

THE Rabbiter



Issue 233 July & August 2016

All the regular features plus

- **PARKING PROBLEMS**
- **BEGGARWOOD ARTIST**
- **SUMMER FESTIVAL**

and much more

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EDITORIAL

The Summer holidays are almost upon us and, hopefully, lots of sunshine and fun. The season is all set to kick off with our own Summer Festival on 9 July from 12noon – 3pm. It will take place on the playing field next to the Hatch Warren Community Centre and entry is FREE! Lots more information on page 10. If you have any energy left after this event, there is the Basingstoke Area Youth Orchestra Fair on Sunday 10 July at QMC – see page 13 for details.

It is often difficult for parents of young children to keep them occupied during the long summer vacation. The Discovery Centre in Basingstoke Town Centre has lots going on (see the Rabbiter website for more details) and the open access summer playscheme will provide lots of fun and entertainment – see page 14.

There has been considerable concern regarding the proposed rise in the number of permitted HGV movements across the estate travelling to the anaerobic digester – see page 5 for an update from Sam Weller who has been very active in raising awareness of the issues connected with the digester. A big thank you to Sam for the enormous amount of time he has devoted to ensuring the agreement with Tamar is not flouted.

Last month we published a letter from a local resident regarding the issue of parking across the estate and this has been picked up by Cllr Terri Reid – see page 7 for her response. It is important that we all take the time to consider the impact of parking across the estate.

The charge on carrier bags is positively helping good causes in our community – Sainsbury's have been able to donate £1573 to their Charity of the Year.

The Hatch Warren Community Centre AGM was held recently. Welcome to Nicola Layland who has taken over from Stu Colman – see page 13 for more details of the AGM.

Basingstoke Cats Protection do a fantastic job looking after unwanted, homeless and lost cats. If you could give a home to a cat looking for a lap to snooze on, a warm bed and tasty dinner, please see the article on the Rabbiter website.

So many of our local activities rely on volunteers to keep them going. The Community Centre, the Scouts our W.I. to name just a few of the local groups that would fold without the time generously given by local people. The Rabbiter is also supported by a wonderful team of volunteer deliverers who each month go out in all weathers to ensure the publication goes through your letterbox. We are a small team here at Rabbiter HQ, an editor, business manager, roving reporter and What's On co-ordinator. Without the help of these people the Rabbiter would never get published. However, your Editor is fast approaching old age and we need to do some succession planning. Would you like to be involved? If we do not find a few people to join the editorial committee it is likely that the Rabbiter will cease to exist in the not too far distant future. Interested? Contact the Editor on rabbitereditor@aol.com for more information or to discuss how you could help.

The Rabbiter is now going to take its annual summer holiday – the next issue is September and the copy date is 15 August.

Jenny, Editor



Keep an eye out for the web symbol — you can find out more on selected articles at www.therabbiter.biz

THE Rabbiter

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'HISTORY OF MAGIC' AT PROBUS CLUB



John Field, a retired solicitor from Ashstead, gave the Probustoke Club of Basingstoke an informative insight into the history of magic over the centuries. John has been performing magic for over 40 years and is a member of the prestigious Magic Circle. He has developed his skills to such a high level that in 2005 he was elevated to the exclusive degree of Associate Member of The Inner Magic Circle with Silver Star. Fewer than 350 magicians hold this degree worldwide.

John started with the first known magician, Dedi, in 2700BC. He was famous for cutting the head off a bird – it would fall to the ground – then attaching another one so the bird could fly away. The secret? It's all to do with the way a bird will tuck its head under a wing. And a second, less fortunate bird. Rumour has it that he tried the same trick with a cow.

Moving along through the ages John described the famous 'cup and ball' trick, which is 2,500 years old. "Which walnut has the pea under it" together with the "Find the Lady" card trick are all variations of the same idea. They have one thing in common in that you can never win! Gangs who do this are highly sophisticated and make a good living. Associates planted in the audience appear to win small fortunes with ease, luring onlookers to bet large sums. Despite knowing how the trick is done John described how he lost \$14 in less than a minute in Times Square, New York.

