

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 326  
March 2026

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



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- **BASINGSTOKE RFC**
- **BASINGSTOKE NEIGHBOUR CARE**

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# THE Rabbiter

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Printed by Greenhouse Graphics Ltd  
www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk  
This publication is freely distributed to  
Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.  
Circulation over 4000.

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the March issue of the Rabbiter. It is full of articles that I hope you will find interesting.

As well as the detailed Councillors' reports, we have a contribution from the local Patient Participation Group, which is complementing the work of the surgeries by organising events and programmes to help people to live longer better. It is worth visiting their website, which is earning a reputation as one of the best around.

Our local nature groups are working hard to maintain our open spaces. After such a dismal winter, they would appreciate any help you are able to give.

This issue sees the return of an occasional feature, 'Local Heroes'. This column pays tribute to people who have helped to shape our community and make life better for many people. This month we honour Jenny Crawford who, among other achievements, founded the Rabbiter as a newsletter that eventually morphed into the magazine you are now reading.

I find that in any community, there will be a small number of people who volunteer in many different roles, and make a real difference. It is good to draw attention to them, and thank them for what they do.

### Editor



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## Join Care UK's nationwide 'Big Dementia Conversation'

Did you know that nearly four in 10 people (39%) avoid visiting relatives living with dementia because of how difficult it can be to communicate and connect?

Dementia can change the way someone communicates. Messages in the brain may take longer to reach the right place, which can make conversations more challenging.

As dementia progresses, families and friends may feel unsure how to stay connected. In a national survey, nearly all respondents (93%) said communication barriers made meaningful interaction harder, but it doesn't have to be this way. Understanding why communication becomes more challenging is the first step in remaining connected with your loved one.

### Staying connected

We know many families feel they don't have enough support with communication after their loved one develops dementia. That's why Care UK has created **Staying connected: a guide to dementia-friendly conversations**.



The guide is available for free in your local care home and online as part of 'The Big Dementia Conversation' online advice hub. This hub is all about sharing knowledge and real-life experiences to support those who are looking after someone living with dementia.

If you're caring for a loved one with dementia and need a little extra support, why not visit our website to discover more ways we can help you and your loved one.

Visit our online advice hub to find out more by scanning the QR code.



If you're considering care, call your local care home Dashwood Manor on **01256 588 826** or visit [careuk.com/dashwood-manor](http://careuk.com/dashwood-manor)

Join us for our next event at Dashwood Manor

Staying connected:  
A guide to dementia-friendly conversations

Thursday 5th March, 2pm - 4pm and  
6pm - 8pm, Saturday 28th March 2026,  
10am - 12 noon

Join us as we explore how to communicate more effectively with people living with dementia. Learn simple, practical ways to stay connected - helping to build understanding, ease frustration and create more meaningful moments in everyday life.

To book your free place, call **01256 588 826** or email [leahanne.wilkinson@careuk.com](mailto:leahanne.wilkinson@careuk.com)

## SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE ACROSS BASINGSTOKE

Basingstoke NeighbourCare is a much-loved local charity that has been supporting older people across the borough since 1997. Its aim is simple but vital: to help people remain independent, connected, and safe in their own homes.

The charity offers a wide range of practical and social support. Its volunteer driving service helps people who find it difficult to get out and about, providing transport to medical appointments, shopping trips and social activities. For those who live alone, the befriending service offers regular weekly visits from a friendly volunteer; helping to reduce loneliness and build meaningful connections.

The charity also provides a handyperson and gardening service, carrying out small household repairs and garden maintenance such as lawn cutting, hedge trimming and weeding, helping to make homes safer and more enjoyable.

Citizens Advice will be joining NeighbourCare at Hill Rise Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays in March, April and May,

offering confidential one-to-one advice on benefits, housing, debt and health issues.

To find out more about NeighbourCare's services or how to get involved, visit [www.neighbourcare.com](http://www.neighbourcare.com), email [info@neighbourcare.com](mailto:info@neighbourcare.com), or call 01256 423855 for an informal chat.



Volunteers Lisa and Christine at Hill Rise Hall

## HATCH WARREN WI



We all enjoyed a very sociable evening at our annual fund-raising supper in February. Helen Tyson, our WI Advisor, was guest of honour and gave us a very useful talk on cyber security. We all went home to change our passwords! March 5th is our next meeting and we will be learning about Lady Denman who was very active in the rights for women. April 2nd St John's Ambulance will demonstrate CPR and how to use the defibrillator stationed at Hatch Warren Community Centre.

Please feel free to join us at Hatch Warren Community Centre at 7:30

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Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) registration fee, when applicable, is not included in these prices.

## COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### Stephen Reid

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

**COUNCIL TAX:** At the time of writing it looks as if the Council Tax for Hampshire County Council will go up by 4.99% - the same as last year. In reality, the Council Tax is effectively dictated by the Government, which specifies the services that Councils must provide and then gives an insufficient amount of money by way of a Local Government Finance settlement. It specifies by how much the Council Tax may go up without a referendum, and it has set the upper limit at 4.99%.

**POSTBOXES:** We have a bit of a mystery - some pillar boxes in our area have been half dismantled and wrapped in black plastic. A highly visible example is in Danebury Road. This postbox has been out of commission for many weeks with its front removed. I have looked for an explanation on the Royal Mail websites, but not found anything. My assumption therefore is that it is being upgraded to one of the new solar powered pillar boxes. These are able to take parcels up to the size of a shoe-box, and give a receipt. I have seen one of these new boxes at Buckingham Parade in Kempshott. Whilst I welcome the prospect of improved facilities, I am concerned at the impact on residents caused by the pillar boxes being unavailable for so long.

**UPPER SWALLICK:** The promoters of the site are pressing ahead with proposals for this development near Cliddesden, which could see 2,500 homes being built. It could impact Hatch Warren and Beggarwood, as one of the proposed routes in and out is via the Woods Lane roundabout beneath the M3, (serving Cliddesden Lane, Brighton Way and Hatch Warren Way). I fear that this route could be used by new residents seeking to get to and from the M3 at Junction 7, putting extra traffic onto our estate roads. The Borough Council looks to be backing the development of the site, but has said that it will manage access to it to minimise the impact of traffic on urban roads and communities in southern Basingstoke. We will have to see what that means. My preference is that access is via two junctions onto the A339 Alton Road, with improved routes onto the ring road.

