
Chineham

Issue 412
May 2018

Chat



Chineham Centre. Photograph by Peter Malcolm.

May 2018

Dogs are a big part of Chineham life; it's hard to take a stroll without passing a few canids en route. And this is great! Dogs provide companionship, unconditional adoration and good exercise, without even mentioning the wondrous service dogs. However, I have had a couple of experiences lately that have dampened my enthusiasm and caused some serious concern.

Firstly, I have personally witnessed several out of control dogs recently. One incident in particular involved two dogs, one quite large, belting around Petty's Brook with apparently zero effort to control them. The bigger dog was acting quite aggressively from over-excitement, only towards the other dog while I was there but there were a lot of people around and the owner was out of sight. Secondly, we have had incidents of treading in piles of dog faeces, one being my four year old son. This has been a past hot topic for Chat letters, so nothing new there—but I would hate to think that the general upswing in crime and anti-social behaviour might be extending to dog owners. I know there are some fabulous owners out there too, not least the lady I met recently clearing up after OTHER dogs as well as her own! So what is the solution? Should dogs be on leads? Bigger fines for fouling? What say you, people of Chineham?

Jo Appleford-Cook

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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 May*****

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

Last month's Chat included a letter asking why we no longer hold the monthly Senior Citizens' bingo sessions. The reason they were stopped is that the support for them had dwindled over the last year or so. On more than one occasion we had no one turning up. However, we will start them again on **Thurs 17th May** at 1pm and will continue to run them on the third Thursday of every month if the support is there. We have also re-launched the Sunday meat raffle, with the prizes now coming from Graves The Butchers in Hook.

Other entertainment events in the club in May are as follows:-

Mon 14th: Bingo in the lounge bar at 8pm

Sat 26th: Live music in the lounge bar with Bovered. The action starts at 8pm.

Sun 27th: Members' monthly draw. £200 to be won between 3–4pm.

John Prince

Chineham Village Hall

Further to the resident's letter concerning Senior Bingo in April's Chat, this event is organised by the Village Club, not the Village Hall, and a response from the Club Chairman to this enquiry can be found in the Village Club article in this Chat issue.

Our regular children's activities in the halls have now resumed following the Easter break. The timetable for these, together with all other activities, is listed below. Details can also be found on the noticeboard outside the main hall and on the Calendar of Events on our website.

Main Hall

Monday: Gym Minis, 9.30–11.30am, Shelley 07769 916299; Pilates, 12-1pm,

Pam pamsteele@idnet.com; David Smith Dance, check www.davidsmithdance.com for further details/timings or contact David on 07791 749163; 3rd Chineham Brownies, 5.30–6.55pm; 1st Chineham Guides, 7–9pm.

Tuesday: Caterpillar Music, 9.40–11.40am, Jasmin 07952 935021; Aerobics, 7.30-8.30pm, Tracey 07707 681070 or tcxercise2010@hotmail.co.uk.

Wednesday: Tots Play, 10.15am–12.45pm, Lynden School of Dance, 3.45–6pm, Lyndendance@aol.com; Weight Watchers, 6.30-8.00pm, 07884 240215; Zumba, 8.30-9.30pm, Rina 07971 553658.

Thursday: Slimming World, sessions commencing at 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm, Faith 07966 933994.

Friday: Caterpillar Music, 9.30–1.15pm, Jasmin 07952 935021; Lynden School of Dance, 3.45 - 6 p m , Lyndendance@aol.com; David Smith Dance, www.davidsmithdance.com, 07791 749163.

Sunday: Karate, 6.30-8pm, Sam 07919 338556; David Smith Dance, www.davidsmithdance.com, 07791 749163.

Community Rooms

Monday: 1st Chineham Rainbow Guides, 5.30-6.30pm; Craft Circle, 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, 7.30-10pm.

Tuesday: Yoga, 7-8pm, Chris 07712 427428.

Wednesday: Yoga 9.45-11am, Yoga, 7.15–8.30pm, Maria 07771 921185.

Thursday: Little Pumas, 4-6pm, Kate 07887 993207.

Saturday: Young Yogis, 9.30–11.30am, youngyogiswithg@gmail.com.

If you are looking for a party venue, or wish to hold a regular class or meeting, please contact our booking line on 07935

328172, send an email to chinehamvillagehall@gmail.com or complete an enquiry form/check availability at www.chinehamvillagehall.co.uk.

Lynne Hughes

Chineham Library

We hope that you enjoyed your Easter break and are enjoying the lighter evenings. We already have some more events for your diaries; there is 'Beyond Narnia' on **14th June** at 7.30pm which will include readings from the works of C.S. Lewis. Tickets costing £5 per head can be booked through the library. Then the annual Summer Reading Challenge starts in July. Please consider whether you could assist with this if you are aged 14 plus, and could offer even one slot a week to work with the local children. Volunteering can prove to be a gateway to paid employment as well as the opportunity to work alongside our lovely staff team!

All the regular activities take place as usual with rhymetimes on Tuesday, for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. There are craft sessions on Saturday **5th May** and **2nd June** to drop in to between 10 and 12, and storytimes at 10am on all other Saturdays, except Elmer Day on the **26th May**. This will include stories AND crafts. Saturday afternoons there is Lego to play with at Construction Club between 2-3.30pm. Age Concern provide IT training for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings from 10am, with sessions bookable through their office on: 01256 423874.

Our regular groups will meet as usual with Crime Reading group on the **12th May** and the **9th June**, and the Saturday Reading Group on the **26th May** and the **30th June**, both at 10.30am. The CHIPPS reading group will meet on the **9th May**

and the **13th** at 10am, and Chatterbooks for junior school aged children on the **10th May** and the **14th June** from 3.45 – 4.45pm. For further information about these and these and the next Coding Club please contact the Library. The Writing Group will meet on the **3rd** and **31st May** from 5.30 – 7pm and anyone else with an interest in creative writing would be very welcome to join.

We hope to see you in the library soon. Please see social media for the latest information, or ask the staff.

Cathy Foster

Armed Forces Charity Golf Day

On **Monday June 25th** the Waterloo course at Sherfield Oaks has been booked for the Old Basing and District RBL to run another Poppy Appeal fund raising golf day.