On a more serious note, he told of witchcraft trials, where suspected witches were repeatedly pricked with a bodkin – a needle with a small handle. This was to test for the Devil's mark, a numb spot where

the Devil had supposedly kissed the witch. Initially the success rate was minimal, so a bright spark redesigned the bodkin, putting the needle on a spring so it would retract when it touched anything. From that point onwards the fate of hundreds of innocents was sealed.

In early years magicians could be hanged or burnt for witchcraft but, later, magicians made their fortune. He told of William Ellsworth Robinson, who shaved his head, grew a pigtail, dressed in Chinese robes and called himself Chung Ling Soo. His speciality was catching bullets in his teeth, and it paid very well indeed – in 1912 he was earning the equivalent of £31,500 per week – until the day when the trick went wrong and he was killed. Some say it was because special chambers in the gun had corroded; others whisper of suicide – or murder.

John gave a demonstration of his ability to mind-read National Lottery random numbers from the audience, getting all six correct. He finished off, with the help of an audience assistant, in a demonstration of a version of the 'cup and ball' trick. Amazingly, even an observation at close quarters could not detect how it was done.

Questions were welcomed at the end but he refused to say how any of his tricks were done.

More details about the Probustoke Club of Basingstoke, the social organisation for retired professional and business managers, can be seen on their web site www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or phone their secretary Paul Flint on 07770 886521.



TAMAR'S APPLICATION

At the Regulatory Committee meeting of Hampshire County Council on 15th June, they agreed Tamar's application to increase the number of permitted HGV movements from 6,000 to 10,450 per annum - from 22 to 38 per day. The only comfort to residents is that the Committee made the planning consent temporary - it only applies for 12 months, and Tamar will then have to re-apply. In spite of the efforts of the Council Officers uncritically to help and support Tamar, the Committee members were quite sceptical about the way they're running the digester, and receptive to the arguments put forward by me, our Borough Councillor Terri Reid, County Councillors Stephen Reid and Rita Burgess, and Julian Jones from Dummer Parish Council.

Hopefully the temporary nature of the increase will make Tamar take more (or even a little) care to observe the terms, and particularly to avoid Woodbury Road during the school run times; the morning school run restriction was supposed to have been extended by 15 minutes, but it now appears that the wording inserted by the officers is contradictory, so nobody's really sure what they intended.

It is therefore vital that any residents who observe any infringements at any time (school run particularly, but also if they see any route infringements, if the lorries travel along Beggarwood Lane, Long Cross Lane/Wallop Drive or Cliddesden Lane) let me have as many details as they can, so we can report them as soon as possible to the authorities. If you see anything that might be an infringement, please inform me (or Councillor Terri Reid if you prefer); it would be very helpful if you could include as much as you can of date, time, company name, number plate, and whether they were going to or from the digester.

Believe me, I will be very pleased if there are no infringements at all over the next year, as that would prove the hard work done by several residents - especially Bill Holt - in the run up to the Committee meeting had paid off!

Sam Weller samthetax@yahoo.co.uk

We need a few more 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 are the rounds which now need deliverers:

1. Breadels Field & Breadels Court
2. Monarch Close
3. Blunt Road and Terry Close

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WHAT'S ON – JULY/AUGUST

Do you have an event locally that you would like to tell people about. The Rabbit reaches over 4000 homes locally so is the perfect way to publicise your event. Just email details to newsdesk@therabbit.biz or rabbiteditor@aol.com Copy date is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

1 July	Open Session – Candover Valley Pre-School 9.30am – 11am
2 July	Theodora – Oratoria by Handel. The Anvil, 7.45pm
2 July	Bingo Evening – Farleigh Club – See page 20
7 July	Hatch Warren W.I.
9 July	Crazy Golf Competition, Community Centre, sponsored by Sainsbury's
9 July	Summer Festival – Hatch Warren Community Centre. 12-3pm – See page 10
9 July	Family Fun Day – Bishop Challoner School 2.00 – 4.30pm
9 July	Charity Motown Night – Camrose Clubhouse 8.00 – 12.00pm
10 July	Bayo Crafts and Music Fair – Queen Mary's College – 11.00-5.00pm
14 July	Film Night at Immanuel Church, St Mark's School. 7.30pm
14 July	Laughter House at Red Lion featuring Mike Gunn – www.laughter-housevpweb.co.uk
15 July	Summer Ball, Oakley Hall – see page 31
20 July	Blood Doning at Community Centre
24 July	Big Wheel and Little Wheel Bike Ride – St Michael's Hospice
31 July	Aladdin – Theatre Coach Trip – see Community Centre page
6 August	Basingstoke Lion's Club Barn Dance – Royal British Legion Old Basing
6 August	Quiz Night – Farleigh Club – See page 20
29 August	Summer Bank Holiday

