

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 332  
October 2026

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

All the regular features plus

- **READ EASY**
- **LODDON SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**
- **AUTUMN EVENTS**

*and much more*

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**NEWS AND REPORTS**

**CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

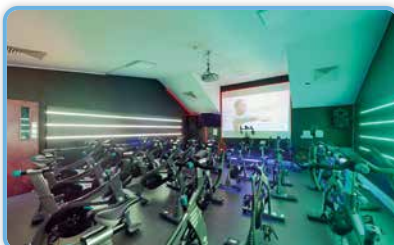
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## EDITORIAL

This month's stunning Autumn picture was offered to the Rabbiter by local photographer Leena Roy. You will be seeing more of her work on future front covers, as she has generously donated a series of photographs.

And in more good news, a local resident has come forward to take over the role of distribution manager.

I am delighted to see that the Rabbiter means so much to local people. I see this magazine as a valuable part of our community life, and I am always pleased to receive input from residents to demonstrate the skills and talents that exist here, which help to enrich our lives.

**Editor**

Front Cover photo submitted by Leena Roy.



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

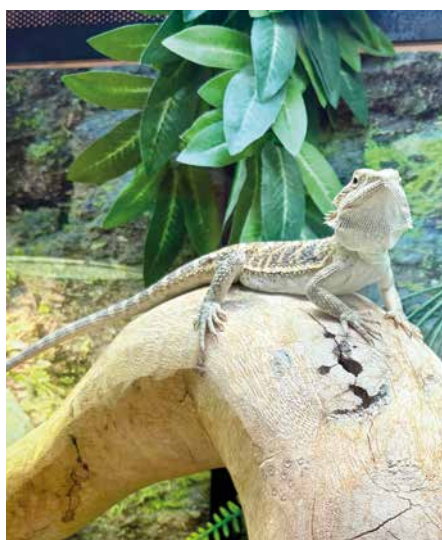
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or send to [editor@therabbiter.biz](mailto:editor@therabbiter.biz)



Draggy, the bearded dragon – Nicholas

# THE Rabbiter

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## COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### Stephen Reid

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

**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP:** I accompanied PPG colleagues to a meeting with Basingstoke's MP, members of the Integrated Care Board (which is responsible for performance managing local GP services) and senior leaders from Operose Health who run the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries. The objective was to examine practical solutions to the problems that patients are reporting in gaining access to surgery services. The PPG described how the difficulties were manifesting themselves and referred to minutes of meetings dating back to 2022 to demonstrate how long they had remained unaddressed. The managers indicated that they had an action plan and were prepared to commit extra resources. Unfortunately time ran out before we had chance to understand and examine the new proposals. I have written to suggest a follow-up meeting so that the action plan may be understood and progress against it monitored.

**COUNTY COUNCIL INTEREST:** Following this meeting, I also spoke to the County Council's Health and Social Care scrutiny committee in September, suggesting that it obtains recent historical data from the Integrated Care Board so that it can compare the relative performances of the surgeries in Basingstoke, and identify trends. The HASC committee has commissioned a report on access to GP services across Basingstoke.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM:** Important news in September was that the Government had decided to withdraw its decision for reorganisation of Councils in Hampshire. To emphasise this: the decision has been withdrawn, not paused. There has understandably been some confusion about this because the Government is using slightly different language for other parts of the country where another 14 LGR processes have, indeed, been paused for review. Hampshire is different because the Government had made a substantive decision for Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton in March, a decision that was subject to legal challenge. That challenge and associated legal advice resulted in the Secretary of State withdrawing the decision. Councils have been told to stop spending time and money implementing arrangements that may now change.

**WHAT NEXT?** The withdrawal of the decision could be followed by the government making the same, or a similar, decision. The government still favours single-tier authorities but its chosen solution will require a new decision. Ministers are saying that they want a genuinely open-minded review that will look at the process "end to end", including whether the Government asks councils for more information, revisits the existing submissions or effectively starts again. Not surprisingly, there is no firm timetable yet.

**ELECTIONS IN 2027** will now be to the Borough Council and not to a 'shadow' unitary authority. Though not announced at the time of writing, I would not be surprised to see the Mayoral Elections pulled forward to next May as well.

**BROADMERE ROAD CAR PARK:** I am delighted that a sensible solution has been agreed between the Trustees of the Community Association and the owners of the car park, and I congratulate

the Trustees on their success. Now, users of the Cafe in the Park can enter their registration numbers in the cafe when they order refreshments. This will give them a four hour grace period which should be enough for the vast majority of visits. I checked how the arrangements work: there is a tablet computer mounted above the ice cream freezer for customers' use and the process looks simple. It is such a shame that the owners of the car park did not consult with the Community Association before introducing the charges. If they had, the Cafe would not now need to recover from what was a significant loss of business.

**SEWER UPGRADES:** The works on the A30 opposite the Holly Blue continue to progress well and Barhale (Thames Water's contractors) hope to complete there by the end of the year. Associated with that, the sewer upgrades in Kempshott Lane have also started. Barhale identified a method of working that does not require the full closure of the road, as was previously planned. They are doing the work in small sections using single-lane traffic lights. This seems a positive response to the questions that the Councillors put to them.

**CLIDDESSEN LANE:** the final holes and damaged sections of Cliddesden Lane (the road past the Portsmouth Arms) were patched during a second closure at the end of August. The ride is now much smoother, though the road looked something of a patchwork quilt until the new sections bedded down.

**A30 CROSSING:** Work has started on the new pedestrian crossing between the Golf Course development and Hounsomes Fields. Early tasks involve infrastructure work including the building of a retaining wall and the moving of some BT cables. At the same time, the footpath network is being laid out so that pedestrians can easily access the new crossing.

**ACCESS OFF THE HOUNSOMES FIELDS ROUNDABOUT:** work has also started on constructing the access into the Golf Course development.

**FORTNIGHTLY BLACK BIN COLLECTIONS:** The Borough Council is moving to fortnightly collections of black bins (not a decision that I agree with). It is delivering envelopes detailing the new collection dates. The pattern will be black bin one week and green bin the next. Food waste containers will be collected every week. The new pattern of collections starts imminently, on 12th October.

**CHOOSING A SCHOOL:** the application period for children starting school in September 2027 has now opened. I often see parents asking for advice on which school they should choose for their children. I always recommend that they visit the schools and then decide which will be best for their youngsters. Hatch Warren Infants and St Mark's are holding 'open days' at which parents and carers will be welcome to look round and talk to the staff.

**BACK TO GREEN:** There were times during the drought and ferocious heat of the summer when people may have wondered if our fields and meadows would ever recover. However, a few days of good rain saw the green return and now our lawns need mowing again. It was good to see how quickly nature recovered.

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



## Dani Davies

Borough Councillor:

Email casework: [cllr:stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr:stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk) /  
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Dear Hatch Warren and Beggarwood residents,

I hope you're all keeping well as we head into autumn. It's been another busy month for Stacy and me, with lots happening locally and plenty coming up over the next few weeks.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION:** There's been a lot of uncertainty around the Government's plans for local government reorganisation, and I know many residents have questions about what happens next.

