

Dear friends,

December is upon us. A month of anticipation in which we celebrate the season of Advent during which we wait and prepare for the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Preparing for Jesus who is the light of the world to come into our lives and to transform us and the dark world around us.



Many of you especially those who have children, may be using an Advent calendar to tick off the days to Christmas, this maybe a chocolate one, or one with pictures behind the windows, or maybe you will light a candle which burns down

each day. In the church we count down the weeks with our Advent ring, this has four candles on the outside. We light one for each of the Sundays of Advent and then the white candle in the middle is lit at Midnight on Christmas Eve. This symbolises that Jesus is born.

The story of one family of refugees from Syria in last month's magazine touched many of us and brought home even more the pain of those fleeing the conflict in that country. For them and the thousands of other migrants Christmas will be very different. We need to pray for them and also the aid agencies who are trying to help.

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*pray for  
the  
refugees*

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Our Lord Jesus and Mary and Joseph knew the pain of having to flee their country. Soon after Jesus was born, King Herod decided to kill all the baby boys under the age of two, in attempt to kill Jesus who he feared would take his throne. Joseph was told to flee to Egypt by an angel in his dream, to keep Jesus safe.

During his life on earth our Lord knew pain and suffering and at this early stage in his life the pain of losing home and country. He stands alongside all who suffering at any time of the year

be it physically, mentally or emotionally, Jesus identifies with each one of us, in all of our lives and wants to walk with us in our journey through life. All we need to do is to invite him in.

Most people who meet with families at the festive season will want to experience the same festive rituals and feasting that they have come to see as 'Christmas' to them. I hope all of you have a happy time with family and friends but please think of those who have lost a loved one this year. It can be a hard time, missing that person and having to develop a new way of celebrating Christmas.

Of course we all need to get ready for all of this and it takes time and preparation, We can get lost in the busyness, the buying, the wrapping,

the decorating and cooking but we need to not allow this frantic activity to upset our quiet centre which is the place within us that is our relationship with God. Our prayer time, bible reading time is important if we are going to develop and grow our relationship. To be ready to welcome again Jesus into our lives.

So how will we plan in those few moments of quiet, which are essential for us? It could be when we open the calendars, when we wake in the morning, as we eat a meal or before we go to sleep at night. I suggest that planning our times of quiet will help us to welcome Jesus into our lives anew at this Christmas time.

There are many carol services and church services planned for this time of year and to find out more, please see the lists in the magazine, or the 'Christmas in Denmead' website. A warm welcome awaits you at any and all of the services as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

With love at Christmas time and prayers for a Blessed New Year.

*Sandra*

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***All we  
need to  
do is to  
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him in***

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# All Saints Church Services

## **Sunday 6th December Advent 2**

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion
- 4.00pm Christingle Service
- 6.00pm Healing Service



## **Saturday 12th December**

- 3.30pm Messy Church Celebration in Church hall.

## **Sunday 13th December Advent 3**

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Praise and Toy service. Toys go to the women's refuge.
- 6.00pm Sung Evensong

## **Sunday 20th December Advent 4**

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Communion
- 6.00pm Traditional carol service arranged by Churches in Denmead



## **Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve**

- 4.00pm Crib Service
- 11.15pm Midnight Communion

## **Friday 25th Christmas Day**

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family service with Communion. No evening service.

## **Sunday 27th December Christmas One**

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Parish Communion
- No evening service.



*Weekly Thursday Communion at 11am. A Said Prayer Book Communion Service. Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily at 8.30am and 5.00pm respectively.*

*The Church is open for private prayer. If you wish to light a candle, there is a candle stand in the Sanctuary of the Chapel of Healing and Unity.*

**Healing Service** The next healing Service is at 6pm on Sunday 6th December. This gentle reflective service is for all who want to receive the Lord's healing love for physical, mental, emotional or spiritual healing. Further information contact Vicar 9225 5490

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

*The Church of the Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle*  
356 London Road,  
Waterlooville,  
Hampshire PO7 7SR  
Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Bidgood,  
(023) 9226 2289  
frkbidgood@hotmail.com  
www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk

## MASS TIMES

Saturday Mass

Vigil: 6.15 pm

Sunday Masses

10.30 am Children's Liturgy

6.30 pm Folk Mass

Please refer to Newsletter for weekday Mass times.



## RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:30 pm (or by appointment)

Monday 9.30 am

Hi there,

An important year for Catholics and indeed all Christians begins very soon, so I thought you might like to know something about it as Christmas which we are soon to celebrate, is very much about MERCY...

So, on Tuesday 8 December 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will open a Holy Year of Mercy.

The Pope prays that the year "will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and

tenderness of God! May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!"

The Year will close with the Feast of Christ the King on Friday 20 November 2016. Pope Francis announced the opening of the Year and here are some of his words:

### **Jesus is the face of Mercy**

*'Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of*

*continued on next page*

Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him.'

**Mercy is concrete**

*'...the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which he reveals his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a 'visceral' love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy.'*

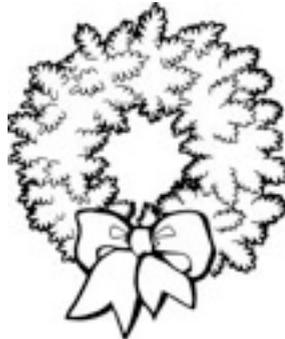
**Never gives up**

*'In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that*

*of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy.'*

A very happy Christmas to everyone!

Fr. Kevin



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## **Traditional Carol Service**

**All Saints Church, Sunday 20th December at 6pm**

*Organised by the Churches together in Denmead CTD)*

Come and sing all your favourite carols, hear the story of Christmas and enjoy mince pies and coffee in the hall after the service.

This year the retiring collection will be for the charity 'Smile' – a charity in Waterlooville that gives respite care to terminally ill children.



A thousand visitors a month can't be wrong!

Come and experience for yourself our spacious and comfortable



## **Cornerstone Community Lounge**

An ideal venue for a variety of occasions:

- Hold your celebration or corporate events here. Hold your class or interest group meeting.
- Choose from a delicious menu to suit your requirements and budget. Or just come in and visit us to see what we have to offer. Why not pop into our cosy coffee shop and ice cream parlour.

Treat yourself and your family to hot and cold beverages, freshly made hot or cold snack, Italian Gelato or a slice of cake. Our friendly staff will be happy to serve you.



**Denmead Baptist Church** is a small, friendly fellowship who have worshipped in the village since 1717. In 2014 we purchased the Mead End Public House, to convert it to a community centre. Since then we have found that our facilities are very popular with many groups and individuals.

Our Sunday services are informal and incorporate a worship band, children's activities and Bible based teaching for the adults and young people. We enjoy social times and together have worked hard to enable The Cornerstone to be established.

Our regular activities are listed on our website at:

[www.denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk)

Contact us via E-mail at [admin@denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk)

Telephone on 023 9307 8372

Visit us at 22 Mead End Road, Denmead, PO7 6PZ, for more information.

**Baptisms** 15th November  
6th December Daisy Mai Fisher  
6th December Frankie Jazmin Adamson

**Funerals** 10th October Ruth Margaret Grant age 84  
14th October Emily Jean Hamblin age 84

### **Tribute for Ruth Grant**

Ruth was born in Ryde on the Isle of Wight on 26th April 1931. During the second world war she moved to a number of different schools because of the bombings. She ended her schooling at the Sandown Grammar school.

After school she attended the Gloucester Domestic Science College. She became a domestic Science teacher and taught at the Portsmouth Southern Grammar School for girls. She played the piano for St Michaels church in Ryde.

She met her husband to be on the Isle of Wight ferry. Their relationship blossomed and Bob even proposed on the ferry. They married in 1958. They moved to Denmead in 1961 and within a few years the family was completed by Robert and Ruth

At that time the organ in All Saints was played vigorously by Mr Sainsbury. When he retired Ruth took over temporarily!! This started 50 years of being organist and choir director at All Saints.