Future Events

1 September	Hatch Warren W.I.
8 September	Laughter House at Red Lion featuring Ben Norris – www.laughter-housevpweb.co.uk
10 September	Hatch Warren Beer Festival
10 September	Moonlight Walk – St Michael's Hospice
Late September	Soup Lunch at Community Centre in aid of After School Club
25 September	Hatch Warren Runners 10k Trail Race in Farleigh Wallop
6 October	Trip to see Aladdin the Musical – organised by the Community Centre
6 October	Hatch Warren W.I.

13 October	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-housevpweb.co.uk
16 October	Wedding Fayre – Community Centre
30 October	Clocks go back 1 hour
3 November	Trip to The Bodyguard, London – organised by Community Centre
3 November	Hatch Warren W.I.
5 November	Fireworks Display – organised by Community Centre
10 November	Laughter House at Red Lion featuring Johnny Awsum – www.laughter-housevpweb.co.uk
13 November	Remembrance Sunday
23 November	Trip to Dirty Dancing on Tour, Reading – organised by Community Centre
26 November	Bluewater Coach Trip – organised by Community Centre
27 November	Christmas Craft Fayre – organised by Community Centre
30 November	St Andrew's Day
1 December	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-housevpweb.co.uk
3 December	Bath Coach Trip – organised by Community Centre

School Year Dates

Summer Holiday: 21 July – 4 September
Autumn Half Term: 24 – 28 October

REGULAR EVENTS

Hatch Warren W.I., 1st Thursday each month 8.00pm
Community Centre (contact Jane Kerry 01256 810255)

Basingstoke Knit and Natter,
Every Monday 6.30 – 9pm, Waitrose Café

The Warren Youth Club, Friday evenings at the Warren
attached to the Community Centre

Aldworth Badminton Club,
Thursday evenings 8.30 – 10 Aldworth Science College

Cliddesden W.I., Cliddesden Village Hall, 7.30pm, third Thursday
every month (contact Pat Rampton 01256 461034)

Old Down & Beggarwood Wildlife Group,
www.olddownandbeggarwood.org.uk email: odandbwd@gmail.com

Hatch Warren Nature Group,
contact Paul Beevers, hatch.nature@gmail.com

**Cliddesden, Ellisfield and Farleigh Wallop Horticultural
Society**, contact Mrs M Smith (01256 462584) for details

Laughter House, laughter-housevpweb.co.uk

Hatch Warren Runners, meet Monday and Wednesday at
7.15, Portsmouth Arms and at the Co-op Beggarwood.
www.hwrunners.co.uk

Sainsbury's

Our Values make us Different

Carrier Bag Levy

You may recall, last October, I spoke about the introduction of the 5p bag levy and, the potential impact for charities.

At the beginning of June Sainsbury's paid £1573 to the store's charities chosen as the Charity of the Year for 2015/2016.

It is important to note that, as the decline in bag sales continues, this amount may vary next year, not least as the £1573 accounted for the six months from October 2015 to our year end.

The sales from our Bag for Life range are used to cover the budget every store receives to make a difference in their community. Profits made from the sale of the 5p bags are distributed as above.

Skydive for Brain Tumour Charity

Many of you will recognise our colleagues, Jane Randall & Carol Statham from the store. Jane & Carol are raising funds towards research for those living with the devastating effects of Brain Tumours. Our intrepid duo will be taking part in a Skydive on July 31st in the Swindon area.



You'll see Jane & Carol proudly wearing their fundraising t-shirts during their shifts and, we'll have a few extra buckets around the store, if you wish to add any donations.

