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# Chineham

Issue 394  
November 2016

# *Chat*

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Railway Bridge. Photograph by Peter Malcolm.

## November 2016

Well, I open this Chat with a congratulations to Jo who has had her bouncing baby boy!

I hope that as readers (and Jo) flick through this month's issue, they will find the editorial transition satisfactory. I must admit, undertaking the editing again after several years since I last stepped in, I have a renewed respect for the work that all those involved in the team do. It is a challenge to produce the end product, especially when balancing other work and family life commitments, so thank all who do so on a regular basis!

This edition is once again, jam-packed with interesting articles and encouragingly, several letters sharing thoughts about issues Chineham residents have faced/are facing. Please do continue to send your letters in as in my opinion, this is exactly what a parish magazine is all about – sharing thoughts and experiences. If reading an item in the Chat evokes some strong feelings, either positive or negative, then let us know. If you are organising a local community event, to which you would like to invite others, then let us know. Or if you just want put your view out there, then get in touch.

Fiona Biermann

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

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#### \*\*\*NEXT COPY DATE: 14th November\*\*\*

Please submit copy to Fiona Biermann, 3 Merrydown Lane or as above.

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

## Chineham Village Club

We are now starting the build up towards the festive season so we will take this opportunity to remind members to put Saturday 17th December in their diaries as this will be the date for this year's children's Christmas party. Full details will be circulated throughout the club nearer the time.

Entertainment for November is as follows:

**Monday 7th:** Bingo, 20.00 in the lounge bar.

**Saturday 12th:** Quiz night in support of Muffins children's charity. Come along and support this worthwhile cause, have some fun along the way and maybe even win one of the prizes that will be up for grabs throughout the evening. Teams can have a maximum of six people and the entry fee is £2 per head.

**Thursday 17th:** Senior citizen's bingo and lunch. 13.00 in the lounge bar.

**Wednesday 30th;** Support another great cause by coming along and spending some time and money at the Saxon Wood annual Christmas Fayre. This event will start at 19.00 and there will be plenty of interesting items to buy. It was busy last year so get there early.

**Sunday 27th;** Members' draw between 15.00 and 16.00.

John Prince

## Chineham Village Hall

The car park bays at the Village Hall have recently been white/yellow lined and we would like to say thank you to the Tuesday morning hirers of the halls for their patience, and to the parents attending these classes who found alternative car

parking whilst the car park was closed. It wasn't easy to find a suitable time to have the work carried out without causing too much disruption, so our thanks to all of you!

Those of you with very young children may be interested in the classes in the halls on **Tuesday mornings:**

In the Community Rooms: Music with Mummy starts at 10.30am for 1-3 year olds, followed at 11.15am by Jolly Babies for 0 – 14 month old babies. For more information contact Cathy Rowe on 07766 931170.

In the main Village Hall: Caterpillar Music starts at 10am for 0 to 4 year olds. Caterpillar Music also hold classes on Friday mornings from 9.45am. For more information contact Jasmine McCarthy on 07952 935021 or check [www.caterpillarmusic.com](http://www.caterpillarmusic.com).

The timetable for all our regular classes can be found on the noticeboard outside the main hall entrance.

If you are looking for a venue for a party or to hold a regular class or meeting please contact our booking line on 07935 328172, send an e-mail to [chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com) or complete an enquiry form/check availability at [www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk).

Lynne Hughes

## Chineham Library

The prizes for the Summer Reading Challenge have now all been awarded, and we would like to thank all those who contributed to its success this year, either through taking part or helping as a volunteer.

As Christmas is now approaching fast, do come and choose a fiction or

Christmas craft title from our displays. With Christmas in mind, we are hosting a special event entitled '**Dickens at Christmas**', which takes place on Thursday 15th December at 7.15pm. This will take the form of seasonal writings from Dickens, read by characters in Victorian costume. Tickets costing £8 can be obtained from the library.

Our new **Chatterbooks Group** for primary school aged children has been very successful so far, and the November meeting date is the 17th November at 3.45 - 4.45pm. It offers a mix of fun crafts and book activities, so do try it out. Also we hold monthly **Children's Saturday Craft** sessions, which will take place on 5th November and 3rd December. These will have fireworks and Christmas themes respectively.

Every Saturday the **Construction Club** meets from 2 - 3.30pm to enjoy building with Lego. For pre-school children we have the **Saturday Storytime** sessions from 10 - 10.30pm on all the other Saturdays, and **Rhymetime** on Tuesdays at 10am for the under ones and 11am for over ones.

The regular adult activities all meet as normal this month. The **Age Concern** weekly computer sessions continue every Wednesday between 10.00 - 1.00pm, with a £5 donation payable. The colouring group, **Colour and Create** will take place on 9th and 23rd November.

The two **Adult Reading Groups** will also meet as usual; the details of these will be decided at the October meetings. If you missed these, please check with library staff. Dates for the **Card Making Group** will be 3rd and 17th at 9.30am,

and new faces are very welcome to join them.

We look forward to seeing you in the library. For the latest information you can pick up a newsletter and check social media.

Cathy Foster

## NHW Schemes in Chineham

Police want more NHW schemes in Chineham!

If you are not receiving regular crime warnings and local information via e-mail or letterbox then your road is either not in a NHW scheme or your scheme has lapsed. If you would like to know more about the benefits of being in a scheme, please come along to our next NHW meeting in the Committee Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th December at 8pm. Existing coordinators and our local Police will answer questions and offer support without putting any pressure on you to join us.

For further information, email [chinehamnhw@bdnw.org.uk](mailto:chinehamnhw@bdnw.org.uk) 01256 817893 or check out our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NeighbourhoodWatchChinehamSherfieldPark](http://www.facebook.com/NeighbourhoodWatchChinehamSherfieldPark).

Laura Romney (Chair)

## Chineham Conservation Group

Chineham Conservation Group will meet again on Sunday 13th November at 10am in Tollhouse Meadow to work on the pond and brook. Tools and refreshments provided. No experience needed but be prepared to get muddy! New faces very welcome.

Thanks to all who came out in October on a beautiful sunny day to clear a blockage in the brook. We cleared some vegetation to allow the water to free flow and also a large sackful of rubbish.

