THE Rabbiter

Issue 333
November 2026

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



All the regular features plus

- **FOREVER SINGING**
- **HAMPSHIRE HARMONY**
- **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

and much more

FROM THE EDITOR
NEWS AND REPORTS
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
ENTERTAINMENT
LIFESTYLE



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Bannatyne

EDITORIAL

In 1995 the police team noted how fortunate we were to have a strong community spirit (see Page 21). I like to think that we still have it - if anything even more so.

As we enter November, we are able to look forward to the fireworks display, the Community Association's Christmas Market and dozens of winter-themed events, many of which are trailed in this issue.

To make alll this happen takes a lot of effort, much of it voluntary, so let's pay tribute to everyone who contibutes. They make our lives richer and keep our community spirit alive. While we enjoy the event, the concert, the club meeting or the festive treat, let's offer our thanks to everyone who helped bring them about.

Regards.

Editor

Front Cover: This month's striking front cover has again been contributed by local photographer Leena Roy. It evokes the spirit of Autumn.

Pets Corner

Send your photos to editor@therabbiter.biz



Maddie is 6, saved from a puppy farm – Linda & Noel

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The Rabbiter

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FOREVER SINGING – THE POWER OF MUSIC AND COMMUNITY





What happens when you bring together music, gentle exercise and a group of people who simply enjoy being together? In Basingstoke, Forever Singing is showing just how much it can mean.

This free choir, started in September 2025, brings together people with a wide range of health conditions and circumstances, alongside carers, family members and friends. Some come because they love to sing; others simply enjoy the opportunity to get out, meet people and take part in something positive.

Forever Singing choir sessions include singing, some gentle movement if you wish, followed by refreshments and time to chat but for members, the benefits go well beyond the music. One member described how it has "built my confidence so much". Others said they can "relax and sing without a care" and "it's the highlight of our fortnight!" and yet another said, "it's great company for someone who lives on their own". Perhaps most tellingly, one member said: "I never realised how much the power of music would affect my life."

Forever Singing is not defined by any particular health condition and it is enjoyed equally by people living with dementia, Parkinson's, mobility limitations and other circumstances which impact everyday life. First and foremost, Forever Singing is about people, participation, friendship and the enjoyment of music. At each session, there is a comprehensive information hub available where members can find out more about local and national support services.

Forever Singing meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at Rucstall Community Centre, Holbein Close, Basingstoke, RG21 3QN

Find out more: www.foreversinginguk.weebly.com

Get in touch: Email: foreversinginguk@gmail.com Telephone: 0300 102 7955

BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS A FESTIVE CHARITY CONCERT

Celebrate the festive season with Basingstoke Choral Society at a special Christmas concert in support of local charity Forever Singing.

The concert will offer a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the uplifting sound of a large choir at Christmas, while supporting a local charity that uses the power of singing to make a real difference to people's lives.

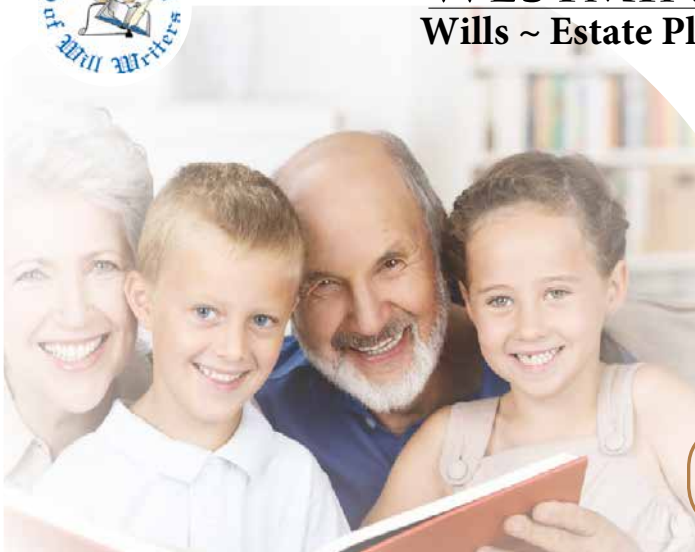
Tickets are £10 adults, £2.50 under 18s with a retiring collection held during the evening in aid of Forever Singing.

Wednesday 9th December 7:30 pm
Queen Mary's College
Tickets: http://tiny.cc/bcscarols

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COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Stephen Reid
County Councillor. Basingstoke
South West 07976 310206
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PERFORMANCE OF OUR SURGERIES: With winter approaching, my overriding concern is the performance of our local GP surgeries. Waiting times for appointments are lengthening and complaints are high. The County Council has no control over the GP practices, but we can scrutinise the performance of our health services and we have asked for an in-depth study of Basingstoke's GP practices. A first stab at the report came to the Council's Health and Adult Social Care committee on 13th October and I thought it needed strengthening. I attended the meeting and suggested that the report was not sufficiently analytical in terms of showing statistics and trends over time, so I suggested metrics that could be considered. Our Patient Participation Group chair also attended and gave an excellent summary of how problems have been mounting for years. The Committee agreed with us.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT: The NHS Integrated Care Board is responsible for performance monitoring and will need to be closely involved in providing the metrics we have requested. It will also approve any improvements plan. The management team at the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries says it has produced such a plan. Not surprisingly the PPG has asked to see it, and the ICB is hosting a meeting at Gillies surgery with Operose and practice staff to look at it in granular detail. It is said to involve the recruitment of extra staff, which would be welcome. One thing is for certain: we can't carry on as we are.

NEW BUS SERVICE: I have been making enquiries about a bus service for the Hounsome Fields / Golf Course developments. An important decision was being considered at Hampshire County Council on 19th October. The Executive Member for Highways and Passenger Transport was being invited to give approval to spend and enter into contractual arrangements up to £1.7m for a local bus service serving the Hounsome Fields and Golf Course developments, starting on 4th January 2027 for a period of five years, funded through Section 106 developer contributions. At the time of writing the decision has not yet been made, but assuming that approval is given, this will be a welcome additional service for Basingstoke residents who live about as far from the town centre as it is possible to get.

HOUNSOME FIELDS PEDESTRIAN CROSSING: Visible progress is being made on the construction of the signalised crossing to the north of the Hounsome Fields roundabout. Most of the work in October has been in the central reservation. The latest completion date I have seen for the crossing is 24th January 2027. At the same time, work has started on the fourth arm of the roundabout, into the Golf Course development.

DANEBURY ROAD LEAK: This last month there has been a sewage leak in Danebury Road, on which Thames Water has been working. Having thought that the problem was fixed, it was again seen discharging water into the road on Sunday 11th October. The company's problem page says that it is working to fix the issue and clean up the affected area. It is trying to keep disruption to a minimum and is sorry for any inconvenience this causes.

WATER LEAK NEAR HOLLY BLUE: The water leak that appeared to be coming from the direction of the children's nursery has been fixed and South East Water has closed the incident on its database. The leak has left a trail of mud and debris across the car park which is gradually washing away.

CAMROSE DEVELOPMENT: The consultation period for 99 homes on the old football ground is coming to an end. I have submitted a detailed objection to the plans. I found them to be very poor: too many homes crammed in and far too few parking spaces. The design of the homes is questionable and I believe that, if allowed, this development will be a source of misery to its residents for decades to come. I have asked the Borough Council not to approve the plans in their current form. I am also asking whether the Brighton Hill roundabout traffic lights will need to be re-phased and, if so, what impact that might have on its capacity.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: Now that the government has withdrawn its decisions about LGR in Hampshire, the County Council is seeking reimbursement of the costs it incurred in going down that road and for the judicial review that it launched.

COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY: At the same time we are working to support the newly established County Combined Authority, which definitely has gone ahead. This is the body that will be headed by the directly elected Mayor.

NEW LOCAL PLAN: The Borough Council has gone back to square one on devising its local plan and is now conducting what it calls a 'scoping consultation', following which it will examine evidence and draw up details of where housing, employment and amenities may go. The current target adoption date is September 2029. My fear is that, in the absence of an up-to-date plan, we may see housing developers pursuing speculative developments, without sufficient controls.

BIN COLLECTIONS: On 12th October the Borough Council introduced a new pattern of bin collections, which sees black bins being emptied one week and green bins the next. Food waste collections will continue to be weekly. All residents should have received a letter from the Borough Council detailing the changes.

THAMES WATER SEWER UPGRADES: The road works in Kempshott Lane are well under way, with traffic light controls to handle the closure of one side of the road. The works will move along Kempshott Lane gradually. The works in the A30 are expected to complete by the end of the year.

APPLYING FOR YEAR R: Applications open for Year R school places on 1st November and close on 15th January. Local schools are offering viewing days to help parents decide which ones are best for their children.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY: We are only a few days away from the Community Association's Fireworks Spectacular and tickets are on general sale. This is one of the best shows in the area and it is a good idea to buy your tickets in advance, as they are not available at the gate, and often sell out early.

FOUR HOURS 'FREE' PARKING: I have received no adverse comments about the revised conditions for Cafe-in-the-Park users of the Beggarwood car park. I believe the four-hour grace period is therefore working as designed, with drivers entering their registration numbers as they enter the cafe.

BLOG: I discuss some of these and other topics in more depth in my blog at ReidAboutBasingstoke.co.uk

Stacy Hart and Dani Davies
Borough Councillors.
Email casework: cllr.stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk / cllr.dani.davies@basingstoke.gov.uk

Facebook, BlueSky & Insta: @allinpartyUK,
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Monthly resident e-newsletter: www.allinparty.org.uk

Dear Hatch Warren and Beggarwood residents,

We do hope you're all looking after yourselves! We are now starting to throw on more thermal layers for our canvassing rounds and are having a busy autumn chockful of events and Councillor business.

COUNCIL BUSINESS: Black bins collections have now moved to every other week as part of the Council's work to meet Government targets and reduce waste. You'll hopefully have seen the huge effort that has gone into communicating these changes effectively with residents but if you have any problems or queries as we settle into the new schedule, do get in touch.

Please ensure you respond to the annual electoral canvass if you haven't already done so; this will help avoid receiving reminders or being visited by a canvasser when they start visiting properties that haven't responded next month.

The Council has launched a consultation asking for input into the first formal stage in preparing the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan. We know some of you will have responded to similar earlier consultations, but the changes the Government made in the new planning system mean we've had to start the process again and it is still vital we hear all residents' voices in the crucial work of shaping our Borough, so do get involved.

LOCAL EVENTS AND COUNCILLOR WORK: Dani met with representatives from local organisations that support pregnant people and those going through menopause in the workplace and is taking this forward into work on shaping Council policies ahead of encouraging similar work in the wider local business community. This work truly does help everybody, because the best way to build a thriving local economy is to ensure that all people can participate fully, preventing talent and investment from being lost due to a lack of support.

Stacy submitted a proposal for an accessible walking bench trail to help those who need breaks while walking to exercise more and improve their mental and physical health, which will be discussed by Resident Services Committee on 18th November. She was also pleased to attend a visit to review the new facilities at the John Arlott Pavilion for accessibility and inclusion purposes.

We're delighted to say we've had our first sighting of the new Speed Indicator Devices! Regular readers will remember that we worked on and seconded a motion earlier in the year to buy these devices for use throughout the Borough to help discourage speeding.

Stacy had the privilege of performing in support of the recent Baton of Hope legacy event. The fabulous Inclusion Education team have worked really hard to create the new Hope Hub in Basingstoke to help support people struggling with their mental health and prevent the tragedy of suicide. And if all goes to plan, one or two of the benches mentioned in the above project will be Hope Hub 'Chatty' benches aimed at reducing loneliness and promoting community. Stacy was also delighted to attend the celebration for the end of Matt Holman's One Million Steps Challenge, which comprised thirty-one days of walking, travelling, meeting people, listening to stories and raising awareness of mental health and suicide prevention. A truly awesome achievement!

Other meetings and connections for current and future work this month include sit downs with the founder of the Better Business for Good initiative to discuss employee support and retention, a sit down with the GMB representative for many of our local licensed private hire drivers, liaising with our CSPO on anti-social behaviour reports, and a meeting with the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood Patient Participation Group and the Integrated Care Board to give feedback to the County Council on making primary care services as accessible and equitable as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND THINGS TO NOTE: We can't quite believe it's already fireworks time again! Do book your tickets for the Fireworks Spectacular at Hatch Warren Community Centre on 7th November as it's always a sell-out, and you'll see us both there volunteering on the night. The brilliant Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association team will swiftly follow this up with their next Lager Festival on 21st November which is always a fabulous night out and highly recommended. You can book tickets for both events at www.hatchwarren.org.

Tuesday 24th November will see Stacy and the Council team on our stall in Festival Place for White Ribbon Day, raising awareness of male violence against women and girls and giving out information on the local services available to victim-survivors. We'll be collecting toiletry items for the local shelter, so please do drop by with an item or two if you can. Last time we ran the stall we managed to collect over a thousand items such as toothbrushes and deodorant for people who so often are forced to turn up for refuge with nothing.

Hampshire County Council's programme to stop terrorism and radicalisation within communities, Prevent, is seeking residents who are actively involved in their communities to join the Hampshire Partnership Advisory Group. The group provides an opportunity for local people to share their views and experiences, helping to shape how the Prevent Duty guidance is delivered across Hampshire and ensuring community voices are represented in local decision-making. This is work very close to our hearts and, sadly, the rising volume of online hate and misinformation means this work is more vital now than ever, so it's crucial that as many voices as possible are heard. Anyone interested in attending future meetings or finding out more can email prevent@hants.gov.uk.

COUNCILLOR SURGERY: Stacy will hold our next 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery session on Monday 9th November at the Holly Blue from 7pm to 9pm to hear your local issues and thoughts so if there's anything you want to chat about, do drop by and say hello.

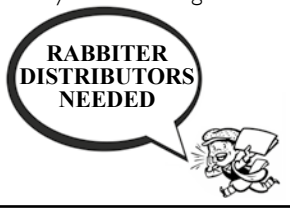
Our very best wishes to you all – Stacy and Dani.

We need helpers to distribute the Rabbiter. This takes about half an hour a month. Sadly we can't offer any financial reward save the satisfaction of helping our community. The following rounds need a deliverer:

1. Ferndown Close

2. Whitgift Close

3. Bronze Close







Our commitment to improving access

The practice has listened to patient feedback and is committed to:

- Providing quicker access
- Improving communication
- Sharing clearer information
- Giving patients confidence that their concerns are being addressed

A summary of the changes is available here:

https://cghpartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Camrose-Gillies-Hackwood-Beggarwood-CGHB-Partnership-newsletter-September-2026-2.pdf

Measuring progress over the next six months

Over the next six months, the Patient Group will assess progress using one simple question:

"Can a patient enter the CGHB system once, understand what will happen next, receive appropriate action within a reasonable timeframe, and know when their issue has been resolved — without having to chase?"

