

THE Rabbiter



Issue 296 March 2023

All the regular features plus

- **LOCAL HISTORY SNIPPETS** **NEW**
- **PETS' CORNER** **NEW**
- **DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY**

and much more

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THE Rabbiter

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EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the March edition of your Rabbiter Community newspaper. The cover photo appropriately features beautiful snowdrops and it's wonderful to see the spring flowers starting to appear all around the area. We are always happy to receive photos taken locally and with so many wonderful walks and so much nature to enjoy there is plenty of scope for creativity; editor@therabbiter.biz

There's a strong volunteering theme to many of the contributions this month. For anyone with just a little spare time there are so many opportunities to give back to the community. Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group would welcome new faces to their work parties, see page 9. Our wonderful community centres always need help providing the many amazing events they run all year; see page 12. And if you'd like to raise money for a good cause while taking a walk in beautiful countryside, Cruse Bereavement Support are organising a fund raising walk from Café in the Park on March 12th, see page 21.

There are plenty of regular features this month to enjoy and we have introduced some new items as well. On Page ten we have our pets corner beginning with my own three pets. Please let us have your photos and descriptions of your favourite animal friends. It doesn't have to be just cats and dogs; snakes, hamsters, rabbits etc are all welcome. Please send your photos to editor@therabbiter.biz

We also have a new history snippets column on page fourteen. We are very lucky to live in an area that has so much to tell us about the past. If you have any local snippets or would like to know more about the history of a local landmark please get in touch at editor@therabbiter.biz

We are always happy to receive contributions from local groups, please contact the editor if you have any updates or news.

As one of the new committee members for the Rabbiter I've been asked to introduce myself. I'm Terri Reid and have lived in Hatch Warren for around thirty years. I've served on various local committees over this time and was a Borough Councillor here from 2010 until I stood down in 2021. I run a small business which provides history based talks and performances and in my spare time enjoy spending time with my family and my pets; reading; writing; photography; nature and crafts.

Editor

We need helpers to distribute the Rabbiter. This takes about half an hour a month. Sadly we can't offer any financial reward save the satisfaction of helping our community. The following round need a deliverer:

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CGHB PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

CGHB News

The crisis caused by Strep A and flu has now eased somewhat, allowing CGHB to deal with the backlog of routine appointments. Any patients who have delayed making an appointment because of the crisis, should now get in touch. DriQ referrals should now be picked up, and patients contacted. Staff sickness has had an impact on running the surgeries over the past few weeks, and this has not been helped by a staffing recruitment shortage. Operose continue to endeavour to fill any vacancies as soon as possible to ensure full and proper patient care. There is now a lead receptionist in each of the four surgeries. Call wait times have, to some extent, started to reduce, although these are still averaging 20 minutes.

PPG News

Monthly PPG Management meetings with CGHB will continue for the foreseeable future. These meetings enable the PPG to concentrate efforts on issues that affect patient care, and to obtain up-to-date information on subjects raised. Any unresolved issues are carried over to the next meetings. If you wish to contact us on any areas of concern, please see details above. The PPG remains open

to new members. Please contact us on the above email if you are interested in joining us.

Items of Interest/Information

Everyone knows someone touched by Cancer. Brookvale Community Association are offering free hospitality, sessions, presentations and shared experiences events at Brookvale Village Hall, RG21 7RP. Bookings for March dates must be received by Tuesday, 28th February. Any missing the deadline will be waitlisted for April meetings. Book via Malcolm@Brookvale.org.uk for Saturday, March 11th : 1030 – 1200 (women only), Wednesday, March 15th : 1900 – 2100 (men and women), Thursday, March 16th : 1030 – 1200 (men only). Any information shared on emails will remain confidential, and anonymized for reporting purposes to funders.

Supermarket Vouchers for Unpaid Carers:

Are you looking after, or supporting, a relative, friend or neighbour, who relies on your help to enable them to live their lives? Hampshire County Council have allocated funding to supply supermarket vouchers to unpaid carers who are providing support to someone living in the HCC area. Full information can be found at: <https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/news>

Neighbour Care Basingstoke: This is a registered charity providing accompanied

transport to hospital, doctor and other medical appointments, and to shops, clubs and more. It also offers a befriending service, matching befrienders to people who are isolated, who will visit them on a regular basis. These two services are offered to those in genuine need in our community, mainly elderly and frail people, and those unable to get out by themselves, thereby enabling people to stay independent and remain in their own homes for longer. Call them on : 01256 423855 to speak to a coordinator, or email at : info@neighbourcare.com

Walk-in Health Hubs: offering blood pressure checks, Covid and flu vaccinations, plus information and advice to promote healthy lifestyle and wellbeing, these can be found at Oakridge Hall for All, RG21 5AG on 17th February, 0930 – 1430, and at Sycamore Halls, RG23 8AB on 23rd February, 0930 – 1430.

The Health Hub in Festival Place, Basingstoke Town Centre, continues to offer free blood pressure checks, NHS Health Checks, Covid and flu vaccinations, Antenatal and Post Natal clinics (contact your health visitor for more information), health and well-being advice, and group consultations with a local GP team on the menopause (book these by calling 0333 332 0855)

Caroline Atkinson



FEBRUARY REPORT

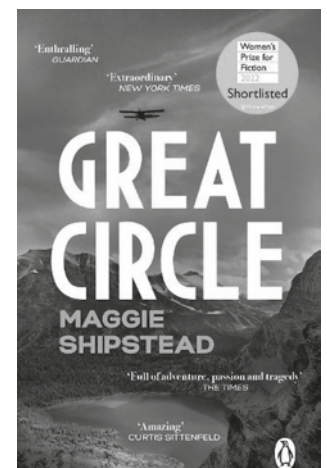
This month's book choice was 'The Paper Palace' by Miranda Cowley Heller. This love triangle novel is set over 24 hours with flashbacks to the past. Elle has gone with her family to their summer home in Cape Cod where they spend their time swimming and fishing. Elle is hiding a secret, one which will cause her to have to make a life changing decision. As her past life is revealed we can begin to understand how very unpleasant events had shaped her character.

Despite this book having great reviews we guessed it would

greatly divide opinions, raise lively debate and it did. There were very graphic descriptions of the crumbling palace house and lake and tales of child abuse and incest. Some of us found it a difficult read whilst others loved it. As a result it scored 5.5 out of 10.

Next month's title is The Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead. This is the story of Marian Graves a fearless aviator who sets out to circumnavigate the globe and the film star who plays her on screen sixty years later.

Read along with us, follow us on Facebook or better still join us in the Cafe in the Park for coffee, cake and lots of lively book chat.



