting new clubs for French-English bilingual children, Spanish-English bilingual children and Spanish classes for secondary school pupils.

And finally, we are making the final preparations for our celebration of "European Day of Languages", which will be on the evening of Saturday 20 September at Christ Church, Reading Road. Everyone, whether students at Linguatastic or not, is invited to join for some tasty international food, fun entertainment and a raffle. Watch this space for further information and/or email [info@linguatastic.com](mailto:info@linguatastic.com) or telephone 811100.

Fiona Biermann

## **Chineham Parish Council**

### **Friends of Four Lanes School Fete:**

Councillors would like to thank those of you who braved the weather & visited the Parish Council stand at the Fete on 28 June. We were pleased to be able to show a display of what has been achieved in recent years around the parish. A couple of families told us they were unaware of the children's recreation facility off Great Binfields Road. Please go and take a look if you've not been to see it or use it already; it's at the end of Binfields Farm Lane which is the same road that Great Binfields School is on.

**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.

**Fly-tipping:** We have received numerous reports of garden waste being dumped in various ditches and copses around the parish. Not only does this look unsightly but if the ditches are full & we have heavy rain there is nowhere for the water to go. Garden waste can be taken to the Basingstoke Household Recycling Centre on Wade Road (opening times: 8am-7pm until 30 September).

### **Public exhibition – land at Aurum:**

Councillors had the opportunity to attend this exhibition where the project team was on hand to answer questions regarding a residential development proposal on this site on the edge of the Hampshire International Business Park. In the response to the Local Plan consultation, the Parish Council

objected to the removal of the Aurum Site from the sites for future employment land. It is likely that these views will form the basis of comments on any future planning application for housing on the Aurum site. It is hoped that residents took the opportunity to go along to give their views. If you were unable to attend but would like further information, please contact [southamptonplanning@savills.com](mailto:southamptonplanning@savills.com).

**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.

**Community Events:** Details of community events can be added to the "Events" calendar on the Parish Council website. Please let the Clerk or Assistant Clerk have the details.

The Parish Council will not be holding a meeting in August and so the next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on 8 September. It starts at 7.45 pm in the Community Rooms at Chineham Village Hall (the public session will start at 7.50 pm).

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

## **Chineham Drama Group**

I was wondering if there is sufficient interest to form a drama group made up of residents of Chineham which will perform in Chineham to the people of Chineham?

If so, I will setup an initial meeting at the Chineham Village Hall to start the ball rolling.

I want to hear from both those interested in performing as well as in having a role backstage. Please make sure I know your name, the sort of age you are, the kind of role(s) you would be interested in, any initial thoughts you have about what the group should do, and at least one way of contacting you - ideally including an email address.

Peter Vincent Telephone: 351542  
Email: [chat@vinnotec.co.uk](mailto:chat@vinnotec.co.uk)

## **Did You Know**

The toilet handle in most toilets at work has 400 times more germs than the toilet seat. 30% of people don't wash their hands after using a public toilet.

## **Borough Councillor Martin Biermann**

When you read this piece, the school holidays will have started with the undoubted benefit of reduced traffic on local roads at peak hours.

You may have read in the local press that Hampshire County Council has obtained a good deal of money for highway improvements and that one of the targets is the A33. What a shame they haven't chosen to discuss their ideas with the local ward councillors! The thrust of the suggestions seem to be lots more traffic lights and generally messing about with roundabouts. Again the principles of "localism" seem to be treated with contempt.

On a more fundamental question of mobility, the usual - very reasonable - surge in complaints about overgrown footpaths is again emerging. The borough and county councils are constantly being reminded about this issue, especially when residents are being encouraged to walk but then often have to face a forest of brambles, nettles and other growth.

What all councils have less control over is dog mess and once again I appeal to those few dog walkers who still craftily look the other way when their pet is making antisocial deposit. Please become responsible citizens and think of the impact on others, especially children!

Martin Biermann  
Tel: 01256 352434  
[cllr.m.biermann@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.m.biermann@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
Facebook: Chineham Spotlight

## **County & Borough Councillor Elaine Still**

I have been informed that the Waste Planning Authority Hampshire County Council (HCC), have received a request for pre-planning application advice in respect of the proposed construction of an Advanced Anaerobic Digestion (AAD) facility including a Thermal Hydrolysis Plant (THP) at Basingstoke Waste Water Treatment Works, Whitmarsh Lane, Chineham.

