
Chineham

Issue 380
September 2015

Chat



The “stag” beetle artwork in Binfields Woods. Photograph by Robert Kovacs.

September 2015

Hurrah. Chineham and Basingstoke area generally has awoken from it's summer slumber. There's plenty happening, as you will see reading this issue of the Chat.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take over as Editor of the Chat. It's disappointing, but not surprising, that nobody has come forward to offer their services to *your* community magazine. We need someone to join the dedicated team who produce and distribute the Chat. It is a team effort, though each person works individually, and all the posts are essential to the smooth running of the Chat.

Please don't wait to offer help. Don't wait thinking that someone else will volunteer. If you can spare the time and think you have the necessary skills, please contact Tony Heeley at advert@chinehamchat.com. Tony works full-time but still manages to find time for his vital Chat role (as do several other members of the Team). Could you do the same to help and possibly save the Chat?

Dennis Clapp

The Chineham Chat Team Contacts

Editorial articles, notices and contributions

Dennis Clapp editor@chinehamchat.com 472720

Paid Advertising & Artwork

Tony Heeley advert@chinehamchat.com 516072

Distribution

Tony Christmas distribution@chinehamchat.com 357389

Photographer

Robert Kovacs 07446 160888

Team Administration Laura Romney

Treasurer Antonia Read

Advertising Composer Maxine Jackson

Webmaster Phil Slater

Plus 100 others who deliver the Chat free of charge to homes throughout Chineham.

Visit www.chinehamchat.com for back issues and information on advertising.

Please Note

The views expressed in Chineham Chat are not necessarily those of the Team. The Team do not accept any liability nor warrant any product or service advertised in Chineham Chat. Copyright on all original material and on © Corel Corporation items in this publication strictly reserved.

NEXT COPY DATE: 14th September

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

First of all we can confirm that the club's annual firework extravaganza will be held on Saturday 31 October. This year the event will be in support of our chosen charity for 2015/2016, which is Saxon Wood school. Keep an eye on our website chinehamclub@btinternet.com for full details on timings, ticket prices, etc.

The Rugby Union World Cup starts on Saturday 18 September and reaches its conclusion on Saturday 31 October. We will be showing the tournament on our big screen in the Sports Bar and key games will also be covered on the TV in the Lounge Bar. We will be selling drinks at reduced prices during all games featuring the four home nations and will be running raffles, etc. throughout the competition. Full details of the fixtures and timings will be placed on our website and can also be found on the competition's website which is: www.rugbyworldcup.com.

Finally, entertainment events for September are as follows:

Monday 7th: Bingo in the Lounge Bar - Eyes down 20:00.

Saturday 12: Family Fun Day 12:30 on the Playing Field - Pimms & Cider Tent, Bouncy Castle, Slide, Barbecue and much more, followed by Pig Racing in the Lounge Bar at 20:00. Families welcome.

Thursday 17th: Senior Citizens Bingo 13:00 in the Lounge Bar.

Every Sunday: Poker, first session 19:00.

John Prince

Chineham Village Hall

We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and managed to take advantage of the playground and playing fields to keep the children amused during the summer school break. Our thanks to all of you for using the bins provided and helping to keep the area clear of litter. Thankfully, the council bins are now being emptied regularly again.

Solar Panels

You may have noticed the Solar Panels that have recently been installed on the roof of the building. The Chineham Village Hall Management Committee arranged this to reduce energy usage and to generate an income from any excess input to the grid. This should also reduce our CO2 emissions by 100 tonnes over a 12 month period.

On the patio and in the playground we would appreciate if everyone adhered to the 'No Ball Games' notice and used the playing field for ball games to avoid any damage to the panels. We would remind you that CCTV is in use and action will be taken against anyone damaging the units. Many thanks for your co-operation.

The children will soon be back at school and all the regular activities for both pre-school and school children will return to the halls. The timetable for these activities, together with the fitness, diet and craft classes, is shown on the noticeboard at the entrance to the main hall.

Anyone interested in hiring the halls for weddings, parties, etc. can find a

list of FAQs on our website at www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk, where you can also check availability using the online enquiry form. You can also contact our Bookings Clerk on 07935 328172 – please leave a message if the Bookings Clerk is not available to take your call and she will respond as soon as possible.

Lynne Hughes

Chineham Library

The Summer Reading Challenge with this year's theme of Record Breakers has been a great success. At the time of writing over 500 children have enrolled for the scheme, and good numbers are starting to finish. This year we are keeping a tally of how many children from each of the local schools have finished, and will let you know this information next month. I will also be able to let you know names of the prize winners for the quizzes. Hopefully lots of your children will have been rewarded with medals and certificates and be enthusiastic to take part again next year.

Now the Summer holidays are finished library activities are all back to normal. Do contact us if you need details for any of the groups, or the Age Concern IT sessions. There will also be some new displays to enjoy and monthly Saturday craft sessions for children. It will also be a time of change for our staff, as we are losing a few colleagues and looking forward to welcoming some new ones.

Cathy Foster

Getting Desperate

We are beginning to feel a little desperate in our search for a new volunteer Editor for the Chat.

