

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 321  
September 2025

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

All the regular features plus

- **DAVE'S NATURE SPOT** **NEW**
- **SLEEP-OUT AGAINST HOMELESSNESS**
- **MENCAP DONATION**

and much more

FROM THE EDITOR

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## EDITORIAL

John Keats described autumn as 'a season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. Our cover photo this month illustrates that – an August image taken in Hatch Warren. Please send in your potential candidates for our front covers.

This issue sees the first in what will be a regular feature – Dave's Nature spot (Page 23). David Levy takes remarkable photographs of the natural world that is around us, and also offers interesting commentaries on what he has seen. At a time when so many fields in our area are being given over to development, it is increasingly important that we value and enhance the nature that remains.

We have an important report from the Patient Participation Group on Page 8. They are showing that wellness is about more than just seeing a doctor. Especially in the area of mental health, support and positive activities can be very important.

As always, I am grateful to our many contributors who write about their areas of interest. We have hundreds of clubs and interest groups. They are vitally important in building a positive regard of our area and I hope this issue of the Rabbiter helps to reinforce the services they are providing to our community.

**Editor**



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**advertising@therabbiter.biz**  
or send to **editor@therabbiter.biz**

# THE Rabbiter

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## HATCH WARREN WI

Dressed as ancient Egyptians, two of our team talked of mummies, pyramids, and some of the most interesting pharaohs. This included the boy king, Tutankhamen, with his golden death mask. The talk concluded with the story of the Rosetta Stone, the discovery of which enabled scholars to understand the previously inexplicable hieroglyphics. We then had the opportunity to write our own name in hieroglyphics on a piece of real papyrus which we took home.

In August we had our annual outing. This year we enjoyed afternoon tea at Capital Garden Centre in Sherfield on Loddon.

Our next monthly meeting will be 7:30pm Thursday 4th September at Hatch Warren Community Centre. The speaker will be Jeff Evans who will be reminiscing about The Golden Age of Children's Television.

If you are interested in joining us for the evening, please contact our president Liz on 07710804675

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



## CRIME PREVENTION UPDATE

### Dispose of your waste responsibly to avoid a fine

Everyone has a legal 'duty of care' to ensure their household or business waste is disposed of correctly. You can be prosecuted even if your waste is fly tipped by someone you have paid to take it away. To dispose of items not collected by your household refuse and recycling collections, you could:

- Book an appointment at one of Hampshire County Council's waste recycling centres and take your waste there.
- Pay an approved licensed waste carrier and sign a waste transfer note handing over responsibility to them.
- If you have something to dispose of, but you're not sure where to take it, check out Hampshire County Council's waste finder.

### Campaign: "See beyond the silence"

Developed by Hampshire County Council, in partnership with the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and the Hampshire Authentic Voice Panel, this campaign urges adults to pause, look closer, and act.

Children experiencing domestic abuse might:

- Seem anxious, withdrawn or unusually aggressive
- Become suddenly fearful or overly compliant
- Struggle with sleep or concentration
- Show signs of guilt or self-blame

These are often a child's way of asking for help without saying a word. If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts. Your concern could be the first step toward safety for a child.

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## COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### Stephen Reid

County Councillor: Basingstoke  
South West 07976 310206  
stephen.reid@hants.gov.uk

**A30 ROAD WORKS:** I predict heavier traffic through Hatch Warren and Beggarwood overnight from 27th August to 19th September. The A30 between the Kempshott Roundabout and the Hatch Warren Roundabout will close to allow the road to be resurfaced. This is not a 'tar and chippings' surface dressing but a removal of the top layer of the road and construction of a new asphalt surface. It is needed, in my opinion, because of the severe deterioration of this stretch of road, contributed to by the poor quality of reinstatements made by utility companies who dug it up previously. We have seen 'ribbon potholes' developing along the lines of their work.

**KEMPSHOTT LANE CLOSURE:** Kempshott Lane was closed during August to allow for the renewal of pipes by Southern Gas Networks. I am now trying to find out whether this is the work (and all of it) that caused the resurfacing of this busy road to be delayed: if it is, I shall be pressing for the resurfacing of Kempshott Lane to be re-programmed as soon as possible.

**NEW PATH REQUEST:** At a meeting about improving travel around western Basingstoke, especially for cyclists and pedestrians, I put in a plea for a path on the Holly Blue side of the A30 towards the motorcycle shop. The lack of a path here seems an anomaly that should be corrected.

**NEW SCHOOL:** The new school at Hounsme Fields is scheduled to open in a few days time to year R pupils. Together with my colleague, Cllr Juliet Henderson, we are pressing for a date on which the Toucan crossing on the A30 will be provided. This will become increasingly important as the school fills up.

**NEWMAN COURT ADULT CARE:** I took part in a review of the Newman Court and Chesil Lodge day care centres and was impressed by the services they offer. I recommended to Cabinet that they be kept open, under external management. Moving to this new model should make it possible to save money and to retain a much valued service. I am pleased that the Cabinet agreed this way forward.

**ANAEROBIC DIGESTER:** At a liaison group meeting in July we discussed reports from local residents of continuing odour leaks. The operators took the complaints seriously but did not have a ready explanation. Discussions concentrated on the occasions when gas might be vented or flared. There was a renewed commitment to try to pin the complaints down to specific events. As part of the maintenance of the Basingstoke AD facility, both digester cooling tanks were emptied on 6th and 7th August as part of a maintenance process known as 'degritting'. This involved temporarily isolating the tanks, removing panels from them and extracting all grits / inert material to clear them.

**FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS:** At the AD meeting, I asked about the impact of the Borough Council's planned introduction of doorstep food waste collections, given that the operators are hoping to win work associated with this. I was assured that it

will not cause any increase in volumes being processed at the Basingstoke Digester. My concern is that I do not want to see any increase in HGV traffic through Hatch Warren.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION:** Hampshire County Council has put forward a proposal for four unitary authorities in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area. The solution is designed to balance financial resilience, service quality, and local identity. The suggested configuration includes a North and Mid Hampshire authority (covering Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester and East Hampshire), a South-West authority (including Southampton, Eastleigh, Test Valley, and New Forest) and a South-East authority (encompassing Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport, and Havant), leaving the Isle of Wight as a standalone unitary. The Borough Council is putting forward an alternative solution. The government will decide.

**ANPR CAMERAS AT ASDA:** I am delighted to see Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras installed at the ASDA car park. This is to discourage its use by car meets. After I obtained ANPR restrictions at Sainsbury's and persuaded the management company to lock the gates to the LIDL car park, the meets started to use ASDA more often. But ANPR is only a first stage in bearing down on the antisocial behaviour associated with these events. The second stage must be for the Police to stop drivers using our local roads as race tracks. Barely a night goes by without Hatch Warren and Beggarwood suffering the antisocial noise deliberately created by people who should know better.