As part of the pre-application advice process with the authority, the applicant wishes to engage with Local Councillors in order to discuss the proposal and seek views on the scheme.

I am aware that the applicant also intends to hold a public meeting to which the local community will be invited in order to promote the project and afford an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal.

Below is a brief outline of what the proposal entails.

The facility proposes to treat around 92 tonnes dry solids of sewage sludge per day. This sludge will be a mixture of indigenous sludge which will be diverted from its current conventional anaerobic digestion treatment and mixed with imported sludge upstream of the new AAD facility. The THP will act as a pre-treatment stage for the sludge and will utilise saturated steam to thermally hydrolyse the sludge.

In turn through all the different processes the biogas generated is used to generate green electricity in a reciprocating engine which is used to power part of the sludge process on site and any additional electricity will be exported to the local grid.

The site will be operated 24/7 but deliveries to the site will be during normal working hours. There will be 23 HCV lorry loads during the 5 day working week.

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

## **Borough Councillor Paul Miller**

The first part of the Consultation on the Governance review over Taylors Farm is ongoing with different points of view under discussion. I feel that the bottom line at the end of the day is to obtain the most cost-effective beneficial result for the residents of Taylors Farm. I suspect that the only way that will be achieved will be a full and open disclosure on the financial impact on whatever option is finally proposed to the residents with a full cost/benefit analysis presented.

Chineham will be subject to a deep-cleaning task force provided by the BDBC Landscape Department in the near future and we should see a lot of the shrubs and excess greenery brought under control. The warmer wet Winter and Spring has encouraged prodigious growth (especially in my garden!) and we need a trim.

The devastating tree cull at Dixon Road has now resulted in a restocking order to be issued by the Forestry Commission and I also understand that the Local Authority are considering extending the recent Woodland Tree Preservation Order (TPO) across the site. This would provide additional protection to any newly planted trees or natural regeneration. I will keep you all updated.

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

## **Studios Open**

Hampshire Open Studios is a scheme encouraging local artists throughout Hampshire to open their studios and homes to showcase their work, some of which hopefully you will buy as well as admire – giving an ideal opportunity to acquire an original piece.

Two studios opening under the scheme are Aileen Mayers at The Glass Studio in Old Basing and Yew Trees Art Studio in Monk Sherborne. For more information and to find other artists in the Basingstoke area visit [www.hampshireopenstudios.com](http://www.hampshireopenstudios.com)

The Glass Studio at 8 Almond Close, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7DW offers colourful fused glass artwork including glass pictures and hangings, glass homewares including dishes and coasters, and dichroic glass and wire jewellery.

The Glass Studio is open every day from 16 to 25 August, 11.00am to 5.00pm or other times by appointment – phone 01256 476732. For more details go to: [www.aileenmayers.co.uk](http://www.aileenmayers.co.uk)

Yew Trees Art Studio is in Salters Heath Road, Monk Sherborne, Hampshire, RG26 5HZ. A group of talented local artists potters and sculptors using a wide range of techniques and materials to produce stimulating and interesting paintings, ceramics sculpture and jewellery.

Yew Trees Studio is open every day from 16 to 25 August, 12.00am to 5.00pm. Late night Friday till 8.00pm. Phone 01256 850689

Aileen Mayers

## **Organ Recital**

Andrew Benson-Wilson will be giving an organ recital in aid of RadCan on Saturday 27 September at 3.00 pm at All Saints Parish Church in Odiham. The recital is followed by tea.

RadCan is raising funds to provide equipment for the new Radiotherapy Unit at Basingstoke Hospital. Tickets cost £12 (half price for children).

Contact Margaret Porter RadCan Treasurer for tickets and information on 02380 230649 or go to the RadCan website [www.radcan.org.uk](http://www.radcan.org.uk) to download an application form.

Margaret Porter

## **Are You a Computer Whiz?**

Age Concern Hampshire is appealing for volunteer tutors to deliver basic computer skills training for people aged 50 and over in Basingstoke.

