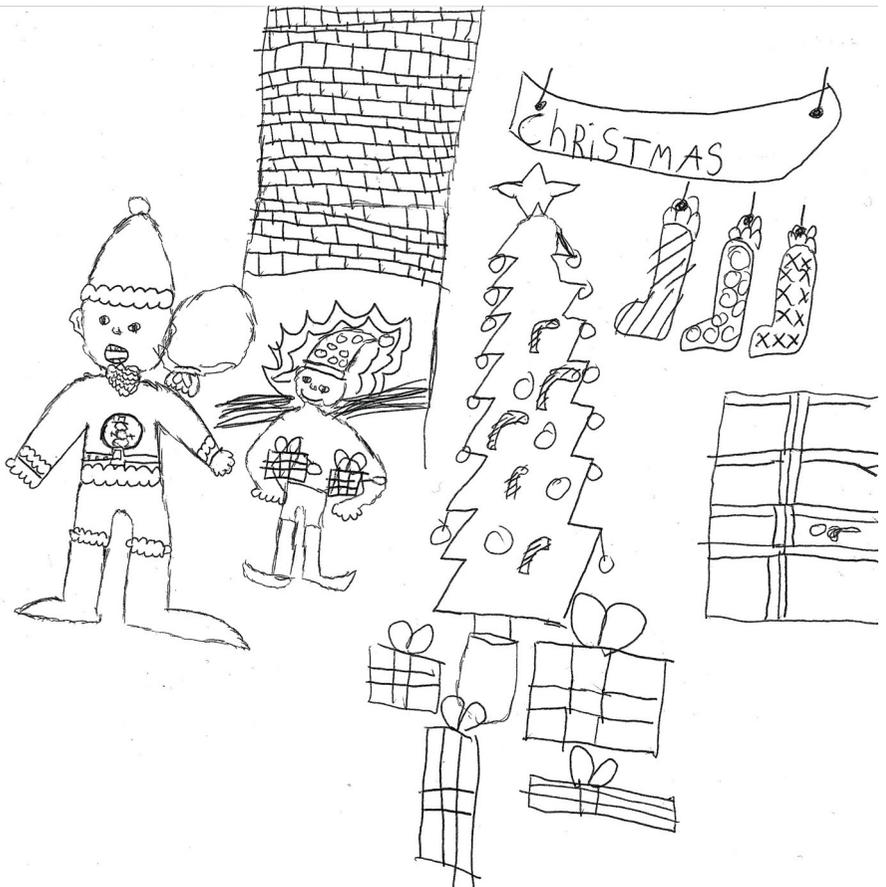

Chineham

Issue 419
December 2018

Chat



Picture By Zachary Nugent (Squirrels Class, Four Lanes Infants School).

December 2018

Another year is drawing to a close, and it has been an interesting one for Chineham. We have had some challenges this year—an upswing in local crime, local amenities stretched pretty thin, housing development continuing to cause some worries and of course the eternal road works to name but a few. However, it's always good to be optimistic. Soon the road works will be done, our local shopping centre may be developed (for the better, if we are lucky!) and who knows what next year will bring? Apart from new road works of course...

While we are looking on bright side, it's a good time of year to think about others wherever possible. Many charitable causes appeal for donations, gifts or help in this period, and if you have any resources to spare then there is bound to be a grateful recipient somewhere. You could also support your local crafters and businesses when considering gifts! Why not have a look round the multitude of fairs and see if anything grabs you? Whatever you do, wherever you go, please do have a:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jo Appleford-Cook

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

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

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

Chineham Village Club

First of all may I take this opportunity to wish all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks to all of you for your support during 2018. Right, let's have a look at the entertainment events we have lined up for the festive season.

Mon 10: Xmas bingo in the lounge bar at 8pm. Big prizes to be won and funny hats to be worn. This is a members only event

Sat 15: Children's Xmas party. This starts at 3pm and we have entertainment for the children, together with food and drink. The party will end with a visit from Father Christmas. Tickets £10 per child, open to members' children under the age of thirteen only. Places must be pre-booked and paid for by **Fri 30th Nov**. This can be done by speaking to a member of the bar team.

Sun 16: Christmas meat raffle. Some big turkeys, amongst other things, to be won. Tickets available from the bar team.

Sun 23: We have the members' monthly draw 3-4pm with some big prizes to be won, but you must be in the club when the draw takes place to have a chance of winning. This will be followed at 6pm by our Christmas draw. Some top-quality prizes to be won and tickets are only 25p each. These can be bought from the bar team.

Mon 24: Christmas Eve family disco at 7pm.

Tues 25: We will be open 12-3pm for pre-prandial drinks

Mon 31: New Year's Eve disco, 7.30pm until the early hours. This is free to members and guests can be signed in at £10 per head.

John Prince, Chairman

Chineham Village Hall

Your village hall and all its amenities are now at risk. Due to resignations from the Chineham Management Committee this year your help is urgently needed. (This does NOT relate to the Village Club Committee which is a separate concern.) Chineham Village Hall and Recreation Ground is a charity run by and for the people of Chineham. The Committee is made up of volunteers who attend a meeting of approx. 1.5 hours, once a month to discuss policy, maintenance of the buildings, playground, playing field and other facilities. Without a Committee the whole facility is at risk of closure.

We ask every year for new members without success, but there is now a very real risk that there will not be enough members to form a committee next year. If you or your family use and value any of the facilities on site, or you are simply interested in supporting your community, please consider if you can spare an hour and a half a month to join the committee. The current members have been on the Committee for quite some time, even though most don't even use the halls, playground, etc. and it would be a shame if no other residents come forward to keep a popular and well-used facility open for all the people of Chineham. If you are able to help please call me on 07927 649083 for more information.

If you are looking for a party venue, or wish to hold a regular class/meeting please contact our booking line on 07935 328172, email chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com or complete an enquiry form/check availability at www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk. Please note: the Booking Clerk is not available during the day so leave a message for her to return your call, as missed calls are not followed up.

