

THE Rabbiter



Issue 322
October 2025

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



FROM THE EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

This month's cover has a Hallowe'en theme. This is a delightful evening if done properly. We are happy to see the young children (supervised by their parents) knocking on our door and we keep a tub of sweets handy to offer to them.

An unofficial code has developed over recent years: if a family is happy to be called on, they will display a Hallowe'en themed item in their window or doorway. Please don't call on a house that isn't participating - they may have very good reasons for not wanting to be disturbed.

So, this month we can look forward to Hallowe'en and then, a few days later, the Community Association's fireworks display. This event started 32 years ago and we are lucky to have it in our calendar. It is so good to see families walking round to the field, well wrapped up for this huge and happy communal event. Thank you to everyone involved in organising it and to the army of volunteers who help on the night.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the 'Rabbiter'.

Editor



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THE Rabbiter

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HATCH WARREN WI

Our September meeting took us on a nostalgic journey to The Golden Age of Children's Television. BBC's 'For the Children' was the first programme specifically designed for children. It featured puppets such as Muffin the Mule.

We were reminded of favourites such as Ivor the Engine, Mr Benn, Magpie and Gerry Anderson's Stingray.



If you are interested in joining us, the next meeting is 7:30pm on Thursday 2nd October at Hatch Warren Community Centre. Fiona Birchall will be speaking about Traditional Story Telling.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

CRIME PREVENTION UPDATE

Winter Fuel Payment Scams

We are receiving an increasingly high number of reports from residents who have been contacted, often via a text message, by someone claiming to be gathering information to enable them to receive a Winter Fuel Payment. There is no need for you to provide any information, the payment is automatic, and the DWP know if you are eligible or not based on their records.

For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment>.

Look out for signs of child exploitation

Child exploitation is when individuals or groups coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into doing what they want in return for something the child wants or needs.

The 'Is Your Child Safe?' campaign offers advice to parents, guardians and care givers on how to spot the signs of child exploitation, what to do and where to get help.

Visit www.isyourchildsafe.org to see the support in your area.

Who called me?

Every day, people across the UK get calls from unknown numbers, and many of these turn out to be scams. National Trading Standards are promoting Phonely, the free reverse phone lookup tool helping you find out who's behind those mystery calls.

In July 2025, the community reported thousands of suspicious numbers, helping everyone stay safer. They also add these reported numbers to a blacklist, so all their clients are protected from known scam calls.

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COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Stephen Reid

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

CHECK YOUR COUNCIL TAX BANDS! I am delighted to start with a good news story. Some months ago a constituent phoned me to enquire whether her home was in the correct Council Tax band. She didn't use a computer, so during the course of the phone call I found the website and, on her behalf, filled in a form requesting a review. To cut a (very) long story short, I heard from her in September that her house has been re-banded downwards, which will have a significant impact on her monthly budget and deliver a back-dated rebate. So, if you feel that your home may be in the wrong band, it is worth checking!

ROADWORKS ON KEMPSHOTT HILL: the overnight resurfacing of the A30 has progressed well and should be complete by the time you read this. The old road surface has been lifted and a completely new layer of tarmac has been laid. There was some noise overnight when the old surface was being removed but I received no complaints and, thankfully, the really hot weather had passed. In fact, work had to be delayed because of the torrential rain. I am delighted to see this work completed: the old road had been badly scarred by repeated access by utility companies. I hope that it will be allowed to stay unspoilt for a long time.

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE: the County Council, as Highways Authority, is considering a 40mph speed limit on the A30 from the Hatch Warren roundabout, near Sainsbury's, to the new Hounsme Fields roundabout. This reflects the fact that the area has changed from a rural setting to an urban one, with extra junctions, a school and a planned Toucan Crossing. I have been consulted on this and am minded to support the move.

DOWN GRANGE PITCH 'N' PUTT PROPOSAL: I attended the Borough Council's drop-in session regarding the possible re-siting of the nine-hole Par 3 Golf Course from the Leisure Park to the field in front of Down Grange House (the steak house restaurant). They present it as a replacement facility but it isn't - it is an exercise of squeezing a quart into a pint pot. I found the proposal deeply flawed, and feel that the Council has not done its homework properly. I am particularly concerned about the traffic impacts, on which they have not asked for pre-application advice from the Highways Authority. I was surprised to learn that they plan to have access off Pack Lane (but how will they stop drivers coming in from the A30?). I also felt that they were indistinct on how they might protect traffic on the A30 from mis-hit golf balls and what damage any extra screening might do to the existing tree-line.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES: the window for applying for secondary school places will close on 31st October. This is for children moving from year 6 up to year 7 in September 2026. To improve your chances of getting a place at a preferred school, remember to name three schools on your application. Some parents have reported to me in the past that they only stated one preference, hoping that that would increase their chances of getting their first choice school, and then ended up with the school they least wanted. If I can help, please get in touch.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: the County Council was meeting on 24th September to consider its final proposals for LGR. The Cabinet was expected to confirm

Hampshire's submission on 26th September. Hampshire's current proposal is to create three new unitary authorities on the mainland, plus the Isle of Wight. The Borough Council is proposing four, plus the Isle of Wight. The government will decide. If a reorganisation goes through, Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will both cease to exist, to be replaced by a unitary authority that merges the responsibilities of both 'tiers'.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: I have attended meetings of the PPG including one with the management team of the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries. They reported that, following steady progress on reducing call waiting times, they had had a setback over the summer caused by a high level of absenteeism among the reception staff. The positive news is that they were implementing a new 'Total Triage System' in September, which three pilot runs indicated will direct patients to the right advisors more quickly and speed up the processing of calls. This involves a GP reviewing all contacts and deciding how best the surgery should respond.

NEW DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (1): I have concerns about some significant changes that the Borough Council is including in its emerging draft local plan, and how they could impact on Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. Firstly, it has included a 2,500 home development in the Cliddesden area. That sounds remote, but one of the access points is proposed to be the Wood Lane roundabout under the M3. That means extra traffic along Cliddesden Lane (past the Portsmouth Arms), Brighton Way (past ASDA) and Hatch Warren Way (towards Viabes). I am concerned at the thought of more cars using Hatch Warren and Beggarwood as a short-cut to the M3.

NEW DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (2): the second proposal that will impact on our area is an increase in the number of homes in the Popham Airfield site, which the Council now calls 'Popham Garden Village'. This was originally designated for some 3,000 properties but is now proposed for 4,250 homes, with 1,800 in the plan period. Given that this is a remote area, its residents will need to travel into Basingstoke for employment, shopping or leisure opportunities, which will inevitably have an impact on traffic past Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. The Council is not proposing any new roads, so the extra load will fall onto the A30 corridor. I believe that Basingstoke needs a new western bypass.

PAVEMENT PARKING: one of Basingstoke's PCSOs, Dom Collins, has published a plea for drivers not to park on pavements. During recent patrols in Beggarwood (but this applies all over the town) PCSO Collins observed cars parked in ways that could block emergency vehicles or force pedestrians into the road. This could cause delays in life-threatening situations and create difficulties for people with wheelchairs, pushchairs or mobility aids.