The charity's eight week courses are tailored to individual needs and focus on de-mystifying technology, providing experience of computer applications that are becoming essential to everyday life. They include the use of Laptop, Desktop, IPad and Tablet computers, as well as popular social applications such as Skype, email, online banking and internet shopping. Volunteers operate on a one-to-one basis with clients, giving them an hour's tuition per week at Chineham Library.

For more information, email [clive.lubert@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:clive.lubert@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk) or tel 0800 328 7154.

Liz Kavanagh

## **Another Voice from Chineham's Past**

Ann and I moved to Chineham when we married in May 1981. We bought an upstairs flat opposite what are now the Guinea Court shops – a chemist, an off license and a mini-supermarket much like today.

In the early 80s, most of today's Chineham was still green fields. From our Brook House bedroom window we watched the shops being built, the construction vehicles trundling by and the "estate" inexorably expanding. The local C of E church was St Joseph's, a small shack clad in corrugated iron and located on the opposite side of Reading Road to Christ Church which appeared in the mid 80s.

We later moved to a brand new mid terrace house in Larkfield. It was here that I opened a copy of Chineham Chat one day to learn that it was likely to cease publication. My decision to take on editing and organising this brilliant community publication was pretty much spontaneous. I am just glad that a brilliant band of distributors and organisers ensured that it appeared and was delivered every month.

To be honest, I can't quite remember how long I was responsible for Chineham Chat. I loved the way it was both written and printed locally and that most of the advertisers were local – a real community project. I do remember getting an extra good deal at the Popley Chinese takeaway when they advertised with us! And I recall Martin Biermann doing the printing back in the day.

In those days as now, there was always a space for a spiritual view on life or a church perspective – I recall "Simon Says" being the title when Simon Hones was curate; Simon's Close was named after him when he left the area.

We left Basingstoke in the mid 90s but still return regularly to catch up with family and friends. Time and distance allow some perspective: today it seems to me more important than ever that we take time to consider life from a spiritual angle. Alongside many happy and fulfilled residents, there are those who feel burnt out and stressed or who are struggling with relationships.

The Christian good news of forgiveness, fulfilment and hope is as relevant now as when Simon Hones penned his Chineham Chat column thirty years ago. Over the decades and centuries the presentation may have changed but the news is still the same: we are all in need of the love and hope that God offers us.

Steve May-Miller  
stevemaymiller@gmail.com

## **Christ & Community Church Activities**

Welcome to Christ Church Chineham! Have you ever been to a service at Christ Church? If not, why not come and see what happens every Sunday morning? We have services at 9am and 10.30am. The 9am service tends to be quieter and more reflective; at the 10.30am service we have a band with guitars and drums,

and we also have groups for children and young people of all ages. There is no charge and all are welcome. During August, we will contrast some of the Kings of the Old Testament and see how they ruled and where they went wrong. There will be alternate services of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion at the 9am service; at the 10.30am service we will be having lots of fun with “I’m a King, get me out of here” in line with the popular TV programme “I’m a Celebrity, get me out of here” – come and join us and help vote for the “best” King!

We will be holding a service of Holy Communion in the Club Room at Binfields’ Close on Thursday 28 August at 10am – all welcome. The 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.

Many of the regular groups stop meeting over the August break to give the leaders a rest, but we will be having Afternoon Tea served by the **Luncheon Club** team on Tuesday 19 August – tickets must be booked in advance so please contact Ruth in the office. **CCBBies** will meet for a few “come and play” sessions so if you have a pre-schooler you would be welcome to join us – contact us for details of dates. Older siblings would be welcome and there will be no charge.

There will be **Blood Donation Clinic** at Christ Church on Tuesday 5 August – see [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) for details and to book an appointment.

We continue to collect stamps, postcards, the tops from supermarket milk bottles, empty baby wipe packets, spectacles, bedding, men’s socks, used cartridges and tinned food for various charities – do contact us for details.

There is a range of rooms available for hire at Christ Church starting at £7.50 per hour – take a look at our website [www.christchurchchineham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk) for details or drop in when the office is open (Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 2.30pm). Regular groups hiring rooms include Willowdene Breakfast and After School Clubs, Brownies and Bridge, plus a range of University of the Third Age groups including Patchwork, Mahjong and Environmental Science.