Lynne Hughes

Chineham Library

Amazing to think Christmas is approaching fast. If you need any last-minute present ideas, how about attending our next event, 'From Barley to Beer', at 7.30pm on **6th December**? As well as learning more about more about our local Longdog Brewery, there will be the opportunity to purchase Christmas gift packs. Tickets costing £5, which include free samples, are available from the Library or the online shop. It should be an interesting and enjoyable evening.

For our younger clientele, the regular Christmas storytime (hopefully including an appearance from an elf and Santa with sweets!), will take place on **21st December** at 3pm. All children are welcome to attend. As the month progresses more of our regular events, including the craft session at 10am on **1st December**, will take on a festive flavour. Regular storytimes continue the other Saturdays at a new time of 11am. Rhymetimes continue weekly as normal, with under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. The Chatterbooks group for primary school age children meets on the **13th December** at 3.45–4.45 pm.

Our regular adult groups continue to meet, with the crime reading group at 10.30 on **8th December**, and the general reading group at 10.30 on **29th December**. The Chipps group will meet at 10am on **12th December**; for details of the next writing group meeting please contact the library. Age Concern will continue to offer computer assistance for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings during term time. Slots are available between 10am and 1pm and are bookable through their local office on 01256 423874. There is good availability of places at present for just a £5 donation.

During the festive period the library will be

seasonally decorated and there will be displays of festive fiction and non-fiction available to borrow, so do come and visit us. Check social media for the most up-to-date information and photos. Happy Christmas!

Cathy Foster & the Chineham Library team

Chineham WI

Two of the Street Pastors who regularly patrol Basingstoke streets on Friday and Saturday nights attended our meeting to explain how they help revellers in the town centre in the early hours of the morning, while we are all in bed. We heard about the distribution of lollipops and flip flops to drunken revellers and hot drinks to the homeless. The lollipops help reduce disturbance because sucking a lollipop prevents singing or shouting! And the flip flops save girls from cutting their feet on broken glass on the pavements when they can no longer walk in high heels. The Street Pastors also spend a lot of time listening to people's problems and ensuring they get home safely. They are an exceptionally dedicated group of volunteers.

It is traditional to tell stories on Christmas Eve and we have a storyteller coming to our meeting in December. Our December meeting is always brought forward because of Christmas and this year it will be on **Monday, 17th December** in the Shaftesbury Room, Christ Church, Chineham beginning at 7.30pm. We have been delighted to welcome new members every month recently. Why not take a break from your Christmas preparations and see what you've been missing? We promise you a warm welcome as well as a good tale!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.

Pam Malcolm Treasurer, Chineham WI

CAB Volunteers Needed

Have you got some spare time? Could your brain do with a workout? Would you like to use your skills to give something back to our community?

We are a very busy office with volunteers offering free information, help and advice, to inform people of their rights and responsibilities. For our clients, many of whom are vulnerable, with long term health term conditions, disabled or elderly, our help is life changing. Every day we tackle homelessness, reduce debt, maximise household income - putting food on the table, keep people in their homes, and tackle fuel poverty and discrimination.

Are you able to offer some of your time to volunteer as an assessor, giving advice and information, either during the working day or on a Wednesday evening/Saturday morning? Full training will be provided. Our next assessor training course starts in January 2019; applications need to be in before **7th December**. If you are interested in finding out more please visit www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk or for more details call 01256 845877, email clerical@basingstoke.cabinet.org.uk or pop in (we are located in the Discovery Centre in Festival Place). We also have other volunteering opportunities including reception, administration and trustees.

Founded in 1961, CAB Basingstoke is a local independent charity. Our caring team are from all backgrounds and abilities. The work can be challenging but also very rewarding. Together they provided direct help to over 14,000 people last year, giving free, confidential and impartial advice to everybody about nearly everything! Citizens Advice research and campaigns also improve legislation and policies that benefit the wider community.

Nicola Dale

Council Tax Help for Care Leavers

Young care leavers aged between 18 and 25 are to receive help with council tax payments from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to support them as they set up home on their own or with others. From **1 April 2019**, young people who have previously been in the care of Hampshire County Council will get a reduction on their council tax bill. The initiative to relieve the financial burden on young adults who have previously been in care was agreed by councillors keen to give them a positive start to independent living.

Under the scheme, there will be a 100% discount for those aged between 18 and 21 who are solely responsible for their council tax, with the discount then reduced by 25% each year until their 25th birthday. Discounts of 50% off the council tax bill for the property will be given to a care leaver who lives with another adult, while a 25% reduction will be made to those who live with more than two adults.

Care leavers who were looked after by a local authority are one of the most vulnerable groups in the community and at risk of falling into debt. This was highlighted by the Children's Society's 'Wolf at the Door' campaign. The borough council will fully fund the care leavers' discount scheme at an estimated cost of £10,000 a year.

For more information about the scheme visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/council-tax-discount.

Sara Shepherd

Probus Club

At the November Probus meeting Malcolm Wells MBE's talk 'So Far So Good' is based on his life time experiences covering 24 years in the army as a musician (playing cello on state occasions and banquets) and as a medic serving in Northern Ireland and the first Gulf War.

Malcolm also explains his experience of receiving the MBE at Buckingham Palace together with amusing stories having spent 15 years as National Speaker at Canine Partners – a charity that trains and provides dogs to assist with a range of practical tasks such as provide day to day assistance that may be difficult, painful or impossible to perform, including how to teach a dog to use a washing machine! Since leaving Canine Partners Malcolm decided to continue as a speaker talking about his own career including many funny anecdotes along the way.

Probus provides a support network for professionals when they retire. These clubs were initially started for men but over the years has seen a steady growth in Ladies and Mixed clubs. Many clubs have extensive networking, social programmes, which include meetings with other Probus clubs, group trips, holidays and involvement in community projects etc. The Probus Club of Basingstoke is a men only club although there is a Ladies' Probus club also in Basingstoke. We have a small Executive Committee to manage the affairs of the club – meetings, lunches, speakers, trips, finance and publicity.

David Wickens

Concert Band & Choral Society Concert

Join the fantastic Basingstoke Concert Band and Basingstoke Choral Society in a sparkling show of traditional carols, modern arrangements and festive favourites. Held at St Michael's Church, Basingstoke, on **Sunday 16 December** at 3pm.

