

THE Rabbiter



Issue 330
July/August 2026

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



All the regular features plus

- **LOCAL RESIDENTS WALKING FOR CHARITY**
- **WASPETTES WALKING FOOTBALL**
- **YOUNG CARERS DONATION**

and much more

FROM THE EDITOR

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Bannatyne

EDITORIAL

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Rabbiter. As promised last time, we have a new column on Page 16 from Stu Colman, examining mental health issues. This is a subject that is starting to get the attention it deserves and I hope many of our readers will find it useful.

Our next edition will be published at the beginning of September. In the meantime I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Regards.

Editor

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 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 another volunteer. If a deliverer is away or has given up, there is a need to deliver those either with another volunteer or themselves!

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

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Outdoor Learning at Hatch Warren Infant School

At Hatch Warren Infant School, we truly believe that Happiness and Wonder Inspire Success! We aim to provide a rich and inspiring learning experience that gives our children the very best start in life. A recent example of this was our Outdoor Learning Day.

The children spent the day exploring, discovering, learning, and playing outdoors. They showed great enthusiasm and curiosity while taking part in a range of activities that developed their teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

A special highlight was our wooden fence project, with every child proudly bringing in a stick to contribute. It was wonderful

to see the children working together and taking pride in creating something for everyone to enjoy.

We were incredibly proud of the excellent behaviour shown throughout the day. The children demonstrated kindness, cooperation, and respect while having fun and learning together. Outdoor Learning Day was a wonderful reminder that when children are happy, inspired, and full of wonder, they thrive. At Hatch Warren Infant School, we are proud to provide experiences that help every child learn, grow, and succeed.



THE Rabbiter

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LOCAL RESIDENT UNDERTAKING 550-MILE CHARITY PILGRIMAGE

In September, I will embark on a 550-mile pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago to raise funds and awareness for Prostate Cancer UK. This cause is very close to my heart, as I sadly lost my Grandad to prostate cancer. After seeing the impact the cancer had on him and my family, I wanted to undertake a challenge that would not only test me physically and mentally, but also help support the charity's vital work in research, awareness, and patient support.

My pilgrimage will begin at the southern border of France, where I will cross the Pyrenees and journey into the heart of northern Spain, following a traditional route that has been travelled by pilgrims since the Middle Ages. Along the way, I will pass through renowned wine regions, historic cities, ancient Templar strongholds, and countless Gothic cathedrals, experiencing the rich history and culture that the Camino has to offer.

My journey will eventually lead me to the famous city of Santiago de Compostela, where tradition states that the remains of Saint James are buried. However, my pilgrimage will not end there. I will continue onwards to Finisterre, known as "The End of the World", where the land meets the Atlantic Ocean. I have fewer than 39 days to complete this journey on foot, making it the greatest challenge I have ever undertaken. I hope readers will support me (and my cause) and follow my progress throughout this adventure.

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COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Stephen Reid

County Councillor, Basingstoke

South West 07976 310206

stephen.reid@hants.gov.uk

BROADMERE ROAD PARKING(1): I am getting regular complaints about drivers being sent penalty notices when they stayed less than the one hour free period. It seems that Parkmaven, the operators, are cancelling the false notices quickly, but that doesn't negate the shock and stress caused by their mistakes. I can't see any excuse for them introducing a faulty system.

BROADMERE ROAD PARKING(2): I wrote to Parkmaven's Company Secretary over a month ago at the address given in their Companies House listing. At the time of writing I have not received an acknowledgement or a reply. In the absence of any response I also wrote to the Director listed at Companies House. I want to discuss with them the impact that the short free period is having on the Community Centre / Cafe in the Park. It appears that the businesses around the car park were consulted before the charge were introduced, but not the Community Association. The charges are having a noticeable impact on footfall there.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING: I attended the Community Association's AGM, which was well attended. The reports were positive: although the Association ran at a deficit last year, it was smaller than budgeted. Major events such as the Fireworks and the Summer Fair had continued to be successes. Tributes were paid to Nick Elms who was standing down as Chairman after seven years, as he is moving away from the area. The new Community Association committee was elected and they will sort out the Officers roles at their first meeting.

SUMMER FESTIVAL PLANS: Karen Coomber reported that the big event was scheduled for 11th July, and there will be over 110 attractions. These included bungee jumping, aerial fitness, karate and a retro sweets stall. Over forty traders have been lined up to attend.

DIGESTATE SPREADING was delayed by the recent heavy rain. The 'Gazette' ran an article on this which, remarkably, made the 'funny headlines' section of 'Have I Got News For You'!

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: I attended the recent meetings of the PPG. The discussions were dominated by the difficulties that patients have in securing appointments. I reported on problems that had been brought to me where not only was it impossible to get an appointment but the Triage system was wrongly classifying patients as 'non-urgent'. We also heard that about 1 in 5 appointments are wasted by patients not turning up. If patients would let the surgeries know in advance, the slots could be released for the benefit of other people.

IRRESPONSIBLE DRIVING: I have been receiving an increased number of reports of irresponsible driving in our area. One report alleged 'drifting' around the roundabout at Cliddesden Lane and Beggarwood Lane. Others were about illegally loud motorcycles

being ridden in the area. This is especially antisocial behaviour when the weather is hot and people try to sleep with their windows open. I have reported this matter directly to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

COUNTY COUNCIL CABINET: I have been reappointed to the Hampshire Cabinet, this time holding the Finance portfolio.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION: The County Cabinet has voted to launch a Judicial Review of the decisions made by the government for establishing new unitary authorities in Hampshire. Work towards the new unitaries will continue in parallel. The current plan is that next year's local election will choose Councillors to serve on a new 'shadow' Unitary authority for North Hampshire.

DEVOLUTION: Although the Mayoral elections have been postponed, the Combined Authority that sits above the existing Councils has been set up and its first meetings are now happening.

WILDLIFE GARDENING: I attended a very interesting talk given by the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust at the Community Centre. The topics covered included how to make your garden friendly to wildlife of all sorts. Even small patches of open space can be made useful to birds, hedgehogs and insects. 'Hotels' for solitary bees can help them to survive in an urban setting. The Trust can offer more advice if needed.

ST MARK'S SCHOOL RUN: I have spoken with the Head Teacher of the school regarding complaints about car parking in Danebury Road, Inglewood Drive (and others) around the school. One query was whether staff are parking in the roads. If so, I suggested that they be pointed to the Community Centre car park if there is insufficient space within the school grounds. The Head appreciates the problems and will follow up..

UPPER SWALLICK: I have lodged an objection to the planning application for 2,500 homes near Cliddesden. I am concerned that the proposed link road down to the Woods Lane roundabout will become a short cut between the A339 Alton Road and west of Basingstoke, leading to rat running through Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING: As a driver of an electric vehicle, I am pleased that people across Hampshire are set to benefit from the introduction of some 17,000 charge points, with new infrastructure set to be installed in areas where off-street charging from home is not an option. The Hampshire scheme forms part of a national strategy to expand neighbourhood provision. RAC data shows that a third (33%) of Hampshire residents don't have access to off-street parking options, with that figure rising to 39% in Basingstoke.