KEYLESS CARS: Local Police are urging owners of cars with keyless access to take precautions against theft. There have been many reports of such crimes in our area, with cars being stolen from driveways. In each case, entry was not forced and Police believe that access was gained through 'relay methods', where thieves connect to keys that are inside the house, using a device that tricks the car into unlocking and starting up. It only takes a couple of minutes and often the owners have no idea of what is happening outside. Signal blocking pouches, also known as Faraday Bags, are widely available and can help to keep your car secure.

BACK TO SCHOOL: time seems to have flown by, and the new school term has started. Parents of new pupils at St Mark's may like to know that the school encourages them to use the Community Centre car park and take the short walk across Woodbury Road, where there is a school crossing patrol. This will help to prevent congestion in Danebury Road in 'school run' times.

FOOD WASTE RECYCLING: 'kitchen caddies' and food waste recycling tubs have been delivered in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood areas for the new kerbside collection service that starts in October. Following its introduction, the Borough Council is planning to change the weekly collection of black bins to fortnightly - black bin one week, green bin the next.

BLOG: I offer more details on many of these subjects, and others, on my blog at <https://www.reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>

Best wishes – Stephen



Stacy Hart

Borough Councillor:

Email casework: cllr:stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk

Facebook, BlueSky & Insta: @allinpartyUK, TikTok: @all_in_party

Monthly resident e-newsletter: www.allinparty.org.uk

Dear residents of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood – I hope you're all well and healthy as we head into autumn!

Firstly, an apology to those of you I owe email responses to from the past few weeks; unfortunately, my family had a run of Covid followed by other illnesses after our holiday that put me out of commission for nearly a month and if you emailed me over the past weeks and haven't heard back yet, I promise I'm catching up and will be in touch shortly.

In happier news since my last piece: the Singing For The Brain session I organised in Beggarwood Park as a joint event between Dashwood Manor Care Home, Kiddi Caru and Kids Inc nurseries was a lovely success. It was brilliant to build on our similar event last year with more attendees and nicer weather, and to see the mix of generations enjoy the singing and stories together in the open air! I hope to make this a yearly summer staple and perhaps add a Christmas edition in this year as well, so watch this space for more news.

The Beggarwood Café community lunches continue on the first Wednesday of every month from midday to 1pm with volunteers and Dashwood Manor staff pitching in with serving and providing delicious homemade quiche. It's gotten very busy in the last year but there's always room for more people so do visit if you haven't already.

I was delighted to visit residents of The Crofts in their annual summer festival, which has been going for thirty years! Neighbours enjoyed music, games and drinks in the (mostly!) sunshine and it was so lovely to see what a community can achieve when coming together to pitch in. If this is something that you feel your own street or corner of HW&B would like to do, please feel free to get in touch for a chat and I can assist with contacts for the relevant safety needs and admin. Well done to The Crofts Committee for their continued efforts to keep the neighbourhood spirit going!

The Hatch Warren Repair Café continues to grow so do bring your household items for fixing for free by our volunteer team every first Saturday of the month from 10am to 1pm, with a cuppa and

homemade cake thrown in. And if you fancy finding some community and picking up some new skills, why not considering volunteering with us? PLEASE NOTE – we will not be running the café in November due to the Hatch Warren Fireworks Extravaganza, but I look forward to seeing you and you families there if you plan to attend!

Thank you to Island View residents for welcoming me to their weekly coffee morning and discussing their thoughts and local issues with me, and big thanks also go out to those who attended our Men's Event last weekend to hear about and discuss the ways men and boys are negatively impacted by gender and other types of societal inequality, and why we want to bring an equality lens to policy making for everyone's benefit.

I attended the Council's drop-in evening on the proposed Down Grange 'pitch and putt' to learn more about the plans and talk to residents who have concerns. I'm aware from recent discussions on doorsteps while canvassing that this is an issue many of you have concerns about, and I've also responded to those of you who have emailed me with your thoughts. As one of your local Councillors it's vital for me to take everyone's views on board in cases like this, and I have been feeding back all thoughts I receive to the Cabinet member in charge of the project. As a reserve member of the Development Control Committee, it is possible that I may be part of the group of Councillors that makes a judgement on the project when it goes before them, and it is not therefore appropriate for me to take a definitive, pre-judged stand on an application we have not yet seen. But I will be looking carefully at the planning application when it is eventually submitted to evaluate whether residents' thoughts and concerns have been properly considered and mitigated, and weigh up all pro and con factors to the project.

A reminder that weekly food waste collections begin this month! You can find all the information you need on www.basingstoke.gov.uk/food-waste and if you have not yet received your new food waste caddies, please email waste@basingstoke.gov.uk.

Most recently, I was delighted to attend the Oakley Stitchers launch of their new pop-up shop which will be at the Wote Street Club in town every Monday between 9:30am and 4:30pm. The Stitchers run all sorts of craft groups and drop-ins, and their volunteers provide lovely crafted bespoke items for those in need, from Knitted Knockers and PICC line covers for cancer sufferers to Angel Gowns for families whose babies were born sleeping. I wish them all the best in their new venture and urge anyone who is interested in finding community through crafts to pop into their new shop on a Monday and find out more.

Finally, this month I experimented with offering online slots for my September 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery, for those who cannot access an in-person session. It worked well and I will do this again periodically in some future months between normal surgeries. This month I'll be at the Holly Blue pub on Monday 6th October from 7pm to 9pm so do drop by with any local questions, issues and ideas you have!

Do get in touch with any casework on the details above and take care of yourselves and each other:

All the best – Stacy.

CAMROSE, GILLIES, HACKWOOD AND BEGGARWOOD SURGERIES



September 2025 News

Doctor-led total triage launches on September 22nd!

To reduce disruption, extra funding has been sourced from Hampshire Integrated Care Board for extra staff including locum doctors for six weeks to help smooth the changeover process and increase appointment availability.

Every patient that contacts the practice will be triaged before an appointment is arranged. A doctor will carry out the screening, enabling many issues to be dealt with immediately, Urgent cases will be spotted earlier, and appointments booked or a patient will be directed to the service that is most appropriate for the patient's needs.

Trial days have been held and it was found the system provided more efficient and faster treatment for some patients whilst freeing up appointments for patients with less urgent needs. Unlike some other practices that are using AI systems, a real person will continue to answer the phone and carry out the triage process. The change to total triage across the nation is causing short term disruption before an expected longer term benefit. The NHS is also enabling more direct access routes to specialist services to take the pressure off GP services.

Phone issues reported and resolved

At the end of the August there was a sudden lack of staff in the reception team that answer phone calls, due to many staff becoming sick during peak holiday time. Call waits went back up to over an hour in some cases and disrupted services. This was addressed as soon as possible by the reception team, and with the help of other members of staff, call wait times were brought back under control. Staff do their utmost to make the system work and deal with as many patients as possible, but when demand outstrips supply, don't forget there are other NHS services available to provide primary care support to patients.

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NEW Direct Access Maternity Services

Register for your maternity care at Hampshire Hospitals without having to go via your GP., online at www.badgernotes.net/SelfReferral/CareLocation/SHIP
 If you can't register online, phone 07443 987 711

Health and Wellbeing Event 10:30 am to 2:30pm
 25/9/25 outside the Sports Centre in Basingstoke Town Centre.