Not everyone was 100% on board with reorganisation in the first place, and that's understandable: it's a huge change. But our view has consistently been that, while the transition would be challenging, the end result should be worthwhile – a single local authority responsible for all services, ending the confusion, overlap and difficulty caused by having two separate Councils.

The sudden change in direction, after months of work and communication about the original plans, has understandably been frustrating and wasteful.

The likelihood now is that Borough Council elections will go ahead as normal next May, rather than the planned Unitary Authority elections. This means only the Borough Council seats that were last up for election in 2023 will be contested.

Amongst all the chaos, one thing is certain: the status quo across Hampshire is floundering and unviable. Our Independent and Lib Dem coalition administration at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been very clear on the kind of new Council that we, in tandem with the majority of Councils in Hampshire, want to provide. The kind of new Council that Basingstoke residents deserve. We will keep fighting for that vision, and we will keep you posted every step of the way.

Anything could happen from now, and we'll continue to share what we know via our social media pages and leaflets. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us, and we'll do our best to answer them.

### FIGHTING FOR PROPERLY FUNDED LOCAL SERVICES:

Stacy was recently invited to a cross-party anti-austerity summit, organised jointly by the Green Mayor of Hackney and the Labour Deputy Leader of Derbyshire County Council.

It was a fascinating day discussing how we can make the case for properly funded local government and ensure Councils have the resources they need to provide the services residents depend on. We're proud to be part of those conversations and to keep making the case that local government should be about delivering for communities, not constantly managing cuts.

**Repair Café, books and bikes:** We're really excited about the next steps for Stacy's Repair Café, which will be launching a community children's library, including story times, alongside the usual repairs. We're also exploring the idea of a bike kitchen, where people could learn, share skills and get help with keeping their bikes on the road. If you're interested in volunteering at the Repair Café, please let us know!

We'll share more details as these plans develop – Stacy is always looking for ideas to make the Repair Café a better community space.

**EVENTS:** I was really pleased to be able to march in with the Pride parade again this year and join in with the celebrations. Pride is always an important event in our calendar, not only as a celebration of LGBTQ+ people and our diversity, but as a chance for the whole community to come together. It was wonderful to see so many people out supporting, celebrating and standing together for equality and inclusion.

Coming up on Sunday 18th October at 1pm–3pm, we'll be holding a talk exploring equality and the benefits it brings to STEM and wider society. Our speaker, Andrew Charlton-Perez from Reading University, will be talking about why equality matters in STEM, and why a more equal society benefits everyone. We'll share the venue details on our social media pages soon as they're confirmed.

**PROTECTING OUR COUNTRYSIDE:** I recently joined the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) for its "On the Edge" walk, exploring the countryside around Basingstoke. It was a glorious day for it as we hiked in the sun, taking in the views of the busy centre from the edge of town.

These spaces are hugely important for nature, wildlife, recreation and tackling the climate emergency.

Thank you to the CPRE team for inviting me along and helping me better understand what's at stake as development pressures continue.

**OUT AND ABOUT:** Finally, Stacy and I will be continuing to knock on doors and talking to residents over the coming months. We want to hear what's working well, what isn't, and what you think we should be focusing on. So if you see us out and about, please come and say hello!

As always, if there's an issue you'd like us to raise with the Council, or something you think we should know about, please get in touch.

Our very best wishes to you all – Dani.

We need helpers to distribute the Rabbitter. 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:

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Participation  
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CGHB PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

## PATIENT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Representing patients registered at Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries

## ACCESS CONCERNS AT CGH PARTNERSHIP

The Patient Group is pleased to report that we will be sitting down with **Luke Murphy MP**, representatives of the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board**, which is responsible for commissioning local GP services, senior leaders from **Operose Health**, which runs CGH Partnership, and local practice leaders.

Together, we will discuss practical solutions to the continuing patient-access concerns brought to us by patients.

The meeting will consider the whole patient journey - from first contact and triage through to assessment, appointments and follow-up - and where changes or additional support may be needed.

We will represent recurring concerns rather than individual cases and will report back to patients following the meeting.

## CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR OWN HEALTHCARE

If you have concerns about your own care or treatment, our comprehensive online guide can help you raise them clearly and seek an effective resolution.

It explains:

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- how to obtain free independent advocacy and use our copy-and-paste complaint templates.

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

**Please remember:** The Patient Group can provide information and signposting, but we cannot investigate individual complaints, hold personal clinical information or act as a complaints advocate. If you need urgent medical help, contact the practice, NHS 111 or 999 as appropriate.

## A NEW COMMUNITY ROLE AT ST ANDREWS SURGERY

The repurposed education room at **St Andrews Surgery** is already being used as a waiting and support area for patients attending weekly leg ulcer treatment sessions.

A team of volunteers provides a friendly welcome and an opportunity for patients to receive support, talk and socialise while attending for treatment.

Plans are also being developed for other group sessions, including:

- carers' support;
- Patient Group wellbeing support; and
- support for people who have recently been diagnosed with diabetes.

We look forward to sharing more information as these plans develop.



The new patient-support room at St Andrews Surgery.



## CGHB PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Working together to improve patient care and local services

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**LOCATION**  
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**DETAILS**  
Details shared in our Facebook group



**TIME**  
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## HATCH WARREN WI



Terri Reid was our speaker in September, and we heard some very interesting stories about Royal Mistresses throughout history. Quite often they had no choice in the matter but enjoyed immense wealth and power during their time of favour. However, once they lost the king's protection their downfall was swift. Nell Gwyn is one of the most famous and apparently had a great sense of humour whilst Alice Perrers became wealthy and influential but it was a Man's World and she was vilified because she was a woman.

Next month our speaker will be actress and historian, Jane Glennie. The topic 'Who wears the Trousers', should be very entertaining.

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If you are a frequent walker on Old Down you have probably noticed that bird numbers and species are not as great as they were a few years back. This is most likely due to the extensive housing developments nearby. New housing is of course essential but sadly development will always have an adverse impact on birds due to destruction of their habitat.

BUT - there is one particular family species that is still around in good numbers and that is some of the Corvidae family. Four of that species are *Jackdaws*, *Rooks*, *Carion Crows* and *Magpies* and they nest locally and

are always strutting about on the meadow. There are 8 corvid species found in the UK and the others are *Jay*, *Raven*, *Chough* and *Hooded Crow*. You won't see *Chough* (rocky and coastal areas) and *Hooded Crow* (Scotland and Northern Ireland) on or over Old Down but the odd sighting of *Jays* and *Ravens* has been recorded. Of course, it is easy to spot the *Magpies* with their long tails and black and white plumage. The *Rooks*, *Crows* and *Jackdaws* are not so easy to distinguish being all over glossy black and so look very similar to each other. The *Jackdaw* is the slightly smaller species and has a grey hood at the back of the head and pale eyes. The *Rooks* and *Crows* are bigger. The *Rook* has a large pointed beak with whitish skin at the base and the *Crow* has a black blunt-tipped beak. *Rooks* are very sociable and will feed, roost and nest in groups. They nest in rookeries high in the canopy of large mature trees using the same nest year after year. There is a small rookery in the trees on the southern boundary of the site but not the size it was a few years ago. *Crows* are not

as sociable as *Rooks* usually staying in pairs. *Crows* and *Magpies* also nest high in the trees but *Jackdaws* look for cavities in the hollows of trees or buildings.