Helen Haider

## **Chineham WI**

James Bond featured heavily at our 007 themed 7th birthday party in September. Members of Chineham WI welcomed guests from many of the surrounding local WIs to share the fun. Members and guests joined in with games and puzzles and defused a bomb, decoded film titles and finally demolished a fantastic birthday cake, baked by Jenny. One member even took home a gun! (The gun was a prize and was made from Belgian chocolate!) Aside from the Bond themed games and puzzles, members shared food, cocktails and mocktails and social time during a very convivial evening.

Chineham WI are hosting a Christmas Craft Fair at Chineham Village Hall on Saturday, 19th November 2016 from 11am until 2pm. Don't miss this shopping opportunity if you are looking for inspirational Christmas gifts. There will be a varied selection of local crafters chosen for their quality of craftsmanship and value for money. We have something for everyone on your list, whether you are looking for a unique gift, or the hand-crafted packaging to make the gift you've already found even more special. And when you've crossed the last person off your list, you can celebrate by taking home some homemade cakes baked by members of Chineham WI! Entry and parking is

free. Come and enjoy hassle-free local Christmas shopping.

You are also warmly invited to Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham on 28th November at 7:30 pm to enjoy the Chantrelle Singers and meet the lively lady members of Chineham WI. We very much look forward to meeting you.

Pam Malcolm

## **Four Lanes Community Junior School -Community Governors wanted**

The school governing body is made up of parents, staff and members of the local community. We are looking to recruit 3 additional Governors who are currently not parents of pupils at the school. Community Governors are appointed by the Governing Body to represent community interests. They live or work in the community served by the school and have a keen interest in the school's success.

We are looking for someone that has:

- An interest in our children's future
- Time, energy and enthusiasm
- A desire to make a difference

Are you happy to ask questions, listen and learn?

Being a Governor is a rewarding and effective way of making a voluntary contribution to your community and to the lives of local young people. If you are interested in becoming a community governor, please contact Tracy Neilson for more information: 01256 816326  
T.Neilson@fourlanes-jun.hants.sch.uk

Matthew Bailey  
Chair of Governors

## **Four Lanes Infant School Open Day Visits**

Parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2017 are invited to visit the school for a tour with the Headteacher, Mrs Jacqui Mallaby, on the following dates/times:

- Tuesday 15th November: 9.30am, 11am, 2pm and 5.30pm
- Tuesday 6th December: 9.30am, 11am and 2pm
- Tuesday 10th January: 9.30am, 11am and 2pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact the school office on 01256 324256 to book an appointment.

## **Chineham Speedwatch**

As many of you will know, especially parents from the Four Lanes schools, we often monitor the speed of traffic during the afternoons in term time. Sadly one of my volunteers is leaving me to volunteer for the Royal Voluntary Service, and my latest volunteer has failed to materialise, leaving me rather short.

With most of my team out working, it can be difficult to find people to help, so I am appealing for volunteers to help with our "school run" operations. So if you have some free time during the day, and can spare an hour or two every other month, and would like to help, then do please get in touch.

If you would like to join the Speedwatch team then please contact the parish clerk at [clerk@chineham.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@chineham.gov.uk).

Attention all Tweeters: We now have our own Twitter page. Check it out at [@c\\_speedwatch](https://twitter.com/c_speedwatch),. Apparently we already

have a following despite it only having been up and running for a few weeks at the time of writing.

Bob Ricket

## **NWR - A Discussion Group for Women**

We had a very full October meeting when we showed off our art and crafts and gave members a chance to sample how to do some of them, e.g. we all learned how to make various bows to enable us to turn our Christmas gift wrapping into works of art! We have some very artistically talented and imaginative members.

Later this month we will be getting together for our monthly lunch, always very well attended. Our next meeting will be on Monday 7th November in the evening. It will be the NWR annual national telephone quiz which is always frustrating and fun in equal measures as we struggle to find the theme and answer the questions. We haven't yet managed to get 100% correct so fingers crossed this will be our time!

Our meetings are very friendly and informal and are usually held in the afternoon, with occasional evening meetings, in members' homes. If you visit [nwr.org.uk](http://nwr.org.uk) you can find information about the NWR. If you think you may be interested coming along to try one of our Old Basing & Chineham group meetings please contact Diane 01256 325554, e-mail [diane.hope@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:diane.hope@tiscali.co.uk) or Evelyn Tel 01256 816636, e-mail [evelyncjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:evelyncjones@hotmail.co.uk).

Evelyn Jones

## Nature Notes

The hot weather seemed to go on for so long, it was a shock when the mornings became colder and signs of autumn appeared in subtle ways. There was a hint of bonfires and the leaves began to fall irregularly from the trees in shades of yellow and red. The spider webs on the grass appeared like fine pictures woven in glass and diamonds until the midday sun dried them. Strange fungi appeared, which I am never able to identify, so if you are knowledgeable in that field of nature I should be grateful for your assistance.

The squirrel seen earlier in my garden has returned to feast on more hazelnuts and is not bothered by the dog, so, I think it is the same one seen in Great Sorrells Copse. Perhaps most of them in this area are so used to people walking by, that they wait until the last moment, before scampering up the nearest tree. Certainly the one by the Chineham Arms did precisely that, but then a second followed it, turned and had a fight just a foot above my head, ignoring me. Thankfully there are lots of acorns in addition to the nuts this year.

One of my hedges is now completely covered with both variegated and common ivies in flower. This has attracted lots of insects, flies and bees, together with the odd Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Painted Lady butterflies. I was planning to trim all the top growth, leaving some berries for the birds, until I heard on Gardeners' Question Time that ivy is essential for honey bees, because they can spend the winter hibernating in the foliage after feeding on the last flowers of the year. Therefore the pruning will be undertaken in the spring. Some of the Buddlejias have yet to flower, so I shall purchase

several more, together with Michaelmas Daisies and Rudbeckias for the late-feeding bees.

