

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 329  
June 2026

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

All the regular features plus

- **HAMPSHIRE HARMONY CHOIR**
- **PROTEUS THEATRE COMPANY**
- **STEPPING STONES DS CHARITY**
- **BEE EXHIBITION**

*and much more*

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**NEWS AND REPORTS**

**CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

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Bannatyne

# THE Rabbiter

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the June 2026 edition of the Rabbiter. We had a struggle, this time, to fit everything in!

If I can point you at one article, it is 'Local Heroes' on Page 22. The work being done by Stu and Georgina Colman is quite inspirational.

I am delighted, therefore, to inform you that Stu has agreed to write a regular column, starting next month, that explores mental health, neurodiversity and some of the hidden challenges that many people quietly experience in everyday life and work. With people becoming more aware of the need to protect their mental health and more willing to talk about it, this will enable the Rabbiter to widen its range of articles into an area that is increasingly important to many people.

Thank you to all our contributors, and a gentle reminder - we still need volunteers for delivery and distribution management.

### Editor



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The Rabbiter is looking for a new **DELIVERY MANAGER** by the end of the year – but we would like a period of 'parallel working' if that is possible.

The job involves maintaining a list of deliverers, letting the printers know where volunteers are needed if someone gives up, taking delivery of boxes on the last Thursday of each month and distributing them to the volunteer deliverers with the help of the another volunteer. If a deliverer is away or has given up, there is a need to deliver those either with another volunteer or themselves!

The current delivery manager, **Iain Crawford**, is stepping down after many years of holding this important role and we are indebted to him for his service.

If you can help, please contact Stephen Reid on 07976 310206 or sreid17786@aol.com

**CAN YOU HELP?**



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## 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.



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All members of Hampshire Harmony love to sing together, songs ranging from pop and jazz and folk songs to songs from shows and even choral sacred music.

We are an upper voice choir based in Basingstoke, with a growing reputation across the county. We have just returned from the Fareham Music Festival, where we competed in four contrasting sections ranging from Songs From the Shows to Single Voice Choir. We achieved honours grades in all four sections, winning the cup again this year, for Choral Sacred Music.

You can hear us as we sing alongside Tenors Unlimited at The Lights, Andover on Thursday June 11th and also on the afternoon of July 12th at Costello School, Basingstoke, for our annual concert, 'A Summer Serenade'. Tickets from [hampshireharmony.org](http://hampshireharmony.org). You can also meet us at St Bede's Summer Fair 5th June and at the Oakley Village Show August 8th.

We have lots of fun together; we run workshops and have training days in addition to our regular practices on Monday evenings. We shall be singing at the Tower of London this Christmas!

If you are thinking of joining a choir and you are an adult, who sings Alto, Mezzo or Soprano, contact us via the website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram so you can keep up with what's on.

We look forward to entertaining you or maybe to you joining us.



## OUTDOOR THEATRE IN BASINGSTOKE'S VERY OWN 'SECRET GARDEN'

Hidden within Down Grange Sports Complex, The Walled Garden is a peaceful historic space dating back to the 1800s. Once the kitchen garden for Down Grange House, it is now home to wildlife, colourful borders and an annual outdoor theatre tradition led by The Proteans, the adult community group affiliated with Proteus Theatre Company. This year, they bring Geoffrey Chaucer's celebrated works, The Canterbury Tales to life with a lively cast of 'pilgrims' including knights, nuns, cooks and merchants sharing outrageous stories to pass the time on their journey. The unique garden setting has made these summer performances a favourite tradition with both audiences and performers alike, as long-time member Helen explains:

*"I've performed with the Proteans in the Walled Garden on more than 10 occasions now and what I enjoy the most is that as the garden changes every year, we performers must adapt too. When we come to rehearse outdoors in the weeks leading up to the shows, there is an element of discovery to see how we can utilise the natural landscape creatively within the play; the space offers freedom in numerous ways. It allows us to challenge ourselves: for example, it's vital that we warm up body and voice effectively to ensure we can project out in the elements! Regular audiences look forward to being surprised by the performers and we can interact with them in way they wouldn't be expecting, that wouldn't be possible in a traditional theatre space. We can't wait to welcome everyone back this June."*

The Canterbury Tales will run from Friday 19th June – Sunday 21st June at The Walled Garden at Down Grange. Tickets are priced from £8 and are available from [www.proteustheatre.com](http://www.proteustheatre.com). Audiences are welcome to bring picnics to enjoy during the show.

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## COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### Stephen Reid

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

**ELECTION RESULTS:** I would like to thank everyone who voted me at the elections on 7th May. I was returned as County Councillor for the Basingstoke South West division (after an eventful count!) I will, of course, represent everyone, whether they voted for me or not and I will continue to write these monthly reports.

**CAR PARKING AT BEGGARWOOD:** The major issue that broke last month was the introduction - without warning or consultation - of car parking charges at Beggarwood's Broadmere Road car park. This came as a major shock and I fear it could do major harm to the community. The problem is that only one hour's free parking is being allowed - no doubt thought to be good enough to allow people a quick visit to the shops. But the car park is used for more than that. It is needed by visitors to the dentist and to the GP surgery. If the doctors are running late and a visit to the pharmacy is also required, it could be easy to be there for more than an hour. But it gets worse ...

**IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:** When the Community Centre / Cafe in the Park was built, the Borough Council saved money by providing only a few car parking spaces. The justification was that there was a free public car park next door. That car park is no longer free. The charges puts Centre activities at risk: it relies on volunteer effort to survive and whilst good people are willing to give their time for free, it is unreasonable to ask them to pay for the privilege. Many groups, including those offering companionship to vulnerable individuals, meet for more than an hour. And it is perfectly reasonable to linger over a snack and a drink at lunchtimes. One group has already stopped meeting because of the charges and footfall is down.

**NO RESPONSE:** The company running the car park is called Parkmaven. On the day the charges appeared, I wrote to them, asking to discuss the impact. At the time of writing I have not received a reply, so I am going to write again, this time to the company secretary as listed by Companies' House. Engaging with parking companies is notoriously difficult, so this may take some time.

**ROAD WORKS:** There are two major roadworks starting soon that may affect drivers from this area. Work should have started by now on the installation of a new traffic-light controlled pedestrian crossing on the A30 between the Golf Course development and Hounsom Fields. And shortly, Cliddesden Lane (the road past the Portsmouth Arms) will be closed for a week to allow for carriageway repairs.

**UPPER SWALLICK:** The planning application for 2,500 homes near Cliddesden is currently receiving comments. At the public presentation that I attended, the developers indicated that they plan a new link road down to the Wood Lane roundabout beneath the M3 (the one down the hill from the Portsmouth Arms). They expect 50% of the estate traffic to use that road. My fear is that it will be more: it won't take long for drivers to realise that there is a rat-run from the A339 Alton Road towards the M3. Once the traffic reaches the roundabout it will use Brighton Way or the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood estate roads. I am objecting to the plans.