If you would like to know anything about the life and activities of Christ Church please contact Ruth, our Administrator – 01256 474280/[admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk)/[www.christchurchchineham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk) or drop in when the office is open. You can also find out information about Christ Church on our website [www.christchurchchineham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk), at Facebook ([www.facebook.com/christchurchchineham](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchchineham)) and follow us on Twitter @ccChineham

**Community Church in the School!** You will find us at our regular home of Four Lanes Junior School. We are a relaxed group of about 80 people across the age ranges, who meet to worship God in a lively and contemporary way. You will find that we place a high value on the contribution of each person and

love to make room for the variety of who each person is when we gather. We have many young people, who contribute a lot to our shared community. To find us come to Four Lanes Junior School for 10am on Sunday or check out the web site at [www.bccnet.org.uk/east](http://www.bccnet.org.uk/east). You are welcome to visit us anytime or to find out more online. If you have a particular prayer request then you can send us a message via the website and we will pray for your situation. Alternatively you can make contact via our office on 01256 316000 and ask for Phil Norris.

Ruth Randall

## **Willowdene Nursery School**

**Outstanding:** I am very pleased to announce that at a recent Ofsted Inspection our Out of School and Holiday Club (held at Christ Church) was awarded their highest grade of 'Outstanding'. Praise was given to "the wonderful, rich and purposeful activities, inspiring teaching and nurturing, excellent procedures and the caring and sensitive staff".

I am delighted that Sara, and the team that work at the Club, have been given this recognition of quality that they truly deserve!

The Club is open for Before & After School Care each school day and during Four Lanes Inset Days and school holidays is open from 7.30-6.00. The year the Summer Holiday Club will run from July - 4 September (including Inset days 2 & 3 Sept). If you are interested in booking spaces

please contact us.

**Bank Staff:** Would you like to work in childcare? Would you be able to help us cover staff absences? Willowdene Nursery School requires bank staff. Hours and times would be varied and may include early mornings (7.30a.m.) or late evenings (6.00pm). Please contact us if you feel able to help us. This could be an excellent introduction to more permanent work as part of our excellent staff team helping children, aged 6mths - 4yrs, to thrive in our environment. Opportunities may also be available in our Before & After School Club with children aged 4 - 11yrs.

**New School Year:** As the start of a new school year approaches I would like to wish all our new children and parents a very warm Welcome and we hope you enjoy your new experiences at Willowdene.

To all those that have left/ are leaving us for School, we will really miss you but are proud of how you've grown too!

You can contact us on 01256324191 or email [willowdene@btconnect.com](mailto:willowdene@btconnect.com).

Marilyn Hargraves

## **Girl Guides**

Girl guiding gives girls a space where they can build up their confidence, raise their aspirations, make more friends and have fantastic fun.

Guiding in Chineham continues to grow. We have a terrific team of 25 leaders and helpers, running seven

units. Our Senior Section will make the eighth when it opens in September.

We run projects, events and activities that give girls the opportunity to discover their potential and learn new skills. Activities this year include, pack holidays at Foxlease and Brownsea Island, a torch relay and party to celebrate 100 years of Brownies, nature walks, a trip to Downing Street, fire station visits, First Aid sessions, bag packing fund raising and Dragon Boating. Still to come this year are a visit to Westminster, a “blue” camp, our Wellies and Wristbands Festival camp and a Mad Hatters tea party.

In order to continue to grow our District and to reduce the waiting lists, we are looking for help across all age ranges. Rainbows are 5 – 7 years old, Brownies are 7 to 10, Guides are 10 – 14 and Senior Section are 14 to 26.

There are lots of ways you can volunteer for Girl Guiding. It's flexible and can be arranged to fit round a busy lifestyle. No matter how much or little time you have, or how long you will be based in the area, every little counts.

If you would like to help, or would like to discuss any details please contact Sandie Jackson, District Commissioner on 01256 473636, 07811 648398 or sandie@the-interweb.co.uk. Thank you.

Sandie Jackson

## **The Busy Life of Great Binfields**

Great Binfields Primary School is always busy no matter what! In any subject, learning is constantly fun, exciting, and brought to life!

One of the most recent school events was Sports Day. All ages were involved with team activities and competitive events such as The Egg and Spoon Race, 100m Sprint and a Long Distance Cross Country Run.

