

Eve of the elves

WANNABE Christmas elves will get the opportunity to don pointy ears and help Father Christmas as he prepares for his busiest night of the year.

Youngsters at Festival Place will be transformed in the centre's Night Before Christmas event on

December 24.

As well as dressing up in elf costumes, the children will enjoy hot chocolate and other treats with Santa and a storytelling session.

Entry to one of the two sessions is by ticket only, and all the tickets have now sold out.

Anaesthetist hailed for Mercy Ships aid

By Lucy Clark

MERCY mission work by one of Basingstoke hospital's consultant anaesthetists has earned him a top honour.

Dr Keith Thomson has been presented with the Royal College of Anaesthetists' Jubilee Medal for his endeavours for the international charity Mercy Ships.

Mercy Ships is a Christian charity that provides health treatment on hospital ships around the world, including in Africa, South America, China, Caribbean islands and South Korea.

His work for the charity has taken him to the West African countries regularly since 1990.

Dr Thomson frequently takes his medical expertise to the Mercy Ship Anastasis - a converted ocean liner that is used as a base for surgical, medical and community development aid for West Africa.

He first volunteered as part of a working holiday in 1990, when he helped to provide anaesthetics for patients requiring surgery on their faces, called maxillofacial surgery.

Mary Edwards, chief executive at Basingstoke hospital, said: "Dr Keith Thomson is an outstanding consultant who has worked tirelessly for the last 15 years for Mercy Ships.

"The charity has benefited from his work as an anaesthetist, fundraiser and ambassador and is now, with the commissioning of a new ship equipped with six operating theatres, a very significant influence on the fragile health systems of



● Dr Keith Thomson (left) is presented with his medal by Dr Peter Simpson

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West Africa.

"This award of the Jubilee Medal demonstrates the admiration which the Royal College of Anaesthetists has for Keith's work at home and in the developing world."

Dr Thomson has worked as an obstetric, or childbirth, anaesthetist at Basingstoke hospital since 1995. The Jubilee Medal was presented to him by Dr Peter Simpson, president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

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Christmas shopping

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVERY THURSDAY FROM 17 NOVEMBER TO 9PM			17 NOV 9-9	18 NOV 9-8	19 NOV 9-6	20 NOV 11-5
21 NOV 9-8	22 NOV 9-8	23 NOV 9-8	24 NOV 9-9	25 NOV 9-8	26 NOV 9-6	27 NOV 11-5
28 NOV 9-8	29 NOV 9-8	30 NOV 9-8	1 DEC 9-9	2 DEC 9-8	3 DEC 9-7	4 DEC 11-5
5 DEC 9-9	6 DEC 9-9	7 DEC 9-9	8 DEC 9-9	9 DEC 9-9	10 DEC 9-7	11 DEC 11-5
12 DEC 9-9	13 DEC 9-9	14 DEC 9-9	15 DEC 9-9	16 DEC 9-9	17 DEC 9-7	18 DEC 11-5
19 DEC 9-9	20 DEC 9-9	21 DEC 9-9	22 DEC 9-9	23 DEC 9-9	24 DEC 8-4	25 DEC CLOSED
26 DEC 10-6	27 DEC 10-6	28 DEC 9-8	29 DEC 9-8	30 DEC 9-8	31 DEC 9-4	1 JAN 11-5
2 JAN 10-6	NORMAL TRADING HOURS				SHOPS OPEN AT 10AM FOR BROWSING	

Individual store hours may differ, please check with retailer.

FESTIVAL PLACE
BASINGSTOKE
www.festivalplace.co.uk

OPEN
Boxing Day 26 December & New Years Day 1 January

Minutes off junction 6 M3 and follow signs for the town centre