You might see a *Jay* on Old Down but they are not frequent visitors as they prefer wooded areas. *Jays* are beautifully marked and coloured, the light blue on the wings being quite prominent. Old Down is not the right habitat for *Ravens* but you might hear one flying overhead – they make a distinctive loud croaking sound when flying. *Ravens* are our biggest corvid and are glossy black with a heavy chunky beak and wedge-shaped tail tip.

**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



Magpie



Rook



Jay

**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**  
**October**

**Weekly**

|                                                                                 |                                                                                  |                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Wednesday</b><br/>Quiche Wednesday<br/>Community Meal Deal<br/>12-2pm</p> | <p><b>Thursday</b><br/>Toastie Thursday<br/>Beggarwood Babies<br/>11.30-2.00</p> | <p><b>Friday</b><br/>Friendship Friday<br/>Chatty cafe<br/>10.30-11.30</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
BVA Wellbeing Walk -11.00  
Community Lunch -12.15 -1.15

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
Walk with a Purpose Litter Pick 10.00  
Join your neighbours for a Sunday stroll with the Beggarwood Wildlife Group. Help us make a positive impact through litter picking.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**  
Beggarwood Bookworms Evening group - 7.30pm

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**  
Beggarwood Bookworms Daytime 11.30-12.30

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**  
Carer Café 10.00-12.00  
Caring for somebody come for a brew and a breather  
Walk with a Purpose 10.00  
A social stroll, some litter picking, and coffee afterwards  
www.hatchwarren.org

**Classes starting at**  
**Beggarwood Hall**  
**on Monday mornings.**

**Baby College**  
Inspiring parents and their 0-5 year olds with a carefully crafted balance of learning, movement and sensory play. Supported by research at Leeds University.

**QR Code**

[www.babycollege.co.uk](http://www.babycollege.co.uk)  
[anastasio@babycollege.co.uk](mailto:anastasio@babycollege.co.uk)

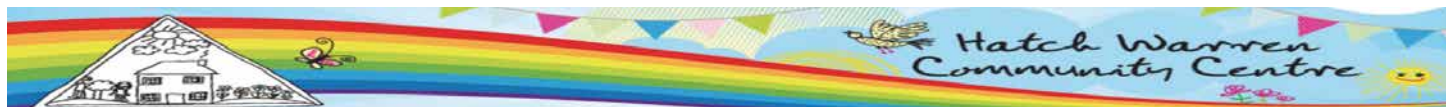
**Café in the Park**  
**Quiche**  
**Wednesday**

**COMMUNITY MEAL DEAL**  
**FRESHLY BAKED**  
**QUICHE, SALAD &**  
**AMERICANO OR POT**  
**OF TEA**  
**£5.00**  
UPGRADE TO A SPECIALITY COFFEE £5.50

IN ASSOCIATION WITH DASHWOOD MANOR

WEDNESDAY 12-2PM LIMITED SUPPLY

**CAFE IN THE PARK**  
**BROADMERE ROAD,**  
**BASINGSTOKE, RG22 4AQ**



We are a registered charity run by volunteers - We are Recruiting Fireworks Marshals

**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
Gates Open 5.30pm - Display starts 7.30pm prompt

Hatch Warren Community Centre presents...

# FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

DJ Mark Halliday \* Music \* Competitions \* Light up novelty glow toys  
Bartletts \* Burgers \* Chips \* Hot Dogs \* Indian Street Food  
Greek Gyros \* The Duck Hut \* Waffle Wagon \* Licenced Bar

**TICKETS ON SALE TO MEMBERS 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST & GENERAL SALE 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT - BUY EARLY AS LIMITED TICKETS ONSALE**  
**TICKET SALES CLOSE AT 5PM ON SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER**

**ADVANCED TICKET EVENT ONLY - NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE GATE**

|                                                                            |                            |                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FAMILY</b><br><b>£28</b><br>2 adults plus up to 2 children up to age 15 | <b>ADULT</b><br><b>£14</b> | <b>CHILD / SENIOR</b><br><b>£7</b><br>Children 0 - 15 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

**TICKETS ON SALE VIA THE WEBSITE OR IN THE OFFICE.**  
Payment by cash or internet banking.  
All tickets are non-refundable.

[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)  
[www.facebook.com/hatchwarren](https://www.facebook.com/hatchwarren)  
Office open 9am-3pm Monday - Friday  
Tel: 01256 811262

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HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
PRESENTS  
**COME ALIVE! THE GREATEST SHOWMAN  
CIRCUS SPECTACULAR**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 7.30PM**  
**The Empress Museum, LONDON**

Tickets cost £95 per person  
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH) Payment Plan Options Available

**Coach will depart at 4pm from our car park**

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

To book your place email [OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG)  
or call 01256 811262

This event is supported

\*40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead\*  
This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren  
& Beggarwood Community Association  
Charity #1161117

SCOTT MORLAND  
RESIDENTIAL EXP

All the hip and cool cafes keep an up-to-date Instagram. Ours needed a refresh and,  
this Insta is officially ours, please follow us at [cafeintheparkbeggarwood](https://www.instagram.com/cafeintheparkbeggarwood).

Prosecco,  
Wine, Ale &  
Cider too!

Hot Food  
by  
Bartletts

# HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE LAGER FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER  
7-11PM**

Tickets £7.50  
[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)  
£4 for members  
with a valid membership  
01256 811262

Tickets available via  
the QR code

This event is supported by  
SCOTT MORLAND  
RESIDENTIAL EXP

This event is being held as a fundraising event for HWBCA Charity #1161117  
Tickets non-refundable

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
**COACH TRIP TO  
HIGH SCHOOL THE MUSICAL**

**Thursday 3<sup>RD</sup> 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](mailto: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

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](mailto: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: [Warrenehatchwarren.org](mailto:Warrenehatchwarren.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



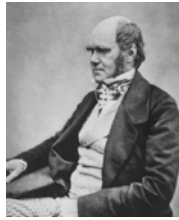
Supported by  
 Hampshire County Council



## PROBUS HEARS ABOUT CHARLES DARWIN

The talk by Ian Worley to the Probud Club of Basingstoke had the simple title "Charles Darwin" but what emerged was a life of coincidences that led to him becoming a world-famous naturalist.

Born into a wealthy family in Shrewsbury in 1809, his father was a physician who was married to Susannah Wedgwood a member of the famous pottery family. Having a large kitchen garden, he kept a detailed diary which probably stirred an interest in plants in the young Charles.