BLOG: You can find more details on these and other issues on my blog at ReidAboutBasingstoke.co.uk

Best wishes

Stephen



Stacy Hart

Borough Councillor:

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

cllr:dani.davies@basingstoke.gov.uk

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Dear Hatch Warren and Beggarwood residents,

I hope you're keeping well and staying hydrated as we get into summer properly!

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE NEWS: As happens every year following the May elections, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) has gone through its yearly shake-up of Committees and confirmed who will sit on what group to scrutinise and advise on the work that officers do. I will remain on the Resident Services and Licensing Committees and am proud to say I have also been elected Chair of the Licensing Committee this year, which I'm very excited about. Cllr Dani Davies will sit on Licensing alongside me, and she'll also sit on the Human Resources Committee.

If you have any queries about the work we do sitting on these Committees or want to learn more about the processes involved, Dani and I are happy to help. We're really passionate about public accessibility and understanding of Council work – it's your tax payer money, after all – and they are not always the easiest things to get your head around, so do get in touch if you're interested. Since Dani's election in May she has spent a great deal of time in the myriad training courses required for new Councillors but has also started to pick up her first bits of casework and resident responses, so please do keep sending your issues along to us both!

BROADMERE ROAD PARKING CHARGES: As most of you are aware, the parking charge saga continues. On top of the charges themselves there was an error in the ANPR system which has seen many residents wrongly receive £100 fines for using the free hour. I have fielded dozens of contacts from residents on email and Facebook and have hopefully managed to reply to everyone, but I am aware that it's easy to miss social media posts on multiple threads so if you have concerns and need a direct response, please email me on the address below.

If you have received one of these fines in error and have not yet appealed, please do so. The company that runs the system, ParkMaven, is aware of the error and as far as I'm aware has cancelled all charges straight away. The landowner now assures me that the error is rectified but if you continue to see any problems or have difficulty getting a wrong fine cancelled, please contact me immediately.

In the meantime, Officers are still liaising with the landowner on a compromise for the overall charging to make it easier to use the park, café and nearby services. The landowner has also now agreed to meet the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association to discuss this and I hope that we can find a resolution that works for everyone before too long. I will continue to update residents via our resident mailout, which you can sign up for as below, and social media channels.

CARER CAFÉ AND REPAIR CAFE: Cllr Dani Davies' second monthly Carer Café session went well with engagement from new and returning attendees; if you do unpaid care for anyone

in your life and want to find community with others in the same situation, come along to Beggarwood Café on the last Sunday of the month from 10am to 12pm.

The Repair Café at Hatch Warren Community Centre goes from strength to strength on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 1pm! We are still looking for volunteer repairers to bolster the team so if you have any kind of handy skill, drop in to see us and have a chat about whether you can be involved. It's a really lovely way to find new friends, support the community, learn new skills and help the environment.

GREEN EVENTS: We were delighted to hold a Repair Café stall in The Malls as part of BDBC's Green Week over 6th-14th June. It was great to chat to passers-by about the sorts of things they'd like to bring for fixing instead of throwing away!

I was also really pleased to attend the nature drop in held by Hatch Warren Nature Group, complete with a talk from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and seed planting activities. I chatted to the HLOWWT representative afterwards and made notes for ideas for future nature projects in the ward, and I will be reaching out to local groups and the community to help bring some of these to fruition in the coming months.

Finally on the environment I was glad to meet with representatives from the Climate Ambassadors team; this is an initiative funded by the Department For Education which trains volunteers to work with local education settings on developing and progressing their climate action plans. I hope to facilitate connections and work with them locally to bring these benefits to our schools.

WORK FOR RESIDENTS: Many of you will have seen the new bus shelter on Beggarwood Lane that I requested on behalf of local residents who are regular bus users, who had expressed the need for a shelter there in inclement weather. I have also been able to confirm that some residents on the edge of the ward were being wrongly charged for Parish Council tax on top of their BDBC contribution and have this corrected and refunded for them.

Our next project will be to look at accessible walking in the area; many residents have spoken to us about wanting to be more active but find that the lack of rest areas is prohibitive. If you have any thoughts on where you would like to see additional benches or seating in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood, please get in touch to let us know.

UPCOMING EVENTS: It's due to be another busy summer of events – as I write this, the Basingstoke Festival run by BDBC will shortly launch its three-week programme of activities across the town. Plus, of course, the Hatch Warren Summer Fair will be held at the Community Centre on Saturday 11th July: you will see Dani and I there volunteering as helpers and holding our 'Meet Your Councillors' stand as in previous years!

COUNCILLOR SURGERY: My apologies to those residents who contacted us intending to come to our 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery on Monday 8th June; unfortunately, Dani and I were summoned to mandatory training that evening and had to postpone to 29th June. Dani will hold our next session on Monday 20th July at the Portsmouth Arms pub from 6:30pm-8:30pm, so please do go along and meet her with any local issues and thoughts.

Our very best wishes to you for a lovely summer – Stacy.



CAMROSE, GILLIES, HACKWOOD AND BEGGARWOOD PATIENT ACCESS UPDATE

We know that being able to access the care you need, when you need it, is important. The Patient Participation Group (PPG) has recently shared patient feedback about difficulties accessing GP services and concerns about a campaign encouraging new patient registrations. This feedback has been discussed with the practice and local MP Luke Murphy to help ensure patients' experiences are heard.

Current Challenges

Like many GP practices, we are currently experiencing staffing shortages, which are affecting appointment availability and increasing waiting times for some services.

We understand that this can be frustrating and worrying for patients. Their teams are working hard to provide safe care and support everyone as quickly as possible during this period.

What Is Being Done to Help?

The practice is taking steps to improve access and increase the number of appointments available:

- Two new doctors are expected to join the practice in July and August.
- An additional pharmacist will also join the team.
- Following concerns raised by patients and the PPG, the campaign promoting new patient registrations has been cancelled.

The practice is also improving communication so patients have a clearer understanding of:

- How long they may need to wait.
- How the triage process works.
- How urgent and routine requests are prioritised.
- How to cancel appointments easily if they are no longer needed.

Getting the Right Care at the Right Time

Urgent requests continue to be assessed separately from routine appointments so that patients with more immediate needs can be supported promptly.

If you have tests arranged by the practice, your results will be reviewed by a clinician and follow-up will be organised where

needed. Some patients may receive direct booking links for telephone consultations to discuss their results, making it easier to access advice without needing to contact the surgery again.