Dementia UK Admiral Nurse Clinics

9th to 11/9/25 at Nationwide Building Society, B'stokes.
 Appointment booking www.dementiauk.org/nationwide or you can send a text message with the word: APPOINTMENT to 07478 724000, and Dementia UK will call you to help you make a booking. The nurses hold clinics every 3 months at the branch.

Forever Singing Memory Choir starts 2pm 9/9/25 and continues fortnightly. Phone 0300 1022 955 or visit www.foreversinginguk.weebly.com for information.

Parkinson's Walking Football - weekly sessions are being launched at Basingstoke Soccer Centre on 3rd September 4 -5pm. Contact Istroud@parkinsons.org.uk
 Phone 07955 267385

New Seniors Social Club at the Kings Cafe, Kings Road starts on 15/9/25 and runs 10-1130 on Mondays.

U3A Basingstoke - Basing. With over 1100 members and 80+ groups ranging from pickle-ball, book clubs', quizzes, history groups, learning languages, bridge, cycling, walking football, sewing and line dancing, it is an organisation run by members and for members. Our aim, to ensure we are all having fun, keeping sharp, moving and staying social, all key factors for a longer quality of life. www.basingstokeu3a.org
 The 'Live Longer Better' tab on the PPG website also offers ageing well information, and you can pick up leaflets in the surgeries.

The in depth version of this news is online at www.cghppg.weebly.com and also a 'Self Help A-Z' of Health and Wellbeing information, fast track treatment options, support groups and local contacts. Citizens Advice 0808 278 7829 can access the A-Z if you cannot use the internet.

PPG email: cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/CGHB.PPG

Membership of the Patient Participation Group is open to all patients of the practice. If you are interested in joining find out more or apply www.cghppg.weebly.com/join-the-ppg

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BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

World Polio Day – 24 October

Not so long ago, two diseases—smallpox and polio—were taking the lives of children and adults all over the world. Smallpox was finally wiped out in 1980 thanks to a huge global vaccination effort. By 1990, polio cases in the UK had dropped to just a handful. Today, every child is offered routine polio vaccinations.

For over 35 years, Rotary has been leading the charge to end polio through the *End Polio Now* campaign. Together, members have raised more than \$2.1 billion and given countless hours of their time to help protect almost 3 billion children in 122 countries. Because of this work, polio is now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in 2020 Africa was officially declared free of the disease.

You might spot purple crocuses in bloom planted by local rotarians at Stratton Park, Kempshott. Each flower is a reminder that no family has to fear polio again.

www.rcbd.org.uk

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane



**KEMPSHOTT
CONSERVATION
GROUP**

Time to get stuck in!

September saw the start of our 19th year of work parties - doesn't time fly when you are having fun! This year, changes are afoot. The Old Orchard group has decided to swap its work-day from Sunday to Saturday, hopefully to attract some volunteers who can't make it on Sundays.

The Down Grange Meadow group has also swapped its last work party of the month to the fourth Saturday, again to try and attract those volunteers with other commitments on Sundays. The second Sunday in the month session is being retained. We have also decided to drop the Thursday afternoon sessions as support was waning and, on several occasions, the average age of the volunteers that did turn up was around 80.

As usual, our start time is 10 00 and finish time is nominally 12 30 but may be earlier or later depending upon the tasks being undertaken, or the enthusiasm of the

volunteers! If doing well, we have been known to finish at 13 30. Rest assured, you can finish whenever is convenient to you.

All tools are supplied, but it may be wise to bring your own work gloves. We will provide heavy duty "rigger" gloves for work on bramble and rose briar where light gardening gloves may not be up to the job.

For work parties in the Old Orchard contact Greg on:

Instagram: @kempshott.orchard

Facebook: The Orchard, Kempshott

Email: kempshott.orchard@gmail.com

For Down Grange Meadow, it's Steve on 07831 289261.

October dates:

12/10/2025 Sun Down Grange Meadow

18/10/2025 Sat Old Orchard

25/10/2025 Sat Down Grange Meadow

The group welcomes new volunteers, so why not join us for an hour or so to see what we do? Looking after our local area is rewarding work with friendly company. No experience is necessary. We would be delighted to see you.

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Late autumn and the wildflowers on the meadow are over and some parts of the meadow have now been mowed. The meadow area is mowed on a two yearly rotation – mowing encourages next year's growth and reduces excessive grass. Leaving an area uncut each year ensures seeds have dropped into the ground and also leaves insect eggs and larva to over-winter.

Each year the council and volunteers gather wildflower seeds from certain areas of the meadow. The council's rangers gather seed by way of a tractor driven brush harvester and the volunteers collect specific seed by hand (a very pleasing task actually). Seed collection is carried out at different times of the year as the wildflowers produce their seeds at different times of the year. Volunteers start the seed gathering in late summer and some of the first seeds collected are usually *yellow rattle*, *cowslip*, and *salad burnett*. As summer and autumn progress different species start seeding so there is always some seed to collect. For example August is the month for collecting types of *scabious* – both the *field scabious* and the *devil's-bit scabious*. Mid/late September is the time to collect species such as *marjoram* and *red bartsia*. As you can imagine, Old Down is a vital site for seed

collecting having such a wide variety of species.

A seed bank is built up each year and the seeds are used to introduce wildflowers to other sites and also to create and enhance particular wildflower areas on Old Down. Seed collection is carried out on quite a few other sites such as Beggarwood, Crabtree and Down Grange.

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

Website: Old Down Wildlife Group

Facebook: Old Down Wildlife Group



Field Scabious



Devil's-bit Scabious



Red Bartsia

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

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We look forward to
seeing you!

Café in the Park
What's on October

Weekly

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

Wednesday 1st October
BVA Wellbeing Walk 11.am -12
Basingstoke Wellbeing Walks invites individuals of all ages to participate in regular, short walks within their communities. New walkers are welcome, whether you're fit and active, have not exercised in a while, or have been referred by a doctor. Joining and walking is free! For more details, visit <http://www.bvaction.org.uk/wellbeingwalks>.

Community Lunch -12-1.15
Join us for lunch as the community gathers on the first Wednesday of every month for delicious meal deals starting from just £3.50.

Wednesday 8th October
Beggarwood Bookworms 7.30-9.00pm
Dive into a thrilling evening with bestselling crime author Sam Holland / Louisa Scarr. New book lovers are always welcome! Tickets just £3.00 for this meet the author evening.

Friday 10th October
Card and a Cuppa 10am onwards
Get Crafty with Pauline and make beautiful handmade greetings cards.