The improvement plan was discussed at a meeting attended by the Patient Group, practice management, clinical directors, Luke Murphy MP, and health service commissioners.

Updates will be included in the practice's patient newsletter, available on the practice website.

Helping to keep appointments available

If you no longer need an appointment, please cancel it as soon as possible by calling the practice and selecting the new appointment cancellation option.

Cancelling unwanted appointments means they can be offered to other patients, reducing waste and improving access for everyone.

Finding local health and wellbeing support

The Area Health and Wellbeing Online Information service, maintained by the Patient Group, now includes Smart Search.

It uses trusted websites, including the NHS, Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke Voluntary Action, and other reliable sources, to provide helpful answers.

Smart Search offers next-step advice and links to relevant support services and organisations. Smart Search is not a medical diagnosis or treatment service.

Try it here:

https://cghppg.weebly.com/smart-search.html

Seasonal flu vaccination

Patients eligible for a seasonal flu vaccination are encouraged to take the offer.

Vaccination can reduce the impact of flu on your health and help ease pressure on local health services.

Working with local patient and health organisations

We are working with other Patient Participation Groups through the Basingstoke PPG Forum.

This allows local groups to share experiences, identify common concerns, and work together on issues affecting patients across the borough.

We are also speaking with the Health and Social Care Committee at Hampshire County Council, which is examining patients' experiences across the area.

In addition, we are taking part in discussions with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board about how neighbourhood health services work alongside existing services in the borough and how this affects patients' access to care.

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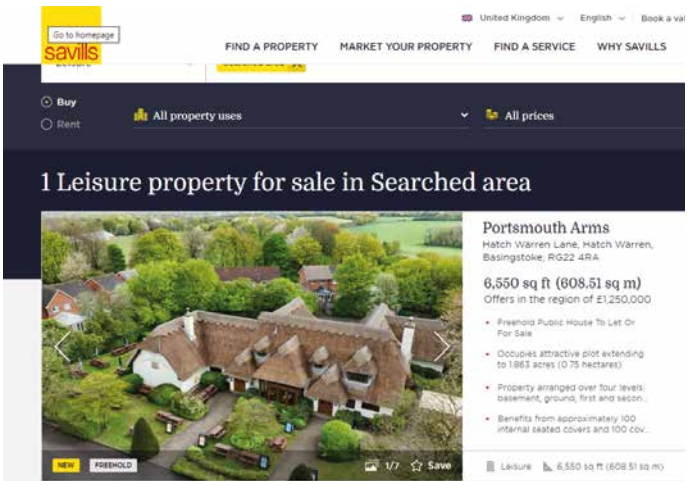
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BREAKING NEWS: FUTURE OF PORTSMOUTH ARMS IN DOUBT

The future of our local pub / restaurant, currently run by Hall and Woodhouse, looks to be in doubt. The site is up for let or for sale on the Savills website, which is seeking offers in the region of £1,250,000 for the freehold.

This will cause concern to local people for whom the Portsmouth Arms is an important destination.



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LADIES PROBUS CLUB

SOARING BEYOND BOUNDARIES:

RAF VETERAN REVEALS TALES OF PIONEERING FEMALE AVIATORS

The Basingstoke Ladies Probus opened their autumn season with a riveting presentation by Andy Richardson, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and former Cold War RAF Avro Vulcan crew member. Richardson drew from his 18-year military career and senior aerospace marketing roles at Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to recount the triumphs, grit, and ultimate sacrifices of aviation's greatest female icons.

Thérèse Peltier: A French sculptor who, in 1908, became the first woman to fly both as a passenger and solo pilot. She courageously mastered a Voisin biplane purely through observation, though she retired out of grief in 1910 after her mentor died in a mid-air crash.

Amelia Earhart: The independent trailblazer who became the first woman to fly the Atlantic. In 1937, alongside navigator Fred Noonan, she vanished in the Pacific while attempting a global flight, prompting the most expensive rescue search in US history.

Amy Johnson: The UK's first licensed female engineer. Her harrowing 1930 solo flight to Australia included climbing onto the engine cowling mid-air to pour fuel and a monsoon crash-landing in Rangoon. She tragically died in 1941 while ferrying planes for the wartime Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA).

Jacqueline Cochran: Escaping severe childhood poverty, she led the American wartime WASP program and became the first woman to break the sound barrier, eventually holding more speed, altitude, and distance records than any pilot in history.

Lettice Curtis: A legendary ATA ferry pilot who shattered rigid wartime gender boundaries. Flying entirely alone without radios, using only physical maps, she became the first woman to qualify to fly a heavy Lancaster bomber—delivering an astonishing 1,467 aircraft to the front lines during a relentless schedule of "thirteen days on, two days off" for 62 consecutive months.

Jane Harrison GC: The only woman in peacetime to be awarded the George Cross. A flight attendant with BOAC, she managed the rear exit evacuation after the No. 2 engine exploded on take-off. Pushing passengers to safety, she helped 121 of the 126 people on board escape, before turning back into the fierce blaze to rescue four passengers—including an elderly woman and a child—where neither she, nor they, survived.

Our speaker's expert storytelling brought to life a legacy of unparalleled female courage that continues to inspire the aerospace world today.

Each month members of this Ladies Probus Club are treated to a similarly fascinating speaker, prior to a 2-course delicious lunch in BCoT's excellent restaurant.

If this piques your interest, contact The Admin Secretary - reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk - 07754 296994

We'd love to tell you more!



Amy Johnson and Ameilia Earheart.



Amy Johnson's route to Australia.



Jane Harrison grave.

HATCH WARREN WI



The WI recently celebrated its 111th birthday in the UK. Members were asked to wear purple, the colour of the Suffragettes. Some of our members met at The Cosy Club to celebrate and we had such a great time we've decided to make this a monthly event.

Our speaker for October was Jane Glennie, who brings women's history to life through talks delivered in costume and character.

Acting as Lady Waters, Jane told tales of accidents, injuries and mishaps caused by the fashions of the period. She boasted that her good friend, Viscountess Florence Harberton, was the national President of the Rational Dress Society, who as a keen cyclist enjoyed wearing baggy knickerbockers for comfort and safety. We are grateful for the actions of her and other brave and inspiring ladies who led the way to us wearing clothes that give us freedom of movement, comfort and safety.

November's meeting will be looking at Commonwealth War Graves.

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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This summer was another hot one - very hot indeed and a bit too much really. But hot summers often result in good numbers and species of butterflies. The year was distinguished by the large number of migrant *Painted Lady* recorded on Old Down – only 8 last year but 121 this year. There was also a very good showing of the vibrant yellow Clouded Yellow which is also a migrant - only 2 recorded on site last year whereas 15 this year. In normal years the *Clouded Yellow* is not a common sight but 2026 has been a remarkable year and unusually large numbers (thousands!) of *Clouded Yellow* have come across to the UK from Europe. Obviously, the hot weather is the reason. *Clouded Yellow* do breed here and lay eggs but the larvae rarely survive the cold winters. You may have seen *Clouded Yellows* and *Painted Ladies* in your garden – there were lots about this year.