**BMX TRACK:** I am continuing to monitor the situation at the BMX track. At the time of writing, the entrance to this facility that young people built for themselves at Down Grange is blocked, as the Borough Council has fenced off the remains of the metal barrier that it put up. It is not yet known what the Council's intentions are, but their interference is threatening the existence of a valued facility that has existed for over thirty years. My son used it, and helped to maintain it, twenty years ago.

**GP APPOINTMENTS:** I have continued to attend the meetings of the local Patient Participation Group. It reports that appointments are becoming more difficult to obtain. Since October, NHS England has required practices to keep online request forms open all day and this has led to a significant rise in demand, without an increase in capacity. The PPG is continuing to monitor the situation. Its latest newsletter is available at <https://cghppg.weebly.com>

**WOODBURY ROAD:** I am pleased to see that repairs have been carried out on the blockwork section of this busy road, near to the chicane. There had been dips in the road that could have been dangerous, especially for two-wheeled vehicles.

**KEMPSHOTT LANE:** Thames Water's contractors Barhale have been setting up their welfare facilities in the Buckingham Parade area in advance of starting work on upgrading their sewers. This work will involve a closure of Kempshott Lane. It is also impacting the A30 where their preliminary works have been taking place. I invited the Leader of Hampshire County to Kempshott Lane to stress, once again, the need to resurface the road as soon as the utility work has been completed - and then tell the utility companies to keep away!

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The Community Association is holding its AGM on Wednesday 3rd June starting at 7pm, in the Beggarwood Community Centre (Cafe in the Park). I am planning to attend. They need a minimum number of members to make the meeting quorate, so please make a note in your diary of this important event.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM:** The government's proposals for new Unitary Councils appear to have been received without too much opposition in this part of Hampshire, but down in the New Forest and the Waterside there is considerable opposition, with talk of protests and a possible Judicial Review (JR). The advice I have been given is that preparatory work for the Unitary Authorities will continue even if there is a JR. When the new 'shadow' authorities are set up next year, they will have a mammoth job to do to prepare themselves to go live in 2028. Unifying the computer systems will be one challenge!

**BLOG:** I post about these and other issues on my blog at [ReidAboutBasingstoke.co.uk](http://ReidAboutBasingstoke.co.uk)

Best wishes

Stephen



### Stacy Hart

Borough Councillor:

Email casework: [cllrstacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllrstacy.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 can hardly believe it, but I am now halfway through my four-year term as your Borough Councillor. The last two years has absolutely flown by in a blur of learning, work and activity. I continue to enjoy every moment, and I hope you've gotten even a little of the benefit from my being your representative as I have from representing you.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS:** As most of you will know, the Local Elections for Borough and County Council were held on 7th May. Having taken my first run at the County Council seat I was really pleased with the result; I thank everyone that voted for me and congratulate the incumbent, Cllr Reid, on keeping his County seat. But our main aim this year was the Borough Council elections, and I am overjoyed to be joined by my newly elected colleague, Cllr Dani Davies, as one of your Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Borough Councillors! I have updated our contact details below to include Dani's address.

Once Dani has settled in and completed her training you will see her begin to appear in this column. She has also started keeping a public set of video diaries about her Councillor journey, as part of our ongoing effort to increase public engagement and accessibility in Local Authority governance. You can follow those on the platforms below or chat to her about it at one of our future surgeries.

**NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION:** North Hampshire Unitary Authority. I know we keep banging on about it, but this change is both huge and horribly confusing! So, it's important everyone has clarity.

The next set of elections, in May 2027, will be for all of the seats in the entirely new North Hampshire Unitary Authority which will replace both Borough and County Councils from April 2028. I have made an explainer video on this on the YouTube channel below; you can also find out more on [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation) which has some clear video content or, as always, I'm happy to call or meet you for a chat about it.

**CARER CAFÉ:** The pilot session for Cllr Dani Davies' new monthly Carer Café initiative went really well, with some lovely engagement from attendees and a real agreement on the need for such a space. Dani will continue to run the Carer Café every last Sunday of the month from 10am to 12pm at Beggarwood Café, for any person doing unpaid care to come along for a brew and a breather and to find community and mutual support with peers in a safe and welcoming space. If this is you, please do go along or contact Dani on the email below with any questions.

**BROADMERE ROAD PARKING CHARGES:** Hopefully most of you impacted will have seen my update videos, but the highlights are these: I have tracked down and had a conversation with the landowner of the Broadmere Road car park. They have agreed to enter a dialogue with Council Officers to try and find a solution to the issues posed by these sudden, expensive and highly confusing charges. I've kickstarted that conversation with Officers and briefed everyone involved, including the Council leader who agrees that this is something we need to sort out as a priority, and liaised with all the nearby businesses and users, including of course the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association, who run the Beggarwood Café. I will continue to keep everyone posted on the channels below and have high hopes for a resolution that balances resident and user need with sensible measures to prevent misuse of the area.

**HOPE BASINGSTOKE:** You may remember my involvement in last year's Baton Of Hope Tour, a fantastic day on suicide awareness

and prevention. Further to Borough Council's announcement that we will take the Baton of Hope pledge, I am delighted to report that Basingstoke is one of four locations that will become a permanent Hope Hub, managed by Inclusion Education!

They are looking for people who would like to be part of either a small Steering Group, helping hold the vision, values and direction, or working committees, supporting specific areas such as community engagement, youth, workplaces, events or communications. I will be part of this work and if you would like to know more about what's involved, I am happy to put you in touch.

**VIOLENCE PREVENTION + MEN'S WORLD CUP:** Did you know that following Men's World Cup England matches, domestic violence goes up by 38% if they lose and 26% if they win, and goes up 11% the next day, win or lose?

That's why the Men's World Cup, which starts on 11th June, will be the main focus for our Domestic Violence Champions Group over the next two months. You can expect to see us doing various things including another awareness and donation stall in Festival Place on 17th June.

I also attended the second North Hants Domestic Abuse Forum meeting, which did some really useful comparison work between the Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor authorities on what service provision looks like across those areas and where there are difficulties and gaps in support.

**GREEN DAYS OUT:** I spent a happy day tagging along with the Ranger team clearing ground in Beggarwood Park, as part of my effort try to keep in touch with the grassroots teams who do the work at Borough Council (pun definitely intended).

I also took an Officer from the Make A Difference (MAD) team on a little tour. The MAD team is a working group that visits each ward every year or so to pinpoint spots which could use improvement – it's separate from general upkeep like mowing and more about areas that, given a little love, could make that bit of difference to the area. I keep a running list of such areas to brief the MAD team on so if you have thoughts on this, let me know for next year!

**EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI):** I attended the annual meeting of the EDI scrutiny group where we heard some excellent news on work the group is doing expanding support for Armed Forces Veterans.

**COUNCILLOR SURGERY:** Our 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery is on Monday 8th June at the Holly Blue pub, so do pop along with any local issues or questions!

With very best wishes always – Stacy.