Sent to Shrewsbury school which majored in the Classics of Latin and Greek Charles was a poor scholar and in 1825 was sent to Edinburgh University to study medicine in the hope that he would eventually be able to assist his father. Disappointment followed and in January 1828 his father sent him to Christ College, Cambridge to study for a clerical career hoping that he might rise in the church to become a bishop.

The received wisdom of the day followed the statement by Archbishop James Usher, the Primate of All Ireland in the seventeenth century, who using the Bible as reference had worked out that the earth had been established around 6.00pm on the evening before Sunday 23rd October 4004 BC.

Graduating in January 1831 Charles surprised even himself by coming 10th out of 178 entrants. One of his contemporaries at Cambridge, John Henslow, knew of a planned round the world surveying expedition that required an onboard naturalist. This was an unpaid position but as Charles had a substantial allowance, was a single man with no responsibilities and had gained an extensive knowledge about plants, he felt qualified for the position of naturalist on board HMS Beagle.

His father, though, thought differently and wanting Charles to go into the church forbade him from applying for the position. His brother-in-law, Josiah Wedgwood was the person to change his mind which allowed Charles to apply to Captain Fitzroy.

Charles was disappointed to learn that Captain Robert Fitzroy, a hydrographer and meteorologist who created the phrase weather forecast and eventually went on to found the Meteorological Office in London, had already offered the position to another man. Reflecting on his family commitments, he eventually declined the offer. Hence Charles Darwin went on the five years surveying voyage mostly around the southern hemisphere setting sail in December 1831 and not returning until 1836.

On Cape Verde, Charles Darwin discovered seashells high up in an escarpment, in South America he found ancient bones that he sent



back to England. The Galapagos Islands, a volcanic archipelago in the Pacific, had not only giant tortoises but birds like Finches that were different to those in England. These all raised questions in his mind.

On his return to England, and later marrying his first cousin Emma Wedgwood, Charles Darwin wrote several books on his findings about botany and zoology that enabled him to be recognised as an authority on his subjects and he was elected to prestigious scientific societies.

One book, written anonymously, in 1844, was poorly received as it was based on Darwin's emerging theory about changes and developments in different parts of the world that raised questions about Archbishop Usher's declaration about the creation of the earth.

It took the persuasion of scientific colleagues twenty-three years after the voyage of HMS Beagle, for Darwin to write *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. Written in plain English it was received with a mix of scientific fascination, theological outrage and public curiosity. All 1250 copies were sold on the first day. Darwin published six revised editions up to 1872 and it has never been out of print.

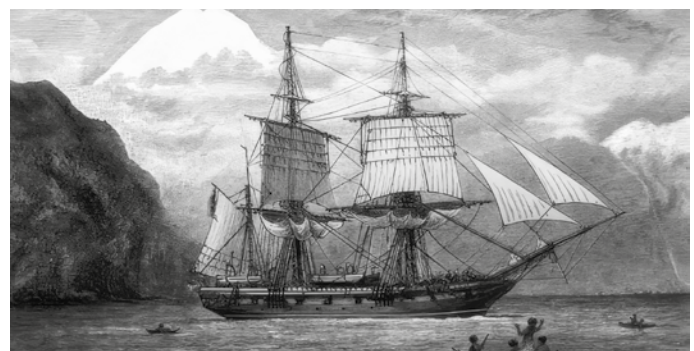
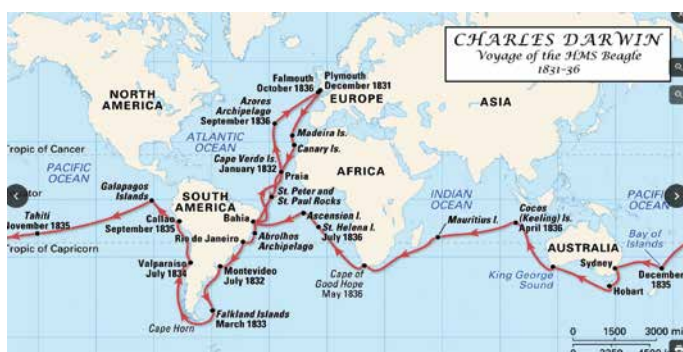
Darwin's life had been a precursor to the 1998 film, *Sliding Doors*, the story of parallel lives dependent on whether the main character managed to catch an underground train.

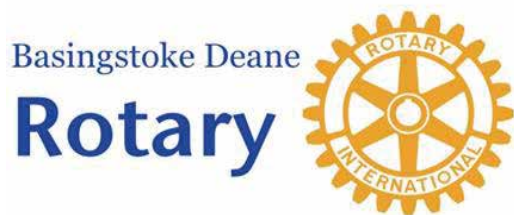
If Charles Darwin had not failed at Shrewsbury school his father would not have sent him to Edinburgh University and if he had succeeded there, he would have become a medical practitioner helping his father.

Instead, he failed and went up to Cambridge to study for a church career but developed his interest in botany and zoology where his friend knew about the planned voyage of HMS Beagle. Had the man originally offered the position taken the role of naturalist Darwin would have probably entered the church. Without any financial responsibility, the financial security from his allowance enabled him to take on an unpaid position for five years.

From apparent failure as a son to becoming a world-famous scientist Charles Darwin was so revered that he was buried in 1882 amongst the great and good in Westminster Abbey.

See [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) for more information.





## CONTACTS

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 or  
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[tempaul45@gmail.com](mailto:tempaul45@gmail.com)

**YOUR LOCAL  
 ROTARY  
 ROUNDUP**  
 October 2026

## World Polio Day – 24 October 2026 A Sea of Purple with a Special Meaning



### Purple Crocuses for a Polio-Free World

Every year, Rotary clubs across the UK and beyond plant millions of purple crocuses. It's a simple but striking way to raise awareness, raise funds, and brighten our towns and villages. The purple crocus is more than a flower — it symbolises Rotary's global fight to end polio. Its colour echoes the purple dye once used to mark a child's finger after vaccination, showing health workers that the child had been protected. That's where **Purple4Polio** began using purple crocus blooms to share the message and support this life-changing work.

This autumn, Rotary in Basingstoke will plant more crocus bulbs so the purple displays around the town continue to tell this powerful story. Each flower is a reminder of the progress we've made — and a sign of hope that, together, we can end polio for good.



### Rotary's Part in Beating Polio

Not so long ago, two serious diseases—smallpox and polio—were affecting families all over the world. Thanks to a huge global vaccination effort, smallpox was wiped out in 1980. By 1990, polio cases in the UK had dropped to just a few, and today every child is offered routine polio vaccinations and boosters. It's a powerful reminder of how well vaccines protect us.

For more than 35 years, Rotary has been at the heart of the global push to end polio through **End Polio Now**. Rotary members have raised over **\$2.1 billion**

and volunteered countless hours to help protect nearly **3 billion children** in **122 countries**.

Because of this incredible work, polio now remains only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in 2020 Africa was officially declared free of the disease.