Phillips Law

COMMERCIAL LANDLORDS, ARE YOU READY FOR THE APRIL 2023 MEES DEADLINE?

Clare Strachan & Sam Alvis



A recap on MEES

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) were established by The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) Regulations 2015 as part of the Government's strategy to reduce carbon emissions in the UK. MEES aim to help the Government achieve their goal that, by 2030, all commercial properties will have a minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of B.

What happens from 1 April 2023?

From 1 April 2023, MEES will require all commercial properties to have an EPC rating of E or above. For now, Landlords have only had to comply with this requirement on the grant of a new lease. However, from 1 April 2023, it will be unlawful for a landlord to let a commercial property if it has an EPC rating which is below an E, regardless of whether the lease is a new lease, a lease renewal, or an existing lease.

A landlord can be issued a fine ranging from £5,000 up to £150,000 and face other penalties if it is found to grant a new lease or, from 1 April 2023, if it continues to let a commercial property that has an EPC rating lower than the minimum required E rating.

Are there any exemptions?

Landlords can register a permitted exemption on the PRS Exemption Register to enable them to remain compliant with MEES requirements.

All exemptions can be found and registered at <https://prsregister.beis.gov.uk>.

Registered exemptions are linked to the landlord who has registered it and that exemption does not stay with the property. If a new landlord acquires a property which had an exemption registered, they will not benefit from that exemption and will need to re-register it.

Exemptions last for 5 years, apart from the exemption for recently becoming a landlord which is only valid for 6 months.

What action should you be taking?

All landlords of commercial properties should consider their portfolio and take action to ensure that the EPC rating of any commercial property that they currently let or intend to let from 1 April 2023 has an EPC rating of E or above. Otherwise, they should apply to register an exemption before this deadline (if they are eligible for one).

Any checks or remedial works required to ensure the minimum EPC rating of an E can be achieved should be carried out ahead of this approaching deadline.

Landlords should consider any impact this may have on their tenants and should liaise with their tenants regarding any required improvement works. They should also consider whether their tenants should contribute to the cost of any such improvement works if their lease allows.

For advice on this subject or any commercial real estate matters please contact Clare Strachan on 01256854674 or clare.strachan@phillips-law.co.uk

COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

I am happy to inform that the work which was holding the adoption of the outstanding areas of Beggarwood has been completed. I have been working for years with my colleagues especially county Cllr Stephen Reid to get that completed. I hope that the adoption panel will now act and adopt it for the people of Beggarwood. Cllr Reid is actively looking into it and he has my full support. I hope this will be resolved and completed very soon.

On a second matter I would plead with those who are littering Broadmere Road with shopping baskets to stop as this could be dangerous to pedestrians and children.

Best Regards

Cllr Dan Putty JP

WHATEVER THE WEATHER, SPEND THE DAY DOING SOMETHING NEW AT BASINGSTOKE LEISURE PARK

Head to Basingstoke Leisure Park this Easter and enjoy a day of excitement with family and friends.

Stroll the cobbled streets exploring shops and vehicles of yesteryear at **Milestones Museum**. Dive into three pools at **Basingstoke Aquadrome**, including the Lagoon Pool featuring rapids, flumes, and water features.

Settle in for a film at the **Odeon** cinema, wrap up warm for ice skating at **Planet Ice**, bowl a few frames at **Hollywood Bowl Basingstoke** or try for a hole in one at **Knights Realm Adventure Golf**. Thrill seekers will love **iFLY Indoor Skydiving**.

Many of the venues serve food and drink but you will also find McDonalds, KFC and The Spruce Goose if you want a bite to eat. There is ample free parking.

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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

NURSERY PLANNING APPLICATION: Blueberry Enterprises Ltd has applied for planning permission to build a nursery on the Island Site, near to the Holly Blue. This is an expected application on the land where a new dental surgery was originally intended. The proposed building is in red brick with a grey roof and contains a reception entrance, classrooms on the ground and first floors, administration areas, a balcony area to the rear of the development overlooking the ground floor garden and an external play area. Full details are available on the Borough Council web site, reference 23/00236/FUL

BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL is considering joining the South Farnham Education Trust - an academy chain. Head teacher Chris Edwards sees potential benefits as the school could establish itself as a leading centre for training teachers and offer enhanced career progression to its existing staff. In Hampshire over half of secondary schools have converted to academy status.

PHONE MAST IN WOODBURY ROAD: Having objected, I am delighted that the planning application for a phone mast on the pavement in Woodbury Road, by Wood Close, has been refused by the Borough's Officers. I have received a reply from the Chief Executive regarding my suggestion of a policy in the local plan to make it clear that the use of pavements for such equipment will be resisted. At present he is disinclined to pursue this line, so I feel further discussion is needed.

ROADS IN THE AREA: I attended a meeting aimed at briefing the local parish councils about future roads plans for the West of Basingstoke. It discussed issues such as the potential changes to Junction 7 and Junction 8 of the M3, and touched on potential initiatives such as a Mass Rapid Transit link. My feeling was that the Highways officers are having to consider ideas before knowing the Borough Council's precise intentions for the area, which is why I believe the Borough needs to produce a detailed plan.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER: the operators are undertaking a major programme of improvements designed to eliminate (or at least reduce) odour leakage. The work is taking longer than expected, so the February Liaison Panel meeting was postponed. The meeting will be rescheduled for a date after the works have finished, and then local residents and monitors will be able to judge whether the work has been successful.

BUDGET DECISIONS: Hampshire County Council's spending plans for 2023/24 will have been considered by the time this magazine is published. The proposed budget totals £2.6bn and covers hundreds of services delivered by the authority to its 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults. The capital budget proposals will also be considered, with building and infrastructure projects totalling £645.3m over the next three years. These include the planned new primary school at Hounsme Fields. The impact of the budget is expected to be a 5% increase in Council Tax. The Borough Council is deciding its budget at the same time and is expected to be freezing its Council Tax for next year.

COUNTY DEAL: The County Council has put forward proposals for local government devolution in what is called a Pan-Hampshire County Deal. This would see the creation of a directly elected Mayor to whom powers would be devolved from central government. The Government has received Hampshire's ideas positively and the next stage is for its officials to meet with County and unitary authorities to explore how the proposals might be taken forward. The proposals can be seen at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s100275/Pan-Hampshire%20Deal%20Prospectus%202022.pdf>. I have asked that the interests of the Districts and Boroughs be protected and

that ways be identified to flow some of the devolved funding into Hampshire County Council.