Tickets are £10 (concessions £8 and children under 16 free) and can be purchased in advance direct from group members (BCB and BCS), or by calling 07503 881241. Alternatively, they can be purchased on the door. Included in the ticket price is a glass of wine and a mince pie. Book today and come along for an afternoon of festive magic and Christmas cheer!

Janet Howard

Ageing Well Event

North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group in collaboration with Hampshire Fire and Rescue are organising a series of events to give older people an opportunity to socialise and find out about a range of services available to them.

The next 'Ageing Well' event will be on **Friday 21st December**, from 12–1pm and will run every third Friday of every month until April. Come along and find out what's on offer and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee at the Basingstoke Fire Service.

Elveta Bailey

Nature Notes

I love this time of year when the leaves on the trees turn such incredible colours because of the variety of trees. On Thornhill Way the copper beeches, which blended so well with the green in summer when the leaves were dark purple, have now changed to copper. I walked under the trees which formed part of the old Cufaude Lane and found it was a low golden tunnel. On the A33 driving north there were mainly oaks with the leaves that turn brown and remain on the trees until later. These were interspersed with conifers on the estates, so the journey was picturesque.

It was interesting to watch the difference in dropping between seeds and leaves from the tree beside my house. Regardless of size, the leaves drifted down, whereas the parachutes twisted round and round. I shall have to wait for another year to check the other trees. There is always something to look forward to! Now I have to clear the patio and make all that debris into leaf mould!

I spotted a honey bee lying on my trowel, so I fed it with sugary water. With the aid of a magnifying glass, I was able to see it sucking up the substance. After half an hour, I moved the bee onto a *Rudbeckia* flower, then after a further wait I was lucky enough to watch it fly away.

Chris saw a Eurasian jay in our garden and I wonder if that was the same one that appeared up in Puttenham Road. I know a jay had also been seen in Cibbons Road previously. We were lucky enough to count ten or twelve red kites circling over Highfield Place

last week.

During the months that there have been road works on the dual carriageway I have been fortunate to see different plants on the central reservation, and after last month's display of yellow hawk bit, I was amazed to find white yarrow all the way along.

Malcolm was lucky enough to find a thorn apple as it is rare plant, and even he had never seen one before. Mary Ann saw a muntjac deer, so she was delighted and I received emails from Helen and Gill, to whom I hope to reply, if I have an address for email.

As I was folding the parasols, I discovered lots of ladybirds, black with red spots, so I shall be requesting an answer from the experts. Will inform you later.

Meanwhile, the hedgehogs are beginning to hibernate, so watch out for tiny ones seen during the day. I would advise you to take any to a vet, as they will pass them on to the shelter.

Ginny Wright
ginny.wright24@gmail.com, 479562

Did you know? The story of Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer first appeared in the USA in 1939 when Santas at Montgomery Ward stores gave away 2.4 million copies of a booklet called "Rudolf the Red-Nose Reindeer." The story was written by Robert May. He decided on making a deer the central character of the book because his then 4-year-old daughter, Barbara, loved the deer in the Chicago zoo.

Dummer Fair Success

It has been another fantastic year for The Dummer Fair, raising £32,000 so far in aid of Treloar's. The annual fundraising event is held over two days, around Michaelmas in October, and the Fair certainly did not disappoint. Around 1,000 shoppers attended across the two days and bought from a wide selection of artisan and independent businesses, ranging from crafts to food, clothing and gifts.

All the profits from the Fair are donated to the Treloar Trust which runs a School and College for severely disabled children and young people in Holybourne, Hampshire. The committee is incredibly proud that The Dummer Fair is one of Treloar's flagship events and makes such a substantial difference to the needs of the amazing young people who live and learn at this remarkable establishment.

If you would like to find out more about next year's Dummer Fair event, please contact us on dummerfair@treloar.org.uk or call 01420 547447.

Claire Kercher

Basingstoke Ladies Choir

Afternoon Christmas Concert - **Sunday 18th December** at 3pm, at Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DH. Join with us for an afternoon of festive entertainment and fun for all with traditional carols and contemporary classics supporting two local charities - St Joseph's Church Holiday at Home scheme for senior

citizens and YPI Counselling Services for younger people of the area. Audience participation encouraged, but not compulsory!

Tickets £5.00 (including mince pie/tea/coffee/squash). Available online from www.basingstokeladieschoir.co.uk; in person from Shopmobility Basingstoke, Church St (lower, near M&S), Basingstoke or by telephone from Margaret Allen on 01256 325457.

Maria Chung

Disability ConneXions

Monthly get-togethers for anyone affected by any type of disability. Come for a chat and to enjoy free tea, coffee and biscuits. Meet new people and talk about issues that are important to you.

Sessions: First Tuesday monthly from 12.30–2.30pm.

Guest speaker topic:

4 December: helping you to cope with anxiety and stress through Emotional Freedom Technique.

8 January: South Western Railway talk by their disability access and inclusion manager.

NEW location: Church Cottage (behind St Michael's Church). All free, everyone is welcome, no booking needed (just turn up). For more information, please contact us: telephone: 01256 423869, email: info@bddf.org.uk or see our website at www.bddf.org.uk.

Amanda Knowles

Basingstoke Lions Club

World Sight Day was our major preoccupation this month. Thanks to The Malls management, who provided us with the space and the marquee outside Boots we had a really successful day. We had over 35 visitors to the stand who had come along to talk to us about their particular problems, and an enormous number of spectacles and lenses were collected for recycling to the developing world. Many thanks to all who participated.

Sight and its associated problems and their causes have been at the heart of Lionism since its inception in 1917. Blindness is a terrible affliction which is why Lions Clubs International has programmes across the world designed to combat this scourge wherever it can. I can do no better than invite you to visit the Lions International page of our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk. You'll be astounded.

The main purpose of any Lions Club is to serve its local community to the best of its ability. Last month I gave you an idea of how our Club tries to meet its remit. Our twin Club in Alençon is much larger and has been known to organize lorry loads of shelters, clothing and food to assist people living in dire conditions, particularly in the wake of the demise of the old Soviet Union. Australian Clubs around Sydney have provided very welcome beach shelters and barbecues. The members of an Auckland club I visited were the same sort of good time Charlies as us, putting on events and "sizzling sausages" to support their community.