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Patient  
Participation Group

# May 26 News

More appointments on the way

New Parkinson's Cafe

Forever Singing Update

Carers social and support events


### Surgery Update - More Appointments!


- Increased staffing, including more GP sessions and additional dual-trained reception/admin staff
- More tasks being handled by the most appropriate team members (for example, pharmacists managing prescriptions and GPs handling their own test results and follow-ups)
- Phone waiting times reduced from **22 minutes to 15 minutes**
- Senior staff member available via reception until 6.30pm weekdays to resolve issues


These changes aim to improve access, reduce delays, and make better use of staff time. Around 126 extra appointments per week have been already created, rising to up to 240 per once recruitment is completed.

### New Parkinson's Social Café – Basingstoke

A friendly monthly café for people affected by Parkinson's, offering support and social connection.


 Starts: Wednesday 13 May 2026 (second Wednesday each month)

 Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

 At Lychpit Community Hall, Basingstoke

 Cost: Free

 Contact: Leigh Stroud – 07955 267 385

 Email: [lstroud@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:lstroud@parkinsons.org.uk)

### Forever Singing – Progress Update


Since launching in September 2025, Forever Singing has grown into a thriving and inclusive choir in Basingstoke, with **50–60 people now attending regularly**. Choir offers a relaxed mix of singing, gentle movement, and social connection. Participants report improved mood, confidence, breathing, and reduced isolation.


-  When: Fortnightly Tuesdays, 2:00pm – 3:30pm
-  Where: Rucstall Community Centre, Holbein Close, Basingstoke, RG21 3QN
-  Cost: Free
-  [www.foreversinginguk.weebly.com](http://www.foreversinginguk.weebly.com)
-  [foreversinginguk@gmail.com](mailto:foreversinginguk@gmail.com)
-  03001 027955


### Carers Week 2026 – Basingstoke Area Events

Events are exclusively for carers.


#### Canal Boat Trip


 Monday 8 June 2026


 10:00am – 12:00pm (+ lunch)

 Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham (RG29 1AL)


#### Carers Lunch

 Thursday 11 June 2026


 12:30pm – 2:30pm

 Ridgeway Community Centre, Basingstoke.


#### Drop-In & Chat - with support and advice.

 Friday 12 June 2026

 10:00am – 2:00pm

 Kings Café, 49 Kings Road, Basingstoke (RG22 6DJ)

#### **Booking required for canal trip & lunch.**

 01264 311680 email: [info@carercentre.com](mailto:info@carercentre.com)

More information and a *Self Help A–Z* of health, wellbeing, support groups and local services:

**[www.cghppg.weebly.com](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com)**

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We are into summer now and Old Down meadow is looking glorious yet again with Cowslips, Oxeye Daisies, Speedwell and Meadow Saxifrage (and lots more wildflowers to come). The verges have many wildflowers too, such as helleborines.

The Group has been given an up-date on the long road to achieving Local Nature Reserve status. All is good and the first stages are being worked on by officers. Basingstoke Council has given priority to the process for Old Down however this could still take up to 18 months (that's red tape for you).

The Group is still waiting to hear about when the 'improvements' are to be made to Old Down with the monies received from developers under planning terms. You will recall there were public consultations and as a result Old Down will be getting new information/entrance boards, a fitness/gym frame, new hard surface path, new seats, picnic table(s), wood sculptures and rubbing posts. The Group has been promised that it will be consulted with throughout the process.

Basingstoke Council and Natural Basingstoke are holding the annual Bioblitz on Beggarwood Park this year – 1st August. Old Down Wildlife Group will be attending and will have displays and information about our lovely site.

**Work Parties:** We meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!). Please come along and join us – doesn't have to be every week. Check our website and Facebook for further information and/or contact us by email.

Website: Old Down Wildlife Group  
Facebook: Old Down Wildlife Group  
Email: old.down.wildlife@gmail.com



Speedwell



Meadow Saxifrage



Helleborine

## HATCH WARREN WI

Our May meeting began with our AGM where we enjoyed a recap of our escapades from last year and voted in next year's team. Happily, our President, Treasure and Secretary all agreed to continue for another year. Afterwards we sat back while one of our members told us about her trip to China in the 70s. A much different place than it is today.

In June we will be celebrating 33 years of HWWI with a purple themed party.

You can find more information about us from our website <https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/hatch-warren/about-hatch-warren-wi>



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 rounds need a deliverer:



- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>1. Ferndown Close</b>                      | <b>Maslen Mews</b>       |
| <b>2. Causton Road</b>                        | <b>4. Whitgift Close</b> |
| <b>3. Wedderburn Avenue, Hourse Court and</b> | <b>5. Bronze Close</b>   |



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Wednesday to Sunday  
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# Café in the Park

We look forward to  
seeing you!



## Café in the Park What's on June



Wednesday  
Quiche Wednesday  
Community Meal Deal  
12-2pm

Weekly  
Thursday  
Beggarwood Babies  
group  
11.30-2pm

Friday  
Friendship Friday  
Chatty cafe  
10.30-11.30

Wednesday 3rd June  
BVA Wellbeing Walk - 11am  
BVA - Volunteer Roadshow

Come and explore volunteering opportunities with The Basingstoke  
Voluntary action

Community Lunch - 12.15-1.15

AGM 6.30pm

It's all for you! Join us for an update and to hear about the future of your  
Community Association [www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)

Friday 12th June

Card and a Cuppa

Sunday 21st June

Walk with a purpose

Join us for a lovely social walk while helping to keep our park clean. ♻️ ♫ 📺  
A great chance to meet others, enjoy some fresh air, and make a positive  
difference in the community together. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday 24th June

Beggarwood Bookworms Evening group

Friday 26th June  
Beggarwood Bookworms Daytime 11.30-12.30

Quiz Night

Take part in our Summer fundraising Quiz night

Sunday 28th June

Carer Cafe -10-12

Are you an unpaid carer? A chance to connect, share  
experiences, and enjoy a coffee together. Everyone  
welcome!

The Basingstoke Festival is coming to  
Beggarwood Park!

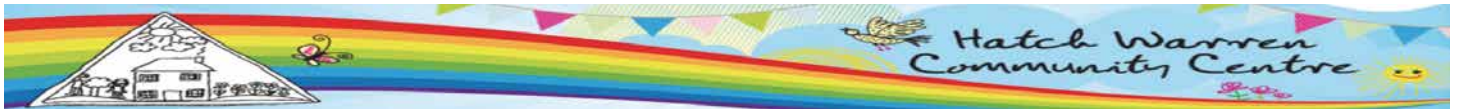
Enjoy the Pirate Taxi Show at these times:

11:30 AM - 12:15

2:00 PM - 2:45

[www.BasingstokeFestival.co.uk](http://www.BasingstokeFestival.co.uk)





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



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

**FREE ENTRY FAMILY FUN DAY**  
**SUMMER FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY**

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE FIELDS - 12 to 4PM**  
**FREE PARKING ON SITE - INSIDE & OUTSIDE SEATING**  
**ST KITTS VETERINARY PRACTICE FUN DOG SHOW**  
**HW SCOUTS ACTIVITY ZONE**  
**SUPERB 'BOUNCE4FUN' EVENT INFLATABLES**  
**BERKSHIRE BIRDS OF PREY**  
**STORM IN A TEACUP CIRCUS WORKSHOP**  
**FUN FAIR RIDES - SLIME WORKSHOP**

**DJ MARK ★ 30+ CRAFT STALLS**  
**★ CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ★**  
**LICENSED BAR ★ HOT AND COLD FOOD**

Over 100 things to see and enjoy  
... a great day out for everyone!