If you can spare 10 or 12 hours a month and have a reasonable standard of English you could be just the person we are seeking. It would be useful if you have desk top publishing (dtp) experience but this is not essential as long as you know how to use Microsoft Word or similar programme. Microsoft Publisher dtp is very similar to Word but just requires you to always work in a text box. It also has a few other facilities but these can be learned on the job.

You will need to work to tight deadlines as there is very little time between receiving all the contributions and compiling the Chat before sending it to the printer.

Please don't wait hoping that someone else will volunteer. If you think you may be able to help or require further details, please contact Tony Heeley at adverts@chinehamchat.com.

Chineham WI

Our July meeting was opened by Dr Alick Jones with "Garden weeds - Can we ever win?". Dr Jones enlightened us regarding the many and devious means that nature has devised for garden weeds to spread and multiply and to defy our efforts to eradicate them from our gardens and allotments. How disappointing to learn that there are weeds whose roots extend more than 28 metres deep! However, Dr Jones' educational

talk gave us an entertaining evening with illustrations of many weeds, their historic uses (often medicinal), and their preferred methods of dispersal, together with some excellent suggestions to help us keep them under control.

In August we are not meeting at Christ Church, as usual, but are instead gathering at the Longbridge Mill for a dinner to commemorate this year's centenary of the WI. On 28 September we return to Christ Church to celebrate our 6th birthday party. There will be fun and games with a Swinging 60s theme for all our members. Our meeting on 26 October sees a graphologist visit us to check out our handwriting and tell us what can be discerned of our personalities from our handwriting. We offer members the opportunity to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat with a group trip on 29 October. November's meeting continues the musical theme with a visit from Barfield Handbells. Meanwhile the WI Lunch Club, Gardening Club and Scrabble Club continue to meet up for scheduled events throughout the year.

As you can see, our programme of events is many and varied. New members are welcome to join at any of our monthly meetings. Just come along to Christ Church, Reading Road on the night. We start at 7:30 pm. We look forward to meeting you.

Pam Malcolm

Did You Know: In 1898, one of the first programmes to be broadcast on radio was a yacht race in British waters.

Chineham Board Games Club

We are a local club looking for new members. We meet twice a month at Christ Church, Chineham from 6pm to 11pm.

Meeting dates for the rest of 2015 are as follows:

August - 8 & 22

September - 12 & 26 Extended event starting at 3pm

October - 10 & 31

November - 14 & 28

December - 12

The club is looking to extend awareness of the hobby which is growing rapidly, with many new games released each year. Most people are familiar with the family games Monopoly, Scrabble, Cluedo and maybe Careers or Game of Life. These are all wonderful games, however things have moved on and there is a whole spectrum of games to enjoy involving worker placement, resource management, card games and much more to flex the grey matter.

We welcome new gamers to the club and the first night is free to attend, after that we ask £3.50 to cover the hire of the Church Hall.

We can be found on Facebook and on boargamegeek.com with the page/guild as Chineham Board Gamers. I can be contacted at ian_hayward@btinternet.com or on 07880 790 278 but likely to go to voicemail due to either work or poor signal. Please leave a message.

Ian Hayward

Greening Campaign

The front cover of the Chineham Chat often shows that our leafy green Parish is a pleasant place to live with mature trees and green spaces and Nature Notes records for us the diversity of animal and plant life. However not all parts of Chineham are so pleasant and I refer particularly to Chineham Shopping Centre and its surroundings.



Many of you have in the past commented on the amount of litter in and around Chineham and not so long ago a conversation via Spotlight on Chineham revealed disgust over the mess of litter at Chineham Shopping Centre. On Sunday 26 July, a very wet and windy day, my husband took some photos at the centre showing litter bins around the retail outlets full to overflowing and trash lying in soggy puddles on the ground. The open bins attached to the lamp posts in the car parks were also full up and with every puff of wind these were liberally distributing rubbish all over the place.

Research from Keep Britain Tidy has shown that where people see rubbish lying around they think no one cares and are quite likely to throw rubbish down themselves. Rubbish on the ground breeds littering behaviour and apparently the majority of people will do nothing to improve their environment unless they see the authorities taking some action.

I emailed the photos to Chineham Shopping Centre management and our Parish and Borough councillors

bringing this sorry state of affairs to their attention. Cllrs Still and Miller replied within 24 hours and brought the matter to the attention of the Environmental Health department at the Borough Council and the Centre Manager. The bins were soon emptied and the area made to look a little tidier. Let us hope that the situation continues to improve although al fresco diners and shoppers are still dropping litter on the ground.

Perhaps we need a 'Keep Chineham Tidy' campaign to remind shoppers and retailers that we all have a responsibility to keep the environment free of litter. If we do nothing we are all tarred with the same brush, we don't see litter and we don't care.

On a different note I would like to remind everyone about Basingstoke Green Week which takes place from 19 to 27 September. The Green Fair on Saturday 19 September in Festival place starts the week off and this is followed with a number of events all over the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane. In Chineham at Christ Church on Sunday 20 from 1pm to 3pm there will be a Swap Shop, Children's Craft Sessions and a coffee and cakes stall with a showing of the award winning film 'Trashed' with Jeremy Irons. On Sunday 27 September Chineham Conservation volunteers with the Greening Chineham group will be working in Tollhouse meadow from 10am to 1pm stream clearing and litter picking. We hope many of you will join us at these events at the Church or to help the conservation and greening groups.

