
Chineham

Issue 383
December 2015

Chat



December 2015

Farewell! As the year ends so does my term as Editor of the Chat. It's been very enjoyable (most of the time!) but after so many years I feel I've grown stale and that the Chat needed new blood and ideas.

I certainly think you will see change over the next few months as your new Editor, Jo Appleford-Cook, gets to grips with the Chat. You are in safe hands with Jo joining an enthusiastic and professional team—even though they are volunteers when working on the Chat.

In the past year I have been aware of articles going missing in the ether. However I was a little surprised this week to receive a letter from a lady that was sent on 9 January 2014. Nearly two years to arrive. I thought we'd replaced snail mail!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Dennis Clapp

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*****NEXT COPY DATE: 10th December*****

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

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

Chineham Village Club

It hardly seems like twelve months ago that we were heading into the last festive season and here we go again!

Events in the club during December are as follows:

Thursday 18: Senior citizens' Christmas bingo and Christmas lunch. 13.00 in the lounge bar.

Saturday 19: Children's Christmas party, 15.00 in the community rooms. This is an event for members' children only and tickets must be bought in advance from the bar team. Price is £12 per child. This includes food, drink, entertainment and a present from Father Christmas. The party will be followed by an evening of carol-singing in the lounge bar. This will be led by the singers from Christ Church, who will be aided and abetted by various members of the club. To help loosen the vocal chords we will provide cups of the Chairman's robust mulled wine.

Sunday 20: Our Christmas draw will take place at 18.00. Tickets are 25p each and can be bought from the bar team. There are 50 top-quality prizes to be won.

Monday 21: Christmas bingo in the lounge bar at 20.00.

Thursday 24: Christmas Eve family disco and entertainment in the lounge bar at 19.00.

Sunday 27: Members' monthly draw. There are big cash prizes to be won but you must be in the club between

1500 and 1600 to have a chance of winning.

Thursday 31: New Year's Eve disco from 1900 in the lounge bar. This is free for members, who can bring guests with them at a charge of £10 per head.

That's it on the entertainment front but, as ever, we will be showing all major sporting events on our big screen and other televisions. This includes football covered by both Sky and BT Sport. We have also just given our lounge bar a makeover and are currently offering annual memberships from as little £10 per head. Forms are available from the bar team.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our members a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

John Prince

Chineham Village Hall

Hirers of the halls have no doubt have noticed that the main hall was redecorated during half term and the walls in the Community Rooms have also benefitted from being repainted.

A well deserved thank you!

As the Community Rooms were painted by volunteers, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the four guys who gave their time and effort to get this work completed in a day, namely; James, Lee, Neil and Scott from Visa Europe. You all did a great job that was much appreciated! Our thanks also go to Visa Europe for allowing them to give their time to this

project and to Jacquie for organising it.

We are always looking for new members for the Chineham Village Hall Management Committee and the February edition of the Chineham Chat will contain a nomination form and details on how you can join the Management Committee at the AGM held on 22 February 2016. We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Committee to ensure the Village Hall and all the facilities on site remain available to Chineham residents. Meetings are held at 8pm on the fourth Monday of the month, 10 months of the year and last approx 1 - 2 hours.

If you are interested in booking either of the halls for an event or class, please contact our booking line on 07935 328172, send an email to chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com or complete an enquiry form and check out the FAQs on our website www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk.

Finally we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Lynne Hughes

Chineham Library

It is hard to believe that Christmas is already approaching fast. During December many of the library activities will have a Christmas theme as the big day approaches. There will also be Christmas stock available to borrow, to help get you into the Christmas spirit. As well as our normal days, we will be closed on the public bank holidays and

on Saturday 26 December. No loans will be due on these dates, and it will still be possible to return items through the letterbox to avoid incurring charges.

Our next Saturday craft session for children of primary school age will take place on 5 December between 10am and 12pm. The other regular groups meeting this month will be the CHIPPS reading group for parents and preschool children on 16 December, from 10am to 11am, and the Crime Reading Group on 12 December, from 10.30 to 11.30am. New faces are always welcome at these groups.

Age Concern are still holding their computer sessions for the Over 50s between 10am and 13pm. They will break for Christmas, so if you wish to attend, it will be best to check with library staff or the local office on 01256 423874 first. The Card Making Group will be meeting on 3 and 17 December, and they would also love to see some new faces there.

In addition to the new sections of Quickpicks and Author of the Month sections which we started recently, we are starting another new section of Fastbacks. These are the current bestselling 10 titles for both fiction and non-fiction. These will be displayed prominently at the front of the library. They are only available for a two week loan period, to ensure maximum access to these popular books. We would welcome your feedback on these new sections. The Library Service is also carrying out a consultation exercise over the plans for the future of the Service through to 2020. There is more information about

this available on the website and in the libraries, including a questionnaire which you are invited to submit.

The whole team at Chineham Library would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Cathy Foster

Neighbourhood Watch is for Everyone!

Like many other public services, our local police force has had to deal with significant budget cuts and restructuring. Chief Constable Andy Marsh and his team are very supportive of NHW. They stress the increased need for eyes and ears in the community to share local 'intelligence' between police and residents. Despite the cutbacks, PSCO numbers are being maintained and many of the newly trained recruits are now in post.