The cost for the day has decreased from the past three years, now being £42 per person (£168 for a team of four) and this includes coffee and snack to start, 18 holes of golf, a one course meal after, prize money and a donation to the Poppy Appeal. Cost for Sherfield members will be £22.50. Please go to the Chineham Chat website to view and download the detailed form to complete and send. Alternatively, ask me Rick Bourne directly for an entry form on 07714 289157 rbourne@glenair.co.uk and I'll either send, post or deliver.

I really hope you can play as we have held some wonderful days in the past and have raised a considerable amount of money for The Poppy Appeal over the years. I look forward to meeting you!

Rick Bourne

New Stroke Support Group

The Stroke Association is launching a new venue for a local support group to help more people affected by stroke in Basingstoke. The Basingstoke Area Stroke Support group meets every Wednesday from 2pm. The group, which has been running for over ten years now, is moving to Hill Rise Hall on Bach Close, on Wednesday 25 April. The charity is inviting anyone affected by stroke in Basingstoke to come along and get involved.

One stroke survivor who has been attending the group since it opened its doors in 2008, is mother of three, Pat Sweetingham. Pat, 55, from Oakley, had a stroke in 2003 when she was just 40 years old. The stroke left Pat with severe weakness in the right side of her body, and with a communication difficulty called aphasia. Pat said: "The group has helped me to talk and I have gained long term friends here. It's a special place, and has made a huge difference to me and many other stroke survivors. After coming to the group for two years, I became a volunteer for the Stroke Association to help them run the group. Volunteering is great because whilst you help others, you feel good and help yourself to improve."

Samantha Malkin, Stroke Association Support Coordinator at the Stroke Association, said: "The Basingstoke Area Stroke Support group is a much-needed place for local stroke survivors and their families to come together and support each other. Stroke is life-changing, but the Basingstoke Area Stroke Support group's work can really make a difference to lives of stroke survivors. It's hugely important that stroke survivors feel supported in their

local community throughout their road to recovery."

The new venue launch will take place on **Wednesday 25 April** from 2pm to 4pm. Members will meet at Hill Rise Hall, Bach Close, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke RG22 4JZ. For more information, please contact Jo Waller on BasingstokeSAVG@stroke.org.uk or 07429 620459.

Daisy Dighton

Singin' in the Rain

The Haymarket, Basingstoke, **Wed 9 – Sat 19 May** - 7:30pm. Extra shows **Sat 12** and **Sat 25** - 2:30pm.

They're moments of movie magic. Gene Kelly joyously dancing down the street in the pouring rain. Donald O'Connor's amazing physical dexterity in Make 'Em Laugh. Gene, Donald and Debbie Reynolds skipping over the sofa in Good Mornin', Good Mornin'! Now see them recreated on stage, as Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society brings one of the best-loved musical comedies of all time to the Haymarket.

Singin' in the Rain is the hilarious tale of 1920s Hollywood struggling to cope with the introduction of "talking pictures". Among the cast of talented local performers is Bryn Hughes as film idol Don Lockwood - the Gene Kelly role. Don's screen partnership with silent movie diva Lina Lamont, played by Kirsty Bennett, is loved by the film-going public - but in reality they can't stand each other! Much to Lina's fury, Don falls in love with young actress Kathy Selden, played by Anneke Wass, while Don's best friend

Cosmo Brown, played by William Keel-Stocker keeps the laughs coming. Stars are born, egos are bruised, every song and dance number is a lavish spectacle! And yes...you may get wet!

Celebrating 60 years of BATS, Singin' in the Rain promises to be a joyful evening at the theatre - packed with great musical numbers - and may even inspire you to swing round the nearest lamppost! Singin' in The Rain is directed by Ray Jeffery and the musical director is Trevor Defferd. Choreography is by Julie Morris and Karen McCloy.

Singin' in The Rain is at the Haymarket, Basingstoke from Wednesday 9th–Saturday 19th May. Performances at 7.30pm with extra 2.30pm shows on Saturday 12th and 19th. All tickets for the opening night are £18.50. For the other performances: £23.50 (adults), £15 (16s and under), with concessions for students, over-65s and groups. All prices include a booking fee. Buy tickets: www.anvilarts.org.uk, call 01256 844244 or visit the Anvil Arts box office.

Julie Morris

Basingstoke Improv

Weekend Fundamentals of Improv Comedy Class: Irish Centre, Council Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 3DH, **Saturday 23rd** and **Sunday 24th June**, 11 am-5pm. Student Showcase on Sunday 24th June, 7pm.

For all walks of life, improv comedy offers a development in confidence, communication and spontaneity. In-line with the background of Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Will Ferrell and Brits

such as Eddie Izzard, Paul Merton and Phil Jupitus, the course advocates the use of improvisation for everyone. No need to be an actor or comedian, but if you are you're allowed too. The weekend intensive is led by Nathan Improv.

The workshops explore spontaneity and its application to create comedy live. There is a weekend course available for all. We explore thoughts on the use of fun, enhancing the performance of the players through using playfulness in their improvisation. It's rather obvious that fun is engaging to see and is also fun for the performers. Playfulness gets us out of the way of ego, judgement and expectations, which are three elements that kill our improv. We search the basics of improvisation: listening, agreement and adding, committing and supporting each other. Improv is an open art form, where we search for freedom and honesty for comedy!

Nathan Keates (www.NathanImprov.com) is a professional international improv teacher who has toured to various festivals around the world to both teach and perform. In this weekend improv comedy intensive, Keates will lead through topics from Viola Spolin, Keith Johnstone, Del Close and some from the Keates himself (amongst others).

Book today on: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3385324> and sign up to the mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/bNtLc9>.

Nathan Keates

Nature Notes

The results of the Bird Watch, which was in January, were as follows: 1. sparrow, 2. starling, 3. blue tit, 4. wood pigeon, 5. blackbird, 6. goldfinch, 7. great tit, 8. robin, 9. magpie and a long-tailed tit. I have had all of those in my garden at one time or another. I am not surprised by the sparrow coming top as there has been an increase in numbers after three breeding sessions last year.