How You Can Help

There are a few simple ways patients can help improve access for everyone:

- Cancel appointments you no longer need so they can be offered to another patient.
- Use NHS 111 for urgent medical advice when appropriate.
- Share feedback about your experience so the practice can continue to improve services.

If you are unsure how best to access care, practice staff will do their best to guide you to the most appropriate service.

Feedback and Support

If you have concerns about your care or experience, please contact the practice. Raising issues directly helps the team understand what has happened, provide support where needed, and identify opportunities to improve services for all patients.

Looking Ahead

The PPG will continue working with the practice and local healthcare leaders to explore ways of improving access and making it easier for patients to receive the support they need. This includes looking at better care navigation and making full use of the wider healthcare team.

Free Hearing Aid Batteries

Following a request from the PPG, free NHS hearing aid batteries are now available at surgery reception desks. Patients can collect batteries from reception or continue using existing hospital and library collection points.

Disability Awareness Day

In the Malls Basingstoke between 9am and 3pm on Friday 19th June 2026 - All are welcome.

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

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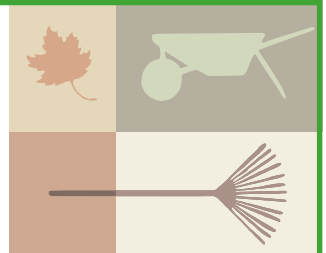


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HATCH WARREN WI



Every year Hatch Warren WI holds a party to celebrate our birthday. This year we turned 33 and the theme was Purple.

Everyone dressed in various shades of purple and even our mascot, Hattie, was dressed in pretty purple. We ate as much purple food as we could including a magnificent cake made by a daughter of one of our long standing members. The party team put together purple themed games and quizzes and we learned some interesting facts about the colour purple.

Next month we will welcome Judy Theobald, journalist, radio presenter and writer. She will be entertaining us with a humorous account of her life of 30+ years in the media.

You can find more information about us from our website

<https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/hatch-warren/about-hatch-warren-wi>



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There are so many wildflower species to spot on Old Down and here are just a few:- harebell, bird's foot trefoil, kidney vetch, oxeye daisy, yellow rattle, tufted vetch, rock rose, viper's bugloss, horseshoe vetch, red clover, lady's bedstraw, common knapweed, rough hawkbit, hoary plantain, ribwort plantain, wild marjoram, pyramidal orchid, cowslip, St. John's-wort, wild carrot, meadow buttercup – and there are so many more. Many

butterflies are flower specific for egg laying such as the *Common Blue* (bird's foot trefoil) and the *Orange-tip* (lady's smock).

In addition to the plethora of wildflower species there are hundreds of grasses (not so easy to identify). There are coarse grasses and fine grasses however the coarse grasses are not good within a meadow as they overwhelm wildflowers and enrich the soil with nutrients – wildflowers do not like nutrient rich soil. Some of the grasses found around the site are *red fescue*, *sheep's fescue*, *cock's foot*, *common quaking*, *hairy brome*, *yellow oat*, *bent-grass* – and there are so many more species. Certain butterflies depend on particular grasses such as skippers that lay their eggs on cock's foot and gate keepers use some of the fine grasses.

Nationwide since the 1930's there has been a massive decline in our meadows which makes Old Down so important. The flowers and grasses within a meadow

attract many insect species and insects are so necessary to our world – pollination, dispersing seeds, cycling nutrients and as food for other wildlife. A meadow of wildflowers stores (within the roots) up to 500% more carbon than an area of just grass and provides what butterflies need for development – food for caterpillars, flowers for nectar, shelter and refuge for hibernating eggs and chrysalises. But a meadow has to be managed and that is what Old Down Wildlife Group does, working with the Council's Rangers. It is important to cut, mow and collect in late summer/early autumn and then to seed to ensure wildflowers spread, grow and bloom year-on-year. Ideally cutting would be by cattle but that is not possible on public spaces so mowing has to be by machine.

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

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



St. John's-wort



Dropwort



Ribwort plantain

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

Café in the Park

We look forward to
 seeing you!

Café in the Park What's on July

Weekly

<p>Wednesday Quiche Wednesday Community Meal Deal 12-2pm</p>	<p>Thursday Toastie Thursday Beggarwood Babies 11.30-2.00</p>	<p>Friday Friendship Friday Chatty cafe 10.30-11.30</p>
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Wednesday 1st July
 Community Lunch - 12-1.15,
Sunday 5th July
 Walk with a Purpose - 10.00
Saturday 11th July

Hatch Warren Summer Festival
 Hatch Warren Community Centre Playing Fields
 12-4 pm

Fun dog show, HW scouts activity zone,
 Bounce4fun Event Inflatables,
 Berkshire Birds of Prey,
 Storm in a Teacup Circus workshop
 Funfair rides - Slime workshop
 Licensed bar, Children's activities, 30+ Stalls, Hot and cold food

Sunday 19th July
 Walk with a Purpose - 10.00
Wednesday 22nd July
 Cops and coffee 12.00-2.00
Sunday 26th July
 Carer Café 10.00-12.00

www.hatchwarren.org

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Children's Parties	Baby Showers
Discos	Bouncy Castles & Soft Play

- ✓ Kitchen facilities included
- ✓ Tables and chairs provided
- ✓ External entertainment welcome

To book or find out more:
office@hatchwarren.org

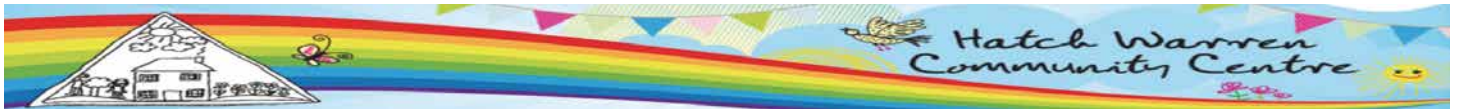
Café in the Park What's on August

Weekly

<p>Wednesday Quiche Wednesday Community Meal Deal 12-2pm</p>	<p>Thursday Toastie Thursday Beggarwood Babies 11.30-2.00</p>	<p>Friday Friendship Friday Chatty cafe 10.30-11.30</p>
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5th August - 12pm - Community Lunch
 Everyone welcome join the community for a tasty
 great value lunch

Everyday
KIDS CRAFTS
BOARD GAMES
OUTDOOR GAMES



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

FREE ENTRY FAMILY FUN DAY
SUMMER FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 11th 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 EVENT & PARTY HIRE
BASINGSTOKE LETTINGS
 A fundraising event for HWBCA. Charity No. 1161117 www.hatchwarren.org
CARE UK
SCOTT MORLAND RESIDENTIAL exp

StKittsVets
DOG SHOW

Join us for a Pawsome day out at the Hatch Warren Summer Festival!
Saturday 11th July

£2 per class or 3 for £5
 Judging starts at 1pm

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

HWBCA Presents

HATCH WARREN COMEDY CLUB

Get ready for a brilliant night of live stand-up!

