

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 318  
May 2025

The Community Magazine for Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren, Beggarwood and Kempshott Park



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## EDITORIAL

Two things struck me from this edition of the Rabbiter: the serene picture of a bluebell wood on the front cover; and Kim Robins' sober commentary on wars and peace on page 22.

The world is an increasingly fractious place and, like Kim, I am saddened by the international conflicts that are causing so much misery. Added to that are the violent undertones that have increased in political debates.

An antidote is to value, and not take for granted, our local facilities and the many people who work tirelessly to enrich our lives. We are privileged to live in well-developed communities and to have a wide variety of options to increase our quality of life. Many are featured in this issue.

But if the news becomes too depressing, there is nothing more peaceful than a walk in a Bluebell wood: My personal favourite is Micheldever Wood just off the A33. And on a sunny day, our own Old Down is a quiet haven. In stressful times, it is worth taking a break to soak up the beauty and calm that are around us.

**Editor**



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# THE Rabbiter

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## £40K FOR 40 YEARS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO COMMEMORATE THE RUBY ANNIVERSARY FOR LOCAL INDEPENDENT CHARITY

Age Concern Hampshire (ACH) proudly marks a significant milestone in 2025, celebrating 40 years of dedicated service to older people across the county. To recognise this remarkable achievement, the charity has launched the £40k for 40 Years fundraising campaign in February 2025, an ambitious initiative aimed at raising £40,000 through 40 community-led events.

Since its founding in 1985, Age Concern Hampshire has been committed to enhancing the lives of older people by offering essential services, engaging activities, and dedicated dementia support. To ensure this crucial work continues, the organisation is urging communities and businesses to get involved, whether through fundraising or by becoming a Corporate Sponsor. Every contribution helps make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most.

The independent registered charity has created comprehensive fundraising packs to help participants plan and deliver successful



events. These resources provide guidance on selecting the right event, using effective promotional materials and assets, and maximising donations. An A-Z Fundraising Guide is also available to inspire creative fundraising ideas. To ensure smooth

event planning, participants are asked to complete an Event Planning Form to capture all essential details.

Contributions from fundraising events can be made through the charity's dedicated JustGiving page, where UK taxpayers can also boost their donations by 25% at no extra cost through Gift Aid. To celebrate community involvement, supporters are encouraged to share event photos and updates with the charity, helping to inspire others and highlight the impact of their efforts.

*"As we celebrate 40 years of supporting older people across Hampshire, we're inviting individuals, community groups, and businesses to get involved in this special campaign,"* said Brogan Rehill, Head of Fundraising and Volunteer Services at Age Concern Hampshire. *"Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue making a difference for years to come".*

For more information or to get involved, please contact Age Concern Hampshire's Marketing & Fundraising Team at [supporters@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:supporters@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk) or visit their website <https://www.ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/ach-40k-for-40-years-fundraising-campaign/>.

Founded in 1985, Age Concern Hampshire provide services to the older community of Hampshire. The charity currently deliver support at their Care & Wellbeing centres throughout the county, as well as Foot Care clinics, Help at Home, Information via their Information Hub, Hospital to Home Services, Community Information Volunteer Services and a variety of other activities.

Age Concern Hampshire, Centre Way, Locks Heath, SO31 6DX  
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## COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### Stephen Reid

County Councillor: Basingstoke  
South West 07976 310206  
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**DEVOLUTION:** The County Council elections here have been postponed for a year so that consultations can take place on the setting up of a 'Combined Authority' with an elected Mayor. The government intends for this body to come into being next year.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION:** I attended a special meeting of the County Council on 20th March to discuss options for introducing Unitary Authorities across Hampshire. I am worried about the direction of the debate, with Councils and Members drawing lines on maps based on local preferences. I spoke at the meeting to urge members to consider instead the best way to provide quality services. For example, we have in Hampshire a Children's Services department that has been measured externally as Outstanding in all areas, and I believe we should do everything possible to hold that team together. Final proposals will be submitted to the government in the Autumn.

**MOTORWAY SERVICES:** there has been an interesting development regarding the possibility of a 'Basingstoke Services' on the M3. Moto have submitted a planning application (25/00754/OUT) seeking outline permission for development of a new Motorway Service Area and associated landscaping, infrastructure and ancillary works at Junction 6, which is the Black Dam junction. This is of interest to us in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood areas: if permission is granted, that would lay to rest any idea of a service area opposite the Portsmouth Arms. But if it is rejected, that notion might be resurrected. This issue has been dragging on since 2017 when an application for full planning permission was submitted. That has remained undetermined for eight years, but discussions have taken place with the Borough Council and stakeholders, including National Highways and the Environment Agency. These talks have resulted in changes to the 2017 scheme, including the removal of a hotel and drive-through restaurant. That amended proposal is the subject of the new outline application.

**LOCAL SURGERIES:** sadly, the issues regarding making appointments at the local surgeries have continued and I have received complaints based on patients' experiences. They have been discussed at Hampshire's Health and Adult Social Care committee (HASC), as well as the local Patient Participation Group, both of which I attend. I reported last time that the HASC committee agreed to set up a working group to scrutinise the provision of GP service in Basingstoke and to consider if all residents are able to access GP services equally and effectively. The terms of reference have been agreed, and I am expecting this working group to meet in the near future.

**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG):** I have attended meetings of the PPG, including discussions with the management team at the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries. They are aware of the problems with the appointments system and are planning changes to the telephone answering disciplines that they hope will improve the situation. The changes are due to be implemented on 28th April. They will involve using the automated phone system to direct patient calls to the colour-coded groups in which the patients have been placed. The surgeries have promised a major communications exercise to explain how this will work.

**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION REPORT:** back in December, I took part in an online meeting with the Care Quality Commission that was looking into the Governance and Management of the CGHB surgeries. I had some major concerns, so am looking forward to seeing the report. I understand that it has been drafted and made available to the management team for review and comment. Hopefully it will be published soon.

**DEMOLISHED STREET LAMP:** at the beginning of April a street lamp was demolished in a road traffic accident at the entrance to Woodbury Road, off the Kempshott roundabout. I reported the damage and was informed that 1st May is the target date for replacing it. At the time of writing, the car that collided with the lamp has been removed, and a new lamp standard has been put in place. It now needs to have its 'head' fitted and connected.

**POSTS IN HATCH WARREN FIELDS:** I was interested to see lines of posts in our local fields - about a metre tall and painted green at the top. They divided the green areas roughly in half. I wrote to the Borough Council and had it confirmed that they were put up to mark the parts that are to be mown and those that are to be left to grow naturally. This is part of the plan to encourage biodiversity in our area. The posts have been removed now.

**ANAEROBIC DIGESTER:** On 11th March the operators informed interested parties that work was scheduled to repair storm damage on one of the gas holders. This was completed the following week. There were some reports of odour pollution at the time, but it is not certain that the repairs were the cause.

**TREES:** I have received no more complaints about the trees recently planted in Beggarwood Lane. As I reported last time, I welcome them for softening the look of the area, providing homes for wildlife and for cleaning the atmosphere. On a related topic, I have noted that the pruning of existing trees and bushes alongside roads and paths looks to have been particularly robust this year, and many stumps indicate where trees have been felled. I am inquiring whether a replacement planting programme is being put in place.

**STUBBINGTON OUTDOOR CENTRE:** last month I reported on the debate regarding the future of the Stubbington Centre, which many children from this area have attended over the years. I am pleased to confirm that the Cabinet voted to retain the Centre, and they are looking for an alternative site for the secure children's home that might have replaced it.

