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EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the May edition of The Rabbiter.

We have had some amazing sunshine lately (and a bit of rain!?) so now is the time to get into the garden and start mowing and weeding!

Don't forget the lager festival is coming up in June and the Summer Festival in July but before then, we have the long awaited King's Coronation on **Saturday 6th May**. We are running a competition for all children up to 12 years. Just draw a picture of something you loved about the King and his big day and get them in an envelope to the Cafe in the Park before 15th May with your details (including age) on the back of the drawing. Good luck!

Pets Corner has been a huge success please keep sending your photos in! We love them all!

Don't forget our community lunch on the first Wednesday of each month — last month we were full to brimming. If you are a regular, bring a friend or someone who would really benefit from a meet up and a chat with some friendly faces.

Get fit for Summer? Why not try a walk? Well being walks are held regularly – log on to Facebook for details and check at the cafe for further information

The Rabbiter is a local free newspaper run by the local community for the local community, so if you feel that there is a new feature we should include, please let us know.

Editor





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CGHB PPG

Call Wait Times

We all know that this area needs improvement from Operose. Obviously, Monday mornings are always busy across all NHS surgeries and so we should expect delays then, but recent figures seen by the PPG seem to reflect that things are indeed improving with average wait times reducing to around 20 minutes. Nothing to be complacent about, but a definite improvement. We continue to monitor this on your behalf.

Dr.iQ

Current feedback to us is mixed with some expressing satisfaction, others deep frustration. What are your experiences using the app? Replies via our email address please. Also we would encourage you to use it to express views about the surgeries on other matters/experiences, good or bad, we welcome all feedback.

Volunteering in Surgeries

Shortly you will see some activity in the surgeries with volunteers from the PPG undertaking a number of tasks. These will include:

- The tidying up of noticeboards in all four surgeries. Including creating a PPG area that will be reflected across all sites.
- Assisting Practice staff with some DriQ training for patients on certain days. This would be advertised in advance so any patient who is having difficulties with this app could get assistance.
- Being available at peak times to assist with helping patients log in online using the screens in the waiting rooms.
- Talking to patients about the PPG and what its function is and gaining insights into your experiences across the surgeries.

Surgeries Update From Operose

Patient newsletter

Operose will be issuing a quarterly patient newsletter in April to help keep patients informed of matters relating to the surgeries they run around the area. This might include such topics as explanations of the Team of team's concept, more about the triage process employed at reception and other such topics. They will also be holding a "Meet the Patients" event hosted once again by our local MP where patients are encouraged to attend and meet members of the medical and administration team from Operose. Dates yet to be finalised but probably late summer:

Operose are also inviting applicants for a number of roles within the surgeries based around reception and administrative posts. Please contact the Gillies surgery for more information.

Complaints?

If you feel that you have not been dealt with correctly by the surgery, or perhaps not had a good experience in dealing with a member of staff, you can make a formal complaint. For Beggarwood and CGH complaints, please visit the CGH web site to register your dissatisfaction. The web address is :- https://cghpartnership.co.uk/about-us/comments-and-complaints/. Operose employ a full time Complaints Manager and so you should get a speedy response and certainly an acknowledgement within 3 working days. If you are not satisfied with the way they have dealt with your complaint, you can contact the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman to review your case on 0345 015 4033 or via their website: www.ombudsman.org.uk.

cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com

FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Sunday 14th May 2023 Basingstoke Memorial Park

The History of The Festival of Transport

The Festival of Transport has been running in Basingstoke for 30 years. The Festival was originally established by the Thorneycroft Society, set up, by the previous employees, of this major manufacturer of lorries & cars in Basingstoke for over 75 years until its closure in 1969. Situated where Morrisons is now located, Thorneycroft's manufactured commercial and military



vehicles and supplied specialist vehicles for both World War I and WW2, 'The Mighty Antar' used by the military from 1940 as the standard Tank transporter, will be on show at this year's Festival.

Less well-known is Thorneycroft's brief foray into car manufacturing, when, from 19e03 to 1912, the firm produced high-quality cars at its Basingstoke factory.

For the last 5 years the Festival has been run by Basingstoke Deane Rotary, initially in collaboration with the Thorneycroft Society & Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council but now completely independently, but we still get help and support from the society members.



Over the years the show has grown enormously and is now one of the largest shows in the South of England, not just cars, but all vehicles, buses, lorries, vans and motor bikes, The exhibitor numbers



are quite exceptional with some 900 cars, commercial vehicles, tractors and static engines occupying the War Memorial Park, behind the Civic Offices, in the town centre. Last year in wonderful weather conditions it was estimated that 20,000 people attended over our 5-hour opening period.

LOVE VOLUNTEERING

Become a Friend of Rotary

Have fun volunteering with us and help our local community.

To be one of the team of almost 100 that help at the Festival of Transport - just for a couple of hours, half a day or all day – get in touch with Paul Temple - see contact info

www.rcbd.org.uk

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane Twitter: @RBstokeDeane





Phillips Law

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEDIATION CONTINUES

BY ELIZABETH TAYLOR



The Government has launched a consultation to consider how family mediation can further be used to reduce the number of families who end up in the family court to resolve their difficulties.

At the same time, the current Family Mediation Voucher Scheme has been extended for a further 2 years until 2025 with additional consultation on expanding its remit.

So how can mediation help you and what further changes might happen?