If there is an area of Chineham you would like to see cleared of litter please join us and let us know. Last year 16 residents joined us on the Big Litter pick. Equipment is provided with lots of conversation and socialising as a bonus! For more information about these events and all of Green Week see our website www.greeningchineham.org.uk and follow the links or see the library displays in Basingstoke town centre or at Chineham centre. If you would like to know more about Green Week or contact me about any of these issues then please email greeningchineham@hotmail.co.uk

Sue Juon

NHW Cycle Ride Update

The annual community Cycle Ride Treasure Hunt will now be a little different this year! The new 10 mile route is suitable for all ages and should take between 2.5 and 3.5 hours to complete. There will be no Treasure Hunt questions to answer and everyone will have an equal chance of winning a prize. The route map booklets are numbered and cyclists will need to collect special codes from the Treasure Marshalls along the route. Back at the Scout Hut, random prize winning number combinations will be on display and prizes can be claimed. Come and join us for a fun afternoon of healthy activity!

The event starts at Chineham Scout Hut, Hnamore Road with registration from 1.30pm on Sunday 6 September. Adult £2, child aged 5-17 £1, child

under 5 free. Start times are staggered 2:00-2:30pm. Free refreshments.

The event is run by Chineham & Sherfield Park Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. For further details please contact Dave Spokes (346027) or Laura Romney (817893).

Laura Romney

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Sue, Ruth and Brenda wish to say "Thank You" to everybody who has contributed to the Shoebox Appeal for the orphanages in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine - especially all the ladies who have knitted scarves, hats, gloves, toys, dolls clothes and blanket squares. To date 35 blankets are completed and ready to go out on the lorry with the Shoeboxes in November.

There is enormous excitement when the shoeboxes are delivered, as it may be the first time the children have ever received a present.

We still require small packets of sweets, toothpaste, tennis balls and skipping ropes at this time. If anyone has any spare knitting wool, we would appreciate receiving this, as we always need wool for all our projects, which can be delivered to Christ Church Office any week day. We will be filling the Shoeboxes on Monday 12 October from 2.00 to 6.00 pm in the Main Hall at Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham, and if you would like to help us with this project for the Children's Orphanages, would you please leave details with Ruth at Christ Church and we will contact you.

The Charity that delivers our shoeboxes to the children in the Orphanages is Mustard Seed Relief Mission in Eastbourne.

Many thanks once again for your kind donations.

Sue, Ruth and Brenda

News from the Beat

In early July we had a number of bikes stolen from the beat. Most of these appeared to have been stolen on the same night from a communal bike storage shed in Richards Field. However, one was also stolen from another communal bike shed in Brookfield Close. An observant member of the public spotted one of the stolen bikes for sale on a social media sale site and the bike was subsequently recovered after I obtained a search warrant for the address. Enquiries into these thefts are on-going.

Stolen bikes are big business. There is no sense buying an expensive bike and securing it with a cheap bike lock. You get what you pay for. Some even come with guarantees to refund the cost of the bike in the event of a theft. Ideally bikes should be secured inside a shed/garage (or indoors if needs be) to an immovable object with an approved device. Making a note of the bikes frame number (stamped into the underneath of the bottom bracket) greatly increases the chances of it's recovery due to increasing the likelihood that we will be able to identify it if we come across it. They can also be security marked with Smartwater™ to improve the chances

further, and it is always worth taking photographs of your bike/s, both for identity and evidential reasons.

In the early hours of 28 and 29 July there were a number of theft-related crimes committed in Sherfield Park. An insecure van and an insecure garage were entered and had items stolen from them. On the same night there was a smash 'n' grab of a wallet from a car in Elvetham Rise, and an attempt was made to enter another vehicle in the same road. Please ensure that you secure your cars and do not leave valuables inside them unnecessarily.

Then on 31 July there was a 'letterbox' burglary in Gibbons Road. This is where thieves identify UPVC front doors that have not been double-locked, and enter by inserting a tool through the letterbox to manipulate the internal handle and open the door. The keys to a Mercedes were taken along with other items, but fortunately the vehicle was not at the address so they were unable to steal it. If you have a UPVC front door, it must be double-locked by pushing the handle up AND locking it with the key.

And lastly, PCSO Nicole Wheatley has now started on the beat, taking the place of Richard Strauss. I am sure you will soon see her patrolling the area, helping to keep Chineham safe.

PC Jim Charlton 21015

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

Chineham Parish Council

Local Plan

The timetable for the hearing sessions for the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan examination have been finalised and the Parish Council will be participating in four sessions covering the following topics: Greenfield Site Allocations (two sessions covering Razor's Farm, Redlands, Upper Cufaude Farm and East of Basingstoke); Economy, Town Centres & Retail (Employment land & premises); Transport (Chineham Railway Station). The hearings are due to start on 6 October and finish on 11 November.

Reports of dangerous driving

The Parish Council is concerned about the worrying increase in dangerous driving in the vicinity of the bus stop outside the Chineham Village Hall. We have received a number of reports of cars overtaking the buses that have stopped there. The Parish Council continues to lobby for the reinstatement of the bus layby.