Whilst I was preparing some strawberries from a supermarket, I discovered a ladybird amongst the berries. I thought it was frozen from being in the fridge, but it moved a leg, so I breathed on it gently and it gradually walked a few steps. I was congratulating myself on successful first aid, when it fell over to reveal the brown body and legs of a "Masquerade ladybird"!!!! For those of you who are unaware, since arriving in this country from Europe some years ago, they have eaten most of our smaller native black-legged ladybirds who eat lots of aphids. I now faced a dilemma, as I did not want to kill it, but it was a pest. Anyway, the cold was probably too much for it, because it died.

Are the foxes in Chineham becoming less bothered by humans? My son sees one of them early in the mornings, but the Evans family came face to face with one at 5pm, which did not dive immediately for cover. Both occurred in Great Sorrells Copse.

Some unusual plants appeared in my garden, which may have been in the new bird seed. I was worried in case they were poisonous, but by chance I came across a picture. These are a quick-growing crop which used to feed cattle and hens during the 16th through to 19th century. Now it is grown as bird food or a green manure for ploughing. I think I will stick to a propriety brand of fertiliser.

Please keep on sending your articles to [gjny.wright2@btinternet.com](mailto:gjny.wright2@btinternet.com), telephone 479562

Ginny Wright

## Scouts Christmas Card Delivery

This year 1st Chineham Scouts have decided to offer their services free to deliver Christmas cards throughout Chineham. The Scouts themselves decided that as part of their Community Service they would like to offer this opportunity. So, if you would like your local Christmas cards delivered then please arrange to drop them off at a Scouts Christmas post box in Christ Church or at the Scout Hall in Hanmore Road. These post boxes will be in place from Monday 21st November and the cards will be collected daily.

The Perimeter of the delivery area would be Thornhill Way, Hanmore Road and Reading Road and all roads off those. Unfortunately we cannot deliver to Sherfield Park and across the A33 towards North Binfields.

We would ask that you clearly write on the envelopes with full address and postcode. A Leader will assist all scouts during delivery, which is intended to be Thursday 15th December. Last collections ready for sorting will be 12th December. As we said, this service would be free, however if you would like to give a donation, then the scouts would like that to go towards Naomi House.

1st Chineham Scouts

## Chineham Parish Council

**Play area:** The Parish Council would like to seek the views of the local community regarding a proposal to upgrade the Hanmore Road playground (beside the nursery). If you have any comments about the style or age range for the equipment

that could be installed, please contact the Clerk.

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

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on 14 November 2016. The Meeting starts at 7.45pm and will take place in the Community Rooms at the Chineham Village Hall.

The Parish Council is here to help the residents of Chineham, so if there is an issue you are concerned about, please feel free to contact the Clerk, Sally Jackson, on 474500 or e-mail [clerk@chineham.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@chineham.gov.uk) or the Assistant Clerk, Julia Johnston, on 3 2 4 3 4 5 o r e - m a i l [assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk) during office hours. The Parish Council website can be found at [www.chineham.gov.uk](http://www.chineham.gov.uk).

Sally Jackson

## Friends of Four Lanes Schools Annual Christmas Fayre

Friends of Four Lanes Schools are holding their Annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26th November from 2 to 4pm.

## Light up a Life

St. Michael's Hospice would like to invite you to their Light up a Life service, taking place on Sunday 4th December at 18.00hrs in the grounds of the Hospice. The service led by Richard Harlow, Rector of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester and Area Dean of Basingstoke, will give time for reflection, remembering precious memories of loved ones who cannot be with us this Christmas.

If you would like to make a dedication in memory of a loved one, please visit [stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events](http://stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events) or for further information please contact the Fundraising Hotline on 01256 848848.

Sue O'Flinn

## The Pink Place

The Pink Place is a registered cancer charity which aims to improve the feeling of wellbeing at a difficult time, We welcome guests with any form of cancer. Our FREE services include Hairdressing, Complementary therapies, Beauty therapies, counselling and more. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers and their skills and time and are currently looking for more voluntary therapists and hairdressers. Can you spare 2/3 hours each month? Either on a Monday or a Tuesday morning? If YES, we'd love to hear from you! Level 2 NVQ in Beauty, Level 3 NVQ in Massage and Reflexology, Level 2 and Salon Experience in Hairdressing required. Insurance is provided.

Please contact us on Tel. 07789 970 8 4 1 / e - m a i l : [info@thepinkplace.org.uk](mailto:info@thepinkplace.org.uk)

You can also visit our website: [www.thepinkplace.org.uk](http://www.thepinkplace.org.uk) and find us on Facebook.

Natasha Aitken  
The Pink Place, 3 Wote Street,  
Basingstoke, RG21 7NE

## Haiti Hurricane Relief

As you will all have seen through the news channels, Hurricane Matthew, the most powerful Caribbean storm in a decade has had a devastating effect upon Haiti. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there are an estimated 350,000 people in need of assistance.

80% of buildings have been destroyed and sadly the death toll is already over 900 and expected to rise. The already very poor sanitation system has been totally overwhelmed by flooding. A cholera epidemic spread by contaminated water has already killed 6,000 people since the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010 and will kill many more now.

Members of Lions Clubs of the British Isles and Ireland are coordinating with our Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and it has been agreed to supply water treatment equipment directly to help the people of Haiti. Clean water is one of their greatest needs. The Basingstoke Lions Club will be making an initial donation of £500.

Please donate to this cause if you can.

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

Philip Wilson, PRO Basingstoke Lions Club, Tel. 01256 352393

## **Civil Service Retirement Fellowship**

There were 48 members at the meeting on 5th October. Details of the forthcoming trip to the Canine Partners Centre on Thursday 17th November and the Christmas lunch at BCoT on Thursday 15th December were given.

The speaker this month was Sheila Hills who spent a year in Afghanistan working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She explained how she saw a position advertised which required the experience she had gained in the accounts department at Bramshill Police College and was for a 12 month secondment in Kabul. With the backing of her husband and sons she successfully applied for the job and was soon heading out with 3 retired police officers who were to advise new police recruits on crime scene investigation. Out there, she was able to see a different side to the country after the Taliban had left, other than that portrayed by the media. She gave an insight to everyday life in Kabul for ordinary people and illustrated her talk by showing slides and displaying items of clothing that had been given to her during her stay there.