**B4F** **BASINGSTOKE LETTINGS** **CARE UK** **SCOTT MORLAND RESIDENTIAL exp**

A fundraising event for HWBCA. Charity No.1161117  
www.hatchwarren.org

**NOTICE OF AGM**

**Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association (HWBCA)**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, 3rd June | 7:00 PM  
**Venue:** Beggarwood Community Centre  
**Refreshments:** From 6:30 PM

**Come and Support Your Community Association!**

You are warmly invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of HWBCA.

Our charity exists to run and manage the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Centres, providing welcoming community spaces to:

- Reduce isolation
- Promote wellbeing
- Create a sense of belonging for people of all ages and backgrounds
- Improve the lives of residents in RG22 and RG23

**At the AGM, we will share:**

- Our achievements from the past year
- Plans for the future of our community centres
- How you can support and get involved

Reserve Your Free Place with this QR code



**Your Attendance Matters**

To hold the AGM, we need at least **25 members** present to achieve quorum and vote. **Please don't assume someone else will attend – we need YOU** to help keep our community association running.

**Membership**

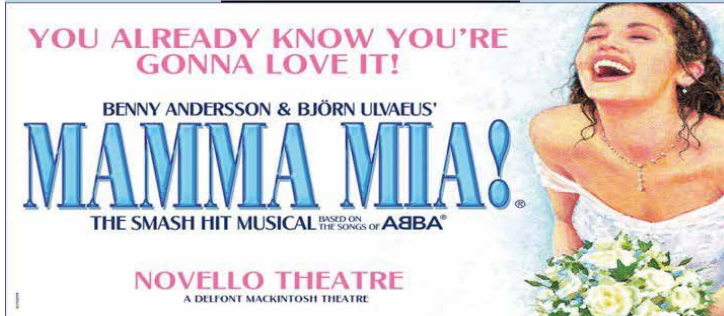
- £10 per family per year
- Your membership helps support the development of community services and the continued running of **two vital community facilities** for local residents.



Registered Charity Number 1161117  
find us on | facebook  
Hatch Warren Community Centre  
Hatch Warren Community Centre  
Long Cross Lane, Hatch Warren  
Basingstoke, RG22 4XJ  
Tel: 01256 811262 Web: www.hatchwarren.org  
Email: office@hatchwarren.org Follow us on Twitter @hatchwarren

**We are looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming events, please email office@hatchwarren.org for further information.**

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**COACH TRIP**

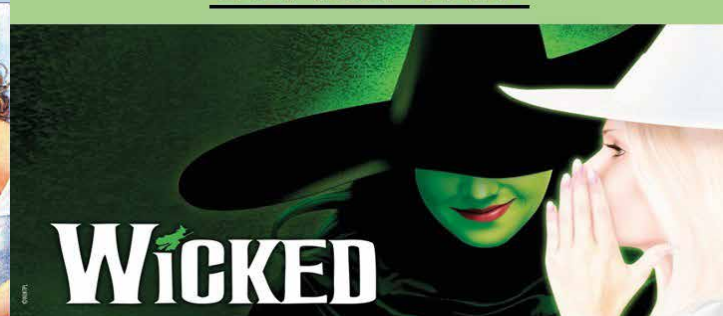


**THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30PM**  
**Novello Theatre, LONDON**  
**Good Stall seats**  
Tickets cost £80 per person  
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)  
Payment plans are available, please ask for more information when booking  
**Coach will depart at 4pm from our car park**  
This trip is open to all members of the public  
Tickets are non refundable  
To book your place email **OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG**  
or call **01256 811262**

\*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

This event is supported by  
**SCOTT MORLAND RESIDENTIAL exp**

**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**  
or call **01256 811262**

\*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

This event is supported by  
**SCOTT MORLAND RESIDENTIAL exp**



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

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**the Warren**

**FREE ENTRY**

10-13 year olds

**THE WARDEN**

**EVERY FRIDAY**

**6-7:45 PM**

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

# 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





## PROBUS CLUB CRUISE THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL

A relaxing afternoon spent cruising the Basingstoke canal was enjoyed by members and their spouses of the Probus Club of Basingstoke.

Organised by Probus member Chris Perkins MVO, a retired RAF officer, he explained: "We boarded at Odiham and travelled a return journey to Church Crookham with an on-board galley serving snacks and drinks and commentary by "Skipper" Tony Webb who pointed out places of interest and wildlife en-route"

We travelled on the boat 'John Pinkerton' which was named after the original contractor when the canal was opened in 1794 connecting Basingstoke with the River Thames at Weybridge via the Wey Navigation. Over the years there were tunnel collapses, bankruptcies, falling demand and



constant limited water supply which all conspired to ensure the canal was never a commercial success.

A planned connection from Basingstoke to meet the Kennet & Avon canal at Newbury never came to fruition.

By 1950 the lack of maintenance meant the canal was derelict and it took fifteen years of restoration until 1991 for the canal to be opened as a fully navigable waterway for 32 miles.

Today, the Basingstoke canal provides a superb facility for water activities, a haven for wildlife (it is an SSSI) an amenity for recreation and wellbeing, and a heritage asset thanks to the team of volunteer restorers of the Basingstoke Canal Society. Today, it is run by the Basingstoke Canal Authority financed by Hampshire and Surrey County Councils and local councils along its restored length.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) or email their secretary [secretaryprobusbasingstoke@outlook.com](mailto:secretaryprobusbasingstoke@outlook.com) or phone 07814 937202.



## STEPPING STONES DONATION

A charity concerned with children and young adults with Down syndrome received a donation from local Freemasons.

Fleet based Stepping Stones DS received a cheque for £1,000 which was presented by Charity Steward Richard Pflger and John Johnstone of Elvetham Masonic Lodge.

Founded in 2006 it has the remit to provide support for children and young adults with Down syndrome, and their families, tailoring their range of support to the individual needs of each child, and the professionals in their lives. Today they currently have 160 children that benefit from education, social and physical activities together with wellbeing and family services.

A lean team of seven staff members is supported by a panel of Trustees, who are committed to inclusivity and empowerment across West Surrey, North Hampshire to the west of Basingstoke and the Reading region.

SSDS Community Fundraising and Projects Officer, Sarah Sutton expressed her thanks,

"We are so grateful for the donation of £1,000 from Elvetham Masonic Lodge. This amount of money could cover the cost of one year of school outreach for one of our children. Your kindness helps our outreach team promote learning, communication, independence and confidence, giving children with Down syndrome the opportunity to reach their full potential. We are incredibly grateful for your support and the difference you are making to local families."