Moving on, Great Binfields is always finding possibilities to be green. As part of our whole school ‘Eco-Week,’ each year group made a certain item of clothing made entirely from recycled materials. At the end of Eco-Week, the whole school had a ‘Trashion Show’, where they proudly showed off their outfits on the catwalk. It was so impressive how much effort was put in.

Just this week, the Key Stage One children have enjoyed a superb outdoors week organised by the Chineham Scouts. They took part in activities such as shelter building, making tracks and even cooking marshmallows and sausages!

To be part of Great Binfields Primary School is a real privilege; so many opportunities come walking your way, it's hard to ignore them!

By Katie Reading and Amélie Cohen  
(Year 5 and 6)

## **Did You Know**

According to Dr Charles Gerba a microbiologist in Arizona, the bathroom is cleaner than the kitchen in the average house. He says you're safer making a sandwich on top of the toilet bowl than in the kitchen.

## **Travellers**

So once again the blight of “travellers” has hit Chineham. Notwithstanding the general mess left by them, burnt patches on the grass, bags of waste including human & animal, the foliage cut from jobs carried out in the local & not so local area. The harassment to locals with offers to “cut that hedge”, “clear the gutters” along with the short term rise in minor criminal activity etc. What do we see BDBC doing about stopping them. Nothing!

BDBC do move them on but this takes time & costs the Council Tax payer a lot of money. Councillor Biermann responds to a resident’s comments in the Chineham Chat that BDBC don’t know what they can do to solve the problem & he invites suggestions on how to resolve the issue!

Is it really beyond the wit of man, as it would appear it is to BDBC, that the only reason travellers decide to pitch up where they do opposite the children’s play centre is the fact there is a large flat & level surface to park a caravan on. If BDBC were to re-profile this area, either by creating a mounded zone on the current flat area or by digging a ditch & piling the spoil behind that ditch these travellers would not be able to park on it. Many other areas of Basingstoke are protected in this manner & it appears to work. The area along the A33 near the turning for the Wild Moore incinerator & further along the same road after the Taylor’s farm roundabout to cite just 2 locations.

Another option would be to insert heavy wooden posts, 2’ high & set 12”

to 18”s back from the kerb all along the entire length of the grassed area between Hanmore Road & the railway tracks. This method could be employed in a number of other traveller vulnerable areas around Chineham as well.

It is a case of spending money to save money in the long term, & I’m sure the total cost of any works involved will be far less than the court action to evict them & clear up afterwards every time they turn up. Although these tactics may only result in moving the problem from Chineham to another area of Basingstoke, it will solve the apparent unsolvable problem in Chineham.

Alan Grist

## **More Travellers and Litterbugs**

Firstly, many thanks to you and to your colleagues for providing Chineham residents with this excellent forum for local news and views.

Having lived in Chineham for fifteen years I have come to appreciate the very pleasant environment that we all enjoy. We are well served by our local authorities that care for our public spaces and the vast majority of householders clearly take a pride in looking after their homes and gardens. There are, however, a couple of issues that have prompted me to contact you.

In recent years I have watched as successive groups of travellers have moved on to open spaces, caused damage to hedges and fences,

created large amounts of rubbish and then left. It is then us, as local ratepayers, who foot the bill for the repairs and for the clean up. On the Chineham Business Park many of the owners, in the aftermath of traveller visits, have been forced to dig ditches or create banks of earth to prevent their return. Is it the case that there are no regulations to prevent the anti social behaviour of the travellers or are our local representatives/officers negligent in enforcing existing laws?

My second issue concerns the abuse of the playing fields at The Chineham Village Hall. As a community, we have been provided with a great facility that incorporates a children's play area, picnic tables, a jogging track and football goals. It also has plenty of litter bins that many people can't be bothered to use. It is clear that groups sit on the grass to picnic and then walk away leaving bottles, bags and wrappers for others to clear away. What should be a very pleasant area is frequently reduced to an unsightly mess. Most of the users appear to be youngsters and one has to ask what example they are being set by parents and whether their parents are aware that their offspring are behaving in this way.

My wife tells me that I now officially qualify as a 'grumpy old man' but I would be interested to know if I am alone in having these concerns.