The next meeting is on 2nd November when the speaker will be John Owen Smith at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon. All retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or [bjmapbr@ntlworld.com](mailto:bjmapbr@ntlworld.com). For trip participation, please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791

David Cowling

## **RBL Women's Section**

On Thursday 24th at 7.30pm, the group will be holding its General Meeting with Christmas celebrations including a buffet and a competition: A photograph of your Christmas Tree.

On Saturday 26th, the group will be holding a Christmas Bazaar, 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Lots of bargains to be found in the Jack Morris Hall of the Royal British Legion, Old Basing. Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to have a stall, please contact me on 01256 328196.

Sue Wilson

## **November Nights**

Hold a fun evening and at the same time raise money for St Michael's Hospice. We are launching a new campaign called 'November Nights' and we would love you to be involved. Have a Cheese & Wine evening, a games evening, Bonfire Night Party, or a girls' night in being pampered. The list of ways to be involved is endless.

If you have an idea please let us know, or if you need supporting material to help promote your event, please give Lynne Grimshaw a call on 01256 848845 or e-mail: [lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk](mailto:lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk)

Sue O'Flinn

## **Chat Distributors**

Do you live in or near Larkfield?  
Our Chat road distributor is moving and we need to replace her. We are looking for someone willing to spend half an hour posting 48 copies of the Chat to the homes in Larkfield, Woodville Close & Rise and Willowdene at the end of each month.

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

The expansion of Great Binfields Primary School will see the pupil numbers increase from 210 to 420 by Easter 2017.

Work started on site in February. The new extension will provide additional classrooms, a flexible Learning Resource Centre, Music and Drama Studio, and office accommodation.

The new accommodation has been designed to reflect the ethos of the original building in its scale, layout and appearance. The central courtyard is to be expanded, with seating and planting creating diverse external learning environments, fully accessible to all.

The new accommodation has been engineered to be more energy sustainable, with greater levels of insulation, and efficient lighting and heating controls. The teaching spaces have been arranged to maximise natural light and ventilation, whilst an array of photo-voltaic panels on the south-facing roof will harness natural energy.

Works on site continue to progress well, with the external walls and roof being installed this autumn. Pupils have been given opportunities to engage with the project, with site visits and talks to learn about the various trades involved in the design and construction of buildings. The project team have also endeavoured to minimise disruption to the local community, staggering deliveries and keeping residents informed.

Elaine Still  
Tel: 880926 / 07747862913  
Website: [elainestill.com/](http://elainestill.com/)  
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## **Borough Councillor Paul Miller**

As I write (mid Oct) the weather remains kind to us and the long range forecasts seem to indicate that once again we are in for above average rainfall but not too cold. We have some areas in Chineham and the surrounding area that can suffer from localised flooding so please be aware of that risk.

The developments of Razor's Farm and Redlands are progressing with Razor's Farm aiming to complete their Show Houses by the end of the year and the Redlands Planning Application has now been submitted. This progress of these and other developments around Basingstoke stresses the importance of the improvements required on the A33 roundabouts and the Local Borough Councillors will do all they can to pressure Hampshire Highways to stick to their planned schedules. Delays such as those on the Ringway East/ A33 junction really cannot be tolerated in the future.

We have had reports of Anti-Social Behaviour in Reading Road in the evenings and have been duly reported to the Police. Please continue to report such activity to the Parish Council and the three Borough Councillors as we are working with the police to minimize these activities long term.

Paul Miller  
Tel: 01256 467400  
Mobile: 07777 659022  
[cllr.paul.miller@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.miller@basingstoke.gov.uk)

# Road Safety in Chineham

**Dear Editor,**

When the plans to build the zebra crossing were published it was welcomed as there are a lot of people who cross the road to get to the village hall/bus stop/school. At the time it was being built I couldn't help thinking they were building it in the wrong place!

What we have been given is something of a white elephant. The crossing in my view has been built on the wrong bollards. Every day I drive past, there are numerous people using the bollards without the zebra crossing, to cross the road, rather than walking 10 yards to the zebra crossing.

What is even more of a concern is the lighting on the crossing. It is completely inadequate, as the mornings are getting darker, every time I drive past it is impossible to see if anyone is on the crossing or waiting to cross. The orange flashing lights do not light up anyone crossing or waiting to cross. It should really have some form of white lighting there, I am well aware of the light pollution this would cause to 'local houses' but the consequences of some poor soul being run over do not begin to compare.

**PEDESTRIANS BE AWARE.** Drivers cannot see you so don't assume they can, please wait for cars to stop before stepping on to the crossing.

Michael Snowden

.....

**Dear Editor,**

Since the crossing went in I have waited with trepidation for the first accident, which

thankfully has yet to happen, but after seeing a Sainsburys delivery van almost knock a man over last week and tonight I have had a close call myself with my young daughter as a stagecoach bus driver decided she did not want to stop for us, even though we were half way across the crossing. I am very concerned it won't be long before something serious happens as I don't believe my daughter would have recognised the signs that the bus was not intending to stop.

Forget the lay-by, we need a bit more education.

Dave Travers

.....

**Dear Editor,**

I think I have a solution to our constant traffic problem and maybe the speed problem as well. This is only a thought and have no clue to the requirements needed. But what if we can make the Chineham area a private road?

Gateing it at each entrance and exit and providing residents with remote fobs for entry. This would take out all the traffic from the business park and I believe allow us to set our own speed limit.

I'm aware this would have a cost to set up but maybe we could get a grant of some sort. It would also have an ongoing cost to keep it running but with the amount of houses now in Chineham I think asking say £5 a month from each household would be more than enough to run gates and add money to a pot to keep our roads in good condition.

As I said this is just a thought, but I would love to hear people's thoughts on this.

Name withheld by request

## Minister's Message

Loneliness is a huge problem in our modern world. Despite the fact that we have means of communicating and keeping in touch like never before, many people feel alone.

At the beginning of October there was an article in a newspaper which read "I was lonely and realised I'd never had a best friend – till Peggy." The writer was Miranda Hart the comedienne and Peggy was her dog! She wrote "I appreciate there may be some of you reading this asking how on earth can a dog be a best friend? Well, she listened (and never interrupted). She needed me. She followed me everywhere."