John Johnstone, a freemason for fifty-six years lives in Fleet and, being fully aware of the good work undertaken by Stepping



Children Amy from Fleet and Sophia from Tadley receiving the cheque from Elvetham Charity Steward, Richard Pflger. Also in the picture is Laura Chavez, Sarah Sutton and Michelle Slater of SSDS and John Johnstone.

Stones DS, was pleased to nominate them as part of the round of annual donations made by Elvetham Lodge.

Charity Steward, Richard Pflger, explained where the money comes from,

"Freemasons use their own money to support local good causes, and it is fortunate that Elvetham Lodge also has the interest from investments for us to donate"

"Across Hampshire and Isle of Wight the 8,000 members of 250 masonic lodges donate almost £1,000,000 annually while across the country, including providing financial support for some international crises, Freemasons donate almost £50,000,000."



## OUR MEETINGS

This month's choice for our evening group was *Here One Moment* by Liane Moriarty. In this novel a lady moves up the plane which has been delayed and tells other passengers when and how they will die. The novel follows

the lives of the passengers after this life shattering news and how it affected how they lived. As you can imagine, this story encouraged lots of very lively discussions from destiny, fortune telling, predictions and intuition. We all thought about how we would feel if put in that situation. Most members really enjoyed this choice and a couple were keen to reread it. This choice certainly got everyone talking. The book received many high scores from members. Next month's read is *The Names* by Florence Knapp, a novel about the name choices a mother makes for her baby and how that impacts his life.

Our **Daytime Bookworms** met to discuss *The Safekeep* by Yael van der Wouden. This novel was winner of the Woman's prize 2025 and shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2024. Set fifteen years after the Second World War at first this appears to be a love story. Isabel has lived a solitary life caring for the family home when her quiet life is upended by the arrival of her brother's girlfriend. Suddenly, unexpected revenge takes place and the shocking story behind it is revealed. The group found most characters to be unlikeable. However, they found the book full of tension. I think we all learned important and shocking things about the treatment of the Jews in Europe during and after the war. Our next read is *The Names* by Florence Knapp.

## LADIES PROBUS – FIVE GREAT WOMEN!

At the April meeting, as the sun shone brightly outdoors, the members of the Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club sat mesmerized indoors by the achievements of 5 women scientists to whom so much is owed, all explained by Dr. Ian Goodall. A retired headteacher of Yateley School with degrees from four UK universities and an encyclopedic knowledge of his subject, he brought the following very much to life:

**Marie Curie** (1867–1934) was a Polish-born physicist and chemist who pioneered the study of radioactivity. Working with her husband Pierre Curie, she discovered polonium and radium and laid the foundations of modern nuclear science. After his death, she became the first female professor at the University of Paris and led vital First World War medical innovations, including mobile X-ray units that treated over a million soldiers. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and remains the only person awarded Nobels in two scientific fields. Her refusal to patent radium ensured its use in global research.

**Rosalind Franklin** (1920–1958) was a British scientist whose X-ray crystallography work was crucial to revealing the structure of DNA. Her "Photograph 51" provided key evidence of the molecule's double helix form. Although her contribution was not fully recognised during her lifetime, her research was essential to one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the 20th century. She died at 37, but her legacy is honoured in major scientific institutions and space exploration projects bearing her name.

**Dorothy Hodgkin** (1910–1994) was a British chemist and Nobel Prize winner who advanced X-ray crystallography to determine the structures of key biological molecules. She solved the structures of penicillin, vitamin B12 and insulin, transforming medicine and enabling new treatments, particularly for diabetes. Despite chronic rheumatoid arthritis, she continued to lead major scientific breakthroughs and became the only British woman to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

**Rachel Carson** (1907–1964) was an American biologist and author whose book *Silent Spring* exposed the environmental damage caused by synthetic pesticides. Her work led to major policy changes, including restrictions on DDT, and helped launch the modern environmental movement. Trained in marine biology, she combined science and writing to bring ecological issues to global attention and influenced the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

**Lynn Margulis** (1938–2011) was an American biologist who transformed evolutionary theory with her endosymbiosis model. She proposed that complex cells evolved through symbiotic partnerships, such as mitochondria originating as independent organisms. Her ideas, initially widely rejected, are now fundamental to biology. She entered university at 15, earned her PhD in 1965, and later received major recognition including the US National Medal of Science.

As well as highlighting their discoveries, Dr. Goodall was clear how these very special people had to work extra hard to gain recognition, because they were women. Understandably he had a particularly appreciative audience.

If interested to know more about BLPC membership and the upcoming programme, contact: The Admin Secretary - reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk - 07754 296994



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EVENING WITH HARRY REDKNAPP 4 June, 7.30pm, Anvil  
 Ballet Cymru's SLEEPING BEAUTY 6 June, 7.30pm, Haymarket  
 ABBA Mia - starring Kerry Katona 12 Jun, 7.30pm, Anvil  
 K-POP ALL STARS TRIBUTE 13 June, 3pm, Anvil  
 THE CORY BAND 14 June, 3pm, Anvil  
 JUKEBOX IDOLS 25 June, 7.30pm, Anvil  
 MARK WATSON 27 Jun, 7.30pm, Haymarket

**Jazz on a Summer's Afternoon**

Join **Basingstoke Concert Band** for a relaxing afternoon of live jazz and summer favourites on **Sunday 5 July 2026 at 3.00pm**

Sit back and enjoy an entertaining programme of toe-tapping music in the welcoming surroundings of **Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Garden**

Your ticket also includes tea or coffee and a delicious slice of home-made cake

Venue: **Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon RG27 0EZ**

Tickets: **£12 (under 16's £5)** available from: <https://ticketlab.co.uk/events/BCBand#/> or directly from band members

Bring family and friends and spend a delightful summer afternoon enjoying great music, refreshments and community spirit

The **PROTEANS**  
Adult Theatre Group

*The*  
**CANTERBURY TALES**

**FRIDAY 19TH JUNE TO SUNDAY 21ST JUNE**

*An outdoor theatre production at the*  
**Walled Garden, Down Grange**

*By Geoffrey Chaucer | Adapted by Mary Swan*  
*Bring a picnic to enjoy! Gates open 1hr before show*  
*Tickets from £8 | For show times and to book visit:*  
[www.proteustheatre.com](http://www.proteustheatre.com)

Supported by Basingstoke and Deane, Arts Council England, and Proteus.

**Imaginary Landscapes**  
An evening of poetry and harp with acclaimed and award-winning author Chris Tutton and international jazz harpist Tara Minton.  
**Proteus Creation Space, Basingstoke**  
Tickets £12.50 from [www.proteustheatre.com](http://www.proteustheatre.com)

**POETRY & HARP**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm**

**Welcome to King's Church Basingstoke**

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

Every Sunday Morning (except the first Sunday of the month)  
 10:15am in the main hall at Manor Field Junior School Haydn Road, Brighton Hill  
[www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com](http://www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com) Tel: 07741 856437

**A church that is:**  
 - Faithful to God  
 - Caring for each other  
 - Committed to those around us

**Big Wheel**  
**Sunday 14 June 2026**  
**War Memorial Park, Basingstoke**  
Join the Journey, Support the Cause

**Pick your distance**  
 9.5 miles, 23 miles, 57 miles, 78 miles

**Little Wheels Children's Lap**  
Pedal or scoot around the park!

Scan the QR code to sign up now!