At the moment, anyone applying to the court for an order about family-related matters must demonstrate that they have considered family mediation by attending a Mediation, Information and Assessment Meeting ("MIAM"). The consultation proposes strengthening this requirement with potential costs consequences for anyone who does not try mediation. There will be, as there are now, exemptions to these rules to make sure that anyone at risk within an abusive relationship will be kept safe.

The aim of this is to keep families out of the court system but why is this important?

Over recent years, more applications for Child Arrangements Order have been made than ever

before. The average length of time for a case to be resolved through the court has risen from 26 weeks in 2019 to over 40 weeks by 2021. If the court has to make a final decision about children, it may not be an outcome which is nuanced enough to ideally meet needs of that particular family and preferences of the parties. There is little flexibility once an order is made. In addition to the time and cost implications of the proceedings, litigation inevitably increases acrimony between the separating couple which will never be in the best interests of them of their children.

The Family Mediation Voucher Scheme has given over I 3,500 families a financial contribution of £500 towards their costs of mediation (not the MIAM) where it relates to issues around their children. Haymarket Family Mediation will continue to help clients to use these vouchers wherever possible and is very pleased that this successful scheme will continue. The consultation further proposes that the Voucher Scheme is extended to cover mediation about financial issues as well and this would be a welcome development.

We hope that the consultation will lead to even more support being given to family mediation by the government and family courts but in the meanwhile, family mediation remains an effective, cost-efficient option for many families and the Voucher Scheme provides financial assistance where the issues relate to children. If you would like to explore how mediation can help you resolve your family disputes, please contact Haymarket Family Mediation today on 01256 460830 or through legal@phillips-law.co.uk.



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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:

- 1. Whitgift Close
- 2. Wedderburn Avenue, Maslen Mews and Hoursome Court





FUNDRAISING

Recent fundraising events have proved very popular, raising nearly £3000, and have introduced new people to the Mill. We're very happy about this success, but there's always more to be done to raise funds for keeping the Mill running smoothly. You can help us by patronising the shop and café, attending events and workshops or simply by giving us a donation, however large or small. Are you part of a group that would like to visit the Mill for afternoon tea or a tour? Do you have a talent that you would be happy to share with others through a talk or workshop? If so, please get in touch, as we need to take as many opportunities as we can to raise income. An application for a National Lottery Heritage Fund Resilience Grant has been submitted and if successful will help us continue to inspire a passion and preserve the skills for heritage silk weaving.

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www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk





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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

CAR MEETS: I am investigating the car meet that impacted Hatch Warren and Beggarwood just before Easter. The noise, late at night, was intrusive and anti-social in the extreme, and residents should not have to tolerate it when they are trying to sleep. Reports indicate that the Lidl car park may have been used, and I have tried to get information from them regarding its management, but they have not contacted me back at the time of writing. The Police confirmed to me that they received complaints that night, that started on the other side of town in the Daneshill area. Later, it switched to our side of the town. The Police received a call suggesting activity in Sainsbury's car park, but that was possibly a well-meaning but inaccurate assumption on the part of the caller. That location now has Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and extra speed bumps. A resident of Breadels Field in Beggarwood told me that the cars were using Beggarwood Lane as a racetrack, which is clearly dangerous as well as unacceptable. There were also reports of spectators watching the cars racing in the Wallop Drive area. This was clearly a large-scale and pre-planned event. The Police told me that car meets are such a nuisance that they aim to respond to all calls, so it is important that anybody witnessing them does ring 101. Sadly, there are suggestions on social media that people who tried to do that were unsuccessful in getting through, which compounded the issue.

LIDL CAR PARK: Once I have found the right people to talk to, I will inquire about the possibility of lowering the car park barrier after the last shop has closed. This is an easy measure that might prevent that location from being mis-used.

SAINSBURY'S CAR PARK: I attended a meeting with Sainsbury's management and Maria Miller MP to review the operation of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and traffic calming measures. The feedback was positive: the changes appear to have significantly reduced the mis-use of the car park.

POTHOLES: one of the biggest issues affecting our locality is the potholes that formed this winter. The Government has allocated an extra £200m to local highway authorities to repair these and other road defects. Hampshire has received an additional £5.954m, ring fenced for this activity only. The extra money will enable Hampshire's winter recovery programme to continue, at pace, with additional resources. The County Council will be deploying more, smaller patching teams that can focus on fixing potholes and other localised defects. It will continue to utilise the existing 'Dragon Patchers' and other repair techniques. The extra money should enable the County to repair up to 40,000 more potholes. The Highways team is currently assessing the road condition data that it holds, which includes online reports received, to prioritise and plan the repairs. This will need to remain dynamic as new reports of road defects come in.

TEMPORARY FIXES: One question I am asked is about the quality of pothole repairs, and it transpires that sometimes the repair teams put in a temporary patch to address an immediate safety issue, with a permanent repair planned for later. I suppose an analogy is a dentist putting in a temporary filling prior to an appointment for a permanent one.

SHODDY PATH REINSTATEMENTS: I have monitored the reinstatement works on the path outside the Beggarwood Community Centre, having asked for the utility contractors to be called back to rectify problems they had left. These included safety barriers being replaced in the wrong positions and some pretty shoddy trench work. I am pleased to note that the work has been completed.

BROADMERE ROAD ADOPTIONS: I am in correspondence with the County Officers about this. I had hoped that, when the issue was resolved regarding a drainage access point having been incorporated into a back garden, the matter would proceed quickly. Sadly, there are other problems to address, including drainage access points in highway land at the front of homes. These are being tackled. There is also a need to bring the roads up to an adoptable standard. The good news is that the developers appear to want to resolve these issues, so everyone is working to the same objective.