Ruth was a woman of many parts. Music was her life, she was meticulous, dedicated and loyal. She could be firm but was exceedingly kind. She was self effacing and always thinking of others.

Singing was huge part of Ruth's life along with her long membership of the afternoon WI. She was the institute's secretary for a number of years, and accompanied the members on the piano for the singing of Jerusalem. She never lost her love of cooking and will always be remembered for her Coronation chicken and chocolate eclairs.

Ruth was a member for a long time of a team that cooked the Community lunches, and made many cakes for confirmations, baptisms, weddings, and other celebrations. Ruth was always generous with her cooking skills and provided many lovely meals after the Choral concerts and would also arrange the All Saints Harvest suppers.

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Ruth built up a large choir and many of her ex choristers still sing in choirs around the country. The heyday of the choir saw the front choir stalls full of children and the adults filling the back stalls. Ruth, being a member of the Royal School of Church Music, taught the children to attain their singing ribbons, Light blue, dark blue, and red. The standards were high and it was a credit to Ruth and the choristers that so many of them reached the required standards. The choir at this time also had a mixed football team and they played matches against the other choirs in the diocese. The choir also performed several of Michael Hurd's pop cantatas which were very well received and they also performed in the concerts in church with guest soloists.

Many of the children attended R.S.C.M. summer courses and joined with other choirs singing in many Cathedrals. Including Portsmouth, Chichester, Guildford, Salisbury, Bath, Bristol and others.

Several girls were selected and invited by R.S.C.M. to attend a course at Lincoln cathedral. Young adults joined choirs and sang in many churches – flying the flag for All Saints. One of Ruth's proudest moments was when the choir was

asked to sing Evensong at Portsmouth Cathedral. Ruth was involved over the years with many other choirs and singing groups. To name a few, The Hambledon Arts Society Choir, the Denmead Choral Society, Horndean Ladies Choir, and her week was full of singing and conducting various choirs. Over the years the number of church choir members decreased but Ruth continued to teach, encourage and stretch the members.

Ruth's involvement with the Portsmouth Choral Union began on the 23rd September 1958. She completed at least 50 years with the choir. She was in the first soprano section, and a social committee member. She was the soprano representative on the main committee, and represented the choir at the National federation of music societies.

Ruth helped build community life in Denmead over the many years with no fuss, expecting only support. Her name will be remembered over years interwoven in local history. Along with her family Ruth will be missed by many, but through her years of singing, teaching and conducting choirs she has touched the lives of so many people, who will long remember her.

ASC = All Saints' Church	Contact	B.Wright, 9223 3248
CH = Church Hall	Contact	B.Wright, 9223 3248
HR = Heath Room	Contact	C.Taylor, 9242 8122
MH = Memorial Hall	Contact	Mr R Bainbridge MBE, 9225 6132
OS = Old School (Community Centre)	Contact	Tony Daniells, 9224 7947
PC = Denmead Parish Council	Contact	

D = Daily  
W = Weekly  
F = Fortnightly  
M = Monthly  
Events occurring Daily and Weekly  
are only mentioned once - i.e. in the  
first week of the month.

*Please note:*

- The times stated here may be the times for which the halls are booked. Please check other publicity for the times of the event.
- To ensure the correct details are shown for your organisation's event included in these Diary pages, please email your meeting times and details to Gill Barge (denmeadbarges@aol.com) or send them to her at Fairview, School Lane, Denmead PO7 6LY. Thank you.

Tues 1	CH	All Join in Together	11.00-Noon	W
		-Mums, Carers & Toddlers		
		Exercises After Stroke	2.00-3.30pm	W
		3 <sup>rd</sup> Denmead Brownies	5.45pm	W
		Gold Star Dancing	8.00-9.00pm	W
	HR	Coffee & a Chat (Tues & Thurs)	9.30am-Noon	2xW
	MH	Denmead Pre School	9.00-3.00pm	D
		* Wednesday times *	9.00-12.30pm	
		Archery	7.00pm	W
	OS	Old Schoolhouse Pre-School	9.00-3.00pm	D
		* Friday times	9.00-Noon	
	Creative Play-	for Under 5s	9.30-11.00am	W
		Denmead Creative Art Class	10.00-Noon	M
		Tuesday Pilates Class	5.30-7.30pm	W
		Shape & Tone (Ladies Fitness)	7.00-8.00pm	W
		Chapter Reading Group	7.30-9.30pm	M
		Downland Singers	7.45-10.15pm	W