Find out more: [stmichaelshospice.org.uk/big-wheel](http://stmichaelshospice.org.uk/big-wheel)

St Michael's Hospice logo.

## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

I wonder what you think of when you hear the word 'community'? For me it conjures up two images- firstly an old-fashioned village fete – the kind I've probably seen on TV programmes... I'm not sure if these exist! The second though, I do know exists – it's the community that we saw active during the pandemic – people volunteering at vaccination centres and food distribution hubs, neighbours looking out for each other, friends giving each other a call, family showing that they care even if it was from a distance. This kind of community is, I believe, humanity at its best – and is still going strong!

You might have heard the phrase 'no man is an island'. It's not a new thought – in fact, the Bible tells us that when He created people, God realised that it wasn't good for anyone to be alone. We are made for community, but that doesn't mean that it is always easy!

In the coming weeks we will celebrate the beginning of the Church as we mark the day of Pentecost. We read about how the first church lived and ate together, telling others the good news about Jesus, sharing what they had and helping those in need. Something about them and how they chose to live drew others in and they quickly grew in number. It was a wonderful start ... but of course challenges came as people turned to being selfish, dishonest, to judging and excluding others.

This is so human, isn't it? Perhaps it seems disappointing, but none of us are perfect – every day we work with the good and the less good within ourselves and within one another, remembering that we are all a work in progress. The good thing is that we can change, learn and grow whatever age we are. God can certainly have a hand in transforming us, but it's often through others who encourage us to be our best selves, to strive for good and to look beyond ourselves.

That's one of the things that I love about being part of a church. I don't suppose this group would gather for any other reason ... we have different political views, hobbies and interests, skills and talents, and yet together we are something more than we are on our own. If you're looking to be part of a church community then you will find a warm welcome at both Immanuel and St Mark's Churches ... and we'd love to see you at any of our community events!

**Why not join us on Wednesday 8th July between 10.30am and 12.30pm at St Mark's Church where we will be hosting a pop-up café** run by students from Chiltern Way Academy. I can thoroughly recommend their baking which will be available for you to enjoy and to take away. The money raised will go to the Camrose Centre – a drop-in facility supporting those who are homeless, sleeping rough or vulnerably housed in our local area.

**Revd Nicola Such, Vicar**



## IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY

In December 1994, the Rabbiter reported having received messages of support and encouragement following its six-month break. It showed how the publication was seen as a part of the community life. Today this magazine is still valued, but can only survive with volunteer support!

The Confederation of Hatch Warren Residents' Groups reported that Sainsbury's had pledged £5,000 to the fund it had established to pay for the installation of traffic calming measures. That meant that all traders in the area had lent their support to this innovative campaign to fund safety and environmental improvements.

They mentioned the firms who had contributed, and these will invoke memories: Blockbuster Video, Tempo and Pet City, along with the Furniture Workshop, Harvey's Soft Furnishings and Children's World. Remember them?

The traffic calming build-outs that resulted from this campaign exist to this day, though one in Long Cross Lane was poorly positioned and subsequently removed.

The Neighbourhood Watch caravan had been well attended in Sainsbury's car park. The Police reported that there had been a large number of thefts from motor vehicles in a nearby estate, so we were all reminded to remove valuables overnight and lock our cars – good advice to this day.

'Health Matters' focussed on the use of alcohol. At a 'fun session' (which I remember attending), people were asked to pour a measure of gin or whisky into a glass, and in most cases they poured doubles or even triples. A single measure in a tumbler looks pretty mean! Today, the Director of Public Health at Hampshire is focussing his annual campaign on reducing alcohol mis-use: this is an issue that does not go away.

Another message from the Consumer desk at Hampshire concerned 'Use by' and 'Best Before' dates. It was a stern message! Over the intervening years people have come to worry about the amount of food wasted by slavish adherence to this guidance. Charities have grown up to distribute, quickly, food that is still good to eat but approaching the end of its shelf life. I think this pragmatic approach has been welcomed.

Finally, the Chairman of the Community Association wrote about how it was structured and finished by saying: "a community is more than a collection of houses and a community centre. It is a way of life where neighbours know each other and work together to benefit all." Good words from three decades ago!

**Stephen Reid**



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

### Immanuel Church

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

part of the Parish of Basingstoke Down

for info on services and events...

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





# DAVE'S NATURE SPOT

During the warmer months I will often put out my moth trap at night. It is basically a bright lamp that attracts the moths which drop in to a funnel and take refuge in egg boxes within the base. The moths are unable to escape which means they can be inspected in the morning and then released unharmed.

June is a good month for attracting Hawk Moths (*Sphingidae*). Hawk Moths are some of our largest and most spectacular species. The largest resident species is the beautiful Privet Hawk Moth (*Sphinx ligustri*) which has a flight season from May to July. Its favourite larval food plant is privet (often used in hedgerows).

A Hawk Moth species that most people commonly see is the Humming Bird Hawk Moth (*Macroglossom stellatarum*) which flies during the day and really does look like a tiny humming bird - in fact one day on Old Down a lady told me she had seen a humming bird but it would have been the moth. In Italy they are regarded as a good luck messenger. It has a long flight season, early spring to late autumn.

One of the most colourful Hawk Moths is the Elephant Hawk (*Deilephila elpenor*) which is a really beautiful moth adorned in various shades of pink and olive. It gets its name from its caterpillar which resembles an elephant's trunk when it moves along. The caterpillar can withdraw its head into its body revealing warning markings that look like eyes. It is a fairly common species and each year I see a good number in my moth trap. Their flight season is May to July and the larval food plant is mainly Rosebay Willow Herb and various Bedstraws.

Another quite spectacular species is the Eyed Hawk Moth (*Smerinthus ocellata*) which is unmistakable - it has an eye spot on



Privet Hawk Moth

Elephant  
Hawk MothHumming Bird  
Hawk MothDeath's Head  
Hawk Moth

each underwing. Its main larval food plant is willow, and sometimes apple. Its flight season is mid-May to July.

This short article would not be complete without including our largest immigrant species of Hawk Moth which most of you will know from the illustrated title of the book and film "The Silence Of The Lambs" - the Death's Head Hawk Moth (*Acherontia Atropos*) - named because of the skull-like marking on the thorax. It's a very large moth that is a fairly late visitor, sometimes not arriving in this country until August but it has been recorded as early as May. Although an immigrant species, some do overwinter and most years there are a few records of them breeding in the UK. Their larval food plant is potato and the aptly named Deadly Nightshade.

The adults mainly feed on honey and will enter beehives to feed; they are able to gain access to the hive as they emit a pheromone that disguises them and so are tolerated by the bees. When they are disturbed they have a strange habit of lifting their head and legs at the front in a threatening posture and making a squeaking noise by expelling air through their proboscis. In the folklore of several European countries this moth is considered to be the harbinger of death.