**HEAVY TRAFFIC:** there were delays past Hatch Warren and Beggarwood in April, caused by the M3 motorway being closed for maintenance work between Junctions 6 and 7. There were queues at the local roundabouts and at the junction of Beggarwood Lane near the Holly Blue. I mention this because it demonstrated, again, that the road system to the west of Basingstoke is vulnerable to anything out of the ordinary. With 18,000 homes slated to be built on this side of town, I fear that this vulnerability can only get worse.

**SOUTH AND BUCKSKIN REGENERATION:** on a related subject, I am asking how many homes are likely



to be built as these two areas are redeveloped, and whether any analysis has been carried out on the impact on our roads. This could put more pressure on the A30 to Junction 7.

**BLOG:** I put more information about these and other topics on my blog at <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>



## Stacy Hart

Borough Councillor:

[cllr.stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:

@BasingstokeEquality e-newsletter:

[basingstokeequality.org.uk](http://basingstokeequality.org.uk)

It's hard to believe, but you'll be receiving this pretty much exactly on the first anniversary of my election as your Borough Councillor. It has been a heck of a year!

I want to thank all the hundreds of residents I've heard from in the last twelve months. Together we've tackled with all the things you'd expect – fences, hedgerows and trees; taxi services and bus cuts; parking and broken walls; graffiti and ASB – but also some things I hadn't anticipated. I have dealt with queries on rough camping, Housing Association issues, disabled access in car parks and roundabout underpasses, ice rink and Camrose concerns, domestic violence and neighbour disputes, estate agent signage and more. The term "learning curve" has never been more applicable in my life, and I thank everyone for their patience as I got (and continue to get!) to grips with everything. A big thank you also to the dozens of groups and organisations I've met and everyone who contributed to the events I have organised and been a part of. I hope to carry on working for you for many years to come!

Some things to be aware of as we head through spring. The Council's 'Keep Basingstoke and Deane Clean' campaign is raising awareness of the penalties for not cleaning up dog mess over the coming weeks; I know that this is a perennial concern for some of you. Although it seems an easy and insignificant thing to walk away from your pet's business, the consequences to public health, especially for young children who are the most prone to nasty encounters with it, can be

extremely dire. Please – if you are a dog-owner – remember that it's not only your social duty but your legal responsibility to clean up their mess, and community safety patrol officers will be out and about at fouling hotspots throughout spring and summer issuing fixed penalty notices to anyone spotted leaving mess behind or any dog walkers who do not have poo bags with them.

An issue that has cropped up repeatedly over the last two months is rat infestations. I have assisted some residents in reporting and pest control sourcing, and am working on an ongoing basis for others to see if we can find a more proactive rather than reactive approach to dealing with them. In the meantime, whilst I know we are all concerned about wildlife, I urge residents to be careful with their care. There are many animal welfare sites online that have tips on feeding hedgehogs, birds etc without attracting rats so do check these out.

Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust are looking for volunteers to join their Patient Experience Volunteer Network, which helps ensure diverse voices are involved in these spaces and is really important for improving services. If anyone is interested in helping HHFT from a patient perspective, you can email [PatientExperience@HHFT.nhs.uk](mailto:PatientExperience@HHFT.nhs.uk) to find out more.

I'm hugely looking forward to helping at the Hatch Warren Lager Festival again on 17th May, which is always a fantastic event! This year they're introducing stand-up comedy so it should be even more fun; you can find out more and grab tickets on the events page at [www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org).

The Councillor Community Grant Scheme is open early this year due to elections being cancelled. I was so pleased to be able to help out some really worthy organisations with last year's scheme and I'd love to hear from a diverse range of organisations for this next round so, if you think you may qualify, do check [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/cllr-community-grants](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/cllr-community-grants) for the relevant criteria and get in touch.

I was delighted to attend the presentation of the King's Award for Voluntary Service to Home-Start Basingstoke and Deane; a well-deserved honour for an immensely dedicated team who have supported over 2000 Basingstoke families over the

last twenty years. I was equally happy to support the Council's fabulous 'Listen Up' music event at the end of March, which comprised dozens of acts over five venues in town, all for free!

I was pleased to lend my support to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's campaign to Save Our Chalk Streams and will continue to promote this; I urge residents to look it up on [www.hiwwt.org.uk/rivers](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/rivers) and find out how to contact our MP on the issue.

The new Hatch Warren Repair Café continues to build on a strong start, and we have the first meeting of the new Management Committee this coming month. If you would like to assist in organising this project, we have some social media and admin roles available, so please get in touch.

Finally, much of my work last month went towards my maiden speech and very first motion at Full Council. You'll know that equality is always at the heart of our work and so I asked Council to take action on advocating for the decriminalisation of abortion, which is an issue causing great and growing problems for women, especially those in vulnerable circumstances. I was very proud that we presented our case with care and compassion, and after some debate, the Chamber voted strongly in favour of the motion. You can find the motion text and the video recording of the debate on the Council website by going to the meeting calendar entry for 20th March. I am very aware that this is a complex and emotive issue for many people and as such I want to urge any resident who has questions or concerns about the material to get in touch with me, and I am happy to discuss it further with you.

My next 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery for all resident questions, issues, discussions or ideas will be on Monday 19th May from 7-9pm at the Portsmouth Arms – do drop in and say hi!

Best wishes to you and your families – Stacy

## CRIME PREVENTION

Have you received a letter or invoice for a service that you don't recognise? This can be the first sign of identity fraud.

The Home Office have created an 'Identity theft victim's checklist' to outline the steps to take to repair your identity and prevent it happening again. These steps include:

- Contact your bank(s) and ask them to withhold pending transactions.
- Change your passwords and pins, including those for email addresses and social media accounts.
- Use a credit referencing agency to find out if any accounts have been opened without your consent.
- Contact any companies/ accounts that have been affected (e.g. credit card companies).
- Report the fraud to Action Fraud: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- Contact Victim Support or Citizens Advice if you need further support, including emotional support.

**Hampshire & IOW Constabulary**  
[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

## HATCH WARREN WI

In April our walking group followed the Jane Austen Trail around Overton as 2025 marks the 250th Anniversary of Jane's birth.

It was a beautiful sunny day as we stopped to look at many of the buildings associated with Jane's time growing up in the area. We also went inside the St Mary's Church where Jane's brother James became curate in 1790. We then visited the The Honesty Café in the

village where we enjoyed coffee and lunch.

This month we also enjoyed a talk at our monthly meeting by Lynsey Nowik called 'Life in the Danelaw'. The term 'Danelaw' refers to the area of England, mainly in the east and north that was under the influence of Viking laws from the late 9th century to the early 11th century.

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Lynsey came dressed in clothes of the period and explained what it was like to be a woman of this time and how they were involved in the dyeing and weaving of wool.

If you are interested in coming along to one of our evening meetings, please get in touch with our president Shirley on 07979 217220.

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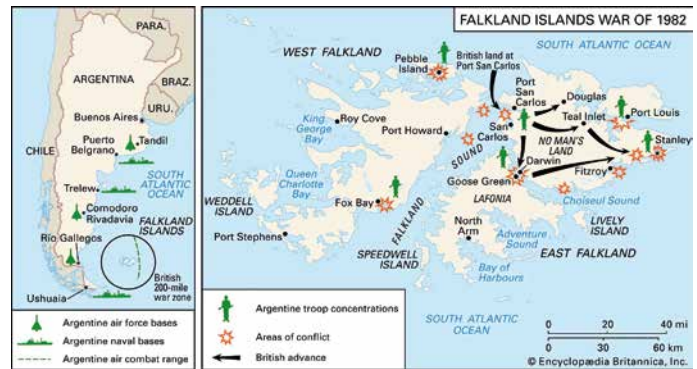
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## PROBUS LEARN ABOUT HMS BROADSWORD & FALKLANDS WAR 1982

For speaker Charlie Threlfall, as a short-term Royal Navy officer, the prospect of a goodwill tour of ten countries had great appeal.