Local Hero

Two of our colleagues who regularly volunteer in the community, were recognised at the recent Place to be Proud Awards, organised by Destination Basingstoke. Their efforts were recognised as part of the 'Unsung Hero' category and, whilst they didn't collect the overall prize, Sokphal & Clare certainly enjoyed the evening, including the champagne reception after the show.

Colleagues at the store have now donated over 2500 hours in the Borough, resulting in over £12000 being paid



back to the many community groups they volunteer with.

Herbs & Spices Range

Our range of Herbs & Spices has recently been given an overhaul following customer feedback. The range has almost doubled in size to reflect the diverse tastes and, new screw top lids with wider openings, allow customers to measure a teaspoon straight from the jar.

Food Donation Partnership

We recently added another local charity to our food donation partnership scheme. This sees food, usually set for waste, donated to the community. The team from the Village Hall at Preston Candover, will now receive donated food for the monthly dinners they provide for the elderly in the village.

Waste Less, Save More

This campaign, launched earlier in the year by Sainsbury's, is now being extended across the country to another 111 'Discovery Communities', of which Basingstoke is one of these.

In advance of the launch across the stores in the Borough, you can keep up to date with many tips from these two websites:

<https://wasteless.savemore.sainsburys.co.uk/>
<https://www.sainsburysfoodrescue.co.uk/>

PARKING PROBLEMS

One of the very regular themes of my councillor mailbox is around concerns raised by residents about inconsiderate parking, often related to parking during the school run. This is a hugely frustrating problem. First and foremost it is incredibly frustrating and upsetting for those residents who are affected by this. Reports include difficulties in getting in and out of private driveways, inability to find spaces close to home, cars parked on pathways and across dropped kerbs causing pedestrians to have to walk into roads impacting especially on people with reduced mobility or parents with pushchairs, and neighbour disputes caused by parking problems. There are also reports of disputes between school run parents/carers and the residents whose roads are affected by the school run.

It is also frustrating to me as a local councillor, for it is very difficult to achieve a solution to these problems, however hard I try to help. Often residents ask for the installation of parking restrictions and white lines. We can ask for these, but council

officers are rarely keen to comply. There is a limited budget for this so areas that are put forward have to go into a queue and only the higher priority schemes will be taken forward. But there is another and more crucial reason; white lines and restrictions only work if they are enforced. Local police can monitor flashpoint areas, but they can only cover one area at a time. The same is true for parking attendants. I can ask for an area to be patrolled, but it will be occasional not regular.

The problem of parking around schools is even more hard to solve. Times have changed and most parents/carers work and need to drop off their children before travelling to work, the days of Mothers being at home and having time to walk children to and from school are long gone. So encouraging a walk to school can only achieve a limited result. Hatch Warren Infants and Juniors have recently introduced a park and stride using some car parks in Gerswin Road allowing parents to park and then walk the extra ten minutes or so. But this is never going

to solve the problem completely. Residents often ask why schools are built without sufficient parking close by to enable the school run drop off without impacting on residents. But Hampshire County Council Officers take a policy position against this, something I am fighting on the future Hounsme Fields development.

In addition of course many families, are multiple car families and this puts more pressure on parking around Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. I don't see an easy solution. Certainly we need to encourage people to be more considerate when parking, and to think about the impact that their actions may have on their neighbours. We need to design new estates and in fill developments with sufficient parking, and be more realistic about the school run and consider providing more parking at schools. In trying to fight this problem we up against human nature and ultimately we all need to think about the impact of our actions on other people and on the environment.

Cllr. Terri Reid



PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

As the population becomes more aware of the growth of dementia in the UK, people are looking to put measures in place to ensure their affairs can be managed should this affect them later in life.

Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) can be created to pass authority onto individuals that you know and trust. It is possible to create an LPA granting authority over your property and financial affairs and also over health and welfare matters.

An LPA for Property and Financial Affairs gives your attorney the ability to handle financial matters on your behalf. This can range from payment of gas and electricity bills to handling the sale of your property and

payments for residential care.

An LPA for Health and Welfare gives your attorney the ability to act on your behalf and make key decisions relating to your health. This can cover issues such as choosing a residential care home for you and could also include whether to consent to giving or stopping life sustaining treatment.