## Village Diary

		Denmead Brass	8.00-10.00pm	W
	SHQ	Busy Bee Pre-School	9.00-3.00pm	D
		* Friday times	9.00-Noon	
		Spitfire Scouts	6.30-8.30pm	W
Wed 2	CH	Pilates	10.00-11.00am	W
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Denmead Rainbows	4.15pm	W
		1 <sup>st</sup> Denmead Brownies	5.45pm	W
	BC	NOAH'S ARK - Parent & Toddler Group	10-11.30am	W
	MH	Denmead Afternoon WI	2.00pm	M
		Floral Workshop	7.30pm	M
	OS	Zumba Gold	9.30-10.15am	W
		Table Tennis	10.00-Noon	W
		Creative Quilters	10.00-Noon	F
		Tai Chi	1.30-2.30pm	W
		Patchwork Pals	3.00-6.00pm	W
		Smart Fitness – Circuit Training	6.00-7.00pm	W
		Breakaway Quilters	7.00-10.00pm	W
		Parish Council Meeting-Highways & GP	7.30pm	
	SHQ	Concorde Cubs	6.30-8.00pm	W
		Church Car Park <b>MOBILE LIBRARY</b>	1.30-4.00pm	W
		At the Forest Of Bere Denmead Knit & Bitch	10.00-Noon	W
		All abilities are welcome		
Thu 3	CH	Jiggly-Wigglers	10.00-11.00am	W
		Keep Fit	2.00pm	W
		1 <sup>st</sup> Denmead Rainbows	4.15pm	W
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Denmead Brownies	5.30pm	W
	CH&HR	Guides & Rangers	7.00pm	W
	HR	Coffee & a Chat (Tues & Thurs)	9.30am-Noon	2xW
	UR	Exploring Christianity	7.30pm	
	MH	Badminton	7.30pm	W
	OS	Zumba	9.30-10.30am	W
		Table Tennis	9.00-11.00am	W
		Senior Citizens' Lunch Club	12.30-1.30pm	W
		Citizens' Advice Bureau	1.00-3.00pm	W
		Rimor Fitness	5.30-6.30pm	W
	SHQ	Bere Forest Beavers	6.15-7.30pm	W
		The Cornerstones Denmead WI Belles Meeting	7.30pm	M

Fri 4	CH	Mother & Toddler Group	9.30am	W
		Chair Exercises	2.00pm	W
		Youth Move	5.15-6.15pm	W
		TS Alacrity Christmas Fair Preparation		
	OS	Mumbaba	9.30-10.30am	W
		U3A Art Class	10.00-Noon	W
		Denmead Drama	4.00-7.30am	W
		Denmead Dogs at Play	7.00-8.00pm	W
		Rose Dog Club	7.30-8.30pm	W
	SHQ	Vulcan Scout Troop	7.00-9.00pm	W
Phoenix Explorers		7.00-9.00pm	W	
Sat 5	CH	TS ALACRITY CHRISTMAS FAIR	AM	
	HR	District Advice	10.00-Noon	
	OS	Southern Arts Academy	9.45-11.15am	W
Sun 6	ASC	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	4.00pm	
	HR	Confirmation Class	4.00-5.00pm	
	OS	Denmead Junior Brass Band	9.15-10.15am	W
		Denmead Brass Band	10.30-12.30pm	W
MH	Karate	5.00pm	W	
Mon 7	CH	Zumba Fitness Class	9.30am	W
		Breathe Again	11.30am	W
		Slimming World	5.30 & 7.30pm	W
	OS	Smart Fitness- Circuit Training	9.00-10.00am	W
		Mumbaba	9.30-10.30am	W
		Smart Fitness- Circuit Training	6.00-8.00pm	W
		Table Tennis	7.00-9.00pm	W
		Bridge Club	7.00-10.00pm	W
	MH	T.S Alacrity	6.45pm	W
	SHQ	Merlin Cubs	6.30-8.00pm	W
	At the Forest Of Bere Denmead Knit & Bitch	7.00-9.00pm	W	
	All abilities are welcome			
Tue 8	OS	Denmead Evening WI Craft Evening	7.00-9.00pm	M
		At the Chairmakers - Probus Club meeting	Noon-3.00pm	M
		- Lunch & talk by Rupert Matthews - 'Biography of Father Christmas'.		
Wed 9	CH	Meet & Eat	12.30pm	M
		British Koi Karp Society	7.30pm	M