Following the huge success of our first comedy night in February, we have decided to host another night on **19th September 2026**

Scan to book, or follow the link at hatchwarren.org

Doors open 7pm
 Licensed bar
 Hot food by local favourites Bartletts

This is an **adults-only** event

Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association
 Charity Number: 1161117

This event is sponsored by **SCOTT MORLAND RESIDENTIAL exp UK**

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP TO HIGH SCHOOL THE MUSICAL

Thursday 3RD DECEMBER at 7.30PM
Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre, LONDON

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

Coach will depart at 4pm from our car park

This trip is open to all members of the public
Tickets are non refundable

To book your place email OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG or call 01256 811262

40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead
 This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association

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

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

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

Provide experiences to promote Resilience and self esteem

Boost confidence and support for independent travel

Maintain and develop our access to work programme



Supported by
 Hampshire County Council



PROBUS CLUB OF BASINGSTOKE CELEBRATES ITS 46TH AGM

Founded in 1979 the Probus Club of Basingstoke has elected a new president and committee at its 46th AGM.

As the Probus name suggests, its membership is made up of retired professional and businessmen who enjoy meeting regularly for lunch where they have a range of interesting speakers as well as a social monthly pub lunch accompanied by their wives or lady friends. Mixed specialist lunches are taken several times each year and organised outings are arranged to interesting venues. The next, later in June, will be to the Bovington Tank Museum.

The new president is Sherfield on Loddon resident, Paul Klinger, a retired solicitor, while the other officers offer a mix of working experiences. In fact, the glue holding the club together is the

spread of members working across the spectrum of all the local commercial and industrial employers as well as medical, nuclear, police and military services.



Outgoing president Stephen Thair hands over the chain of office to Paul Klinger

See their web site: www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information.

YOUNG CARERS SUPPORTED BY FREEMASONS

Basingstoke & District Young Carers has received a welcome boost thanks to a £1,000 donation from the Elvetham Masonic Lodge. The charity supports more than 120 local children and young people who provide regular care or emotional support to family members living with illness, disability, mental health conditions, or addiction. Nationally, around 700,000 young people take on these responsibilities, often juggling household tasks, medication support, and childcare alongside schoolwork and the pressures of growing up.



The cheque was presented by Michael Whittaker, Worshipful Master of the 106-year-old Elvetham Lodge, to Colette Bibby, Youth Team Leader for the charity. Young carers attend weekly sessions at The Warren, part of the Hatch Warren Community Centre, where three agegroup clubs offer respite, friendship, and understanding—things many miss out on when their peers cannot relate to the challenges they face at home.

Colette Bibby expressed her appreciation for the support, saying the donation will help subsidise a packed programme of summer activities and fund transport for those who would otherwise struggle to attend. "It ensures they can be part of our closeknit community and enjoy time with others who understand their experiences," she said.

This year's summer programme includes parties, BBQs, and trips to the Hawk Conservancy, New Forest Wildlife Park, and the Railway Control Room, followed by a train journey to London. Young carers will also enjoy an overnight stay at the Gordon Brown Centre, two nights at Magdalen Farm in Somerset, a canal trip, and visits to Paulton's Park and Hayling Island.

The autumn term will bring a family Halloween celebration and festive outings, including a pantomime trip and a large Christmas party.

For more information, contact Basingstoke & District Young Carers at The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke RG21 4AF, or visit www.basingstokeyoungcarers.org.uk.

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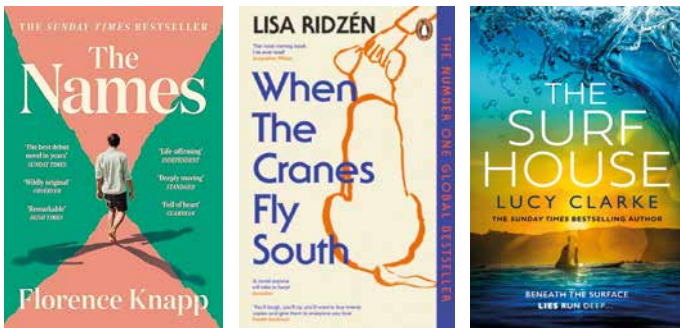


OUR MEETINGS

During May both evening and daytime groups read *The Names* by Florence Kemp.

Most members really enjoyed this clever, innovative debut novel. It's an intriguing story which demonstrates how one decision can have such an effect on a life. It's a gripping but not an easy read as its main thread is domestic violence. Cara suffers at the hands of her doctor husband who is much admired in the local community. Much of the abuse is the result of Cora naming her baby the name of her choice instead of her husband's choice. The novel shows three different lives lived for this baby with three different names. Both groups gave the book a high score and would highly recommend it. The sun shone for our daytime group and it was lovely to sit outside at last.

Our next reads for June are *When the Cranes Fly South* by Lisa Ridzen for the evening group and *The Surf House* by Lucy Clarke for the daytime group. New members are always warmly welcomed.



LADIES PROBUS CLUB

'WHAT DID YOU DO LAST NIGHT...? SAVE A LIFE?'

Someone in SERV Wessex probably did.

At their May meeting, the Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club listened in awe to Rob Harris, a volunteer blood driver, detail the service of **S**(ervice by) **E**(mergency) **R**(ider) **V** Wessex, the voluntary emergency rider charity better known as "Blood Bikes".

Operating 365 days a year across East Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire, SERV Wessex provides an essential out-of-hours courier service for NHS hospitals and healthcare providers. Staffed entirely by unpaid volunteers, the charity transports vital medical supplies between hospitals, dialysis units, laboratories and emergency response teams, including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA).

Items carried include blood, plasma and platelets, pathology samples, medication, frozen donor human milk and essential medical equipment.

Originally formed in 2019 to support Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth, SERV Wessex received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2021 in recognition of its support to the NHS during the pandemic.

Today, around 95 volunteers – riders, drivers, dispatchers, fundraisers and administrators – give their time free of charge. Most use their own vehicles, supported by a small charity fleet of marked motorcycles and cars. Volunteer dispatchers work from home coordinating deliveries, monitoring weather and road conditions, and liaising with hospitals and partner Blood Bike groups when inter-county transfers are required.

In 2025, SERV Wessex covered over 139,000 miles, completed around 2,300 delivery jobs and transported approximately 3,800 medical items, saving the NHS an estimated £185,000 in courier costs.

Annual operating costs are approximately £50,000, with an additional £25,000 required every four years for vehicle replacement and fleet renewal. The charity relies entirely on public fundraising via community events, supermarket collections and local group talks, grant applications and online donation schemes to maintain its life-saving services.

As the leaflet asks: 'What did you do last night?' The Ladies Probus Club felt very humbled...

Yet another fascinating monthly talk, combined with the BCOT restaurant's delicious lunch offering.