If you find a feathered fledgling on the ground leave it alone unless it is in danger of being attacked, as a parent is probably close by, but if the chick is featherless or only covered in down, it may have fallen out of the nest, so try to return it to the nest. Don't break your neck! Keep it warm. I will attempt to find a contact for a bird sanctuary.

The red kites are more active this year with some people seeing more than two at a time weaving gracefully overhead. Another elegant bird in the form of a heron flew in a straight line past my window on its way to Tollhouse Meadow. It was surreal. Almost as if it had been pulled on a string from left to right.

Thank you to all those who assisted in the toad rescues. Andrew will be giving more details of those rescued and he will be thanking helpers involved, but this is a message from me expressing my gratitude to those in Chineham for their efforts.

I have been putting out hog food and water on the front porch all through the winter and I am now seeing a medium hedgehog eating it. There may be more than one as that empty

dish is refilled before I go to bed. One evening, after leaving one munching at the front, I found an even larger one at the back. I wonder if I should enlarge the hole in the fence to allow them into the garden next door, as part of their local area.

With the weather being so dismal it is lovely to be cheered up by the patches of daffodils around Chineham and the odd forsythia bush. The primroses on the spot of ground by the traffic lights have increased this spring, showing how these meadows would have looked before the houses were built. On the roundabout at the entrance to Sherfield on Loddon/Longbridge Mill, there were lots of cowslips, which is unusual.

The bumble bees have arrived with some large ones that seem almost tame. They have had a great time on the rosemary, which has flowered since the beginning of March, and all the daffodils - although the polyanthus are ignored.

Ginny Wright
ginny.wright2@btinternet.com, 479562

Basingstoke Green Week

The Basingstoke Green Week will take place this year from **22nd to 29th September**. Planning has already begun so if there is an event you would particularly like to have included or if you wish to contribute in any way, then please get in contact with Jean Wilde at jeanmarty123@btinternet.com.

Jean Wilde

Four Lanes Infant School

At Four Lanes Infant school we have had a fantastic few weeks! Year 1 and 2 have been on school trips to SeaCity and Windsor Castle and Year R have had Super Hero day!

First we (Year 2) got on the coach. Everyone was excited about our trip to Windsor Castle. It took 42 minutes to get there. We went to the learning centre and a lady called Jo talked to us about the 'Royal Rules' for when we went around the Castle. In the state apartments we saw the crown jewels. They were shiny, sparkly and were very expensive. One of her crowns has 1024 diamonds on the crown. The Queen has 5 dining tables, one was a very long table, with lots of chairs around and on the table were lanterns. The rooms were all massive and there were paintings everywhere, mainly of different Kings and Queens. There was lots of gold decoration everywhere including big vases and flowers. One of the rooms was shaped like an octagon.

We also went into a special room for a workshop, they don't usually let people in this room but the other room was busy, we felt very special! Jo talked about the queen in the past. She talked about when the Queen was crowned. Some people got to dress up and do some drama. People dressed up as the Queen, soldiers, footmen and ladies in waiting. The 'Queen' then knighted some other children. Jo asked us questions about other Kings and Queens. We learnt a little about using roman numerals when the Kings had the same name like Henry VIII. Unfortunately we didn't see the Queen but we had an amazing day!

Year 1 went to SeaCity museum in Southampton to learn more about the Titanic. They had workshops where they could dress up as someone on the Titanic, they had to smell different cubes which were stinky or nice smells from places/rooms on the Titanic and could pretend steer the Titanic! There was a guided tour of the museum and they had to find answers to questions. They had a wonderful time.

Year R held Super Hero day where all the adults and children dressed up as a Super Hero. They had superhero training where they had to (pretend) climb over walls and buildings, target practice and throwing webs, laser beam dodging, speed flying and practice powerful Superhero poses. They had a super (hero) day!

We hope you had a good Easter break.

Poppy Busk, Daniel Cooper, Lilianna McCallum

Pamper Evening

The Pink Place is holding a Pamper Evening - **Wednesday 16th May**, 6.30 - 10.00pm at The Holiday Inn, Basingstoke, RG21 3EE. Relax and enjoy an evening dedicated to your wellbeing, therapies from £7 including manicure, massage, reiki, trade stalls and much more.

Tickets cost £10pp and this includes a welcome drink.

For ticket sales please contact Natasha on 07899 970 841, Kathy Williams on 07769 947540 or email: pinkplaceinfo@gmail.com / info@thepinkplace.org.uk.

Natasha Walsh

Sue Ryder Volunteers

National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is recruiting volunteers to its shops at Chineham Shopping Centre and on Wote Street, Basingstoke. Volunteers are required for various roles such as Customer Service Assistants, Stock Room Assistants and Visual Merchandisers. Volunteering at Sue Ryder shops is an ideal way to give something back to the community, with the added benefits of gaining new skills and meeting new people.

Money raised at Sue Ryder shops helps the charity deliver care at its seven hospices and five neurological centres across the UK. Aaron Haines, Sue Ryder shop manager in Chineham says: "It is always a busy time in Sue Ryder shops. We are lucky enough to have a high volume of customers. We'd really welcome some extra support during this period, and beyond, so we can maximise our sales to support Sue Ryder's care for people with life-changing conditions such as Huntington's, MS and certain cancers."

Doreen Smyth, a current volunteer at the Sue Ryder Basingstoke shop, says: "I started volunteering at Sue Ryder after retiring and realising I wanted something to do with my free time. I get on so well with staff and volunteers and helping customers out that I volunteer five days a week and would recommend it to anyone!"

Both shops are looking for volunteers who can spare four or more hours per week. Full training and support is provided and it can be flexible around your commitments. You will also be provided with a taster session for one day where you get to meet the team and try out some tasks before deciding to commit. For more information, visit the

Sue Ryder Chineham shop, contact us on 0 1 2 5 6 3 5 4 7 8 7 or at chineham2168@suerydercare.org. Sue Ryder Basingstoke shop at 21-23 Wote Street, ring 01256 329375 or email basingstoke2173@suerydercare.org.