Aged 19 in early April 1982, he was on *HMS Broadsword* at anchor in Gibraltar. They were readying for a series of social events and cocktail parties across the world as they planned to show off their three years old warship. Launched in 1979 as a Type 22 Guided Missile Frigate with a displacement of 4,500 tons and a crew of 235, *HMS Broadsword* was the epitome of the latest thinking in naval warfare. It had no traditional gun batteries but an assortment of guided missiles that could lock on a target without fail.



That very week, on 2nd April 1982, Sub Lieutenant Charlie Threlfall's life changed forever. The Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic were invaded by Argentinian forces. On 5th April *HMS Broadsword* left Gibraltar heading for Ascension Island, about halfway to the Malvinas, as the Argentinians called this British protectorate.

There, a group of twenty war ships and supply vessels was assembled, painting out any identification marks to confuse any attacking forces. Southbound, they sailed in close convoy using no radar and no lights at night so that they could not be located by the enemy. The crew went on Defence Watches of six hours on, six hours off. They were lucky to get four hours sleep each day for ten weeks.

The British submarine *Conqueror* sank the Argentinian cruiser *General Belgrano* on 2 May. Questions were asked in Britain if it was a legitimate target as it was purported to be sailing away from the conflict zone, a situation denied years later by the ship's captain. All Argentinian naval ships were ordered back to port and then only aerial attacks continued at the extreme limits of their range.

Action stations came on 4th May when *HMS Sheffield* was hit by an air launched anti-ship Exocet missile. 170 sailors from the *Sheffield* were rescued by *Broadsword*.

*HMS Broadsword*, along with *HMS Coventry*, was positioned in San Carlos Water and they were unable to spot enemy aircraft approaching over land and were strafed and bombed, being unable to offer much resistance. Crew were instructed not to shoot at helicopters only fast jets.

*Broadsword* and *Coventry* were then positioned at sea to the west of the Falklands to draw aircraft fire from the troops. With two

approaching enemy jets *HMS Coventry* was hit by three 500lb bombs, caught fire and eventually sank. But as it came across the bow of *Broadsword* it prevented them from firing their missiles.

It was then discovered that at sea it was impossible to reload the four Exocet launchers on *Broadsword* once the initial four missiles had been fired. This was one of the many lessons learnt during this conflict.

*HMS Broadsword* had a narrow escape from following the fate of *HMS Coventry* as a 1000lb bomb travelling at 450 mph hit the ship towards the stern, 10 feet above sea level, travelled through two decks and emerged upwards through the flight deck, where it took off the nose of a Lynx helicopter and bounced overboard, having failed to explode.

Six British war ships were lost and sixteen damaged during this conflict. 649 Argentinian military personnel, 255 British and three civilian islanders lost their lives. Charlie Threlfall knows the name of the Argentinian pilot who sent the 1000lb bomb into the side of *HMS Broadsword*. He says he would never shake his hand as two of his fellow schoolboys from his street on the Isle of Wight were in this conflict. One was a cook and was killed in this action while another, like himself, survived thereby becoming a member of the 'Bomb Alley Survivors Club'.

See [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) for more information about this social club for retired professional and business managers.

## LADIES' PROBUS CLUB VISIT JAPANESE GARDEN



At the February meeting of the Ladies' Probus Club of Basingstoke, speaker Graham Bowyer captivated members with a fascinating account of the Japanese garden he and his wife Pauline have cultivated over the past 25 years, inspiring members to visit the garden themselves.

Graham opens his garden in Fleet by special arrangement for parties of 12 – 20 with the proceeds of the entrance fee of £7.50 donated to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham.

The interest in Japanese gardens emerged from their initial visit to Japan in 2000. Since then, Graham and Pauline have visited nine more times, including taking a course in Japanese garden design at a university in Kyoto.

The Ladies Probus' Club had a wonderful afternoon seeing the results of a quarter of a century of a labour of love while enjoying tea and cake in such wonderful surroundings.

The secretary of the Ladies' Probus Club, Pam Luck, can be reached via email at [SecretaryBLPC@gmail.com](mailto:SecretaryBLPC@gmail.com). Email Graham Bowyer at [graham.bowyer@me.com](mailto:graham.bowyer@me.com) to arrange a visit.



## OLD DOWN WILDLIFE GROUP

### Old Down Wildlife Group



Remember 'no mow May'? You probably have already been in the garden to cut the grass – a mown lawn does look nice and tidy. However this is not great for insects. There is a huge decline in insects in the UK due mostly to habitat loss, agricultural practices and use of pesticides. This decline is of great concern as we need insects to

pollinate so we have beautiful flowers to enjoy and more importantly crops to provide our food. This is the time of year to leave grass long for insects to thrive – thus 'no mow May'. Please resist mowing all your grass this month and next month – leave at least some long grass and scruffy areas for the sake of insects. "Insects" of course includes butterflies and all species of butterflies in the UK are now in serious decline from year to year. Butterfly Conservation report that 2024 was the worst year on record for butterfly numbers. Let's look after nature. Sadly our local council doesn't seem to recognize 'no mow May'!!! Just a few photos of the lovely butterflies we see on Old Down.

Another reminder – sorry. There seems to be an increase in dog poo being left on the

site. Dog poo is so dangerous as it carries various diseases that can be transmitted to humans such as toxocariasis. It really is important to pick up your dog's poo and it can easily be disposed of in the bins provided on site.

**Work Parties:** We meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!). We really do need new members and support – this is the way to keep Old Down as a beautiful green space for wildlife and people. You do not have to come every week. Check our website and Facebook for further information and/or contact us by email.

Email: [old.down.wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:old.down.wildlife@gmail.com)

Website: Old Down Wildlife Group

Facebook: Old Down Wildlife Group



Marbled White



Holly Blue



Brown Argus

We are open from  
Wednesday to Sunday  
10am-2pm

## Café in the Park

We look forward to  
seeing you!

**Café in the Park**  
**What's on May**  
Weekly

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Quiche Wednesday Community Meal Deal 12-2pm	Beggarwood Bumps to Babies 11.30-12.30	Friendship Friday Chatty cafe 10.30-11.30

- Friday 2nd - The Oakley Stitches 10-12 - Open Craft Group - Join the activity of making decoupage Jute bags or bring along your own craft. No need to book.
- Wednesday 7th - Community Lunch 12-1.15 - Join the community for lunch. Amazing value meal deals
- Wednesday 7th - BVA Wellbeing walk. 11am. Set off from Outside The Cafe in the park for a guided group walk.
- Friday 9th - Card & Cuppa craft group - Come along and make a Homemade Card with Pauline from I create Craft
- Friday 16th - The Oakley Stitches 10-12 - Open Craft Group - Jute bags for summer
- Saturday 17th - Hatch Warren Lager Festival 7-11pm - Celebrate summer with your friends and come to our fundraising event for the community worldwide selection of lagers, ciders, prosecco, amazing food, DJ and comedy act. Tickets only £6 available from [www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)
- Wednesday 21st - Beggarwood Bookworms 7.30-9pm - The Bookworms discuss The List of Suspicious Things by Jennie Godfrey. New members always welcome
- Friday 23rd - Beggarwood Bookworms Day Time 11.30-12.30 - Daytime Bookgroup. Pop into the Cafe and share your love of books with fellow bookworms

**WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!**  
[community@beggarwood.org](http://community@beggarwood.org)

LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT PARTY VENUE?  
LOOK NO FURTHER, AS  
HATCH WARREN  
OR  
BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ARE HERE TO HELP!