If interested to know more about BLPC membership and the upcoming programme, please contact:

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

Kindly sponsored by **CLARKE & SON** and **St Michael's Hospice**

Summer Memories

Make a dedication in memory of someone special

Reserve your **limited-edition feather keepsake** and honour a loved one in the Summer Memories Meadow

Join us on Sunday 12 July 2026
From 11am - 1.30pm | Service begins at 12.30pm
Worting House, Church Lane, Worting, Basingstoke, RG23 8PY

Further information: stmichaelsospice.org.uk

Registered with **FUNDRAISING REGULATOR**
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St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NB

Blood and milk boxes on 2 and 4 wheels

servwessex.org.uk

What did you do last night?

Save a life?

servwessex.org.uk

**Basingstoke Concert Band's (BCB)
Golden Anniversary Season 2026**
<https://bcband.org.uk>

Join BCB as we continue our 50th anniversary celebrations with a wonderful programme of music and special events throughout the rest of 2026.

Jazz on a Summer's Afternoon

Have you bought your tickets yet? Join us on **Sunday 5 July at 3pm** in the garden of **Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall** for an afternoon of live jazz. Your ticket includes tea, coffee and a delicious selection of homemade cakes. Please bring your own chair and settle in for a wonderful summer afternoon of music and refreshments.

Celebrating 50 Years of Basingstoke Concert Band

BCB celebrates its 50th Anniversary with a special concert featuring the premiere of a newly commissioned work at **The Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke** on **Sunday 20 September at 3pm**. Save the date – we'd love to see you there.

A Magical Christmas Finale

Our Annual Christmas Concert promises a magical afternoon for the whole family. Join us at the **Main Hall, Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke** on **Sunday 6 December at 3pm** for a spectacular finale to our 50th celebrations. Featuring a special live performance of *The Snowman* alongside the film shown on screen, this enchanting one-off event is sure to delight audiences of all ages – especially children.

ANVIL ARTS 01256 844244 anvilarts.org.uk

Proforca Theatre Company presents

STEVE STEINMAN'S ANYTHING FOR LOVE

Friday 3 July, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £39.50, £29

Steve Steinman is back with a brand-new production, featuring over 25 Meal Loaf and Jim Steinman's greatest hits including *Bat Out of Hell*, *Dead Ringer for Love*, *Total Eclipse of the Heart* and many more. With an incredible stage set and ten-piece band combined with Steve's well-known sense of humour and stage presence, the show can only be described as awesome.

THE FUGITIVES

Friday 3 July, 7.45pm, The Forge, Tickets: £22

A Canadian folk staple, The Fugitives have been nominated for a JUNO as well as seven Canadian Folk Music Awards, including Best Vocal Group, Best Ensemble and Best Songwriter. They've performed at Glastonbury and have earned a reputation for unforgettable live shows.

THE RAT PACK

Saturday 4 July, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £37.50, £34.50, £30.50

Get ready to swing into the Golden Age of Hollywood and experience the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. With outstanding attention to detail, the talented ensemble of singers and musicians take you on a musical journey through the smooth vocals, infectious rhythms, and unforgettable melodies that made The Rat Pack a global sensation.

BEN PORTSMOUTH – THIS IS ELVIS

Friday 17 July, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £36

Ben Portsmouth brings the ultimate Elvis experience to The Anvil. Not just a tribute artist, Ben is regarded one of the best Elvis Presley performers, becoming the first European to be crowned Worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist.



The
Mind, Explored

Understanding how we think, feel and respond in everyday life.

Over the coming months, I'll be writing a regular column for *The RabBITer* exploring mental health, neurodiversity and some of the hidden challenges many people quietly experience in everyday life and work.

I'm an ADHD and dyslexia coach and founder of Brilliantly Different, where I work with professionals who often describe themselves in very similar ways: capable, hardworking and outwardly coping, but internally overwhelmed, exhausted or constantly feeling like they're falling behind. One thing I've learned through this work is that neurodiversity is often misunderstood. When people hear terms like ADHD, autism or dyslexia, they sometimes picture something obvious or extreme. In reality, many neurodivergent people are the exact opposite of the stereotype. They may be successful professionals, reliable colleagues, caring parents or highly organised on the surface, but many have spent years becoming experts at masking the parts of life they quietly find difficult. For some people, that difficulty shows up as forgetfulness or distraction, whereas for others, it's overwhelm, emotional exhaustion, overthinking, burnout, anxiety or a constant sense that everyday life takes more effort than it seems to for everyone else. That doesn't mean something is 'wrong' with them.

Increasingly, many professionals working in this space are beginning to view neurodiversity through a different lens. Often the issue is not intelligence, laziness or capability. It's friction: the friction between how somebody's brain naturally works and how modern systems expect people to function. Most of life today demands constant attention, rapid communication, organisation, emotional regulation and the ability to juggle large amounts of information at once. Some people naturally manage that more easily than others. For neurodivergent people, the effort involved can be enormous, even when they appear to be coping well from the outside. This is one reason conversations around neurodiversity have grown so quickly in recent years. Many adults are recognising patterns in themselves for the first time – some are pursuing formal diagnoses, while others are simply starting to understand their experiences differently and with a little more compassion.

I regularly meet people who say things like "I always thought I was just bad at life." or "I can perform brilliantly at work one week and struggle to answer an email the next." That inconsistency can feel deeply confusing, particularly for intelligent and capable people. It often creates shame, self doubt and the feeling that they should somehow be able to 'try harder'. The thing is, understanding these patterns can be incredibly powerful. When people begin to understand how their brain works, they often stop viewing every struggle as a personal failure. They can start building routines, systems and environments that actually support them, instead of constantly fighting against themselves. Importantly, neurodiversity is not only about challenges. Many neurodivergent people bring creativity, empathy, problem solving ability and fresh ways of thinking to the people and workplaces around them, and often the strengths and struggles are closely connected.

Over the coming months, I'll explore some of these topics in a practical and human way, including overwhelm, emotional regulation, burnout, late diagnosis and why so many people feel exhausted by systems that were never designed with different brains in mind. Sometimes the most helpful thing is simply realising you're not the only one finding life harder than it looks.

Stu Colman brilliantlydifferent.co.uk

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

“New is the new old?”

I think this “something is the new something” nonsense originated in fashion circles; dedicated followers of that world will know better than I.

The phrase hints at the transient and ephemeral nature of fashion trends. Indeed, the attraction of being fashionable seems to be rooted in the belief that by behaving or dressing in a distinctive but regularly changing way, it is possible to appear more sophisticated, more informed, or simply “better” than others.

Today, encouraging change has never been easier for those that would have us believe that we need to change and change quickly. Instant gratification, immediate acquisition, have it now pay some other time, be ahead of the crowd, get the new app (does the same as the old one - just in a different way that takes hours to work out - progress? Hmm - not convinced).