POTHoles AND ROAD MAINTENANCE: I have raised at the County my feeling that utility companies are causing long-term issues on our roads by leaving them in a bad state after digging and refilling trenches. I observe that we have many 'strings' of potholes that have formed along the sides of trenches where gaps were left for rain to get in and freeze. Regardless of the causes, there is no denying that the state of our roads is a concern, and the Highways team is working flat out to address the problems. The number to call in an emergency is **0300 555 1388** (0830-1700) Monday to Friday, or outside officer hours, **101**.

DOCTORS' SURGERIES: The Patient Participation Group at Camrose, Gilles, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries believes that the crisis caused by Strep A and flu is easing, allowing the surgeries to address the backlog of routine appointments that has built up. Patients who have delayed making appointments should now get in touch. DrIQ referrals should now be picked up and patients contacted. The surgeries are experiencing staff shortages caused by sickness and difficulty in recruitment and Operose are trying to fill them as quickly as possible. There is now a lead receptionist in each of the four surgeries, Operose report that call wait times are reducing although they are still averaging 20 minutes. I have been asking for figures on how many medical positions there are at the surgeries and how many are filled, but have not yet been given the information.

THE WARREN at the Community Centre is raising £1,200 to keep its operations going. They report having raised £920 which is great progress and are looking for the final donations to jump the last hurdle and reach their target. The Warren provides a free Youth facility for 10-17 year olds in Hatch Warren, Beggarwood and Kempshott. They want to continue to offer a warm, safe place for our young people and a variety of sport and art-based facilities. I intend to offer them some of my Councillor devolved budget.

OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP: With the weather turning more compatible with outdoor working, the wildlife group is hoping to rejuvenate its working parties. For Old Down they meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!) and for Beggarwood at the Café in the Park on the first Tuesday of the month 9-12noon. They will welcome new faces for the important work that they do. Check the website for further information and their Facebook page.

CORONATION BIG LUNCH: are you thinking of organising a Coronation Big Lunch street party on Sunday 7 May? You can now sign up for a free event pack full of ideas to make your local celebration one to remember. If you'd like to close off your road to traffic during your celebrations, make sure you apply to the Borough Council for a temporary road closure licence as soon as you can. The event pack can be found at <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch>

BLOOR HOMES are advertising the first homes for sale in their new development on the golf course. Work is currently under way completing the second access to the site (the main one will be off the new roundabout).

BLOG: for more details about these issues, and others, you may like to visit my blog at <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor. Basingstoke South West 07976 310206



OLD DOWN & BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

Sorry to keep on – but another reminder about the Group's AGM which is to be held on Thursday 27 April – starting at 8 pm at Old Down Hall. In the last report the start time given was 7pm – but because of bookings in the hall it has to be 8pm. Please do come along to join us (we will be there from 7:45). There will be up-dates on what is happening or has happened on the two sites, a chance to natter, a presentation of local wildlife photos and refreshments (with homemade cakes!).

The work party on Old Down has been clearing along the tumulus in the hope that

this will encourage wildflowers to grow up. They were being overwhelmed by bramble and grasses. We are very careful not to cut, clear and rake too close to the ground as many insect pupae will be overwintering in the earth.

It is mid-February and the early spring flowers are showing – like *lesser celandine*, *snowdrop* and *crocus*. Even a few bees have been spotted and the odd butterfly such as *peacock* (which often hibernate over winter) and *brimstone*. Lifts the spirits to see these first signs of spring.

Work Parties: For Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every

Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!) and for Beggarwood at the café on the first Tuesday of the month 9-12noon. Please do come and join us. Check the website for further information. And please do look at the Group's Facebook page for interest.

<https://sites.google.com/site/olddownbeggarwoodwildlifegroup>
 Email: odandbwd@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/odandbwd



Café in the Park

PLEASE JOIN US

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10am – 2pm

Beggarwood Bookworms – 8th March. To enquire email office@hatchwarren.org

Community lunch 1st Wednesday every month

Free hot drink with 10 stars collected using our loyalty card

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Midweek deals - coffee and cake only £4

Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft – 10th March
 (call 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1st Wednesday every month

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For party bookings please visit:
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 seeing you soon!

HOT & COLD DRINKS



This month we feature pet photos from Terri Reid. Send your photos to editor@therabitter.biz and we will show as many as possible each month.



This is George, our big blue boy



This is his sister Tallulah, ginger and feisty



This is Teddy our Pomeranian, pretty much always smiling!

KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

Life in the sloe lane

When out on a walk early last month two of our group came across a patch of Blackthorn with the flowers budding up nicely.



A member of the plum family, Blackthorn is one of the earliest shrubs to blossom in spring. It is often confused with Hawthorn, even though they flower at different times. The way

to tell which one is which is straightforward. Blackthorn (pictured left) has white blossoms that appear first on bare black stems from early March through to April. Hawthorn (pictured right) can have a range of flower colours from white, pale pink through to red. The blossoms only appear after leaf burst in May.



The Latin name for Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) translates as "Spiky plum", and it certainly is spiky. These long spines can be put to good use in constructing hedgerows where the twigs interlock and provide a handy natural barrier to keep livestock secure.

Being an early flowerer, it provides a useful source of nectar for bees, such as masonry, mining and queen bumble bees. It is also used by a host of moths as a food plant for their eggs and caterpillars. These include the lackey, magpie, common emerald, swallow-tailed and yellow-tail moths.

In autumn, the Blackthorn produces the small dark blue or black plums called sloes from which sloe gin is made. These are eaten by the larger thrushes, such as the Mistle Thrush. Hawfinches can also tackle these fruits.

As a Conservation Group, we have mixed feelings about Blackthorn. It spreads by runners and, if unchecked, can get out of hand quickly. It is also very difficult to remove. Our best approach is to use "poppers" to remove as much of the stem and runner roots as possible. As this is best done when the ground is damp or even wet, we do this work in late winter or very early spring before nesting starts.

When walking on or around Down Grange keep a lookout for these attractive shrubs.

For more information about our activities on Down Grange Meadow, please call Marion Wolstencroft on (01256) 470171. Alternatively, send an email to kempshottconserve@tiscali.co.uk or visit us at www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

HATCH WARREN WI

Our February WI meeting was set aside for our Fish and Chip Supper pre-ordered from Oliver's in Old Basing.

After supper, we settled down to watch a slide show from one of our members who spent an amazing two years travelling around the world with her husband. In this part of her travelogue she told us all about her time in Columbia, South America and her slides showed us what a truly beautiful country it is.