But further up the North Island in New Zealand I visited the Opononi and Districts Lions Club. Not only did they run events, but they ran the library, the tourist information office and the fire brigade. They were also actively helping local families with problems. All the club members got involved. And that is one common thread I have found in all my experiences - good spirited willingness to take on challenges and muck in to get things done. So, in the immortal words of the great Delia Smith "Let's be havin' you!" We can't continue our service without more members.

Almost as important is money, and our Fundraisers (that's pretty much everyone) are on the job as usual. Between now and Christmas they'll be out and about at a variety of locations making cash collections to support our donations to areas of need and to spread a little joy. And as soon as the festive season is over, we're back into concerts and quizzes. The programme so far is:-

16 Feb: The Apollo Big Band at QMC

6 Apr: Quiz Night at the Millennium Hall

13 Apr: ABBA Sensation at QMC

20 Jul: Moscow Drug Club at QMC

21 Sep: Ali Mak Rhythm and Blues band at the Royal British Legion

16 Nov: Quiz Night at the Millennium Hall
Full details will appear on our website in due course.

Finally our members would like to congratulate the Chairman of Helping Hands for the Blind, David Chatten-Smith, on his nomination as one of the finalists in the Groundwork Community Awards - really well deserved!

Philip Wilson

Old Basing Tennis Club

By the time you read this we shall have attended our AGM and wracked our brains at the Quiz! As Christmas approaches we are looking forward to our Christmas Meal on the **8th December**. With the shorter days members continue to play at weekends and on weekdays when the weather allows.

If you would like to find out more about the club please look at our new website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/OldBasingTennisClub>, or contact Jan, our Secretary, by emailing: OBTC.Information@gmail.com. You can also find Old Basing Tennis Club on Facebook. If you are thinking about playing tennis next year, please do get in touch!

Lynne Thomas, Chair

Country Watch Directors Needed

Country Watch was founded in 1973 to protect our area. Its purpose under the constitution is to consider any developments or proposals which may adversely affect the environment and catchment of the Loddon, Lyde and Whitewater river valleys, ("the area") protect the rural environment, prevent the loss of natural amenity within this area, campaign and lobby on issues which affect the environment and way of life within the area and to remain non-party political at all times.

We are in debt to a "few good men" for the enormous work they have done for us. Maurice Chapman, Harry Mansfield, Alan Read, Nigel Bell and the late Dr Alan Gibberd have worked tirelessly for our community for 30 years. They have been outstanding executive members and we

thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Sadly they will step down on **21st January, 2019**. If no replacements are found then Country Watch will be dissolved on that same date. Please spread the word. Please help us find some new Executive Directors to take the baton.

Our area continues to be under great threat from development. Country Watch was founded under the threat of dual carrying the A33. This grave threat has re-emerged and remains very real today. There is a reference to the possibility of upgrading the A33 as an integrated corridor with an eastern by pass in the latest draft of the Basingstoke Transport Strategy Consultation produced by Hampshire County Council. This would make Basingstoke a dormitory town for Reading. This consultation will be launched at the end of November 2018. Your area needs you... Please help protect our area and save Country Watch. Contact Onnalee Cubitt on 07762 067411 as soon as possible, or email onnaleecubitt@icloud.com.

Onnalee Cubitt

Oakley Charity Shop

Come and visit us at Annie's Oakley charity shop in Meon Road, Oakley RG23 7AL, Registered Charity 1063036. We are open Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday 10am-1pm.

Our goods are priced very competitively. Come and see what we have on offer in our Christmas Shop. New gift items, baubles, decorations, linens, books, CDs, DVDs, Christmas jumpers, stockings etc. Plus all our usual merchandise is available.

A Keenan

County and Borough Councillor Elaine Still

Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on travel and transport within Basingstoke, including which measures should be prioritised to improve movement throughout the town.

As Basingstoke continues to grow and evolve, further improvements are needed to ensure that the right travel and transport infrastructure is in place. This is vital to securing Basingstoke's future economic growth and prosperity - and making the town a more attractive and healthier place to live, work and visit.

The two councils are seeking views to inform a new shared vision, and to set the priorities for further investment in Basingstoke's transport infrastructure over the coming years. Your feedback will help to inform a new Transport Strategy for Basingstoke. Go to HCC website and search for Basingstoke and Deane transport strategy.

It is a great honour to be the Chairman of Hampshire County Council in this most special centenary year which marks the end of the First World War. I was privileged recently to dedicate a beautiful bench seat to all who have suffered and continue to suffer from all conflicts. Thank you Chineham Parish Council.

Finally, may I wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Elaine Still
Tel: 880926 / 07747 862913
elaine.still@hants.gov.uk
cllr.elaine.still@basingstoke.gov.uk
Website: elainestill.com

Borough Councillor Paul Miller

December will hopefully see the end of the roundabout works at the 'Red Men' and Binfields junctions. I and others have found some of the direction signs and road markings a little confusing with the cones in place but we should see a more orderly flow of traffic with the lights operational.

The next phase of the A33 improvements is scheduled to begin after the New Year on the Thornhill Way/Lilymill Chine intersection. This will involve providing two right hand turn lanes leaving Thornhill Way and a reorganized traffic light sequence. I stressed the importance that any diversions from the A33 would not allow HGVs to proceed down Old Reading Road. During the consultation with Hampshire Highways at the beginning of November, Ward Councillors expressed continued concerns over the 2 lanes-into-one after the lights heading north and the dangerous situations created by drivers trying to beat other motorists to the single lane. We were assured this was to be passed to the Highways Safety Team.

As we approach the Christmas and New Year period we should be aware of the more vulnerable of our residents especially in the event of cold or extreme weather give whatever assistance we are able to. The Borough Council sets up contingency plans each year and if you need any further information call 01256 844844 or contact any of the Ward Councillors.

Paul Miller
Borough Councillor
01256 467400
07777 659022

Four Lanes Infant School

In Year 2 we have been learning about making fruit kebabs. We have written a healthy living plan to help us and other people to keep healthy. We have included how to keep clean, how to exercise and healthy eating. We chose healthy fruit to go on our fruit kebab. To make eating fruit more exciting we made yummy kebabs with different types of delicious fruit. Thank you to Tesco for giving us the fruit to make our kebabs.