Geoff Lucas

*Why do we allow people to ruin our community—local or travellers? Ed*

## **Taylor's Farm**

Did you fill in and return the leaflet about whether Taylor's Farm should be in Chineham or Sherfield or did you, like I, just chuck it in the bin?

I was one of those amongst that packed meeting in the village hall 20-odd years ago, which was called to protest about the proposed Taylor's Farm development and I witnessed the overwhelming vote (there were just a couple of abstentions as I recall) to oppose the plans. Yet despite this, the development went ahead and the relentless onslaught to cram houses onto every square inch of Chineham continues to this day.

So why has the Council squandered taxpayers money on this pointless PR exercise? If they really listened to Chineham residents views, Taylor's Farm would not have been built in the first place.

J Foster

*If you missed it, please read my editorial in the July Chat. Ed*

## **Play Schemes**

Don't know what to do in the Summer Holidays? RCS Play Services will be delivering their successful Open Access Play Schemes in and around Basingstoke again during this Summer Holidays. Follow them on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates of weekly Play Schemes and Pop Ups. They might be near you! Head to their website ([rcsplayservices.org](http://rcsplayservices.org)) for the full timetable.

Devonne

## Nature Notes

I must apologize to those readers who are not gardeners if last month I spent too long on plants, but it is one of the subjects about which I am knowledgeable.

The Blue Tits and Sparrows finished feeding their young and on occasion we saw the fledglings flying. There was peace for a fortnight before the frantic attacks on the feeders by the blue tits began again.

I noticed a strange bird and thought it might be a Blackcap or a Bunting but it hasn't returned, so I haven't been able to check in my bird book. It may have flown off-course and just followed the other birds to find some food. I thought I heard a Cuckoo as well, although it was too late in the year. The Pigeons imitate the sound but always add an extra note, which was missing.

As I walked to Tesco from East Car Park I was amazed to see what looked like pink flowers hanging down from the Norway Maple, but on closer inspection they turned out to be bunches of keys, which are now gradually turning brown. I have never before seen this colouring.

My neighbour, Kevin, decided to mow his grass and received a series of shocks as eight frogs leapt up in front of him. He replaced them in his pond, and told me they were all green. As the fence between our gardens is no longer there and a pair of hedgehogs were mating in my garden yesterday, I hope the frogs won't be eaten. Also, perhaps, there will be hoglets soon. This will allow them time to reach the

minimum weight of 500grams to survive hibernation.

That red frog, once an inmate of my garden, may emerge when I have the water feature dug up to reveal the pond.

On one of the very hot days, I spent several hours wandering round Tollhouse Meadow and the Skate Park and spotted a number of butterflies and moths. I took photographs which was difficult as they fly faster in the sun, and when I returned home tried to identify them. The grasses and the Brambles, together with Knapweed (purple), the Vetchlings (like wild blue Sweet Peas) and small yellow Birds Foot Trefoil are ideal for many of the species. I think that the following were seen on that day—Pale Clouded Yellow (greenish), Small Heath (tan), Marbled White (black and white checks), Skipper, Six Spot Burnet (pinkish-red with six spots on the lower wings), Gatekeeper and a young male Ringlet (very black lying face down all the time).

The Crockford Lane roundabout (Red Men Waving) was looking good with the yellow Birds Foot Trefoil flowering amongst the grass. The large daisies that I call OxEye Daisies, but are also known as Dog or Moon Daisies, have flourished along the verges and now the pink Mallow is appearing in places

Please send your sightings to me at [ginnywright2@btinternet.com](mailto:ginnywright2@btinternet.com) or 479562.

Ginny Wright

## Four Lanes Community Centre

**Family Fun Day:** Thursday 7 August at Sheffield Park Community Centre, 11.00am to 3.00pm. Help support volunteer local students going to work in the slums of Nakura in Kenya. There will be lots to do such as fruit kebabs and fruit cocktails, crafty activities for all the family, K'nex, fun sports, face painting, BBQ (free soft drinks and other refreshments available). Picnic area why not stay for lunch Just £1.00 per child.

Places are limited – booking essential call Four Lanes Centre 01256 810499.