Over the next few weeks our members will meet for coffee at Café in the Park and for lunch at the Dragonfly. Our Craft and Genealogy groups will also both meet later this month. Our next WI meeting will be on Thursday 2nd March when Sarah Delves, an expert on all things glamorous, will tell us about Bags of Glamour. Visitors are, as always, welcome and for more information please contact our President Shirley on 07979 217220.



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Checkatrade





We are a registered charity run by volunteers - working to make Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live!



Event Volunteers Required

Did you know, you can become a member of the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association, and receive discounts on hall hire and guaranteed, reduced price fireworks tickets?

Membership costs £10 per year, per household.

Sign up to be an **EVENT VOLUNTEER NOW** for **FREE** membership

You can gain charity experience, learn new skills and become part of an exciting, caring, friendly community that makes a real difference.

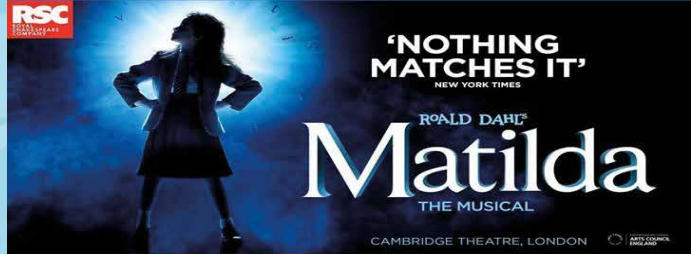
To host our fundraising events, we **NEED** event volunteers, otherwise valuable community services, ongoing sustainability of the centre and the following events may be cancelled;

- Quiz nights at Cafe in the Park
- Lager Festival
- Summer Festival
- Fireworks Extravaganza
- Christmas Market with Father Christmas
- Coach Chaperone for our London theatre trips

To sign up TODAY, please email office@hatchwarren.org or call 01256 811262



HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP TO MATILDA THE MUSICAL



20TH April 7.30PM

Cambridge Theatre, LONDON

Good Stall Seats

Tickets cost £69.50 per person

(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)

Coach will depart at 4.30pm from our car park

This trip is open to all members of the public

Tickets are non refundable

To book your place email OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG or call 01256 811262

Event supported by Scott Morland Bespoke Estate Agent



40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead

This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity number 1161117

Dates for the diary AGM - 7th June and Summer Festival - 15th July

Hatch Warren Community Centre

LAGER Festival

Prosecco,
Wine, Ale &
Cider too!!

Hot Food
by El Bigote
- Mexican
Street Food

Saturday
17th June
7-11pm

Tickets
£6
£3 members
(on production of
valid card and
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To book
tickets see
our website



Event supported by Scott Morland Bespoke Estate Agent



www.hatchwarren.org / 01256 811262

This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity No 1161117. Tickets non-refundable

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP TO WE WILL ROCK YOU BY QUEEN AND BEN ELTON



QUEEN BY AND Ben Elton

THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN

FROM 2 JUNE 2023 - 12 WEEKS ONLY | LONDON COLISEUM

13TH JULY 7.30PM

London Coliseum, LONDON

Dress Circle Seats

Tickets cost £69.50 per person

(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)

Coach will depart at 4.30pm from our car park

This trip is open to all members of the public

Tickets are non refundable

To book your place email OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG or call 01256 811262

Event supported by Scott Morland Bespoke Estate Agent



40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead

This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity number 1161117

Registered Charity Number 1161117

find us on | facebook

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Tel: 01256 811262
Email: office@hatchwarren.org
Web: www.hatchwarren.org
Following us on Twitter @hatchwarren



Children & Young People's support lines
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 Young Minds text service – 85258

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Qualified Staff / Extensive Free Holiday Programmes /Tel: 842111 / Email: emily@hatchwarren.org
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The Warren is open! Booking is essential!

Activities Schedule: Fridays 6pm -7.45 pm, years 6, 7 &

3 rd March	Capture the flag, Spring Craft and chicken nuggets
10 th March	Football, Hamma beads and coke floats.
17 th March	Dodgeball, Mother's Day cards and cake decorating.
24 th March	Air Hockey competition, Make your own dreamcatcher and hotdogs.
31 st March	End of term party!

What have we been up too..... So February kicked us off with tattoos, Valentine's craft, biscuit decorating and a pool competition. All our activities were popular and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We are excited to have a new member of staff join us, Collette. She is looking forward to organising more sports-based activities for our young people and will be a great asset to the team.

Our sessions are still very popular and booking out quickly. Bookings are every Wednesday evening at 6pm via our Warren Facebook page. Don't miss out!

We are very excited to be opening for additional nights in the Easter Holidays. We will be open April 6th, 11th and 14th. We are closed for Good Friday on April 7th. More information coming soon!



The club have continued with the Cookery Confidence course at BCOT. Several students have enjoyed making Chocolate cake, soups and Bolognese amongst some of the lovely dishes they have prepared.

Our football coach has been with us when we are at Hatch Warren Youth Club and it has become a very important part of the club for many members. It will be lovely when we can play in the light on the field in the summer,

Date for March.

13th Spruce Goose

20th Hatch Warren Youth Club

27th Portsmouth Arms



Older Sessions

Don't forget if you're in year 9 or above we are open 8pm-9.30pm every Friday! If you want to play pool, air hockey, X-Box or just want somewhere to hang out come on down. The older session also receives FREE food and hot drinks.

Our youth workers are trained to be able to offer relationship and sex advice to our older session attendants.

For the latest info please keep an eye on our Facebook page or Email our Youth Manager at Emily@hatchwarren.org



LOCAL HISTORY SNIPPETS

JANE AUSTEN AND THE PRINCE OF WALES AT KEMPSHOTT PARK

From her home at nearby Steventon Jane Austen would have been a regular visitor to many of the local large houses and she was on friendly terms with many local families. Kempshott Park with its large mansion and extensive parklands would have been very familiar to her. It had been leased at one time by the then Prince of Wales, later George IV. He had taken it as a country retreat, and stayed there first with his companion Mrs Fitzherbert, and then as a honeymoon home with his new wife Princess Caroline.



After the Prince relinquished the lease the estate was taken by Guy Carleton, first Baron Dorchester and Governor General of British North America. Jane Austen was a visitor to the house, attending balls and parties. In January 1799 she wrote:

'I wore my green shoes last night, and took my white fan with me... I spent a very pleasant evening, chiefly among the Manydown party. There was the same kind of supper as last year, and the same want of chairs. There were more dancers than the room could conveniently hold, which is enough to constitute a good ball at any time'

The most part of Kempshott Park was demolished in the mid 1960s, with the coming



of the M3. Some of the parklands remained, mainly contained within Basingstoke Golf Club on the A30, which is now being turned into a large housing estate.