**LOCAL SURGERIES:** I attended the most recent meeting of the Patient Participation Group with the managers of the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries. They reported positive news: two new (part time) GPs have been recruited and four new receptionists, which brings the team up to full strength. The managers also reported that they had held two successful 'Total Triage' pilot days, trying out new procedures for assessing patient contacts and routing them to the right professionals. A final one was held in August. The plan is to roll out the new procedures in all surgeries this month, before the usual winter pressures.

**CQC INSPECTION:** The Care Quality Commission has published its findings following a recent inspection of the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries. Overall the practice rating remains good, but improvement is required for 'responsiveness'. The report can be viewed online: AP8468 - Care Quality Commission

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING:** I attended this important meeting in July. The chairman, Nick Elms, reported a year of vibrant activity for the Association, with a full programme of activities for all ages including the high-profile Fireworks display and the Summer Fair. Youth engagement remains a cornerstone of the Association's mission, with the Warren Youth Club thriving and the LINK2 project providing help to young people with learning disabilities. He was also pleased to report a dramatic turnaround in the financial health of the Association: a projected deficit of over £31,000 last year had been turned into a surplus of over £6,000. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the committee and the staff.

**DANGEROUS PARKING:** Following a complaint, I have reported the prevalence of dangerous parking in Centurion Way, by its junction with Woodbury Road, usually at school run times. The



poor parking forces people onto the wrong side of the road right by the junction, and this is an accident waiting to happen.

**E-SCOOTERS:** the Police have been active across Basingstoke lately in bearing down on the use of electric scooters, which are, at the present time, not legal in public areas. One of their target locations has been Hatch Warren. Owners are advised that the scooters can be confiscated if they are used on roads or pavements.

**DISPERSAL ORDER:** officers from the South/West Neighbourhood Policing Team carried out patrols to enforce a Section 34 Dispersal Order which was put in place to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood areas. They dispersed large groups of youths who were behaving antisocially at the Hatch Warren Community Centre and the Hatch Warren Retail Park. Some of those who were identified to be causing issues have had follow up visits with their parents. Others have been banned by local businesses due to their behaviours.

**WAREHOUSES:** the Borough Council has published its planning decision notice, accepting the plans for warehouses near Junction 7, which I opposed. Local pressure group CAGE has raised concerns that there seems to be no mention of directing HGV traffic along the M3. This is being investigated.

**BLOG:** I give more details on these and other issues in my blog, which can be found at <https://www.reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>

Best wishes – Stephen



---

## Stacy Hart

Borough Councillor:

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

Facebook, BlueSky & Insta: @allinpartyUK, TikTok: @all\_in\_party

Monthly resident e-newsletter: [www.allinparty.org.uk](http://www.allinparty.org.uk)

Dear HW&B residents – I hope you all had lovely summers!

Firstly – a really important date for your diary this month. Baton of Hope, the UK's largest-ever suicide prevention initiative, is coming to Basingstoke on Thursday 25th September. The Baton of Hope Tour 2025 will take in dozens of cities and towns throughout the UK, and the Basingstoke stop will comprise an entire day of the Baton being passed between bearers on a meaningfully designed journey with speakers, performances, arts and events, information, education and support along the way – all with the aim of ensuring that suicide is as rare as possible. Inclusion Education have done an incredible job of organising this massive day and it would be wonderful to have as many people as possible come along to show support for a vital cause. You can find out more at [inclusioneducation.org.uk/baton-of-hope-basingstoke](http://inclusioneducation.org.uk/baton-of-hope-basingstoke) or on the 'Baton of Hope Tour25 – Basingstoke' Facebook group.

Another one for your calendar is the fourth annual Men's Event we are holding on Saturday 13th September from 11am to 1pm at the Holly Blue pub. I started organising these sessions for people to hear and discuss how gender inequality also negatively impacts men, and we have had great feedback over the years about the speakers we've heard from on myriad elements of the topic, and the follow up discussions on how everyone is hurt

by societal inequality and why bringing an equality lens to policy making benefits us all. You can find out more on the channels below or by signing up to my resident newsletter; the event is free and open to everyone – men and women alike. I hope to see some of you there, and with any luck we'll get good weather and can enjoy the pub garden!

Final date to note – you may remember that I wrote about requesting a public drop-in event for the ward with Council officers to explain the Biodiversity Improvement Zone (or BlZ) programme. Although we couldn't make it happen at the beginning of the summer as I would've liked, there's a provisional date of Saturday 27th September to come and learn more about the benefits to local flora and fauna, and to put any questions and ideas to the Officers.

I had a couple of enjoyable and very valuable days out to see grassroots work in the community. I rode along with a member of the Council's Play Space team to see their checking and maintenance work on the Borough parks and more, and spent time with the ward Police Community Support Officer to see and discuss local issues and how they're dealt with. Both were really useful sessions and I'm grateful to our Officer and the PCSO for their time and insight.

I went to Luke Murphy MP's Hatch Warren Coffee and Chat session and met with him again the following week to raise local issues of concern on behalf of residents. We spoke about a number of issues including school parking, car meets and GP surgeries.

I was delighted to go along to the Council's Limitless Sports and Wellbeing event; it was a spectacular day of biking and parkour displays, climbing, axe-throwing and more! It was great to see so many families out in War Memorial Park trying new ways of finding community and keeping fit.

There is currently an open consultation to get your views on local play areas – visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/playareas](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/playareas) to give your opinions and experiences on what play areas you use and what you'd like to see in the area.

The Council is now delivering thousands of food waste caddies across the Borough as we get set for the start of food waste collections from October. Each household will receive a grey indoor caddy, a green outdoor caddy, a roll of liners and an instruction leaflet, and you can find out more on [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/food-waste](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/food-waste).

And I was privileged to be asked to formally open the new Kids Inc nursery in Beggarwood with a ribbon cutting. It was a lovely afternoon with food, drink, a petting zoo and lots of families who already enjoy the bright and caring setting. The pre-school places they provide are sorely needed and I have no doubt their capacity will rise quickly as they settle into the neighbourhood.

I'm going to switch things up a little for my next 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery on Tuesday 9th September; this one will be held online with ten-minute sessions available for those who cannot attend an in-person surgery to come with their questions, issues and ideas. Please email [info@allinparty.org.uk](mailto:info@allinparty.org.uk) to book your slot and I will send you a Zoom link to join.

I hope you and your families are well and safe: please get in touch with any local issues on the contact details above. Take care – Stacy

## CAMROSE, GILLIES, HACKWOOD AND BEGGARWOOD SURGERIES



Scan me!

**System Improvements in place and planned**

The practice is moving very quickly, but in a very controlled way to improve its systems. It would not be sensible to change all processes at once.

There is now only one Phone number in use for any of the four surgeries 01256 479747. With an improved switchboard system and with 4 staff vacancies filled call waits are now down to 11 minutes on average, which is a huge improvement. The 'Pharmacy team' call takers are most pressed with calls around 10 am so if you can avoid that time, you'll get through quicker with less pressure on the system.