Farzana Topia

Old Basing Tennis Club

Hopefully May will see us playing tennis on some lovely evenings - either at club nights (Tue & Fri 6pm) or when playing League matches.

On **Saturday 12th May** we are holding an LTA Open Day between 11.00am & 3.00pm. This day is free and we shall provide rackets & balls. So if you, or any member of your family, would like to 'have a go' please do come along & see the club's great location, courts & clubhouse and have some fun!

We would love to see you! We welcome new members at any time, and we shall have a membership offer on the day. For more information about the club please contact the Secretary at info@obltc.org.uk or the Chair lynne.thomas82btinternet.com.

Lynne Thomas

Chat Help Urgently Needed

We urgently require distributors for:

-Binfields Close

-Chineham Shopping Centre

These areas are being covered temporarily by emergency cover. However we are now reaching the stage where we will have to stop distribution to these roads if we do not have a volunteer. Please get in touch if you can help.

Mike & Kathryn

479594, distribution@chinehamchat.com

Basingstoke Lions Club

At the last business meeting we elected our Officers for the next year – actually it was more of a recycling job which is a great pity. I say that because one of the best features of membership is that it allows you to do jobs you've never done before in a truly supportive atmosphere. For instance the three members who joined in 2012 have undertaken Website (design and technical aspects), Twitter, Facebook, Membership Secretary, Dinner Secretary, Welfare Director and President – things they'd never done before but in which they are now thoroughly proficient. They all developed their own ideas on the subjects which they applied with the assistance and support of the other members. Success breeds confidence! You should try it! Come and join us!

Our last fundraising event was “Murder in the Main” put on for us by Ann Davis and The Oakley Pantomime Society. It was a fascinating evening's entertainment. Each table became a team of detectives. We started with a “Crime Writers” quiz. Then the actors took to the stage to portray the seamy side of Oakley village life (I want to go and live in Oakley!) It had convoluted relationships of all sorts – familial, amorous and financial which led to a death. But who did it and why? It was up to the teams to decide. It was clear that at our table there was no meeting of minds. So we resorted to the democratic process. No wonder the country's in such a mess! We were wrong, wrong, wrong! But it was wonderful fun. In the next life I'm gonna be an MP!

Our next foray into fundraising was

when we ran the bar for the Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self Help Group at their variety concert in QMC organized by Renée Smith. What an enormous success that was. 240 people turned up to watch an incredible variety of acts (dancers, bands, singers and comedians) perform. It was obviously very thirsty work because we had the busiest night behind the bar that we've ever had. We donated our net profit of £300 to the BBCSHG who wound up the evening with a very spirited rendition of “We are the Champions” which they surely are!

In addition to that we spent £474.94 replacing/ repairing furniture and white goods for families without the resources to do it for themselves. We pledged a further £1190 to help 6 other cases, 2 for child assistance, 3 for equipment for elderly people, and a donation towards a minibus replacement. We have 11 other petitions under consideration.

To conclude, I can do no better than to reiterate last month's plea. Our fundraising and welfare work has helped many people and many organisations over the past 50 years. But, without new members, the help which has been vital to so many may soon disappear. Please consider joining us. You can get in touch with us through our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk Just put your contact details on the “Contact Us” page. Someone will get in touch and invite you to come along to one of our meetings where you can see what we are like; there would be absolutely no pressure on you to join - just an opportunity to ‘suck it and see’...

Philip Wilson

County and Borough Councillor Elaine Still

A few years ago the hot topic on residents minds was the amount of development earmarked for the East of Basingstoke. I was questioned and asked time and again why the Borough Council was not putting in plans to build on Manydown. The wait is over with the appointment of Urban & Civic, partnered with the Wellcome Trust, as the private sector development partners for the Borough and County Councils. Urban & Civic, the nationally renowned master developer, supported by global charitable foundation the Wellcome Trust, was chosen through a comprehensive 18 month procurement process by the two Councils, as joint leasehold owners of the land.

Urban & Civic recognises the importance of delivering quality and placemaking from the outset with early investment in infrastructure and amenities that make a difference, such as community facilities, bicycle lanes, roads, parks and schools. It actively supports local small and medium sized house builders, as well as building homes itself. The Wellcome Trust is an independent global charitable foundation dedicated to improving health, whose investment portfolio provides the income for its funding.

The Council's vision for creating a development at Manydown with robust infrastructure for a flourishing community, in which people can step onto the housing ladder, grow their families and thrive in all aspects of their lives, has moved a step forward.

Elaine Still
Tel: 880926 / 07864 691342
elainestill.com, elaine.still@hants.gov.uk
cldr.elaine.still@basingstoke.gov.uk

Borough Cllr Paul Miller

As I write we seem to have left the colder damp weather behind and a belated spring has arrived with birds singing and nesting, daffodils and primroses and magnolias in bloom and smiles on our faces.

Today in mid-April, as a member of a small BDBC team, I attended an exploratory meeting with senior members the new owners of the Chineham District Centre, Tellon Capital. It was evident from the outset that we shared a common aspiration for the strategic direction for the Centre and have agreed to progress any further discussions in a collaborative manner. Tellon is committed to ensure that local communities and businesses are consulted at the appropriate stages of any redevelopment and your Ward Councillors will be at the forefront of those activities. Residents will be advised of wider consultations in good time to allow for their input.

Chineham has once again experienced suspicious activities by several persons, sometimes working in pairs, who have been seen and also recorded on private CCTV trying car and house doors evidently for the purpose of carrying out opportunistic robbery and theft. We are advised that to try the doors is not, in itself, a crime. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please ring the police on 101 or, if you witness a crime in progress, dial 999.

Paul Miller
Borough Councillor
01256 467400/07777 659022
cldr.paul.miller@basingstoke.gov.uk

The Tempest

Sunday 17th June, 6pm, at Dummer Down Farm. The Lord Chamberlain's Men, in their fourteenth successful year, are touring Shakespeare's spellbinding masterpiece *The Tempest* – a play of soaring poetry, high comedy and tender love.