PSCO Nicole Wheatley has recently joined our own PC Jim Charlton and is already impressing local residents with her knowledge and enthusiasm. She has offered to help potential coordinators set up new NHW schemes in their own roads. Once set up, the role of a coordinator is basically to forward Bcc email alerts from police or others to and from their residents. Simple! Coordinator meetings are held in the Village Hall and attended by Jim or Nicole but attendance is optional.

Is your road in a scheme? If not, would you like to set one up? You could encourage community spirit and make

your home and neighbourhood a safer place to live. If interested, please email Nicole at nicole.wheatley.15936@hampshire.pn.n.police.uk or me chinehamnhw@bdnw.org.uk and we will give you all the help you need. We are manning an information stall outside Chineham Tesco on Wednesday 2 December from 11am to 1pm. Do come along to meet us and find out more!

Laura Romney (Chair)

School Open Day Visits

Four Lanes Infant School:

Tuesday 8 December: 9:30am, 11am & 2pm

Wednesday 13 January: 9:30am, 11am & 2pm

Please telephone 01256-324256 to book an appointment.

Found

My husband was out walking our dog at about 11.00pm on Thursday night (mid October) in Chineham and as he was on his way back he noticed 2 bikes hidden in a hedge away from any houses.

We decided to bring the bikes back to our house in case they had been stolen. We called 101, but they said they get a lot of calls regarding lost bikes and therefore were not interested.

If these bikes belong to you please email kaybelinda@hotmail.co.uk.

Kay Duffield

Greening Campaign

An early Merry Christmas to everyone!

To keep the green theme going I had a look into the credentials of artificial v real trees. Personally I love a real tree: the fun of choosing the "one" at the garden centre or farm, the "piney" smell and even finding pine needles around the house until June isn't too bad. (Though perhaps the car drive to collect and then recycle and all the hoovering isn't very green). But which sort is greenest?

According to the Telegraph website an artificial tree has a carbon footprint 10 x larger than a real one. A 6ft artificial tree has a footprint of 40kg, whereas a real one has a footprint of 3.5kg if burnt or chipped (lots of recycling points advertised in the local press this month), though if sent to landfill this rises to 19.5kg. The Carbon Trust states an artificial tree needs to be used for 10 years to be on an equal footing with a real one in the green stakes. So like most green issues there isn't perhaps a straight answer with lots of facts to be taken into account.

Sticking with trees, if you have a silver birch tree the long drooping branches are a perfect base for a door wreath. Just twist round a metal coat hanger that has been bent into shape and secure and decorate with your choice of natural or sparkly adornments. The base will keep for years and can be decorated differently each year. There are masses of books and websites (<http://ow.ly/Utbi2>) with ideas for making presents and having a greener Christmas, so let us know any stand

out ideas or potential New Year Resolutions regarding green matters.



As ever Greening Chineham would be pleased to hear from you with any comments or suggestions, or, even better join the group. Look at our website www.greeningchineham.org.uk and use the contact form to reach us.

Helen Haider

Petty's Brook

After another pleasant walk around the Chineham area, I still find it difficult to accept the condition of Petty's Brook. I, like many others remember when there were no weeds growing, and the water flowed freely.

We have a small community team which kindly give their time and effort in maintaining the local copse areas in Chineham, keeping clearing pathways and litter.

Is it possible to create another team for Petty's Brook to do a similar job? Although I don't live near the waters edge, I would gladly give some of my time down along the Brook to clear the waterways ready for the forthcoming of winter.

Any ideas anyone to pursue this idea further?

Duncan Little

Chineham Conservation Volunteers do clear parts of the stream but perhaps more time is needed. Should the banks of the Brook also be repaired?
Ed.

News from the Beat

In late October we suffered a spate of house burglaries in Chineham and across Basingstoke. These occurred in Sorrells Close, Kimber Close and Minden Close. It is unclear when exactly these occurred because the occupants were away. However the same method was used to gain entry and they all occurred over a short period of one or two days, hence why they have been linked as a series. Entry was gained by entering the rear garden and then forcing locks on rear doors. A variety of property was stolen. Enquiries are progressing well and we have identified a number of suspects. I hope that I will be able to provide some good news on this in my next article.

Whenever you are away from home for a prolonged period, the best way to secure your property is to make it look as if you are still at home. This can be done by:

- * Using light timers
- * Using a TV-simulator light or leaving a radio on.
- * Getting someone to house-sit.
- * Ask trusted neighbours/friends to pop in occasionally to collect post and put out/in bins.
- * Get neighbours to park on your drive if it is going to be empty.

We had another house burglary occur shortly after this series in Coppice Pale. The thieves smashed a rear patio window and made a search of the house before leaving empty handed. It is thought they were searching for the keys to an expensive car parked on the driveway. You may

remember from last month's article that I mentioned that car security is so good they need to obtain the keys to steal them and gave some pointers on how to keep your keys secure. But it is also important not to forget about the spare keys to your vehicles. Spare keys are best kept well hidden, preferably in a safe, rather than left hung on a hook, in a drawer or somewhere else obvious for thieves to find.