National Allotment Society - South East Allotment Officer's Forum

The Parish Council was pleased to be able to host this event on 23 July in the Community Room at the Village Hall. There were approximately 20 delegates from around the region who discussed various items of allotment news/topics.

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on 14 September. 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.

Great Binfields Primary School - Open Mornings

Is your child due to start school in September 2016? If so, we have arranged some Open Mornings on:

- * Thursday 24 September
- * Wednesday 14 October
- * Tuesday 10 November

Tours will start at 9.30am and 10.30am on each of the mornings.

This is an opportunity to see our school at work and to talk to some of the pupils who will be conducting tours on these days. Our Headteacher, Miss Jules Rogers, will be available to meet you and answer any questions.

If you would like to attend please contact the school office on 01256 460532 and we will be happy to book an appointment for you.

Helen Worgan

Did You Know: Jean Genevieve Garnerin was the first female parachutist, jumping from a hot air balloon in 1799.

Tales of an Allotmenteer

Last month saw one of our regular plot inspections carried out by members of the Chineham Allotment Team and the Parish Council. It was rather a soggy inspection, but after several water starved weeks we were definitely in need of some rain to bring on the vegetables. Downside to that is of course that the weeds will also flourish.

I attended a very interesting talk recently entitled Weeds, will we ever win? Looking at my plot and despite the best efforts of me and my friend I think probably not! However, what is a weed? Could it be simply a plant that is in the wrong place? There are some wonderful displays of 'weeds' on the verges and roundabouts around Basingstoke but if they as much as show a leaf on my allotment the hoe is out. I can't have them competing with the vegetables which I have nursed from seedling to plant and which we are enjoying at every meal.

I mentioned celery last month, something that I am growing for the first time this year with great success. My parents had a cut glass vase that they used to put sticks of celery in on the tea table on a Sunday afternoon. I like to think that I am a bit more adventurous and although it's not really the time of year for soups I have found a very nice recipe for celery and cashew nut soup. With another twenty heads growing I need to find a few more recipes!

Sally Dodd

Having a Smashing Time

Some lucky person or persons in Chineham are having a truly smashing time and not inviting the rest of us to join in this imaginative, highbrow pastime. Having never witnessed the festival of fun for myself I have no idea if it is one delightful individual or a group of charming citizens who wander along Hanmore Road on a Saturday evening marvelling at this creative pastime they have happened upon. I only know what fun has occurred when I walk my dogs on a Sunday morning and have to pick my way through all the shards of glass strewn across the pavements from where this ingenious group have smashed numerous bottles along their travels.

I am then faced with the dilemma of whether to try and pick my way through the aftermath whilst trying to steer my dogs exposed paws through the gauntlet of sharpness or do I take my life and my dogs lives into my own hands and venture out onto the road which sadly, despite the best efforts of the police speed traps and the tireless endeavours of the Chineham Speed Watch team, still remains a personal race track for many.

If any of the delightful people enjoying this Saturday evening 'smashing fun' happen to read this article please would you be kind enough to pass your details on to the Chineham Chat. When the inevitable happens and one of my dogs or somebody else's dog slices their paws open we will all need to know who to address our vets bills to. Thank you.

K. Glenridding

Borough Councillor Paul Miller

The three Ward Councillors, working in close liaison with the Parish Council, are assisting in gathering evidence to make the case for re-establishing the bus stop lay by outside the Village Hall. The numerous recent dangerous incidents experienced and reported by residents and local Councillors alike, have prompted renewed action and you will be updated through this and Parish Council columns of the Chat.

A new The Range store is due to open later this year near to Go Outdoors and Lidl on the A33. This new Home and DIY store has the potential of offering new employment to the area as well as providing a DIY outlet on our side of Basingstoke. This is also a positive indicator that business growth is continuing and demonstrates the confidence that industry has in Basingstoke.

There has been growing nationwide concern over the never ending pressure on NHS GP services and a local conference, that I will be attending, will be held in the ARK Centre in October. This will, in conjunction with additional work being undertaken by BDBC, help to identify where the worst shortfalls in the service are in Basingstoke & Deane and what is required to address them.

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

Rent Arrears

Getting into rent arrears can be distressing, but don't ignore the situation. If you don't take action to deal with the arrears quickly, you could end up losing your home.

You will need to contact your landlord as soon as possible and try to make arrangements to pay back what you owe. However, before you do this, you should check that you owe all the money your landlord says you do. You might not be responsible for all the arrears if:

- * You're not the tenant or someone else you live with owes the money
- * Your landlord has not recorded all your rent payments correctly
- * You took over the tenancy from someone else and your landlord is trying to charge you for rent from before you took over the tenancy
- * You're not getting all the Housing Benefit you should be.

If you think any of them applies to you, you might need to get help before you contact your landlord to arrange to pay back the arrears.