Our halls are suitable for children's parties and we offer morning and afternoon slots on Saturday and Sundays.

Use of our kitchen facilities and hire of tables and chairs are included.

We accept bouncy castles/soft plays and discos in our halls.

To discuss your party further, please email  
[office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)

**Café in the Park**  
Beggarwood Community Centre  
Broadmere Road, Basingstoke,  
RG22 4AQ

**Café in the Park**  
**Quiche Wednesday**

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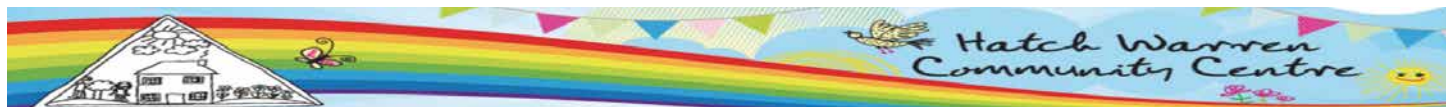
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We are a registered charity run by volunteers - working to make Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live!


**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
COACH TRIP TO  
MATILDA THE MUSICAL**



**18th September 7PM**  
**Cambridge Theatre, LONDON**  
Good Stall Seats  
Tickets cost £75 per person  
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)  
Coach will depart at 3.45pm 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](mailto:OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG)  
or call 01256 811262  
Payment plans available This event is supported by

\*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



Prosecco,  
Wine, Ale &  
Cider too!

Hot Food  
by  
Bartletts

**HATCH WARREN  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
LAGER  
FESTIVAL**

WITH DJ NICK  
&  
**COMEDY ACT HEADLINING:  
JOHN ROBERTSON  
PLUS GUESTS!**

**SATURDAY 17TH MAY  
7-11PM**


Tickets £6  
[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)  
£3 for members  
with a valid membership  
01256 811262


This event is supported by



This event is being held as a fundraising event for HWBCA Charity #1161117  
Tickets non-refundable

**WE HAVE A NEW  
WEBSITE!**

 [hatchwarren.org](http://hatchwarren.org)



**FREE ENTRY FAMILY FUN DAY**

**SUMMER  
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY 21st JUNE**

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
PLAYING FIELDS 12-4pm**

**FREE PARKING ON SITE - INSIDE & OUTSIDE SEATING**

**ST KITT'S VETERINARY PRACTICE FUN DOG SHOW**  
**HW SCOUT GROUP ACTIVITY ZONE & CLIMBING WALL**  
**SUPERB 'BOUNCE4FUN' EVENT INFLATABLES**  
**BERKSHIRE BIRDS OF PREY**  
**STORM IN A TEACUP CIRCUS & BUBBLES WORKSHOP**  
**VINTAGE BUSES ON DISPLAY**

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THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT  
FOR HWBCA CHARITY #1161117





**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
COACH TRIP**

**THE STORY OF HOW MUSIC UNITED THE WORLD**

**JUST FOR  
ONE DAY**

**THE LIVE AID MUSICAL**

**FROM MAY 2025 | SHAFTESBURY THEATRE**

**Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 7.30PM**  
**SHAFTESBURY THEATRE, LONDON**  
Good Stall Seats  
Tickets cost £85 per person  
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)  
Coach will depart at 4pm 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](mailto:OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG)  
or call 01256 811262 This event is supported by

\*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 No 1161117








Children & Young People's support lines

Childline - 0800 1111 - Samaritans - 116 123

Young Minds text service – 85258

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**FREE ENTRY**

10-13 year olds

# THE WARREN


**EVERY FRIDAY**

**6-7:45PM**

We are proud to be the only youth facility in the area offering a wide range of activities every week. Young people can enjoy socialising with their friends, tuck shop, games, sports and crafts.

Find us on Facebook to book a space!

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
LONG CROSS LN, BASINGSTOKE RG22 4XF  
CHARITY NUMBER: 1161117  
email: [Warren@hatchwarren.org](mailto:Warren@hatchwarren.org)



THE WARREN

# Late mates

**Free entry**

**Pool - Music - Xbox - Table Tennis**

**Hot Food**

**Fridays**  
Year groups 8-11  
8-9:30pm

Email: [Warren@hatchwarren.org](mailto:Warren@hatchwarren.org) Hatch Warren Community Centre  
Charity number: 1161117 Long Cross Ln, Basingstoke RG22 4XF

## Monday night is Link2 Club Night

6pm-8.15pm



**WE HAVE SUCH FUN!**

**Manager - Dilys Buchan 07939532667**

LINK2, supported by Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association, is a family orientated group for young adults (16-30) who may need a little support. LINK2 is run by experienced staff who aim to develop a relationship with all members with learning disabilities and their families to get the best outcomes for their future. We support them on a path to growing independence, as they move into adult life.

Improve general Life skills and finding their full potential through sports opportunities

Boost confidence and support for independent travel

Provide experiences to promote Resilience and self esteem

Maintain and develop our access to work programme



Supported by  
 Hampshire County Council

## BEGGARWOOD BOOKWORMS

This month we welcomed Winchester author L.V. Matthews (pictured on the right) talking to us about her thriller *The Twins*. After a successful career in publishing, Liv decided to write her own novels alongside raising her family. For this book she spent much time researching ballet, the role of a nanny and aspects of psychotherapy. For her latest book *Silent Waters* she delved into the role of police divers. She especially enjoys writing when she is able to learn new things along the way and finds joy in discovering where her characters lead her.



Nearly 30 members attended and they asked many interesting and varied questions. It was an evening enjoyed by all.

Next month's read is *The Women* by Kirsten Hannah. This is set during the time of the Vietnam War detailing the role of the nurses who served there and their treatment on return to America.

Read along with us, follow on Facebook and Instagram or join us for coffee and book chat at our next meeting in The Cafe in the Park.



**Join our friendly group and  
chat about this month's book  
with us**



**Wednesday 21st May**

List of Suspicious Things Jennie Godfrey. Crime thriller set in Yorkshire 1979 Miv and Sharon decide to solve the mystery of disappearing women by making a list of suspicious people in their road



**Wednesday 11th June**

Go as a River Shelley Read Modern fiction coming of age tale. Teenager Victoria is the only woman in a family running a peach farm in Colorado. GO AS A RIVER is the powerful and emotional Sunday Times bestselling novel which you'll never forget.



**Wednesday 9th July**

Get to know your fellow bookworms at our social picnic swap tips and books for the summer

**7.30-9pm**

**Tickets £3.00**

**Via Ticketsource.co.uk**

Follow us on social media for news  
#beggardwoodbookworms  
email Community@beggardwood.org

**Café in the Park**



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**Welcome to King's Church  
Basingstoke**

You are invited to join us at  
10:15 when we start with Tea  
and Coffee and the warmest  
of welcomes.

**A church that is:**

- Faithful to God
- Caring for each other
- Committed to those around us

Every Sunday Morning  
(except the first Sunday of the month)

10:15am in the main hall at  
Manor Field Junior School  
Haydn Road, Brighton Hill

www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com Tel: 07741 856437





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## LOOKING FOR A SOCIAL CYCLING CLUB THAT CATERS FOR ALL LEVELS?