Another burglary occurred in Lillymill Chine in mid-November. The thieves forced entry to a detached garage and stole a lot of expensive bikes and fitness equipment. They also tried to force their way into the house through a back door but failed.

How much you invest in your garage security depends on two factors; what's inside it, and whether there is access into your home. The best way to protect your garage is to add additional locks to any doors and to fit an alarm inside; either as part of a house alarm system or as a separate system which can be very inexpensive. Any windows are worth securing either by boarding them over if daylight isn't required, or by fitting bars over the windows. And finally, motorbikes, bicycles, or other items are worth chaining to ground anchors or similar for added protection should the thieves manage to get in.

In all the above scenarios, it is worth security recording and/or marking your property. This increases the chance of you getting your property back, and assists the police greatly in catching those responsible. Please

visit the immobilise.com website and Hampshire Police website for more information.

And finally, on Friday 13 November at about 18:00hrs there was an attempted robbery on the section of Cufaude Lane between the junction with Crockford Lane and Sherfield Park. A male was walking home from work when he was assaulted by a male who put him in a headlock and tried to take his rucksack off him. The victim defended himself and the offender ran off into Chineham. He was described as an Asian male, slim, 6'5" in height, wearing dark clothing including a jacket with the hood up. If you saw or heard anything suspicious, or have any information that would assist, please contact me on the details below or crimestoppers.

PC Jim Charlton 21015 and PCSO Nicole Wheatley 15936

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

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

Santa Visiting Chineham

The Rotary Club of Basingstoke Loddon will be running a Santa Float around the streets of Chineham in the evening from approximately 6.00pm to 8pm, on 11, 14 and 15 December.

The float will play Christmas music and have Santa walking behind. Elves will knock on doors, asking for donations to local charities, and if a young child

is brought to the door the Elf will call Santa over to come and talk to them. The children often get very excited about Santa coming to visit them at their own house.

We cannot guarantee which streets we will visit as this depends on weather conditions and the number of volunteers we have as Elves each night. However if you visit our website www.blrotary.org.uk, on the night before, there may be more up to date information.

Anyone interested in volunteering to be an Elf in their area is welcome to contact Peter Izzì at izzì_peter@btopenworld.com to see if there are any vacancies.

Every year we raise a significant amount for Charity from this event and all involved have an enjoyable time as we build up the excitement in young children looking forward to Christmas.

John Bonner

A Big Thank You!

Thank you to the kind gentleman who found and handed in my sons mobile phone. We popped into Tesco to cancel the sim to find it had been handed in. Thank you again.

Lorraine Cole



Chineham Parish Council

S.106 funding

Over a number of years, Chineham Parish Council working alongside Chineham Ward Councillors and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have allocated developer contributions under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) for community facilities in Chineham. These have included the extension to the Scout Hall and the Community Room extension at the Village Hall, the allotment site on Hanmore Road, the upgraded skate park, the ball court at Four Lanes Schools and the Binfields multiple use games area. More recently S.106 contributions paid for the running track at the Village Hall and the fitness trail around Petty's Brook. We still have some funds available to allocate to new projects and are seeking ideas from local residents. There are guidelines about how the money can be spent and the final decision rests with the Ward Councillors and the Borough Council but all suggestions will be considered so long as they are for community facilities within Chineham Parish. If you'd like to make a suggestion, please email the Parish Clerk with a short outline of your idea, along with a rough estimate of the cost.

Grants

Is your Group or Organisation planning anything for 2016? Do you require any funding to assist with your plans? 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.

Library Service consultation

Have your say on the Draft Strategy for the future of the Hampshire Library Service. Hampshire County Council has published a Draft Strategy for the Library Service to 2020 which reflects the changing needs of the community. Many people access library services very differently now compared with how they used them years ago and the County Council is seeking a clear focus for the future of the Service. The County Council also expects that it will need to save money in the future but that is not the only reason for change. The ambition is to demonstrate innovation, modern thinking and business leadership to provide comprehensive, high quality but affordable library services that are suitable for the 21st century. To read the Draft Strategy in full and give your views by completing the questionnaire, go to the Library Service web page (www3.hants.gov.uk/library.htm) or visit any Hampshire library service point to read a copy of the Draft Strategy and collect a paper questionnaire. The Consultation runs from 2 November 2015 to 16 January 2016.

Local Plan

At the time of writing, the Inspector's hearing on the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan examination is drawing to a close. The Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee has spoken at a number of hearing sessions relevant to Chineham.

May we take this opportunity to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas.

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on 14 December. It starts at 7.45 pm in the Community Rooms at the Chineham Village Hall (the public session will start at 7.50 pm). The Parish Council is here to help the residents of Chineham, so if there is a Chineham issue you are concerned about, please feel free to contact the Clerk, Sally Jackson on 01256 474500 or email clerk@chineham.gov.uk or the Assistant Clerk, Julia Johnston on 01256 324345 or email assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk during office hours only please. The Parish Council website can be found at www.chineham.gov.uk.

Good Reasons for Living in Chineham

I have been a resident of Chineham for eleven years, originally in full time work but now enjoying retirement. I have been surprised by the negativity of many contributors to Chineham Chat. In my view we are extremely lucky to live in such a safe and pleasant environment.