Other Hawk Moths include the Common Poplar, Lime, and Pine, and scarcer immigrant species such as Striped Hawk and Convolvulus Hawk Moth.

## WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

Have you been to the Willis Museum, Basingstoke Bee exhibition yet? If not, do go as it tells you so much about our bees and pollinators, their history, their importance to us, honey production, our natural world and what we can do to keep them thriving. It is indeed a fascinating 'Bee Story'.

There are three main types of bee: the **Solitary Bee**, the much-loved **Bumble Bee** and the **Honey Bee**. May is a very busy month for all of these Bee types. This month I will focus more on the Solitary Bee and finish with a few key pointers about Bumble Bees and Honey Bees

**Solitary Bees** have a very short life-cycle as they emerge from a 10 - 11 months pupae 'sleep' between March and May. Their priorities are to mate, find a nest, lay eggs and provision the emerging larva. Solitary Bees are the most important bees for our fruit farmers as the Bumblebees and Honey Bees take longer to get going and, without the Solitary Bee, we wouldn't have our orchard fruits, soft fruits and other foods which depend on April - May pollination.

The egg-laying task is hard work as she creates a single chamber per egg, often in a long tube like structure as you see in the bug hotels, sealing it up before she starts on the next egg. Once she's done [after 4 to 6 weeks], she's worn out and dies.

The size and variety of Solitary Bees is huge. There is no need to be nervous around these bees as most are stingless and, those that

have very mild stings, are certainly not that interested in us humans as they are far too busy trying to fill their tubular nests with as many eggs as they can for that short active life.

**Bumblebees:** it's all about the big buzzing furry Queen setting up her nest! With a distinctive droning buzz, she flies in a low zig-zag around wood tree roots and hedgerow banks searching. By May she should have found and built her nest... then will focus on raising her first brood colony, who thereafter become her workers so she can rest and get on with 100% egg laying.

**Honeybees** are busy busy busy!! The Queen laying the eggs and the workers raising young and gathering nectar and pollen for the honey harvest. May is also a key month of natural swarming. If you see a cluster of bees, don't worry! They are at their most calm, waiting for the scout bees to come back to tell them where to fly to their new nest. That said if you don't want them near you, call up Basingstoke Beekeepers swarm number and they will come and collect [07580 528482].

**Kenneth and Barbara Robson**

on behalf of CB400 Foundation  
[www.charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk](http://www.charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk)



Please contact us on 07725 832964 if you want to know more about bees and how to help them and our natural environment.

# LOCAL HISTORY SNIPPETS



## KING JOHN'S CASTLE

On a June morning in 1215, King John rode out from Odiham Castle to the water meadows at Runnymede to meet with his rebellious barons and sign Magna Carta, or so the legend goes. John had built the castle a few years earlier as it was in a prime position, midway between Windsor and Winchester, and sat in the midst of a royal deer park.

John of course reneged on the agreement almost immediately, and the First Barons War began. John was so unpopular that the Dauphin of France, Prince Louis, was invited to England to replace him. Louis invaded with an army and the support of the barons, and proceeded to take control of much of southern England. Odiham Castle was put under siege and eventually fell, when the French forces were astonished to find that it had been defended by only thirteen men. Louis was welcomed in London and proclaimed King, although never crowned. When John died shortly afterwards however, the barons switched their allegiance to John's infant son who was proclaimed Henry III.

Odiham Castle remained in royal hands and was gifted by Henry to his sister, Eleanor of England. Eleanor married Simon de Montfort who then rebelled against Henry in another Barons War. Henry was defeated and for a time Simon was King in all but name until he was killed by Henry's forces at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

Later the castle served as a prison for the Scottish King David who was held there for eleven years until 1357. The castle continued as a royal hunting lodge until it gradually fell into disuse and disrepair. It was restored by Hampshire County Council and English Heritage in 2007.

The remains of the castle sit alongside the Basingstoke Canal and are well worth a visit.

**Terri Elizabeth Reid MA**

terrielizabethreid.com

## KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

### Spring has sprung

Our work party season finished in March leaving us to look forward to spring and summer activities. For our last work party, we invited the geocachers to join us in Down Grange Meadow. They welcome the opportunity to tidy up sites that have or may potentially have geocaches. Our first experience of these volunteers was a session in the Old Orchard, near Kendall Gardens, back in October when 21 turned up. So, it was with some trepidation that we organised a "return match" in the Meadow.

The Meadow has a geocache that was, according to some reports on social media, difficult to find buried in bramble. We met a family who regularly attend our Kids' Bug Hunts. They had just started geocaching and had no trouble finding it. Six geocachers turned up but half of them only wanted to do litter picking, rather than bramble bashing. However, we still cleared a large amount of bramble.

### Come join the fun!

As our contribution to Green Week, our first Kids' Bug Hunt in Down Grange Meadow will be on Sunday, 14th June from 10 00 to 12 30. Turn up any time and stay as long you or your charges wish. As usual, access to the event is via the Homesteads Road entrance to the Meadow, a short distance from St. Mark's Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contact Steve on 07831 289261 for more details.

For more information please call Marion Wolstencroft on (01256) 470171. Alternatively, email to [kempshott-serve@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kempshott-serve@tiscali.co.uk) or visit [www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk](http://www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk)

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## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

It feels like summer is on the way and we are enjoying spending much more time outdoors at Hatch Warren Under Fives. In our garden we have a discovery den with all of the equipment to hunt and identify mini beasts from the garden. The children also have lots of opportunities to express themselves creatively in the garden in our outdoor chalking and mark making area. We have a diggerland area and a construction area where the children put on high vis jackets and get to work building walls. We also bring our love of reading outdoors and have a cosy reading area to enjoy stories in the sunshine. And of course, we have a mud kitchen to make sticky mud pies and cakes.

We are putting lots of work into school readiness for our older children and each day we are having fun with activities to promote number recognition, personal and social skills, listening and understanding, health and self-care. We are also doing lots of small group activities to help with focus and turn taking.

For sensory we have had colourful rice to scoop and pour, shaving foam, sand, jelly and water play and we have been doing lots of cutting and sticking.

This month we are also holding sports day with some fun races for the children and we are hoping that lots of our families will join us to cheer them on.

WE ARE ENROLLING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2026. Why not book a visit to look around and meet the team? If you'd like to learn more, please contact us on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

## DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

Everyone has been getting in the spirit of Spring, busy planting seeds in the garden. Along with our sunflowers the children have taken home grass heads. We are looking forward to seeing which sunflower and grass heads grow the fastest and tallest.

Continuing with our theme of how we can look after and protect the environment, we had a visit to St Mark's Meadow. We were delighted to join Emma and Claire from the Hatch Warren Nature Group who created a bug and flower treasure hunt for us and finished off with Emma reading us a story about a Butterfly. The children thoroughly enjoyed their little adventure and looking at the different flowers and insects we came across.