**Appointments** - Urgent matters are being dealt with faster, but for less urgent matters appointments are not always available. We know that requests for appointments are greater than the number of appointments available, but GP staffing levels are fixed and staffing is in line with NHS levels.

To make more appointments available to those who need to see a GP, the practice has run two pilot days of a new **Doctor led Triage system**. This relies on patients providing a summary of their need for an appointment online, at reception desk or by phone. This is then passed to the Triage Doctor who allocates the most appropriate resource for the patients' need. The results of these tests were very promising, with many enquiries dealt with immediately by the triage doctor without the need for an appointment, or routed to more appropriate clinicians, freeing up appointments for those who need them.

Simple matters can often be dealt with through the use of the online system. Even when triage is closed nurses appointments and admin matters can still be dealt with through the Dr IQ Evergreen app. There will be further testing of the new triage system and then it will be explained to patients and launched at the end of the summer.

Carers Support can be viewed online at [www.cghppg.weebly.com/carers-advice](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com/carers-advice) or visit the next Drop in session at St Andrew's Surgery 10am to 2 pm on Tuesday 9th September 2025, where you can speak with the practice Social prescribers, Learning Disability Support Services Facilitator, Patient Group Volunteers signposting services for your specific needs, and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers creating personal emergency care plans.

**The Forever Singing Memory Choir** launches on 9th September 2025 2pm until 3.30pm at Rucstall Community Centre and will run fortnightly - There is no charge to attend.

- Singing for people living with Neurological and cognitive conditions including dementia, their carers, families and friends.

Website: [www.foreversinginguk.weebly.com](http://www.foreversinginguk.weebly.com)

Email: [foreversinginguk@gmail.com](mailto:foreversinginguk@gmail.com)

Phone: 0300 102 7955

**Baton Of Hope Event Suicide Prevention and Health Event**

In the UK alone, we lose over 6,000 people a year to suicide and that's 16 people every single day. It's the biggest killer of men under 50 and young people aged 20 to 34. "But for every one of those lives lost, there are so many more that are left behind, grieving, asking questions, looking back, wondering what we could've done and not getting those answers.

The Baton of Hope tour is all about support and coming to Basingstoke on the 25th September. There will be a health and well-being information event outside the Sports Centre in Festival Place between 10:30 am and 2.30pm and a music event between 2pm and 4 pm at the Tea Bar at the Top of Town.

Mental Health support is listed at [www.cghppg.weebly.com/mental-health](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com/mental-health) or Phone 111 select option 2 for advice.

If you feel your life is at risk right now, call 999 or go to Accident and Emergency at the Hospital.

**PPG email:** [cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com](mailto:cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CGHB.PPG](https://www.facebook.com/CGHB.PPG)

**INVITATION TO ATTEND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

His Worshipful Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Colin Phillimore, would be very pleased if you would care to join him for the Remembrance Day Parade and Remembrance Service.

The Annual Remembrance Service will take place this year on Sunday 9 November 2025 at 11 am at the War Memorial.

The Annual Remembrance Parade will step off at 10:40 (TBC) from London Street to march / walk to the War Memorial at the Civic Offices, Courtyard, London Road, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 4AH. The Parade registration will open at 09:30am in the Marketplace at the front of Willis Museum, Basingstoke. The Parade line will start at the end of London Street by the Triumphal Gates and work backwards towards Marketplace. After the service the parade will reverse back the same way giving salute to the Mayor and Deputy Lieutenant. All will then be dismissed at Marketplace.

Members of the public can observe at the top section of the Civic Offices Courtyard (near Deanes Building), War Memorial Park or roadside London Road (a section of London Road will be closed to vehicles during the parades, the Act of Remembrance and Service.)

The RAF Odiham Chinook flypast over Basingstoke is scheduled at 10:57.

This year we will welcome again the Salvation Army Band to play for us and the Songsters as accompanying choir. We will also welcome the Odiham Military Wives Choir to sing two special remembrance songs. As it is the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day I wanted to add the choir to help us all remember those so sadly lost to war and dedicate the songs to all of them.



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## BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

### SAVE THE DATE

#### ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

##### Moonlight Walk

Saturday 27th September, 2025 at 9:00pm in Festival Place, Basingstoke, come early for the warm up fun. Go to St Michael's website to sign up for the walk and start your fundraising. Get your family and friends involved for a sparkling, fun evening raising funds for a this great cause.

Don't forget to wear your brightest glittery, outfit, and your glow-in-the-dark accessories for a dazzling night.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary will be on hand to welcome you back with much needed refreshments.

**www.rcbd.org.uk**

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

## KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

**Orchid update.** "It's been a strange year" is a common enough riposte from gardeners or anyone with an eye to the weather and nature and this year has been no exception. With a wet early spring and a dry and warm late spring, this year has played havoc with nature with some plants flowering two or three weeks earlier than normal. However, the rains of early June have helped to bring things back into "sync". Our Pyramidal Orchids in Down Grange Meadow started a week later than usual but orchids in general are back to normal.

In July for the first time, we used "clickers" to help count the Orchids. We were astounded to record almost 700 underneath the patch of Rosebay Willowherb. What a show!

### Lookout gardeners!

Welsh Cafers (*Hoplia Philanthus*) are a widespread but uncommon beetle. We have, however, recently captured specimens at bug hunts in Kempshott and Dummer. While we think they are interesting, gardeners may



take a different view as the larvae of these beetles are a pest in lawns. The adults are, however, valuable in processing compost.

**It's harvest time.** Our seed collecting parties are now taking place. This is a fun activity where families can also participate. It does involve bending, so each volunteer will know their own limits. It's also a gateway into learning more about ecology and the reasons we maintain our conservation sites the way we do.

Arranging the collecting parties can be a bit last minute and depends on the state of the seed to be collected and the weather. If you would like to get involved, and we would be delighted to see you, please contact Marion on 01256 470171 or email us at [kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk)

For more information about our activities on Down Grange Meadow, please call Marion Wolstencroft on (01256) 470171. Alternatively, send an email to [kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk) or visit us at [www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk](http://www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk)

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## OLD DOWN WILDLIFE GROUP

Have you looked at the oak trees this year? Perhaps you have noticed some very odd looking knobbly sticky lumps developing on some oak trees. Not all oak trees have these lumps but those that do look as though the tree has been attacked by a disease or nasty fungus. Actually

these are acorn galls created by the *knopper gall wasp*, a miniscule wasp (looks like a very tiny black fly). This wasp is a fairly new arrival to our shores becoming established in the 1960s. The gall starts off as a yellowish-green sticky ridged hard lump that is like a helmet spreading over and enveloping the developing acorn. The gall turns to brown in the autumn. The tiny wasp lays its egg in the developing acorn and the larva secretes chemicals that induce the formation of a gall around the acorn. The galls do not damage or threaten the oak trees but their presence does reduce the number of mature acorns (not so great for squirrels!). Some years

the *knopper gall wasp* is fairly scarce but not so this year. The galls of the *knopper gall wasp* are found mainly on our native English oak. Nature never fails to surprise and amaze.