This summer the hugely popular company are premiering their show at the prestigious Brighton Festival, before heading off on a tour around the UK that takes in the most significant, historically important and visually stunning castles, cathedrals and stately homes, finishing their tour in mainland Europe in September. With audiences encouraged to bring picnics, a chair or a blanket and a glass of something chilled this show promises to be another authentic, excellent and magical treat from the company that brought you last year's riotous farce *The Comedy of Errors*.

Shakespeare's late, great gem, widely believed to be the last full play he wrote alone, examines the power of true love, our capacity for vengeance and what it takes to forgive. A play that has mesmerised and moved audiences for over 400 years is just as relevant and powerful today.

“Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises,
Sounds, and sweet airs, that give
delight and hurt not.”

Peter Stickney, Artistic Director, says, “With some of Shakespeare's most memorable speeches and packed with famous characters – from the elemental and ethereal Caliban and Ariel to the comic clowns Trinculo and

Stephano and the enchanting force that unites them all, Prospero – *The Tempest* is a spectacular play and will make fantastic viewing for a summer's evening. A truly theatrical play like this, set outdoors and in our trademark style bursting with song and magic makes for an evening not to be missed!”

With authenticity, excellence and magic being the watchwords of the company we can expect another summer treat as *The Lord Chamberlain's Men* bring their own special brand of all male Shakespeare to a venue near you. Be sure to catch this brilliant company perform Shakespeare as it would have been; all male, in the open air and in full Elizabethan costume with traditional music and dance. This is undoubtedly one of the hottest tickets of the summer; book early to avoid missing out!

For further information, please contact: Peter Stickney, Artistic Director of *The Lord Chamberlain's Men* on 0208 852 5761 or info@tlcm.co.uk or visit www.tlcm.co.uk.

A brief plot synopsis...

Prospero, the usurped Duke of Milan, and his daughter Miranda after being cast out from their home are washed up on a distant, mystical island. 12 years later his enemies are blown off course towards them. Using his powers of magic he raises a tempest to shipwreck them on the island. After being left to plot his revenge for years he finally has the chance to exact it. But will he?

Harriet Mallinson

Chineham Parish Council

Four Lanes School Summer Fete:

Parish Councillors will be attending this event on **Saturday 23 June 2018**. Please come and see us at our stand to find out what we have done for the community in the last few years and what we have planned. We would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

Ticks/Lyme Disease:

From spring through to autumn, it is best to be alert for ticks which can be found in moist areas of dense vegetation or long grass in woodland, grassland, moorland, heathland and some urban parks and gardens. More information on how to remove ticks and the signs and symptoms of Lyme Disease can be found at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Lyme-disease/Pages/Introduction.aspx>.

Community Speedwatch:

Volunteers continue to provide cover for the Community Speedwatch in Chineham. We are always looking for more Community Volunteers who can spend just a few hours every other month taking part in roadside monitoring in Chineham. If you would like to be part of the team of Community Volunteers, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01256 474500 or email clerk@chineham.gov.uk

Anti-social behaviour:

The advice from the Community Safety Patrol Officers is that residents are encouraged to report any issues they have via the telephone number 101 as any information will help to build a better picture to help in tackling the issue. Descriptions of individuals, size of group, times and days of the week are all important.

Fly-tipping:

If you pay someone to take your waste away, make sure you are absolutely certain that it's being taken away by a licensed waste carrier. You can check via <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>. If you don't do these checks, if you don't know who is taking your waste and don't know where it's ending up, you are the one that could be held responsible if it's fly-tipped.

Events:

The Parish Council website has an "Events Calendar" and so if you would like to provide details of any events for Chineham residents we can include them.

The next Chineham Parish Council meeting is to be held on **14 May**. The Annual General Meeting starts at 7.45pm and the Full Council Meeting starts at 8pm (or as soon after as is convenient). Both meetings will take place in the Community Rooms at 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 4 7 4 5 0 0 or email clerk@chineham.gov.uk or the Assistant Clerk, Julia Johnston on 01256 324345 or email assistantclerk@chineham.gov.uk during office hours only please. The Parish Council website can be found at www.chineham.gov.uk.

Sally Jackson

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+. Our sermons are recorded and are available along with the sermon text at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk.

Daytime Holy Communion: Tues 29 May, 11am.

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

Coffee and Co: Mondays 9.30-11.30am. We will be open every Monday in term time for delicious coffee and cake, good company and toys for the children. Everyone is welcome. Not running on Monday 7 or Monday 28 May.

Luncheon Club: Tues 29 May, 12 noon. The cost is £5 – no need to book, but it would be helpful to know if you have any special dietary requirements so please give us a call. Also call if you would like a lift as we may be able to arrange this.

123 Matinee Group: Tuesday 8 May, 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, refreshments and a range of activities. If you are interested in coming along and/or helping you would be most welcome.

CCBBies: Thursdays, 9.30am to 11.15am. This group is for pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/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 the refreshments.

Messy Church: No Messy Church in May, (next one 11 Jun). A time of creativity, worship and food! Come and enjoy fun activities and share a meal with us! 3.45-5.45pm, carers must stay with their children.

Kids' Club: Sat 5 May, 4:30-5.45pm. £1 entrance fee (first visit free), bring your friends and some change for tuck and a hot snack.

C3Y: Fri 4 May (provisional date) – contact the church to check it's going ahead.

Charity collections: we continue to collect stamps (new and used), postcards, spectacles, socks, tools, tins and packets of food, and tops from supermarket milk bottles for various charities.

Room hire: rooms are available to hire either on a one-off or regular basis. Contact us for details or look on www.christchurchchineham.org.uk. Prices start at £8.50/h (Community Rate) which includes use of the kitchen/snack bar where tea, coffee, sugar and squash are provided.

Further information: if you would like to know anything about Christ Church please contact Gill on 01256 474280/office@christchurchchineham.org.uk or drop in to the office (open Mon to Fri 9.30am–2.30pm). Information available at www.christchurchchineham.org.uk, Facebook (www.facebook.com/christchurchchineham) and follow us on Twitter @ccChineham.