ROAD RESTRICTIONS: I am picking up complaints about the amount of road being taken by the contractors constructing the new entrance to the golf course development on the A30. I have written to the Highway officers about this. I suspect that the 'coning off'i is defined by national regulations, but will report back once the situation is confirmed.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: I attend, by invitation, meetings of the Patient Participation Group for Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood. It is safe to say that members have severe concerns about the operation of the four surgeries. The PPG wants to position itself positively, looking to work with the operators to steer the four surgeries through difficult times, and I am sure that this positive response is the right one for a PPG to take. To that end it is organising volunteer effort to help with keeping the reception areas tidy, offering assistance with the use of the Dr IQ app and logging in electronically to ease the burden on the reception staff. There is likely to be another public meeting in the summer to enable patients to give their feedback. The PPG has started a regular newsletter which can be accessed through its website.

LOCAL ELECTIONS: Borough Council elections are being held on Thursday 4th May. This year, new legislation requires voters to present photographic identification, such as driving licences. The polling stations are at Hatch Warren Community Centre and Beggarwood Community Centre.

BUS FARES: Stagecoach are reminding passengers that the cost of a single bus journey will continue to be capped at $\pounds 2$ on most Stagecoach routes in England until Friday 30th June 2023. The Bus Fare Cap scheme is a government initiative that started on 1st January and has been extended for a further three months. During this time, most single fares on eligible Stagecoach routes will cost $\pounds 2$ or less.

BEWARE! A public spirited resident has shared security camera pictures on line that show a man looking at vehicles parked on drives in the early hours of the morning in the Hatch Warren area. Theft from driveways is a real risk these days. Police advise us to lock our cars and vans and don't keep 'keyless' controllers near to doors or windows where they might be detected and cloned.

BRIGHTON HILL ROUNDABOUT: traffic is now being routed onto the new 'inner' lanes of the revised roundabout whilst new surfaces are laid on the outer sections. The previous restrictions on going all the way round the roundabout have been lifted. Navigating is very much a question of 'follow the cones' at the moment, but the traffic appears to be moving reasonably well and it is clear that significant progress has been made over the last couple of months.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor. Basingstoke South West 07976 310206



OLD DOWN & BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

We are now well into spring. WILDLIFE GROUP Flowers and blossom abound and the insects are busy feeding on nectar and pollinating. Pollinators are so important to our world enabling plants, trees and crops to grow, flourish and survive. But we don't really appreciate how vital pollinating insects are and probably don't realise how many different species do pollinate: butterflies; moths; beetles; wasps; flies; hoverflies and bees. Moths are very important pollinators. Moths, of course, pollinate mostly at night. A recent study by Butterfly Conservation has shown that moths can pollinate more flowers during a night session than day-time pollinators (like butterflies and bees) manage in a day (despite days being longer). Moths need cover for the day and one of the most popular sanctuaries is bramble. Butterfly Conservation say that large areas of bramble must be encouraged as bramble provides nectar and protection for moths and many other insects. Bramble also provides hiding places for hedgehogs and the fruit is taken by birds such as Song Thrush and Yellowhammer. Many birds use banks of bramble for nesting - such as Wrens, Robins and Blackbirds. One can often see an area of bramble busy with butterflies, hoverflies and bees and provides protection day and night. Bramble is an important source of nectar - very popular with Brimstone and Speckled Wood butterflies and also with many moths - for example Angle Shades and Buff Arches. Many moth species rely on the young bramble leaves for their caterpillars, as does the Grizzled Skipper butterfly. So you may look at bramble as untidy and not very attractive, especially in the winter and early spring, but it is such an important plant. So we really do need to accept and encourage bramble. If you are fortunate enough to have a large garden – perhaps some bramble in a far, back corner?

Don't forget to keep feeding the hedgehogs. They are busy getting together now and hopefully hoglets will be arriving in a few weeks. Remember that bread and milk is a no – no for hedgehogs but cat food and dry cat biscuits (not fish-based) go down well.

The Group is aiming to organise a butterfly walk around Old Down in June – date and details will be placed on our website soon.

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









Pets^{**} Corner

Send your photos to editor@therabbiter.biz

Cats, Dogs, Birds, Fish, Hampsters, Rabbits, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, Reptiles, etc. Thank you for all your photos this month, we had so many we need to hold some for next month rather than making them all smaller.



Bells - Paula

Lottie



Jet – Paula



Ronnie - "just chilling" — Fay



Bertie having fun in Hatch Warren – Kay



Hudson, the handsome Mini Lop – Courtney



Master Wu and Crunch – Olivia age 12 and Harry Age 9



Isla our Cocker Spaniel – Douglas



Our sleepy boy Teddy — Lorna



 ${\it Monty enjoying the bluebells-Stephanie}$



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READ OUR REVIEWS

Checkatrade











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





Dates for the diary **Summer Festival** - 15th July



NOTICE of AGM at Beggarwood Community Centre.

Wednesday 7th June @ 7PM - with refreshments.

Members are welcome from 6:30pm

Please book via Ticketsource (no fee)

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hwca/t-avzleqa

Membership costs £10 per year to support HWBCA

There will be a zoom link available too

We are excited to announce that this years AGM will be held at Beggarwood Community centre and via Zoom to enable the whole community to be involved . You are invited to attend a short meeting to support the trustees of Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association. The charity exists to provide, run and manage Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Centres and to provide social and educational facilities to improve the conditions of life for the residents of the community of postcodes RG22 and RG23. An update of our achievements and our plans for the future of HWBCA will be reviewed.