You might also spot the oak apple gall which is a buffish brown ball with a rough surface created by another tiny wasp – the *oak apple gall wasp*. This gall develops around an oak bud (not the acorn) and rests on oak twigs.

Here are some photos – the first showing healthy unaffected acorns, the last oak apple galls.

**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



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**  
**Weekly**

<b>Wednesday</b> Quiche Wednesday Community Meal Deal 12-2pm	<b>Thursday</b> Beggardwood Bumps to Babies 11.30-12.30	<b>Friday</b> Friendship Friday Chatty cafe 10.30-11.30
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**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**  
 Community Lunch -12-1.15,  
 BVA Wellbeing Walk - 11am  
 The Beggardwood Bookworms -7.30pm  
 Join our friendly book group who will be discussing You are Here by David Nicholls.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
 Card & Cuppa craft group - Join Pauline from 10.00 onwards and make some beautiful home made cards. Enjoy a cuppa and lunch and meet some new friends

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**  
 Meals on Wheels Showcase- Come and meet Hils and learn more about the meals on Wheels service in Hampshire

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 11.30-12.30**  
 Beggardwood Bookworm Daytime group meet to discuss  
 The Greek House by Dinah Jefferies  
 If you love reading why not come along to this Bookgroup.  
 No need to book, Just come along.

Find out all our latest news and information on our website  
[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org) or follow our Facebook

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**  
 Hatch Warren Community Centre  
 Beggardwood Community Centre  
 Broadmere Road, Basingstoke,  
 RG22 4AQ

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

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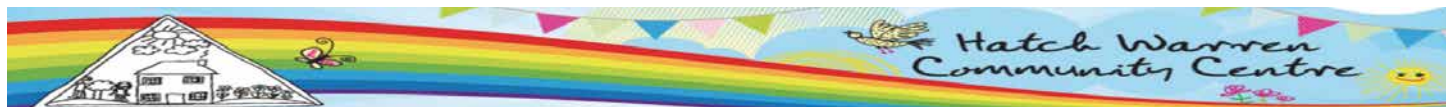
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We are a registered charity run by volunteers - working to make Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live!

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
COACH TRIP TO**



**ABBA Voyage**  
ABBA Arena, London

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at 7.45PM**  
**ABBA ARENA, LONDON**  
Seats located in blocks G and J  
Tickets cost £125 per person

(INCLUDES RETURN EXECUTIVE COACH TRAVEL)  
Payment plans are available – contact us for more details  
**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



**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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



We are looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming events, please email [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org) for further information.

**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER**  
Gates Open 5.30pm - Display starts 7.30pm prompt

Hatch Warren Community Centre presents...

# FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR


DJ Mark Halliday \* Music \* Competitions \* Festival Hair & Tattoos  
Light up novelty glow toys \* Prize every time stalls \* Burgers \* Chips  
Hot Dogs \* Hog Roast \* Street Food \* Waffle Wagon \* Licenced Bar

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**TICKETS ON SALE VIA THE WEBSITE OR IN THE OFFICE.**  
Payment by cash or internet banking.  
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[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)  
[www.facebook.com/hatchwarren](http://www.facebook.com/hatchwarren)  
Office open 9am-3pm Monday - Friday  
Tel: 01256 811262

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**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
BATH CHRISTMAS MARKET  
COACH TRIP**



**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
**£29.00 PER PERSON**

**COACH DEPARTS AT 8AM FROM OUR CAR PARK AND  
DEPARTS FROM BATH AT 5PM**

- Let us take the strain out of your Christmas shopping
- Over 140 traditional wooden chalets adorn the streets
- Unique, handmade and unusual gifts, decorations and food items
- The 'Christmas Capital of the West' is famous for its market and quality independent and favourite high street stores.

**THIS TRIP IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**  
\*40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead\*

To book your place email [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)  
or call 01256 811262

This event is supported by

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

We rounded off our year with an evening picnic in the park for both groups. The weather was beautiful and lots of members came bringing food, drink and books for the summer book swap. We held a raffle and raised money for the group and also made a donation to the Cafe in the Park summer toys appeal.

In our first evening meeting in September we will be discussing *You are Here* by David Nicolls. Then we are very pleased to announce that in October we are going to be visited by Winchester crime author Sam Holland followed in November with a return visit by LV Matthews.

Our first morning meeting features *The Greek House* by Dinah Jeffries.

New members are warmly welcomed to any meeting.

**7.30-9pm**  
**Tickets £3.00**

**Via Ticketsource.co.uk**

**Follow us on social media for news**

**#beggarwoodbookworms**

**email Community@beggarwood.org**



**Café in the Park**

**FRIENDSHIP FRIDAY**



**Friday 26th September**

**11.30-12.30**



**Do you love to read?**

**Join our new friendly Daytime Beggarwood Bookworms group.**

**Come along to the group to discuss your thoughts about the book with other book lovers**

**Bookgroups are a great way to try new books you might not have previously discovered**

**For more information email Annie Community@beggarwood.org or follow The Beggarwood Bookworms on social media**



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## MENCAP'S GREEN FINGERS RECEIVES MASONIC DONATION

The Easter holiday break-in of the woodworking shed at Mencap's Green Fingers extensive site at the Elizabeth Road allotments in South Ham was well publicised when thieves got away with £5,000 worth of wood working tools and equipment.

Tim Knight, CEO of Green Fingers, explained, "Inflation has pushed equipment replacement costs above the insured value, but generous public donations of equipment and funds have provided strong support".

The 105 years old Elvetham Masonic Lodge, that operates out of the Basingstoke Masonic Centre in Victoria Street at the Top of Town, has donated £500 to Green Fingers as part of its annual giving to local charities and good causes.



Charity Steward Peter Foster presenting the cheque to Noelia Rico Cordera, with Paul Flint & Dennis Brimson of Elvetham Lodge

Making the presentation to Noelia Rico Cordera, the full-time manager of Green Fingers, Peter Foster, the lodge's charity steward said, "The interest earned on the lodge's investments allows Elvetham Lodge to financially support local needy causes. Overall, in Hampshire freemasons donate around £1 million each year and across the UK it reaches £50 million."

Green Fingers, supports 40 adults each week with learning disabilities through horticultural and woodworking activities, has long relied on community goodwill.

The woodworking activities include the manufacture of bird tables, stools, troughs and garden ornaments are sold producing an income of around £4,000 each year.

The Green Fingers site is part of Mencap's overall activities around Basingstoke that includes gardening in the community, one-to-one support and some leisure services.