I know that for many people who live on their own their pets are very important in staving off loneliness. I'm also aware that Toyota have created the Kirobo mini, a small robot which can be taken anywhere and which they hope will be a friend to lonely people. However, I get a feeling that surely there has got to be more to it than this. Surely there has got to be a better answer to loneliness than a robot who turns his head when you talk, or a dog which does the same.

In Genesis we read how God felt it was not good for man to be alone and created woman. While the purpose was procreation there is an underlying truth here in that we humans are made to be together, to have relationships, friends, family etc. Yes I know at times it is good to be on your own but not day after day.

We are social and relational people and it is not to our good to be on our own for too long.

So what is the answer? Well I don't

know but I just wonder if we are, us people.

Just think for a moment of how many people you know who live on their own, and they won't all be elderly. Then ask yourself is there anything you can do to help break their loneliness? If the person is elderly it might be offering some practical help like doing the shopping, cutting the grass, etc which will give them some contact with you. Or it might be popping in for a cup of tea and a chat.

With younger people it might be including them in some social activity. Look I don't know but I do know people are lonely and while you can't help 'people' you can help the person you have thought about while reading this article. So how about it?

Ian Bentley

(Minister at Christ Church Chineham)

## Christ Church Activities

**Sunday services:** 9am and 10.30am – no charge, all welcome! The 9am service tends to be quieter and more reflective; we have a music band with drums and guitars at the 10.30am services when we also have groups for children and young people of all ages from babies to 18+. During November we will continue our sermon series based on Acts entitled "To be a holy priesthood; learning from the growing Church". Our sermons are recorded and are available on our website along with the sermon text.

**Prayer:** Is there something you would like prayer for? Do let us know. If you would like to come and pray at the Church you would be most welcome. Our Prayer Room is open whenever the building is open – you are welcome to drop in to sit and pray in silence, or

if you would like someone to pray with or for you we can arrange that. We meet weekly to pray on alternate Sunday and Monday evenings. Please contact the office for details).

**Coffee and Co:** Mondays, 9.30am to 11.30am. Our café is open to all every Monday during term time; delicious coffee and cakes are available, along with toys for the children and a warm welcome! On Monday 31 October we will be having a swap shop for children's clothes, books and toys from 10am to 12noon; bring along some items to swap and/or make a donation to the charity Compassion.

**Shoebox collecting:** Thursday 3 November, time to be confirmed. Thank you to everyone who has helped with our annual shoebox collection. We made 310 shoeboxes up on our "filling day" with your generous donations. The boxes will be collected on Thursday 3 November; if you would like to help us load the charity lorry let us know and when we have a collection time we can call you. The boxes will be sent to needy children in Romania and Moldova.

**Ladies' Film Night:** Friday 4 November, 7 for 7.30pm. We will be watching "The Lady in the Van". You can watch the film for free; light refreshments will cost just £4 per person. All profits will go to May Place House, the local homeless shelter. Please let us know if you are coming.

**4Men Breakfast:** 5 November, 9.30am. £5 per person. Full English breakfast. Life to the Max Guest speaker is Jon Cox, the creator of Adventure Plus. Come and listen to what Bear Grylls describes as; "The inspiring story of God's faithfulness behind one of the most exciting adventure youthwork charities out there". All men welcome but please let us know if you are coming.

**123 Matinee Group:** Tuesday 8 November, 1-

3pm. A social/support group which is aimed at the more mature although everyone is welcome; no charge. This month we will be doing some Christmas crafts, a range of activities at the tables and some more seated exercises. There will be plenty of people to chat with, along with refreshments. If you are interested in coming along and/or helping, you would be most welcome.

**Messy Church:** Monday 14 November, 3.45pm onwards. 3.45pm games/refreshments (so you can come straight from school), 4.15pm activities, 5.15pm supper, 5.45pm time to go home! Families are invited to join us as we learn about Jesus and the Bible together in a creative way,. This month our theme is "Trusting In God". There is no charge although we gratefully receive donations towards the cost of the food. If you have any special dietary needs we would appreciate knowing in advance, but otherwise please just turn up on the day!

**Rock and Roll Night:** Saturday 19 November, 7.30pm. Come and dance the night away with the Rokkits! Tickets are just £5 each; BYO drinks, nibbles provided. Tickets must be booked in advance. All welcome – invite the people you know and book your tickets today!

**Luncheon Club:** Tuesday 29 November, 12noon. Everyone is invited to join us for a tasty two course meal – £4 for adults, £2 for children. All welcome, no need to book. A service of Holy Communion is held beforehand at 11am – you are welcome to either event or both!

**CCBBies:** Thursdays, 10 to 11.15am. Our Thursday morning group for pre-school children offers free play, Bible stories, crafts, refreshments, friendship and fun; each week the children have a simple craft to take home and if the weather is good we will play out on the patio. Parents/carers are required to stay with their children – all welcome!

**Kids' Club:** Saturday 26 November, 5-6.30pm. Children at primary school are invited to join us for fun and games in the Wesley Hall. Your first visit is free and after that the charge is just £1 per child. Bring along some extra cash for tuck and a hot snack. Activities on offer include Wii, table tennis, pool, crafts and games.

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

**Blood donation clinic:** Tuesday 29 November, Wesley Hall. To book your appointment please go to [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

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

**Room hire:** Rooms are available to hire either on a one-off or regular basis. Contact us for details or look on our website at [www.christchurchchineham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk) Prices start at £8 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 Brownies and Guides, Victoria's Promise and the W.I., along with a range of University of the Third Age groups including Family History and Thomas Hardy.

**Further information:** If you would like to know anything about the life and activities of Christ Church please contact Ruth or Gill on 01256 4 7 4 2 8 0 / o r e - m a i l [admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurchchineham.org.uk) or drop in to the office which is open on Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 2.30pm. You can also

find out information at [www.christchurchchineham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchchineham.org.uk), on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/christchurchchineham](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchchineham)) and follow us on Twitter@ccChineham

Ruth Randall

## Linguatastic

This month, we have lots going on...