You may well have worked out by now where I'm going with this, given that it is a piece for Church corner, but it remains an absolute fact that there is nothing new about God. God was here before me, you and everyone else and will still be here millennia after our mortal remains have been cast aside and our existence completely forgotten.

Eternity, much like infinity, is a concept almost impossible for the human mind to understand. Our lives are so driven by beginnings and ends, that we find it difficult to think of something that has been here forever and which will go on forever without end. Ever. Yet it is that stability and permanence, that unchanging certainty, that brings comfort to so many who have faith.

Saint Thomas Aquinas said, “for those without faith no explanation is possible and for those with faith no explanation is necessary”. I guess you either have faith or you don't and somehow or other I have been blessed with it. It is the greatest gift and I fervently believe that if every human enjoyed a sustained faith in God, the world would be a kindlier, more loving place.

It was by switching my middle-aged man brain back to “Young Boy” mode, that I first began to understand what complete trust really means. No cynicism, no doubt, no fear, no judgment – just the unconditional love a child has for their parents. I know God has that love for me and for you and for everyone.

Of course it would be nice to know for certain that God exists to see Him, to touch Him, maybe even give Him a cuddle! It would be great wouldn't it to be sure that there is a heaven after death and to know that whatever happens, it's all for the best in the long run. For billions around the world these ideas are accepted as true through faith, trust and belief rather than as provable certainties. Others, sadly, believe that there is no God although I've yet to meet anyone who says with absolute certainty that they know for a fact that God does not exist.

So why do some people have abundant faith and others have none?

I don't know and may never know why some believe and some doubt. What I can say with absolute certainty though is that trusting God and having Him in my life is truly amazing.

Laurence Besemer

Parish of Basingstoke Down



IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY

In February 1995 one of the lead stories in the Rabbiter was the impact that 800 homes at Beggarwood Lane would have on traffic flows on the A30 and through the estates. The emerging local plan had Beggarwood in as a major housing development which, as we know, came to fruition.

The worries expressed at that time led to the installation of traffic calming measures in Hatch Warren to reduce the dangers.

The article also mentioned a hardy perennial subject ... planned improvements to the Brighton Hill roundabout. This major junction has been the subject of regular alterations, with the latest major change recently completed, introducing traffic lights and more lanes.

The Community Association reported on a successful Christmas Fayre, an event that has continued to this day. It was also starting baton-twirling classes. Local 'twirlers' had been competing in national competitions, receiving finalists' medals and top-three placings.

The Police reported several burglaries on the Hatch Warren estate in the run-up to Christmas. Their article offered advice on making homes secure, including fitting good quality locks and using timers to control lights, which remains good advice.

Thirty years later, home security has moved on. Many homes now have burglar alarms fitted, some of which are self-installed and able to send messages to our mobile phones.

And talking about mobile phones ... there was an article about the networks available in 1995, discussing the merits of the main companies. The largest and most comprehensive network was reported to be Cellnet. Then came Vodafone, Orange and Mercury One 2 One.

Of those mentioned, only Vodafone remains a major high-street name. But mobile phones are still in the news. Thirty years ago the market was a new one, growing rapidly. Today it is mature and the old 'bricks' have been replaced by smart phones. Law-makers round the world now worry about the impacts that social media on these devices are having on our young people, and legislation is likely.

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



DAVE'S NATURE SPOT

The European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) is one of the most loved mammal species in the British Isles. Although now classed as vulnerable, we seem to have a fair few hedgehogs living in our area. I speak to lots of people who put out regular helpings of food for them.

July is the middle of their breeding season. Most sows give birth to 3 or 4 hoglets. When they are born, they have very soft spines which, after 1 to 3 months are replaced by much stiffer adult spines in a transformation known as quilling.

It has been known for adult males (boars) to kill newborn males. Hedgehogs are mainly nocturnal and will feed on a big variety of food including slugs, snails, insects, carrion and even birds' eggs.

In October/November most hedgehogs slow down and drift into hibernation until the spring, but it is quite common for them to wake during milder periods. Their average life expectancy is 4 to 7 years but on rare occasions they have been known to reach the ripe old age of 16.

They are the most common animal to be taken to wildlife rescue centres with various injuries. Sadly, many are killed on our roads as their instinct tells them to roll in to a ball when they sense danger. On a road, that just does not work.

They often get a pneumonia type infection or lungworm so if you find an under-the-weather or listless hedgehog wandering about, particularly during the day, either take it to your nearest wildlife rescue centre or call one for advice.

If you want to feed them, use a meat based cat or dog food or special hedgehog food

that is available from pet stores and always leave out fresh water. People used to put out bread and milk but this a big no-no as it can cause all sorts of serious gastric upsets which in some cases can lead to death.

Lots of people love to encourage hedgehogs into their garden as they will eat slugs and snails thus saving the gardener's vegetable and bedding plants. You may like to provide a special hog house for them to rest or hibernate in, and there are many types available from pet stores or garden centres. I am sure the hogs will appreciate them.



WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

Our June article described how the spring and early summers months are the key activity times for the solitary bees. The Honeybees and Bumblebees are now ramping up their worker numbers to peak in July.

While we see July as the middle of summer, the honeybee is already anticipating winter and starting to put a break on worker bee numbers. If they continued at the explosive rate they would be eating down their honey stores rather than building them up.

The majority of Solitary bee species have now shut up shop in terms of egg-laying and larvae provisioning. Their job is done by July except for a few late emerging species. Their eggs will have hatched into larvae and use the provisioned food stores to grow. Like caterpillars, once fully developed, they will spin a cocoon and pupate. They remain dormant as pupae until spring when they emerge from the nest in a genetically coded order to ensure there is enough nectar source. Mass emergence = starvation.

The Bumblebee Queens who have successfully emerged from hibernation will now have a well developed nest with active workers tending her emerging eggs and raising her brood. Depending on the Bumblebee type, some nests can be as large as 500 workers, but the average is around 250. Bumblebees love the allium flowers in June, and by July, you will see lots of them around the lavender and thistles with the longer tongued Carder and Garden species enjoying the last of the foxgloves and snapdragons. For those of you with tomato plants that need the flowers shaken rigorously to pollenate, the Bumblebees do this with strong vibrations of their wings. By the end of July the Bumblebee queen will start producing male drones and the next generation of queens.

July sees the peak size of Honeybee colonies, which can be 80,000+ strong. Beekeepers will have taken their main crop of early season honey. July is a challenging month as hedgerow and tree food sources start to drop. Lime tree nectar makes wonderful honey but then

the main food sources for honeybees are garden flowers and bramble hedgerows. Sadly, there are just not enough wildflower meadows! The early summer drought last year threatened the nectar supply for nursery bees inside the hives, so many beekeepers supplied sugar syrup to keep their colonies viable. The risk of swarming is now low as the worker bees, through leg 'massage' of the queen signal her to reduce her daily egg laying.