Some of the positive aspects I would like to share are:

Frequent bus service to Town and railway station.

Well stocked local shop, excellent pharmacy, two dentists and a large doctor's practice. Tesco shopping centre in walking distance, but also offering plenty of parking and a petrol station.

There are many well maintained footpaths through woodland, meadows and other open spaces. There are imaginatively designed playgrounds and the challenging^ BMX/Scooter park.

We have a well run pub, the Village Hall/Club, Four Lanes Community Centre and a multitude of other clubs and societies offering a wide and diverse choice of activities. Plus there are two fitness centres within walking distance.

There is a choice of children's nurseries, excellent infant and junior schools, and after school care. There are Allotments, an adjoining Business Park, an active Parish Council and supportive local Police.

It is sad to think a few Chineham residents are fixated on petty irritations. Let us hope the silent majority are contented and enjoying our delightful corner of Basingstoke!

Anna Young



County and Borough Councillor Elaine Still

At the time of writing this article I have been informed of the delayed opening of the Black Dam Roundabout. Highways England have announced they will now be fully opening Black Dam Roundabout in March 2016. This is very disappointing news as the delay will continue to cause chaos for residents and indeed local businesses over the Christmas period. I have been informed this is due to unforeseen problems with diverting and protecting utilities. Please see Highways England Website for further details. www.highways.gov.uk/m3blackdam<<http://www.highways.gov.uk/m3blackdam>>

I reported in a previous article that I would be arranging a site meeting to look at having the Bus Layby reinstated near the Chineham Village Hall on Thornhill Way. I can now report the meeting has taken place. I met with a Hampshire County Council Highways Officer, PC James Charlton, The Chairman of Chineham Parish Council and the Parish Councillor who is their representative on the Passenger Transport Forum. This proved to be a very productive meeting.

There has been numerous sightings of dangerous driving, where car drivers are not waiting for stationary buses to pull off, but driving around the bus by crossing to the other side of the road. Visibility is poor and this is a very dangerous manoeuvre which could have fatal consequences.

I will be working closely with Chineham Parish Council who, like me, have been requesting to have the layby reinstated for several years.

Thornhill Way has clearly become much busier now, hence why I was successful in bidding at a Highways meeting to have a Zebra Crossing installed on the same site. The Zebra Crossing is awaiting a Traffic Regulation order to be advertised and this is imminent.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas.

Elaine Still
Tel: 01256 880926
Mobile: 07747862913
Website elainestill.com
elaine.still@hants.gov.uk
cllr.elaine.still@basingstoke.gov.uk

Borough Councillor Paul Miller

The latest information indicates that Chineham residents will have to put up with the disruption of the Black Dam works for a little longer. As I write there is no estimate as to when the works will be finished as apparently more utility services have recently been discovered in areas that require excavation and resurfacing. The Christmas and New Year period will see a suspension of most of the lane restrictions and then work will recommence. I can only hope that we will be able to advise you all of more accurate timetables of the planned works not only at Black Dam but also on the roundabouts on the A33 running through Chineham however, we are in the hands of the planners at HCC and Highways England.

The Examination of the Submitted Local Plan should have been completed by the time you read this and we will learn to what degree the outcome may have on the residents of Chineham. While we are aware of some of the impact we can expect over the coming years of proposed developments, I hope to be able to pass on to you in the New Year whatever changes may be necessary to satisfy the Planning Inspectorate to allow the Plan to be "Adopted" so that we can proceed with implementation.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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



Basingstoke Gang Show Singing Carols in Chineham

Basingstoke Gang Show is back for 2016; the Show will be performed from 11 - 20 February 2 at the Haymarket Theatre.

If you, your family and friends love great live music and stunning dance performances don't miss out! This bestselling amateur production will have you tapping your toes and jumping & jiving.

The Gang will be braving the cold to spread Christmas cheer with shoppers singing Christmas carols on 12 December from 2-4pm at Chineham shopping centre. This is a great opportunity to see the talented Gang in action before their performances at the Haymarket in February and get into the festive mood!

Tickets for the Show cost £18 for adults, £12 for children and £16 concessions (except Saturday 20) Early bookings receive £2 off all ticket prices for the shows on Thursday 11, Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February when booked before the 31 January. Please quote early booking code BGS2016. Discounts are not available for online bookings.

Kirsty Thomas

Good Things About Chineham

I am responding to the November request for thoughts about good things in Chineham.

We moved to our quiet cul-de-sac in 1981. My husband and I chose newly expanding Chineham (then called Sherfield Park by the developers) as it was semi-rural, but with good access to our workplaces. Subsequently our daughter and son had a good start in life by attending Willowdene Nursery School, L'ecole Maternelle (now known as Linguatastic), Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs, and using the friendly Chineham library. In the decades since these Chineham assets have grown from strength to strength.

Despite the huge growth in housing Chineham still has pockets of woodland, Petty's Brook, Tollhouse Meadow and other natural assets missing from many other developments. The display of daffodils in the wide grass verges as you enter Thornhill Way from the A33 in the Spring never ceases to lift my spirits.

Now we are retired we feel safe living in a low crime area. We also benefit from a good range of local shops, a frequent bus service into Basingstoke, and (outside peak periods!) quick access to the excellent local hospital.