**NEW CYCLE PATH APPROVED:** People who cycle into town will be pleased to learn that approval has been given to implement improvements to the cycling facilities along the A30 Winchester Road between the Brighton Hill roundabout and the Winchester Road roundabout.

**A30 CHANGES:** Proposals for lowering the speed limit on the A30 to 40 mph from the Hounsome Fields roundabout have been published. I am assured that a traffic light controlled crossing will be installed between the Golf Course and Hounsome Fields developments before the new school year in September.

**THAMES WATER** has carried out road works on the A30 Winchester Road, opposite the Holly Blue. This will be followed in March by sewerage replacement works down the long-suffering Kempshott Lane and these are likely to take two years to complete. This is the work that caused the resurfacing of the Lane to be delayed. It seems to me that the utility companies queue up to dig up that road, which is in a terrible state. They have the right, however, to access their assets under the surface. I can't help but think that this is an inevitable by-product of Basingstoke's

increased housing targets with some 20,000 homes being slated for this side of the town.

**DOWN GRANGE PARK AND GREAT WOLF:** I reported last month that local campaigners had succeeded in getting the Borough Council to drop plans for a golf facility on Down Grange Park. I have now received notification that Great Wolf have submitted their planning application to build a water themed attraction and hotel at the Leisure Park, emphasising my view that there was never a causal link between the two.

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD:** It is part of my portfolio at Hampshire to chair this important body, which brings together County and District representatives, members of the NHS, the Police, the Voluntary sector and others concerned with improving the health of the people of Hampshire. One of the sources of information is called the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which is a huge repository of information about our local communities. It is accessible through Hampshire's website and well worth getting to know.

**MOBILE MACULAR UNIT:** I was approached to find out why the Mobile Macular Unit had stopped visiting Basingstoke with its offer of hospital-level eye care. The answer was that the vehicle had serious mechanical problems. It has now been repaired and patients are again being offered the opportunity to attend that facility in Basingstoke, saving them a journey to Frimley hospital.

**SOUTH HAM AND BUCKSKIN:** During the past month I have attended meetings with Sovereign, the Housing Association, about their plans to regenerate the South Ham and Buckskin areas. The Borough Council is hoping for hundreds of extra homes there, and I am keeping a weather-eye open for the impacts that might have on our local roads, especially the A30. Early maps indicated a shopping centre on Western Way. If this were to reduce the capacity of that important north / south route, it could put extra load onto the Kempshott Lane / Buckskin Lane corridor.

**OLD DOWN:** I am pleased to report that the Borough Council has decided that Old Down should be granted the status of Local Nature Reserve, as is Beggarwood Park. This is something that I have pressed for, over many years. The process may take some time, but residents will welcome the extra protection that LNR recognition will bring.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS** will definitely be taking place for the County and Borough Councils in May. The Government had asked if local councils wanted to postpone them to make it easier to implement Local Government Reorganisation. I voted against postponement, taking the view that it would be better to delay reorganisation than further compromise the democratic process. We are expecting an announcement from the government in March about the shape of the new unitary authorities.

**BLOG:** You can find more about these issues, and others, on my blog 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 Hatch Warren and Beggarwood residents,

I hope you are all well - I'm very much enjoying the daffodils and snowdrops while out on my canvassing and casework rounds right now!

**Local Elections in May:** The Government has now confirmed: Local Elections are going ahead in May. I'm really pleased this decision has been confirmed; it's so important for every resident to have their say at the ballot box, which is why we voted at the Borough Council to reject the Government's offer to apply to postpone them again. PLEASE REMEMBER that rules around postal voting have changed so postal voters now need to reapply every three years; if you previously held a postal vote which has lapsed, you must reapply by 5pm on Tuesday 21st April. You can find out more information on this at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) but if you are uncertain, please do get in touch and I'll be happy to assist.

### GP Surgery Patient Participation Groups + Luke Murphy

**MP:** I attended a meeting of representatives from local Patient Participation Groups from various GP surgeries, assembled to discuss the NHS 10-year plan with MP Luke Murphy. It was good to give feedback on residents' experiences, input thoughts on the Plan and question how it might impact local services, and meet representatives from other PPGs to swap thoughts.

**Domestic Abuse:** I was pleased to speak at the All-Members Briefing on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Domestic Violence Champions Group. I've been part of the group since becoming a Councillor so was glad to speak about my experience and encourage other members to sign up. The work we feed into is vital and is also a big part of my new role within the Council as Champion for Equalities. Domestic violence is sadly prevalent enough that, given the number of people we encounter whilst out in the community, it's important to know the signs and be able to signpost appropriately.

I was also glad to attend the inaugural meeting of the North Hants Domestic Abuse Forum. Following the successful combined authority approach of the Community Safety Partnership which covers Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor; this first meeting of the new NHDAF brought together Officers and stakeholder partners from all three areas to discuss what each is doing to combat domestic violence, and how we can learn from each other, improve all our practices and plug any gaps. There was a real energy and eagerness in the room to do this work and it was great to start meeting people and exchanging ideas, especially as we move towards becoming a Unitary Authority.

Repair Café first anniversary celebration!: We had a fabulous time at our Hatch Warren Repair Café first birthday event, and I want to thank the many local people who popped in with their items for fixing as well as our volunteer team that helped make it such a success! We were delighted with how busy it was, and residents got to chat with our visitors Luke Murphy MP; the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Colin Phillimore; and Council Leader Paul Harvey while they enjoyed cake and waited for free repairs. The children's activities we provided were a huge success, so we have decided to make this an ongoing feature in the café – if

you have broken things, do bring your little ones along any first Saturday of the month to craft, paint and read while you wait!

**Hatch Warren Community Centre Comedy Success!:** A very well done to the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association team for their first dedicated stand-up comedy night in February! I attended with friends and it was brilliant to see the event sold out and attendees having a fab time with laughter, drinks and local food. The trustees and volunteers work phenomenally hard at putting on events for the local community and I hope the comedy night returns again soon!