Maybe due to the hot and dry weather there was a disappointing turnout of *Small Blue, Comma, Peacock* and *Large White*. However, this was offset by very good numbers of *Holly Blue, Brown Argus, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Small Copper* and *Small Heath*. Others that did well compared to last year were *Large Skipper, Orange Tip* and *Small/Essex Skipper*.

Moths are also counted and quite large numbers of *Humming Bird Hawk Moth* were seen on the transects. This is a day time flying moth and you will probably have seen them in your garden, especially on Buddleia.

Altogether a total of 4075 butterflies (slightly lower number to last year surprisingly) and 25 species were seen over the 26 week transect recording period of April to September. The transects are carried out diligently by just two knowledgeable members of the Group – it was pretty hot work this year!

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



Painted Lady



Clouded Yellow



Hummingbird Hawk Moth



Hatch Warren Community Centre

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





We are looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming events,

please email office@hatchwarren.org for further information.





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Young Minds text service – 85258

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the Warren

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THE WARREN

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6-7:45PM

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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!

Link2 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

Link2

Boost confidence and support for independent travel

Maintain and develop our access to work programme

Supported by Hampshire County Council

SAVING A CRASHED PILOT'S LIFE WITH A GARDEN IMPLEMENT

It started like any other working day for David Stiles, but it ended up with his action of using a garden implement helping to save the life of a crashed pilot.

This happened at the College of Air Training (CoT) centre at the Hamble aerodrome in southern Hampshire. The centre had been set up in the 1960s when it was realised that there were insufficient ex-RAF pilots needed by BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation} and BEA (British European Airways} to be trained as civilian pilots for their expanding businesses.





The small airfield at Hamble continued to be used by the Air Training Corps (ATC) and Southampton University Air Squadron but was considered suitable for training school leavers and university graduates who had no flying experience to become pilots.

Following fifteen weeks of ground study, flight training commenced in the ubiquitous De Haviland Chipmunk gradually progressing to Piper Cherokee then on to twin engined Piper Apache and later Beechcraft Barons.









After two years, cadets would leave the college with a British commercial pilot's licence and a 'frozen' airline transport pilot's licence, which could be converted into a full ATPL after further examinations and having accumulated the requisite flying hours. This latter qualification would be needed if the pilot had ambitions ever to sit in the captain's seat.

The College of Air Training operated to such high standards that nearly half of all cadets failed to successfully complete their course. Its reputation encouraged the attendance of many foreign students that helped swell the successful trainees up to around two thousand before its closure in 1982.

Having around sixty aircraft of different types at the training centre required a substantial maintenance team where David Stiles was responsible for radar and instrumentation. He, and three others, also had to drop their tools and act as assistant firemen should their elderly fire tender be required in an emergency.



David Stiles with upside down aircraft with Probus President Paul Klinger

The siren sounded at lunchtime on 7th December 1968. A trainee from the CoT was on the landing approach when it was suddenly hit by another unsighted aircraft belonging to the ATC. The instructor immediately took control and with a damaged tailplane successfully landed the De Haviland Chipmunk. But where was the other aircraft?

The immediate thought was that the offending plane had crashed near the village school. Arriving in the fire tender it was met by school children pointing to the adjacent bungalow and having parked in the road the fireman and David rushed to the back garden to find the wreckage of an upside-down Chipmunk. Expert opinion was that following the coming together of the two planes the offending one went into a stall and crashed into a tall fir tree that cushioned its landing. The action saw it demolish a potting shed knocking out the 86 years old resident where he had been working but he walked away uninjured.

The pilot was unconscious, being held upside down by his safety harness. A decision had to be made whether to go back to the fire tender, fix hoses to bring in foam which would take some minutes, or, attempt to save the pilot before the plane might soon go up in flames as fuel from the damaged wing tanks was seeping towards the hot engine.

The decision was instantly made to try to save the pilot. The Chipmunk sliding cockpit canopy could not be opened as it was now touching the ground. David and a colleague went to the wrecked tail of the aircraft and tried to lift the rear end sufficiently to raise the cockpit canopy off the ground. Greater height was needed. Looking around the garden David spied a clothesline prop that might be useful. It was a strong straight tree branch with a large vee fork that hooked under the clothesline.

Using all their strength they lifted the tail and managed to fit the prop under part of what remained of the fuselage and gradually worked it along raising the aircraft sufficiently to clear the sliding canopy off the ground. Fortunately, the runners were still free so how to extract the unconscious pilot? Smacking the centre clasp of the harness released the pilot headfirst on to the ground and they were able to slide the now recovering pilot sideways out of the wreckage.

At that point the local fire brigade arrived and covered the plane with foam. An ambulance took the pilot to hospital where he fully recovered.

Two days later a statement was taken by the Chief Fire Officer and the local policeman. The engine was removed from the wreckage while the remainder was scrapped.

Had it been in wartime the response may have been different with some citation. But the fully recovered pilot returned presenting David and the fireman each with a bottle of Teacher's whisky for their heroic actions in saving his life.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information.



BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

Sunday 31st January 2027, 3:00pm

Looking for a gift that's a little different this year? An extraordinary musical experience. Join us for an afternoon with -

The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines—a dazzling mix of military precision, musical brilliance, and crowdpleasing favourites, this spectacular concert blends military precision with musical flair—we've been entertained with classical favourites, swing, pop hits, and iconic movie themes from Bond to Star Wars, they surprise us every year with new themes.

We're again thrilled to welcome back the cherished Chelsea Pensioners, who bring tradition, pride, and warmth to the event.

Tickets from The Anvil Box Office. anvilarts.org.uk 01256844244

Basingstoke Deane Rotary will again be volunteering at these events:

ST MICHAELS HOSPICE

LIGHT UP A LIFE

Sunday 6th December, 3pm or 6.30pm at St Josephs Church, Basingstoke. See the Hospice website for further information and on how to make a dedication for a loved one.

ST MICHAELS HOSPICE

REINDEER RUN

Sunday 13th December 2026 from 8:00 am -sign in and pick up your antlers for 9.00am start. See the Hospice website to register for the 3K Reindeer Run, dance and prance along the way whilst raising much needed funds for the Hospice.

www.rcbd.org.uk Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

HAMPSHIRE HARMONY IS BACK!

As the days draw in, it has been good for members of Hampshire Harmony to get back to regular practices on Monday evenings at Carnival Hall, Basingstoke.

Hampshire Harmony is an award-winning, upper voice choir, which sings in three-part harmony. The choir has been established for over 60 years and was known for many years as Basingstoke Ladies Choir. The name was changed in 2020, in part to reflect the fact that our membership comes from a wider area. In 2023, we were joined by our most recent Music Director, Clare Oliver, and since then, we have gone from strength to strength.

Clare is an experienced MD, who has taught singing for over 30 years. She brings out the best in the choir, leading us in a sympathetic manner, to attain her high standards. Come to any of our concerts and you will notice how her teaching helps us tell the story of each song and convey the emotions.

Our first concert of the term is 7th November at Queen Mary's College where we shall perform alongside Basingstoke Silver Band and the BSB Cavaliers and Tadley Concert Brass Band. You will be in for a night of excellent entertainment if you come along.

Our next appearance will be when we sing at the, Light up a Life Service, for St Michael's Hospice on Sunday 6th December 2026 at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd, RG22 6TY The hospice is the charity for which we are raising funds throughout the year.