	MH	Denmead Evening WI	7.30pm	M
	OS	Denmead Art	10.00-Noon	F
		Parish Council – Planning	7.30pm	
		Church Car Park <b>Mobile Library</b>	1.30-4.00pm	W
Thu 10	UR	Exploring Christianity	7.30pm	
Sat 12	CH	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>	3.30-5.30pm	
		- See main notice for details		
	HR	Readers' Tuition	1.00-3.00pm	
Sun 13	ASC	FAMILY PRAISE TOY SERVICE	9.30am	
	HR	Confirmation Class	4.00-5.00pm	
	MH	Archery	9.00am	W
Tue 15	OS	Denmead Reading Circle	2.30pm	M
Wed 16	HR	Flower Club	2.00pm	M
	OS	Parish Council – Finance& Admin.	7.30pm	
Mon 21	HR	DHS Committee Meeting	7.30pm	
Thu 17	CH	U3A	1.00-4.15pm	
Sat 19	CH	Brownies Event	All Day	
	OS	FILM NIGHT 'MR HOLMES'	7.30pm	M
Sun 20	ASC	CAROL SERVICE followed by refreshments - all welcome	6.00pm	
	HR	Confirmation Class	4.00-5.00pm	
Tue 22	HR	Koi Carp Committee Meeting	8.00-9.30pm	
Sun 29	CH	Mothers' Union	2.00-4.00pm	
Wed 30	CH	BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE		

## Denmead Home Visiting Group

If you are lonely, sick or housebound or would just like someone to visit you we have a confidential visiting team and one of our members would willingly come, visit and spend time listening to you. Please phone us on 9226 8757. If the answerphone is on leave a message and we will phone you back.



Come and Join us for a  
Special Christmas Messy Church  
on Saturday 12th December  
3.30pm in the hall

All Saints Church, Denmead

Crafts, Games, Carols

And Party Food



## **Denmead Afternoon W I**

October was a busy month for the institute with lunch at the Harvest Home and the return New Age Kurling match against Denmead Evening institute. There was a fun afternoon with a resounding victory for the Afternoon members – in spite of the opposition trying to put us off our game us with their version of the All Blacks Haka! We met for lunch at the Harvest Home.

We were greatly saddened by the death of long time member Ruth Grant. Ruth was a loyal and active member supporting institute, group and county events. Her delicious cooking was always appreciated – especially her Coronation Chicken which she made for our Annual Meeting lunch and her chocolate eclairs which she also made for the coach party teas we hosted. We shall miss her sympathetic playing of Jerusalem at our meetings.

In November we celebrated our 62nd birthday to which we invited representatives of the other institutes in our group. We welcomed Anne Huckin to our meeting for a demonstration on flower arranging. Anne made four beautiful arrangements which she donated to the raffle. She showed us how to use a variety of containers to produce different types of arrangements. The afternoon concluded with a delicious tea complete with birthday cake – showing the successful Kurling team! The cake was cut by our WI Adviser, Sharon Freeman who will be leaving us at the end of the year.

The competition for a floral brooch was won by Joan Elliott with Betty Kemp second. The flower competition was won Joan Elliott and Rosemary Simpson was second.