Friday 26th September 11.30-12.30
Beggarwood Bookworm Daytime group meet to discuss Guilt by Definition by Suzie Dent. 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 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

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

Café in the Park
Quiche Wednesday

COMMUNITY MEAL DEAL
FRESHLY BAKED
QUICHE & AMERICANO COFFEE
OR POT OF TEA
£4.70

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
DASHWOOD MANOR

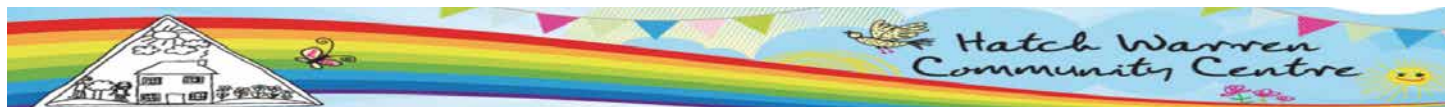
WEDNESDAY 12-1PM
LIMITED SUPPLY

DELICIOUS QUICHE

HOT DRINK

CAFÉ IN THE PARK
BROADMERE ROAD,
BASINGSTOKE, RG22 4AQ





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

SATURDAY 1st 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

TICKETS ON SALE TO MEMBERS 1st AUGUST & GENERAL SALE 1st SEPTEMBER
NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT - BUY EARLY AS LIMITED TICKETS ON SALE
TICKET SALES CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

ADVANCED TICKET EVENT ONLY - NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE GATE

FAMILY £28 <small>2 adults plus up to 2 children up to age 15</small>	ADULT £14	CHILD / SENIOR £7 <small>Children 0 - 15</small>
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TICKETS ON SALE VIA THE WEBSITE OR IN THE OFFICE.
Payment by cash or internet banking.
A surcharge will be applied if purchasing online. All tickets are non-refundable

www.hatchwarren.org
www.facebook.com/hatchwarren
Office open 9am-3pm Monday - Friday
Tel: 01256 811262

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23rd November
12pm - 4pm

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
Christmas Market
fun for the whole family

30 traders inside and out, festive games, a tombola, food court, festive face painting, childrens craft zone and you can meet Father Christmas in his Grotto!
Bookings will open in October.

Entry £1
(kids go free)

THIS EVENT IS BEING HELD AS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE HATCH WARREN AND BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHARITY NO 1161117

Our coach trips make an exciting Christmas gift!

COME ALIVE

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN CIRCUS SPECTACULAR

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY, 7:30PM
THE EMPRESS MUSEUM, LONDON

TICKETS COST £95 INCLUDING COACH TRAVEL FROM HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE

THIS TRIP IS BEING HELD AS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR HWBCA (CHARITY NUMBER 1161117)

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THE COACH WILL DEPART FROM HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 4PM PROMPT

TO BOOK YOUR TICKET, PLEASE EMAIL
OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG
TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

THIS EVENT IS BEING HELD AS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR HATCH WARREN & BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHARITY NO 1161117

Registered Charity Number 1161117

find us on | **facebook**

Hatch Warren Community Centre

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




Children & Young People's support lines

Childline - 0800 1111 - Samaritans - 116 123

Young Minds text service – 85258

The only Youth Club with Open Access and a Health Hub serving Hatch Warren and Beggarwood

Qualified Staff / Extensive Free Holiday Programmes/ Email: warren@hatchwarren.org Follow Us on Facebook @The Warren and Instagram @thewarrenyouthclub



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



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 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



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Our September book was *You are Here* by David Nicholls. Many members really enjoyed this read as it was light and humorous. They also enjoyed the geographical and geological references that happened along the walk. However some were disappointed and felt it didn't live up to his previous novels.

In October we are having a visit from Winchester crimewriter Sam Holland. Her books about serial killers include *The Echo Man* and *The Twenty*. She also writes under the name Louise Scarr. Her books include a series following the specialist search police dog team in Gallows Wood and Memorial Park. References are made to many local areas and even Basingstoke gets a mention!



Come along to the Cafe in the Park on 8th October if you are interested in crime writing. New members are warmly welcomed. Tickets available via [Ticket source.co.uk](http://Ticketsource.co.uk)

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



Wednesday 8th October

Author Visit

Sam Holland / Louisa Scarr



Wednesday 12th November

Author Visit

L. V. Matthews



**7.30-9pm
Tickets £3.00**

Via Ticketsource.co.uk

Follow us on social media for news

#beggardwoodbookworms

email Community@beggardwood.org



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- Caring for each other
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PROBUS AND THE PORTLAND RUSSIAN SPY RING

Readers of a certain vintage will no doubt remember the infamous Portland Russian Spy Ring caught in 1961. It was recalled by speaker and Probus Club member David Stiles, who considers that he had a personal involvement before the spies were unmasked.

Following service in the RAF he continued as a contractor on RAF bases. While based at RAF Tangmere near Chichester he was tasked to prepare a civilian Vickers Varsity aircraft to be held under guard to be instantly ready for some secret operation.



Probus President Stephen Thair and speaker David Stiles



Vickers Varsity type aircraft as used by MI5

There were covert trips over three weeks when six men would arrive for night flights. He later concluded that these passengers were members of MI5, the section of the Secret Intelligence Service who are responsible for domestic security.

This period in history is known as 'The Cold War' with the Russians dividing Germany into East and West there was much spying activity by both sides. Honourably discharged from the Royal Navy after the war, Harry Houghton had worked at HMS Osprey on Portland in Dorset. In 1952, he transferred to the British embassy in Warsaw, Poland.

He liked a drink and became involved with a woman who turned out to be a member of the Polish Intelligence Service. She encouraged him to import coffee from Britain to sell at inflated prices. When his side hustle was discovered and being short of money, he was encouraged to approach the Polish authorities to sell them secret information. Drinking concerns by superiors led him to returning to England. He was posted to the Portland naval base in Dorset and more specifically in the Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment.

The AUWE was the centre of research into underwater weaponry and the first British nuclear submarine, HMS Dreadnought, had been launched in October 1960. Perhaps having been passed his details by Polish intelligence he was groomed by Gordon Lonsdale to develop an interest in Ethel Gee a filing clerk in AUWE. A spinster in her mid-forties she lived on Portland with her widowed mother and other family members.

Gordon Lonsdale was the cover name of Konon Molody, who had arrived in England under a Canadian passport and had been part of the Russian Spy Ring that had been operating in England since 1953. He provided the income needed by Harry Houghton that enabled a relationship to develop with Ethel Gee. Using a camera disguised as a cigarette lighter, Ethel would get copies of plans and information that he passed on to Lonsdale.

How would Lonsdale get this information to his masters in Moscow? Enter Helen and Peter Kroger. Their real names were Lona and Morris Cohen, American communists who used New Zealand passports. Lona Cohen had couriered classified documents about the "Manhattan Project", the US atom bomb development, to the Russian consulate in New York. The Americans considered they were ten years ahead of the Russians in nuclear development. Four years after the first atomic test, the Russians conducted their own nuclear bomb test, using specifications similar to those of the US device.

Peter and Helen Kroger rented a dormer bungalow in Ruislip in west London. Peter opened an antique book shop in London with customers across Europe including Russia. Gordon Lonsdale helped the Krogers dig out a cellar under their kitchen to house transmitting equipment while an aerial went in the roof.



Kroger's bungalow in Ruislip

Helen Kroger could transmit information in a couple of seconds. It was these transmissions that speaker David Stiles believes is what the mysterious flights with the MI5 personnel were tracking, eventually locating the bungalow in Ruislip.

Much of the information provided by Ethel Gee was reduced to microdots by Lonsdale and placed within the text in the antique books by Peter Kroger. The radio signals gave the destination address; the books were intercepted recovering the microdots.

In January 1961, MI5, which did not have power of arrest, arranged that the police detain all five people involved. This was followed by a trial at the Old Bailey in March 1961, held in camera. Certain information was released to the press, but much remains secret.

Gordon Lonsdale was gaoled for 25 years but was involved in a spy swap after a four years. Helen and Peter Kroger received 20 years and were swapped for a British businessman. All three were received as Heroes of the Soviet Union. Harry Houghton and Ethel Gee received 15 years and were married in prison.