**Council Meeting News:** At the two Resident Services meetings in the last month items have included examining the new draft Active Wellbeing Strategy, looking at weed control in the Borough – which raised the issue of glyphosate use – and a report on tackling graffiti on utility cabinets. I had formally requested that Officers examine this issue and report on it for Committee scrutiny, as eighteen months' experience in spotting graffiti and reporting it had demonstrated to me that the processes we have are not especially easy or satisfying. I'm often coming across substations whose owners cannot be identified or, when they are, fail to clean up in an appropriate time frame. Although our powers are limited with land or items the Council does not own, Officers have agreed that our processes could be better and will look to establish and strengthen identification and reporting routes to make things easier. While graffiti is thankfully not a massive problem in HW&B, it has been established that the cleaner and nicer an area is, the more residents take pride in and put effort into their local communities, which improves all our lives. One of the utilities, whose processes and clean up times are quite good, evidently got a bit tired of my reporting incidents to them and having to come out to clean up, and have now put fences around some of their substations in the area!

In Licensing Committee, we have been having an interesting debate on CCTV in licensed vehicles, which has a number of pros and cons. The outcome is that CCTV will not be made mandatory at this time as the cost would be prohibitive for many drivers, but I would be very interested to hear from any residents who have views on whether this is something they would like to see in future. Do remember you can watch most Council and Committee meetings live or afterwards on [www.youtube.com/@BasingstokeGov](http://www.youtube.com/@BasingstokeGov).

**Social Inclusion Partnership appeal:** As part of the Social Inclusion Partnership, the Council is helping to raise £10,000 to install a fully accessible shower and wet room in a local church. This will provide a clean, safe space to wash for unhoused people, privacy and dignity during vulnerable times and a step towards rebuilding confidence, health and wellbeing. The link is miles too long to include here or type easily but if you would like to give something towards this laudable goal, do email me on the address below and I will happily send it to you.

**Canvassing and Councillor Surgery:** My most recent days out to talk to residents about local issues have seen me visit the Chatsworth Green and Meadowridge areas – do remember that if you miss us and would like to rebook for a more convenient time to discuss your thoughts, drop me a line and we can easily set an appointment up. Otherwise, my 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery for this month will be at the Holly Blue pub from 7pm - 9pm on Monday 30th March and you're welcome to drop by.

Health and happiness to every one of you!

Best wishes – Stacy.

Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood



Staying socially connected is as important for long-term health as exercise, diet, and sleep.



Staying connected with other people as you get older is good for your health. Talking with friends, family, or people in your community helps keep your mind active and your memory strong. It can help you feel less lonely, improve your mood, and remind you that you are cared for.

Being social can also help your body stay healthier by supporting your heart and immune system. Overall, staying connected helps you feel better and enjoy life more as you age.

We have collated a list of activities in different areas. You can access this online at:

[www.cghppg.weebly.com/keep-connected](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com/keep-connected)

Keys to a Longer, Healthier Life:



Benefits of muscle and bone strengthening activities at different ages

These activities are important across the life course for different reasons:



We often hear about 'counting your steps' but it is equally important as you age to keep strong legs. Losing mobility and becoming frail as you age can be controlled and in many cases reversed.



If you sit forward in a dining room chair with a table in front of you, you can use the table for support to start with. But whatever you do ensure you are safe whilst practising. Moving from side to side as you stand at the kitchen counter, shifting your weight from one leg to the other or rocking from heels to toes can keep you more mobile and lubricate your joints, and the counter is there to hold onto if you need to. We have options for all ages to keep fit online:

[www.cghppg.weebly.com/exercise-for-health](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com/exercise-for-health)

The in depth version of this news is online at [www.cghppg.weebly.com](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com) and there is 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](mailto:cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com).

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CGHB.PPG](http://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](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com/join-the-ppg)

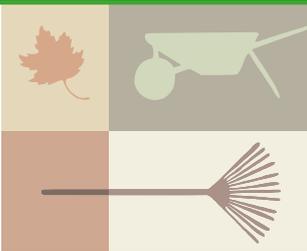
The Practice complaints process is on the practice website or write to The Manager at Gillies Health Centre or email: [hiowicb-hsi.cghpartnership.complaints@nhs.net](mailto:hiowicb-hsi.cghpartnership.complaints@nhs.net)

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# OLD DOWN WILDLIFE GROUP

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

If you care about nature and wildlife and care about Old Down then please support the volunteers that work to keep Old Down nature-rich. It is due to the work of the Old Down Wildlife Group that Old Down is such a beautiful site and even exists. We have an on-site work party every Thursday morning (weather permitting). There are also many other nature orientated tasks such as species surveys and admin tasks that are necessary to keep the Group and its work going. Come and join us - we would love to meet you. For more information see our website or email us.

Website: [Old Down Wildlife Group](http://Old Down Wildlife Group) Facebook: [Old Down Wildlife Group](http://Old Down Wildlife Group)  
Email: [old.down.wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:old.down.wildlife@gmail.com)



**The Group's AGM is to be held on 9th April 2026.** As usual the venue is Old Down Hall starting at 7:30pm. We hope you can join us. There will be some refreshments (homemade cake!)

and a presentation on butterflies. You are welcome to bring along your school age children – the official bit is very short and the photo presentation and discussions about wildlife interesting.

You may remember that quite some time ago the Council proposed to give Old Down LNR (Local Nature Reserve) status and at last there is a formal Council decision to go ahead with this but sadly it may take some time – red tape! The Council has also promised to identify Old Down as 'Green Space' within the up-and-coming Local Plan. There will be updates at the AGM.

Hopefully March will bring some days without rain! We desperately need some days with blue sky and sun. And hopefully spring flowers and buds on trees and

shrubs will be starting to appear. As you know, one of the early wildflowers to rear their heads on the meadow are the cowslips (*primula veris*). The usual time is April but in recent years Spring is showing earlier and earlier so there may be a show as early as late March. Another early wildflower is the primrose (*primula vulgaris*) - they will be showing now and there are many clumps to be found on Old Down. An especially good show is on the bund by Old Down Hall (planted by the Group).