Gill Godfrey

Probus Club

The history of local Tudor Palace The Vyne, situated south of Bramley, and its much publicised roof project were the subject of a talk given by Chris Burrows to the Probus Club of Basingstoke. Built in 1268 the building was added to over the years. Sir William Sandys had developed the property into a Tudor palace, and had the honour and great cost of being a recipient of the King Henry VIII and Queen Anne Boleyn's "progress" in 1535. Baron Sandys endowed the Holy Ghost chapel in Basingstoke and is buried there. The painted glass windows from the chapel were installed at The Vyne, some of which underwent restoration in 2016.

Chaloner Chute bought the Tudor palace in 1653 and demolished it in 1665, rebuilding in the Palladium style. In 1767 John Chute began further modernisation and installed the grand staircase that can be seen today. The Vyne was bequeathed by Sir Charles Chute to the National Trust in 1956.

After years of patching up the extensive roof it was decided to completely remove and replace was the best course of action. Started in 2014, a cover was constructed over the whole building including a lift for materials and passengers. Some chimneys were taken down so that a walkway could be constructed around the complex for the use of 150,000 visitors. February 2018 saw the walkway removed so that the original chimneys could be rebuilt.

70,000 handmade tiles have been used of which nearly 13,000 were bought by visitors in the "Tagatile"

scheme allowing personal messages to be written and raising £64,000 towards the budget of £5,400,000. It will take three months to remove the roof covering and 41 miles of scaffolding but without the use of a helicopter or aerial photographs no one else will be able to wonder at the skill levels used by the renovation team over the last four years.

Paul Flint

Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra

An exciting new collaboration sees Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra join radio broadcaster Rory McAllister on **Saturday 16th June** at 7.30pm to perform a programme of popular film music as the fifth concert in Rory's 'Cinema in Symphony' series (www.facebook.com/CinemaInSymphony). The programme includes music from Frozen, Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Mary Poppins, The Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter as well as the beautiful 2nd movement of Beethoven's 7th symphony which was used in The King's Speech.

The concert will be hosted by Rory and there will be Storm Troopers and other well-known film characters to have your photo taken with. Children are very welcome and are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite character from one of the films. Tickets for under 16s are just £2 when accompanied by an adult. Please contact the Anvil for tickets: 01256 844244 or www.anvilarts.org.uk.

Sandra Ball

Linguatastic

Dementia Awareness Week runs from **Tuesday 15th** until **Monday 21st May** this year. In the UK, there are about 800,000 people with dementia. A diagnosis of dementia is often devastating to the person concerned and of course, their friends and family members. Although not a “magic solution”, it is interesting to note that several recent studies have shown that bilingualism can delay the age of onset of dementia.

For a while now, it has been known that several lifestyle factors – such as healthy eating, exercise and mental activity – could help to reduce our risk of dementia, but it’s encouraging to think that the type of mental activity which switching between different languages offers, is particularly helpful. This is possibly good news for the majority of the world, since it is estimated that over half of the people in the world are bilingual or multilingual. Sadly however, it is estimated that over 95% of the British population are monolingual English speakers and therefore do not speak another language fluently.

If you take the numbers studying languages at school, college and/or university, it’s not looking as though there’s going to be much change soon. According to a recent survey, less than half of secondary school pupils take a Modern Foreign Language GCSE, with just one third achieving a good grade.

Let us not end on a negative note though. We are delighted to be teaching many talented and dedicated young people and adults and as we enter the exam period, would like to

wish them all the very best with sitting the various papers. For further information on the cognitive benefits of bilingualism, please do not hesitate to e-mail info@linguatastic.com and we’d be happy to forward you some interesting articles. For further information on Dementia visit: alzheimers.org.uk.

Fiona Biermann

Basingstoke Blues Club

The Basingstoke Blues Club in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club Station Approach, Basingstoke RG21 5NB presents The Robin Bibi Band on **Saturday 19th May**.

Robin is a talented musician who creates a great rapport with his audience playing Blues, Funk, Rock, Reggae and Jazz, all rolled together into his own unique style. He has backed B.B. King, Robert Plant, Jimmy Page, Ben. E. King and Helen Shapiro. He is liable to move your head, your heart and of course your feet, so don’t miss this fantastic event!

All welcome - 8pm till late. £8 on the door. Licensed bar and low prices. Profits to Brain Tumour Research – Charity number 1153487.

Future dates:

Saturday 16th June - The Producers

For further details please contact Rex on 01256 321837 / mobile 07979 422590 or see our Facebook page – Basingstoke Blues Club (BBC3).

Christine Neild

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

There were 55 members at the meeting held on 4th April who enjoyed the usual tea, coffee and biscuits along with some chocolate Easter treats donated by Tesco Metro in Basingstoke. David Cowling, the Chairman, then welcomed everyone and gave a reminder that all forms relating to the new Data Protection Act should be completed and returned by the end of May. Christine Broadbent, the Welfare Officer, gave her report and then Tony Brazier, the Secretary, gave details of the forthcoming trips to Windsor with a river cruise and lunch on **Wednesday 23rd May** and St Mary's House and Brighton on **Wednesday 13th June**.

The talk this month was from Alan Copeland on Eccentric London in which he took us on a photographic tour of the city highlighting many of the unusual buildings and features which are either extremely visible or hidden away in little known places. His examples covered some of the really modern buildings which have acquired nicknames such as the Armadillo, the Shard, the Gherkin and the Walkie Talkie through to old buildings, statues and memorials such as the Burlington Arcade, the Monument and Temple Bar. He particularly examined the Albert Memorial with its many statues and groups of figures representing Manufacturing, Commerce, Engineering and Agriculture, as well as the four continents. He also told the story of Zimbabwe House which when built in 1908 as the Headquarters of the British Medical Association was decorated with 18 bold sculptures,

including male and female nude figures, by Sir Jacob Epstein that had to be mutilated in 1936 when parts starting falling off onto the street. Further details can be found on at www.curiosities.co.uk - click on London.

The next meeting is on **2nd May** when the speaker will be Alan Grace on Amazing Berlin 1914–1989. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Further details about meetings and outings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 (answerphone)

David Cowling

Old Basing Royal British Legion

On **Saturday 12th May** we have our ever-popular coffee morning and plant sale from 10am till 1pm in the Jack Morris Hall at The British Legion in Crown Lane. Some highlights to look out for are Hardy Fuchsias, Begonias and Petunias to name but a few. Come early as we regularly sell out.