Over 2,000 documents had been photographed and David Stiles wondered if they really were not that important at all.



Launch of HMS Dreadnought Britain's first nuclear submarine

Autumn Charity Concert

In aid of the Ark Cancer Charity



Featuring the combined talents of the
Basingstoke Male Voice Choir
and **Basing Singers**

7:30 pm Saturday 18th October at the
Hatch Warren Community Centre, RG22 4XF



Tickets: £12.00 for adults, £6.00 for children

Available from TicketSource:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc>



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Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

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- our Website - www.NHRC.uk

- Facebook.com/northhampshirerepaircafe

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St Michael's Hospice

Take part in our
Reindeer Run



Sign up now!

Basingstoke
Sunday 30 November

Time: Arrival at 8AM, start at 9AM
Location: Festival Place,
Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

Alton
Sunday 14 December

Time: Arrival at 9AM, start at 10AM
Location: The Market Square,
Alton, GU34 1HD

Put on your antlers and walk, dash, dance and prance along
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For further information visit stmichaelsospice.org.uk



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



In support of
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Charity Number: 500285

Friends of St. Michael's Hospice

Carol Service

Tuesday 9th December | All Saint's, Odiham

Doors open at 6pm, service starts at 7pm

Featuring **Schola Cantorum of Oxford**
and a reading by **Ed Chamberlin**

Canapes, wine and mince pies

TICKETS:
£40



Scan the QR
code to book

For more information visit:

www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events

or contact Katherine Jane, High St., Odiham

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VISITING THE VYNE THIS OCTOBER

October sees The Vyne's gardens and countryside turn flaming shades of copper and amber. This month is your last chance to see the **Regency Revisited Exhibition** in the house open daily until 2 November 11am-3pm. 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. Normal admission applies.

This month is also your last chance to enjoy a **Jane Austen House Tour**. Runs every Wednesday and Saturday until 2 November, 2.30-3.30pm. No pre-booking required but spaces are allocated on a first come first serve basis. £5 per person. Normal admission applies. Purchase your tickets on arrival at Visitor Reception.

3-5 October sees outdoor cinema come to The Vyne's north lawn: 3 Oct | Scream (18), 4 Oct | Hocus Pocus (PG), 5 Oct | The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG). Unless you have a premium ticket, you'll need to pack your camping chairs along with your torches, picnics and blankets. Find out more and book online: adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/the-vyne

And finally, for October half-term, families will love the **'We're Going on a Ghost Hunt' Halloween Adventure** | Sat 11 Oct - Sun 2 Nov | 10am-3pm. This is a free trail and normal admission applies.



More information at nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne.

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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!



ANVIL ARTS 01256 844244 anvilarts.org.uk (Tickets include £4 booking fee)

ARDAL O'HANLON – Not Himself

Thursday 2 October, 8pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £30

Suitable for: ages 16 and over

After an alarming experience at the supermarket, Ardal O'Hanlon reflects on who he is as a man and a comedian. With no major trauma of his own to draw on for material, apart from the drag of getting older, he turns his gaze outwards at the joys and follies of contemporary life.

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Friday 3 October, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Tickets: £46, £42, £35, £27, £18. Under 25s and f/t students £12

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra plays Dani Howard's *The Butterfly Effect*, exploring how a small event in one place can have a dramatic effect in another, Rachmaninov's fresh and attractive Piano Concerto no. 1, and Shostakovich's powerful and dramatic Tenth Symphony.

ROSIE JONES – I Can't Tell What She's Saying

Friday 3 October, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £22

Suitable for: strictly ages 14 and over

Join the BAFTA-nominated powerhouse Rosie Jones for her new show complete with her loveable blend of cheek and charm. BSL and/or captioning available upon request. Please contact the box office for more information.

ALEX WILSON & OMAR RÍOS MELÉNDEZ

– The Art of Deep Connection

Wednesday 8 October, 7.45pm, The Forge,

Tickets: £24. Under 25s and f/t students £19

Dynamic acoustic duo guitarist Omar Ríos Meléndez and pianist Alex Wilson come together for their new project, *The Art of Deep Connection*. With years of musical collaboration and a shared passion for Latin American traditions, their performances blend fiery virtuosity with profound musical sensitivity.

Bickram Ghosh presents

ONE WORLD – A global fusion concert

Thursday 9 October, 7.30pm, The Anvil,

Tickets: £30. Under 25s and f/t students £12

One World is a spectacular musical journey, brought to life by tabla maestro Bickram Ghosh. World-class musicians from India and the UK present a dazzling fusion of rhythm, melody, and cultural synergy.

AN EVENING WITH NICOLA BENEDETTI

Sunday 12 October, 7.30pm, The Anvil,

Tickets: £40, £35, £29, £18. Under 25s and f/t students £12

Join Nicola Benedetti, "the country's favourite violinist" (The Times) for a special show as she returns for her first solo tour in over ten years – opening at The Anvil.

BUDDY – THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 October, The Anvil,

Tickets: £38, £29. Under 25s £5 off, over 65s £2 off

This sensational, multi-award winning West End show first opened in 1989, and has been thrilling audiences ever since. A multi-talented cast tell Buddy Holly's story, from his Texas rockabilly beginnings to international stardom, and his renowned final performance at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, before his tragic death at the age of just 22.

THE REPAIR SHOP LIVE – Secrets From The Barn

Friday 17 October, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £39.50

The Repair Shop is stepping out of the barn and onto the stage for an exciting new live tour! Join experts Steve Fletcher, Suzie Fletcher, Will Kirk, and Kirsten Ramsay, as they share heartfelt anecdotes, cherished memories, and behind-the-scenes stories and secrets from life inside the barn, guaranteed.

JENNY ÉCLAIR – Jokes, Jokes, Jokes, Live!

Saturday 18 October, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £29

Suitable for: ages 14 and over

In celebration of the release of her hilarious memoir, comedian, novelist, and professional show-off Jenny Eclair is back with a brand-new autobiographical show.

WISHBONE ASH

Sunday 19 October, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £36.50

Experience the remarkable musicianship of the band whose twin-guitar sound inspired so many that followed as Wishbone Ash return to the UK with a show featuring much-loved hits from their multi-million selling albums such as *The King Will Come*, *Throw Down the Sword*, and *Blowin' Free*.

Dyad Productions present

THAT KNAVE, RALEIGH

Thursday 23 October, 7.30pm, The Haymarket,

Tickets: £20. Under 25s and f/t students £15

Award-winning Dyad Productions return to the Elizabethan era with the famous and fabulous explorer, sailor, dandy, and warrior, Sir Walter Raleigh. Journey through the astonishing highs and lows of one of Britain's most famous men, but there's so much you don't know. In a life spanning around 65 years, Raleigh achieved more than others might do in a hundred lifetimes.

NASHVILLE MEETS LONDON PRESENTS:

THE WANDERING HEARTS

plus special guest Ashley Campbell

Friday 24 October, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £34

Known for their rich harmonies, British folk-Americana band The Wandering Hearts bring their latest album, *Déjà Vu* – a reimagining of the 1970 album by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young that left an indelible mark on the music world – to the stage with a special live performance.

