



# ZCRA NewsLetter

No 32

December 2002

## Canal History Talk

The committee always seeks to promote community spirit by providing convivial opportunities for residents to meet each other. As an experiment, we offer an interesting talk and refreshments during the evening of Friday 24 January.

Tony Harmsworth, who was brought up in one of the last families plying the Basingstoke Canal in commercial barges and who worked with the Canal Authority until his recent retirement, has agreed to give his acclaimed illustrated talk about the history of the canal to members of ZCRA. Refreshments will be provided. Entrance is free.

**8pm-10:15pm**  
**Friday 24 January 2003**  
**in the Community Centre**

All are very welcome. If there is enough interest, we will try to run similar events at intervals during the winter months in the future. So please do come along both to enjoy the talk and to meet other residents.

## Community Walk and Lunch 1 January 2003

Meet at 10:15am outside the Community Centre ready to drive to the start of the next Community Walk and lunch on New Year's Day. The plan is to walk for about an hour round part of Caesar's Camp followed by lunch together at a nearby pub. Please advise one of the organisers by 28 November if you want lunch so the necessary tables can be booked in advance.

Parts of the route are likely to be wet and muddy, so please wear appropriate footwear and bring a change of shoes to wear for lunch. If the weather is awful, the plan is to scrub the walk and just meet for lunch. Please ring before 10am if in doubt.

Dogs on a lead are welcome for the walk, but probably not inside for lunch. More details from David Jackson or Malcolm Knowles.

**All welcome !**

## New Footway Lights

Five bollard lights have now been installed along the pathway between Londlandes and Danvers Drive under the power lines. They switch on at dusk and off at midnight under control of a timer switch in a separate cabinet. The installation was funded by Crookham Village Parish Council from money contributed through the Parish Precept, which is part of Council Tax. The path is now readily usable during dark evenings for the first time.

If you have suggestions for minor works to improve the quality of life in the Parish, please contact a Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk (tel/fax 01252-810568) or via [www.crookham.village-pc.org.uk](http://www.crookham.village-pc.org.uk).

## Winter Quiz

*Some 'easy' questions to help while away a winter evening.*

1. How long did the Hundred Years War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From which animal do we get catgut?
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hair brush made of?
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What colour is a purple finch?
9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?

*Answers (maybe not the ones you'd expect !) are overleaf.*



## Youth Meeting 28 January

*We want to hear your thoughts*

Crookham Village Parish Council has commissioned the Youth Service to invite suggestions for youth provision in the local area. We are particularly interested in meeting with young people from the Zebon Copse area to hear what you would like to see locally. This is a rare opportunity for you to present your ideas and work with the Parish Council in setting up something that will be used by all the young people locally.

The Youth Service have already been working on the streets and have met with some of the young people and heard their views. So far people have told us that they would like to see some type of club or centre that would offer facilities to meet. This group have said that they would like to see a range of activities taking place within the Centre including access to computers, use of the creative arts and opportunities to enjoy sporting activities.

We invited people to meet with us at the Community Centre in Zebon Copse on 7<sup>th</sup> of December. However, the turnout was much lower than we would have hoped for. Therefore we have decided to re-run the opportunity in January. Please come along and offer your ideas. You will be greeted with a friendly face, a cup of tea and something to eat. All that we ask of you is to turn up with your ideas. If you have any questions please contact Moira Smyth on 01252 311786.

*Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at Velmead Community Centre.*

## How Do You Like Your Tea ?

An estate like Zebon Copse witnesses an exodus of residents as they go off to work. However, not everyone follows this pattern of movement. From residents who are around during the day, the ZCRA Committee would be interested to hear of any interest in possible 'drop-in' afternoons at the Community Centre where people could meet and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee together. If this sort of activity could interest you, please contact Malcolm Knowles or David Jackson (details overleaf) and give us your support and/or suggestions.

## Copse Reserve News

Work on the new circular path through the copse is near completion. Volunteers have been working hard to finish the boardwalk. All that is left to do is fill the remaining of length of path with hoggins. The next work party date will be arranged soon so keep an eye on the local notice boards and for posters around the copse. Lots of help will be needed and all are welcome, so do come along.

Whilst Zebon Copse residents are lucky to have countryside nearby in the reserve, some wildlife lives even closer to home. Urban gardens support lots of wildlife but sadly some of the species are in decline. One of these species is the humble House Sparrow. Once a common bird, the population has declined by 67% since 1970 (BTO, 2001). Your help is needed to conserve the House Sparrow by taking part in a survey. This is very quick and simple and only needs to be done twice a year. Please do contact me if you are interested in taking part in this scheme.

Merry Christmas to all,

*Clare Bloomer, Hampshire County Council Ranger*

*Tel no: 01252 870 425*

*E-mail: [clare.bloomer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:clare.bloomer@hants.gov.uk)*

## Spar Shop News

Rajahan and his ever-smiling colleagues at the Spar Shop wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. They will be open throughout the holiday as usual from 6am to 10pm except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day when they will be open from 8am to 9pm, and on New Years Day when they will open at 8am. The Spar Shop is in line to get a lottery terminal installed in the New Year. Meanwhile, there are extensive stocks of Christmas specials and a very wide range of general supplies to suit all tastes - all at prices which surprise many new customers for their competitiveness with the bigger supermarkets in the area. If you haven't been recently, why not pop in and have a look?