If you have any donations, please arrive before 10am. All money collected goes to the Poppy Appeal. For all enquiries, please email me on hampshire.chairman@rbl.community.

Tim Russell,
Poppy Appeal Organiser

Stray Cat?

Do you own a black and white cat with two distinctive black spots on its face? Please contact Ginny on 01256 479562.

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

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

May events:

Autism and Sociability: Sat 12, 2pm–3.30pm, free. In this talk and Q & A session Caroline Hearst, a late diagnosed autistic woman, will examine how and why autistic people often struggle socially, and will suggest ways that autistic and non autistic people might better understand each other and communicate effectively. Expect an interesting and surprising exploration of an aspect of autism from an informed insider perspective. Caroline Hearst is the founder of Autism Matters and AutAngel.

Air Defence of the UK since 1940: Tue 15, 2pm, £4. Looking at the technology from the basic Radars of 1940 to the high-tech digital displays of today, this talk will explore how valuable Fighter Controller's are to maintaining the safety of the skies around our shores 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Talk led by Squadron leader Joe Marsden.

Dementia Awareness Week: Mon 21–Sun 27, free. A range of organisations will be visiting and offering advice, support and free drop-in sessions for those who are affected by dementia or who just wish to find out more. Visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre to find out about the full programme of events.

Last Known Sighting: Tue 22, 7–9.30pm, £7.50. In this fully interactive simulated CSI experience, discover

how forensic techniques are used to put together clues from the evidence left behind. Using text messages, personal effects and witness statements, will you find your missing person in time? Led by Anna Chaussée, Dr Carolin Esser-Miles and Nicky Booth from the University of Winchester. Bring a notebook and pencil. Suitable for ages 14 – adult.

Foster and Adoption: Thu 31: 4pm–8.30pm, free. Could you foster or adopt? The Finding Homes for Hampshire Children's Team are hosting a free adoption and fostering information drop-in event between 5-8pm. Not only can they answer all your questions, they can help you take the next step along your journey. One of our foster carers will also be available to share their experiences.

Library-supported courses:

DOTS: iPad Lending with training and support: Tuesdays 15 & 22 May, 9.30am–12.30pm, free. DOTS (Digital Options Training Support) is for people who would benefit from acquiring basic digital skills on an iPad. Participants will be loaned an iPad for four weeks to use and practise on at home and will receive two training sessions plus support from the DOTS team during the loan period. To find out more details and check you would be eligible, please ask a member of Discovery Centre staff. Places MUST be booked in advance.

Children's events:

Children's Crafts: Saturday 26 May, from 10am, ages 3+, free. It's Elmer Day! Drop in for some patchwork elephant fun.

Scott Hyde

Events at Anvil Arts

Thu 3 May, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Opera & Ballet International presents an Ellen Kent production: Madama Butterfly. One of the world's most popular operas, Puccini's Madama Butterfly tells the story of the beautiful young Japanese girl who falls in love with an American naval lieutenant – with dramatic results. Highlights include the melodic Humming Chorus, the moving aria One Fine Day and the unforgettable Love Duet. Sung in Italian with English surtitles. Tickets: £38, £34, £30; Over 65s £2 off, under 16s and f/t students £20, £18, £16

Wed 9 May, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Jools Holland & his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra. Featuring Gilson Lavis with special guest Marc Almond. Guest vocalists Ruby Turner, Louise Marshall and Rose Mae. Tickets: £44, £38

Thu 10 May, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Ladysmith Black Mambazo: The brilliant male choir invoke the soul of South Africa with their powerful, uplifting songs, and intricate rhythms and harmonies. Tickets: £37, £27

Fri 11 May, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Mary Chapin Carpenter: Five-time Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter is on the road celebrating 30 years in the music industry. With support from Emily Barker. Tickets: £34, £29.50

Sat 12 May, 7.45pm, The Anvil

Spira Mirabilis: The extraordinary ensemble perform Beethoven's Symphony no 7, its joyous energy and rhythmic impetus making it among the most popular of all symphonies. Tickets: £25, £20, £15, £10

Tue 15 May, 8pm, The Anvil

Nils Lofgren: Celebrating his 50th year of touring, E Street Band member and solo artist Nils Lofgren makes his first return to the UK in three years, accompanied by multi-instrumentalist Greg Varlotta. Drawing from an expansive repertoire of a lifetime in rock 'n' roll, and sharing many memorable stories along the way, Nils will pick up on the magical experience of his last tour. Tickets: £44.50, £34.50

Fri 18 May, 7.45pm, The Anvil

Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra: Michael Sanderling conducts the orchestra in a programme of Beethoven's Symphony no 5 and Shostakovich's Symphony no 5. Tickets: £40, £36, £29, £22, £14; Under 16s and f/t students £10

Tue 22 May, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Ben Folds and a Piano: with support from Matt Holubowski. Taking to the stage with just a grand piano for company, cult hero Ben Folds plays tracks both classic and current. Hear Ben Folds Five favourites followed by stripped back renditions of his more classical-leaning repertoire. Tickets: £37, £27

Wed 23 May, 7.45pm, The Anvil

Philharmonia Orchestra: A programme of Mendelssohn's Symphony no 4 (Italian) and Brahms' Symphony no 2 is performed under the baton of Daniele Gatti, Music Director of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Tickets: £40, £36, £29, £22, £14; Under 16s and f/t students £10

Thu 24-Sat 26 May: Thu 7.30pm, Fri 5pm & 8pm, Sat 2pm, 5pm & 8pm, The Anvil

Zippos presents Cirque Berserk! Real circus made for theatre. Combining contemporary cirque-style artistry with adrenaline-fuelled stunt action, this astoundingly talented international troupe includes over thirty jugglers, acrobats, aerialists, dancers, drummers and daredevil stuntmen, and features the jaw dropping motorcycle Globe of Death. Tickets: £29.50; under 16s £15.50. Family rate available.