We have concerns that the impact of the extra housing in Chineham, which is being built without the necessary infrastructure to support the expanding population. However, if we move it may be difficult to find an area with similar desirable features.

Sandie Tapping



Minister's Message

So we come to December and that means over the next couple of weeks we will be.... Well what will you be doing? Certainly most of us will be getting ready for Christmas in one way or another. It might mean decorating your home inside and out, writing cards, thinking about presents and food and so on.

In all this I would be very surprised if there was not within your preparations some traditions that will be adhered to this year as they were last year and perhaps has been for many years, the 'we always do it this way'. So what are your Christmas traditions?

For a number of years we lived in the west end of London and certain traditions grew up. Taking our children to school took us past Selfridges and so often during November, on the way home from school, we would pop into the Christmas Grotto and see Father Christmas, always stopping the practice once December and more crowds arrived! Also, while we lived there, in the late afternoon on Christmas day we would walk down Regent Street, up Bond St and along Oxford Street taking in the Christmas lights and the Christmas displays in the shop windows without having crowds around us!

Nowadays our traditions are a bit more mundane of putting lights up outside the house, often putting the same decorations in the same place inside and so on.

It is interesting that many of us do like some tradition at Christmas, perhaps more so than at any other time of the

year or of course it may be that we are so busy that to do it the way we always do it is the easy option!

At Christ Church, while we are in many ways a non-traditional church, at Christmas we also have traditions. Not only do we have the same services at the same time each year, the Carol service, Crib service, midnight Communion and Christmas Day service but also we sing a lot of the traditional carols because we recognise that those are known and loved by people and we recognise people like these traditional touches.

In addition of course we focus on the Bible which gives us the story at the heart of Christmas. We will look this Christmas at the gospel account of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus, son of God. We will reflect upon the message of the angels, the visit of the shepherds to the manger. The traditional account of the birth of God in Jesus will be at the centre of our worship this year as every year.

Now here's something new. It may not be your habit, pattern or tradition to come to church over Christmas but let me encourage you to give it a try. Come and hear the traditional Christmas story and sing the traditional carols and perhaps make coming to church to celebrate this world changing event a new tradition in your Christmas.

With best wishes for Christmas from Christ Church and friends at the Community Church.

Ian Bentley, Minister at Christ Church

Christ Church Activities

Christmas: Come and celebrate with us! We will be having a special service after our Christmas Tree Festival on Sunday 6 December at 10.30am, a Children's Christmas Service on Sunday 13 December at 10.30am, a Carol Service on Sunday 20 December at 6pm (followed by mulled wine and festive biscuits), a Crib Service (our puppet team Hands Up: Puppets 4 Jesus will be taking part) on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm, a Midnight Service on Christmas Eve at 11.15pm and a Christmas Day Service at 10.30am! Children are invited to bring a small gift that they have been given to the latter service. We look forward to seeing you!

Christmas Tree Festival: Look out for details of this event on 5 December elsewhere in the Chineham Chat! Details are also available at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk

Sunday services: 9am and 10.30am every Sunday – no charge, all welcome! Groups for children and young people of all ages meet at the 10.30am service. The 9am service tends to be quieter and more reflective. During December we will take time to consider the promised return of Jesus Christ. Our sermons are recorded and are available on our website along with the sermon text at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk There will be a service of Holy Communion at 11am on Tuesday 8 December – our Christmas Lunch will be served afterwards (if you would like to come please book your ticket in advance).

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. “Come and pray” with us – we have prayer meetings scheduled on a weekly basis throughout December on alternative Sunday and Monday evenings – do contact us if you would like details. Everyone is welcome to join us as we pray for our church, our community and our world. You do not have to pray out loud and prayers are led.

Coffee and Co: our Monday morning café will continue to be open from 9.30am to 11.30am with coffee, cake and activities for the children on the first two Mondays in December, then re-opening in January. The café is open to all, whether or not you are a member of the Church – you will find a warm welcome and plenty of people to chat with.

Luncheon Club: our Christmas Lunch will take place on Tuesday 8 December at 12.30 for 1pm. This time tickets (£10) must be booked in advance so please let us know if you are coming!

CCBBies: the group meets on Thursday mornings during term time from 10am to 11.15am when there is a range of activities for pre-school children as we learn about Jesus and the Bible together. Parents/carers are required

to stay with their children; there is no charge and refreshments are served.

Messy Church: our next Messy Church will be on 11 January 2016.

Kids' Club: Our next Kids' Club will be on 16 January 2016.

C3Y: This is the new name for our "new look" Youth Club which is open to young people from year 6 upwards on Friday evenings during term time from 8-9.30pm in the Wesley Hall. The entrance fee is just £1 (bring some extra cash for tuck) and there is a range of weekly activities including a special activity each month.

4Men: If you would like details of our events for men please take a look at our website <http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk/community/events-men> and/or give us a call.

4Women: Our next women's breakfast is booked for Saturday 23 January 2016 starting at 9.30am. Caroline Cazyer, a change management consultant with a joy of gardening, will be coming to talk on 'Reflections from my garden', considering how nature reflects the character of God. There is no fixed charge for this event but donations are welcome. Please let us know if you would like to attend and invite the women you know! We also have an art workshop arranged for 20 February – watch out for further details!