Events this month include a visit to the pantomime when we will once again be using the Communicare minibus. The Group Carol Service will be held at St

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Wilfrids Church, Cowplain on December 7th

Our monthly meeting will include a visit by the Spirit of the South Choir to entertain us with seasonable music. We will hold our usual Secret Santa when members can give and receive a present to the approximate value of £3. The competition is for a handmade Christmas card.

We extend a warm welcome to all ladies to our meetings which are held on the first Wednesday in the month at the Memorial Hall. The meeting is from 2pm to 4pm.

The meeting includes a talk or demonstration on a wide range of subjects so there is something for all tastes and interests. If you are new to the village or recently retired WI is the ideal place to make new friends or renew old acquaintances. If you are not free during the day the Evening Institute would welcome you to their meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (except December when it is the 2nd Wednesday).

*Joan Downing ( 9226 5458 )*



## **Denmead Evening WI**

The Autumn Season has once again been a busy one and October was a particularly active month. We enjoyed another New Age Kurling competition against Denmead Afternoon WI – and they won the trophy (again).

At our October meeting, after 3 years, we finally had one of our own members, Angela M, who was a Gamesmaker at the Olympics and London 2012 (including the Paralympics), share her experience of that very special occasion. The organisation

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and co-ordination of the whole event was truly immense and Angela voluntarily did her bit by firstly driving VIP's around London and then moving to a special call centre where she helped to solve any problems which visitors or athletes may have had.

Some of our members attended the County Autumn Meeting at The Anvil, Basingstoke. This commenced with the thrilling sound of a full hall of Hampshire ladies singing Jerusalem, and by contrast the morning session ended with everyone singing and dancing to Abba's 'Waterloo'. This led us into the afternoon session when Peter & Dan Snow presented the 200 year old history of the Battle of Waterloo.

It was good to meet many friends and acquaintances at our Autumn Fair. The funds raised allow us to continue our activities as one of three WIs in Denmead, and we thank all our supporters for their generosity.



Our December Meet & Eat is Christmas lunch at the White Hart on 4th December and we will also be celebrating the New Year with a meal at the Harvest Home in January. Our December meeting will be held a week earlier than usual on Wednesday 9th, when we will be entertained by 'Bishops Bells' playing handbell music with audience participation which should lead us nicely into the Christmas season.

A very warm welcome would be extended to any visitors wishing to see what the WI is all about. The WI offers women the opportunity to make friends, learn new skills, and campaign on wide-ranging issues. We meet at the Memorial Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (except December when we meet on the 2nd Wednesday).

*Irene Woodings, 023 9226 3465*

## **Denmead Community Centre**

### **Denmead Film Nights**

This month's film on Saturday 19th Dec at 7.30pm is "Mr Holmes" (PG) 104 mins. Tour de force performance from Ian McKellen as the ageing Holmes. With his memory beginning to fade, he moves into a country house at the end of World War Two. He is befriended by the young son of his housekeeper and embarks on one last, almost forgotten unsolved case from half a century ago, which helps him solve a riddle that has always eluded him – relationships. An elegant and absorbing British film that will have wide appeal.

### **Denmead Community Centre Book Exchange / Library**

The Centre has a large selection of both fiction and non-fiction books which are available for exchange or for a small donation.

If you would like to receive our new electronic newsletter detailing the events and activities held at the Community Centre, just visit our website [www.denmeadca.com](http://www.denmeadca.com) and click "join the email list".

### **Bereavement Group**

There is a monthly 'Tea and Friendship' afternoon for anyone recently bereaved. This is an informal time when people can meet others, have tea and make friends. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month between 2-4pm in the church hall.

For more information please phone the Church office 9226 8757 or Merrill Partridge 9226 6159.



# CAB

**Q. I've heard a lot about changing my energy supplier but I am in debt with mine, what can I do?**

A. Whether you can switch supplier if you're in debt to your gas or electricity supplier depends on how long you've owed the money. If you've owed the money to your supplier for 28 days or less, you can switch supplier - the debt will be transferred to the new supplier.

If you've owed the money to your supplier for more than 28 days, you can't switch supplier until you've paid the money back. If your supplier tells you they're raising their prices and you decide to switch, you'll have 30 days to pay off the debt before they can stop you.