Here in Basingstoke and the surrounding villages, local Rotarians have planted purple crocuses as a bright symbol of hope. You might spot them at Turnpike Cottages in Overton, the Silk Mill in Whitchurch, and Stratton Park in Kempshott. Each bloom is a gentle reminder of a future where no family has to fear polio again.

### Rotary's Partnership with the Gates Foundation

Rotary is hugely grateful for the long-standing support of Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation in the global push to end polio. In June 2025, we were thrilled to hear that the Foundation will continue its incredible 2:1 match on all funds Rotary raises, tripling the impact of every donation and keeping momentum strong.

#### JONAS SALK

We can't talk about polio without celebrating Jonas Salk — the quiet hero behind one of the first successful polio vaccines. When the US faced a devastating outbreak in 1952, Salk's vaccine changed everything and paved the way for worldwide vaccination programmes. In an extraordinary act of generosity, he chose not to patent the vaccine, ensuring it could be shared freely and reach children everywhere.



**SAVE THE DATE OUR ROTARY FUNDRAISING  
 ROYAL MARINES BAND CONCERT**  
**will be held on Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup> 2027**  
**at The Anvil**  
**Tickets on sale from the box office**

*Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 30 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.*

*If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just take a look- [www.rcbd.org.uk](http://www.rcbd.org.uk) to see what we have coming up, or contact Brenda [brendahewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:brendahewitt@btinternet.com) or Paul [tempaul45@gmail.com](mailto:tempaul45@gmail.com) to find out more.*

*You'll be pleasantly surprised.*  
**Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane**



## WHAT'S ON AT ANVIL ARTS

### FRANCIS ROSSI - Songbook: Quo - Past, Present, Future

Thu 1 Oct, 7pm, The Anvil. Tickets: £64, £54, £44, VIP £104

Francis Rossi's new show will see one of Britain's most loved and influential musicians take to the road. A hand-picked host of Status Quo songs, deep cuts, and interpretations from his incredible catalogue, plus some commentary and insight from the man himself.

### AFRICAN SOUL REBELS

Wed 7 Oct, 7.30pm, The Anvil. Tickets: £34.50, Under 25s £16

African Soul Rebels celebrates fearless artists who reshape tradition, challenge borders, and put rhythm at the centre of resistance and joy. Leading the charge are the electrifying Les Amazones d'Afrique.

### WISHBONE ASH

Fri 9 Oct, 7.30pm, The Haymarket. Tickets: £36.50

For over five decades, Wishbone Ash has stood as one of rock music's most enduring and influential forces, their pioneering twin-lead guitar sound providing a blueprint for the generations of artists that followed in their footsteps.

### BOYZLIFE - featuring Keith Duffy & Brian McFadden

Sun 11 Oct, 7.30pm, The Anvil. Tickets: £46.50, £41.50, £36, VIP £154

Boyzone's Keith Duffy and Westlife's Brian McFadden, celebrate the hits from both groups, including I Love The Way You Love Me, All That I Need, No Matter What, My Love and Uptown Girl.

### LENNY HENRY - Still at Large

Wed 14 Oct, 7.30pm, The Anvil. Tickets: £48, £43, £38, £33

For over five decades, Lenny Henry has been telling stories on stage, on screen, and through a host of characters etched into our collective memory. Part stand-up, part storytelling, this new live show sees Lenny return to the experiences that shaped him while also exploring the ideas driving him today.

### LEO SAYER - Can't Stop Loving You!

Sat 17 Oct, 7.30pm, The Anvil. Tickets: £49, £44

After almost 60 years of life on the road, Leo Sayer returns with his band for what could well be his final hit-packed, high-energy full UK tour: Hits include Thunder in My Heart, Moonlighting, One Man Band, I Can't Stop Loving You, The Show Must Go On, When I Need You, and of course, You Make Me Feel Like Dancing.

### MARTIN MCALOON OF PREFAB SPROUT

Sat 24 Oct, 7.30pm, The Haymarket. Tickets: £28.50

One of the most beloved British records of the 1980s, Steve McQueen will be performed in full, and that's just the beginning. Martin will also be drawing from the wider Prefab Sprout catalogue.

### GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND

Sun 25 Oct, 3pm, The Anvil. Tickets: £28, under 25s £15

Grimethorpe Colliery Band, founded over a century ago in a Yorkshire mining village, achieved its worldwide reputation from the hit film Brassed Off and is one of Britain's finest brass bands.

### AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL PORTILLO

Tue 27 Oct, 7.30pm, The Anvil. Tickets: £63, £53, £43, £38

Secretary of State, Traveller, TV superstar. The inimitable Michael Portillo is live on stage to share funny, insightful, and poignant stories from his extraordinarily rich and varied life.

### NEW DAWN FADES: A PLAY ABOUT JOY DIVISION AND MANCHESTER

Thu 29 & Fri 30 Oct, 7.30pm The Haymarket. Tickets: £31.50

The story of four ordinary lads who came together to form one of the most influential bands of all time, Joy Division. Following the untimely death of lead singer Ian Curtis, the band went on to huge world-wide success as New Order.

## Basingstoke Concert Band

presents

### Music for Christmas

Sunday 6 December 2026  
at 3.00pm

Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road,  
Basingstoke RG21 3HF

Feel the magic Hear the music  
'The Snowman' on the  
**BIG SCREEN**, brought to life with  
**LIVE** performance and festive  
favourites

**Tickets:** Adults £12.00 U16 £3.00

Available online at:

<https://ticketlab.app/events/BCBand#/>

as well as from band members



Doors open at 7:00 pm

Tickets £12:00 from Ticket Source:

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



<https://basingstokemvc.org.uk>



## DAVE'S NATURE SPOT

Arachnophobia is an intense fear of spiders and scorpions and is the one of the most common phobias; it seems to be a primal inbuilt fear.

Most UK spiders are harmless unless you are a hapless insect venturing into their sticky web. The web is made of a sticky silk like substance that is produced from organs called spinnerets.

October is the month you are likely to see the Giant House Spiders (*Eratigena atrica*) of which there are 9 very similar species in the family Tegenaria. These are the most common species seen in the house and they are most likely to be male spiders looking to find a mate. They are the large fast-running spiders that lurk in dark corners and seem to magically appear from beneath the sofa or on the ceiling. They are a harmless species and do a very good job at controlling insect pests around the house.



Giant House Spider

Another common spider found locally is the Cellar Spider (*Pholcus phalangioides*). Because of its very long spindly legs it is sometimes referred to as Daddy Long Legs. Cellar Spiders are often found in bin sheds and outdoor buildings. The females can sometimes be seen carrying their egg sac around, keeping it safe from any predators. It is one of the few UK spiders that on very rare occasions is said to give a bite, but it does not cause any problems, just a short stinging sensation.

A spider that is becoming increasingly common is the Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*), being a recent immigrant from the continent into the south of the country and has quickly spread north. The female Wasp Spider is quite large with yellow and black stripes and builds a large orb-shaped web with a strange zig-zag section running through the middle of it (see Wasp Spider photo below). The function of this, which is called a stabilimentum, is not fully understood.