HWBCA are responsible for 2 community facilities and we have a lot of dedicated people who have given up their time, but we still need all of you to continue to support your centre. We need a minimum of 25 HWBCA members to achieve quorum, to vote on the night to keep us going for another year, please don't assume someone else will turn up on the night. We can't survive without YOUI Membership renewal is easy and costs £10 per year per family.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

WE ARE A REGISTERED CHARITY, run by people like you, from your community!

Without the continual support from you, our valuable community services may be at rick



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Hatch Warren Community Centre

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This trip is open to all members of the public

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Event supported by Scott Morland Bespoke Estate Agent



40 seats thus the sofu for trip to go affecto. his event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association harity number 1161117



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Young Minds text service - 85258

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The Warren is open! Booking is essential!

Activities Schedule: Fridays 6pm -7.45 pm, years 6, 7 & 8

Friday 5 th May	Dodgeball, Kings coronation
	craft, cupcake decorating
Friday 12 th May	Basketball, nail paining, luxury
	hot chocolate
Friday 19 th May	Air Hockey competition,
	sunflower pots, chocolate
	covered marshmallows
Friday 26 th May	Football, loom bands, donuts

We would like to say a huge thank you to Tesco and Co-op for their kind donations of Easter Eggs, the young people enjoyed hunting for them in the woods!

Although the rain meant we had to postpone a few activities, we didn't let it stop our fun! We have enjoyed spring craft, very messy slime making, henna tattoos and a popular favourite – man hunt!

Our sessions are extremely popular and sell out quickly. Bookings open Wednesday evening at 6pm, via our Warren Facebook page. Don't miss out!





Members enjoyed football sessions at the Brighton Hill soccer club, whilst the MUGA lights were repaired. We are now back at The Warren and with the lighter evenings, Luke our qualified football coach runs an inclusive session, and all members are invited to join in

the football skills and training, throughout the session.

Our computer training at Café in the park continues to run regularly on a Wednesday morning. One of our more experienced members designed the poster for the Kings Celebration event, that Link2 are hosting on May 15th. Well done Adam!

We have a small group working together creating preparations and décor for the Coronation event. They are making home-made fabric bunting and learning how to use a sewing machine, for the first time. Another one of our members has been booked for the evening and will be setting up his disco equipment.

Dates for May and June

May 8th Kings Coronation

May 15th Hatch Warren Community Centre - The Kings Celebration Event hosted by LINK2 members.

May 22nd Dragonfly carvery

June 5th Hatch Warren Community Centre

June 12th Bowling followed by a trip to McDonalds and KFC



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

RESTAURANT REVIEW

ZIZZI

I London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NT Tel: 01256 212835

This was another of the spur of the moment decisions as our first-choice eatery turned out not to be open on a Monday lunchtime. As this was a late lunch it could explain why there were diners at only two other tables. The last time Madam and I visited Zizzi, at the Top of Town, was with the family just before Christmas so today only the standard menu was on offer.

But what a selection, far too extensive to describe here. We were presented with a small dish of spicy nibbles to accompany a diet tonic with ice and slice and a small bottle of Peroni for me. Madam had a mixed leaf salad with dressing and a Rustica Pinoli pizza which must have been eighteen inches long in old





money (OK, 45 cms for younger metric aficionados). I had garlic bread with chilli at the same time as a dish of Ravioli Di Capra, both full of flavour.

Madam could only manage half of her pizza and a doggy box was presented in which a portion of my garlic bread was also deposited.

There was no room for dessert, so I settled the bill which came to $\pounds 46.15$. About the average price these days for lunch but, my, it was tasty.

A small, but interesting note is that the tonic water had the brand name of Belu, not one that I had heard of but the small print on the label said that all profits are donated to WaterAid. A nice touch.









BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR – 23 IN 23!

No its not our birthday – the choir is well beyond 23 years old having been founded in 1964 (see below!)



Instead 23 is the number of choristers we would love to join us this year (2023). We enjoyed a successful recruitment campaign last year but, sadly, circumstances have conspired to leave us still short of our desired strength. A bigger choir gives us much more scope and flexibility to hold concerts on a regular basis – so we need more members. More concerts mean raising funds for local causes – probably more important in 2023 than ever!

The world renowned Treorchy Male Choir numbers in excess of 90 singers from a village of only 3,500 residents – Basingstoke has 120,000 residents. Surely we can 'drum up' another 23! We'll take more than 23 if possible but lets not be greedy!

Being in a choir can be a rewarding pastime. In addition to well known health benefits, it provides a great social vehicle for the man looking to give up a few hours a week in the search for complete contentment! Here is a quote from one of last year's intake:

"I joined BMVC in June and have learned so much about singing, especially in a group. It's a wonderful feeling when, all of a sudden, the weeks of practice come together. Not having formal singing or choir experience I thought might hold me back but that's not the case. I have been welcomed into a very professional yet 'fun loving' group."

We'll be running another Open Evening towards the end of spring but why wait until then. You can come along to any of our rehearsals to get a taste of what to expect (Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM at St Michael's Church Cottage in Basingstoke). Bring your friends, uncles, brothers — the only requirement we ask is that you're male! If necessary we can offer singing lessons but we don't demand any prior singing experience — it's just an opportunity to enjoy singing! We need voices across the board — whether you're tenor, bass or baritone you'll be welcome.