You can get help from Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau, (in Basingstoke Discovery Centre) with queries on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10 -3.30 Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is appointments only) and Saturday mornings 10-12. www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk , telephone advice line 0344 111 306 or online help at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> may be useful.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Like other practices, Chineham Medical Practice Patient Participation (PPG) and virtual Patient Reference Groups (PRG) are continuing to involve people registered as patients in developing services. This is a great way of having real input into a service which affects us all. The PPG would like to publicise the following information to registered patients:

Named Accountable GP

We would like to make all patients aware that although they can still talk to or make appointments to see any of the doctors or nurses at Chineham Medical Practice, they have been allocated a named, accountable GP who is responsible for their overall care at the practice. If patients wish to know which GP has been allocated to you, please ask reception at your next visit. Please do not telephone the practice for this information, as our telephone lines are very busy and primarily are for patients with urgent needs. When new patients register they will be notified of the details of their named accountable GP by the receptionist.

Wasted Appointments

You may have seen information about wasted appointments in the media recently. These "Did Not Attend" (DNA's) waste valuable time and money in your NHS and can cause serious delays in treatment for other patients. It was estimated by NHS England that more than 12 million appointments are missed costing £162 million each year in the UK. Between 1 April 2015 and 28 July

2015, 601 patients failed to attend or cancel their appointments at Chineham Medical Practice. This equates to 20 days' worth of lost doctor appointments. If for any reason you are unable to attend your appointment, please contact the surgery as soon as possible to either cancel or reschedule. Text reminders are sent to patients, so please check the surgery has a correct mobile number for you. People who persistently fail to notify the Practice and DNA may be removed from the surgery patient list and have to find an alternative practice.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining the Patient Participation Groups please contact Karen Nicholls on 01256 479244.

Karen Ashton
Chair, Patient Participation Group

Fundraising Ramble

Home Start is organizing a ramble on Sunday 11 October, 9.30am to 11.30am, starting from Greywell Hill House, Greywell Rg29 1DG.

There will be a choice of two routes, 3 and 5 miles, which can be linked together for keen ramblers! Dogs on leads welcome.

Tickets cost £5 (under 16's free) to include light refreshments and must be purchased prior to the event.

For more information please contact Home-Start on 01256 405988 or homestart.nwhants@live.co.uk

Jane Beckwith

Minister's Message

I don't claim to have all the facts, know all the answers or have a crystal ball to the future, but the furor surrounding the crisis of immigration at the Calais ports does provoke some deep and challenging questions. In a situation with competing and complex priorities how do you determine a right course of action? And how do you live commensurate with the values that have undergirded previous reputation and achievement?

I was struck recently by the death of Nicholas Winton, who was instrumental in saving hundreds of Czech children from Nazi concentration camps on the eve of war, and humbly kept his involvement quiet for approximately 50 years. He assumed it was his duty to help where he could and Britain accepted their plight and helped re-settle these children. This story, one of many that is part of our heritage, must have something to say to the crisis we now face.

How do we continue to live out a value that puts higher value on personal safety, protection and dignity than on economics? What responsibility do we have as one of the richest nations in the world to those fleeing war-torn countries? Do we just hunker down or do we continue to seek ways of exhibiting that generosity of spirit that Nicholas Winton found, and that has in many cases been our national stance? Of course we as a nation are not the sole answer. And we do contribute comparatively generously in international aid and have participated substantially in rescuing those fleeing

across the Mediterranean. But is it enough?

As I say, I don't have all the answers, but as a Christian I am challenged in my own response to somehow reflect a God whose heart is always towards the poor and needy. Like many I think we are a small island with not a lot of space (!), but I am also aware that my discomfort might be the cost for another person's well-being. Is that a cost worth paying? As a father I also, like many, have concerns for the jobs of future generations, but again is the value I want future generations to hold most highly one of 'care for all' or 'look after your own?'

The Christian story tells of a God who always had the whole world in view. He has always wanted, and still does want, the whole world to be a place of provision, hope, dignity and flourishing. The Christian story also carries within it the hope that one day all things will be put right, justice will prevail and humanity will live in good relationship with their creator, one-another and the world. We can contribute to that flourishing by how we live and respond now. But that does mean at times challenging ourselves over competing priorities. It also means not accepting at face value the inevitability that opening our borders more generously to those truly in need will result in long term suffering in our nation. There will be cost involved, but somehow in the larger scheme of things, a nation that lives out values of generosity is likely in the end to prosper, I suspect!

As I said at the beginning I don't have

all the answers but we do well to think more deeply and challenge ourselves about priorities and motives before reaching our conclusions.

Phil Norris

Christ Church Activities

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. In September we will continue looking at Matthew's Gospel as we listen to what Jesus has to say about how we live as his disciples. Our sermons are recorded and are available along with the sermon text at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk.

There will be a service of Holy Communion at 11am on Tuesday 29 September (after which lunch will be served at 12noon – see below for details). We will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 27 September and will be taking a collection of tins and packets of food for the local Camrose Centre which supports local vulnerable and homeless people.

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 September – 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 has been continuing to open during August after all thanks to the guys! We will continue to be open from 9.30am to 11.30am with coffee, cake and activities for the children during September. 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: The next one will be on 29 September at 12noon when everyone is welcome to join us for a tasty two course lunch – there is no need to book! The cost is £4 for adults, £2 for children. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 11am on that date so you are welcome to celebrate with us before the lunch too.