Female Wasp Spider

The male Wasp Spider is much smaller and a brown colour and, when it comes to mating, his life is in danger as most males end up as a snack for the much bigger female. Just recently a good number have been recorded on Old Down and on Beggarwood. Bites from Wasp Spiders are extremely rare and relatively harmless.

I will just mention Money Spiders (*Linyphiidae*) which belong to the largest group of spiders numbering approx. 280 species. Most are under 5mm long and black or dark brown and shiny. Folklore suggests the if you find one crawling on you wealth will follow - well it has never worked for me!

There are over 650 spider species in the UK; many are tiny and inconspicuous and most build a web of some kind. In general spiders do a great job in controlling unwanted pests in the house and I normally let them get on with their lives. I must admit I am not keen on spiders but would not harm them, so next time that gigantic 8 legged monster creeps out from under a chair or sofa and sprints across the room get the glass and card out and relocate it.

0771 721 4521 01256 412723

E: [info@jcooklandscapes.co.uk](mailto:info@jcooklandscapes.co.uk)

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

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07887 427227 or email [jtlhomemaintenance@gmail.com](mailto:jtlhomemaintenance@gmail.com)





## BEGGARWOOD Wildlife Group

Maintaining Beggarwood Park for the Benefit of  
Wildlife and the Community

Earlier in the summer months the group undertook:-

### Pathway Clearance & Bramble Removal

Clearing walkways in and around the woodland belt and the park entrances and walkways along the southern side.

### Seed Collection

Oxeye Daisy, Cowslip & Yellow Rattle seeds were collected for sowing at Biodiversity Improvement Zones in Beggarwood and Hatch Warren. This helps to keep and spread our native diversity of plants which in turn encourages butterflies and bees.



### Our next work parties will be:-

Tue 20th Oct and Tue 3rd Nov

We typically meet 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)

# OAKLEY

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## The Mind, Explored

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

### The myth of the 'normal' mind.

When I was younger, I assumed everyone experienced the world in much the same way I did.

I thought everyone replayed awkward conversations long after they'd finished. I assumed everyone found some tasks strangely easy and others unexpectedly difficult. I imagined everyone's mind wandered in meetings, or that everyone occasionally became completely absorbed by a hobby while forgetting what time it was.

It turns out that's not the case.

One of the most fascinating things about working in mental health and neurodiversity is discovering just how differently people experience exactly the same world.

Take a family gathering. One person loves the noise and conversation, when another spends half the afternoon looking for somewhere quiet. One notices every detail in the room, while someone else barely remembers who was there. One enjoys making plans weeks in advance, another would rather decide on the day.

None of these responses is right or wrong. They're simply different.

The same is true of how we think. Some people naturally think in pictures, while others think in words. Some make decisions quickly and trust their instincts, whereas others like to gather information, weigh up every possibility and think things through carefully before acting.

Even our memories differ. Some people can vividly recall conversations from years ago, while others struggle to remember what they had for lunch yesterday.

It's easy to forget this because we're all looking out at the world through our own window. Our own experience feels so normal that we assume it's shared by everyone else.

Perhaps that's why misunderstandings happen so easily.

If something feels effortless to us, we can struggle to understand why someone else finds it difficult. Equally, we can be surprisingly hard on ourselves when something that comes naturally to others feels like an uphill battle.

This is where conversations about neurodiversity can be so helpful.

Think of it like headaches. Almost everyone has had one, but if someone lives with severe migraines several times a week, we wouldn't say, "Well, we all get headaches." The experience is similar, but the impact is fundamentally different. Neurodivergent conditions work in much the same way. Many of the experiences exist across the population, but for neurodivergent people they're often more frequent, more intense, and have a much greater impact on everyday life.

Understanding that doesn't divide us into 'normal' people and neurodivergent people. Quite the opposite. It reminds us that every brain is unique, while recognising that some people face challenges that are significantly greater than others and deserve to be understood and supported.

There's a wonderful moment in Ted Lasso where he says, "Be curious, not judgemental." It's a simple line, but I think it captures something important. When we become curious about why people think or behave differently, we often replace frustration with understanding.

In a world that often expects everyone to think, learn and respond in exactly the same way, perhaps being a little more curious about each other's minds is one of the kindest things we can do.

**Stu Colman**

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

## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

### Have we lost our sense of humour?

As someone of Irish decent I feel qualified to share an old joke of a tourist lost in the West of Ireland asking a local farmer for directions to Dublin? *"If I was going to Dublin Sir, I wouldn't start from here!"* As a young family travelling in rural Cornwall in the nineties, we recall a similar encounter when asking someone for directions to a local homestay. We were so grateful for a friendly gentleman's help, and as we slowly drove away, we heard him echoing: "Yes, I'm wonderful, aren't I?" To this day we repeat his response in an Irish accent. I am sure you agree that humour is not just a good tonic but an essential joy to the soul.

I am not sure there was ever a golden age of humour, but being of a certain age I do recall we once could rely more confidently on certain televised, or even radio programming. It seems with ever greater choices being 'streamed' into our modern lives that we need to be increasingly selective. What might have been a collective enjoyable experience to discuss at family gatherings the office or factory floor and with friends is rare, even at Christmas. Phrases such as Eric Morecambe's response to conductor Andre Previn's comment on his rendition of Grieg's Piano Concerto: *"I am playing all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order."* a case in point.

Perhaps our sense of humour is lessened due in part to unparalleled uncertainty caused by societal and world events where we feel more like onlookers or pedestrians. The latest disturbing implications of the AI genie, extreme weather patterns, cost of living crises all add to an increasing sense of unease. The continuing conflicts in Ukraine and Russia, Israel and the Palestine peoples, the US and Iran, and again nearer home migration and asylum concerns adding to our fears. We seem to have lost our way, even our sense of humour, and if we have, where do we go from here? There seems so little to be humorous about. I don't think one should disengage completely from current news and events, though I have noticed a better and more joyful part of me emerging when I consume less. Particularly if replaced with a routine or activity that lifts my spirits, in the company of friends and family, or social interest groups within our local community. Giving time to a stranger or person in need. It's here that I believe we notice the very best features of humankind.

The Apostle Paul wrote of such characteristics when encouraging the early Christians in Galatia, now modern day southern Turkey with an earthy presence they would relate to: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* Galatians 5:22-23

In reading these words I am tempted to set myself a challenge, a kind of tick list when I next watch the News, to record what same characteristics feature in each storyline. They typically end with at least one good news piece. Better still, and a greater challenge for me is to live these behaviours more purposefully each day. What a difference it might make, with a good amount of humour and joy more able to find its natural home.

### Personal Reflection by Hils Nickell



## IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY

In the April 1995 edition of the Rabbitter, the Confederation of Hatch Warren Residents' groups was happily reporting victory regarding the motorway services that had been planned near us. After three years of pressure from the Confederation (and, in truth, local Councillors), the Department of Transport had climbed down and withdrawn the proposal. It now appeared that the services would be built on the Winchester side of Junction 7 which is what the Confederation had advocated.