In PE we have been practising our throwing and catching skills. We have been going outside for PE most of the time before the weather becomes rainier or it gets too cold. In maths we have been using Dienes to help us to be able to add and take away 2 digit numbers crossing 10.

We have painted Christmas trees to go on the front of cards and made stars to go on a huge Christmas tree to go in the window in Tesco, go and have a look! We have been learning the songs and parts for the Christmas Play and we are looking forward to sharing it with our families.

Year 1 have been learning about toys from the 1980s in the olden days and toys now and comparing them thinking about what is the same and what is different. They had a visitor who showed them some toys and talked about them and what was nice about the toys and how they worked.

They have been reading 'Dogger'. He was a kind toy dog but he got lost in the story; however, he was found at the end of the story. They have been investigating the characters and using a capital letter at the beginning of a

name. They have been re-telling the Dogger story. In maths they have been learning to add and are now moving on to take away finding the missing parts from the part, part, whole model.

Year R have been investigating light and dark, they have been exploring lights, torches and coloured pyramids where you could see different colours to look through. They have been thinking about what happens in the day and night.

They have got a new stage area outside with a wooden stage, costumes and dressing up clothes, hats, masks, toys and other props. They have been making their own shows and dances and sharing them with everyone. They have been practising their songs for the play there too.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from everyone at Four Lanes Infant School!

Adam Tuik and Taylor Vost

Aldworth Badminton Club

We are a friendly and sociable club, and play every Thursday at Aldworth Community College from 7-8.30pm. We are looking for new members, particularly ladies and youngsters over 18 years. Some experience is necessary as we are unable to give coaching, for legal reasons. Come and join us for a session, first time is free, then £3.50. We meet in the Aldworth Bar afterwards, and also have occasional social functions.

Contact John Green on 07972 270053 or 01256 350065 or email jggreen@btinternet.com.

Lynda Clarke

Minister's Message

It's Christmas—again! So many different responses to this significant time of the year! Some of us love it, some go away to sunny climes to avoid the razzmatazz, some feel lonely and some adore being with combinations of family gatherings. Our responses are often formed by previous life experiences and so we can support, join in or respect each other's choices. I'm quite an outgoing person, but there are times when I love to take myself to a quiet place and really consider the deeper meaning of life's challenges and to appreciate the formation of events which have become familiar.

The simplicity of the occasion which we annually remember is so incongruous when putting it into the setting of the way we often celebrate Christmas. And yet nothing can really express the extraordinary nature of the deeper meaning of Christ coming into the world to forgive everything we've ever done wrong and to make it possible for us to regain a wonderful relationship with God.

I recently gave my son a huge amaryllis bulb which I found at a garden fayre. I've never seen such a huge one and he has sent me photos of each stage of its growth. It has already had many stems, each with spectacular red flowers. As I saw the pictures of the first stem coming from this dry looking bulb, it made me think of the way new life can spring up from seemingly dry places. This is what Jesus did when he came so inconspicuously into our imperfect world, to enable him to bring new life into every arena in which we are involved.

So it transpires that we can celebrate each day of the year, in our own personal style, revelling in the presence of God in our world, in all our relationships and in

the deepest places in our souls. A happy Christmas to all! And also an invitation for the whole year ahead to explore the incredible life-long presence of God which is wonderfully available for all!

Hazel Marchment
Basingstoke Community Churches.

Christ Church Activities

Sunday services: 9am and 10.30am—no charge, all welcome! The 9am service tends to be quieter and more reflective; we have a music band with drums and guitars at the 10.30am services when we also have groups for children and young people of all ages from babies to 18+. Sermon recordings and text are available at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk.

Prayer: is there something you would like prayer for? Do let us know, contact details below. If you would like to come and pray at the Church you would be most welcome. Our Prayer Room is open whenever the building is open – you are welcome to drop in to sit and pray in silence, or if you would like someone to pray with or for you we can arrange that. We meet weekly to pray on alternate Sunday and Monday evenings (please contact the office for details).

Weekly Groups

Sparklers: Thursdays, 9.30–11.15am. This group is for pre-school children and their parents/carers for free play, refreshments, games, stories from the Bible and songs. Each week there is a craft for the children to take home. There is no charge although we do ask for a contribution towards the cost of refreshments. On 13 December Sparklers will have their Christmas party – come along for food, games

and celebration! All enquiries to Katy Lowe c/o the church office.

Coffee and Co: Mondays, 9.30-11.30am, term time only. Home made cakes, freshly brewed coffee, plus lots of toys for babies and tots. On the first Monday of the month we also have a 'Swap Shop' of children's goods. Bring a toy, book or clothing in good condition and take something new home! Donations are given to Sebastian's Action Trust.

This month:

Christmas Tree Festival: On December 8th from 10-5 come along and enjoy the spectacle of dozens of decorated trees from local community groups and businesses. Entry is free and refreshments and simple lunches will be available. Everyone welcome!

Messy Church does Christingle: Mon 10, 3.45-5.30pm. Prepare for Christmas with this messy and magical service for children and parents, with your own Christingle to take home! Free and includes a simple supper. A time of creativity, worship and food! We enjoy fun activities and share a meal. Carers must stay with their children.

123 Matinee Group: Tuesday 11, 1-3pm. This social/support group is aimed at "older friends" although everyone is welcome; no charge. You will find a warm welcome, plenty of people to chat with and there will be refreshments and a range of activities. Our guest speaker is from the Fire Service. We may be able to arrange a lift - just let us know if this is the case. If you are interested in coming along and/or helping you would be most welcome.

Daytime Holy Communion: Tuesday 18 November, 11am. A small friendly

group of worshippers meets monthly to receive Holy Communion - all are welcome.

Christmas Luncheon Club: Tuesday 18 1.00pm. The cost is £10, children £5.00. For this particular one, tickets must be booked in advance. Contact Jan Markey on 01256 356829. If you have any special dietary requirements please let us know. Also call if you would like a lift as we may be able to arrange this.