Bees need your help in July! Do provide a water source with plenty of landing stones so the bees don't drown and keep it regularly topped up. Also think about areas in your garden where you can sow wildflower seeds for July 2027 food sources.

Kenneth and Barbara Robson

on behalf of CB400 Foundation
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 Heroes

Megan Parsons, founder of the local free library

The idea for a free bookshare/library came to Megan during the pandemic. At that time, she was working as a carer and she was asked to work at the hospital on night shifts, dealing with Covid patients. The experience was traumatic, as I'm sure everyone can understand. Having to deal with this and the pressures and anxieties around lockdown, which many of us experienced, she found that reading was the best way to escape and soothe some of the trauma and stress.

Realising that reading could also help others whose mental health was suffering, she decided to launch a books-sharing group on Facebook. That initiative also included a mini-library outside her home in Hatch Warren. It meant that local people were able to include a trip to the mini-library on the daily walks we were allowed then. There were strict rules about disinfecting books before sharing, of course.

Megan's Mum and Stepdad made a wooden box to house the donations, and this also provided a great vantage point for her two cats at that time, Phil and Fester. The initiative was such a success that the collection soon outgrew the original box and, after a series of large plastic libraries, Megan raised money through Go Fund Me for a much larger wooden book cupboard. This is still a favourite spot for Phil.

The Facebook group now has over 3000 followers and there is a separate page for sharing children's and young people's books, as well as a section in the book cupboard.

Also during Covid, Megan began a pet sitting service. Animal welfare is another great interest of hers, and she has worked with animals in several different settings. During a gap year in Australia she worked with circus animals, ensuring they were properly looked after. And in the process Megan learned some circus skills of her own.

Her business is Pets N All pet services and she offers pet sitting, pet transport to appointments at the vets and groomers for example, and dog walking. She specialises in helping sensitive and nervous pets.

Megan speaks with passion about how much reading has helped her mental health, the benefits of it, and sharing the enjoyment of it through communities such as the one she has built. She has also developed a wonderful means to provide a huge range of books for free, saving people money in these difficult times and enabling families to access material for their children that they might otherwise not have been able to do.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/986310668417884>



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WASPETTES UNITED WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB

Waspettes United Walking Football Club is the newest women's walking football team in Basingstoke for ladies over the age of 40 and we are looking for new members to join the hive.

The health benefits for playing walking football are undeniable and it offers a multitude of physical and mental health benefits to women. For many, this is the first opportunity for a long time to play an organised team sport, so when they do, they discover the camaraderie that comes as an added benefit.

Many women who play walking football may have never played football before, so it is a great, slow paced introduction to the game.

So, whether you're returning to football after years away or trying it for the very first time, walking football is a fantastic way to enjoy the game at a slower pace, with no running and plenty of laughs along the way.

Why join Waspettes United?

- Improve your fitness and wellbeing
- Make new friends in a supportive and inclusive environment
- A real sense of purpose and belonging
- No experience is needed – all abilities welcome
- Low-impact, suitable for people with disabilities
- Weekly qualified football coach led sessions

Karen Fisk

Waspettes United WFC, Co-ordinator 07799 603525




Welcome to King's Church Basingstoke

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* Any date changes will be on our website www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com

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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We are nearing the end of another fantastic year at Hatch Warren Under Fives and have been busy making lots of special memories with the children.

Our older children have been focusing on school readiness and developing their independence as they prepare for the exciting move to school. They have been practising mark-making, developing their number skills through counting activities, learning to take their shoes on and off independently, following instructions using their listening ears, and building confidence in self-care skills.

We have also been making the most of the warmer weather and spending plenty of time outdoors. The children have loved playing in our new outdoor kitchen, and many have been getting into the summer spirit with buckets and spades, building sandcastles and talking about trips to the beach. We have also enjoyed lots of chalking activities in the garden, which help to develop children's creativity and fine motor skills.

To celebrate Father's Day, we welcomed dads and father figures into preschool for a special play session and treats. The children thoroughly enjoyed showing their grown-ups around preschool and sharing their favourite activities.

We recently held our annual Sports Day, which is always a highlight of the year. The children competed enthusiastically in a range of traditional races while family members cheered them on from the sidelines. Our younger children in the Caterpillars Room also played an important part in the celebrations, creating a giant caterpillar and colourful banners to decorate the event.

We are looking forward to ending the year with a graduation ceremony and picnic for our older children and their families. We wish all of our children who are leaving us this summer every happiness and success as they begin their next adventure at school.

Transition to School

Many of our children will soon be moving to their new "big" schools. While this is an exciting milestone, it is important to remember that change can be challenging for children and adults alike. At Hatch Warren Under Fives, we work hard to support children through this important transition. Research shows that transitions play a significant role in children's development and emotional wellbeing, and that positive early experiences of change can help children build confidence and resilience for the future.

We support the transition process in a variety of ways, including working closely with local schools, collaborating with families, listening to children's views and feelings, and providing opportunities for school-like experiences within preschool. Most importantly, we recognise that transition is a process, not a single event, and we are committed to helping every child feel confident and prepared for their next step.

We currently have a limited number of spaces available for September 2026. Why not book a visit to meet the team and see our preschool in action? To find out more, please contact Siobhan on 01256 322788 or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL



As we prepare to close our doors for another year it is lovely to reflect back on what an amazing year it has been. To celebrate our Leavers, we have planned a Graduation Party and are very excited about our surprise guests who will be attending. A special thank you to Martin Bower for their kind offer to supply drinks and snacks for our party.

We are putting together plans for our Summer Fayre. This is such a lovely way to spend time with our existing families and also to welcome those who will be joining us in September. We would like to thank Morrisons who are donating cakes for our cake sale and for their generosity with our sponsored events again this year.

It has been another successful year for Dandelions and we have been fortunate to be able to continue to build relationships within the local community. We would like to thank Dashwood Manor for allowing us to visit at Christmas for a festive singalong with the residents and for them coming in to hop around the garden for an Easter Egg hunt. Thank you to St Mark's for allowing us to visit the farm on a regular basis and also to the Year 5 children who shared stories with those children heading off to school in September. Boogie Mites, Drama Tots, Relax Kids, the local Police and Hampshire Healthy Heroes have all been a part of making memories for the children this year too, bringing extra-curricular activities for them to learn from and enjoy.

Our School Readiness program is underway and we have received such positive feedback from parents. The in-house activities that we have put together to prepare children for school are working really well. Staff have attended parent transition meetings at school so that we are fully abreast of the transition process.

We are so proud as a setting to have been awarded "Millies Mark" again this year. All of our staff are Paediatric trained and we pride ourselves in supporting them with additional training and courses to enhance their existing knowledge.