Apollo Theatre Company presents

ODE TO JOYCE – The songs and monologues of Joyce Grenfell

Saturday 25 October, 7.45pm, The Forge, Tickets: £20

Joyce Grenfell was one of the greatest female entertainers of the twentieth century, loved the world over for her hilarious and beautifully observed monologues and songs, as well as numerous film, television and radio appearances.

BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN & JUDIE TZUKE

Friday 31 October, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £44

Join two of the most revered female singer-songwriters for an evening of unparalleled music. Appearing together on stage for the first time to perform songs such as *Stay With Me Till Dawn*, *Sand and Water*, *Bring The Rain*, *This Kiss*, and their stunning collaboration, *Safe*.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Finding Community

The summer holiday season feels very much over since we turned into September, and all the schools started back. Suddenly the weather has changed and finally lots of rain with a definite chill in the air.

Holidays were really important to my husband Graham and me – in fact I probably bored quite a few of you talking about them. But sadly, Graham died at the end of February. Navigating grief affects many aspects of your life and learning to holiday on your own is a challenge.

My first holiday took me ages to get organised, and I actually left 2 hours later than I planned to.

However, a few months later I was a bit more prepared. I left on time and despite challenges with directions and roadworks I managed to get to where I was going.

I went to a Festival!

Now that may not seem surprising to any of you seasoned festival goers but for me it was a completely unique experience. I've got to admit I didn't camp (I booked into a cosy Airbnb). And it was a Christian Festival, called Greenbelt which is held in the grounds of Boughton House just outside Kettering. Also, I did meet up with some friends from church, who were seasoned Green-belters.

Greenbelt was unlike anything I had expected – people walking around in party outfits mixed with camping gear, some wearing glitter, fairy wings and walking boots. It was a place for people to be who they are without any agenda or expectations regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, sexuality, disability or background.

There was a whole range of different music from folk singer Kate Rusby, protest songs, hymns (with Cider at 11am in the morning!), rock, pop and rap. Plus, poetry, creativity, sustainability, and so much more. It was an experience!

There was space for reflection, for challenge, for protest and activism. The plight of those struggling to survive in war torn countries such as Palestine was very much at the forefront.

Greenbelt's Manifesto is *Somewhere to Believe in and Somewhere to Belong* – a place where the sacred meets the secular. And it is where it is ok to ask questions and no-one pretends that they have all the answers.

Jesus was critical of those who were overly religious, who made things difficult for people to get close to God. And he wanted his followers to continue to do his work afterwards, to love God and love everyone else. This is Greenbelt – accepting everyone as they are.

We aim to be like this too at the Parish of Basingstoke Down; being open and welcoming to everyone. We hope to be a place to where you can belong and maybe begin to believe. And it is being part of this community of believers that I have felt supported loved and cared for. If you would like to know more - join us at one of our services – 9am at Immanuel Church, Hatch Warren and 10.30am at St Mark's Church, Kempshott.



IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY

The December 1993 issue of the Rabbiter reported that Hatch Warren's first Fireworks display had been a great success. The catering had struggled, and there were lessons to be learnt, but that was scarcely surprising, as this was the Community Association's first attempt at something quite huge. Interestingly, that first display had also featured a large bonfire; something considered too risky these days.

Tickets are now on sale for the 33rd Fireworks display at the Hatch Warren Community Centre field, which has established itself as a major event in the local calendar.

At the end of 1993, the Rabbiter reported that it was being delivered to 2,000 plus homes. Today, with the completion of Kempshott Park and Beggarwood, that number has climbed to over 4,000.

The local Councillors reported that there had been considerable discussions about Sainsbury's plans to extend the number of petrol pumps and install a new car wash. Modifications had been agreed to protect neighbouring trees and bushes, remove illuminated signs on the canopy and fit the car wash with doors to cut down on possible noise.

Today the fuel and car wash facilities nestle comfortably behind the tree screen on Wallop Drive and are much valued. I can't help but wonder, though, when we are going to get electric charging points. There is a major installation in the Tesco car park in Chineham: it must surely be only a matter of time before we get one here.

The First Hatch Warren Girl Guides were growing successfully. They had started with 5 girls back in April and had grown to 22 by the end of the year.

The crime figures for Hatch Warren in the previous months were reported: two thefts from motor vehicles and five burglaries from dwellings. However, local security consultants painted a grimmer picture, reporting a show home in Danebury Road being burgled. Sadly, they said, most victims only consider protective security after their second break-in. I wonder if that is still true.

Sadly, security risks still exist. There is a growth in opportunist thefts from cars left unlocked on their drives, and thieves 'spoofing' contactless keys, which didn't exist back then. It is worth investing in 'Faraday' pouches to protect contactless keys. Many homes have burglar alarms, smart switches and door cameras installed. Indeed, the Police sometimes call for residents with doorbell cameras to check for evidence that could help them with their investigations.

And finally ... there was a reminder that the mobile library would visit each Tuesday evening. This is something that, sadly, has not survived. However, the local libraries do offer a home delivery service, which is free..

Stephen Reid



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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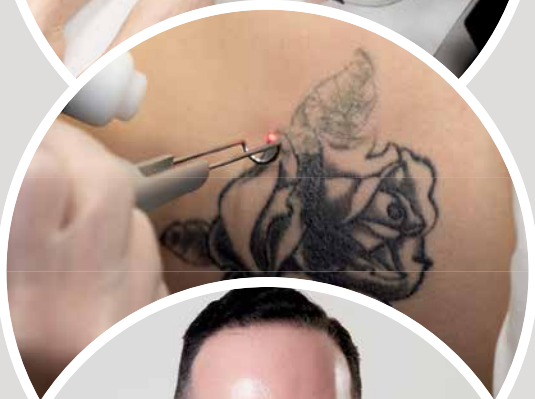
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Pets Corner

Send your photos to
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Not out in the rain again! (Holly, Shelly & Coco) – Noel



Notes from the kitchen

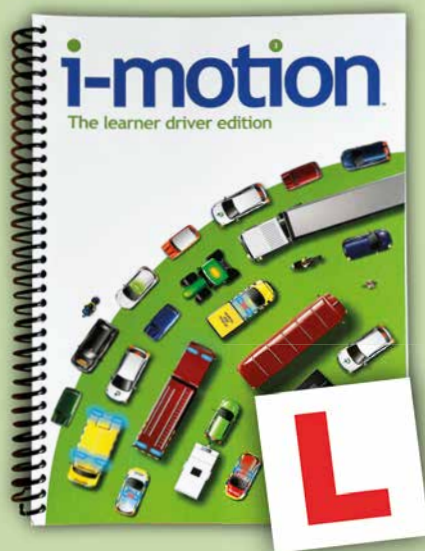


PRESERVING

The store cupboard is full of jams and pickles and the freezer is well stocked with frozen fruit and vegetables. We've been pressing the windfall apples and the juice stored in the freezer – it is delicious. Unblemished apples can be wrapped in paper, stored in a cool dry place and will still be good for eating at Christmas and beyond. I've been trying to find ways of saving money on my shopping. Rather than throw the ends of vegetables in the compost bin they have been used to make vegetable stock which is then frozen in an ice cube tray to add to soups etc. Chicken bones are also used to make stock. Pulses are always a good buy. Add them to soups or to stretch meat in a shepherd's pie but rather than buying tins try the dried beans. They can be soaked, cooked and stored in the freezer. I use a lot of fresh herbs which are expensive. However for the price of a few packets of seeds there is parsley and basil in pots growing the year round. Sage and rosemary are flourishing in big pots in the garden – and cutting from these are growing on the windowsill to be given to friends. There is a bay tree on the allotment which provides plenty of leaves for cooking. Next year I plan to try growing dill and coriander in pots. Pots are expensive and it is fascinating to see how the locals in Greece grow their herbs etc. in empty oil and feta cans outside their front doors. I buy olive oil in large cans and maybe I will try using these for herbs next year.