### Welcome to the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Cycle Club

We are a community cycling club based in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood area of Basingstoke.

The club's motto is "Come Ride With Us," and we hope you do. We are working to be as inclusive as possible and encourage you to join in.

We offer rides for different abilities, so whether you are a beginner or a seasoned rider, you are welcome to join us. We ride every Saturday at 9 a.m. starting from St Mark's School on Danebury Road.

So, if you want to get fit, ride with like-minded individuals, and see the Hampshire countryside, please get in touch. We would love to welcome you on our next ride.

Our membership year starts on 1st April and finishes on 31st March. This year's membership fee is £10.

If you'd like to try the club before committing to membership, please come to a ride and introduce yourself. We won't ask you to fully sign up as a member

until you've cycled with us three times.

Alternatively, if you'd like to have a tester ride outside of a club ride, please message the club and we may be able to organise a special ride.

There aren't many rules; the main ones are that we won't allow anyone to ride with us without a suitable helmet and that we currently ask that all riders be over 18 years old.

Visit our Facebook pages for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/HWBcc>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us either by Facebook or via email at [info@hwbcc.org](mailto:info@hwbcc.org)



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## THE PINK PLACE

### The Perfect Girls Night Out!

Sponsored by Ripton Windows and Conservatories, The Pink Place has once again partnered with Solo Mia Italian Fashion to bring you our Charity Fashion Show.

Come along with friends and family and help support a local Cancer Charity in Basingstoke.

The show includes a Glass of Prosecco and entry into the Free Draw to win a 2-hour personal shopping experience with Erika at her Solo Mia Showroom in Oakley plus a voucher for £50 to spend on clothes/accessories there. Tickets £15.

One in two of us will get cancer in our lifetime, and whilst there are many amazing charities looking to beat the disease, The Pink Place was formed to support people who are going through Cancer NOW.

We provide support groups and holistic well-being services, outside of a hospital setting, which can make a significant difference to those individuals going through cancer.

We offer the opportunity to meet in a safe and relaxed environment in which to connect with others and share thoughts and experiences that may otherwise be difficult to discuss with loved ones.



## BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

**Sunday 11th May 2025**

11am to 4pm at the Basingstoke War Memorial Park

Basingstoke Deane Rotary have been running this event for the past few years, having taken over from the Thornycroft Society.

As in previous years, there will be a huge range of vehicles on static display, including classic, vintage, commercial, fire engines and military trucks. There will also be a variety of specialist car clubs, trade stalls and catering outlets.

Entrance free to pedestrian visitors, event parking £5 per car

This is a charity run event put on entirely by unpaid volunteers. Funds raised go charity and charitable activities.

Are you thinking of a 2025 move? Reach out to me to discuss how I can help you!  
*Your local and independant Agent*



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**ANVIL ARTS** 01256 844244 [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk)  
(Tickets include £4 booking fee)

### GIOVANNI - The Last Dance

Sat 3 May 7.30pm The Anvil, Tickets: £63, £56, £47. VIP £134  
Suitable for: ages 8 and over

Strictly Come Dancing professional Giovanni Pernice returns with his tour, The Last Dance. The 2021 Strictly champion, BAFTA winner, and the Italian maestro of dance will be taking to the stage once again with his company of world-class performers in a mesmerising production.

*Senbla presents Opera International's award-winning Ellen Kent production*

### MADAMA BUTTERFLY

featuring the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv with international soloists, chorus, and full orchestra

Sun 4 May 7.30pm The Anvil, Tickets: £49, £45, £41, £37. Under 25s and f/t students half price (plus booking fee), over 65s £2 off

The award-winning opera returns in a new production with exquisite sets, including a spectacular Japanese garden, and fabulous costumes, such as antique wedding kimonos from Japan. Highlights include the melodic Humming Chorus, the moving aria One Fine Day, and the unforgettable Love Duet. Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

*Tabs Productions in association with the Theatre Royal, Nottingham present*

### THE BUSINESS OF MURDER

by Richard Harris

Thu 8 – Sat 10 May The Haymarket, Tickets: £24, 2pm £26. Under 25s and f/t students £15.50. Friends £21 Thu 8 May

The time: 1981. The cast: The detective, the playwright, and the man who's brought them together.

Humourless and drab Stone invites Dee, a television playwright, over to his flat to discuss a script. However, to her surprise, the man with whom she is having an affair with turns up for an entirely different reason.

### MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2 - Cruising Through Menopause!

Sat 17 May 7.30pm The Anvil, Tickets: £35

Suitable for: ages 16 and over

Carli Norris (Doctors, Hollyoaks, EastEnders), Maureen Nolan (The Nolans), Rebecca Wheatley (Casualty), and West End star Daniele Coombe, star in the final UK tour of Menopause The Musical 2 – Cruising Through Menopause.

### PIRATES LOVE UNDERPANTS

based on the beloved book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort

Friday 23 May, 1.30pm and Saturday 24 May, 10.30am & 1.30pm The Haymarket, Tickets: £18. Under 16s £16

Suitable for: ages 1 and over

These pirates SO love underpants! Join the swashbuckling party of pirates on their quest to find the fabled Pants of Gold for the captain's treasure chest. Dodge hungry crocs beneath Long-John Bridge, bob upon the waves of Big Knickers Bay, spot sharks in fancy underpants, and trek across Three Pants Ridge.

### RICHARD THOMPSON

Sat 24 May, 7.30pm The Haymarket, Tickets: £44

A founding member of Fairport Convention, Richard Thompson's

musical influence cannot be overstated. His genre-defying mastery of the guitar, along with engaging energy and onstage wit, continues to earn him new fans and a place as one of the most distinctive virtuosos and writers in folk rock history.

### RUDE SCIENCE

Tue 27 May, 11.30am & 3pm The Anvil, Tickets: £21. Under 16s £19) Family tickets: £76 (4 tickets = either 2 adults & 2 children or 1 adult & 3 children) Suitable for: ages 6 and over

Brace yourselves for the return of BBC Gastronomer Stefan Gates' revolutionary, high-tech, highly-explosive show packed with outrageous science stunts, this time at The Anvil. On the surface, it's a riot of disgusting experiments built to delight young audiences, but under the bonnet, it's a brilliantly-constructed, curriculum-driven adventure designed to inspire Britain's kids with a lasting fascination for science.

### CRAIG REVEL HORWOOD - Revelations – Songs Boys Don't Sing

Sat 31 May, 7.30pm The Anvil, Tickets: £39. VIP M&G £89, VIP £54

Craig Revel Horwood is a national treasure. The longest-serving judge on BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing is the master of the Glitter Ball. After starting as a dancer, he worked on the nation's biggest musicals and became a choreographer, director, and best-selling author. Craig's also a remarkable singer, and to celebrate the release of his debut solo album, Revelations, he'll reveal his own hidden talent during a Fab-U-Lous night of big songs, tall tales, and glamour.



BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB PRESENTS:

**NEW VENUE:** Central Studio @ Queen Mary's College



**CONNOR SELBY**

Traditional Blues Artist of the Year 2025 Nominee

SATURDAY 17th MAY

8PM - LATE

live at

Central Studio  
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All welcome. Tickets £10 in advance online or on the door

Full details & tickets at [basingstokeblues.co.uk](http://basingstokeblues.co.uk)

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## STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

If you're finding it hard to pay your mortgage, you might be able to:

- reduce your household costs or increase the money you have coming in
- switch to a cheaper mortgage deal
- reduce your mortgage payments
- reduce payments on a shared ownership property
- change payments on your endowment policy

**citizens advice** Basingstoke

The cost of living crisis is making it hard to find new mortgage deals at the moment and you may not be able to save money by making changes to your mortgage. Remember to take a look at your household budget regularly to see if you can save money in other ways.