On Sunday 13th December, the choir will be appearing throughout the day at The Tower of London. Along with other choirs from across the country, we shall sing at different locations at the Tower, in order to bring the Christmas spirit to the public.

hampshireharmony.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Be present this Christmas and let us entertain you.







WHAT'S ON AT ANVIL ARTS

SINFONIA OF LONDON
Wed 4 Nov, 7.30pm, The Anvil

John Wilson conducts this fine programme which includes Bacewicz's short Concerto for string orchestra, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto no. 2, and Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor joins the orchestra.

JOHN SIMPSON - The Leaders and Lunatics Tour
Thu 5 Nov, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Journalist and broadcaster John Simpson CBE takes to the stage with a bold and unflinching look at leadership and why some inspire and some descend into tyranny.

STEWART LEE VS THE MAN-WULF
Fri 6 Nov, 7.30pm, The Anvil

Stewart Lee shares his stage with a tough-talking werewolf comedian from the dark forests of the subconscious who hates humanity. The Man-Wulf lays down a ferocious comedy challenge to the culturally irrelevant and physically enfeebled Lee.

PETER KNIGHT'S GIGSPANNER TRIO
Sat 7 Nov, 7.45pm, The Forge

The Gigspanner Trio is the beating heart of Peter Knight's work, loved for the intimacy and joy that manifest in their virtuosic performances, with guitarist Roger Flack and hand percussionist Sacha Trochet.

Blackeyed Theatre and Arcola Theatre present

THE TURN OF THE SCREW
Wed 11-Sat 14 Nov, The Haymarket, Suitable for ages 12 and over

A young governess in England, hired to care for two seemingly angelic children in a remote country house, begins what appears to be an idyllic new life. Yet there is something about the children that hints at a darker presence.

GUY DAVIS
Sat 14 Nov, 8pm, The Forge

Guy Davis is a two-time, Grammy nominee for Best Traditional Blues. He uses a blend of roots, blues, folk, rock, rap, spoken word, and world music to comment on the frustrations of social injustice, touching on historical events and common life struggles.

CHRIS PACKHAM'S WORLD OF WONDER
A Planet on the Edge

Tue 17 Nov, 7.30pm, The Anvil

For nearly forty years, Chris Packham has been the voice of nature through his ground-breaking work on The Really Wild Show, Springwatch, Inside Our Autistic Minds, and Earth.

Imperial Classical Ballet presents

THE NUTCRACKER
Featuring a full live orchestra

Sat 21 Nov, 2.30pm & 7.30pm

As the nights grow crisp and anticipation for the holiday season begins to sparkle in the air, Imperial Classical Ballet return with their beloved production of The Nutcracker.

HUGH CORNWELL
Never Say Goodbye-Final Solo Acoustic Tour

Wed 25 Nov, 7.30pm, The Haymarket

As lead singer and songwriter of The Stranglers during their golden period, Hugh Cornwell cast a spell mixing fact, history, mythology, and ideology within the lyrics of the songs, leading to the band's success throughout the world.



DAVE'S NATURE SPOT

A surprisingly common wild animal around our area is the Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes).

The Red Fox, which is common throughout the northern hemisphere, is the size of a small to medium dog. They are crepuscular (mainly active at dusk and dawn) but are opportunists and will venture out during the day.

Coat colour varies but they can range from a bright rusty red to a darkish brown and both sexes have a bushy tail which is called a brush. They are very adaptable animals and are at home in both town and country.

Late November is when their mating season begins and it runs through to January. This is when you can hear their eerie barks and screams. Most foxes will pair for life. The female (vixen) will find a safe place to make her den (also known as an earth) and she will give birth in March/ April up to 4 - 6 cubs. The male (dog) will help to raise the cubs. The den will be in a sheltered spot under tree roots or an old badger set and in the town a favourite place is under a garden shed or outhouse.

When the cubs are born, the vixen will stay in the den suckling them for about 2 to 3 weeks and the dog fox will bring her food during this period. Cubs will be partly weaned at 6 to 8 weeks although they will go back to the vixen for milk even though they are feeding mainly on solids.

As far as diet is concerned, foxes are not fussy. They seem to eat anything edible ranging from slugs, snails, earthworms, frogs, birds eggs, small rodents, rabbits and carrion. Our urban foxes will also find lots of epicurean delights in discarded takeaways, food waste bins and dustbins.

Urban foxes tend to be a lot bolder and have got used to regularly going to peoples' gardens at night to see what scraps might have been left for them.

The survival rate of the Red Fox in the UK is very poor: 60% to 80% of the cubs will not survive the first year and the adults only average 1 to 3 years. In captivity, foxes have been known to live for up to 12 years. Red Foxes unfortunately have many problems, one being that they are prone to sarcopic mange which is caused by mites. Mange in itself is not fatal but infection from the sores caused by the mites is normally what causes death.





Other hazards the hapless creatures face are shooting, trapping, poisoning and, of course, illegal foxhunting. In towns and cities many are killed in road traffic accidents. So, it's not much fun being a fox – it seems to me that they have a pretty bad deal.

Keep a lookout locally at dawn and dusk as they are often reported being seen in our area.

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BEGGARWOOD Wildlife Group

Maintaining Beggarwood Park for the Benefit of Wildlife and the Community

September Work Party

After some much needed rain, the hedge at the Cafe required another tidy up. As well a this, nettles and vegetation were cut back in front of the Cafe. Also tackled were the brambles and rose-hip bushes overhanging the walkway at the bottom of the hill near Sainsbury's entrance which had started to block the path.

Further into the park itself, Dogwood is making a bid to outgrow everything else and left to itself would rapidly colonise all the open areas reducing space for other plants including wild flowers. It spreads quickly underground with long trailing roots so some time was spent 'popping' using a specialised tool to pull them out by the roots. A large area of brambles, equally invasive but much more aggressive with hooking thorns, was also chopped back.



Tidying at the Cafe



Dogwood 'Popping'

Our next work parties will be: - Tue 3rd Nov and Tue 1st Dec

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

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The Mind, Explored

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

The stories our brains tell us

"Can we have a quick chat later?"

Seven perfectly innocent words, and, depending on the person reading them, seven words capable of ruining an entire afternoon.

I know this one well. My brain doesn't particularly like gaps in information, so it has a habit of filling them in for me. Have I done something wrong? Is there a problem? Have I forgotten something? By the time the conversation actually happens, I can have constructed an impressively detailed story based on almost no information whatsoever.

Of course, the eventual conversation is usually completely mundane.

We all do this to some extent. A friend doesn't reply to a message; someone seems quieter than usual; our child comes home from school and goes straight upstairs; your partner answers "fine" when you ask if everything is okay.

Something happens, but we don't simply experience what happened. Our brains try to work out what it means, and that's where things get interesting.

Human beings are natural pattern spotters. We use previous experiences to make sense of new ones, which is incredibly useful. If something happened a particular way before, our brain uses that information to predict what might happen next.

The problem is that our predictions aren't always particularly accurate.

If you've previously experienced rejection, criticism or conflict, an ambiguous situation might feel threatening. Someone else, with different experiences, might barely notice it. Neither person has more information about what has actually happened, but their brains have created completely different versions of the same event.

Neurodivergence can sometimes add another layer. For example, some people with ADHD describe being particularly sensitive to perceived criticism or rejection, while autistic people can find ambiguity and unclear communication especially uncomfortable. But this isn't exclusively a neurodivergent experience. It's a very human one.