Tim Knight says that with these activities Mencap reaches around 500 people each week but is

concerned this is a small percentage of an estimated 4,000 people in Basingstoke, many of whom could benefit from their support services.



Long term volunteer Nick Skillet with woodworking products for sale

## Social Group Volunteers Wanted...

in Basingstoke,  
Overton, Whitchurch  
& Kingsclere  
Fordingbridge,  
Ringwood & Totton



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**Basing Singers**  
present  
**A Harvest Concert**  
on  
**Saturday 4th October 19:30**  
**Tickets: £10.00 (u16 free)**

Scan the QR code with your mobile device for tickets:



Old Basing Village Hall  
The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA

Registered Charity  
No.: 1061034



CONCERT IN AID OF HAMPSHIRE & IOW  
AIR AMBULANCE  
featuring  
**Clive Fortune Big Band**  
& *The Tonyx female barbershop quartet*  
**Saturday 25 October 2025 7.30pm**  
**QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE BASINGSTOKE RG21 3HF**  
Tickets £15 (under 16 free)  
Bring your own drinks and nibbles  
**An Evening of Big Band Swing**  
For tickets please scan QR code or go to:  
[ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/32321](https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/32321)



HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT  
**AIR AMBULANCE**



**The Dummer Fair**  
Featuring over 90 stalls, from crafts, food and drink, clothing, gifts and much more!

**Wednesday 8 October**  
6:00pm - 9:00pm  
inc. complimentary wine  
Advanced ticket: £8  
On the day ticket: £10

**Thursday 9 October**  
9:30am - 3:30pm  
Advanced ticket: £5  
On the day ticket: £7



**Phillips Law**  
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The Dummer Cricket Centre, RG25 2AR  
[www.dummerfair.org.uk](http://www.dummerfair.org.uk)

**Treloar's**  
in aid of  
Reg Charity No. 1092807



**St Michael's Hospice**

**Moonlight Walk**



Scan the QR code to sign up!

**Saturday 27 September 2025**  
Starts at 9pm (arrival from 8pm) in Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

**Join our 10K glitter and glow celebration, to light up Basingstoke and support your local hospice**

Find out more: [stmichaels-hospice.org.uk/moonlight](https://stmichaels-hospice.org.uk/moonlight)

Charity Reg No (England and Wales): 1002856 | Tel: 01256 848848  
St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NB

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN HAMPSHIRE HARMONY

Do you like to sing? Maybe you sing in the car, in the shower or just around the house. Maybe you have previously sung with a group and want to get back to singing after a few years. That's how a lot of us came to join Hampshire Harmony and now our singing is going from strength to strength.

**Come and join us at our Free Open Evening on Monday 29th September at Carnival Hall.**

Please register on the website [www.hampshireharmony.org](http://www.hampshireharmony.org)

We are a vibrant and forward-looking upper voice choir, singing a range of songs from folk and musical theatre to sacred and pop in 3-part harmony. Our fantastic MD, Clare Oliver, has taught singing for over 30 years and she brings out the best in the choir.

Highlights of our 2024-2025 season were, singing at the Tower of London, winning two cups at the Fareham Festival and achieving an outstanding award. We sang twice at the Anvil plus gave concerts at the United Reformed Church and The Costello School.

In the coming year, we shall build on our reputation, and we have been invited to be part of the Over 55s Forum Variety Show 27th September at Queen Mary's College. We shall be giving our own early Christmas concert on November 29th and the Mayor has asked us to sing at his Carol Concert on December 6th. Next year should bring another Festival appearance and summer concert as well as other events.

Although we have charitable status, we support other charities and this year we are raising funds for local charity, The Pink Place.



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## WHY SEPTEMBER IS A GREAT MONTH TO ENJOY THE HISTORIC COLLECTION AT THE VYNE

With both floors of the house still open daily from 11am to 3pm (subject to volunteer availability), you can savour the sight of fascinating treasures before the annual autumn deep clean begins and the festive decorations go up.

### Regency Revisited & Jane Austen House Tours

Discover Jane Austen's links to The Vyne, her views on the Chute family and what Regency life, and love, was like for those living here at the time. During your visit you can get up close to first editions of Austen's books, feast your eyes on beautiful Regency costume worn by members of the family, and learn more about Austen, her family connections to The Vyne, and what Regency life and love was like for those living here. Jane Austen House Tours run Wednesdays and Saturdays until 2 November, 2.30-3.30pm and cost an additional £5 per person.



### Exclusive Austen talks

**7 Sep | In conversation with...**

Enjoy a cream tea in the tea-room before joining Lizzie Dunford, Director for Jane Austen's House, Chawton and Joy Pibworth, longstanding member of the Jane Austen Society as they discuss Britain's best-loved Regency author in the house at The Vyne.

**25 Sep | Layers of Jane**

From petticoats to pantaloons, chemise to shifts, following an indulgent cream tea in the Brewhouse tea-room, enjoy an interactive and irreverent presentation regarding Regency 'underpinnings' in the house.

Gates open 2.15pm, Cream tea 2.30-3.15pm, Talk 3.30-4.30pm  
£20 per person. Booking essential on: 0344 249 1895

**[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne)**

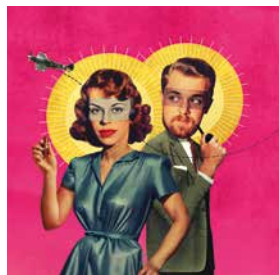


**ANVIL ARTS** 01256 844244 [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk)  
(Tickets include £4 booking fee)

**TIM PEAKE –  
Astronauts;  
The Quest to Explore  
Space Tour**

Friday 12 September, 7.30pm,  
The Anvil, Tickets: £40.50

With fewer than 650 people having reached Earth's orbit, nobody is more qualified than Tim Peake to celebrate the historic achievements and human endeavours of space exploration. Tim will share the remarkable stories of some of his fellow astronauts and explore the spectacular evolution of space travel.



**THE LAW OF MAYHEM**

*Presented by Proteus Theatre Company*

Thursday 18 – Sat 20 September,  
7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £26.  
2pm £24. Under 25s and f/t students  
£12, Suitable for: ages 14 and over

The year is 1949, and Roberta Cowell;  
racing driver, RAF pilot, and 'It' girl,  
meets Michael Dillon; a ship's doctor

who pursued Buddhism into the high Himalayas. Together they will change the course of British transgender history.

**THE ILLEGAL EAGLES**

Thursday 18 September, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £40.50

Celebrating over 50 years since the formation of the West Coast country rock band, The Illegal Eagles make a welcome return to Basingstoke with a brand-new production, promising their trademark musical prowess, acute attention to detail, and incredible showmanship.

**THE RHEINGANS SISTERS**

Thursday 18 September, 7.45pm, The Forge, Tickets: £22

Winners of BBC Radio 2's Folk Award for Best Original Track, and nominees for Best Band, The Rheingans Sisters Rowan and Anna make music like painters with their distinctive blended sound of fiddles, voices, banjos, electric guitar, synths, and powerful bass.

