

Dear Residents

Enterprise Partnerships:

You may know that the southern part of Test Valley has been included within the Solent Enterprise partnership whereas the northern part of Test Valley has been included within the Enterprise M3 partnership. It is the view of the Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Cllr North, and the Chief Executive, Roger Tetstall, that it would be in Test Valley's best interests if the whole of the borough were to be included in the same enterprise partnership, in this case, in the Enterprise M3 partnership. They have accordingly written to the ministers concerned, Greg Clarke and James Brokenshire, to express this. It looks as if this will be agreed at government level. I will keep you posted. Who knows when the matter will be dealt with in light of other more pressing problems.

Broadband possible solution:

This continues to be problematic for some areas here. I understand that one or two residents who are badly affected have found a solution in a "box" provided by EE which can be connected up to their existing infrastructure. I quote from one customer who has successfully installed it: "The ordering is done by telephone (try 0845 0971 892?), and the system is sent by post in a shoebox sized parcel. I collected mine from the EE store in Southampton West Quay but they will also post directly to the home. The set-up is simple, with the proviso that there is a small Sim card in a separate wrapper which has to be put into the machine. There is 14 day money back window, so there is a get out of jail free card if it really doesn't work in any one home." It will cost £35 per month minimum.

Annoyingly, EE is owned by BT who continue to drag their feet over providing for the Old Village area here which is connected to the Bassett Avenue cabinet nearly 2 miles away. Meanwhile I continue to press BT to align those worst affected at this western end of Chilworth to the cabinet on the Science Park adjacent to their homes. I hope to arrange a get-together of parties interested in alternative solutions in the New Year.

Trading Standards warning:

Hampshire Trading Standards are alerting residents to a telephone scam. The call purports to be from Martin Lewis' Money Saving Expert, and states that the resident is entitled thousands of pounds back on an old PPI claim taken out on a loan or mortgage. In order to secure the claim, there is an admin fee of £150 to be paid. In one case, the resident was asked to buy an Amazon gift voucher to the value of £150. Once purchased the caller would arrange for a representative to deliver the cheque in person to their home address and view the voucher. A cheque number and reference number was given. Money Saving Expert & Martin Lewis make it clear that they will never cold call people, and that this is a blatant attempt to scam people.

Free parking in Romsey:

Your recent Test Valley News, delivered to all homes, contained a 1-hour parking voucher for Romsey Town Centre. If you can't find it, you can get another from local shops there or the Tourist centre opposite the Abbey. This entitles you to an hour of free parking as long as you pay for some parking time. So if you visit Romsey at, say 2pm and pay for an hour, then have an hour free using your voucher, then you won't pay anything further since parking after 4pm is free anyway, all year. There are many individual shops in Romsey, some lovely ladies shops and a very swish gentleman's shop in Bell Street as well as the well-known Bradbeers department store. At this time when many town centres are struggling, though Romsey has had fewer struggles than most, it is very much appreciated when local residents support the local shopkeepers.

Dates for your diary:

Up to 6th Dec – Mottisfont - 'The Night Before Christmas' brought to life, with exquisitely decorated rooms and a festive family trail.

Up to 20th Dec – Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market, Up to 3rd Jan - skating rink.

Up to 24th Dec – Christmas at Marwell Zoo with Santa Claus

Sun 16th Dec @ 11:30am – St Denys Church Carol Service, Chilworth Old Village

Thur 20th Dec @ 7:30pm – St Denys Church, Carols followed by mulled wine & mince pies – Community Centre.

Sun 23rd Dec @ 6:30pm – St Michael's, Bassett Ave – Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Most churches also offer Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services – see the appropriate websites for details.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Alison

Please contact me at alisonf@btinternet.com to be on the mailing list for more frequent updates about burglaries, utility failures, local events, etc.