And in a second victory, the proposals for a new Household Waste Recycling Centre in the Beggarwood area had also been dropped.

Today there are still suggestions for motorway services at Basingstoke. And, to control queues, there is a booking system for slots at the Basingstoke's Wade Road recycling centre.

The Hatch Warren Community Association was gearing up for its first Carnival which was scheduled for 2nd September. In the end this format died away. A 'Family Fun Lunch' at the start of the school holidays expanded over the years and morphed into the impressive Summer Festival that so many of us enjoy to this day.

In April 1995 an article from Hampshire County Council discussed the issue of Direct Mail - the posh name then for junk mail. At that time the weight of junk mail in the UK was twice that of all the newspapers put together. A Mail Preference Service existed to help residents reduce the amount that they were receiving.

Now, of course, the cost of postage is much higher and a lot of the junk comes to us electronically through text messages and emails. Worse, organised crime has mechanised scams that attempt to swindle people out of large sums of money on line. We need to be on our guard at all times against a danger that has snowballed in the last thirty years.

Back in 1995 the local church owned a property in Moorhams Avenue and the Reverend John Fenner reported on the sack collections that had been taking place there: charity collections for shipping toys, clothing and food to help people in Romania. At that time, church services were still being held in the Community Centre. The church facilities in Danebury Road would follow when St Mark's school was built.

Interestingly, the article from Rev Fenner was called 'Spiritually Speaking', a title that has carried forward over thirty years into today's Rabbitter magazines.

**Stephen Reid**



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## WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

It's all about getting ready for winter for the honeybees and the bumblebees...and unusually, also an active solitary bee: the ivy mason bee!



Queen bumblebees can live up to 12 months but spend up to half of their lives in a dormant state hibernating in a variety of places, from well-drained, soft soil, to leaf litter, hollow trees or inside tree bark. They use their legs to dig bumblebee-sized holes into the soil or other substrate, and can excavate to a depth of more

than 10cm! Garden hibernation sites for bumblebee queens will be covered in November.

In contrast, honeybees are active inside their hive all winter, feeding on the honey produced throughout the summer. But their key role switches from raising brood and gathering nectar to winter survival warming the winter cluster and raising the first spring colony. The worker bee's life cycle increases to 3 to 4 months and to do this they are physiologically different! Unlike their short-lived summer sisters, winter bees accumulate enormous fat bodies - stores are fat but also reserves of a special protein similar

to egg yolk protein that protects cells from oxidative damage, supports immunity and provides nutrients when the Queen starts laying again. In spring these special fat stores can be converted into brood food. In effect the worker winter bees become the protein bank for the future colony. Indeed, winter workers are the colonies investment in the future!

Populations of solitary bees are highest in the spring through to midsummer matching their emergence to their target nectar source. Until recently 'that was it' for solitary bees, but a recent 2001 newcomer has changed that: the Ivy solitary bee emerging from its 10-11 months dormant pupae state with the Autumn Ivy flowers. These flowers are rich in nectar and pollen and are a key autumn food source for all insects: stop quietly by a flowering ivy cluster and you will hear the buzz and see so many pollinators - honeybees and the solitary ivy bee in particular. They are similar in appearance with the ivy bee only a little bigger than the honeybee with ginger thoraxes and distinct striped abdomens. These bees nest in loose, light or sandy soil on southern-facing banks with ivy nearby for foraging and, although they are solitary bees (with no workers or social structure) usually close together in large nesting groups - these socially grouped nests have been particularly noticeable this year.

**Kenneth and Barbara Robson**

on behalf CB400 Foundation

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# HISTORY SNIPPETS



Mother Ludlum's Cauldron in Frensham Church

## HALLOWEEN

There is a (fairly) local legend about a magic cauldron and the witch who owned it. Mother Ludlam apparently lived in a cave near Farnham. Being community minded, she would loan out some of her utensils, including the cauldron, asking only that they were returned on time.

However, on one occasion the man who borrowed the cauldron was late with the return, and as a result the witch cursed him, causing him to be followed by it wherever he went. Driven almost mad with terror by the constant thump, thump, thump of the cauldron catching up with him, he sought refuge in Frensham Church, where he died of fear and exhaustion and where the cauldron is still on display.

Another version of the story is that the witch was approached by a strange man wanting to borrow the cauldron to mix some potions. When she looked behind him, she saw that the man had left prints in the sandy soil and they were not human footprints but the tracks of a goat. Recognising him as the devil, she gave chase. The devil took great leaps in his escape, and where he landed he made huge indentations. These are now known as the Devil's Jumps in Surrey. And Kettlebury Hill in Surrey is so called because that is where he finally threw down the cauldron (or kettle).

**Terri Elizabeth Reid MA**

terrielizabethreid.com

## EVERY ADULT THAT WANTS TO LEARN TO READ, CAN!

Many of us have been very fortunate when it comes to reading and as adults, it is certainly something we take for granted. However, many adults are deeply embarrassed and ashamed by the fact that they struggle significantly with reading. They often harbour bad memories of school and would avoid returning to a classroom setting at all costs, where old feelings of failure could potentially be reawakened.

The 'Skills for Life Survey' (Dept. BIS, 2011) identified that 2.4 million adults in England alone can barely read or cannot read at all. In Basingstoke and the local area, it is estimated that over 7,000 adults struggle to read and need support to improve their reading skills.

Ginny William-Ellis MBE spent many years as a literacy tutor and was responsible for running the Shannon Trust's prisoner-to-prisoner reading programme. Through this, she saw how a confidential, individual approach could encourage people to come forward for support and successfully learn to read. Ginny also became aware of the number of adults who struggle with even the most basic level of reading, not just in prisons, but across the population at large. As a result, she realised that there was much more work to do and so in 2010, she founded the very first Read Easy group. Today there are over 100 local groups set up and run by volunteers under the Read Easy banner. Read Easy Basingstoke was set up in July 2019.

Read Easy since then has continued tirelessly to help adults to transform their lives by learning to read and strongly believes that 'every adult that wants to learn to read, can'. Read Easy groups at a local level achieve this by training volunteers to provide personalised, one-to-one reading coaching that is free and confidential, both in-person and online. Due to an expansion in Management Team members and volunteers, Read Easy Basingstoke wants to help more adults gain greater agency and autonomy over their own lives through better reading skills. If you know someone who could benefit from our services or would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you.





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## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

Welcome back to a new academic year at Hatch Warren Under Fives!

The first few weeks at preschool are all about welcoming the children, helping them become familiar with their daily routines and, most importantly, building positive relationships with their friends and the adults around them. It has been wonderful to see new friendships developing, and our new children have settled in brilliantly.