**CIRQUE: THE GREATEST  
SHOW – Reimagined**

Saturday 20 September, 3.30pm &  
7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £36, £32

Get ready for a dazzling fusion of musical theatre, West End showstoppers, and jaw-dropping circus acts, showcasing feats of agility. Featuring stunning vocalists and world-class performers, this family-friendly extravaganza is a must-see!



**TOM HOUGHTON – Deep**

Sunday 21 September, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £24. Over 65s, under 16s, and f/t students £21, Suitable for: ages 14 and over

In a world full of relentless clickbait, online distractions, and brain-rotting content, Tom's racing brain finally became too much for him. Having left the western world behind, he found himself in Indonesia where he plunged into a journey of self-discovery.

*Dyad Productions present*

**AUSTEN'S WOMEN – LADY SUSAN**

Tuesday 23 September, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £20.

Under 25s and f/t students £15

In this wickedly funny tale of society and the women trapped within it, meet devil-may-care black widow, Lady Susan, hunting down not one but two fortunes.

**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA**

Tuesday 23 September, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £46, £42, £35, £27, £18. Under 25s and f/t students £12

The Philharmonia Orchestra celebrates its 80th birthday, and pianist Víkingur Ólafsson is its Featured Artist, The Anvil is delighted to welcome them. The programme includes Sibelius' stirring Finlandia, Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto, full of tension and drama, and a vivacious finale, and Stravinsky's

The Firebird, a richly coloured ballet score based on a Russian folk tale. Santtu-Matias Rouvali conducts.

**ANDY SHEPPARD QUARTETS**

Wednesday 24 September 2025, 7.30pm, The Haymarket,  
Tickets: £29.50

Andy Sheppard Quartets serves as a vehicle for Sheppard, one of Britain's foremost tenor and soprano saxophonists, to reflect on past, present, and future compositional endeavours.

**THE MUSIC OF ANIMATION – In Concert**

Hosted by Ali Plumb

Friday 26 September 2025, 7.30pm, The Anvil,  
Tickets: £54.50, £44.50, £34.50, £28.50

Join The Studio Orchestra as they return to celebrate the unforgettable soundtracks of animated cinema. Hosted by BBC Radio 1's film critic, Ali Plumb, the 60-piece orchestra will take you on a magical journey through huge film scores that have defined generations of storytelling.

**THIS FLIGHT TONIGHT**

**– The Songs of Joni Mitchell**

Friday 26 September 2025, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £29

Paul Zervas and Kathryn Pepper have a deep love for late '60s and early '70s USA West Coast folk-rock. They have been creating and performing original music for over a decade. Joined by their five-piece band, they will perform Joni Mitchell's highly regarded Blue album in its entirety, featuring hits such as A Case of You, Little Green, and California.

**10CC'S GRAHAM  
GOULDMAN &  
HEART FULL OF  
SONGS**

Sunday 28 September,  
8pm, The Haymarket,  
Tickets: £36.50

Join 10cc co-founder Graham Gouldman for a rare, stripped-back performance of the songs he wrote for 10cc, The Hollies, Herman's Hermits, The Yardbirds, Wax, and more. Performed by a hand-picked semi-acoustic four-piece band, this will be a special evening of well-crafted songs, performed by the songwriter himself.



## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

As I sit and type this, I am revelling in the thought that in just under a weeks' time I will be sitting in my holiday cottage garden with a good book and an even better ale. Without sounding miserable, though, the downsides of holidays is that they end and then it's back to the grind.

And that can hit particularly large, if your life is currently not particularly easy, like many of us. I have to say that I felt particularly in need of a break this summer, with a very close friend of mine passing away in March, coupled with the usual rubbish that life can throw up just when you don't need it.

It's at this point that say "How the heck can Christianity help me when life gets hard? Isn't it all airy-fairy nonsense?"

According to the Bible, Christianity is in fact very much about the life we have on earth. Christians believe that whilst Jesus was the Son of God, he lived on earth as a human being. Right from birth, he was poor. For many years he was a carpenter, not a well-paid occupation.

As a travelling preacher he had no income and no home. He often faced opposition both verbal and physical. He was frequently misunderstood, even and maybe especially by those closest to him. In the end he was betrayed, tortured and died a violent death.

Now Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead and that he can be a real and comforting presence in our lives today. This Jesus then is someone who understands what we are going through, grief, poverty, despair, being let down.

I would quite understand at this point, someone going "But you can't see Jesus. How do you know he's there?"

Now this is a leap of faith and for some people, it's too big a one. But I can only speak from personal experience. I'm about as far from a perfect Christian as you can get but I know I can cite many occasions when I have felt afraid, lost, just done in and I've had enough and yet I've known Jesus is right there.

I was working in Bournemouth the day I found out that my mate had died. I was driving home, feeling as though grief was sitting in the car behind me. I can vaguely remember praying something like "Jesus, I'm lost". Gradually I felt this feeling, like someone was saying "I know, I get it". The grief was clearly still there but it felt like someone else was there too, sharing the journey. Now you can say that I was imagining this but, something like this has happened many times in my life. That sense of a presence and one that understands and gets it.

So, if the holiday's over and the days that stretch ahead feel grey and mundane, if not dark and unpleasant, I genuinely believe that Jesus understands and he is with us.

**Rob Marsh**

Parish of Basingstoke Down.



## IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

The November 1993 issue of the Rabbiter led with an appeal for used postage stamps, British or foreign, which would be sold and the money raised used to support scouting and guiding in Eastern Europe. This was in the lead-up to Christmas, and thirty years ago, the sending of Christmas cards was still very much a thing. Today, that tradition is in decline, driven by the costs of the stamps and the availability of on-line alternatives. How things change!

The Community Association was planning its first firework party and disco for 6th November, 1993. This was a brave decision for the Association, as displays of this sort are very expensive and always at the mercy of the weather. Thankfully, it was a great success and the fireworks display has become an annual treat; a tradition that our area has kept alive. This year's show is on 1st November, and is one of the major events in the Community Association's calendar. Many fireworks displays, including the Mayor's in the War Memorial Park, have fallen by the wayside in recent years, but the Hatch Warren field continues to host one of the best shows in the region.

In 1993, our local Councillors had held a public meeting in the Community Centre to discuss traffic safety. Summing up, the then Councillor Peter Markham, said that there were two main concerns: safety and the quality of life. I expect those sentiments still resonate today.

A new traffic island was to be built in Long Cross Lane to make it safer to cross and to stop cars parking on the brow of the hill. This feature had to be repaired recently as the surface had dropped, making for a very uncomfortable ride. There is still a lot of parking on Long Cross Lane and sometimes it is very difficult for vehicles to pass.