On 11th November, it's "Sankt Martins Tag" which is celebrated in Germany, so we shall be celebrating the day with the children who learn German with us by baking "Weckmänner" (little bread men) and making lanterns and singing traditional songs. In Germany, the evening of Sankt Martin is a chance for children to do a friendlier form of "trick or treating" as they knock on front doors and sing songs and in return are given sweets and other treats.

On Saturday 12th November, Linguatastic children (along with other groups) will be performing in a show at The Vyne School to raise money for the Mayor's Charity Appeal (whose funds will then be shared out between a number of local charities). For further information and/or to book a ticket, please contact Linguatastic via e-mail to [info@linguatastic.com](mailto:info@linguatastic.com) or telephone 471 474.

And finally, on Friday 18th, we are "doing our thing" and dressing up in costumes from around the world for Children in Need.

Do make sure you check out our photos from all of these events on our Facebook page (simply search "Linguatastic") or on our main website [www.linguatastic.com](http://www.linguatastic.com).

Fiona Biermann

## **Telling Tales at Probus Club**

Amusing anecdotes kept coming when Susan Howe gave a talk to the Probus Club of Basingstoke, the social club for retired professional and business managers, about what she called her canter through a funny life. This had nothing to do with anything equine but was about her wide experiences of life and with the ability to recall minute details that made the talk so interesting.

She had been working as a cook on a yacht in the Mediterranean in the 60s when she met Bridget Bardot's ex-husband, Gunter Sachs and went to work for him and his celebrity guests in his chalet in St Moritz.

In the early 70s Susan worked for Sir John Betjeman, soon to become Poet Laureate. She stood in for his long-standing PA for a year and met his famous teddy bear, Archie. In a change of direction Susan then worked for the British Tourist Authority, organising and escorting groups of foreign journalists around the country. She then went on to work for the British Council, welcoming foreign students to London.

After completing the notoriously demanding exam set by the London Tourist Board, she qualified as a Blue Badge Guide which enabled her to guide at all the major London sites. She accompanied an amazing array of specialist groups ranging from Hymnologists studying hymn writers to Mills & Boon authors specialising in the Regency period, and from Debt Collectors to the American Bar Association.

Not content with acting as a guide in Britain she has taken painting tours to Zanzibar, riding tours in the Rockies, wildlife tours in Africa and tiger tours in the jungles of India.

Her wide interests match the experiences of the members of the Probus Club, and their website [www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com](http://www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com) gives more information about their activities.

Paul Flint  
Secretary Probus Club of Basingstoke

## **Basingstoke Choral Society**

For the first concert of the new season, which will be held at the Anvil on Sunday 27th November, the main choral work will be Carl Orff's Carmina Burana. The piece opens with the instantly recognisable 'O Fortuna', frequently heard on TV and radio.

The Rio Grande, composed by Constant Lambert, will be performed by the choir with the brilliant Mark Kinkaid at the keyboard for this lively piece. Constant Lambert was a charismatic figure in the arts and music scene in the 1930s, counting William Walton and Margot Fonteyn amongst his close friends. It featured a dozen times at the Proms during his lifetime.

William Walton's Façade Ballet Suite will also feature in the concert. The Resonance Youth Dance Company will perform a programme specially choreographed for this concert by its founder Craig Horton.

Tickets available from the Anvil on 01256 844244 or [www.anvilarts.org](http://www.anvilarts.org)

Margaret Lucas

## Greening Chineham

This is my last article under this heading and it is good to go out on a high note! Last month we successfully took part in Basingstoke Green Week, albeit in a small way.

The children's toys, books and clothes swap held at Christ Church was well attended with visitors joining us from Popley, Bucksin and South Ham. Some people saw the event on Facebook or Chineham Spotlight and just came to swap, others came and stayed for coffee and plenty of other visitors were already attending the health visitors' clinic. It was so popular that people requested that it becomes a regular event throughout the year. Alongside this event a display was held relating to Love Food Hate Waste which stimulated some interest and discussion. Around 70 of their free bags quickly disappeared too. In the future it is hoped that Christ Church itself will qualify for eco church status by way of a scheme set up by the Diocese of Winchester.

I represented Chineham at the Basingstoke Environment Groups Network Meeting, which was more fun than perhaps it sounds, accompanied by an appetizing selection of vegan food. There were two particularly interesting presentations on eco schools – one from BCoT and the other from Parkview Infant School. Good to see that both ends of the education age range were raising awareness of environmental issues and both establishments clearly deserve their awards. It seems that several other local schools are waiting to be assessed but there is a shortage of

assessors. Please let me know if this is something which might interest you; it seems a shame that children have to wait a long time to hear the outcome of their hard work.



The reason this is my final article under the Greening Chineham banner is because it has been quite hard working on my own and no one else has come forward to join me, although I am particularly grateful to staff at Chineham Library for their encouraging interest in promoting Basingstoke Green Week. I have discovered that people living in Chineham are very interested in green issues but prefer just to get on with it rather than needing to talk about it. So please carry on recycling, saving water and energy, avoid food waste and encourage your neighbours to do the same.

More information on what is happening locally is available on [basingstoke.gov.uk/climatechange](http://basingstoke.gov.uk/climatechange) or contact me at [jeanmartyn123@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanmartyn123@btinternet.com).

Jean Wilde

### Note from the editor:

Having myself been a member of Greening Chineham in its early days, I feel very sorry that Greening Chineham has more-or-less disintegrated. Caring for our environment is arguably the most important action we must take and working together, sharing ideas is crucial to successfully doing so. I truly hope that this is not going to be Greening Chineham's final sign off and hope that some readers might now come forward with some new ideas. Meanwhile, special thanks must go to Jean Wilde and especially Sue Juon for setting up the initiative and for her years of commitment.

## **Old Basing Bowling Club 2016 End Of Season Report**

Old Basing Bowling Club (OBBC) 2016 end of season report

The 2016 outdoor season closed on a sunny day in mid-September, with mixed fortunes for our club.

We had one Triples league team, the Roundheads, promoted to Div.2 and our Rinks team was relegated to Div.2. Our 4 other league teams all finished solidly mid-table.

We have three 2016 District Champions; Champion of Champions – Graham Hillier; Novice Singles Champion – Tom Atkins and the Over 60s Singles Champion – John Fountaine.