At Hatch Warren Under Fives, we have two rooms: our smaller Caterpillars room for our two-year-olds and our larger Butterflies room for our three- and four-year-olds. Each morning, the children take part in self-registration, choosing an emotion emoji to show how they are feeling that day. This gives us a lovely opportunity to talk with the children about their feelings and helps us to support them as they begin their session.

Our Butterflies have been enjoying a wonderful range of activities and experiences. They have been getting creative with Playdough, making their own faces, designing bookmarks and exploring colour-changing handprints in our art area. There has also been plenty of imaginative play, from caring for babies in our role-play area to creating dishes for their friends in the home corner and mud kitchen.

Outside, the children have been busy too! They have enjoyed riding bikes and Little Tikes cars, balancing on beams and stepping stones, and exploring the garden as they search for minibeasts.

In our Caterpillars room, our younger children have been busy learning their new routines, joining in with songs, making new friends and exploring the great outdoors. Our minibeast hunts have been particularly popular, with the children discovering lots of worms and beetles hiding in the garden!

We love making the most of our outdoor environment at Hatch Warren Under Fives. As autumn arrives, we have been looking closely at the changing colours and noticing how patterns and textures around us are beginning to change. Soon, we will be exploring animals that hibernate as part of our autumn learning.

There is plenty happening indoors too. Our home corner provides opportunities for role-play, dressing up and imaginative play, while our cosy reading areas encourage children to develop a love of books and stories. We offer a variety of spaces for children to enjoy reading, including a special reading den outside.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and to watching all of our children grow in confidence, independence and curiosity.

If you are looking for a warm, welcoming preschool for your child, we would love to hear from you. We have places available for this academic year, so please get in touch with Hatch Warren Under Fives to find out more about our sessions and how to register your child.

To enquire, or to book in for a show around, please contact Siobhan on 01256 322788, or email [preschoolmail@aol.com](mailto:preschoolmail@aol.com).

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

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

## DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

We are excited to show off our new Preschool makeover with freshly painted spaces and new flooring. We have created a fresher welcoming and inspiring environment.

The same caring team just a fresher new space!



It has been a busy start to the term welcoming all of our new families and returning children and helping them to settle in.

The children have settled in so well and to support learning of our emotions we have used the story of the colour monster. The story supports understanding of our emotions through colour.

How amazing is it to say we were full again for another academic year from day one!

We are delighted to be supporting the Basingstoke Food Bank again this year for Harvest. It is lovely to give something back to the Community and we appreciate the support from our families who have donated.

It is almost time to join in World Nursery Rhyme Week which takes part in November. As a setting we like to get involved each year as Nursery Rhymes are such a great way for children to develop language, literacy and numeracy skills. They encourage social, physical and emotional skills.

Due to demand we will be closing our waiting list for 2027 soon. 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 2028/2029 are now open

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

A Warm Welcome to the New Term

As the new term begins, we are delighted to welcome back our returning children and families, and to extend a very special welcome to all our new children joining us at preschool.

Starting preschool is a big milestone, and it has been lovely to see our newest little ones gradually settling in, making friends and discovering all the fun and excitement that preschool has to offer. We are so proud of each child as they grow in confidence and begin to feel at home in our preschool community.



With the changing season, there is plenty to explore outdoors. From collecting colourful leaves and spotting the first signs of autumn to watching the trees change and noticing the world around us, nature provides endless opportunities for curiosity, discovery and learning. We look forward to sharing these special moments together as the children explore, play and learn.

Filled with favourite books, puppets, props and exciting activities, our preschool story sacks bring stories to life and encourage children to join in, use their imagination and develop a love of books. Through playful storytelling, the children are building early literacy skills, from listening and speaking to learning new words and recognising familiar stories. Most importantly, we hope to nurture a lifelong love of reading and the joy of sharing stories together.

We wish all our families a happy and enjoyable new term and look forward to a wonderful season of friendship, adventure and discovery at preschool.

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

01256 389008 [www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/](http://www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/)



# Beggardwood Bookworms

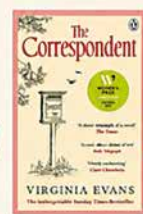
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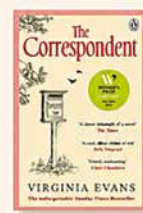


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Beggardwood Bookworms

## OUR MEETINGS

The Beggardwood Bookworms are looking forward to regrouping after a glorious summer when many good books were read. The long summer evenings were perfect for sitting with a glass of wine and enjoying a good book.

Over the summer, both groups read *The Artist* by Lucy Steeds which was voted Waterstones book of the year last year. Set in the Provence in the 1920s this beautiful book focuses on an enigmatic painter; a young journalist writing about him and the artist's niece with an unexpected secret. It was perfect to read over the summer and we can highly recommend it.

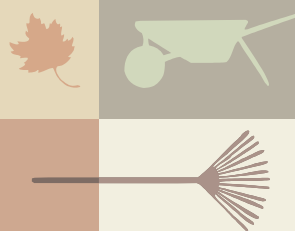
Cambridge University just released a study that reading for pleasure had many health benefits and being part of a book group can help improve wellbeing. If you have always wanted to be part of a book group then come along to our lively book community. We meet once a month either on a Wednesday Evening or Friday morning group. Follow our socials Beggardwood Bookworms for more information or email [community@beggardwood.org](mailto:community@beggardwood.org) to find out more. New members always welcome. Friday is free to attend and Wednesday evening group just £3.00

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Immanuel Church - Holy Communion - 9am every Sunday at St Mark's School, Danebury Road.  
St Mark's Church - Sunday Service with children's groups - 10.30am every Sunday at St Mark's, Homesteads Road, Kempshott. For more details contact - The Parish of Basingstoke Down (01256) 840502 or office@parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk  
The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU Sunday Service at 10.30am  
Hub Community Church Every Sunday at The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU at 4pm

Contact Dan Wake or Margie Mendelsohn 01256 316010  
connect@hubcommunitychurch.org  
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## King's Church Basingstoke

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# **RAINBOW**

## **DOUBLE GLAZING LIMITED**



**1992-2026**

**Your truly local double glazing company**

**34 successful years**



| Energy Window                            |                                        |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                                          |                                        |
| Energy Index (W/m <sup>2</sup> /K)       | 0                                      |
| Thermal Transmittance (U <sub>g</sub> )  | 1.6 W/m <sup>2</sup> /K                |
| Solar Factor (g <sub>g</sub> )           | 0.45                                   |
| Effective Air Leakage (L <sub>10</sub> ) | 0.05 m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>2</sup> /h |
| The climate zone is: <b>UK</b>           |                                        |

**Windows • Doors • Roofline  
Conservatories • Orangeries  
Entrance Porch • Garage Conversions  
Rainbow Warm Roof Conversions**

**No deposit**

**No hassle**

**Energy 'A' Rated**

**10 year Guarantee**

**Payment on completion**



For a free no-obligation quotation please call FREEPHONE:

**0800 026 46 42 or 0118 970 1770**

**[www.rainbowdoubleglazing.co.uk](http://www.rainbowdoubleglazing.co.uk)**