Thank you to all the ladies who came along to our recent film night; we were able to send £35.10 to Tearfund in aid of the Refugee Crisis. We will be

arranging our next film night again soon!

Christmas Shoeboxes: Thank you to everyone who supported our annual shoebox appeal. 643 boxes are on their way to needy children in Moldova and Ukraine! We are already collecting items for next year's appeal so donations are gratefully received, particularly on empty shoeboxes and wool at this time of year!

Blood Donation Clinic: the next clinic is scheduled for Tuesday 15 December. You can book an appointment at www.blood.co.uk

Charity collections: we continue to collect stamps (new and used), ink cartridges, postcards, spectacles, socks, tools, bedding, tins and packets of food, and tops from supermarket milk bottles for various charities and in September we started to collect bedding, warm clothing, shoes, toiletries and non-perishable food for the refugee crisis as well as carrier bags for the local Foodbank. We can find a home for most things so if you have anything you would like to pass on do contact us! Unfortunately we are no longer able to collect empty baby wipe packets; if you hear of another outlet do let us know!

Room hire: rooms are available to hire either on a one-off or regular basis. Contact us for details or look on www.christchurchchineham.org.uk Prices start at £7.75 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 Tai Chi, Slimming

World, Hula Hooping and a range of U3A groups – you can see details on our website at <http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk/community/local-groups>

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

Ruth Randall

Christmas Tree Festival

Our fourth Christmas Tree Festival is at Christ Church on 5 & 6 December.

Many local groups from the community and church will be decorating trees on our theme ‘What does Christmas mean to me?’

As usual there will be homemade refreshments and activities throughout the weekend and everyone will be encouraged to vote for their favourite trees. We have entertainment throughout Saturday from 10am to 5:00pm which will include Local School Choirs, Linguatastic Choir, Ooh Mama Choir, BATS, The Gang Show, Tesco and Christ Church Choir. This year for the first time we have a competition running alongside the Christmas Tree Festival where individuals or groups have written or

produced a creative piece of work on our theme ‘What does Christmas mean to me?’ Also don’t forget to look out for the display from our pre-school colouring competition.

Prize giving will be at 4:30pm on the Saturday and on Sunday at 10:30am we have a special Christmas Tree themed service with our wonderful ‘Hands Up – Puppets 4 Jesus’ team taking part. Something definitely not to be missed!

We hope you pay us a visit sometime over the weekend.

Amanda Hedgecock

Interim Clerk to the Interim Sherfield Park Parish Council (ISPPC)

We are looking for an interim parish clerk for a period of 3-4 months, working a few hours each week.

This is an interesting and varied post where you will be communicating with members of the public, handling the agenda and taking minutes for meetings, all correspondence and financial accounts. Good literacy, numeracy and IT skills are required. It is essential that the post holder holds a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) and a driver’s license.

For an application form, job description and further details, please email recruitment@basingstoke.gov.uk or telephone 01256 845584. Closing date for the position is 4 January 2016.

Louise Stoner

Shop Safely Online

Shopping online can be fun and convenient but are you doing all you can to keep yourself and your family safe on the internet? Do you know how to keep your credit card secure whilst shopping online? Is your card registered for added security measures such as Verified by Visa, MasterCard Secure or American Express SafeKey?

Here are some steps for safe online shopping:

1. Website URL address security: Look for the https at the start of the URL and make sure the green bar and padlock are present in the browser bar.
2. Wifi security: Check you are connecting to the right network. Avoid making financial transactions on public wifi and use a password protected network.
3. Avoid unsolicited emails: Links and files in unknown emails could be a scam and hold viruses or take you to fake sites to collect your personal or financial details.
4. Using online banking: Check your statements regularly or get mobile alerts for your bank account.
5. Beware of fraud: Report any suspicious activity to Action Fraud as well as your bank
6. Remember to Log Out: Always log out after an online transaction instead of just closing down the browser.
7. Security Software is essential. Use age appropriate filters to monitor your children's activities and block inappropriate online activities. Update regularly!
8. Social Networks: These are increasingly used by fraudsters. Watch

out for things like fake friend requests and YouTube links containing malware.

9. Tickets: Be cautious when buying tickets online. Figures suggest that 1 in 10 ticket buyers have purchased fakes at some time.

10. Use a secure payment site such as PayPal unless you know who you're paying money to.

11. Ideally ensure you know who you are buying from.

12. Register your credit card with Verified by Visa, Mastercard Secure or American Express Safekey for added security.

13. The sale of goods act applies to online sales in the UK – so make sure you are buying from the UK!

14. Read terms and conditions before agreeing, as accepting is entering into a legally binding agreement!

We can all do our bit to make Hampshire an even safer and better place to be so if you have information about any crime, please do not hesitate to give Crimestoppers a call on 0800 555 111. You can also log on to www.crimestoppers-uk.org to give information online anonymously. For those of you Twittered up, please follow me @HantsCrimestopp for regular updates.