The useful bit, I think, is learning to notice when it's happening.

One question I often come back to is - what do I actually know, and what has my brain added?

If someone hasn't replied to my message, that's what I know. They haven't replied. The idea that they're annoyed with me, deliberately ignoring me or that I've said something wrong is a story. It might eventually prove to be true, but right now I don't have the evidence.

That distinction sounds simple, but it can be surprisingly powerful.

It doesn't mean ignoring our instincts or dismissing genuine concerns. Our experiences shape us for good reason, and sometimes our instincts are absolutely right. It simply means recognising that a thought can feel completely convincing without necessarily being a fact.

I suspect many of us spend more time responding to the stories in our heads than we realise.

So the next time somebody sends you "Can we have a quick chat later?", notice where your mind goes...

… and perhaps ask yourself a different question before it writes the rest of the story for you: what do I actually know?.

Stu Colman
neuroworkpartners.com

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Who loves you baby?

If, like me, you are prone to periods of self-doubt, low self-esteem, impostor syndrome or a general sense that you're really not very good at anything very much, you may also wonder why anyone would love you.

When I think about it though, I can see that being very good at everything could make me distinctly unlikeable, possibly even unlovable, so thank goodness I'm flawed! Perhaps I should rejoice in my fallibility rather than striving for perfection in everything.

So where do I set a healthy balance between being comfortable in my own skin and striving earnestly to be the best version of myself that I possibly can be?

There is a highly lucrative industry around physical and personal development said to be worth £2.5BN in the UK alone. Clearly, many of us are willing to spend quite a bit of money on trying to improve ourselves in some way. Why? Wouldn't it be better, not to mention cheaper, if I could just be perfectly happy with who I am and the way I was made rather than trying to change that?

But then what is anyone's motivation ultimately to want to change themselves anyway? I guess the answer may be that we believe that the "better" we are, the more we will be loved.

We all crave love in some shape or form after all. It is desperately important to our well-being. It's inspiring too. Love has driven musicians, artists and playwrights to great heights of creativity for thousands of years. Every 10th record in the charts has had the word "love" in its title. It also appears 510 times in the Bible.

Love is contagious, love is infectious. If you feel loved by one person, it's likely that you will love them back. Q. "Why do you love me?" A. "Because you love me!"

Before I go any further I need to remind myself that this is a Christian column and ask what God thinks of this balance between trying to be the best you can but also not beating yourself up if you aren't.

My starting point is that I know that God loves me and that He loves you, whether you know it or not. He has loved me since before I was born and I will still love me long after my mortal remains have perished.

So if I'm in a loving relationship with God, and clearly I can't show that by bringing Him a cup of tea or giving Him a peck on the cheek, at least not in this life, how do I show Him how much He means to me? I believe the freedom of choice humans have is a gift from God. As such I have a responsibility to exercise that freedom of choice, get off the fence and choose between trying and not trying, loving and not loving.

So I've decided that from now on I'm going to try to show more love for everyone. I think God would like that. In fact, let's all try that and see what happens.

I'll let you know how it goes in my next contribution to the Rabitter in May next year.

Laurence Besemer

THE PARISH OF BASINGSTOKE DOWN

IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY

In May 1995, the Confederation of Hatch Warren Residents' Groups reported that a traffic survey had been completed by the Denis Wilson Partnership. It found that speeding was worst in Cliddesden Lane and Woodbury Road, and it recommended physical traffic-calming measures as the only effective way of reducing speeds. They, and the Confederation, were now pursuing this with Local Councillors. At that time there was an injury on Hatch Warren's roads every three months. They were planning a public meeting to discuss the matter.

This was the exercise that led to the installation of the 'build outs' around the estate. One of them, in Long Cross Lane, was poorly sited and had to be removed but the rest are still with us today.

The local Police reported that there had been a steady flow of burglaries in the Hatch Warren area. They were also concerned about 'kids causing juvenile nuisance', with the plea that older residents show tolerance to youths in play areas, and vice versa. I found their closing comment thought-provoking. They wrote: "you are very fortunate in Hatch Warren that there is a strong feeling of community spirit which is aided by the events and activities made available to you by the Community Centre."

This is interesting: it seemed to take a lot longer for community spirit to develop in the estates that were built during the London Overspill developments. Perhaps the lifestyle changes were more pronounced in the 1960s and 70s: many people found it a real wrench moving from well-established communities in London to an environment that they found wholly unfamiliar with fewer facilities and neighbours they didn't know. By 1995 the Anvil had opened and the Leisure Park was becoming established. They make a huge difference.

One of the local Councillors was commenting on garages that were too narrow to take the cars of the day. He was hoping to influence new developments and get larger garages. In the event I don't think he succeeded.

It strikes me that garage dimensions have stayed the same for decades and new cars are being built wider than ever. I had the pleasure to follow an original mini this week, and it looked tiny in amongst its modern counterparts. I suspect that our roads seem more crowded today, not just because there are more cars but also because they are so much bigger.

Stephen Reid

Find a warm welcome at your local parish church...
Immanuel Church
St Mark's School,
Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, RG22 4US
part of the Parish of Basingstoke Down
for info on services and events...
www.parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk
Parish Office- 01256 840502
find us on Facebook and Instagram!
THE PARISH OF BASINGSTOKE DOWN

WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

In my September and October articles, I talked about the bees getting ready for winter and preparing for Spring activity. For November, my focus is how to help pollinators survive the winter. Key areas are autumn garden management: how much to cut, clear & rake and the autumn planting for next spring's pollinator food. There are many things we can do and these changes can also benefit other wildlife who also need a suitable undisturbed habitat for their winter dormancy period.



The Bumblebee goes into full hibernation, but many other insects like butterflies and mammals like hedgehogs go more into a dormancy state and to survive the winter, all need to have built up fat reserves and find a secure place to rest.

To achieve this having a slightly messy garden with nooks and crannies is the ideal. By all means keep a tidy clear lawn but hidden corners are ideal for leaves and other garden cuttings to be left. Leave seed heads standing until spring for bird food. Fallen leaves provide shelter for caterpillars, beetles and bees and small piles of cuttings give cover to small mammals and amphibians. Patches of bare soil are good for some bees to burrow into and nest.

So what garden planting should we be thinking about? The Bumble and Solitary bees emerge in the Spring with one thing in mind: they need food to recover and get ready for the next generation. The Bumblebee queens need to 'plump' up their dry, shrivelled fertilised eggs. With milder winter, spring flowers are appearing earlier, so bees could be emerging even as early as late January. So do think about having herbaceous plants like hellebore, lungwort, primrose and the early bulbs of snowdrops, crocus, spring iris and hyacinths as well as the usual daffodils.

I haven't even mentioned the Honeybee… their threats are at a very different level, being cold, disease and parasites. In December's article, I will cover the beekeeper's critical role minimising these threats for the winter honeybees and maximising the health of the new brood emerging from the hive to forage with the warm weather. Again, with current climate change, this could be as early as February.

In the meantime, have a look at your garden and consider what you can do to make it a a better, safe and providing haven for our precious pollinators and wildlife.