If you've already missed mortgage payments you must act quickly to stop yourself from falling into debt. If your lender thinks you're not dealing with your debt, they'll take action through the courts and this could lead to you losing your home.

Look at your household budget to check what money you have coming in and how much you're spending. You might be able to save money on your home insurance by switching to cheaper mortgage protection, buildings or contents insurance.

You can find more information here: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/mortgage-problems](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/mortgage-problems).

If you don't have enough money to live on, you might be able to get benefits or help from a government grant. You might also be able to get help with bills like your council tax, you can find more information here: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money)

*Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice, whatever the enquiry involves. To speak to an adviser please call Adviceline on 0808 278 7829, Monday to Friday, 9-4pm.*

*Registered charity no 900116. [www.cabasingstoke.org.uk](http://www.cabasingstoke.org.uk)*

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**PLAYERS WANTED!**  
Hatch Warren Phoenix U11's

**School Year 6 (From September)**  
**2025/26 Season**  
**FA Qualified Coaches**  
**Matches – Sundays**  
**Training – Wednesday Evenings**

**For Enquiries, Contact**  
**John Butler – 07970 736 999**

The FA  
CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

## Notes from the kitchen

### Sunday Roast



When I was young, the staple of the week's menu was the Sunday roast. Roast beef was the family favourite served with Yorkshire pudding, roast spuds, parsnips and a green vegetable. There would be leftovers to be served cold on Monday with any leftover veg made into bubble and squeak. Sliced and layered with carrots and onions and covered with stock to make a hotpot on Tuesday, minced and made into a cottage pie on Wednesday. There was no food processor in our house – the mincer was screwed onto the end of the ironing board and the chopped up meat fed in while I turned the handle. A chicken was for special occasions. I remember collecting a chicken from the butcher and having to wait while he removed the feathers and guts. There was a separate bag for the 'giblets' – kidney, liver and neck – which was a key ingredient in preparing the gravy.

Now the supermarket displays rows of chicken in sizes from very small to extra large. Sadly they no longer seem to include that small bag of giblets – I wonder where they go. The extra large bird can be stuffed, roasted and served with lots of roasted vegetables or whatever you fancy.

Monday - Strip the meat off and boil up the bones for stock then serve chicken with jacket potatoes and salad. A chicken risotto on Tuesday made with the stock. Any meat and stock left help make a thick and delicious vegetable soup for Wednesday. Maybe a chicken pie for dinner one evening and if there isn't enough meat left, then mushrooms, carrots and frozen peas could be added. And there will probably be enough meat left for a couple of sandwiches for the lunchbox.

But what about those of us who do not want to eat meat? A jar of pulses can go a long way to provide a variety of meals. Red kidney beans can be the basis of delicious veggie burgers (Jack Monroe's recipe is amazing, easy and cheap). Add beans and lentils to chopped vegetables, top with mashed potato and you have a cottage pie. There are many books devoted to cooking with beans. Even if you are not a vegetarian or vegan, pulses are cheap and delicious. My current favourite recipe using white beans is 'Hearty Sausage Stew' from Julius Roberts' book 'The Family Table'. I use whole sausages (meat or veggie) and add whatever green vegetable I have available. Delicious!

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 needs a deliverer:

**RABBITER DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED**

**Longwood Copse Lane**



## RESTAURANT REVIEW

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Regular travellers along the A33 to Reading will have noticed that the Jekyll & Hyde pub near to the Wellington Arms reopened about a month ago. From the outbreak of Covid this establishment has suffered more than most being closed more than being open. This, no doubt, proved to be a problem to the landlord, the Devises brewery, Hall & Woodhouse, as their other establishments of the Holly Blue at Beggarwood and the Queens College Arms on the Tadley road remained open.

Eager to see if it has changed, Madam and I had Sunday lunch there. It looked familiar inside in all manner and had all female waiting staff that were pleasant and efficient. Rather than the standard weekday menu, instead a restrictive Sunday lunch special was proffered with the typical choices including burgers. A children's menu is available.

Forgoing a starter Madam had roast chicken while I had sliced roast pork belly. Each plate came with a couple of overdone roast potatoes and a Yorkshire pudding and a small jug of gravy. Vegetables came in a separate dish of carrots, broccoli, red cabbage and cabbage and a further dish of cauliflower cheese. Extra jugs of gravy can be ordered for an additional £1.50.

Our pudding choice was apple and pear crumble with a jug of custard followed by a flat white coffee for Madam that came in a vase shaped vessel without handles and I had an Americano with separate hot milk. Mine was in a glass tumbler with a handle.

With our drinks of a zero alcohol Peroni and diet tonic with ice and a slice the bill came to £65.50 including a discretionary service charge.

While the place was not packed it was quite busy with most tables in use for diners but no doubt this will improve as it becomes common knowledge that it has reopened.



## IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

Issue 7 of the Rabbiter came out in August 1993. There were two very important local news items.

The main headline was that plans were being finalised for the building of a new primary school in Hatch Warren. The location was off Danebury Road and the 'chicane' in Woodbury Road. It was to be a Church of England Aided school and open to all children. Building was due to start in March 1995, with a view to the school opening in September 1996.

This was, of course, the announcement of what we now know as St Mark's School. Today it is difficult to remember Hatch Warren and Beggarwood without St Mark's. It has retained its strong Christian ethos and become one of the most respected and popular primary schools in the Borough. Its 'Friends of St Mark's' Parent/Teacher Association is one of the most active in the area.

The second item that was high on the agenda in 1993 was the issue of road safety. On 17th June, seventy local residents, representatives of the Police and Councils, plus Borough Councillors attended a public meeting to discuss traffic problems. It was a large turnout for a public meeting, and demonstrated the concern being felt in the area.

A traffic survey, commissioned by local residents, had shown that 32,000 vehicles used the southern end of Woodbury Road in one week, and of those, 22,000 broke the speed limit - with twelve exceeding 70 mph! That was ridiculous behaviour, so it is no wonder that the discussion was described as 'lively'!

This traffic survey initiative from local residents was received seriously by the Councils and had brought about immediate improvements to signage on our local roads. Eventually it led to the installation of the 'build outs' that slow down traffic around Hatch Warren. These are either loved or loathed to this day. One was removed from Long Cross Lane due to its position on a bend.

On balance, I believe residents see the build-outs today as a useful addition to road safety in the area. With car meets so prominent these days, I hope that they help to deter some of the worst excesses of irresponsible driving.

News from the Community Centre was positive. One initiative was a leaded glass window that had been designed, for which sponsors were being sought. It was due to be assembled in August.

The first Hatch Warren beer festival had been a success, with over 600 people attending. This event has evolved and continues to this day.

And a first birthday celebration was being planned for 4th September, with a Barn Dance in the evening.

To finish ... here's a memory that sadly seems to have faded away ... people were being encouraged to grow sunflowers and measure their height. There was a competition, with judging scheduled for 4th September.

I used to enjoy seeing these magnificent flowers around the area - is this an idea worthy of being resurrected?

**Stephen Reid**



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## WELCOME!