Our local PCSOs popped in to see us. The children had the chance to look inside the van and press the siren. They even got to try on the handcuffs.

Hampshire Healthy Heroes are coming in after Half Term and will be focusing on Oral Health and Healthy Eating. Our local Lollipop lady Lyn will be

coming in to talk to the children about road safety.

School readiness packs have now gone home to help support our children in preparation for their transition into school in September. These are there to support both the children and parents with these next steps.



Our Graduation /Leavers party plans are underway and there will be a few surprises for the children before they head off to school.

Our leavers attended St Mark's to spend time with the Year 5 students who read them their favourite stories. This was such a lovely opportunity for the children to visit the school and spend time with the students.

We are delighted to be taking part in the St Mark's Summer Fayre on Saturday 27th June. Do come along and support us.

We have limited spaces available for September 2026, therefore if you are considering Dandelions for your child's early years, please contact us for a registration form or to arrange a visit on Tel No: 01256 818857 or alternatively email: [info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk](mailto:info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk). Our waiting lists for 2027/2028 are now open.

## CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

We are loving these sunnier days and have the bikes out ready to go most mornings! We have been able to do more water play, which is a fun opportunity to explore and experiment – also developing our skills including colour mixing and recognition, pouring, filling, turn taking, fine motor control and building language.



We raised a brilliant sum from our raffle and so are using these funds to book in some exciting activities over the Summer term.

To find out more, please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172

**Georgia Hawken**

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

As the weather has warmed and the sunshine has made an appearance, the preschool children have been spending ever more time outdoors. From sand, mud and water play, to ice-cream shops and pirate ships - the opportunities are endless!

Our preschoolers have also been busy exploring the tiny wonders of the natural world. From carefully observing bugs in the garden to meeting wriggling tadpoles up close, the children have embraced every moment with curiosity and excitement. These hands-on experiences are more than just fun—they are powerful learning opportunities. When children watch a ladybird crawl or notice how a worm moves through the soil, they begin to develop observation skills and an early understanding of living things. Meeting tadpoles added another layer of discovery,



introducing the idea of life-cycles and change in a way that is real and memorable. Exploring nature also encourages children to ask questions, build confidence, and develop empathy for living creatures. These small encounters help lay the foundation for scientific thinking while nurturing a sense of wonder about the world around them.

Tickets for Happy's Circus at Dummer Down Farm are available now! Book early to avoid disappointment as this is set to be a fantastic local event!

Limited places are currently available for September 2026.

Candover Valley Preschool is supported by The Linbury Trust

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## BEGGARWOOD Wildlife Group

Maintaining Beggarwood Park for the Benefit of Wildlife and the Community

### Work Party Tuesday 5th May 2026

The Beggarwood Wildlife Group was hard at work on Tuesday 5th May. The weather not as glorious as our last outing but warm and, importantly, dry! We split into 2 groups to attack different areas of the park, our aim as always to keep it useable for our community and to encourage more wildlife into the area.

### Archangel Clearing

Team Archangels was hard at work behind the Wild Play area. This area becomes overgrown by garden 'escapees' and this time 4 large bagfuls were cut back and removed. If you are lucky enough to live edging onto the park, please check if your garden is starting to grow over. Some of the popular garden plants can smother the wildlife and decrease biodiversity in the area. Your help as always is really appreciated.



### Dogwood Popping

Team Dogwood worked a bit further up the hill from the Wild Play area. This grassland is home to the meadow Orchids which need open land to thrive. Invasive dogwood and hawthorn are threatening to take over their habitat so a good couple of hours was spent in pulling out these bushes, an art known as 'popping'. Sounds comical but I can assure you it's hard work. The 'popped' bushes were used to rebuild the dead hedging that runs alongside the path.

### Our next work parties will be:-

Tue 2nd June and Tue 7th July

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)

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# LocaHeroes

## Stu and Georgina Colman

I recently met up with Georgina and Stu Colman. They will both be familiar to many in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

From 2013 to 2016, Stu was chair of the Hatch Warren Community Association. He took over at a crucial time; the Association was in danger due to a lack of committee members and an extraordinary meeting had to be called to get things back on track. Stu steered the new committee through these difficulties, and under his chairmanship the Association went from strength to strength, bringing in the After School Club, adding soundproofing to enable better use of the building, installing a defibrillator and kicking off the initial plans for the new Beggarwood Community Centre.

Georgina worked in the community office and was a friendly and welcoming face. During this time they re-energised the annual Summer Fair – who remembers the excitement of the Chinook from RAF Odiham landing on the playing fields?

Since their Community Association days, the Colmans have gone on to some truly remarkable achievements. Georgina was diagnosed with MS in 2003. She has spent a lot of time looking for ways to mitigate the effects of the disease, and has always been motivated to try to support and encourage others facing similar challenges.

She now runs a highly successful business; Purpldiscounts.com. The inspiration for Purpl came to Georgina on a shopping trip – she wondered why there weren't any discounts for disabled people along the lines of the blue light card for emergency workers. She therefore set it up herself in 2022. After working through two rounds of investment the company went live in 2024. For a very small fee, people with disabilities and long-term health conditions can sign up for membership. They will need to upload documents to verify their disability but there is a long list that includes blue badges, disability benefit awards, NHS letters and more. Parents and carers can also sign up on behalf of someone they look after, as long as they have their permission. Once subscribed, members can access discounts and exclusive offers from a huge range of well known brands including Morrisons, Holland & Barrett, Dunelm, Nike, TUI, and EDF as well as specialist disability-related businesses like Mobility in Motion and Cool Crutches. Purpl also offers a hub of information and guides to help the community along with a private members only group on Facebook. Purpl now has over 100,000 members and the business is up for a UK start-up award. Money raised by the company from brand advertising goes back into the community through a grant fund. Georgina's long-term aim is to set up a foundation which would enable disabled people and those with

long term illnesses to access treatments and therapies for free.

Stu was diagnosed recently with ADHD. Starting a new role at work, he spoke to his direct line manager to tell her of his diagnosis. She invited him to speak to his team on ADHD and Neurodiversity. At the end of the talk, colleagues came to him in tears telling him that he had just told the story of their lives, or that finally their lives made sense after hearing what he had to say. He started up an initial group within the company exploring this and later gave more talks on neurodiversity including one to a group of over 4000 colleagues.

All this enabled Stu to understand that he could directly help people with ADHD and neurodiversity, so he took the bold step of quitting his job and trained as an ADHD coach and counsellor. This is now his full-time role; he offers individual coaching, as well as going into companies to offer corporate talks, encouraging them to understand better the challenges faced by staff with neurodiversity and therefore become better places to work, in turn helping companies to avoid churn. He is now writing a book on the subject as well.

Anyone wanting to know more can access their websites as mentioned above:

<https://www.purpldiscounts.com/>

<https://neuroworkpartners.com/brilliantly-different/>

<https://neuroworkpartners.com/>

**Terri Reid**

## Pets Corner



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



Douglas – Jones



Lili – Michelle



Max (The tuxedo cat) – Ellie

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