Our choristers range from 18 to 80 years old so you're almost certain to find someone you can relate to. We'll assign you a mentor and before you know it, you'll be performing in concerts. Come along on a Tuesday – we'd love to see you! If



you'd rather wait for the Open Evening you can always let us know or if you want more information contact us by visiting our website (http://basingstokemvc.org.uk/contact/) or email us at basingstokemvc@outlook.com





HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We had a wonderful spring term at Hatch Warren Under Fives; it's hard to believe we're now into our final term! In the lead up to the holidays we enjoyed lots of Easter activities including an egg hunt with the Easter bunny, hook a duck, searching for the golden ticket hidden in a lucky egg and we did lots of arts and crafts too.



We have been doing lots of activities based around our new book, the Story of the Colour Monster. This book is a really fun way to explore colours and feelings

and for the children to understand more about emotions and how they can change through the day. We experimented with a new way for the children to sign in each morning and instead of just choosing between happy and sad they picked colours to show us if they are angry (red), scared (black), sad (blue), calm (green), loved (pink) or happy (yellow).

We have recently heard the very exciting news of which schools our older children will be going to in September. This is our final term of the year at Hatch Warren Under Fives and this is when our "school readiness" begins. We will begin to

introduce lots of activities to prepare our bigger children for school, for example, can the children change into their PE kit by themselves? Can they independently wash their hands and open the food in their lunchbox? We'll also start to focus much more on numbers, health and self-care and communication and language.

School readiness is described in the foundation stage as "Children reaching a good level of development in the prime areas and literacy and mathematics".

Some of the expected characteristics that should be displayed by a child to show school readiness;

- Independent in toileting
- Able to dress themselves
- Understands expected levels of behaviour
- · Confidence and self-esteem
- Can take turns and share
- · Can sit still for a short period
- Can separate from parents/carers
- Communication and language skills needed to communicate needs and listen to others
- Can actively learn and creatively and critically think

Some of these characteristics may of course be difficult for all children to achieve and this shouldn't leave parents or practitioners concerned that a child isn't school ready.

WE ARE ENROLLING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2023. Why not book a visit to look around and meet the team? If you'd like to learn more, 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

DANDELIONS

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed the break.

With the lead up to Easter we all enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, making chocolate nests and the children went home with a goody bag kindly donated by our Committee.

We have continued to observe the changes in the environment and been busy planting sunflowers which the children have taken home. We are really looking forward to hearing how tall they grow.







After a successful taster session we are so excited that Sports4Kids will be coming back to spend time with the children on a weekly basis carrying out sports activities designed for the Early Years. On their previous visit the children enjoyed going to space in their space rockets.

As a Preschool we encourage the children to experience different cultural celebrations and this month we have been learning about EID. The children got to sample a variety of snacks and did Henna Tattoos on paper after drawing around their own hands.

We have been working with local schools and will be putting on our first school readiness workshop where will be exploring what the term "school readiness" means and working together to ensure smooth transitions into big school.

Our sessions for September 2023, are very nearly full so if you are interested in a space please do contact us as soon as possible. We are now also taking registrations for 2024. 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

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

We are so excited that Spring has arrived and hope you had a wonderful Easter break with the family.

The children had a fantastic time at the annual CVP Easter Egg Hunt, searching for







all the different coloured eggs. Run by a parent/committee member, it was a great way to get families together, have lots of fun in the holidays and fundraise at the same time. The Easter Bunny very kindly left a treat for all the little ones too.

The little ones will be exploring the stories of Puss in Boots and The Hungry Caterpillar, linking this with looking after animals, watching our very own caterpillars grow into butterflies, planting seeds and watching them grow into vegetables.

We are very excited with the upcoming Forest School visits to the local farm over the next term and the opportunity to meet some of the farm animals along with some great outdoor learning opportunities.

Best wishes.

Lisa Collisson

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

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

It has been a busy start to April with a focus on Easter, from creating amazing artwork, easter nests and even a surprise visit from the Easter bunny, as well as looking at new life, using pictures of Eggs Chicks and chickens.

With the weather at times getting better there has been lots of outside play with all the equipment enhancing their skills on bikes, and hand eye coordination. They have been able to see the colours of spring appearing in the flowers and trees and the bird calls through the day.

With the Easter break in the middle we have been looking forward to the children coming back and telling us all about the activities over the two-week break, and now the focusing on the lifecycle of a frig and some more in depth looks into mini beasts.

Rounding off the month with the planning for the coronation which will be lots more making and celebratory lunch. More to come on this.

About Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School: We are a small, friendly, Ofsted Outstanding ranked pre-school located in the Rathbone Pavillion, North Waltham. The children who attend come from within the village and the surrounding areas including Oakley, Dummer, Hatch Warren, Kempshott and Beggarwood and all agree the location and wonderful caring staff mean it is more than worth the short journey. To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172

ANVIL EVENTS

01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk (Prices include booking fee)

ERIC BIBB - Ridin'

Wed 3 May, 7.30pm The Anvil Tickets: £31. Under 25s £29

LA BOHÈME

Thu 4 May, 7.30pm The Anvil Tickets: £29.50 to £41.50; over 65s £2 off, under 25s and f/t students half price

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC

Wed 10 May, 7.30pm The Anvil Tickets: £49, £39, £34

BEN FOGLE: WILD

Fri 12 May, 7.30pm The Anvil Tickets: £32.50

LIZA PULMAN & JOE STILGOE

- A Couple of Swells

Fri 12 May, 7.30pm The Haymarket Tickets: £25

YOU ARE THE SUN

Thu 18 May, Ipm & 2.15pm The Forge Tickets: £16 (adult plus one child). Each additional child £6

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Sat 20 May, 7.45pm The Anvil Tickets: £42, £38, £31, £24, £16. Under 25s & f/t students £12

Based on the book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Thu 25 – Sun 28 May The Haymarket Tickets: £19. Under 16s £17









STRICTLY COME COURTING - HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST

As mists rise from the water's surface on early spring mornings, love is in the air as great crested grebe pairs join together to dance.