Kenneth and Barbara Robson
on behalf CB400 Foundation
www.charlesbutler400foundation.org.uk

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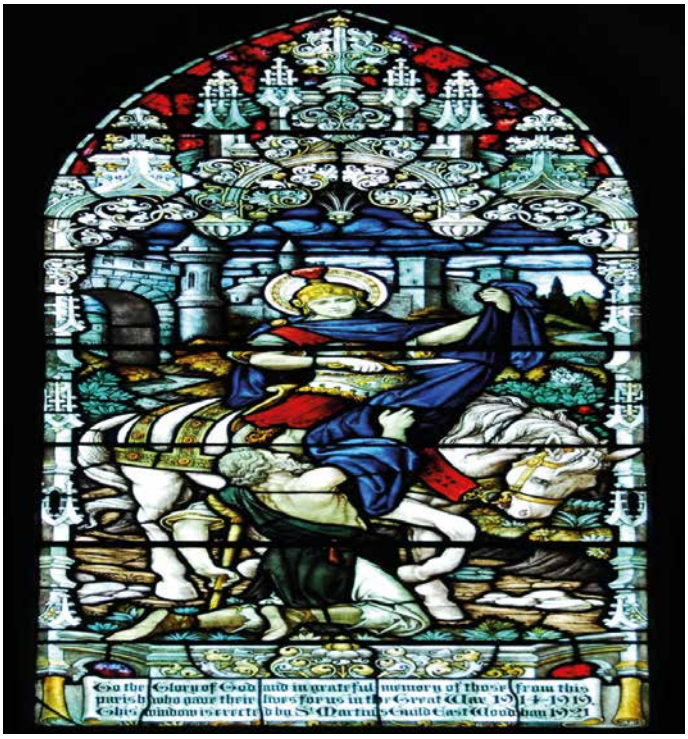
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HISTORY SNIPPETS



MARTINMAS

Prior to the reformation and the Commonwealth of Oliver Cromwell, November 11th, also known as Old Halloween, was celebrated as the festival of St Martin.

St Martin of Tours was reputedly a Roman soldier who shared his cloak with a freezing beggar, becoming the patron saint of beggars. The day marked the traditional end of the hard work of the agricultural harvest, and the transition into winter. It was also the time for quarter rents to be paid, and hiring or goose fairs were held to recruit farm labourers.

Feasts would be held with a roast goose as the traditional choice; St Martin allegedly hid in a goose pen to avoid becoming a bishop until the honking of the geese gave him away. It was also a traditional time for gathering to watch mumming plays or to hear story telling.

Rather like St Swithun's Day, Martinmas was a day for predicting the weather. If it was cold and icy, then an easy Christmas and winter would follow. Conversely, if the day was mild, then a cold and harsh winter was likely.

11th November is also noted as "St Martin's Summer". Around this time there is often an unseasonably warm spell.

The image above is of the stained glass window of St Martin from St Martin's Church, East Woodhay..

Terri Elizabeth Reid MA
terrielizabethreid.com

HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

It has been a great first half term at Hatch Warren Under Fives, which we finished with a week full of Halloween fun. The children came into preschool dressed in Halloween costumes and spooky colours and joined in with Halloween fun and games. The children particularly enjoyed our sensory Halloween playdough which smelt of pumpkins and cinnamon.

We have been enjoying the theme of Autumn. During our time outdoors we have been introducing the children to autumn colours, patterns and we've been paying close attention to the changes that we see as the seasons change. We have been doing scavenger hunts in the garden and outside in the woodland looking for conkers, pine cones, twigs and different coloured leaves, which are all great natural resources to use in preschool at this time of year. We have made some lovely seasonal artwork with our natural resources.

Our two-year-olds in our Caterpillars room have also been enjoying our autumn theme and have made lovely seasonal artwork. They have also been using their fine motor skills and cutting out autumn pictures and hibernating animals pictures. Music and movement has been very popular in our Caterpillars room and the children have had great fun playing musical instruments, dancing and singing to nursery rhymes.

An important part of our daily routine for both our younger and older children is reading and story time. The children have so many favourite stories so the children vote for which story they would like to hear each day.

Coming up in our next half term we will be getting creative with clay when we celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, and with bonfire night coming up we'll be using lots of colours to create our own bonfire and firework pictures and will be exploring lots of loud firework sounds.

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

We also manage another lovely preschool, Kempshott Under Fives, located a short distance away at St. Mark's Church in Kempshott. If you are interested in a space at Kempshott Under Fives, please email kempu5@aol.com

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

DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

We started the term focusing on our emotions through the Colour Monster story. Using tuff trays, filled with coloured rice the children scooped and poured it into pots to encourage fine motor skills, colour recognition and exploring sensory play. They also sorted coloured pom-poms to the appropriate colour for a range of emotions, supporting the children to explore these emotions and how they make us feel. As a setting we hold Millie's Mark accreditation and we are in the process of obtaining the accreditation for the third year. We are so proud to be the only setting in Basingstoke to hold this. In September Millie's Mark celebrated their 10-year anniversary so we celebrated with them by taking part in some of the activities suggested by them. Our home corner turned into a doctor's surgery and the children met Millie Bear. We had so much fun looking at ways to keep us healthy through movement. The children have been focusing on numbers, measurements and weight. We used blocks to build a tower to see how tall we could make it and found numbers hidden in shredded paper. In order to support the children and staff with learning and confidence around Maths we have two designated members of the team who have just undertaken Maths Champion training through the National Day Nurseries Association. We are acting as part of a national programme to enhance the skills of both children and staff by embedding maths into play and activities within the Early Years Sector.






As a setting we are always looking at ways we can improve the learning environment. Whilst we have maths in all areas of learning, we have introduced a dedicated maths area to both our indoor and outside provision.

With the change in seasons, we have been looking at our autumnal resources such as conkers and leaves. We counted how many conkers we could find in the pasta and rolled them through cardboard tubes to see how quickly they got to the bottom. This supported us with our counting and weighing skills The children demonstrated their fine motor skills by using scissors to cut the leaves and pegged leaves onto washing lines. Alongside this we spoke about the noises the leaves were making in the breeze and the colours we could see.

There is so much to look forward to over the coming weeks children. We are so grateful to one of our parents who will be coming in to share how they celebrate Diwali. We will be making Diva pots and Mongolian patterns. We will be planning in some trips to St Mark's Farm and some activities planned for Halloween and Bonfire night and not forgetting Children In Need where we will be getting spotty!!! We will be taking part in Remembrance Day in a child appropriate way.

Due to high 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 Our waiting lists for 2028/2029 are now open

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

Autumn is a wonderful time of year for learning, exploring and discovering at preschool. As the leaves change colour and the days become cooler, we take every opportunity to notice the world around us. Our children enjoy collecting leaves, exploring seasonal colours and textures, talking about changes in the weather and discovering the signs of autumn through play and outdoor adventures.





Autumn also provides wonderful opportunities to develop our children's curiosity and understanding of the natural world. We enjoy watching leaves fall from the trees, finding conkers and acorns, looking for signs of wildlife and noticing how our environment changes as the season progresses. These simple experiences encourage children to ask questions, make observations and share their ideas with others.

This term also gives us opportunities to learn about and celebrate special events and traditions. We explore the meaning and traditions behind Diwali, the Festival of Light, enjoying colourful activities, stories, music and creative experiences. We also learn about Bonfire Night, talking about staying safe around fireworks and bonfires while enjoying firework-inspired art, songs and sensory play.

Through stories, songs, messy play, creative activities and conversations, children are developing their communication, creativity, confidence and understanding of the world. Celebrating different traditions also helps children learn that families and communities may celebrate important occasions in many different ways.