Christmas Services:

Sunday 16 6-7.30pm Carol Service. Singing some of our favourite carols, accompanied by our special Christmas Choir, we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Mulled wine and festive biscuits will be served afterwards

Sunday 23 4-5pm Blue Christmas. A quiet and reflective celebration of Jesus' coming, particularly for those who know pain or grief.

Christmas Eve (Monday 24): 4-5pm Crib service - the children join in our traditional re-telling of the Nativity. 11.15pm Midnight Communion. The first communion of Christmas.

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25): 10-11am. Christmas family 'Presence and Praise'. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour and King in our all-age service.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal: On Tuesday 6 November we loaded the van, and waved goodbye to 447 shoeboxes, 160 blankets and lots of bags of toys, collected by the generous people of Chineham, for children in Eastern Europe less fortunate than our own. As a Church we are glad to support Mustard Seed Relief Mission, and pay tribute to Sue and Brenda in their year-round work to make this

possible. Grateful thanks to staff and volunteers from the church and wider community who helped load the van and send these precious gifts on their way!

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

Gill Godfrey

Chineham Parish Council

Grants: Is your group or organisation planning anything for 2019? Do you require any funding to assist with your plans? Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Parish Council to spend some of its money, subject to limits, on purposes that it considers to be "in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area, or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants." Grants under Section 137 are only available to groups or organisations (personal applications cannot be considered) and any grant requests must be supported by a Chineham Parish Council Grant Application Form which is available to download from our website or by contacting the Clerk. The request must be from a group or organisation that supports or has a direct benefit to the residents of Chineham.

Community Orchard: The Parish Council has arranged to plant 13 dwarf apple trees of different varieties in the triangle of land which is protected by the bund just off Reading Road close to the roundabout with Thornhill Way. Each tree will be labelled so that you will know what you are picking and when to pick. Hopefully by the time you read this, the work will have been completed.

Commemorative Seat: The Parish Council was pleased to welcome local residents to the official unveiling of the "lest we forget" commemorative seat on Saturday 10th November. Our thanks go to County Councillor Elaine Still who made a dedication speech and cut the ribbon. The seat has been installed on behalf of the Chineham community to recognise and commemorate the sacrifices of everyone affected by any war or conflict.

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

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on **10 December**. 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 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 3 2 4 3 4 5 or email assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk during office hours only please. The Parish Council website can be found at www.chineham.gov.uk.

Sally Jackson

Four Lanes Community Centre

Good Companions over 55s group:

Four Lanes Community Centre, 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Yoga: Tuesdays 6.15pm to 6.45pm at the Junior School. Payable in blocks of 6 weeks, cost £30.00, or drops in welcome £6.00 per class. For further information please contact Four Lanes Centre on 01256 810499.

Happy Hands and Dancing Feet: for mums, dads, babies and pre-school children. Weds: 9.30am–11.00am ongoing. £12.00 for 6 weeks or £2.50 per week on a drop-in basis. Please contact us to register your interest.

Sama Karate: In the Junior Hall, Wednesdays 5.15-6.15pm. For more information contact the Regional Administrator on 07759 615876.

Pegasus Karate Club: Traditional Wado Ryu Karate for beginners and advanced students. Wednesdays 7.00–9.00pm at Four Lanes Junior School. Contact: 07733 410370.

Zumba: Mondays: 7.30–8.30pm, Tuesdays: 7.00–8.00pm. £5.25 Mondays and £6.00 Tuesdays, pay as you go. Contact: Lisa 07884 267722.

Clubbercise: Tuesdays 8.00pm–8.45pm. Classes to be booked in advance on <https://bookwhen.com/clubbercisewithaimee> or www.facebook.com/clubbercisewithaimee.

Summit Judo: Fridays 3.40-4.40pm. Contact Paul Hamilton, email info@summitjudo.co.uk or call 07917 005862.

Linguatastic: Languages include: French and Spanish before school clubs, Italian, Spanish and French for adults, French for Secondary School pupils. For further information please email info@linguatastic.com or phone 471474.

Virginia Wyatt

Ark Medical Trust Dinner

The Ark Medical Trust Annual Dinner will be held on **Friday 18th January 2019**, 7.00 - 11.30pm, £70 per person, at The Ark Centre, Dinwoodie Drive, Basingstoke, RG24 9NN. The guest speaker will be Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, talking about “A History of Women in Parliament”. All proceeds from this event will benefit Ark Medical Trust, Reg. Charity No. 1041307.

We would like to invite you to our forthcoming Annual Dinner which will once again be held in January. This year, we are delighted to welcome Basingstoke MP, Maria Miller as our guest speaker. Maria, who is proud to be a patron of The Ark Medical Trust, has been at the forefront of the campaign to get more women MPs in Parliament. The evening starts with welcome drink and canapés. We then move to the Lecture Theatre where the talk is held. Following the talk we head to the Pavilion where we enjoy a three course meal which includes wine and after dinner coffee.

We hope you will support this wonderful charity event.

Michelle Urry

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

At the meeting on 7th November there was a Christmas themed “Bring and Buy Sale” which raised £105 towards the new sound system.

The speaker this month was Tom Codling, a Community Safety Officer from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. He outlined the work done by his department—from fire protection, which was checking buildings to ensure that they conformed to Fire Safety Orders, to fire prevention, which entailed visits to people’s homes to advise and assess their needs. This was particularly important in the case of vulnerable people or those with lifestyles that would put them at higher risk from starting a fire or being rescued if one occurred. Overloaded electric plugs and unattended items being cooked on the hob were the cause of a large percentage of fires in the home and he emphasised how just a few simple measures could either avoid fires breaking out or prevent them from spreading.

Help and advice on all aspects of fire safety is available at www.hantsfire.gov.uk/yoursafety or on 02380 626751 (weekdays 9am–5pm). There are also a series of Ageing Well Events taking place at Basingstoke Fire Station with the next being **Friday 21st December** from 12–1pm. A number of organisations will be there with tea and coffee also provided.