The internal club competitions finals were played out, the winners and runners-up will be presented with cups and shields at our annual Presentation Dinner in late November.

The OBBC President's charity raised £357 for Cancer Research UK.

Congratulations go to Tom Atkins who passed the English Bowls Umpire's exam .

Most of us have already moved, however all will be hankering for the start of the 2017 Outdoor Season.

The outlook is good for our club, as some of the 25 new members who joined this year, have played very well and will give us an added depth in our league teams going forward.

We have planned 2 open days in 2017, Saturday 15th April and Sunday 23rd April. Both sessions will be between 10am to 2pm. Come along if you fancy having a go, all you need is a pair of flat shoes.

On reflection: Bowls has many aspects, it is as-competitive-as-you-

want it to be; or it is just for fun and a very sociable game. Yes we play in bad weather but when the weather is good, there are not many things that compare to being on the bowling green with friends, gentle banter and encouragement and a 'glass-of-pop' afterwards. Plus we visit some lovely parts of North Hampshire to play our games.

John Fountaine (Club President)

## **Basing Singers' Winter Concert**

Basing Singer's Winter Concert this year is "Around the World in 80 minutes" which offers a huge scope of music to entertain you. We are happy to say St. Mary's Church Junior School Choir will be joining us and the concert will commence at 7.00 pm in St Mary's Church, Old Basing on Saturday 26th November. Ticket prices are £6.00 adults and £1.00 children and these will be on sale at Glaysler Butchers, Belle Vue Road, Old Basing, by telephoning 01256 850415 and on the door the night of the concert. Come and join us for a very enjoyable evening. Refreshments will be available as well as a Raffle. Dates for your diary, Basing Singers are also performing at the Basing House Christmas Fayre on the 3rd December, the Naomi House "Light up a Life" service in St. Mary's Church Old Basing on the 8th December, and with the Basingstoke Festival of Choirs at the Mayor's Carol Concert on the 10th December and lastly at the Viables Carol Concert on the 16th December. More information will be available in the December BASINGA. We look forward to your support.

Sue Wilson

## Four Lanes Community Centre

**Theatre trip, Lion King, Fri 18th Nov:** Enjoy this award-winning musical with seats in the Royal Circle at the Lyceum Theatre and return coach travel. Tickets are very limited and on a first come first served basis. No tickets available after 5th October. £60.00 per person which includes return coach fare. First instalment of £40.00 due by 5th October, balance of £20.00 due 4th November. Coach pick up and departure times are: Sheffield Park Community Centre 4.20pm and Four Lanes Junior School 4.35pm. Departing London at 10.30pm, arriving back at approximately midnight. Contact: Tracy or Ginny on 01256 810499.

**Happy Hands and Dancing Feet:** Wed 9.30-11.00am, £12.00 for 6 weeks or £2.50 per week on a drop-in basis. 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. Please contact us to register your interest.

**ZUMBA:** Zumba is a popular fitness programme inspired by Latin dance. 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, Tuesdays 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Cost: £5.25 Mondays, £6.00 Tuesdays. pay as you go. Contact Lisa (Mondays) 07884 267722 or Candice (Tuesdays)

07843 979340.

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

**Hatha Yoga:** No previous experience required, suitable for all levels. Payable in blocks of 6 weeks cost £30.00 or drops in welcome at £6.00 per class. Tuesdays 6.15–7.15pm at the Infant School. For further information and to book the course please contact Kati on 07450 226719 or e-mail [pumpkinyoga@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@linguatastic.com) or phone 471474.

**GOL (Football):** Mondays (3.40pm to 4.40pm) at Junior School and Tuesdays (3.40pm to 4.40pm) at Infant School. Contact: Doreen at GOL on 01256 381652.

**Good Companions—over 55s Group:** Come along and enjoy tea and homemade cake with a variety of speakers and activities. Events list available on request. Four Lanes Community Centre, 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Virginia Wyatt

## Basingstoke Discovery Centre

To book a place, order online from [www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php](http://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php), visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

### November events:

**Disability Signpost Service:** Tuesday 1, 10am–12noon. Drop-in for information on topics including transport, benefits, housing and more.

**Volunteer Fair:** Wednesday 2, 10am–2pm. A number of organisations will be joining us to promote their volunteering opportunities. Come and see how your skills could be used to help others!

**Creative Writing for Young Adults:** Wednesday 2, 4pm–5pm, ages 11-15, free.

Gain confidence in your writing and meet like-minded people in this friendly group.

### Hearing Impaired Reading Group:

Friday 4, 2pm–4pm, free. An opportunity to meet people in a similar situation round a shared interest.

**Damien Lewis: Hunting Hitler's Nukes - The Secret Race to Stop the Nazi Bomb:** Saturday 5, 2pm, £5. Prior to the outbreak of the war the massive German chemicals conglomerate I.G. Farben had started producing bulk supplies of deuterium oxide - heavy water - at the remote Norwegian plant of Vemork. Damien Lewis's new bestseller intercuts the hunt for the scientists, the raw materials and the plant, with the cloak and dagger intelligence game being played in the shadows.

Damien Lewis has spent twenty years reporting from war, disaster and conflict zones around the world. Two of his books are being made into feature films. Damien Lewis is an established bestseller; the author of "Churchill's Secret Warriors" and "The Nazi Hunters". Advanced booking is essential.

**Discover Board Games:** Saturday 5, 10am–

1pm, ages 3+, free.

### Drop-In Surgery with Local Councillor:

Saturday 5, 2pm–3pm. Meet your Hampshire County Councillor for Basingstoke Central, Criss Connor to discuss local issues.

**Board Games for Grown-Ups:** Saturday 5, 11am–4pm, free. Develop your skills of cooperation and strategy in this friendly drop-in group. Meet in the Coffee Shop area. Some games provided or bring your own.

**Get to Know Your iPad:** Monday 7 & 14, 9.30am–12.30pm, £20 (2-session course). Follow-on course from the beginner's course or for those with some experience, this 2-session course continues to explore the iPad and its applications. (Limited number of iPads available to borrow – please make your request at time of booking). Advanced booking is essential.