PC Simon Wright



Nature Notes

Hazel and I visited The Vyne to view the Dahlias and had fun choosing our favourites amongst so many. It's good to see this flower in favour once again. When I was a child massive blooms were grown for competitions and I was frequently terrified by Earwigs falling onto my porridge from the latest batch. There was a framed article giving the results of an annual fruit and vegetable show, with most of the prizes awarded to The Vyne. Even today, I feel sorry for the amateur man attempting to grow his perfect specimen in his back garden, amongst the Leeks and Potatoes.

The autumn colours were ranging from the pale lemon of the Lime through the gold of the Maple and Sycamore to the crimson of the Acers and an Ash the shade of Victoria Plums. I thought that we were set for a glorious time, then the rain poured down and left deep piles of multi-coloured leaves on the ground.

I watched a Buzzard chasing another bird at high speed —(so fast I could not discern its victim) but the chase was so low that the pursuer's distinctive markings were clearly visible.

In addition to the Buzzard I spotted the Egret and Red Kites flying over. My bird feeders have been used so rapidly by the Blue Tits, Great Tits and Sparrows that I think that they have reared more broods. I was pleased about that, but, not when I looked out and there were eight Collared Doves and three Magpies all clinging on at the same time and eating masses of seed.

I think that the tadpoles in the water barrel may become frogs next year as they still haven't grown any front legs.

Despite there not being any leaves left on the Lily, I found another Lily Beetle on the stem. I have purchased a bag of expensive black Lilies, so I shall be extra vigilant next year!

Please keep your sightings coming to ginny.wright2@btinternet.com or 01256 479562. (Please leave a message if I'm not answering).

Ginny Wright

Table Top Gardening for the Over 50s

Thrive uses gardening to help people regain confidence, build self esteem and motivation, feel better physically and mentally and create new social networks. Thrive has helped people create community gardening projects in the areas where they live.

Our current project, Sow & Grow, offers free, eight week indoor gardening sessions lasting two hours for people over the age of 50 who are keen to make new friends, improve their general health and wellbeing and learn more about gardening. All ability levels from novice to experienced gardener are welcome.

So why not join us? Starts Thursday 21 January at Westside Community Centre Basingstoke, RG22 6QB. For more information, contact Thrive 0118 9884844 SowAndGrow@thrive.org.uk

Serena Coombs

Sharing Heritage Project

Hampshire Wellbeing Services is now progressing to the second stage of its groundbreaking Heritage Lottery funded Sharing Heritage project. We are now ready to collect oral histories of the oldest members of the Basingstoke community (75+).

We will record these stories and use them to inform and educate younger people in the area about the heritage of Basingstoke's oldest residents.

We have now trained our interviewers in oral history collection techniques. In the next two months they will operate as volunteers to collect the participants' memories, stories, attitudes and approaches to life, health and wellbeing in the times before 1948 when the NHS was established. For instance, our interviewers will want to find out what they and their families did when someone was ill, what remedies were used and whether they had to pay for using a hospital.

We are now recruiting older members of the Basingstoke community (75+) with stories and memories of caring for health and wellbeing pre-NHS. We also want to hear from older people who migrated to Britain and found their way to Basingstoke to find out about their memories health systems and approaches to health and wellbeing in other countries.

The interviews will take one hour and will be conducted in the individual's home or in another quiet location. The voices and memories we collect will become part of Hampshire's history

and will be stored at the Hampshire Record Office for future reference by the public.

If you or someone you know would like to take part contact Jayne at HWS for more information on: 01256 423 830 or email services@hantswell.org with 'Collecting Memories' in the subject bar.

Christmas Open Studio

The Glass Studio at 8 Almond Close, Old Basing, will be open on Saturday 5, 12, and 19 of December from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

There are lots of fused glass gift ideas including Christmas decorations, pictures, light catchers, coasters and plus dichroic glass and beaded jewellery.

Aileen Mayers (01256 476732
www.aileenmayers.co.uk)

Christmas Market

Sherfield School are holding their Christmas Market on Sunday 6 December from 12 noon to 4pm. Visit Santa in his Magical Grotto. Feed "Dasher" the Reindeer (Courtesy of Animal Dramatics). Come and Hear Festive Carols, Over 40 Gift Stalls. Luxury Raffle. Fun Christmas Games. Food & Refreshments. Join us and help raise funds for Charlie's Day Unit. Entry Adults £2, Children free.

Giselle Hamill

Four Lanes Community Centre

Understanding Your Child: This 5 week course aims to explore a range of behaviours in children which are related to stages of development and to help develop skills to deal with outbursts in a positive way. Starts Friday 22 January 2016 to 4 March 2016 (due to Inset Day 12 February and February half term). Free of charge.

Happy Hands and Dancing Feet: For mums/dads, babies and pre-school children. Come and join us and have fun. There will be a range of activities including indoor and outdoor toys, arts and crafts, stories and rhymes, drinks and biscuits. All based in a safe and welcoming environment. Wednesdays - 9.30am to 11.00am on going. Cost £12.00 for 6 weeks or £2.50 per week on a drop-in basis. Please contact us to register your interest

ZUMBA: Zumba is the best way to lose weight while enjoying high energy and motivating dance moves alongside fantastic dance music. Mondays - 7.30pm to 8.30pm and Tuesdays - 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Cost £6.00 pay as you go. Contact Rina Mistry 07971553658.