Acknowledgments

Claire Tomalin, *Jane Austen A Life*
 Christopher Golding, *Kempshott Park A Princes Retreat*
<https://kempshottmanor.net/index.php>
 Hampshire Gardens Trust, *Kempshott Park*
<http://research.hgt.org.uk/item/kempshott-park/>

If you have any interesting stories/history about local places, or if there is somewhere or someone you would like to hear about – please get in touch editor@therabbiter.biz

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ANVIL ARTS

Basingstoke – March 2023
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I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE: THE PARTY

based on the picture book by Steven Lee
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Suitable for ages 2 and over



A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

Sun 12 Mar, 7.30pm The Haymarket
Tickets: £19. Under 25s and f/t students
£14 (includes £4 booking fee)

ROACHFORD

with support - Acantha Lang
Wed 15 Mar, 7.45pm The Haymarket
Tickets: £25 (includes £4 booking fee)



KATE MOSSE OBE: WARRIOR QUEENS & QUIET REVOLUTIONARIES

How Women (Also) Built the World
Fri 17 Mar, 7.30pm The Haymarket
Tickets: £30 (includes £4 booking fee)

IOCC'S GRAHAM GOULDMAN

Heart Full of Songs
Sat 18 Mar, 7.30pm The Haymarket
Tickets: £34 (includes £4 booking fee)

PRUE LEITH NOTHING IN MODERATION

Thu 23 Mar, 7.30pm
The Anvil
Tickets: £35, £29
(includes £4 booking fee)
Suitable for ages 12 and over



SWEDISH PHILHARMONIA

Sat 25 Mar, 7.45pm The Anvil
Tickets: £42, £38, £31, £24, £16. Under
25s & f/t students £12 (includes £4
booking fee)

JUMPING THE SHARK

A New Comedy by David Cantor and
Michael Kingsbury
Tue 28 Mar – Sat 1 Apr The Haymarket
Tickets: £33. Under 25s and f/t students
£10 off (includes £4 booking fee)

FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR A YEAR !

Come to one of our Open Days to find out more

Saturday, 22nd April 2023

Saturday, 20th May 2023

- . Bowls Taster session
2pm to 6pm
- . No Experience needed
- . All Equipment provided (just wear a flat pair of shoes)
- . Free Entry and Free Parking
- . Refreshments Available



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Russell Howard Park RG22 6PT www.thornycroftbowlsclub.co.uk



HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

It has been a busy month at Hatch Warren Under Fives; this half term has flown by!

For Chinese New Year we turned our role-play area into a Chinese restaurant and tasted lots of different Chinese foods and the children tried eating with chopsticks. Valentines week all about crafts and card making and the children also made love heart jam sandwiches for snack time during the week.

As always there has been plenty of time outdoors and we have been collecting lots of natural outdoor resources with the children to use for arts and crafts in preschool. We are also keeping an eye on our spring bulbs in the garden and getting very muddy in the mud kitchen. Our science experiment on floating and sinking was very popular and it kept the children busy finding their own resources to test the floating and sinking theory. We have also introduced a new game of sound bingo where the children use their listening skills to guess the sounds.

Over the last week we have been enjoying lots of activities based around our book of the week "Supertato". The children made superheroes from potatoes, they made superhero masks, painted and printed with vegetables and they cut potatoes up into chips, which aids the development of fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The next book of the week, as voted by the children, will be "Peppa Pig".

We enjoy sharing our love of books with the children, so we always love World Book Day in March. We are planning a wonderful week celebrating our favourite books and will be encouraging the children to get involved with lots of fabulous stories throughout the week. We will also be celebrating Pancake Day, St David's Day and St Patrick's Day, and of course we will be making some special treats for Mother's Day.

We are continuing with our small group work each week with Write Dance, a super fun session and a fantastic way to

build motor skills and introduce writing skills; we are having fun with our science experiments, dough gym, mindfulness sessions, yoga and makaton signing.

To enquire about a preschool place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact us on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

We also manage another lovely preschool, Kempshott Under Fives, located a short distance away at St. Mark's Church in Kempshott.

Read more about our preschools at www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

We have been exploring the Lunar New Year with some research online, incorporating some traditional lion and dragon dancing, tasting new foods at snack, role playing the Zodiac story and exploring Chinese writing. Our noodle sensory experience were a great way for the little ones to practice using tweezers or chop sticks to pick up objects and numbers!

There is always such enthusiasm for our afternoon exercise sessions and the children are practicing a lot of different ways to move their bodies. We have been implementing extra playdough gym sessions to help gross and fine motor skill development. Playdough is very mindful, a great stress reliever, fantastic for developing scissor cutting skills and pre-writing strength in little hands.

The little ones have had so much fun re-enacting The Three Little Pigs, repeating the key phrases with great expression, pretending to build houses, running away from the wolf and lots of laughter as the wolf fell into the soup and ran off never to be seen again.

Lisa Collisson

Pre-School Head, Tel: 01256-389008
www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/

DANDELIONS

Just before half-term, we were lucky enough to get a visit from 2 PCSOs and a detective from Hampshire Police Constabulary.

The children had a great time having a look around the police van. The main highlight was finding the button to make the siren go off; this was definitely a firm favourite. We had lots of opportunity to ask questions

and find out "where are the baddies?" Since then, there has been lots of role play based on catching baddies and putting them in jail. We have more visits yet to come from people who help us in the community.



To celebrate Valentine's Day, we spoke about all the people who were special to us and why they were so special. It is lovely to hear comments such as "she/he gives me cuddles" and of course "they buy me sweets".

We will be celebrating Mother's Day, where the children will get to celebrate that important person in their life. Mummies or the special person the children wish to celebrate it with, have been invited in for a little treat. We cannot share too much on this, as we do not want to spoil the fun for any of our families reading this.

Using the children's interests in Dinosaurs, we used this as a great opportunity to enhance on mark-making skills. The dinosaurs were dipped in paint and stomped across the paperwork, leaving a trail of footprints behind them. This activity was great to build on maths skills; counting the footprints and talking about which was the largest and smallest footprints.



As we get near to the end of term, the children will all take part in our Easter egg hunt, with each child taking home an Easter goodie bag which has kindly been donated by our committee. We will also be introducing the children to our new planting area.

Dandelions is a charity run pre-school and we are currently looking for someone to help us with some IT work we need doing. If anyone is able to help or can recommend a local person/company, please do let us know on the contact details below.