Andrea Bath

NWR

As 2018 is the centenary of the 1918 Suffrage Act it seemed appropriate to have a meeting on the Suffrage movement and find out a little more about the women involved and their remarkable lives. We all did a little research (so much easier these days with Google!) and had some interesting stories to share with the rest of the group about the actions of some of these amazing women and the indignities many of them had to endure in their quest to achieve votes for women.

We will also be having our monthly lunch club and Reading Group meetings. Usually our meetings are held in the afternoon on the first Monday of each month, unless there is a Bank Holiday and for our next meeting on 30th April we will share various bucket lists - from those of us who have one of course! Our Reading Group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, in the evening and this month we will be discussing The Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler.

If you want to check us out, our meetings are very friendly and

informal, usually but not always, in the afternoon in each others' homes. There is a lot of information about NWR on the website: nwr.org.uk or to find out more about our group in particular, or to come along to any of our meetings (with no obligation to join) please contact: Avril Keable, email: avrilkeable@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01256 322832 or Evelyn Jones, email: evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01256 816636.

Diane Hope

Britten War Requiem

War Requiem – Britten, on **Saturday, 9th June** at The Anvil, Basingstoke. 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the Great War and this important national anniversary will be marked with performances of Britten's monumental 'War Requiem' throughout the UK.

On Saturday 9th June over 350 singers, orchestral players and children will congregate from across the county of Hampshire in Basingstoke's purpose built concert hall, the Anvil, for this unique event. Britten's timeless message of peace and denunciation of war will be a stirring once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the people of Hampshire to remember and pay tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Includes Basingstoke Choral Society, Southampton Philharmonic Choir, Southampton University Philharmonic Choir, City of Southampton Orchestra and choirs from The Pilgrims' School, Winchester and St Gabriel's, Newbury. Contact the box office on 01256 844244 or see war-requiem2018.uk.

Margaret Lucas

Chineham Supported Living

A brand new supported living development is opening this June in Chineham for young people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and autism. The scheme is run by FitzRoy, a national learning disabilities charity. Our staff are highly trained and will provide care and support to give the young people, aged 18 to 30, as much choice and control over their lives as possible. FitzRoy believes disabilities shouldn't exclude or hold people back from doing the things they want to do. The young people at the Chineham development will be encouraged to experience new opportunities and develop life skills that increase their independence and improve their quality of life, like planning and preparing their meals and managing their money. They will be supported to socialise in local activities, widen their social network and be part of their local community.

FitzRoy is currently recruiting for an exceptional management team and support workers who will have the opportunity to truly make a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable young people in our society. If you are a support worker or carer, or if you, a friend or family member, has ever thought about a career in care, FitzRoy would love to hear from you. Working for us means supporting someone to live the life they want to live. It doesn't matter if you have never done this sort of work before. Not only will your work environment be a brand new, state-of-the-art building, you will get to go home every day knowing you have helped transform someone's life. For more information contact Claire Moore on 01730 820940 or visit www.fitzroy.org.

Alex Thwaites

Chineham WI

I'm pleased to announce that Chineham WI will be holding a plant and home made cake sale on **Saturday 12th May** in the centre of Chineham Shopping Centre. We've got our fingers crossed that the weather will be kind to us! Our sale starts at 10:30am and will continue until 2:00pm, unless we've sold everything before then! Chineham residents have always been very generous with their support in the past and we hope you'll kindly support us again on this occasion.

May will be a busy month for our members. In addition to the plant and cake sale we also have a glass fusing workshop planned, a visit to Marnel Lodge to have tea with the residents, our AGM and the annual Quiz, not to mention the regular Lunch Club, Gardening Club and the Scrabblers!

If your diary is looking empty, why not join the WI and meet new friends? We'll help you fill your diary with enjoyable events instead of dentist appointments! We meet at Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The dates and topics for upcoming meetings are listed below

21 May: AGM - time to elect a new President

25 June: Gilbert White - The Gardener

23 July: Games evening

We look forward to welcoming you.

Pam Malcolm

Kind Neighbours

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to our neighbours in Clere Gardens during the bad weather. Several have given their telephone numbers in case of need, and the snow has been swept from our drive. They all have busy lives so it is all the more appreciated.

David and Audrey Eustace

Membership Appeal

For the past 50 years the Lions Club has answered the support needs of people and organisations in Basingstoke. I cannot list them here because there are too many. But if you look at www.basingstokelions.org.uk Community Page - Causes Helped you'll see the full range. It is impressive.

At the top right hand corner there is a green box which says "Local Emergency Needs". These have been the main focus of our assistance over the past eight years. The failure of a domestic appliance can be devastating for a family that is already in straitened circumstances. Through our contacts with Social Services and the Citizens Advice Bureau we hear about such cases and many more situations which would otherwise be beyond our knowledge or experience. And there are also many good hearted people out there who have turned to us to assist family or friends in time of crisis. We help wherever we can.

"Where there's a need there's a Lion", is one of the proud boasts of our parent organisation and we are here answering those needs. But, to keep doing so we need new members. Ours is very much a working Club. We try to

run some kind of fundraising event every month. That may sound like a big commitment, but it isn't. We work together. Everyone does what they can and attends our social events when they can. The emphasis is on enjoyment not obligation.

So, if you'd like to see how we operate, and what we are truly like, contact me and I'll happily pick you up and take you to one of our business meetings. Email philipjhwilson@btinternet.com or tel: 01256 352393

Philip Wilson

Widgits Farm Suggestion

I recall a story that made the TV local news some years ago where a couple had objected to their next-door neighbour's planning application for a hideous extension to the front of his semi-detached house. When their initial objections were overruled, the couple submitted an application for an identical extension to their own property. Suffice to say the planning department finally saw sense and both applications were refused.

The moral of this story is that attack is the best defence and as such, those objecting to the development of Widgits Farm as reported in last month's Chat, might wish to consider a similar ploy? How about finding out where the CEO of the developers lives and submitting plans for something 'Nimby-ish' on his or her doorstep? Perhaps an under-fives adventure playground with 6am opening time for working parents; a sewage treatment plant or a storage site for low-level atomic waste?

J Foster