Hatha Yoga: No previous experience required, suitable for all levels. Yoga's combined focus on mindfulness, breathing and physical movements brings health benefits. Yoga participants have reported better sleep, increased energy levels and overall better general health. Payable in blocks of 6 weeks cost £30.00 or drops in welcome £6.00 per class. For

further information and to book the course please contact Kati on 07450 226719 or pumpkinyoga@gmail.com

Linguatastic: Languages with Linguatastic include French and Spanish before school clubs; Italian, Spanish and French for Adults; and French for Secondary School pupils. For further information please email info@linguatastic.com or phone 811100.

Telephone us on 810499 or look at www.fourlanescentre.com.

Virginia Wyatt

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

December events:

New Forest Cider: Monday 7 December, 2pm. £5. We make a pure undiluted cider from freshly pressed cider apple juice using fruit from our own and other traditional orchards. After fermentation the cider is blended into freshly emptied whisky barrels to enhance the flavour. My talk tells you about how this Real Cider is made and compares it with commercial production.

Frosts, Fairs & Freezes: Tuesday 8

December, 2pm. £3. Weatherman, author and columnist, Ian Currie will take you through Britain's severest winters over the last 1,000 years, and say how we coped and even benefited from them. How did 17th century watermen make a living when the rivers froze over? What activities took place on the ice-covered rivers at Frost Fairs? And why has the river Thames in the heart of London not frozen as it last did over 200 years ago in the famous 1814 Frost Fair.

Second Chance Cinema Club: Thursday 10 December, 1pm & 3:30pm. Free. WWII drama, romance blooms between a French villager and a German Soldier during the early years of the German occupation of France. (1hr 47mins).

Reindeer & Stars Willow Workshop: Saturday 12 December. 10.30am – 12.30pm. £5. Ages 10 - Adult. Take a break from shopping and have fun making some rustic Christmas decorations from willow. We will be making tiny reindeer, lots of simple stars to hang in your windows and a little woven tree.

Suitable for ages 10 - adult. (Under 16's must be accompanied by a ticket-paying adult)

Children's Craft: Monday 21 December 10am. Free. Ages 5 - 12.

Children's Craft: Tuesday 22 December, 10am. Free. Ages 5 - 12.

Children's Film Screening: Wednesday 23 December, 10am. Free. Ages 5 – 12. Three minions named Kevin, Stuart and Bob are recruited by supervillain Scarlett Overkill.

Children's Film Screening: Wednesday 30 December, 10am. Free. Ages 5 – 12. Pixar film in which a young girl's emotions take on an animated life of their own. (1hr 42 mins)

Phil Jarvis

Winter Concert

Basing Singers are holding their Winter Concert in the Old Basing Village Hall on Saturday 12 December from 7.30pm. The programme will include great show stopping music along with traditional Christmas Carols.

Tickets cost £6.00 for adults and children under 16 £1.00 and are on sale from The Co-Operative Society Shop at Linden Avenue, Old Basing, on the door on the night or by telephoning 01256 850415 and speaking to Carol.

Proceeds will go to The Pink Place (breast cancer). We hope you will support this worthy cause and look forward to seeing you on the night.

Sue Wilson

Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society

Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society shop in Riley Lane Old Basing (opp Bolton Arms pub) will be open 6 December, 11.00 to noon.

A Merry Christmas to all members and a Happy New Year

Tony Stoney

Ramblers Association

The North Hampshire Downs Ramblers group is part of the Ramblers Association, walking mostly in Hampshire and the surrounding countryside. In the last few months our group has enjoyed both walks and social activities.

The group has started to walk the London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP) in stages of about 12 miles. We have now done the third section of this walk with quite a few more to go. The London Loop is usually done on a Saturday.

Another recent Saturday walk included a walk around Rotherwick in the rain; one dog walker was heard to comment that she thought it was only dog walkers who were daft enough to walk in heavy rain, as she passed 12 dripping wet ramblers. (Keen or what). Other recent Saturday walks have included a circular walk around Silchester and a walk taking in the pretty village of Ashmansworth.

Our Tuesday walks, which are typically 6- 7 miles, continue to attract quite a number of walkers. We have recently walked around Burghclere, Upton Grey and Upper Farringdon with the usual end of walk pub stop.

As well as the walks, the group also enjoys some social activities, this includes and Annual Summer Picnic, Boys lunches and we are also looking forward to the Xmas lunch.

The group have an active path patrol group, who report problems to the local council and also do some work

on the paths, which can be as varied as checking waymarking and replacing waymarking discs, minor clearing or even repairing stiles and gates. To date this group has replaced 20 gates in conjunction with the local council. The most recent being the replacement of 4 gates at Cottington Hill, where as well as the gates and steps being erected, some footpath clearance work was done at the same time.

If you are interested in finding out more about the North Hampshire Downs group, there is more information on our Website www.northhampshiredownsrabblers.org.uk. If you are new to walking and want to give us a try, or already walk, you would be given a very warm welcome by the Group. We hope to see you soon!

If you are interested in joining the Ramblers we suggest you come along for a couple of walks with the group first to get a taster. Membership details are available from the Ramblers' national website www.ramblers.org.uk

Marion Sharp