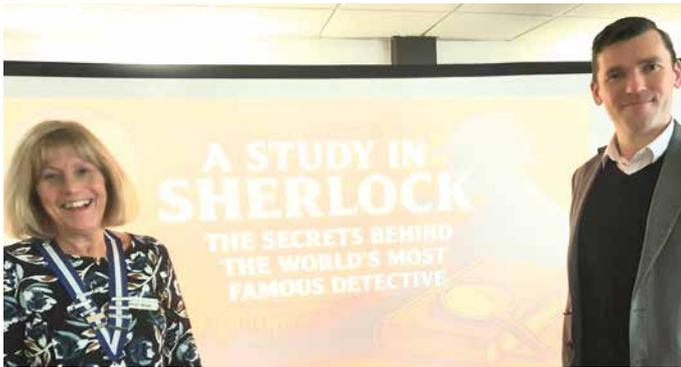
**Work Parties:** We meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!). We really do need new members and support – this is the way to keep Old Down as a beautiful green space for wildlife and people. Check our website and Facebook for further information and/or contact us by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

Email: [old.down.wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:old.down.wildlife@gmail.com)  
Website: [Old Down Wildlife Group](http://Old Down Wildlife Group)  
Facebook: [Old Down Wildlife Group](http://Old Down Wildlife Group)



# BASINGSTOKE LADIES PROBUS

## 'Elementary, dear Ladies'!



The Basingstoke Ladies' Probus Club kicked off its first meeting of the year with its 32nd AGM and a fascinating talk by Dr. Stephen J. Goss, a former lecturer in history at Queen's University Belfast, a published academic lecturing in history and politics at City Lit, and an Expert Tour Guide at the Imperial War Museums.

As a life-long admirer of Sherlock Holmes, Stephen explained to his very attentive audience how Arthur Conan Doyle drew from his experiences and the tumultuous events of his time to craft the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, a character who embodies logic, deduction and justice.

Doyle came to writing after studying medicine in Edinburgh from 1876, signing on as a ship's doctor on a whaler in 1880 for a year which he thoroughly enjoyed – but sadly not so the next sea

journey on a ship to West Africa as he was frequently seasick. He was subsequently a GP in Southsea and ultimately an eye specialist with a Harley Street address, as well as a renowned sportsman. Having married in 1891, the same year as his first Sherlock Holmes short story 'A Scandal in Bohemia' was published, he gave up medicine and wrote full-time which he found more remunerative. Tragically, after just 2 years of marriage, his wife died of consumption while they were on holiday in Spain. But his stories kept coming.

More than just mysteries, Stephen showed how the tales of Messrs. Holmes and Watson delve into politics, history, morality and human nature, making them relevant even today.

Once again, the Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club were treated to a very interesting and educational speaker and all subsequently enjoyed a delicious 3-course lunch offering from the best of BCOT's catering department.

If interested to know more about BLPC membership and the upcoming programme of future speakers, contact:

**The Admin Secretary**  
 reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk 07754 296994



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**What's on March**

Wednesday	Weekly Thursday	Friday
Quiche Wednesday Community Meal Deal 12-2pm	Beggardwood Babies group 11.30-12.30	Friendship Friday Chatty cafe 10.30-11.30

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
 BVA Wellbeing Walk  
 Meet at 11am Outside the Café  
 Fun, free, and supportive walks led by trained volunteers  
 Community Lunch - 12.15-1.15  
 Join us and the community for a great value lunch  
 Cops N Coffee 12-2pm  
 Meet the local neighbourhood policing team and discuss any concerns

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Card and a Cuppa -10-1pm

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Beggardwood Bookworms 7.30  
 Discuss The Satsuma Complex by Bob Mortimer.  
 New Bookworms always welcome

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Beggardwood Bookworms daytime group

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
 HWBCA Fundraising Quiz 7.30pm  
 Join Iain and the Trustees for an evening of fun quizzing while raising vital funds for our community centres  
 email [community@beggardwood.org](mailto:community@beggardwood.org)

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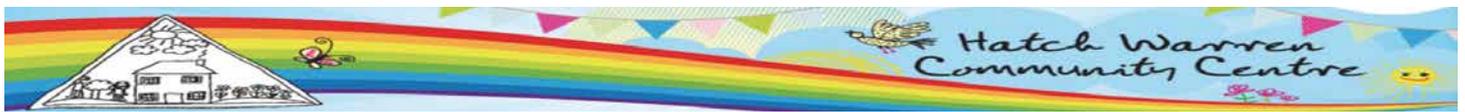
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at Beggarwood Community Centre

7.00 pm for 7.30pm start  
£5 per person/teams of 4 or 6  
Licensed Bar

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Beggarwood Community Centre  
Broadmere Road, RG22 4AQ  
[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)

This event is supported by



This event is being held as a fundraising event for HWBCA Charity #1161117



HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESENTS  
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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 7.30PM  
The Empress Museum, LONDON

Tickets cost £95 per person  
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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

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\*40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead\*  
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We are looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming events, please email [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org) for further information.

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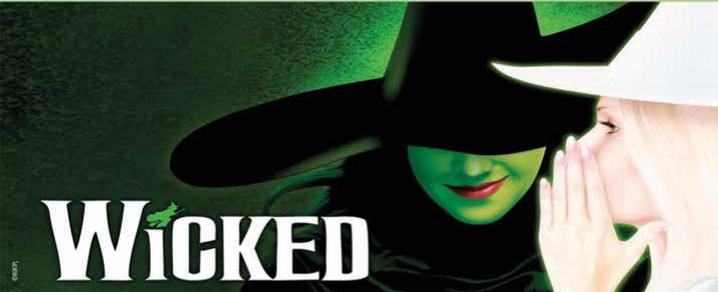


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HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP



FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30PM  
Apollo Victoria Theatre, LONDON

Good Stall seats  
Tickets cost £80 per person  
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)

Payment plans are available, please ask for more information when booking

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



\*38 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



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**the Warren**

THE WARREN

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Fridays  
 Year groups 8-11  
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Email: Warrenhatchwarren.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

Provide experiences to promote Resilience and self esteem

Boost confidence and support for independent travel

Maintain and develop our access to work programme



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## PROBUS HEARS ABOUT MILITARY MEDICINE IMPROVEMENTS

The impact of weapons technology on combat injuries forced the evolution of military medicine technology and such changes occurred over the centuries. It was during the English Civil War when Oliver Cromwell repurposed an existing building to create the Savoy Hospital in 1642, realising that the previous system of camp followers tending to the wounded no longer suited wounds from firearms.

David Wiggins, the curator of the Museum of Military Medicine, outlined the medical advances and health care since the time of Cromwell. The museum is currently in the process of transferring from the Keogh Barracks in Ash Vale near Aldershot in Hampshire to be near the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The real improvements emerged with the recognition that many combatants survived their initial surgery but died due to general conditions and disease. Regiments had their own small medical teams, but it was in the Peninsular Wars of 1808-14 that the medical services of the army were organised more formally.