The next meeting is on **5th December** when there will be a buffet lunch with Gary Myles providing the musical entertainment. The group meets on

the first Wednesday of each month (except January 2019 when it will be the second) at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Details can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 07715 640171 and for information about our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

David Cowling

Hook Choral Society

Hook Choral Society Christmas Concert is on **22nd December** at 4pm, at St Johns Church, London Road, Hook, RG27 9ED. Doors open at 3.15 for mulled wine and mince pies which is included in ticket price of £7. Under 11s are free. This is a popular event with a selection of new and old carols and readings.

In addition the choir will be singing at the Mini Cracker event at St John's, Hook on **8th December** from 5-8pm, as well as at the Barrett Homes Christmas event at Chapel Gate Basingstoke on **14th December** (RG21 5TB, 5-7pm) and finally at Heckfield Place, RG27 OLD on **Christmas Eve** between 6–7pm. We would invite people to come and listen to a selection of carols and celebrate the Christmas season in song.

Louise Axton

Did you know? Christmas is sometimes abbreviated to Xmas, a combination of the word Christmas and the ancient Greek letter (Chi) that symbolized the word "Christ." The X has been used for hundreds of years in the Christian church as an initial for Jesus Christ.

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

December events:

Christmastide Art and Craft Workshop, Sat 1, 10am – 4pm, £30.

Come along and spend the day with artist Jacky Purtill creating seasonal artwork for you or your loved ones. Create either season's greetings cards or a unique and decorative piece of artwork (framed as required). Tea/coffee and mince pies included.

Winter Gin Evening, Fri 7, 7:30, £10.

Staff from Hiltngbury Still will present a fascinating talk on how gin is made, the production techniques and the history of its legal & cultural contexts. Their own products will feature, including seasonal examples. Bottles will be available for purchase – perfect for Christmas gift ideas.

Make a Willow Angel, Tue 11,

1:30pm, £35. Spend a fun afternoon making a beautiful white willow angel that you can then decorate with fairy lights or just leave it as it is. All materials will be provided (including fairy lights), along with refreshments (tea, coffee, homemade cake).

Children's Events:

Children's craft, Saturday 8, 10am –

12pm, free, ages 3+. Help us decorate the library with tissue paper reindeer and make your own Christmas cards.

Jack and the Beanstalk Interactive Storytelling Workshop, Sat 15, 2

sessions, one at 10am and one at 11.30am, £3.75 per child, (accompanying adult free). Join Amanda from Merry-go-Round Storytelling and be part of Jack's

magical adventure of a lifetime. We'll have fun climbing the beanstalk, outwitting the Giant and seeing Jack's fortune grow...and grow...and GROW! For children ages 2-6 and their accompanying adult.

Scott Hyde

Loddon Vale Indoor Bowling Club

Would you like a New Year Challenge? Have you ever thought of playing indoor bowls? We promise you a warm welcome at the Loddon Vale Indoor Bowling Club.

For further information you can contact us at Basingstoke Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG, telephone: (01256) 356507, email: info@loddonvaleibc.co.uk.

This is an opportunity to enjoy some light healthy indoor exercise for all ages and meet new friends; we hope you will join us. We have comfortable air conditioned premises with restaurant and bar and open from 10.00am to 10.30pm. We are a non-profit making club.

Kay Lillywhite

Did you know? Christmas is sometimes referred to as yuletide, a phrase which is derived from the yule log. This is a huge log traditionally used as the foundation of the holiday fire. Bringing in the yule log in was a 19th century Christmas tradition.

Christmas Bin Collections

Christmas can mean extra rubbish. Therefore, extra sacks will be collected on the first collection after Christmas ONLY. As normal, there is no limit on how much residents can recycle. Flatten large cardboard boxes and leave them next to your recycling bin. Wrapping paper cannot be recycled so please put it in your black waste bin.

This year bin collections will be affected over two weeks and, unless adverse weather affects bin rounds, collections should return to normal from **Monday 14 January 2019**.

Normal collection Revised collection

Tue 25 Dec	Thu 27 Dec
Wed 26 Dec	Fri 28 Dec
Thu 27 Dec	Sat 29 Dec
Fri 28 Dec	Mon 31 Dec
Mon 31 Dec	Wed 2 Jan
Tue 1 Jan	Thu 3 Jan
Wed 2 Jan	Fri 4 Jan
Thu 3 Jan	Sat 5 Jan
Fri 4 Jan	Mon 7 Jan
Mon 7 Jan	Tue 8 Jan
Tue 8 Jan	Wed 9 Jan
Wed 9 Jan	Thu 10 Jan
Thu 10 Jan	Fri 11 Jan
Fri 11 Jan	Sat 12 Jan

Check your bin collection day at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections or call 01256 844844.

More bottles this Christmas? Let the council know if you need a free second glass collection box for extra bottles over Christmas. Residents are also able to buy a glass bin as an alternative to a box if they often have lots of bottles and jars to recycle. Alternatively a red 140 litre bin can be

ordered for £26.63 online at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling.

More information on what can and can't be recycled is available on the council's website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle or by calling the council on 01256 844844.

Thinking of getting a real Christmas tree this year? Don't forget to recycle it after Christmas at one of the drop-off points across the borough from Wednesday 2 Jan until Sunday 27 Jan. For more information please visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree.

H Morton

Charity Burns Night

The Pink Place and The Blue Space Cancer Charity are hosting their annual Burns Night on the **25th January 2019** at The Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke. Hampshire, RG24 9NU from 7pm until midnight. Included in the evening we have a traditional piper, whisky toast, games, poems, music, four course supper and much more, all at the early bird price of £45 per person (normal price £60pp).

For more information and to book call Natasha on 07899 970841 or email pinkplaceinfo@gmail.com. Dress code: black tie, lounge suits or traditional dress. All proceeds from this event will go to The Pink Place and The Blue Space, www.thepinkplace.org.uk. Registered charity number: 1153494.

Natasha Walsh

NWR

Have you just moved to a new area? Have you experienced some other big life change? Enjoy lively, stimulating conversation, broaden your horizons and make new friends. National Women's Register (NWR) has over 400 social groups across England, Scotland and Wales that connects women who are interested in everything and talk about anything! NWR HQ arrange interesting national and regional meetings, but local groups plan their own programme when we pool ideas for topics (some serious, others light-hearted) we want to explore. We are interested in all issues, but we do not campaign or fundraise.