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 7 September and we look forward to seeing you then! Come along straight from school from 3.45-4.15pm when there will be refreshments and a range of games to

play. A range of “Messy” activities begin at 4.15pm, supper is served at 5.15pm and it is time to go home at 5.45pm. There is no charge although donations towards the cost of the food are gratefully received. If you are planning to come along and have any special dietary needs we would appreciate knowing in advance. Messy Church is aimed at families so parents/carers are required to stay with their children. All welcome!

Kids' Club: Our next Kids' Club will be on Saturday 19 September when children at primary school are invited to join us for lots of fun and games in the Wesley Hall from 5-6.30pm. The cost is £1 per person; do bring some extra cash for a hot snack and tuck and bring a friend too!

Thank God It's Friday (TGIF) Youth Club: The Club 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: Following the success of our recent BBQ and Sunday Supper Club just for men, we will be holding a service 4Men on the evening of Sunday 13 September. If you would like details please contact us or take a look at our website <http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk/community/events-men>

Greening Sunday: We will be hosting a range of activities from 1-3pm as part of Basingstoke Green Week including

activities for the children, a swap shop for books and clothes (do you have any books or clothes to swap?) and a café. We are hoping that our puppet team will be able to take part, and there will be information available from the Chineham Greening Campaign about how we can look after God's creation. Do drop in – all welcome!

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. 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.

Further information: If you would like to know anything about the life and activities of Christ Church please contact Ruth or Gill on 474280 or admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk or drop in to the office which is now open on Fridays as well as Monday through to Thursday. You can also find out information about Christ Church on our website

www.christchurchineham.org.uk , on Facebook (www.facebook.com/christchurchineham) and follow us on Twitter @ccChineham.

Ruth Randall

Christmas Tree Festival

Plans are progressing for our fourth Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church, Chineham on 5 and 6 December. As usual we are encouraging local groups from the community and church to decorate trees. This year our theme will be 'What does Christmas mean to me?' and we are expecting a wide range of interpretations.

As usual there will be homemade refreshments and activities throughout the weekend and we will be asking visitors to vote for their favourite Christmas trees. This year we are also going to have a competition running alongside the Christmas Tree Festival where individuals or groups will be invited to write or produce a creative piece of work on our theme 'What does Christmas means to me?'

There is no charge for dressing a tree or entering the competition. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 843408 or amanda.hedgcock1@btinternet.com .

Amanda Hedgcock

Did You Know: Sports command the largest TV audiences led by the summer Olympics, World Cup football and Formula One racing.

Into the Woods

Limelight, the youth arm of BAOS (Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society) are performing "Into the Woods" for their next production.

Into the Woods has been described as "a modern musical fantasy in which fairy tales collide." and Disney's film "Into the Woods" was a box-office success at the end of last year.

Limelight's production of Into the Woods will be on stage at Queen Mary's Hall, Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke on Saturday 24 October 24 and Sunday 25 October. The Saturday performances start at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm while the Sunday performances start at 2 pm and 7 pm.

Tickets priced at £13 for adults and £10 for concessions, are available from www.baos.ticketsource.co.uk or by calling (01256) 763127. Family tickets cost £40 and there is a discount of £1 per ticket for groups of ten and over. For more information and group bookings please contact baoslimelight@yahoo.co.uk

Wendy Blackall

Garage or Shed to Rent

Does anyone in the area have a secure garage/shed to rent for the storage of an Ivor Williams trailer measuring 13ft x 6ft.

If so, please contact Brian Wilson on 07787 520280.

Employability Programmes

RCS are pleased to launch a new range of Personal Development Programmes for Adults.

Be Confident in You - Looking to the Future

This course supports people to consider their own confidence levels and provides the head space to think about what their future might look like. The course works on motivational skills, how to make positive changes, how to prioritise time, how to communicate with others and how to progress to employment, volunteering or even getting ready to try a new group or activity.

New Directions - Knowing Yourself and what YOU want

This course is brilliant for anybody who wants to be more assertive in their lives and understand the tools to do this. This looks at how to work with others in an assertive way and be confident in how to talk to other people, how to handle difficult situations (including aggressive situations). The course also covers relaxation techniques and includes 'Knowing Yourself' which explores different feelings and behaviours of ourselves and other people. The course includes a full session on relaxation and trying different methods.

Get That Job - let's get prepared

Get that Job is for people who are thinking about or wanting to return to work. This course has four possible units of which students can select two. The course starts with looking at personal skills and how to transfer

these to the work place. The course will also cover CV creation, Job Searching and Interview techniques. This course is also suitable for people who are in work but want to pursue a different career option.

For more information contact R.C.S. Ltd on 01794 522106 or enquiries.rcs123@gmail.com. Visit our website on www.rcsservices.org.uk

European Day of Languages

Are you interested in different languages and cultures? Are you keen to meet like-minded people? If so, our social event this month may be of interest to you. It is a celebration of European Day of Languages.

There will be international food, a quiz, a raffle and multi-cultural dancing to watch and, if you so wish, join in. Open to all (whether already involved with Linguatastic or not). The event is being held on Saturday 26 September from 6.30pm at Christ Church, Reading Road. Tickets cost £10 per adult and £5 per child or £25 per family (2 adults and up to 3 children). Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For further information on European Day of Languages or our language learning sessions for children or adults, please e-mail info@linguatastic.com or telephone 811100.