**Mums, Bumps and Babies:** This 6 week rolling programme is aimed at helping parents find their feet in the early weeks and months. Pre-school children welcome. Starts Wednesday 17 September, 9.30am to 11.00am. Cost £12.00 for 6 weeks or £2.50 per week on a drop-in basis. Book now to avoid disappointment 01256 810499.

**Zumba:** 10 week course, starts Monday 15 September, 8.00pm to 9.00pm. Booking essential.

**Get My Digital SLR on to Manual:** An introduction to Digital SLR/Bridge Camera photography. 5 week course starting Monday 22 September to Monday 20 October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Cost £55.00.

**Creative Digital Imaging:** 5 week course starts Tuesday 23 September to 21 October, 7pm to 9.00pm. Cost £55.00.

**Intermediate Digital SLR:** Deals with the more complex functions of your DSLR. 5 week course starts Wednesday 24 September to 22 October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Cost £55.00.

**Fitness Freestyle Yoga:** (Infant Hall) Freestyle Fitness Yoga is a yoga based fitness class without the spirituality. All abilities are welcome if you have done Yoga before or have always wanted to try it; the class has something for everyone. Mondays 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Costs £5.00 per week on a pay as you go basis. Contact loubevmit@gmail.com or Louise on 07985 676201 if you have any questions.

**GOL – (Football):** Mondays at Junior School and Tuesday at Infant School. Starts Monday 8 September at the Junior School 3.40pm to 4.40pm and Tuesday 9 September at the Infant School 3.40pm to 4.40pm. Contact Doreen at GOL on 01256 381652.

For information on all events at Four Lanes Community Centre please telephone 810499 or look at [www.fourlanescentre.com](http://www.fourlanescentre.com).

Virginia Wyatt

### Garden Shop Opening

Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop, Riley Lane, Old Basing is open 3 & 17 August and 7 & 28 September, 10.30am to noon. New members welcome, fee £5 per year.

Tony Stoney

## **A big thank-you to Pam!**

Age Concern Hampshire Chineham volunteer Pam Ruffles was honoured at Basingstoke's Celebration of Volunteering for her dedicated work at the charity's north area office.

Pam, who volunteers in the Basingstoke Office each Tuesday morning, helps with the administration of the organisation's 20 foot clinics which look after over 200 clients. She also volunteers as a receptionist at The Orchard, and raises money for good causes through choral singing.

She received a special volunteering award at a civic reception on Tuesday 3rd June, hosted by the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Councillor Roger Gardiner.

Age Concern Hampshire Area Manager Beverley Jones said: "They always say if you want something done, ask a busy person, and Pam is a superb volunteer who is always willing to help."

Liz Kavanagh

## **Chineham Men Support Probus Club**

Tony Atchison of St Gabriel's Lea was again elected to the committee of the Probus Club of Basingstoke at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of this organisation for retired professional and business men. The meeting was held at Christ Church Chineham which is the venue for the club's monthly evening speaker meetings. Tony is to continue in his fifth season as a

committee member which started when he first became the Lunch Steward and progressed to becoming President and he is now the Outings organiser.

Rob Hopkins, of Thyme Close, was elected as Deputy Honorary Treasurer, a position he has held for the last six years.

Tony has seen considerable change in the Probus Club. He remarked "Advances in technology means that although we are all retired the club is firmly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Only five members do not have email. He went on "The club's web site [www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com](http://www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com) enables our life members who have moved away from Basingstoke to keep an eye on proceedings. I know that one life member in Virginia USA spends at least half an hour every month doing so."

Tony's wife, Lesley, was presented with flowers and wine for providing canapés after the meeting. John Terry and Richard Stettner both of St Leonard's Avenue will continue as wine stewards for another year.

More information about the Probus Club and its activities, which may also involve wives and partners, can be obtained from their Secretary Paul Flint by email [flintpw@sky.com](mailto:flintpw@sky.com) or phone him on 07770 886521 for an informal discussion.

Paul Flint

## Basingstoke Discovery Centre

To book a place, you can order online from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php>, or visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

**Children's Cupcakes:** Please bring four undecorated cupcakes and a case/box to transport them in. All other materials are provided. 11:30am, Sunday 3 August. Cost £12.