Vegetable stock Use what vegetables scraps you have available. Collect them over the week and store in a container in the fridge – for example: an onion, leek trimmings, carrot, squash, celery, mushroom stalks, tomato – or a squirt of tomato puree. However, leave out potato, Brussel sprouts and brassicas. Add herbs if available – parsley, thyme, bay and a few peppercorns.

Chop vegetables, place in pan and cover with cold water. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer for 30 mins to a couple of hours. Strain through a sieve. Store in fridge for up to 5 days or in the freezer.



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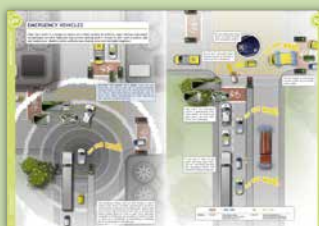
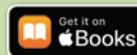
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HALLOWEEN

It's the time of the year again when many of us enjoy scaring ourselves and others with a good ghost story. We have told strange and ghostly tales for as long as anyone can count. The first known recorded ghost story was written down by Pliny the younger, whose uncle died in the eruption at Pompeii in AD79. Pliny the Younger's tale has all the recognised markings of a classic ghost story with an abandoned haunted house that no one can live in, a terrifying spectre rattling chains and a murdered man seeking retribution.

But the real boom in ghost stories began in Victorian times. The Victorians loved a good spooky tale and were also keen to track down real-life experiences. There was a surge of belief in spiritualism and attendance at seances.

The Society for Physical Research began in 1882, and a number of famous ghost hunters emerged – writers such as Charles Dickens. He not only wrote some of our best-known ghost stories, but also went on hunts for spooks himself, although he was a severe critic of mediums and spiritualists, whom he believed to be charlatans.



The writer and investigator Catherine Crowe wrote not only her own ghost stories but also collected experiences of the uncanny for publication in books such as "The Night Side of Nature".

But why were the Victorians so keen to explore the spirit world? Perhaps it had something to do with the mass move away from the countryside to smoky, foggy towns. Perhaps it was the nervousness of young people sent away to service in very large, dark, draughty houses with dark corners and creaking floorboards.

There is also a theory that the introduction of new gas lighting to the home might have been a factor. The gas used could be toxic and cause fainting and sometimes hallucinations. Was this responsible for visions of spectres?

Terri Reid MA FRSA

Terrielizabethreid.com



DAVE'S NATURE SPOT

Due mainly to being persecuted by farmers and gamekeepers in England and Scotland, the Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) became extinct by the late 19th century with just a few pairs remaining in Wales.

A very successful reintroduction programme started in the late 1980s with birds from Sweden, Spain and Wales and now the UK has roughly 4,700 pairs and approximately 16% of the world's population of Red Kites.

We are lucky to have a good local population here in Basingstoke and Red Kites are now a common sight. Easily recognised by their rusty red colour plumage and distinctive forked tail and with a wingspan of nearly 2 metres they are a joy to see gliding on thermals high in our skies. Some will even come down and visit our gardens to pick up scraps.

Nests are built in tall trees often on the edges of woods or forests where they will normally lay 1 to 3 eggs which hatch in about 30 days, and the young fledge at roughly 50 to 60 days old. The Red Kite's diet consists mainly of carrion, worms, insects and the occasional small mammal.

It is great that these beautiful birds are now regularly seen over our town and the surrounding countryside. A true success story.





HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We are having a wonderful first half term at Hatch Warren Under Fives. Some lovely new friendships have been made and our little ones have settled in brilliantly.

We have two rooms at Hatch Warren Under Fives, a smaller room 'Caterpillars' for our two year olds and a larger room 'Butterflies' for our 3 and 4 year olds.

In the Caterpillars room our younger children have settled well into their new routines, they have enjoyed joining in with songs and making friends and they have been learning about mini beasts – it's a great time of year to go outside and look for mini beasts in the garden. The children have found lots of worms and lots of beetles in their bug hunts.

In our bigger "Butterflies" room the children start the year by getting to know more about each other. They have made some lovely self portraits to share with everyone. The children have started self registration each day and they can sign in next to an emotion emoji so that we can see how they are feeling every day.

We have also been making the most of our outdoor time and discovering all the autumn colours, patterns and the changes that we have started to see in the environment as the seasons change. We will soon start to think about animals that hibernate as part of our autumn topic.

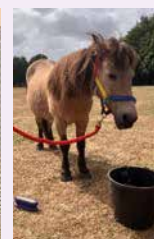
Inside we have our home corner, where the children can enjoy a variety of role-play, dressing up and reading every day. We are putting an emphasis on encouraging our children's interest in books and offering lots of different reading areas, including a reading den outside.

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

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

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Our children are back to pre-school after a lovely summer break. We've said goodbye to some familiar faces and have welcomed new faces to join the fun. There was a moving leavers' ceremony and we wish them all the best at big school.



Last term, we learned all about people who help us – we even met some firefighters in their fire engine! We stayed cool in the heat with some ice cream – both real and pretend! Zoolab visited us and the children were very brave around the creepy crawlies. We also had a visit from Pippin the pony, who enjoyed the brushing and walks. We rounded off the year with Sports Day, which was good fun for everyone – parents included!

Georgia Hawken

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary

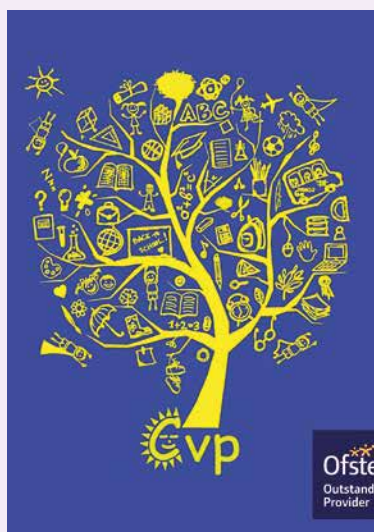
DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

What a great start to the term it's been. We have enjoyed welcoming our existing and new families to the setting and it's been so lovely to see everyone settling in so well.

This half term we will be focusing on our emotions and all about me. There have been lots of circle games encouraging the children to share their names and their favourite colour or foods.

To support learning of our emotions we have used the story of the colour monster. The story supports understanding of our emotions through colour. Using tough trays we have had a range of activities to support the story but also to support colour sorting, fine motor skills and speech and language.

We have been making faces with our snack by using tortillas and vegetables. The children have really enjoyed this especially eating it afterwards!!



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continued from page 24

We have started a Dandelions Photo Album. The children have been bringing pictures in of themselves and their families so that we can share them within the group.

As we move through the term we will be focusing on Autumn, looking at the changes in the environment. We are planning a walk where we will be collecting natural resources and creating pictures with them.