Records show that during the Crimean War 1853-56 there were 4,600 combat injuries yet 20,000 died through typhus/typhoid. Enter Florence Nightingale with her disciplined approach to medical care that started a reversal of such statistics so that during the Boer War 1899-1902 with 22,000 wounded that 7,400 died from dysentery or typhoid fever.

The industrial scale of WWI 1914-18 brought in new wounds due to advances in military equipment. There was an equalisation between combat deaths and disease and a recognition that it was imperative to remove casualties from the battlefield to proper recovery settings.

Tented casualty clearing stations then led to casualty evacuation by various methods. Motorised ambulance, some made by Thornycroft in Basingstoke converted from the order for 5,000 of their J type 3-ton vehicle, inland canal barges, hospital ships and trains were used. The Royal Victoria Hospital was built at Netley with its own jetty on the Solent and on a branch line ambulance trains brought casualties directly to Park Prewett hospital in Basingstoke used for Canadian troop casualties.

Blood transfusions, X-rays, gas masks for men, horses and dogs, improved designs of splints and the introduction of the Brodie steel helmet in 1916 all helped to reduce deaths by 80%.

A medical officer, Harold Gillies introduced skin grafts to maxillo-facial reconstruction that became known as plastic surgery with patients at Park Prewett hospital. Today a general medical practice surgery in the town is named after this famous surgeon.

WW2 1939-45 saw further use of field surgical and transfusion units positioned close to the point of injury. In 1943, Alexander Fleming's earlier discovery of Penicillin, was developed into a usable medicine, becoming a game changer in recovery outcomes. Post 1945 the helicopter became crucial to the recovery of battlefield casualties with the popular later TV programme, MASH, demonstrating the joined-up thinking with the connection of emergency evacuation with a mobile army surgical hospital during the Korean war 1950-53.

Helicopter use was necessary during the Falklands conflict of 1982 transferring casualties to hospital ships while the Afghan campaign 2001-2021, saw great use of various helicopters in casualty evacuation. Many casualties received medical support at

Headley Court near Birmingham that become famous for the increasing use of prosthetics.

Peacetime also sees military services in demand under 'hearts and minds' policies both for medical and dentistry work in foreign countries. The Ebola outbreak in parts of Africa needed their intervention and at home the Covid-19 pandemic saw the construction of temporary hospitals.

2024 saw the amalgamation of three historical medical sections into one cohesive unit called the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS). These were the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) founded in 1898, the Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) founded 1921 and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) founded 1902. The aim is to provide full medical and dentistry services to our military for use in peacetime and during conflict to a level matching that of the NHS.



*Park Prewett Canadian Hospital.*



*Royal Victoria Military Hospital Netley.*



## JOIN US AT BASINGSTOKE RFC

Basingstoke Rugby Football Club is excited to welcome the next generation of young players, and we're inviting families across the community to come and give rugby a try! From as early as Year One, children can join our vibrant Minis and Youth section, where they'll learn new skills, make friends, and grow in confidence in a fun, supportive, and safe environment.

Training takes place every Sunday, with some age groups also meeting mid-week, offering plenty of opportunities to get active and be part of a team. Whether your child is completely new to rugby or already sports-mad, our qualified and enthusiastic coaches ensure sessions are tailored to help every player thrive - focusing on teamwork, respect, and enjoyment above all else. The first two sessions are completely free, giving families the chance to see what the club is all about with no pressure and no commitment.

With a fantastic community spirit, excellent facilities, and a strong emphasis on fun, Basingstoke RFC is the perfect place for children to develop both their sporting ability and their love for the game. We're proud to provide a welcoming home for players of all abilities, and we're always thrilled to see new faces joining our rugby family.

Whether you're looking for a new weekend activity, a way to build confidence, or simply a great sport to be part of, come along and see what makes Basingstoke RFC special.

For any questions or to find out more, please email [admin@basingstokerfc.com](mailto:admin@basingstokerfc.com)





**BEGGARWOOD  
BECKWORMS  
FEBRUARY  
MEETING**



It was a pleasure to welcome so many members on a wet, cold February night to meet our very local author Sarah Lefebve. She was discussing her latest novel 'A Mother's Second Chance'. This novel explores a family whose lives are turned upside down when they suddenly and unexpectedly become guardians of their best friend's young children. It's an emotional read exploring relationships as the children settle in to their new lives without their parents.

Sarah chatted and answered many thoughtful questions. She began her career as a journalist with The Basingstoke Gazette and was very lucky upon submitting her first novel to be offered a two book contract. Sarah juggles family life and a full time job alongside her writing and is currently working on her third book. Many thanks to Sarah for visiting and we look forward to welcoming her to our morning group on 27th February.

Our next very different read for both groups is The Satsuma Complex by Bob Mortimer.

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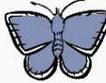
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## BEGGARWOOD Wildlife Group

Maintaining Beggarwood Park for the Benefit of  
Wildlife and the Community

**Work Party Tuesday 3rd February**

The weather did its best to dampen the spirits of the hardy volunteers but they were not to be deterred.

Splitting into two groups, the first group continued with coppicing and extending the dead hedge in the wooded area in the lower part of the park. Stakes were made from the lower part of the coppiced trees and were used to form a framework for the dead hedge. The second group headed to the wooded area between the three outdoor exercise equipment sites to remove tree guards that were originally placed around newly planted saplings to protect them from being eaten by wildlife. With the area now well established, the dense scrub hindered the task, but quite a few were removed on this occasion.



Our next work parties will be: -

Tue 3rd March, Tue 24th March (assisting at Down Grange Meadow), Tue 7th April . We typically meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 9am at the Cafe in the Park (Community Centre)



For more information or to let us know you plan to join us on a work party, please email us at [contactus@beggarwoodwildlife.uk](mailto:contactus@beggarwoodwildlife.uk)



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!



## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

I am pretty sure that what I am about to describe will be a common experience for many of you. We have lived in the same house in Basingstoke for over 25 years and during that time have accumulated what can be best described as a considerable amount of "stuff". Prompted by my daughter's imminent return from University, we have realised that the time to tackle the 'stuff mountain' is now and so, taking a deep breath, we began Operation Stuff Clearing!