There were also to be improvements in Woodbury Road, including a new island and clearer speed limit signs. But the best thing residents could do was to keep the speed limits themselves – a truth that still applies today.

And here's some nostalgia ... thirty years ago, one of the adverts was for the Hatch Warren doctors' surgery in Moorhams Avenue next to the Community Centre, and for the pharmacy next to Sainsbury's. I recall that surgery as being much loved, and the service was good. The pharmacy was popular too. It moved into the Sainsbury's store in later years but then closed.

The local surgery now is at Beggarwood and is part of the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood group. It has been suffering from access problems, which the management team is trying to address. Bigger is not always better, I'm afraid.

**Stephen Reid**



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

## Immanuel Church

St Mark's School,  
Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, RG22 4US

part of the Parish of Basingstoke Down

for info on services and events...

www.parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk  
Parish Office- 01256 840502  
find us on Facebook and Instagram!







## 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.

## Dr. Xavier Goodarzian

(Honours),MRCGP,Dip Clin Derm(London),PG Cert (Cos Med.) MBCAM.

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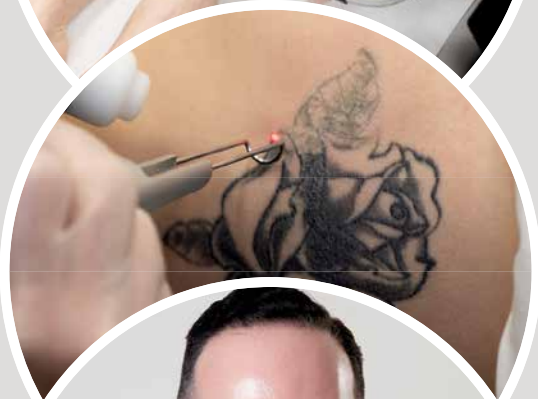
There is a £50 consultation fee to see Dr. Xavier.

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# Pets Corner



Send your photos to  
editor@therabbiter.biz

Some previous photos for inspiration



Thanks to Charlotte's Dad from Highdowns  
for this security camera blue-tit selfie

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY!



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- Caring & Understanding?
- A Parent/Grandparent/Carer?
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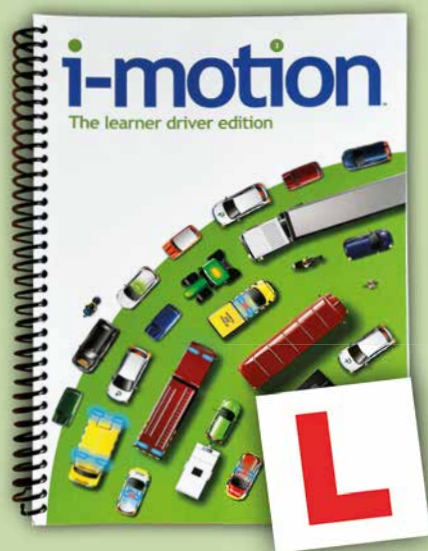
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Website: [www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk](http://www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk)

Volunteers benefit from 25 hours training over 4 weeks  
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## MICHAELMAS

The feast of St Michael, or Michaelmas, falls each year on 29th September. A Christian feast day and one of the four quarter days celebrated during the year, it traditionally marked harvest and the end of summer, and the beginning of Autumn.

A goose was considered a suitable meal for Michaelmas, and legend has it that Elizabeth I was eating goose when she heard of the defeat of the Armada. It was said that she decreed that goose should be eaten every Michaelmas henceforth.

In academic and legal institutions the term between September and Christmas is known as the Michaelmas term. The autumn flowering Aster, brightening gardens as other flowers fade, is affectionately called the Michaelmas Daisy.

The archangel Michael was venerated as the leader of the army of God, defeating Satan and expelling him from heaven. In folklore, Satan was said to have landed in a bramble bush as he fell from the skies. Cursing the brambles he was said to have spat and peed on them. This led to the belief that blackberries should never be picked after Michaelmas. Michael is also frequently depicted slaying a serpent, or dragon.

In Basingstoke, St Michael's church is the parish church of the town, and St Michael was adopted as Basingstoke's patron saint. In his guise as dragon slayer, he appears on the town crest everywhere, as well as on the frieze above the Willis Museum.

**Terri Reid MA FRSA**

[Terrielizabethreid.com](http://Terrielizabethreid.com)



## DAVE'S NATURE SPOT

This is my first 'report' and I hope to be able to do this every month. My idea is just to give you a little bit of information on a particular nature matter – insects or plants or mammals.

This month is when we see the last of the summer butterflies – there will be just a few species about during the autumn. In particular, look out for the Clouded Yellow and Red Admiral.



The Clouded Yellow is a migrant and often found flying on chalk downland. It has been seen on both Beggarwood and Old Down on a few occasions. An excellent place to see them is Stockbridge Down where they can often be seen dashing across the downland. It is an unmistakable vibrant yellow so you will know it when you see it. They make their long journey from North Africa and

Southern Europe to the UK from May to October. It is doubtful that they are strong enough to overwinter in the UK but with climate change it may become possible. I consider it a bonus day if I encounter one.

The Red Admiral is another large colourful migrant that arrives from North Africa and Southern Europe in spring and signs are that some overwinter here. It is often seen on the wing as early in the year as March and as late as November. They can often be seen feeding on Buddleia flowers and in autumn will feed on ivy flowers and rotten fruit.





## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We are at the start of another new academic year at Hatch Warren Under Fives! It's great to be back after a lovely summer break to meet our new children and see how much our older children have grown.

Our first few weeks of term are always about getting to know our children, helping them make new friends and helping them to feel comfortable and secure with our staff and the setting. At Hatch Warren Under Fives we work hard to ensure that all children settle happily.

Our first topic "All About Me" is a great chance for the children to learn all about themselves, their new friends and their families. We use stories, arts, crafts and songs to help our children discover what is unique and special about themselves and each other.

We love spending time outside and, as summer draws to a close, we will start learning all about autumn and look at colours, patterns and lots of other changes that we see outside as the seasons change. We will soon be collecting lots of natural resources to use in preschool, such as pine cones, conkers and leaves – all great for our creative projects. We will also think about animals that hibernate as part of our autumn topic. The children will also enjoy story times, dough gym, makaton signing and weekly cooking sessions and science experiments too.

We have had many more two year olds joining preschool over the last year, so we have a separate room for our two year olds. Our smaller "Caterpillars" room, with a maximum of 12 children per session, gives our younger children a more gentle introduction into the preschool environment while they grow their confidence.

We have limited spaces available for the 2025/26 academic year, so come and have a look around our preschool or to enquire about a place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Siobhan on 01256 322788, or email [preschoolmail@aol.com](mailto:preschoolmail@aol.com).

Read more about our preschools at [www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk](http://www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk)



## DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

As we close our doors for another fantastic year at Dandelions it is lovely to reflect back on what we have achieved throughout the year. To celebrate our leavers we held a party for the children and had a special visit from Spider Man and Ariel.