**Creepy Crawlies:** Starring Giant Stick Insects, a Chile Rose Tarantula, Giant Millipede, Giant Land Snails and more, children will love this creepy-crawly experience led by a retired Zoo-Keeper. Parents/guardians must stay in the room for this event. Session lasts 45 minutes. Three sessions to choose from: 9.30am, 10.30am & 11.30am. Monday 4 August. Cost £2.

**Hungry Caterpillar Story:** Join children's entertainer and actress Charlie Sanderson for a super-interactive 45 minute storytelling party. There is a charge for children but adults go free. Parents/guardians are encouraged to join in with the fun and must stay with their children throughout the storytelling. Two sessions to choose from: 10am & 11:15am Thursday 7 August. Cost £2

**Researching War Memorials:** Find out more about how war memorials were funded and created and how to research the names on them using archives from Hampshire Archives and Local Studies. 10:00am, Saturday 9 August. Cost £10.

**The Science of Dr Who:** Science boffin Mark Brake and rap superstar Jon Chase explore the science and fiction of space, time, machines, and monsters right here in Basingstoke! Parents/guardians must remain with their children for this event and must purchase a ticket. 10:30am, Monday 18 August. Cost £6.

**Johnnie Rocket:** A free storytelling session with author John Chapman creator of Jonnie Rocket Two sessions to choose from: 11am & 1pm. Saturday 23 August. Free.

**A Debt of Honour:** Commonwealth War Graves Commission film illustrating how the war cemeteries and memorials came to be established and how the Commission records and honours those who died. 2pm, Thursday 28 August. Free.

**Britain Had Talent:** Oliver Double, author of Britain Had Talent: A History of Variety Theatre, will tell you about all the acts who made variety, and show you items from his collection of variety artefacts. 2pm, Saturday 30 August. Cost £3.

**Free Friday Craft Activities:** (For Ages 4+)

Make a Hobby-Creature Puppet. 10am-12noon & 2pm-4pm. 1 August.

Make a Mythical Maze Board Game. 10am-12noon & 2pm-4pm. 8 August.

Create a Pair of Mythical Feet. 10am-12noon & 2pm-4pm. 15 August.

Make a Flying Mythical Creature. 10am-12noon & 2pm-4pm. 22 August.

Make a Mythical Pencil Topper. 10am-12noon & 2pm-4pm. 29 August.

Phil Jarvis

## **Sussex Jazz Kings**

The next Lions fundraising endeavour is on 30 August at Queen Mary's College main hall when the Sussex Jazz Kings will be performing for us.

Tickets are available by 'phoning 325280 (jomolincoln@btinternet.com), o r 4 2 1 8 6 7 (mauricehockley@hotmail.com) or from Toucan Travel at the Chineham Shopping Centre. Come along for a really enjoyable evening's entertainment and to help us help others.

Philip Wilson

## **Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship**

Forthcoming trips are to Godalming on Thursday 14 August which will include a cream tea on a horse drawn canal boat, Brighton on Thursday 11 September, and the newly opened Bordon Market on Thursday 2 October.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 6 August when the speaker will be Gordon Massie on Floriade Reflections. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am – 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. If you would like to join us on any of our trips, whether you are a member or not, please ring Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791 or for information about the group contact the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at [bjmapbr@ntlworld.com](mailto:bjmapbr@ntlworld.com)

David Cowling

## **Tea Party Fundraising**

Age Concern Hampshire is calling on budding bakers to raise funds for people with dementia as part of a week long 'Good Old Fashioned Tea Party' campaign.

You are invited to host a fundraising tea party from September 8 to 14 and be in with the chance to win afternoon tea for two at Lainston House near Winchester. Executive chef Andrew MacKenzie will award a prize for the most imaginatively decorated cake, with photos of cakes to be submitted along with donations.

The charity offers specialist day care, counselling and support to those living with dementia, their families and carers.

For more information and to request a Good Old Fashioned Tea Party fundraising pack, contact the fundraising office on 01962 892449 ([supporters@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:supporters@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk).)

Liz Kavanagh

## **Plant and Gift Fair**

The Fair, in aid of North Hampshire Medical Fund, is at Longstock Park Nursery, nr Stockbridge SO20 6EH on Sunday 7 September from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

There will be a fantastic choice of specialist nurseries, garden and gift stalls as well as tombola, skittles, live music, hog roast, beer tent and ice cream. Admission £5.

Fiona Patterson