Ha Laser Studio is an independent clinic in Basingstoke, founded by Hayley, who has 20 years of experience in the industry. She began her career with a renowned company, gaining expertise at Harley Street alongside top industry professionals. The clinic specialises in a range of advanced laser treatments, including laser hair removal, skin resurfacing, tattoo removal, vascular treatments, and photo facials for conditions like pigmentation, rosacea, and acne. With a focus on expert knowledge and using the best global technology, Cynosure, Quanta & Lynton.

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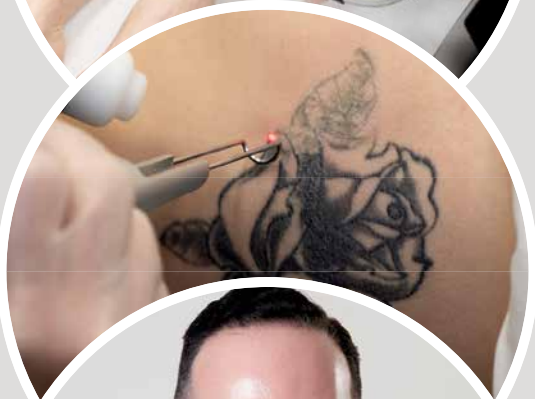
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## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

On Thursday 8 May 2025 it will have been 80 years since VE Day (Victory in Europe) – the day the Second World War ended in Europe.

*God bless you all. This is your victory.*

*In our long history, we have never seen a greater day than this.*

*Everyone, man or woman, has done their best.*

These are the words spoken by Prime Minister Winston Churchill as he addressed a crowd in Whitehall following the surrender of the German government at that time. Just before that he had stood on the balcony at Buckingham Palace with King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

This was the end of the war in Europe but unfortunately not the world – it would be another 3 months before Japan surrendered on 15th August (VJ Day).

An anniversary such as this gives us cause to remember and learn from the sacrifice of those who served, on the frontline, and on the home front, for those who had worked in reserved occupations and for the children evacuated to safety far from home.

It makes us remember those who didn't make it home and those who did but then lived with the scars of war, both physically and emotionally for the rest of their lives.

So much had been given by so many. The end of war means trying to rebuild nations and people learning to live in peace with each other. When we commemorate, we give thanks for those who gave their lives to resist evil and oppose tyranny. We can also give thanks that we are no longer at war.

But that is not the case for every nation. War has again returned to Europe with the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. And further away, there is a war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas. Peace has eluded the nations of the world, and other conflicts rage unnoticed that don't make it to our TV screens.

The Bible has a lot to say about peace. When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his imminent arrest and death, he spoke the following words to comfort them:

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

We may yearn for peace, but we need to play our part in it. Peace isn't a passive word but an active one. How do we become people of peace?

First of all, I think we need to pursue peace, in our families, in our neighbourhoods, communities and nation. Peace means laying aside our individual needs and working for the greater good of everyone else.

We can then promote peace, acting with both justice and compassion in what we say and do. And finally, we can pray for peace – for ourselves and others. May we choose to be people of peace today.

**Rev'd Kim Robins**

Associate Minister



## James's CHANNEL RELAY Swim



Hi, I'm **James**, last year I turned 50 years old and thought, "What crazy thing could I do?" well.. This September I'll be taking part in an English Channel relay Swim from DOVER to FRANCE in aid of Swim Tayka

### What's a Channel Relay Swim?

- I'll be swimming as part of a small team of 5 or 6
- Each person swims for 1 hour before handing over to a team mate
- We continue this rotation until we reach France
- No wetsuits, gloves, arm bands or floats! Just me and my budy smugglers



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## THE MONTH OF MAY IN SUPERSTITIONS

As ever, many of the familiar traditions and superstitions we might associate with the Month of May, and especially May Day, seem to have come to us from much earlier Roman or Celtic spring, flower and fire festivals.

A very common belief held that to wash one's face in fresh dew on May morning would bring lasting beauty. It could also wash away pimples and freckles.

Dancing around a Maypole to mark the coming of the month was banned during Puritan times. The celebrations, including appointing a May King and May Queen, were viewed by Cromwell's Commonwealth as pagan. The Maypole and May celebrations were reinstated by Charles II at the restoration of the monarchy.

Bringing in the May was also popular; collecting flowers and blossoms such as Hawthorn sprigs and giving them to friends and family or decorating the house. Hawthorn, the May Tree, has its own collection of superstitions including the fear that bringing the blooms into the home is unlucky. It is also unlucky to damage a Hawthorn as they belong to the Faery Folk and is a gateway to their realm.



*The May Fairy*

Image by Cecily Mary Barker

## Pets Corner

Send your photos to [editor@therabbiter.biz](mailto:editor@therabbiter.biz)



*I'm Holly an Irish Rescue – Linda*



*Pickle Sprout an American Wirehair – Benjamin & Loren*



*My lovely cat Benji – Charlotte*



*I 4 year old Milly – Claire & Tim*

"Marry in May and Rue the Day" was a famous saying and during Victorian times there was apparently evidence that this was widely believed with fewer marriages taking place during that month. It was also considered very unlucky to buy a new broom in May: "New broom in May, sweep a friend away"!

**Terri Reid MA FRSA**  
[Terrielizabethreid.com](http://Terrielizabethreid.com)



*Our Maine Coon cat Ozzy – John*



## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

After a lovely Easter break, we are now back for the final full term at Hatch Warren Under Fives, and we have the added excitement of finding out which schools our older children are going to!

In the lead-up to the holidays we enjoyed lots of Easter activities with lots of arts and crafts. We also played basketball, enjoyed some waterplay, set up a nail salon, made obstacle courses in the garden and built brick walls in the construction site.

Now that the weather is better, we are spending lots more time in the garden and will be looking for mini beasts; we link this in with our life cycles topic. We have a mini beast shed in the garden where we have identification posters. The children love hunting for snails, worms, beetles and even spiders and they use magnifying glasses, binoculars, clip boards and pencils.

As we are now in our final term, 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 of 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 creatively and critically think

We have a few spaces remaining for our next academic year in September 2025. 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](mailto: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](http://www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk)

## CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

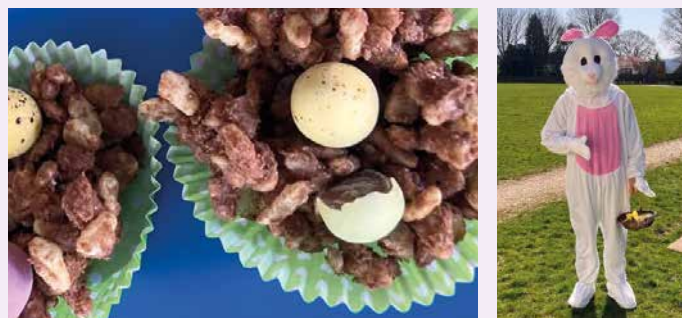
Spring has sprung at Cuckoo Meadow and the children loved learning about insects in gardens, so much so that this topic lasted longer than expected! We also showed appreciation for our amazing Mummies on Mother's Day with these stunning pictures on cards!



We held our Easter raffle and some lucky winners took home these lovely hampers.



To celebrate Easter, we made these yummy crispy egg cakes and the children enjoyed an exhilarating egg hunt thanks to a special visit from the Easter Bunny!



**Georgia Hawken**

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

This season, we've embraced the beauty of Spring by encouraging our children to explore nature and express what they see through art. One of our favourite activities has been painting large scale still life pictures of flowers. Children observe colour, shape and texture, and translate what they see onto canvas with vibrant creativity. This simple yet powerful activity helps them develop fine motor skills, attention to detail, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Spring is the season of growth and there is no better way to experience it than by getting our hands in the soil and planting seeds and flowers. With watering cans in hand and muddy



fingertips, the children have learnt how plants grow, what they need to thrive and how patience and care can lead to something beautiful. We are growing more than flowers this season – we are growing curious minds and kind hearts.