Afterwards we played party games and welcomed our families to come and join us and listen to some special words about all of the children. Afterwards we celebrated with some cakes kindly donated by Martin Brower.

Our Summer Fun Day was a great way to say goodbye to our families that are leaving us and welcome those who will be joining us in September. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents for their generosity in donating towards this. We would like to thank Morrisons who have supported us throughout the year and kindly donated cakes for our Cake Sale.

We have continued to build relationships with Dashwood Manor by celebrating VE Day together and an Easter Egg hunt. This will continue in September with the Scarecrow Festival. St Mark's CofE School have allowed us to visit their farm regularly. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity especially handling the rabbits. Boogie Mites, Drama Tots and Sporty Minis have played a big part in supporting us with our extra curricular activities for the children. It has been such fun and we look forward to welcoming them back at some point next year.

It has been great to see Dandelions thrive again this year and to see all of our staff excelling in their own professional development from safeguarding, all aspects of supporting children with special education needs and speech and language. Feedback from our parents on our school readiness activities has been amazing.

We say goodbye to Sadie who joined us in September 2022 as an Apprentice. Sadie leaves us having completed her Levels 2 & 3 in childcare to continue her education at Winchester University. Sadie's experience with us has encouraged her to embark on her career path towards becoming a teacher.

When we return we are looking forward to welcoming some new members to our team. They all bring with them a wealth of experience including running their own Childminding setting and Baby Group.

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



## TAKE A STAND AGAINST YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

On Friday 10 October 2025, you can take a stand for young people in crisis by joining Step by Step's annual Sleep Out at Farnborough Business Park.

Here in Basingstoke, including Hatch Warren, Beggarwood and Kempshott Park, some young people aged 11–25 are facing serious challenges – including care leavers with nowhere to turn after leaving the care system, and those affected by family breakdowns, abuse, sofa surfing or sleeping rough. These situations can happen to anyone, and many young people face them alone, without the stability or support most of us take for granted.

Step by Step works to change that. From the Orchard community hub in Basingstoke, young people can access our Launch service in person, receiving vital support, advice and guidance. We also provide safe homes through Supported Accommodation in South Ham, as well as Supported Lodgings and fostering with amazing individuals and families who, with our full support, welcome young people into their own homes. These options offer stability and the opportunity to build a brighter future. Our wellbeing services and counselling give any young person the tools to overcome challenges and thrive.



The Sleep Out is your chance to be part of that change. Participants swap their bed for a sleeping bag for one night, raising funds and awareness to ensure these services remain available to every young person who needs them. The event will feature live music, inspiring stories from young people who have been supported by Step by Step, and a warm sense of community.

Lydia, who became homeless at 16 after losing both parents, says: "Without Step by Step, I can imagine my life going completely differently. The stability and support they gave me changed everything."



Register at [www.stepbystep.org.uk/sleepout](http://www.stepbystep.org.uk/sleepout) or 01252 346100.

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:

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## Notes from the kitchen

### Time to preserve



September is the beginning of the 'squirrelling' season. It is the time when the crops are ready and the serious tasks of preserving for the winter can begin. My freezer is already stuffed with fruit for making pies and crumbles – plums, greengages, blackberries and apples. The sweetcorn is ready to be picked. Tomatoes will be used for making ketchup and sauces for adding to a ragu or topping on a pizza etc. Homemade tomato ketchup is easy and tastes so much better than those that come in bottles from the supermarket – and does not include any preservatives! Apple chutney is a winter staple – add it to cheese sandwiches, serve with cold meat and it is good as a side with a curry or chilli! Our quince tree is loaded with fruit which will be used to make membrillo – a Spanish speciality served with cheese. The pumpkin and squash are ripening for adding to soups, roasted or made into pumpkin pie. If you need some inspiration for making preserves follow @the\_pam\_the\_jam on Instagram. Pam has written two books on the subject which are both very good – Preserves by Pam Corbin (River Cottage Handbook No.2) and Pam the Jam – The Book of Preserves.

I have been making lots of vegetable soup using courgettes, carrots, onions, tomatoes etc. from the allotment. This is stored in the freezer for warming lunches on cold days and will remind me of the bounty grown on my allotment.



### Tomato Ketchup

3kg ripe tomatoes, sliced

225g granulated sugar

300ml spiced vinegar (malt vinegar works well too)

Pinch of cayenne pepper and of paprika pepper

5ml salt

Cook the tomatoes in a preserving pan (or a very large pan) until reduced to a pulp and quite thick. Stir frequently.

Ideally press through a sieve to remove skin and pips. If you don't mind the pips in your sauce, blitz with a hand held blender until smooth.

Return to pan with the other ingredients and simmer until the mixture thickens. Make sure the sugar is dissolved completely and stir frequently. Pour into warm, sterilised jars and seal. Should keep for about three months and once open store in fridge. If you intend to store longer, sterilise the bottles when filled.

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**Copy deadline** to the Editor and Advertising Manager is the 15th of the month.



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### Doctors' Surgeries

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Western Way Tel: 479747  
Mon-Fri 0800-1830

Broadmere Road Surgery  
Tel: 396500  
Mon-Fri 0830-1800  
(answermessage when closed)

## Chemist

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

## Health Visitors

Tel: 0300 3031880  
CHAT Health (text advice line):  
07520 615720  
Email: basingstokehvteams  
@southernhealth.nhs.uk

## Dentist

Broadmere Road – Tel: 391391

## • Post Office

Co-op Broadmere Road:  
Sun-Sat 0700-2200  
Kempshott Post Office and Stores  
01256 465517 Mon-Fri 0800-1730  
Sat 0900-1500

## • Basingstoke Neighbourcare

Need the help of a good neighbour? 01256 423855

## • Local Police Contacts:

PC 23164 Christian Geldard  
07767 618475  
Community Safety Patrol Team  
01256 844844  
PSCO 15950 Debby Doherty  
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  
Contact Dan Wake or Margie Mendelsohn 01256 316010  
connect@hubcommunitychurch.org  
www.hubcommunitychurch.org

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  
www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com  
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## • Representatives:

### • Councillors:

County Council:

**Stephen Reid**, 34 Centurion Way RG22 4TJ 07976 310206  
Stephen.Reid@hants.gov.uk

Borough Council:

**Stacy Hart**, c/o B&DBC, Civic Offices RG21 4AH 07356 099250  
cllrstacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk

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

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

## • Member of Parliament

Basingstoke:

**Luke Murphy**

luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk



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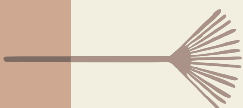
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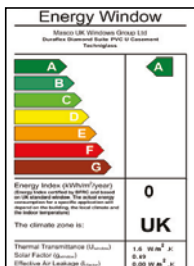
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