You can't be stopped from switching if it's your supplier's fault that you're in debt - for example because they've estimated your bill wrong. If you have a prepayment meter - There are different rules for switching supplier if you prepay for your gas and electricity.

If you've owed the money for more than 28 days, you can switch supplier but your debt must be below £500 for gas and £500 for electricity. You'll need to ask the new supplier to agree to transfer your debt along with your supply (this is called the 'Debt Assignment Protocol').

Your supplier might try to stop you from switching, even if you're entitled to. If this happens, you should make a complaint. If you have a prepayment meter, you might want to write to your supplier and explain that you have the right to switch.

Find out how to switch supplier if you're entitled to. If you're having problems switching supplier, you can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline - 03454 04 05 06

## **Denmead Horticultural Society**

In October we celebrated Mellow Fruitfulness with an evening of tasting and sharing recipes for a variety of fruity puddings, cakes and preserves. We heard about the origins and traditions of Michaelmas including Mop Fairs and Goose Fairs and which was celebrated with roast goose and apple sauce. We also heard about the revival of interest in damsons and tried some damson cheese and pickled damsons served with cheese and a Michaelmas bannock. We ended the evening with an apple quiz and voted for our favourite apple recipe.

The Pumpkin Show in October once again produced some monsters with Henry Strides 220.3lb pumpkin being the overall winner. His team of three also won with a combined weight of 309lb beating the Muckrakers with their 307.9lb total.

After our AGM in November we enjoyed cheese and wine and a talk by local historian Jackie Baynes on Southsea Rock Gardens and the Pavilion. Jackie's talk was illustrated with old postcards and pictures from Southsea guide books from the construction of the rock garden to its heyday when it was a popular attraction for visitors. It was illuminated at night giving it the description 'An Earthly Fairyland' which Jackie has taken as the title of her book. It is now maintained with the help of volunteers and has many interesting plants. The talk brought back memories for many of our audience and reminded us to visit the Rock Gardens next time we are in Southsea.

In December we will be playing skittles and tucking into the buffet at the Kings Head in Wickham. No meeting in January, our next evening talk is in February.

*Liz Williams (9226 9642) email: [liz@greensleeves.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:liz@greensleeves.eclipse.co.uk)*

## **Hampshire County Council**

### **Highways Update**

Highway teams are fully prepared for the winter months, all vehicles have undergone their annual service and maintenance checks, completed test runs and are now at the highways depots throughout the County. Amey have completed in-house training programmes for drivers to familiarise themselves with the new vehicles and trained up additional drivers for this winter in order to offer more resilience when the weather starts to turn colder.

From October to April, all 51 vehicles are on standby 24/7. Road conditions, weather, wind speed, rainfall and air temperatures are continuously monitored and all community salt bins are now filled. Further information about salting routes, maps and community salt bins is available at [www.hants.gov.uk/roads/weather-on-roads](http://www.hants.gov.uk/roads/weather-on-roads)

### **Highways Statistics**

for the month of September show that, in the Winchester District, 231 gullies were cleared; 9,773 square

metres of carriageway resurfacing was completed; 39 two-hour response emergencies were attended; 58 square metres of pavement patching was completed and 59 potholes were repaired.

### **Library Service**

Hampshire residents are invited to give their views on a draft Strategy for transforming and improving Hampshire's Library Service, by filling in a questionnaire either in print at their local library, or online at [www.hants.gov.uk/library](http://www.hants.gov.uk/library)

### **Councillor Surgeries**

Please don't forget that Councillor Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month in The Heath Room at All Saints Church, Denmead, 10.00 am – 12 noon. No appointment is necessary.

**It only remains for me to offer SEASONAL GREETINGS to all readers. I hope you have a very Happy Christmas and the world enjoys a more peaceful New Year. With best wishes.**

*Patricia Stallard [pgstallard@aol.com](mailto:pgstallard@aol.com)  
County Councillor for Winchester  
Southern Parishes, Winchester City  
Councillor for Denmead Ward*