**Board Games for Grown-Ups:** Wednesday 9, 2pm–6pm, free. Develop your skills of cooperation and strategy in this friendly drop-in group. Meet in the Coffee Shop area. Some games provided or bring your own.

**Painting for Fun:** Thursday 10, 2.30pm–4.30pm, free. Informal group of painters who share tips and conversation in Coffee shop area.

**Children's Crafts:** Saturday 12, from 10am, ages 3+, free.

**Young Embroiders Club:** Saturday 12, 10am–12noon, ages 5-16, £5. Learn new skills and meet new friends.

**Chatterbooks:** Monday 14, 4pm–5pm, ages 8-11, free. Are you a Bookaholic? Do you enjoy sharing ideas, making new friends and exploring new subjects? Join Chatterbooks a book group aimed for 8-11 year olds. Books, activities, quizzes and lots more. Sign up at the Information Desk in the library.

**Hampshire's True Crimes:** Tuesday 15, 2pm, £5. John Eddleston, the author of 23 books on true crime, including Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Southampton will talk about some Hampshire crimes including a

murder conviction without a body, the Southampton garage murder and two which involved the most unusual weapons.

Advanced booking is essential.

**Creative Writing:** Wednesday 16, 2pm–4pm, £1. New members are welcome at this supportive group for writers of all genres and ability.

**Creative Writing for Young Adults:** Wednesday 16, 4pm–5pm, ages 11–15, free. Gain confidence in your writing and meet like-minded people in this friendly group.

**Poetry Group:** Wednesday 16, 10.30am – 12.00 noon, £1. Read and share poetry with other like-minded people.

**Christmas Felt Workshop:** Thursday 17, 10am – 2pm, £24. Learn how to make a piece of felt which can then be used to create Christmas tree shapes. Add colourful felt snowballs and embellish with beads, sequins and stitches to create unique bunting and hanging decorations. All materials included. Advanced booking is essential.

**StreetPass:** Experience a new level of social gaming with your Nintendo and other gaming consoles. Saturday 19, 11am – 4pm, free.

**Discover Board Games:** Saturday 19, 10am–1pm, ages 3+, free.

**Family Chess Coaching:** Saturday 19, 10am–1pm (drop-in), free. David Graham and members of the Basingstoke Junior Chess Club will be visiting to offer hints, tips and guidance for complete beginners as well as to those with some knowledge and experience.

**Board Games for Grown-Ups:** Wednesday 23, 2pm–6pm, free. Develop your skills of cooperation and strategy in this friendly drop-in group. Meet in the Coffee Shop area.

Some games provided or bring your own.

**Murder, Sex and Mayhem in the English Church:** Tuesday 29, 2pm, £6. With John E. Vigar. Many visit our parish churches for peace and serenity – but look closely and you will find yourself surrounded by Murder, Sex and Mayhem. From medieval murals and stained-glass depicting the grisliest martyrdom of saints and misericords showing whippings, wife beating and brawls to memorials of murder, stabbings, shipwrecks and explosions – John Vigar will share the stories behind them all and their place in our history. A quiet stroll around the local church will never be the same again..

John Vigar has written extensively on the subject of church architecture and associated topics and runs the Hampshire churches website. He has appeared on television and radio on many occasions and is a popular speaker for the National Trust and NADFAS.

Advanced booking is essential.

**Painting for Fun:** Thursday 24, 2.30pm–4.30pm, free. Informal group of painters who share tips and conversation in Coffee shop area

**Visually Impaired Reading Group:** Monday 28, 10am–12 noon, free. An opportunity to meet people in a similar situation round a shared interest.

**Creative Writing for Young Adults** Wednesday 30, 4pm–5pm, ages 11–15, free. Gain confidence in your writing and meet like-minded people in this friendly group.

**Papercraft Workshop:** Wednesday 30, 1pm–3.30pm, £15. Come along to a Christmas Papercraft workshop with Pauline Barnfather. Using Die Cutting and Punch Art you will make a

## **Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour at Four Lanes Schools**

At the end of March I took over as the Site Manager at Four Lanes Community Junior and Infant Schools. I have really enjoyed my time at the schools and have been made very welcome by the staff, pupils and parents. However, there are some ongoing issues that I would like to bring to your attention. Unfortunately the schools have always had a degree of vandalism but recently there has been an increase in the amount of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

A lot of it seems to centre around the ball court where it is the norm for me to clear up glass and large amounts of litter on a daily basis. Recent activity has seen youths getting up on to the roof of the school, and pulling off the roof tiles, to throw on the ground below. I have found coke cans that have been split in half to create a sharpened edge and then wedged through the bars of the ball court, making them at face height for some of our children. Benches are being ripped up and destroyed and the remains scattered across the playing fields.

We are fortunate to have a large pond area. This was overgrown, but thanks to a team from Shire Pharmaceuticals who came in for a couple of days, it was cleared and made into a great learning space for the children. Two days after it was completed part of its fence was pulled down, the logs we had got for the children to sit on were thrown into the pond, along with a large number of bottles and other rubbish. Every few

days I have to clear this area as it is a repeated problem.

Graffiti on signs and walls is fairly common, but fortunately I am able to clean it up before the children see it.

As a result , I have had a meeting with Nicole Wheatley our local PCSO and she advised they will be increasing the number of visits to the site. A CCTV camera is now trained on the ball court and we will be reviewing this regularly along with the police. We also have other CCTV cameras around the site which will also be regularly reviewed.

Currently the Junior School site is open to the public from 5pm on school days. This will be reviewed in the coming months.

Going forward our aim is to start a series of projects to develop the grounds to provide a fantastic outdoor learning space for the children. I will keep you informed as to how these develop and I will no doubt be asking for help to take these forward.

We hope that the community would like to become involved and support the improvements we are trying to make.

Guy Blagbrough

## **Crimestoppers**

You've probably heard the name but do you know when and how to contact them? Run as a charity, part-funded by the Home Office and cooperating closely with police, Crimestoppers is a very effective means of gathering intelligence from members of the public who can choose to remain anonymous to protect their identity. Any information about crimes or suspicious persons can be passed on to 0800 555 111 or <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>