Fundraising for our preschool 'Three Peaks Challenge' is ongoing – please pop on our just giving page to donate. [https://www.justgiving.com/page/louise-hatton-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/louise-hatton-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL) Thank you for your kindness and support.

Candover Valley Preschool is a vibrant and nurturing learning environment. Please contact us if you would like to enquire about a place for your child. Places are currently available from Autumn 2025.

01256-389008 [cvpadmin@btconnect.com](mailto:cvpadmin@btconnect.com)

## DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

It's been a lovely half term with so many special events. We celebrated Mother's Day by inviting parents to come in for homemade scones. The children had prepared cards, keychains and flowers made from their handprints. We all had a sing-along and it was lovely to share what our special people in our lives mean to us.



We had a trip to St Mark's farm. It's always such a lovely experience for us all to go and see the animals so a huge thank to the school for allowing us to go over.

Following the children's interests, one of our focus areas has been "Under the Sea". We talked about the types of fish we

might find and that they are all different shapes, sizes and colours. We painted pictures of fish by using celery dipped in paint to create scales and mixed together primary colours to create new ones. We made a giant Octopus and also introduced our curiosity cube. The idea of the cube is to inspire curiosity, discover, investigation and communication. Each week our cube will reflect the children's interests.

To celebrate Easter we carried out an easter hunt where the children had to match easter pictures hidden around the garden. They thoroughly enjoyed this and especially the Easter treat they got to take home!!



Our Easter Bonnet competition was a huge hit and there were some amazing entrants. It was so lovely to see the children coming in looking so proud wearing their creations.

A huge thank you to Dashwood Manor Care Home for kindly organising an Easter Egg hunt for our families again this year. We thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

As we return for our last term, the children will be aware of which "big school" they will transition to. We will be focusing on school readiness for our older children. We will be supplying a school readiness pack to our families to help prepare the children.

Another focus area will be out in the garden. We will be busy planting vegetable seeds and flowers. The children will each have a bean to take home and plant and we will share pictures of how tall they are growing.

If you are considering Dandelions for your child's early years, please do contact us for a registration form or to arrange a visit Tel No: 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail [info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk](mailto:info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk) Our waiting lists for 2026/2027 are now open.

## ROTARY COLLECTING FOR THE MYANMAR & THAILAND EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

Thanks to the team at Festival Place we were able to react very quickly and collect donations for the disaster on Saturday 5th April.

**Please donate to SHELTERBOX, Ring +44 300 0300 500.** SHELTERBOX are a trusted Rotary partner; they have warehouses located in frequent disaster areas, they can quickly assess what is required and get relief quickly to affected people. That may be full kits with tents and household equipment or perhaps tool kits and tarpaulins to repair and make dwellings watertight in the short term.

**[www.rcbd.org.uk](http://www.rcbd.org.uk)**



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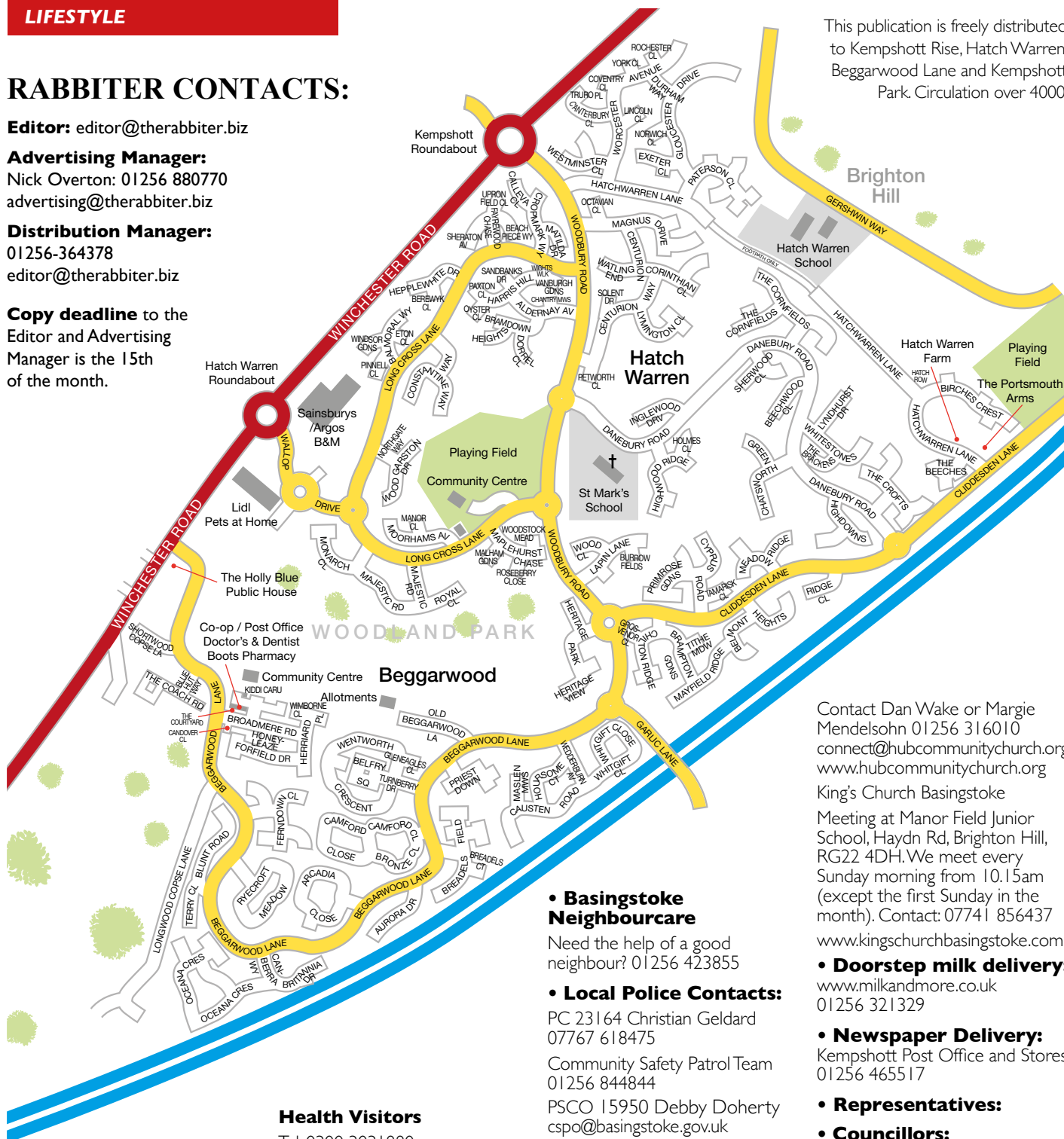
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Community Safety Patrol Team  
01256 844844

PSCO 15950 Debby Doherty  
cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk

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## • 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

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Contact Dan Wake or Margie Mendelsohn 01256 316010  
connect@hubcommunitychurch.org  
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King's Church Basingstoke

Meeting at Manor Field Junior School, Haydn Rd, Brighton Hill, RG22 4DH. We meet every Sunday morning from 10.15am (except the first Sunday in the month). Contact: 07741 856437

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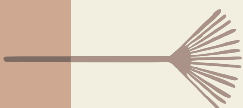
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