01256 818857 email: info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

We are very into our animals at the moment and have made some beautiful creations – sponge painted butterflies, bees with honeycomb and snails. We have also learned about the lifecycle of butterflies and have loved seeing different species outside. We are very excited to welcome ZooLab to pre-school so that we can meet some more animals!

Amongst the ever-changing weather, we have been developing our gross motor skills outside with ribbon play, obstacle courses and hopscotch. We are hoping that the nice weather sticks around so that we can practice for our much anticipated Sports Day!

We will then sadly be saying goodbye to our older children who will be moving on to big school after the Summer break. We have



loved having each and every one of them with us over the past couple of years and wish them all the best for their next exciting stage.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful Summer and we look forward to welcoming our next group of children in September. 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 we reach the end of another wonderful summer term, we would like to take a moment to celebrate all that our children have achieved throughout the year. It has been a joy to watch them grow in confidence, develop new skills, build friendships, and embrace each day with curiosity and enthusiasm.

The arrival of the summer season brought many exciting opportunities for learning and exploration. The children have thoroughly enjoyed making the most of our outdoor spaces, engaging in sand and water play, creating imaginative recipes in the mud kitchen, and discovering the natural world around them. Gross motor activities, such as running, jumping and climbing, have helped children develop coordination, balance, and confidence while encouraging active, healthy play. Caring for and observing chicks has taught children about responsibility, kindness, and the wonders of the natural world. These experiences are not only great fun but also provide valuable opportunities to develop communication, creativity, problem-solving skills, cooperation, and physical development. Through play, the children learn to investigate, experiment, and build their understanding of the world in meaningful and memorable ways.

Special congratulations go to our preschool graduates who will soon be taking their next exciting step into school. While it is always difficult to say goodbye, we are incredibly proud of the happy, capable, and resilient young learners they have become. Their time at preschool has laid strong foundations for the adventures and opportunities that lie ahead. We wish our graduating children every success and happiness as they begin their school journey and look forward to welcoming returning families back after the summer break. Have a wonderful summer filled with fun, laughter, and special memories!

Candover Valley Preschool is a vibrant and nurturing learning environment. Limited places available for September 2026.



**BEGGARWOOD
Wildlife Group**

Maintaining Beggarwood Park for the Benefit of
Wildlife and the Community

Work Party Tuesday 2nd June

With some early morning rain the day didn't look too promising, but the hardy volunteers were not to be deterred and fortunately the rain held off. Numbers were down due to holidays and other commitments, but increased by two new volunteers joining us for the first time.

Hedge Trimming & Tidying

The first task was to trim the hedge in the car park and to tidy the patio area at the cafe. After sprucing the patio, some nettles were cut back at a park bench while the rest of the team continued clipping the hedge.



Dogwood & Vegetation Clearing

Next we headed out towards the playground to continue with the ongoing task of dogwood popping to help preserve an open meadow for wild flowers to thrive. Also, some brambles were cut back and some vegetation clearance was carried out at a walkway.



Our next work parties will be: -

Tue 7th July and Tue 4th August

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



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LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR TAKES ON ONE MILLION STEPS CHALLENGE



Matt Holman Launches “Walk for Life” in aid of The Baton of Hope legacy in Basingstoke to support suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

10 September – 10 October 2026

Matt, founder of Simpila Wellbeing and HOLHUMAN, will be aiming to complete one million steps in just 31 days, while raising awareness of suicide prevention and vital funds to support those who are struggling. The challenge equates to more than 32,500 steps every day, about 16 miles daily, for an entire month.

“Every step represents a conversation, a connection, and a reminder that nobody should have to struggle alone,” said Matt. “Suicide affects families, friends, workplaces, and communities across the UK. If this challenge encourages even one person to reach out for support or inspires others to check in on someone they care about, then every step will be worth it.”

Moving for Mental Health

The Walk for Life campaign also highlights the powerful link between physical activity and mental wellbeing.

Research consistently shows that regular movement can help improve mood, reduce stress, increase resilience, and support overall mental health. Yet many people struggle to find time to prioritise their wellbeing in increasingly busy lives.

Matt hopes the challenge will encourage people of all ages and abilities to get active in whatever way works for them.

“You don’t need to walk a million steps,” he said. “You don’t need special equipment or a gym membership. Just start moving. Take a walk with a friend, leave the car at home, get outside during your lunch break, or spend time in nature. Small actions can have a huge impact on both physical and mental health.”

The campaign invites individuals, families, schools, workplaces, and community groups to join in by setting their own walking goals throughout the month and sharing their journeys on social media. There will also be walking events set up throughout the month for anyone to join in with.

Donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/matthew-holman-1millionsteps>

Follow: <https://www.tiktok.com/@holhuman>

For more information, sponsorship, follow on the HOLHUMAN pages on LinkedIn and TikTok. You can also contact Matt directly at Matthew.holman@Simpila.com

LOCAL CHARITY LAUNCHES NEW NAME AND STRATEGY TO UNLOCK BRIGHTER FUTURES

A local charity has announced it has changed its name, at the same time as launching a new strategy to support people experiencing homelessness and social exclusion.

From 9 June, **Julian House** will be known as **Alongside**, marking a new era for the charity. The name Julian House was taken from the organisation’s founding project, a hostel in Bath for people rough sleeping.

Helen Bedser, **Alongside** Chief Executive, says, “We are incredibly proud of the impact the Julian House hostel has had, and continues to have, for people sleeping rough.

“But over the years, our organisation has grown significantly, and we now deliver many services for people facing a range of complex challenges across the South and West of England – we want our name to reflect that.”

In Basingstoke, **Alongside** provides outreach to people who are rough sleeping, working with them to navigate to specialist support and safer accommodation, and supported accommodation for people recovering from homelessness.

Across all its services, the charity’s goal is to support clients to regain confidence, independence and security for the long-term.

The charity will continue to deliver its existing outreach, accommodation and support services for people in urgent need, while widening its remit to take on projects which prevent crisis and enable people to move-on to long-term independence.

Helen Bedser says, “The name **Alongside** reflects how we work: standing shoulder to shoulder with the people we support, meeting them where they are and walking with them at every stage of their journey. It also reflects how we work alongside local authorities and other partners to deliver the very best outcomes for clients – which will always be our top priority.

“We need that spirit of collaboration and common cause now more than ever.”

You can find out more about **Alongside** at alongsidecharity.org.uk

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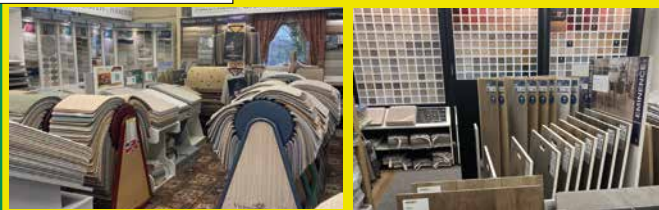
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