Some of the 'stuff' has headed to the Charity Shops, some has made the short journey to the bin. However, much of it we have looked at and thought 'There's a home for that' ('and a bit of cash for us') and so we have put it up for sale on e-bay.

Now, I will freely admit that there are some things that I have thought "That will NEVER sell" e.g. such as a pair of very scary dolls and an old and rusty pin cushion

And yet, the wonderful people of e-bay parted with their hard earned cash, much to my shock and delight.

Now what, you may ask, has this got to do with matters spiritual? Well, because I'm spending a lot of time on e-bay, it got me thinking. On a personal level, we can often feel unwanted and surplus to requirements. Maybe someone made unkind and hurtful remarks to us. Maybe a relationship has broken down or a family member has walked away from us. It may be that we frequently feel lonely.

In any of these circumstances, it is easy to hear the words in our head "You're not good enough. No one wants you."

The fact is that, according to the Bible, nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible states clearly and frequently that God made each and every one of us and loves each and every one of us. It states that God sent his son, Jesus, down to earth to live here, die here and rise again to show how much God loves us. So to use my dodgy illustration, none of us was thrown out or given to charity, God bought each of us, no price to high.

Now, I can hear you say, "Oh you Christian types, you chuck biblical verses about like so much confetti. How do we know that's true?"

Well, in one sense, it is a matter of faith. However, speaking personally, I don't regard myself as a great Christian but I know there have been many times down the years when people have made me feel excluded or that I wasn't good enough, where I have felt lonely or that life has singled me out for a kicking and at that point I have genuinely felt God say to me, "I love you with a love that never ends. You are wanted, you are valued. You are GOOD ENOUGH"

I really believe with all my heart that that is true for each and every one of us.

**Rob Marsh**

*Parish of Basingstoke Down*



## IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY

This recent history is compiled from past issues of 'the Rabbiter', In April 1994, 'The Rabbiter' was still a four-page publication on its distinctive green paper. It was printed by a company called Personalised Print, a business run by Martin Biermann. He sadly died recently.

The lead story was that a pub was to be built on Hatch Warren, called 'The Portsmouth Arms'. The news had been welcomed by potential users, though some residents expressed concerns about hooliganism and noise.

'The Rabbiter' understood that the intention was not to create 'a backstreet boozier' but a facility rooted in the concept of a traditional English pub, serving food and catering for families with children. The Confederation of Hatch Warren Residents' Groups planned to hold a meeting to discuss the proposal.

Today it is difficult to imagine Hatch Warren without the Portsmouth Arms, and it turned out to be very much what had been described. It is undoubtedly a family pub / restaurant and has since been joined by its stablemate, the Holly Blue at Beggarwood.

The second main article was about me! After being made redundant from my job in IT, I had been selected to fight the Eastleigh parliamentary by-election. In the event, I had a thoroughly enjoyable time, but was not successful.

The Community Centre filled a whole page with its activities, which were certainly imaginative as the managers tried different ideas to serve the new estates. One of them, which sadly did not survive, was a series of workshops in magic for children.

One that did survive and is still going strong today was Hatch Warren's Beer Festival. The second of these events was slated for June 1994, and spread over three days.

Also still going strong is the Hatch Warren WI. They reported an interesting meeting on ways to take professional-looking photographs. Firstly, they reported, throw away nine out of ten pictures taken – professionals can use many rolls of film to obtain a small number of prints. And always carry your camera with you.

Today, cameras using film are virtually dead. Digital photography superseded them and then mobile phones took over the role of the camera. How technology changes in just three decades!

The Councillor's report confirmed that a campaign against a Household Waste Amenity Point (now known as Recycling Centres) in Hatch Warren had been successful. The location had been moved to the near end of the golf course. In the event, that never happened either and Basingstoke still has the one centre, which was upgraded, off Wade Road.

And, to prove the adage that history repeats itself, the Council had just launched its submission to the Local Government Commission that there should be a single tier of all-purpose Unitary Authorities in Hampshire. Back in 1994, that resulted in unitaries for Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight but the two-tier system remained everywhere else.

Thirty years later, we wait to hear the current government's proposals for Unitary Councils in Hampshire and this time round the expectation is that it will happen.

**Stephen Reid**

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# DAVE'S NATURE SPOT

March sees the first influx of migrant birds into the UK followed by the main arrivals in April and May. Some of the first species to arrive are Wheatear, Chiffchaff, Cuckoo, Sand Martin and Swallow.

The Wheatear normally heralds the start of the visitor season arriving in mid to late March from Africa. Some of the Wheatear will be passage migrants passing through the UK to breed in Greenland or Iceland.

The Cuckoo is another one of the earlier visitors recorded, some arriving as early as mid-March through to early May in readiness to parasitize their host bird species. As you probably know, the Cuckoo lays its eggs in other birds' nests. The Cuckoo egg will generally hatch before the host's, and the Cuckoo chick will push the host bird's eggs or any hatched chicks out of the nest, ensuring it receives sole attention from the host bird. The Cuckoo only stays in the UK until June/July when it will then make its way back to Africa.

Sand Martins generally start to arrive in late March with Swallows closely behind and both are always a welcome sight. Another bird that makes an early appearance is the beautiful Osprey, again

here after a long journey from Africa. It is good to see there is a reasonable number of breeding pairs in the UK now and there is even a successful pair that breeds in Poole Harbour.

From the end of March into May it really starts to get busy when a lot of the smaller species start to arrive - familiar birds like Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat all grace us with their presence.

The later arrivals can include Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, Nightjar and Swift. It is the norm that most of these species will make their return journey to Africa around September/October time. It is amazing how far these tiny birds can travel.

As the climate warms, a few migrating species are starting to overwinter here, thus avoiding the long treacherous flight back to Africa. Migration can be a dangerous journey for the millions of small songbirds crossing the Sahara with some birds succumbing to bad weather, some getting lost, or being taken by predators. Some fall prey to the gun in certain European countries. So, let's spare a thought for our feathered friends on their long journeys.