01256 389008 www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/

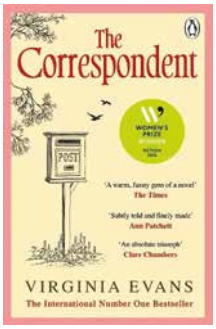


Beggarwood Bookworms

OUR MEETINGS

October saw the eight birthday of Beggarwood Bookworms. We celebrated with a delicious cake from the cafe. It is so lovely to see loyal members that were at the very first meeting. During our eight years we have read over 50 books together and been able to have 10 fantastic author visits. We have read a wide selection of genre and we always say it is so good to be introduced to new authors and to read books we would otherwise never choose to pick up. This month's book was *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy.

Set on an island in Antarctica the world's largest seed bank is in imminent danger of flooding and an injured stranger is washed up on the shore. It is a book of the wild sea and mystery and the group was really split in two with many members loving the atmosphere and the setting but others found the story a little unbelievable - love it or hate it !!!



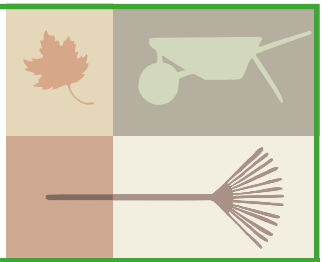
Next month's choice is the very popular *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Read along with us and you are very welcome to join us in the Cafe in the Park for book chat, coffee and cake.

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Welcome to King's Church Basingstoke
You are invited to join us any Sunday at 10:15 when we start with Tea and Coffee and the warmest of welcomes.
Meeting at Manor Field Junior School, Haydn Road, Brighton Hill
* Any date changes will be on our website www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com
FREE community breakfast.
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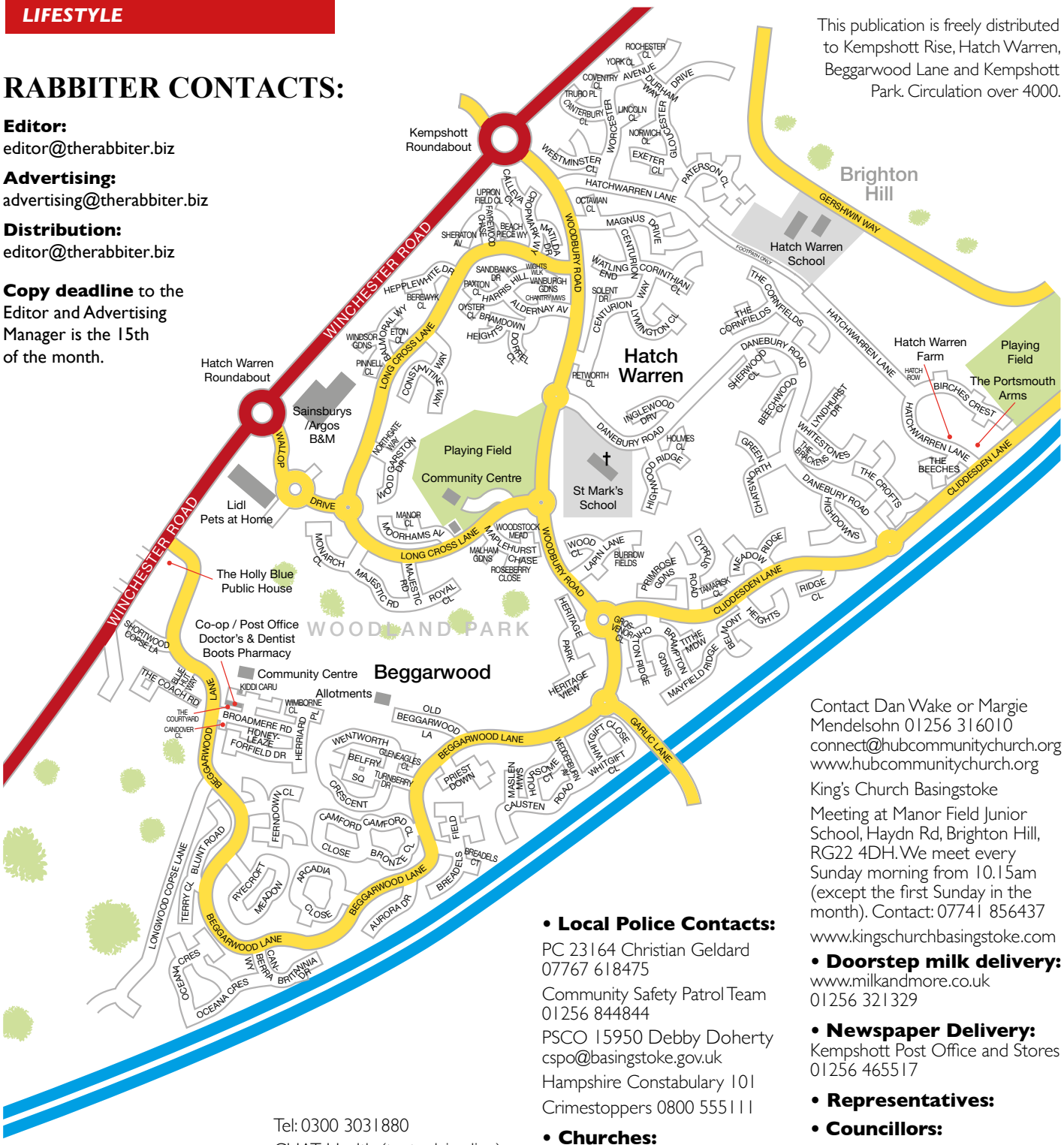
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Contact Dan Wake or Margie Mendelsohn 01256 316010
connect@hubcommunitychurch.org
www.hubcommunitychurch.org

King's Church Basingstoke

Meeting at Manor Field Junior School, Haydn Rd, Brighton Hill, RG22 4DH. We meet every Sunday morning from 10.15am (except the first Sunday in the month). Contact: 07741 856437

www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com

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• Member of Parliament

Basingstoke:
Luke Murphy
luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk

• Local Police Contacts:

PC 23164 Christian Geldard
07767 618475

Community Safety Patrol Team
01256 844844

PSCO 15950 Debby Doherty
cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk

Hampshire Constabulary 101

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

• Churches:

Immanuel Church - Holy Communion - 9am every Sunday at St Mark's School, Danebury Road.

St Mark's Church - Sunday Service with children's groups - 10.30am every Sunday at St Mark's, Homesteads Road, Kempshott. For more details contact - The Parish of Basingstoke Down (01256) 840502 or office@parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk

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

Hub Community Church Every Sunday at The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU at 4pm

• Health:

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CGH Partnership
Western Way Tel: 479747
Mon-Fri 0800-1830

Broadmere Road Surgery
Tel: 396500
Mon-Fri 0830-1800
(answermessage when closed)

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Boots Pharmacy Broadmere Road
Tel: 398927 Mon-Fri
0900-1800 Sat/Sun closed

Health Visitors

Tel: 0300 3031880

CHAT Health (text advice line): 07520 615720

Email: basingstokehvteams @southernhealth.nhs.uk

Dentist

Broadmere Road – Tel: 391391

• Post Office

Co-op Broadmere Road:
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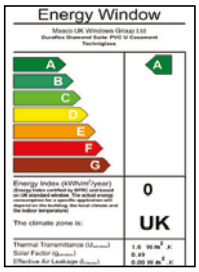
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