## Horse Droppings

Chris and Val Hall (613970) will collect horse droppings from estate pavements etc on request.

## Redfields

Redfields Garden Centre will not be moving to their proposed new site at Bowling Alley on the A287. Their appeal against HDC refusal of planning permission was turned down by the Planning Inspector after he had conducted a series of hearings in public at Hart Council Offices. ZCRA supported the campaign against the move on the grounds, endorsed by the last AGM, that it is in the best interest of those living on the estate that Redfields stays on its current site. The Garden Centre provides one of the very few social and shopping amenities in our immediate area. The alternative of housing and light industrial buildings will further increase the sense of living in a dormitory town and hence add even more challenge to the task of trying to building a sense of community on this large estate. ZCRA hopes that the management of Redfields will reconsider their threat to close the business and instead continue with their prize-winning Garden Centre on the existing site.

## Diary Dates

*all at the Community Centre*

10:15am **1 January 2003**  
**Community Walk**

7:45 for 8pm **Friday 24 January 2003**  
**Illustrated Talk on the History of the Canal**

8:30pm **Tuesday 28 January 2003**  
**Youth Meeting**

1pm-5pm **Saturday 15 February 2003**  
**Emergency First Aid Course - Children**

7:45 for 8pm **Wednesday 5 March 2003**  
**AGM**

**Sunday 6 July 2003**  
**ZCRA Fete**

Even more excitement for the youngsters and something for everyone. Make sure you keep the date free! Volunteers are needed on the day, so please let ZCRA know if you are willing to help.

## New Parish Councillors from Zebon Copse

Kevin Rusby of Silvester Way and Stuart Payne of Further Vell Mead volunteered to fill the two vacancies on Crookham Village Parish Council and have now been co-opted onto the council. The next planned elections are in May 2004 and will be the first with a separate ward for Zebon Copse. Parish Council meetings are held on the first non-bank-holiday Monday of each month at 7:45pm in the WI Hut, Crookham Village (behind the Social Club in The Street). If you have anything you wish to bring to the attention of the council, there is an opportunity for members of the public to speak near the start of each meeting - 3 minutes time limit per person.

## A Tale of Woe

ZCRA has received a complaint that we paint too rosy a picture of life on the estate. Some residents, it seems, are far from happy living here. Children are said to be running amok, climbing over cars, and using abusive language - all apparently with the approval of their parents - in one particular area. The authorities claim they are powerless unless there is evidence of something which they consider to be 'serious'. Meanwhile, those afflicted are seriously distressed and feeling trapped. A video record might be one way of providing evidence to the police. But how much better it would be if neighbours respected each other's privacy and property, and discouraged their children from such anti-social behaviour. Christmas seems a good time to consider Goodwill to All - including long-suffering neighbours. ZCRA has invited the local police to speak and take questions at our next AGM. No reply yet, though. Given that one of our concerns is lack of an obvious police presence in this area, their delay in responding to our invitation is not very encouraging.

## Spring Bulbs

Some more spring bulbs, kindly donated by Hart District Council, have been planted around the estate again this year by ZCRA volunteers. Narcissi various were mainly added to the Redfields end entrance area, along Daphne Drive/Browning Road, and near the Jessett Drive entrance from Cavendish Road. And more bluebells were planted under the trees on the open space at the Western end of Silvester Way. With luck we will have our best ever display of spring flowers to welcome us to next Spring.

**Services at Fleet Methodist Church over the festive season are as follows:**  
6:30pm 22 Dec - Carol service and choirs; 4pm 24 Dec - Christingle service, children especially welcome; 11:30pm 24 Dec - midnight Mass; 10:30am 25 Dec - Christmas Mass.

## ZCRA Committee Contacts

**Chairman/Newsletter:** David Jackson tel/fax 615052  
**Treasurer/Membership:** Kathy Roades 627093  
**Secretary:** Anne Foulsham 629934  
**Nicky Bond** 695305, **Chris Hall** 613970  
**Malcolm Knowles** 628692 **Rajahan** 623050  
**email:** zcra@ntlworld.com

## 1st Aid Course

Enough people have now come forward for us to run a Children's Emergency First Aid Course at last. The course will be run by the Red Cross and a certificate of attendance will be awarded.

Details are: 1pm to 5pm Saturday 15 February 2003 in the Velmead Community Centre (doors open 12:45). Cost £20 a head payable in advance to ZCRA. All cash/cheques to be with the Treasurer at 3 Daphne Drive by the end of January, please. Please would all those who have expressed an interest ring David Jackson on 615052 as soon as possible to confirm their attendance on this day.

## Quiz Answers

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 116 years      | 5. Squirrel fur |
| 2. Ecuador        | 6. Dogs         |
| 3. Sheep & Horses | 7. Albert       |
| 4. November       | 8. Crimson      |
|                   | 9. New Zealand  |

*With thanks to Fred Langa of LangaList.*

## ZCRA Committee

Grateful thanks to Leslie Alden, who is standing down due to pressure of a new job, for all her work on the ZCRA committee.

A warm welcome to Anne Foulsham, a volunteer Secretary at last!

The ZCRA committee meets approximately monthly in a member's house, normally between 8pm and 10pm. There is room for a couple of enthusiastic people with a little time to spend on helping to keep our estate up to scratch and helping with the AGM, fete and occasional other events. If you might be interested, please contact the Chairman.

Contact details are given below. Please also note the new ZCRA email address:

**zcra@ntlworld.com.**