Cuckoo



Osprey with fish in talons



Wheatear



Barn Swallow



## Notes from the kitchen

### WINTER VEG BOX



During the winter we regularly have a veg box delivered to our doorstep. It tops up the produce from our allotment and also offers items that we do not currently grow. Recently we have been receiving bags of curly kale. Now this is a very attractive vegetable but not one I was particularly fond of cooking and eating. So what can I do with this large bag of kale? A little investigation revealed a host of ideas. For example, shred the raw kale into strips and stir into a risotto for the last few minutes of cooking or add the strips to a casserole or thick vegetable soup. My particular favourite is to bake eggs with kale and cream – blanched kale with sautéed garlic, cream and grated cheese baked with an egg on top. The recipe for this together with other delicious ideas for using kale can

be found in 'autumn and winter cooking with a veg box' from Riverford.

Cauliflowers are an inexpensive vegetable that can feed the whole family. Apart from the traditional cauliflower cheese (love it with chips to soak up the delicious sauce), they are great in a curry and in hominy pie (recipe in Vegetables by Mark Diacono).

Other winter vegetables that have arrived in our box recently include butternut squash, parsnips and fennel – all full of flavour and variety. All these vegetables can be chopped up, sprinkled with a little oil and roasted with a few cloves of garlic – very good served with sausages and tomato sauce.

Winter vegetables are not dull and boring, they just need a little imagination. Enjoy!

## RABBITER CONTACTS:

### Editor:

[editor@therabbiter.biz](mailto:editor@therabbiter.biz)

### Advertising:

[advertising@therabbiter.biz](mailto:advertising@therabbiter.biz)

### Distribution:

[editor@therabbiter.biz](mailto:editor@therabbiter.biz)

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

This publication is freely distributed to Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren, Beggarwood Lane and Kempshott Park. Circulation over 4000.



## KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

**These hungry socialites need you!** Last autumn, Down Grange Meadow hosted a Council sponsored brush cutting course. Early the day before, we were doing some preparation and noticed just how many tits there were flitting about. We were in a period of sunny but cold mornings and the tits were out foraging for food. Being small, they need to keep up the energy intake, so they are active throughout the day, especially first thing in the morning.



One of our smallest tits in terms of body size is the Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudate*) which frequents deciduous woods, hedgerows and gardens. Unlike some of their larger cousins, such as the Great Tit, they are insectivorous throughout the year. In winter the Great Tit will switch to eating berries while the smaller Long-tailed Tit will normally stick to eating insect larvae, eggs and pupae. Increasingly, however, they are being tempted into gardens to feed on fat balls, etc. so please keep your feeders topped up.

They are small with an adult weighing as little as a 50p coin (8g). Being so small, they are at risk during cold winter nights, but they have come up with a way of dealing with that by huddling together in family groups of 10-20. During winter this group will tend to feed together as well. They are gregarious and noisy, the calls helping to keep the group together.

In a cold winter, it is estimated that 80% of the population would be lost. However, like Blue Tits, they can have large broods of up to 12 or 14 eggs and they enlist other members of the extended family to act as "helpers".

The Long-tailed Tit's barrel shaped nest is a work of art constructed of around 1500 pieces of lichen or moss and a similar number of feathers all woven together with spider silk. They are sometimes found in hawthorn, blackthorn or bramble thickets, rarely over two metres from the ground. Being so delicate, they are at risk from being predated. If a nest is destroyed, the adults will just join in as helpers for those relatives with a brood to feed.

Time for a break! Our next and final work parties of the season on Down Grange Meadow will take place on Sunday, 8th and Saturday, 28th March from 10 00 to about 12 30, meeting at the Homesteads Road entrance to the meadow. We would be delighted to see you. All tools are provided but please bring your own gloves.

For more information, please call Marion Wolstencroft 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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Run by CARE International UK, one of the world's leading poverty fighting organisations, Lendwithcare is a revolutionary way for ordinary people to help these entrepreneurs to work their way out of poverty with dignity.

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## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We recently celebrated Chinese New Year at Hatch Warren Under Fives. It is the year of the Horse, so the children made colourful horse pictures on the craft table and they decorated Chinese lanterns. We created a pretend noodle restaurant and gave the children chop sticks so they could practise picking up noodles (cut up wool) and filling little bowls – this is a great activity for fine motor skills. We turned the home corner into a large Chinese restaurant with tables and chairs and we made menus and the children took food orders to practise their mark making. The children enjoyed eating prawn crackers for snack time.

There has been so much rain, which has meant lots of puddle jumping in the garden. We love to get outside in all weathers, and it gives the children a good opportunity to practice their independence skills putting on their own coats and wellies. We also have a new toy in the garden, a mini sit on car ramp. The children think this is like being on a roller coaster ride.

We had a story telling week theme and created a theatre in our home corner to read some of our favourite books. The children decided to perform puppet shows in the theatre and they created some lovely stories of their own using the puppets. We also had mental health week and spent time reading the Colour Monster book which helps the children talk about various colours and emotions that they feel.

We enjoyed Valentine's week before the half term. The children came into preschool wearing red, white and pink all week, we made some lovely Valentine's cards and crafts to take home and we even had a valentine's themed cake sale which raised lots of money for preschool. Pancake day has been another highlight with races, flipping and of course a lot of eating!

Coming up in March we have World Book Day, we're planning a wonderful day celebrating our favourite books and encouraging our children to get involved with lots of fabulous stories through the day. In March we will also be celebrating St David's Day and St Patrick's Day, and Mother's Day.

We are now enrolling for September 2026. Hatch Warren Under Fives offers two rooms for our children; we have a smaller room dedicated to our two-year-olds and a large room for our older children. To enquire about a preschool place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, or to have a look around, please contact Siobhan on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

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

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

**SAVE THE DATE** – CVP is hosting the Happy Circus at Dummer Down Farm – 28th June 2026!

Cooking in the Early Years nurtures far more than just practical skills. It sparks curiosity, builds confidence, and turns everyday



ingredients into powerful learning tools. Measuring flour becomes a hands-on math lesson; stirring and mixing sharpen fine motor skills; and tasting new flavours encourages open-mindedness. Perhaps most importantly, cooking fosters independence and a sense of accomplishment.

Mud kitchens invite children to do what they do best - explore. As they mix soil and water, stir leaves into imaginary soups, or carefully pour muddy 'tea', children are engaging all their senses. Mud kitchens foster creativity and imagination. There are no instructions, no right or wrong answers – only possibilities.