We have been overwhelmed recently by the number of enquiries and registrations we have received. Our sessions for September 2023, are very nearly full. If you are considering Dandelions for your child's early years, please do contact us as soon as possible. Tel No: 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

With the year well underway and already flying past us, the children have been busy making, playing and learning.

At the end of January, we learnt more about and celebrated the Chinese New Year, including a Cuckoo Meadow Chinese Takeaway where the children played with making the food, taking the money or just eating the pretend goodies. We also used this time to look at the story of why each year was named with a new animal and how this year is the year of the rabbit. We then went on to make our own rabbits.

We started February with the Rainbow Fish story, where the children all created Rainbow fish with their shiny scales as well as really making the most of what they are learning to thread cheerio fish and sewing starfish for an under the sea collage.

There has been some great news and some very excited children as we were lucky enough to receive a grant for some outdoor learning kit and training so there is lots of new activities coming that the children are already very excited for.

Bag 2 School

Thank you for all of the support from those who managed to bring along some unwanted clothes and other no longer required items from home. We managed to raise £88 which is great news.

To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172

DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY

The Malls, Basingstoke Town Centre
Friday 28th April 2023.

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF) is a local charity Basingstoke Deane Rotary are happy to support and showcase what BDDF are doing to help disabled people, their families and carers in the locality. At their Awareness Day there will be information about support groups, activities and services available locally that are supporting a range of disabilities for both children and adults.

BDDF are also looking for volunteers so please get in touch if you can help office@bddf.org.uk or call 01256 423869.

PROBUS HEARS ABOUT THE PORTHOLE MURDER

The speaker at the latest meeting of the Probus Club of Basingstoke, Paul Stickler, is a retired detective, an FBI graduate, with degrees in history and criminology and is working towards a PhD in history. He is well qualified to investigate cold cases such as he described – the Porthole Murder:

This was about a young woman aged 21 called Gay Gibson. She was called Gay because she was always happy. She had been discharged from the ATS after the war with medical advice not to travel in the tropics as an ear infection would be problematic. Headstrong as she was, she immediately joined her parents in Durban, South Africa where her father had been transferred with his job. Becoming bored she moved to Johannesburg as a secretary and then had ideas about becoming an actress. Moving to Cape Town she became involved in the theatrical world proving to have abilities in the acting scene.

Again, expressing boredom, she decided to return to England to develop her acting career. In 1947 she sailed first class on the Union Star line MV Durban Castle non-stop from Cape Town to Southampton. On the voyage she vanished without a trace.

What was discovered showed that she had formed a relationship with 31 years old James Camb, a First Class deck steward. He initially denied any form of contact but then, following proof that his palmprint had been found on the inside of her cabin door, admitted Gay Gibson had died while they were in bed together.

He had panicked and managed to thrust her body through her cabin's porthole which was why she was never to be seen again. Whether she was dead was impossible to establish but in evidence at James Camb's trial, which attracted national newspaper headlines, he claimed she had gone rigid and was frothing at the mouth and blood had come from her nose. Such characteristics are seen if someone has been strangled.

Some fellow actors had witnessed similar medical episodes during rehearsals in Cape Town when Gay Gibson had fainted, going rigid, frothing at the mouth and her lips turning blue. Crucially, all did not travel from South Africa for the trial. One was Doreen Mantle, who became well known as the character Mrs Warboys in the television series *One Foot in the Grave*. She shared a dressing room with Gay Gibson in the weeks prior to the sailing and



witnessed similar medical episodes but was persuaded by her father not to get involved with the case. In contradictory evidence, believed by the jury, her mother claimed she was a well brought up English young woman without any known medical conditions. And yet her fellow actors knew that she was a party girl and there was some suspicion that she was pregnant.

At the Hampshire Assizes, held in the Great Hall, Winchester, the jury took only forty minutes to find James Camb guilty of her murder and he was duly sentenced to hang. He avoided capital punishment because a no-hanging bill was being discussed by parliament. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Reacting to the news, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said; "The House of Commons, by its vote, saved the life of the brutal lascivious murderer who thrust the poor girl he had raped and assaulted through a porthole of the ship to the sharks."

What emerged was that James Camb had tried to become involved with a sixteen and eighteen-year old girls on the same voyage but this was not used at the trial as this was before Gay Gibson vanished.

James Camb was released from prison in 1959 but was later convicted of other sexual offences and spent his remaining years behind bars.

The audience were left to come to their own conclusions about the case. But the charge could have been one of manslaughter rather than murder if the true medical condition was able to be established that Gay Gibson died from natural causes. But without the body there could be no autopsy to establish the actual cause of death.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke

RABBITER CONTACTS:

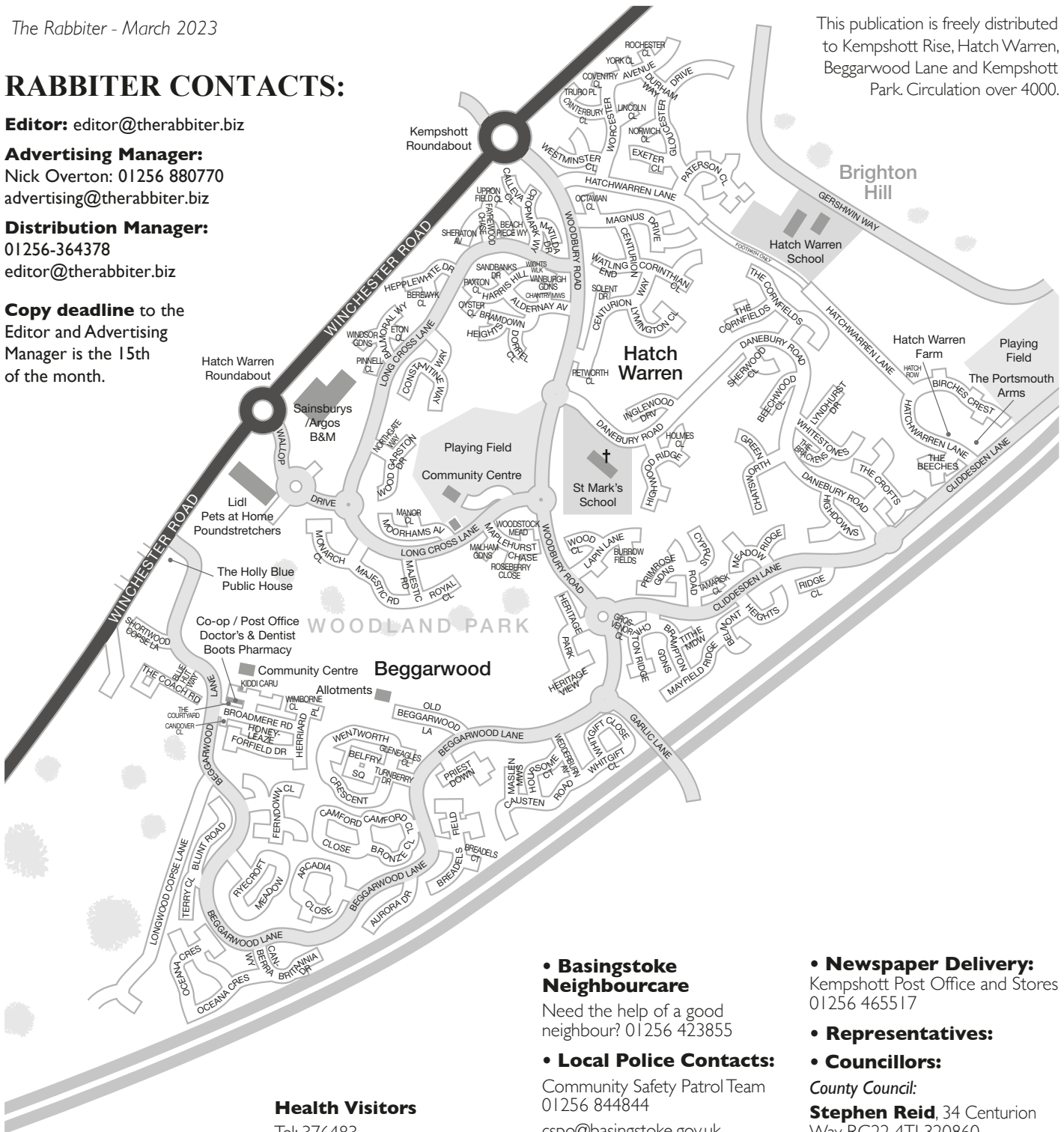
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Acorn Health Partnership
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Broadmere Road Surgery
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(answermessage when closed)

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0900-1800 Sat/Sun closed
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Health Visitors
Tel: 376483

Child Health Clinic
The Community Centre – every Wednesday 10.30 – noon.
All Welcome.

Dentist
Broadmere Road – Tel: 391391

• Library:
465102 – HCC mobile library every Tuesday evening St. Mark's CE primary school from 4.40pm to 6.40pm.

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Sat 0900-1500

• Basingstoke Neighbourcare
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• Local Police Contacts:
Community Safety Patrol Team
01256 844844
cspo@basinstoke.gov.uk
Hampshire Constabulary 101
Crimestoppers 0800 555111

• Churches:
Immanuel C of E Church (in St. Mark's School, Danebury Road)
10.00 a.m. every Sunday
All enquires to: 01256 351862
Hub Community Church
Every Sunday at The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU at 4pm
Contact Dan Wake or Margie Mendelsohn 01256 316010
connect@hubcommunitychurch.org
www.hubcommunitychurch.org

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cllr.samirkotecha@basinstoke.gov.uk
Dan Putty, 1 Gloucester Drive, RG22 4PH 356650
cllr.dan.putty@basinstoke.gov.uk

• Member of Parliament Hatch Warren:
Maria Miller
millerm@parliament.uk

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



There were 50 members and one visitor at the meeting held on 1st February when the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed everyone, gave apologies, and wished Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this month. He then gave an update about the forthcoming trips and reminded us that the AGM would be held at the next meeting followed by lunch at the Conservative Club. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then gave an update on various members who had been unwell and gave the sad news that Gordon Haywood had died.

The speaker this month was Mel Rees who gave a humorous talk titled ".....and another thing I meant to say....." This lighthearted talk was about life in the Rees household over the years starting with when he lived at home with his parents as an only child to more recent incidents including stories about his current dog Chris, formally known as Crystal, which he found at the Battersea Dogs Home in Windsor. He then went on to talk about his mother (now sadly deceased) and about the arrangements he and his wife had made for her prior to going on holiday and the difficulties encountered in doing this. The holiday itself was another humorous story which as you can imagine didn't quite go to plan. Mel had also brought along some copies of his books which were available to buy.

The next group outing is to the Houses of Parliament on Monday 20th March with the coach leaving Oakley at 7.15 and the Leisure Centre at 7.30. The price of the trip is £28 and £30 for nonmembers. On Thursday 27th April there is Afternoon Tea at BCOT which includes sandwiches, cakes and of course tea all for £11.

The next meeting will be on 1st March which will include the AGM and a talk by Able Care followed by lunch at the Conservative Club. At the April meeting on the 5th of the month the talk will be given by Jackie Dimmock titled "30 years in Hampshire Constabulary".

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the BrookVale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

Margaret Atkinson

Find a warm welcome at your local parish church...

Immanuel Church

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part of the Parish of Basingstoke Down

for info on services and events...

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Parish Office- 01256 840502
find us on Facebook!

THE PARISH OF BASINGSTOKE DOWN

••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• Things I've learned about myself... •

- About fifteen years ago I lived as part of an intentional community- just over one hundred of us, living together to support the running of a Christian retreat centre on the beautiful shores of North Devon.
- Together we looked after the large house where people stayed- we fed, entertained and cared for the guests, looked after their children and tended the estate. People often described their visits as 'a little piece of heaven'. I'm glad that they had a wonderful time- for many of them it was just what they needed.
- Being part of the community was not the same however- and certainly not 'heaven'. Living in such close proximity with each other was hard. Other people were annoying, and I soon discovered that I was annoying too. I learned a lot about myself during the five years I spent living as part of that community.
- As much as I would have preferred to only present the 'pleasing' aspect of myself, unfortunately people also saw me when I wasn't at my best. It wasn't always possible to hide my less attractive feelings- I snapped at people, I judged them, I sulked. It felt like a mirror was being held up to my hidden self and I couldn't avoid seeing all that was ugly about it.
- I think if I had stayed with just that knowledge of myself it wouldn't have been helpful. But I am glad that I saw how I could be... the dark as well as the light. Thankfully the community's regular rhythms of prayer and worship kept me balanced. Each day I was reminded that I was chosen by a loving God, and known by name- there was a good purpose for my life. The view of myself as a bit of a monster was just as distorted as the idea of myself as perfect. When I saw myself as God saw me, I realised that I was flawed, but loved... I was broken in places, but being transformed.
- I don't think you have to live as part of an intentional community to gain a deeper understanding of yourself! One of the gifts of the Christian calendar is the regular cycle of periods of reflection- Lent being just one of these great opportunities to do a bit of soul-searching.
- During Lent we are encouraged to face up to the less attractive parts of ourselves. When we see who we are at our worst and realise we can't fix ourselves, God offers us a way forward- a fresh start. It's that fresh start that Easter is about. Humanity at its worst took Jesus to the cross, but God had bigger plans. God's love made a new way for Jesus and for us. That new way offers us forgiveness and a clear vision of who we are and what we are here for. And with Jesus as both the author and the perfect guide on the way- mirroring his compassion and generosity we can't go too far wrong!
- If you want to know more about these things, do join us for services any Sunday or for any of our Easter events.