These graceful courtship rituals denote the start of the birds' breeding season as the grebes look to successfully attract a mate with their synchronised salsas.

With orange and black head plumes spread wide, an elegant pattern of head shaking, bill-dipping, 'mewing' (calling) and preening culminates in the famous 'penguin dance'.

The performance reaches an astonishing crescendo as a pair of great crested grebes will rush together, paddling their feet frantically to raise upright from the water. Then, standing chest to chest, they flick a beak-full of water weed at each other before one final shake of the head and the weed is dropped, and the deal is clinched.

In time, a suitably enamoured pair will move into their nest, floating safely in the reedy margins of the lake shore.

Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve in Southampton and Blashford Lakes Nature in the New Forest offer opportunities to see these grebes. All you need is a pair of binoculars and a little patience.

If you're lucky enough to see that famous dance, then return in five weeks' time and you may be fortunate to witness the birds' stripy 'humbug' hatchlings riding on their parents' back.

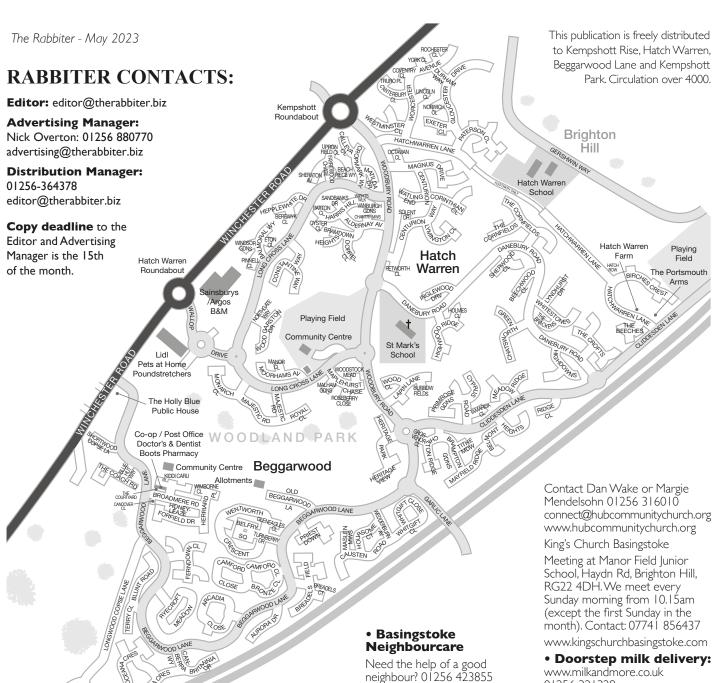
Great crested grebes are the largest and most commonly seen grebe species in the UK. As well as the impressive plume on its head and bright coloured ruff on its neck, these handsome and sleek waterbirds have white cheeks, a dark cap, a white neck and a dark body.

The species was formerly a great rarity having been sought by milliners for its decorative plumage. However, the species represents a conservation success story.

There are now estimated to be almost 5,000 breeding pairs in the UK.

Find out more about local wildlife by visiting the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website at hiwwt.org.uk/ wildlife





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Boots Pharmacy Broadmere Road Tel: 398927 Mon-Fri 0900-1800 Sat/Sun closed

Health Visitors

Tel: 376483

Child Health Clinic

The Community Centre – every Wednesday 10.30 - noon. All Welcome.

Dentist

Broadmere Road - Tel: 39 | 39 |

• Library:

South Ham Community Library at Westside Community Centre open Tuesday and Thursday 10am until 2pm. Phone 01256 464571

Post Office

Co-op Broadmere Road: Sun-Sat 0700-2200

Kempshott Post Office and Stores 01256 465517 Mon-Fri 0800-17.30 Sat 0900-1500

• Local Police Contacts:

Community Safety Patrol Team 01256 844844 Local Community Safety Patrolling Officer (CSPO): John Dullingham cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk

Hampshire Constabulary 101 Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Churches:

Immanuel Church - Holy Communion - 9am every Sunday at St Mark's School, Danebury Road.