Real and imaginary cookery are most powerful when they complement each other. Experiences from real cooking often appear later in pretend play, showing that children are processing and internalising what they have learned. A child who helped bake bread may later "bake" for friends, repeating words, actions, and routines they remember. This connection deepens understanding and extends learning far beyond the original activity. In the preschool kitchen—real or imagined—children are not just playing. They are thinking, communicating, collaborating, and growing. By giving them opportunities to cook, pretend, and create, we are helping them develop skills and confidence that will serve them for a lifetime.

Candover Valley Preschool is a vibrant and nurturing learning environment. Please contact us if you would like to enquire about a place for your child.

Currently accepting registrations for September 2026 – limited places available.

## DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

This half term has raced by and what fun we have been having!!

We have been looking at ways to improve our outside space and been busy revamping our Construction Area and finishing off the Mud Kitchen. We have also introduced a new Digging Pit.

We have not let the rain spoil our fun! The children have had an amazing time making the most of the area.



Our new Music Wall has been a real hit, and the children have loved hearing the different sounds they can create.

Back indoors we have our new Sensory Area. It creates a space for the children to have some quiet time.

After the Half Term Break, we will be focusing on Sensory Circuits.

The structured activities are designed to stimulate the senses and promote sensory integration. Sensory Circuits are broken down into three areas:-

**Alerting** – We will be doing activities such as Step Ups, Star Jumps, Skipping, Running, Rolling/Balancing large ball.

**Organising** – Weaving in and out of cones and balls. Throwing and catching. Stepping stones, Bean bag balancing along a line.

**Calming** – Lying under weighted blanket, press ups, swinging/rocking arms and legs.

We are really looking forward to taking part in World Book Day as this is the perfect time to share our love of books together.

There are plans in place for Mother's Day and we are doing something a little different this year and are sure that everyone will enjoy taking part and having a little treat to take home and enjoy.

Dashwood Manor have kindly invited the children and their families to join in their annual Easter Egg Hunt again this year. We are so happy to continue building our relationship with them and looking forward to taking part.

We are currently working through our hours for September. If you are looking for a space our waiting lists are open for 2026/2027/2028 (Tel No: 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail [info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk](mailto:info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk))

## CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Spring is here and for the children, that means one very special holiday – Easter! The pre-school is holding what is shaping up to be an AMAZING raffle with some truly fantastic prizes. Please pop into the pre-school or contact us on 01256 398 172 to buy £5 tickets for this brilliant draw, which will take place on Wednesday 25 March. We are truly grateful for your support to fund fun activities for the children.

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

**Georgia Hawken**

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary

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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Tickets available to purchase from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-school, please speak to Jo or Fiona. All proceeds go towards the general upkeep of the preschool and activities for the children. Thanks for your support.  
Registered Charity no. 1077815

# LocalHeroes

## Jenny Crawford

One of my strongest memories of buying our house here in Hatch Warren was walking through the door to find a copy of The Rabbiter on the doormat. Immediately it felt as though we were part of a community.

One of the people who launched the Rabbiter, who has been instrumental for decades in building and shaping our community, making Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live, is Jenny Crawford. Without Jenny, there would have been no Rabbiter, and she has contributed in so many other ways too over the years.

Jenny was born in London and has always been determined to contribute to her community. She was a Brownie and a Girl Guide, and when at university she helped at her local Girl Guides group.

Jenny and family moved to Hatch Warren from Binfield in Bracknell in September 1988 when her husband, Iain, took a job with the AA. Almost immediately, she set to work, organising a Mother and Toddler group. She somehow managed to source an old double decker bus to host it! It was parked on the nearby builders' yard.

Jenny was one of the founder members of the Hatch Warren Community Association, and she developed the idea of a community newspaper, the Rabbiter, with the then local vicar, Rev Marion Carter. The first issue was produced to promote the opening event of the community centre, which was a Ceilidh.

The Rabbiter then became more regular: Jenny produced it on her table at home, typing the articles and then cutting them out and pasting them onto sheets so they could be sent to the printers.

Through the Rabbiter Jenny organised walks and community litter picks.

Jenny was also involved with the local church which was then based at the community centre. She ran the Sunday school. Much of her community work was focused on mothers and babies as the demographic of the estate at that time was predominantly young families.

Jenny also set up a gardening club and the first speaker there was Rosamund Wallinger who, along with her husband, restored the Gertrude Jekyll garden in Upton Grey.

Jenny was an indomitable campaigner for some local allotments, which eventually were provided at the top of Beggarwood Park.

She was also the first chair of the Hatch Warren Women's Institute, which is still going strong today.

After the opening of the Beggarwood Community Centre, Jenny set up and ran the local Community Lunch in Café in the Park, which I was happy to assist her with for some time.

Jenny still lives in Hatch Warren. She has one daughter and two cats.

Outside of her many contributions to the local community, Jenny has an allotment which keeps her busy, and she served for some time as the Regional Rep on the National Allotment Society.

Another passion is yarn: she weaves and spins and she has been part of the Hampshire Guild of Weavers and Spinners for many years. Jenny is also part of a local craft group that puts on displays from time to time.

She is a keen baker and jam maker. Her marmalade won a bronze award last year in a national competition.

And if all this isn't enough, Jenny recalls how she was once the Good Fairy in the Cliddesden pantomime! She says that the vision of her is a tutu was definitely a sight for sore eyes!



When I asked her why she has given up so much of her time to help others, she said that it was about building a community here, and that it is vital to give something back, rather than just taking. She enjoys doing and organising, rather than being in the front line. She added that none of what she does would be possible without Iain, who single handedly organises all the delivery of the Rabbiter every month, often delivering areas himself when they are not covered by local volunteers.

## Terri Reid

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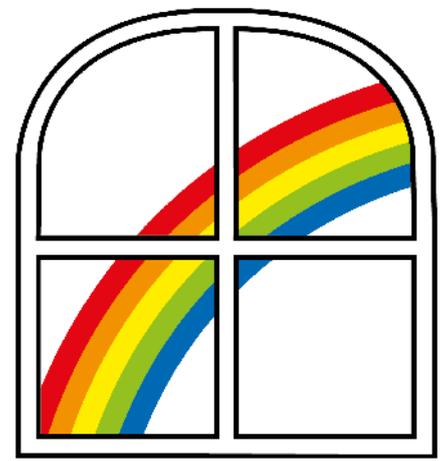


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