Jiggly Wrigglers will be returning to us again this month and we are planning a trip to St Mark's Farm.

With our AGM approaching we are actively looking for people to join our Committee. If you have a few hours to spare each month and have skills in finance, education, Marketing, IT, HR or just a general enthusiasm to ensure our preschool continues to provide the best possible early years learning opportunities then we would love to hear from you.

As a charity organisation our Committee must be made up of a minimum of 60% parents and the remainder of people from the local community.

If you are interested in joining or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us on either info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk or alternatively telephone on 01256 818857

With our successful start to the term we are already full for this academic year. If you are considering Dandelions for your child's early years, please do contact us as soon as possible. Waiting lists are open for 2026/2027

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

HAPPY HOUSE CHINESE TAKEAWAY

Downland Parade, Worting Road, RG21 8TX. 01256 353035

Probably like us, most readers will have had a supermarket box of Asian food as an occasional treat at the weekend. With a car that had developed a mysterious fault the decision was made that we should take the plunge and have a Chinese meal delivered.

Madam reckons it was back in 2014 that we last had such a delivery. How things have changed in the intervening years. Instead of just making a phone call, it was on to the computer to place an order.

Today it seems that the delivery companies decide if our address is within their delivery area rather than the place where the food is cooked. This is possibly due to the time to travel as it would not be desirable if the food arrives having cooled down. Our first choice was declared to be too far away and so we settled on a delivery company that would reach our address and settled down to make our menu selections.

Placing our order on the screen turned out to be quite a task, having to go back several times before the order was accepted. Mind you, seeing the style in which the summary and pricing of each component was listed gave confidence in giving over my card details.

At this juncture I should add there was considerable discussion about selections and because the menu was not populated with a picture of each dish, we made the classic error of not realising the volume of each one. One large Crispy Spring roll could have been shared and only one rice was needed, and the pot of sweet and sour sauce was surplus to requirements.

Madam's Sweet and Sour Chicken was declared as very tasty but there was too much, and my Pork and Cashew Nuts was also very good. After checking online if it is possible to freeze the remnants of our meal, much rice and half of Madam's chicken dish, along with the pot of sauce have gone into the freezer as potential snacks in the future.

Impressively, on placing our order the computer advised a time for delivery as 19.05 and there came a knock on the door two minutes prior to the allotted time. The food bill came to £35.00 and a perfectly reasonable delivery charge of £2.00, but I never did establish why there was a mysterious £7.00 surcharge.



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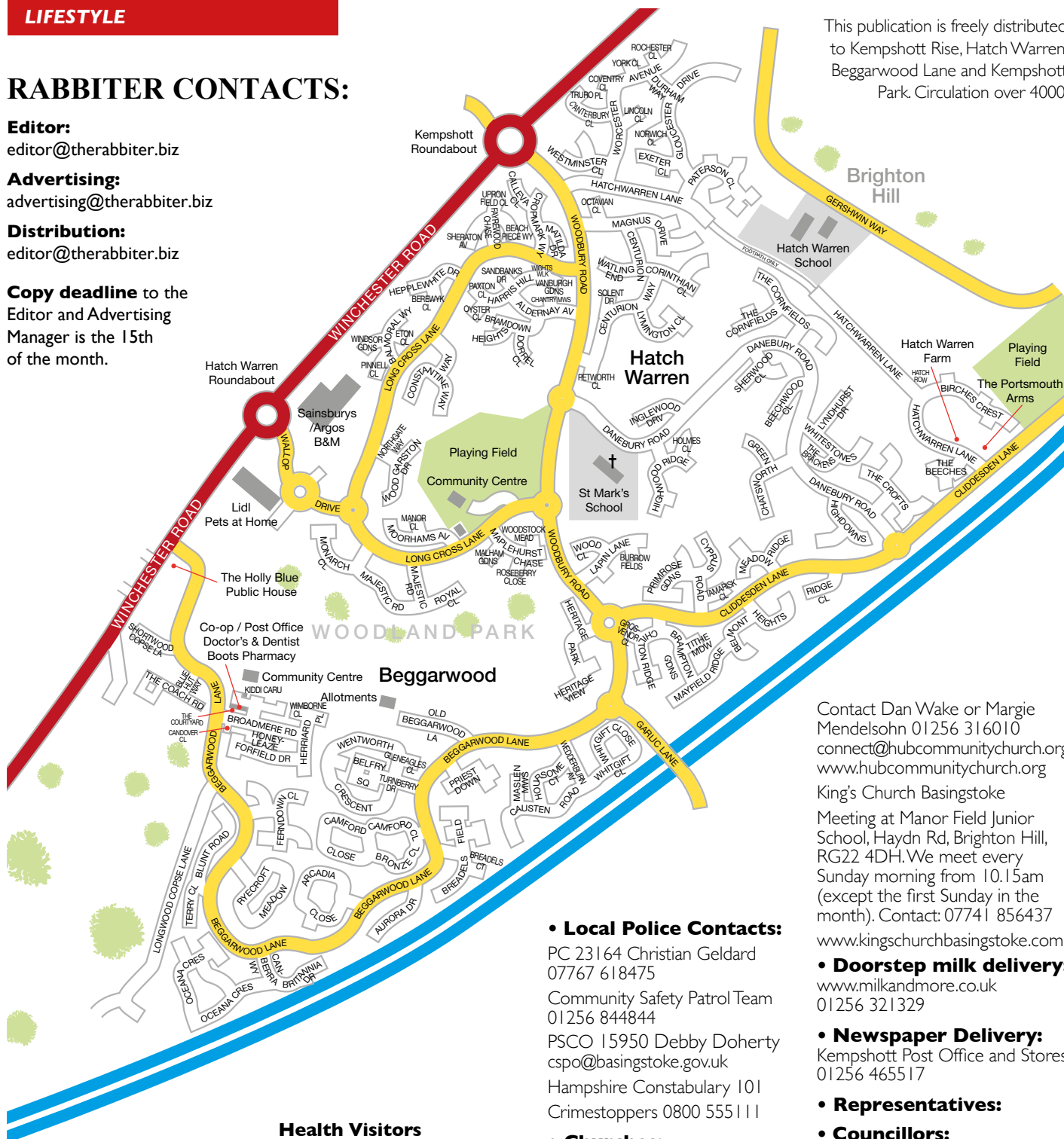
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07767 618475

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

The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU Sunday Service at 10.30am
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

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Basingstoke:

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luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk

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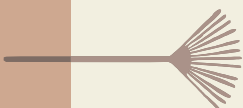
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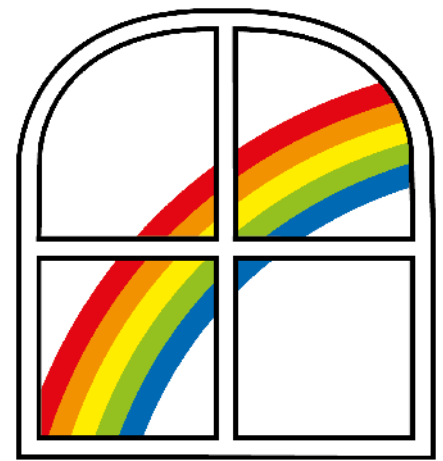
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