St Mark's Church - Sunday Service with children's groups - 10.30am every Sunday at St Mark's, Homesteads Road, Kempshott. For more details contact - The Parish of Basingstoke Down (01256) 840502 or office@ parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk

Hub Community Church Every Sunday at The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU at 4pm

connect@hubcommunitychurch.org

01256 321329

Newspaper Delivery: Kempshott Post Office and Stores 01256 465517

Representatives:

Councillors:

County Council:

Stephen Reid, 34 Centurion Way RG22 4TJ 320860 Stephen.Reid@hants.gov.uk

Borough Council:

Rebecca Bean, 12 Arcadia Close, RG22 4AJ 07506 570926 cllr.Rebecca.Bean@basingstoke.gov.uk

Samir Kotecha, 18 Hollins Walk RG21 7JT 07971 470208 cllr.samir.kotecha@basingstoke.gov.uk

Dan Putty, I Gloucester Drive, RG22 4PH 356650 cllr.dan.putty@basingstoke.gov.uk

Member of Parliament **Hatch Warren: Maria Miller**

millerm@parliament.uk



BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



At the meeting held on 5th April the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed 41 members and 3 visitors and, after giving apologies and announcing birthdays, mentioned that as the next meeting would be held just before the Coronation we would have a small celebration ourselves. So instead of the usual biscuits there would be "coronation inspired" cake to have with the tea or coffee and he asked that any prizes donated for the raffle followed a red, white or blue theme. Also if members wanted to bring flags or bunting this would be very welcome.

Our speaker this month was Jackie Dimmock who gave a talk titled "30 years in Hampshire Constabulary" in which she gave us a flavour of what life was like for a police woman in the early years of her career in 1982. She explained that good team work was vital for the job and how relying on colleagues was essential in order for the force to do a professional job. She enjoyed how every day was different and that when they started work that day they never knew what to expect as almost anything could happen. The downside to this was the danger any police constable could be put in whilst carrying out day to day duties and the resulting injuries which could be sustained. This was, however, all told with a great deal of humour and illustrated throughout with a variety of tapestries and examples of situations she had dealt with.

Our first trip of the year was on Monday 20th March when we had a tour of the Houses of Parliament. It meant an early start but we arrived in plenty of time to have a cup of coffee in the café before our tour started at 10.30. All of the staff were very friendly and helpful and our guide had a wealth of knowledge which he imparted to us as we visited both houses and the lobbies. After the visit everyone found different things to do and have lunch before we left for home.

On Thursday 27th April there is Afternoon Tea at BCOT which includes sandwiches, cakes and of course tea all for £11. Then on Thursday 18th May our trip is to Swindon Steam and Designer Outlet and on Thursday 29th June we are going to the beautiful Exbury Gardens which should then be in full bloom. If you would like to join us on any of these trips please let us know.

The next meeting will be on 3rd May when Colin Pawson will give a talk titled "The Tootler" and on 7th June Tony Stafford will talk about "Bishops, Sex and Money".

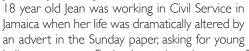
The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the BrookVale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

Margaret Atkinson



SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Jean's Journey



ladies to come to England to train to be nurses. Every step of Jean Holmes-Morris story has been guided by God.

As part of the Windrush generation Jean came to Basingstoke in May, 1962. It was incredibly hard for her Dad to see her depart Jamaica but Jean's Mum felt it was the right move for her. Within 4 months of applying, Jean was settling in nurse's accommodation and vividly remembers "everything was so gloomy and...it was quite cold", a far cry from home! She was, however, very glad of the warm reception from "another Jamaican lass...Freddie" who helped her prepare for her first shift.

It was a shock to find out that Jean had been recruited to train as a nurse but was expected to work as an untrained nursing assistant (the "learn the English ways") for up to 18 months. Jean applied and was accepted to train in Virginia Water. Once she handed her notice into her matron they soon made hasty plans to train her as a nurse to keep her in Basingstoke!

Jean's plan was to go back to Jamaica however God had other ideas when she met her husband at a dance! Her life with James was full of twists and turns but her faith remained steadfast. Even through the severe heartbreak of losing twins at 6 months gestation, Jean believes keeping her eyes on the Lord through committed daily devotionals, has been key for her. She has a committed belief that "everything has worked the way he wants it to".

Through hard work and dedication Jean's offered an exciting new role to oversee the nursing school in Winchester. Just before starting she hears people talking about this "black nurse from Basingstoke" coming to take over. Jean spends her life in the service of others, and she's being reduced to the colour of her skin. With a gentle sigh she says, "that's ok..." and knows that these comments are said in ignorance not malice.

The week she started her new job, the school were subjected to an inspection. It was hard work implementing the changes but Jean's students described her as "forthright, as someone who speaks her mind but also incredibly compassionate and fair, whose door is always open". It all paid off as the first student group went through with 100% pass rate (up from a previous pass rate of around 30%)!

In retirements, Jean's hard work continues as she's been supporting families impacted by dementia, something very close to her heart.

Jean's journey started and continues with the Lord. I'll leave you with a prayer Jean remembers her mother praying with them every night:

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, look upon this little child, pity my simplicity, suffer me to come to thee. Fain I would to thee be brought, gracious Lord forbid it not, In the Kingdom of thy place, give this little child, a place from my eyes was at my knee."

Frances Coleman-Williams

(Parish of Basingstoke Down Congregation Member)



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GCSE MATHS TUTOR - Ingrid Berry (PGCE, QTS, DBS). References available. Contact Ingrid.e.berry@gmail.com.

HAMPSHIRE HARMONY

Hampshire Harmony are delighted to welcome Claire Oliver as our MD. Claire has a wealth of musical knowledge and experience having worked with choirs, individuals and delivering workshops. She is also an accomplished and singer having sung on radio and television and in operas and recitals. We are very much looking forward to working with her as we continue our pursuit of excellence in singing.

Claire will be taking her first concert with us at 7 p.m. on 10th June when our guests will be the hugely accomplished and multi-award winning Wantage Silver Band. We are looking forward to sharing the platform with this wonderful organisation when together we will be offering a superb evening of musical entertainment.