The Chineham and Old Basing NWR meet at 2pm on the first Monday of the month in the relaxed atmosphere of someone's home. We also meet for lunch or trips to the cinema. Our Reading Group meet in the evening every 4th Thursday. The last book, Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman was a great success. The current book is After Such Kindness by Gaynor Arnold.

In November a car-load visited Bletchley Park, once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers for a private guided tour of the park arranged by national NWR. There were also two stimulating hands-on workshop sessions led by Bletchley Park educators. It was a very intense day, so the 12 month annual pass included in the entrance fee will allow repeat visits to see this highly recommended heritage visitor attraction.

Our local November meeting was held in the evening when we participated in the National NWR Telephone Quiz, competing against hundreds of NWR groups to give our collaborative answer to a fiendishly-cryptic general knowledge quiz. We give our brain cells a rest with our Christmas lunch on **3 December**. On **7 January** we meet to discuss anything beginning with C.

Not a member? For information please look at the website: nwr.org.uk. You would receive a warm and friendly welcome to find out if NWR could be for you. If after trying a couple of meetings you want to join the membership is a modest £23 per year. Please phone Evelyn Jones on 01256 816636 or on email via evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Sandie Tapping

News from the Beat

Hello again from your neighbourhood policing team. If you're anything like me you don't even want to think about Christmas at the moment, but there is a lot of activity on social media about it – so whether you are getting excited about it or not, there is plenty to talk about!

Not much to recap on from my brief message last month, so we will get right to it. Vehicle crime is of concern to us, I noticed there has been a lot of activity on the Facebook group 'Chineham Community Noticeboard'. The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed I get involved sometimes, and it gives me a great idea of what's going on from a non-policing point of view.

I am slightly concerned however at the amount of crime that gets reported through Facebook, but not to us. I understand the limitations of using 101, and the frustrations behind the feeling that the report won't be investigated. Please believe us however when we say we have had some great results recently, and we have been able to re-open and prosecute old cases by using the 'Taking into Consideration' rule, or even by using a straightforward charge. Remember you can report online through the Hampshire Constabulary website. No matter how unlikely or small something may seem, please let us know as it can be vital for other investigations.

What is unique about Chineham, other than its resolution in the face of adversity, is its ability to work together, and also with the police – most notably through CCTV. However I must stress if you have CCTV please do not post pictures on Facebook as this can prejudice investigations. Please email us or call us and one of the team will be in contact. At the risk of sounding a little corny – "Together, we can do it!"

Neighbourhood Policing Team
Basingstoke East.

Linguatastic

As it is for many people, December is a busy month for us at Linguatastic. Maybe you have already seen our Christmas display in Tesco, Chineham? And then we've also been putting a lot of effort into our Christmas tree for Christ Church. We are very much looking forward to seeing all the other trees at the

festival on **8th December**.

On **6th December**, we'll be celebrating St Nicolas at our French playgroup and with our German bilingual group. In France and Germany, children leave their shoes by a window or door on the night of December 5th, in the hope of finding in the morning that Saint Nicolas/Nikolaus has filled them. If they haven't been well-behaved over the year, then they may awake to find a bundle of twigs or a lump of coal left by Père Fouettard or Knecht Ruprecht. Let's hope our children have been on their best behaviour!

In the early evening of **Thursday 13th December**, we'll be carol singing in Tesco, Chineham to help raise money for its Toy Appeal. Please do come and support us, either by donating some spare change and/or joining us for the singing!

On **Saturday 15th December**, we'll be going to the pantomime at The Anvil and then it's the holidays! We'll be starting again on **Monday 7th January**. In the meantime, we wish you a pleasant and peaceful holiday period.

Fiona Biermann

Did you know? Why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25th? Church bishops in Rome set the date of Christmas to this date at some point during the fourth century in an attempt to eclipse a popular pagan holiday in Rome that celebrated the winter solstice. Originally, the celebration of Christmas involved a simple mass (Christ-Mass, shortened to Christmas).

Binfields Parking Problem

I am becoming extremely irritated by parents driving and parking by Elvetham Rise and De Port Gardens which are within walking distance of Great Binfields School. As a resident of that area it is extremely irritating due to many cars parking, and parents not being considerate of the residents that live within that area.

It seems that many parents drive their children to that area and then walk the rest of the area to then show the school that they are 'walking' and being 'economical' but this is far from the case. I'm positive that I'm not the only resident that is becoming irritated at the amount of cars.

Emily H

Shopping Centre Concerns

I have concerns about the current plans which have not been answered by Tellon, the developers. As near residents, we have studied these plans carefully. All the smaller shops from the ex-NatWest bank to Martins the newsagent, including the post office, and the square, will be going to make room for a hotel. As there is now a shortage of post offices in Basingstoke, and also for local people, it is vital to keep it. Tellon have told us that they 'intend to retain a post office on site' but they do not have any idea where this will be or how they are going to retain post office facilities when Martins is demolished.

Do we need a hotel in the middle of the shopping centre? And two further years of upheaval in Chineham? There are plans to include some retail units under the hotel and possibly along

where the clock tower is now, but we will lose all the units I mention above, and also the clock tower.

There will not actually be much increase in parking, according to the plan. The proposed extension of the Matalan car park is to replace the top car park, where it is proposed to build a cinema complex and restaurants on the present car park area, with very little parking remaining. The Matalan car park gets very clogged up now, so extending it will only compound the problem as the entrance is not being changed. There has been talk of underground car parks but no specifics on the plans that were given out.

The proposal includes moving the bus stop to near the Tesco petrol station, but with no provision for the buses to turn round. That area is very busy when cars are queuing for petrol.

Councillor Elaine Still is in talks with Tellon and would value any questions she can put to them. Many people would like the shopping centre to remain a local centre, albeit with some needed improvements, and not a huge off shoot of the town centre. I am hoping that when the planning consultation takes place, as many people as possible will comment. And be listened to.

Sarah Wright

Did you know? The world's largest Christmas gift is probably the Statue of Liberty, given by the people of France to the US in 1886. It's 151 feet, 1 inch (46.5 meters) high and weighs 225 tonnes.