Fiona Biermann

Nature Notes

My Son purchased a lovely bouquet of Lilies to compensate me for losing the battle with the Lily Beetles. We both agreed that beetle no 10 had outwitted me. Part of me was sorry that it died, but, smothering the plant in cream was an excellent deterrent. Perhaps I should just stop growing Lilies!

I noticed that the Oaks are bearing plenty of acorns and have not been attacked again by the Gall Wasp.

For the first time I saw a Small Blue Butterfly on the Cotoneaster Horizontalis at the corner of the hedge. Usually it provides early food for the bees, but, it was very late flowering this year.

With regard to feeding, I made an error this year, which may cause a lot of merriment to the readers. For four years I have placed jam on saucers at the bottom of the garden to aid the homeless wasps. It started well, with a few eating the plum jam, but suddenly hundreds were buzzing round. In addition, we counted three queens and were horrified to see that the wooden bench alongside was being chewed to make nests in a large flower pot. The area that was a "no go zone" became larger until we couldn't move more than a metre outside the back door without an angry wasp defending the nests. That was the situation until the heavy rains flooded the compost. However, several queens flew into the house when the lights were turned on, and on one awful occasion a Hornet settled on the television. I have learned my lesson, luckily before anyone was hurt.

My Father accidentally dug into a wasp's nest and was stung all over his head by dozens of the beasts. My Mother had to pour on a large bottle of vinegar (remedy). For Bee stings, Honey, Lavender water, baking soda or toothpaste were the old remedies, but the stings have to be removed. One of the books I consulted suggested one should go to Boots. Although, if stung in the mouth, do so. To begin with ice cubes or ice lollies may help until professional aid is reached. Beware of wasps crawling into soft drink cans.

Please keep your sightings coming to 01256 479562 or ginny.wright2@btinternet.com

Ginny Wright

Fake Bake Beauty

Fake bake was originally just tanning products but have now extended their range to include skincare, beauty products and make up, having taken over some of Virgin Vie's products.

I am a consultant, selling products. However there are business opportunities locally for party hosting, consultants, managers and also Beauty Belles! You can work for a few hours a week or a day, totally flexible with no contract or targets so great for mums or anyone with other commitments.

Please contact me for further information. Facebook Beauty By Gem; Instagram [gemfakebake](https://www.instagram.com/gemfakebake); Email gemfakebake@gmail.com.

Gemma Emmett

Clearing Off, Not Clearing Up

To the man who, on Monday 27 July at around 4pm, let his big black dog foul in the middle of the road opposite the footpath in St Gabriels Lea and did a runner without clearing it up, I hope (but doubt very much) you are reading this and feeling bad. The very fact that you scarpereed with your 2 dogs the minute you realised I was about to confront you tells me that you are aware that you (not your dog) did something wrong.

Please know that I am not a busy-body with nothing better to do, rather I am a busy Mum of a toddler who is angered enough by your actions to send this email to the Chat. You are one of several residents, it would appear, who have little or no regard for their surroundings, their fellow residents or children - like mine - who are starting to walk along the many lovely walk ways that we are fortunate enough to have here in Chineham.

I could have offered you a plastic bag to clear it up, had you only had the courage to stand there and hear from me. Please consider taking some of your own out with you next time so that you don't give the many decent, considerate, dog-owning residents of Chineham a bad name.

Caroline White

NWR Discussion Group for Women

Our meeting on 3 August was an open afternoon and we were delighted to

welcome potential new members. We had a topical discussion based on newspaper articles followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

Later this month we will be walking in Silchester followed by a pub lunch. Anyone not wishing to walk can still join the rest of the group at lunchtime. Our September meeting will discuss fictional families, which you would like to belong to and whether they reflect real family life. Also in September we will be taking a tour of the Sapphire Gin Factory.

if you think you may be interested in coming along to one of our meetings with a view to joining our group please do contact Diane on 01256 325554 or diane.hope@tiscali.co.

Evelyn Jones

Old Basing Royal British Legion

November's Remembrance time preparations are well under way, so if you wish to pay tribute with a wreath there are 10 designs available to order. Two styles of wreath can be personalised with a badge from over 3,000 different military units.

For all enquiries, please contact me at btrussell1962ad@aol.com or visit me at my stand at our Battle of Britain Event on Saturday 19 September where many will be on display. All money collected goes to the Poppy Appeal.

Tim Russell, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Four Lanes Community Centre

Happy Hands & Dancing Feet:

For mums/dads, babies and pre-school children. Life with young children can be exciting, exhausting, rewarding, challenging, joyful and daunting. Come and join us and have fun. There will be a range of activities including indoor and outdoor toys, arts and crafts, stories and rhymes, drinks and biscuits. All based in a safe and welcoming environment. Wednesdays - 9.30am to 11.00am on going. 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 a popular fitness programme inspired by Latin dance. Zumba means to move fast and have fun and is easy to learn. It's the best way to lose weight while enjoying high energy and motivating dance moves alongside fantastic dance music. Mondays - 7.30pm to 8.30pm and Tuesdays - 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Cost £6.00 pay as you go. Contact Rina Mistry 07971553658.