To find out more about Hampshire Harmony and what we do, click on the QR Code to go www.hampshireharmony.org





HATCH WARREN WI

Describing Susan Howe as "entertaining" doesn't convey how much fun we had as she regaled us with tales of her life as a cook on board luxury INSPIRING WOMEN yachts, preparing meals for the rich and famous. There was the time the freezer broke down and all the food perished, so Susan found herself being rowed across the water to Dubrovnik to top up supplies. Back on dry land, Susan and her husband decided to run a B&B, an experience which she likened to Fawlty Towers. She told us a funny story about a bride who wouldn't stop screaming after the resident cat brought a half-dead mouse into the honeymoon suite.

Next month is our Annual Meeting when we elect a new committee. Afterwards there'll be time to socialise and enjoy some 'coronation' themed refreshments. The meeting is on Thursday May 11th at 7:30pm. Visitors are always welcome and for more information please contact our President Shirley on 07979 217220.



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SWEET POTATO AND SPINACH CURRY

Serves 8 people - 73p per serving

Ingredients

- 2 large sweet potatoes
- 2 large onions

Bag of frozen spinach

- I 400 ml tin coconut milk
- 2 x 400g tin chick peas
- I jar red Thai curry paste

Method

- 1. Peel and chop sweet potatoes into 1 inch chunks
- 2. Peel and chop onions into small chunks.
- 3. Add potatoes to large pan on medium heat and add a small cup of water. Cook for 10 minutes until potato feels softer
- 4. Add onions and chick peas and cook on low heat for 15 minutes stir together
- 5. Add 4/6 chunks of frozen spinach and the jar of paste and cook for a further 5 minutes stirring everything together
- 6. Once spinach has defrosted, add a tin of coconut milk and stir.
- 7. Season and serve



PROBUS HEARS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF NEWBURY RACECOURSE

Those readers who have not had the pleasure of an exciting day at Newbury Racecourse the talk by Probus Club member David Wickens shed some light on many interesting facets of our local horse racing course.

The Jockey Club, formed in 1750, licensed horse racing and controlled all matters that became known as "the sport of Kings." The first record of racing in the area was in 1805 when heathlands and country estates of the



landed gentry were used, with this style continuing for a century.



The present course was the vision of Kingsclere trainer John Porter, who had fortunate connections with King Edward VII. After several designs had been rejected, finally approval was given by the Jockey Club to build the course mainly to his design. The cost was £57,240 with

the first race meeting held in 1905. The course was recognised as having many original features for the owner/trainers, horses, jockeys

and members of the public.

During both world wars racing was suspended, however the racecourse played an important role for the military with a variety of uses and especially in WWI when it was used as a prisoner of war camp for captured German soldiers.





General Eisenhower at Newbury Racecourse prior to D Day landings

the "Top Ten" courses – attracting many famous horses and jockeys from all over the country to compete for big prize money.



Redevelopment of the racecourse started in 2010 with new facilities financed by the sale of land for housing and apartments on and around the course together with a

children's nursery, hotel and gym. The venue is also used for outdoor Pop concerts and was selected as a vaccination centre during the Covid pandemic.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information about this social club for retired managers.





THE LOST MEDIEVAL VILLAGE OF HATCH

This month we are focussing on the ancient manor, church and village of Hatch. The settlement dated from from the 11th to the 15th century but was later deserted and lost, except for the name of Hatch Warren Farm, until building began on the development of the estate in the mid 1980s. Thanks go to a local resident for suggesting this.

Archaeologists were aware of an iron age settlement in the area, so work began on some excavations looking for evidence of that period. What they found was unexpected. They uncovered the foundations of a small church of simple nave and chancel design, probably dating from around the Norman conquest. The church was surrounded by a graveyard, and digging uncovered nine graves within the building and approximately two hundred and fifty eight within the churchyard. More than half the burials were of children, but Photos: Hampshire Archaeology on Wordpress.com



this was not surprising given the high infant mortality of the times. One of the graves within the church contained an adult male who had been buried with a pewter chalice, suggesting that this may have been the village priest.

The village houses were timber framed, with post holes for vertical timbers sunk into the ground, similar to contemporary houses in Long Marston in North Yorkshire and Tatton in Cheshire. Hatch is believed to have been a relatively affluent settlement originally with evidence of high class pottery found. The manor of Hatch was first granted in the reign of Edward the Confessor and was the subject of a dispute between William the Conqueror and his half brother Odo after William conferred it on his daughter's chamberlain, despite Odo claiming to have a mortgage on the manor. Eventually in 1311 the Manor became the property of the Lords of Cliddesden.

By the mid 1300s however three hundred acres of the Parish were "untilled and



unsown" and by 1380 it was no longer paying tithes and was merged with Cliddesden. And so the village and church faded out of memory until being accidentally rediscovered centuries later. A book recording the discovery (Brighton Hill South (Hatch Warren) An Iron Age Farmstead and Deserted Medieval Village in Hampshire by Fasham and Keevill) is currently out of print

Acknowledgements:

Allen: **Hampshire** Dave Archaeology: https://hampshirearchaeology.wordpress. com/2015/06/01/buried-in-time-thedeserted-medieval-village-of-hatch/

British History Online Parishes: Cliddesden: https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/ vol4/pp145-147

BAHS: Christopher Dyer: The Material World of English Peasants: https://www.bahs.org.uk/ AGHR/ARTICLES/62_I_Dyer.pdf







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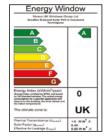


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