• **Revd. Nicola Such,**

• Vicar, Parish of Basingstoke Down



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GCSE MATHS TUTOR - Ingrid Berry (PGCE, QTS, DBS).

References available. Contact Ingrid.e.berry@gmail.com.

BACH'S MASS IN B MINOR

Basingstoke Choral Society continue to celebrate their 75th season with a performance of the finest of all choral works, Bach's *B minor Mass*. This setting of the Latin Mass is the greatest of Bach's achievements, and many would say the epitome of Western music.

We are joined by Croydon Philharmonic Choir and the Hanover Band to perform this musical extravaganza at The Anvil on Saturday 1st April at 7.30 pm. Our conductor is David Gibson, who has recently celebrated 40 years with Basingstoke Choral Society.

Don't miss this important event in the cultural life of the town!

Tickets begin at £15; discounts for under 16s and students.

anvilarts.org.uk Anvil Box Office: 01256 844 244

We're a friendly choir and are always delighted to welcome new members, so please come along to our rehearsals on Wednesday nights at The Vyne School. Check out our website www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk or follow our Facebook page.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY

As well as being one of my favourite months for seeing the seasons turn and new growth everywhere, March is when we celebrate International Women's Day. This year, with reports last week that childcare costs are set to soar another £1,000 per year, we're marking it by looking into childcare locally, and want to hear from residents on their fees. Already two-thirds of parents say they spend more on childcare than on their rent or mortgage.

The Gazette reported last year that the Beggarwood site initially earmarked for a new dentist may instead be a new childcare setting, much to local consternation. This, of course, is a risk of the sort of piecemeal development the area has seen so much of, which is the number one issue among people I speak to when out door-knocking. Both are vital infrastructure that must come from a proactive approach to development. Adequate dentistry provision is a must for public health, and the benefits of affordable childcare to the local economy are undeniable.

So please get in touch with your information and stories on childcare fees, availability, and related issues in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. This International Women's Day we hope to raise awareness and learn what can be done to assist local families.

You can find more information on this and all other campaigns on our YouTube channel on bit.ly/wepbasingstoke, or sign up to my Hatch Warren & Beggarwood newsletter on the QR code below for more information. I wish you and yours all the best this Spring.

Stacy Hart

Women's Equality Party Basingstoke Leader



See what's to come in 2023 with Basingstoke Concert Band

- Sat 15 Apr** Wind Band Association presents 'The Big Blow' (Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall, RG27 0EZ)
- Sat 22 Apr** Spring Concert - Sounds of Music (Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall, RG27 0EZ)
- Sun 28 May** Outdoor Concert (Eastbourne Bandstand, BN21 3AD)
- Sat 23 or 30 Sep** TBC - Annual Proms Concert (Sherfield Park Community Centre, RG27 0FP)
- Sun 10 Dec** Annual Christmas Concert (Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham, Basingstoke RG248LT)
- Sat 16 Dec** Carol Playing - Charity event (The Meadows, Camberley)

More details can be viewed at www.bcband.org.uk as well as purchasing on-line tickets



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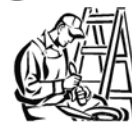
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Note: A portion of the proceeds will go towards the costs of our PSA (Prostate Testing) session - 11 March, URC, 20 London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU - <https://gfct.mypsatests.org.uk>
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 274337. WEBSITE WWW.BASINGSTOKELIONS.ORG.UK

Walk for Cruse Basingstoke



Sunday 12th March 2023

Meet at The Cafe In The Park,
Broadmere Road, Beggarwood, RG22 4AQ at 9.30 am

A special walk taking in beautiful local views and raising money to support bereaved people in Basingstoke.



Register to take part here:
Or call 07943 119305

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

CHINEHAM ARMS

Hanmore Road, Chineham RG24 8XA 01256 356404

We popped in for lunch at the beginning of the week to this Fullers pub which has an extensive menu. While studying the various menus I was most impressed by the Sunday offering, wondering how they could offer roast lunches at such a low price until I realised I was looking at the Children's menu.

There is a wide range of choices from children's through vegetarian and a wide selection for ordinary diners including pizzas. Dependent on which menu was studied then a different selection of desserts became visible.

Madam had chicken schnitzel with salad, and I had Hampshire beef lasagne with a salad garnish and chips. While my chips were excellent the lasagne was a little dry. Madam, though, was pleased with her choice. And when it came to dessert she was delighted that a mini brownie with ice cream and a flat white coffee was available while I had treacle tart, which was small for the price, and came with a scoop of ice cream – but without coffee.

Our drinks were our usuals on these lunches, a Peroni lager for me and a slimline tonic with ice and a slice for Madam. The cost of this meal was £50.80p which probably reflects the increasing price of food these days.

For some reason the Chineham Arms appears to avoid making it easy for disabled people to gain access. Although there is a dropped kerb from the car park the main entrance has a high step but at a side door a short steep ramp can be provided.

The Chineham Arms must be a popular venue as there is an extensive wooden construction which provides space for smokers and then continues under cover with several tables and chairs for diners, no doubt in great use during the summer.



Letter... to the editor

We have a good citizen about us.

There is a very kind lady who is often spotted walking around the park, outside the Co-op or along Broadmere Road picking up litter. It's sad that as a society when we're out, we still can't be bothered to put our rubbish in the bins provided or take it home for disposal, but if it wasn't for this caring individual, the area wouldn't be as tidy as it is. This lady deserves recognition for her efforts. Hopefully she'll read this and know she's appreciated.

Thank You.

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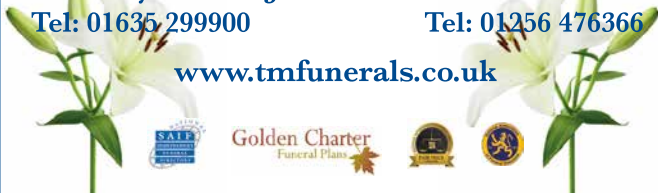
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