Linguatastic:

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

Hatha Yoga: (Community Room)

Suitable for all levels, no experience required. Tuesdays 6.30pm to 7.15pm. Start date to be confirmed.

Cost 6 Weeks £30.00 or £6.00 per week. Contact Kati on 07450 226719 or email pumpkinyogini@gmail.com.

GOL: (Football)

Mondays at the Junior School 3.40pm to 4.40pm and Tuesdays at the Infant School 3.40pm to 4.40pm. Contact Doreen at GOL on 01256 381652.

Holiday Play Scheme:

October Half Term. The Holiday Play Scheme is a great idea to keep your children entertained during the school holidays. Open to full time infant and junior school children aged from 4 to 11 years. The Holiday Play Scheme provides a fabulous day of activities supervised by our friendly and professional team to keep the children amused with arts and crafts, sports, games and fun food. We have 2 options for sessions times:

Session A 8.30am to 4.00pm – price £14.75

Session B 8.30am to 5.30pm – price £18.00

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

Virginia Wyatt

Allotment & Garden Society

Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society shop in Riley Lane old basing (opp Bolton Arms pub) will be open 6 & 27 September, 1030 to noon.

If you join as a new member in September you will get the rest of 2015 and all of 2016 for £5—what a bargain.

Tony Stoney

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 or <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/bsdc.htm> or <https://twitter.com/BasingstokeDC> or <https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeDC>

Whitchurch Silk Mill: Tuesday 8 September, 2pm. £3. Silk has been woven at Whitchurch Silk Mill for almost 200 years. Fabric such as organza, taffeta, and satin are woven. Experience the texture and weave of these yarns and fabrics yourself, after a pictorial presentation of the Mill and its history.

Beginners Photography Workshop: Suitable for beginners and intermediates. Saturday 12 September 10am - 4pm. £35. Get off AUTO! Learn to use all your camera settings and functions with confidence. Join experienced photographer, Geoff Read, for a fun and practical session. Make sure you bring a fully charged battery with your camera, empty memory card and handbook if you have one.

Lewis Carroll and the Supernatural: Thursday 24 September, 2pm. £3. Jenny Woolf, author of *The Mystery of Lewis Carroll*, casts light on the battle that raged in Lewis Carroll's mind between religion, logic and the world

of the unreal.

Jewellery Workshop: Saturday 26 September, 1:30pm - 4pm. £35. Make your own stunning beaded and wired jewellery including bracelets, necklaces & earrings, all using glass beads, Swarovski crystals and pearls. The session includes all materials and equipment and expert tuition from an experienced workshop leader.

The Martians are Coming! Tuesday 29 September. 2pm. £3. Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre on the Air production of H. G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds* has become one of the most talked-about broadcasts in history

Hidden Basingstoke Walk: Monday 28 September, 10am. £5. In a gentle walk around the top of town, discover hidden architectural features and the stories that they tell. Join Phil Howe of Hidden Britain Tours and John Hopkins, a keen observer of architectural history, and see parts of the town that are often overlooked but a local treasures. Meet at the Information Desk and please dress for the weather.

Basingstoke Churches Walk: Wednesday 30 September, 10am. £5. On this walk we look at the many churches in the town, from the tin tabernacles to the Gothic Revival arts and craft movements influenced All Saints at Fairfields. Join Phil Howe and John Hopkins and discover the detail that makes each church special. Meet at the Information Desk and please dress for the weather.

Phil Jarvis

Abseil Down Hospital

North Hampshire Medical Fund, a charity based in Basingstoke Hospital that raises funds for medical equipment has organised a fund raising abseil down the hospital building.

The event is on 3 October, starting at 10am. Abseil 60 ft down the side of Basingstoke Hospital in aid of our charity. The event is free if you raise £150 through our Virgin Events page. You can sign-up now at www.nhmedicalfund.org.

Georgina Wilkinson

Ramblers Association

The North Hampshire Downs Ramblers group, is part of the Ramblers Association. We walk mostly in Hampshire and the surrounding countryside but also venture further afield including walking the London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP) in stages of about 12 miles. We have now done 2 sections with quite a few more to go.

As well as the walks, the group also enjoys some social activities and we have an active path patrol group, who report problems to the local council and also do some work on the paths.

If you are interested in finding out more about the North Hampshire Downs group, please look at <http://www.ramblersnhd.hampshire.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. 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

Bowling Open Days

Loddon Vale Indoor Bowling Club, based at Basingstoke Leisure Park 356507 or info@loddonvaleibc.co.uk) will be holding Open Days on Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 September from 10am to 4pm

This is an opportunity to enjoy some light healthy indoor exercise and meet new friends. We have comfortable air conditioned premises with restaurant and bar.

Joyce Holding

RBL Women's Section, Old Basing

Thank you to everyone who attended our Cream Tea/Summer Bazaar, we had lots of visitors who bought our homemade cakes and preserves as well as craft, jewellery and a gift stall. There were lots of prizes on the tombola stall which was a sell out! This helped us raise £450.00 for the benevolent fund.

Don't forget our General Meeting in the Jack Morris Hall at 7.30pm on 24 September. Jan Thompson from Speakability follows the GM and there will be a competition for a decorated walking stick.

Sue Wilson, Publicity