Putting LPAs in place gives you the peace of mind that your chosen attorneys can continue to look after your best interests from a financial and a personal point of view.

If you would like advice on how to make a Lasting Power of Attorney, please contact Sue Squires, Associate Solicitor, on 01256 305519 or email her at sue.squires@lambbrooks.com.

before pruning. Trim back the whippy green shoots of this year's growth to five or six leaves. This helps to control the size of the wisteria and prevents it growing into guttering and windows. It also encourages flower buds to form rather than green growth.

There is also plenty of propagation of the perennials to do this time of year. You can split larger Iris after they have finished flowering and moving them about the garden or potting them on. Simply take a sharp spade and slice the Iris down the middle. When potting up or re planting make sure that the corn is sitting on the top of the soil. Don't over water this as they are very prone to rotting. Now you can also take tip cuttings from Fuchsias and other fleshy tips from around the garden. Keep them inside on the window sill until they have rooted, it gives them a better chance to get bigger and grow through the winter months. Many of your perennial and annuals will have finished flowering now, so before cutting them back you can collect any seed heads. These can be dried and stored for next year. To do this cut the seed heads and leave them to dry on newspaper in a warm dry environment. Some seed head will drop their seed when moved so have the newspaper with you to help catch any that fall when being cut. Let them dry out as much as you can and remove any outer casing to prevent mould or rot forming and damaging the seeds. Be warned not all of the seed you collect will germinate and the flowers may be different colours to the original. Sweet peas are particularly fun to store and sow.

You can also continue planting containers and harvesting fruit and vegetables now. Young Courgettes will be ready along with their flowers. As well as Cucumber, Beetroot, Peas, Carrots, Chard, Potatoes, Salad leaves, Lettuce and Tomatoes can all be picked and eaten fresh from the garden. Not forgetting your Strawberries, Raspberries, Gooseberries and Currants. After picking your fruit check for any pruning that may need doing to get an additional crop or to ensure a crop for the following year. For example, Strawberry runners, so your plant will produce more fruiting flowers, or blackcurrant bushes cut down to waste height to ensure fruit for the following year. After all the picking and pruning don't forget to water and give some additional feed to your fruits and vegetables.

Happy Gardening

Sarah Bailes - Deputy Horticultural Training Manager for Share Community

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JULY IN THE GARDEN

July is the time of year I like to dedicate to the perennials. Most perennials will have already had beautiful flowering displays of colour and scent, but now is the time to cut them back. Perennials such as Lupines, Penstemon, hardy Geraniums and Delphiniums need to be cut back so they will give you additional flowering displays. Many other flowers will be finishing their displays and will need tying in and dead heading such as, Roses or climbing plants. Now is also the time to look out for Clematis Wilt. You can tell if you have Clematis Wilt when the leaves go limp and the leaf stalks turn black. Leaf infection is followed by rapid wilting of the stems. Clematis Wilt is caused by a fungal infection and the best way to prevent it is to clear any old leaves. To stop it spreading, cut off any infected leaves and dispose of them. Make sure any tools that you use are also disinfected so you don't transfer the diseases. You can cut the climates back to about 5cm or find the healthy shoots in the ground. If cutting back new healthy shoots should start to produce from the ground. Particularly susceptible cultivars include: Clematis 'Henryi', 'Vyvyan Pennell', 'Mrs N. Thompson', 'Duchess of Edinburgh', 'William Kennett', 'Marie Boisselot', 'Madame le Coultre', 'Ernest Markham'.

Clematis 'Comtesse de Bouchaud', C. 'Jackmanii' and C. 'Nelly Moser' are also susceptible. Resistant cultivars and species include: Clematis 'Avant Garde', 'Bonanza', 'Confetti', C. alpina, C. montana, C. orientalis, C. viticella (which is tolerant rather than resistant), C. integrifolia, C. macropetala, C. tangutica

Other plants that are susceptible to fungal disease this time of year are Hollyhock. You can see this in the form of Rust forming on the leaves. This looks like red or yellow spots appearing on the top and underside of the leaves. Cut away the affected leaves and dispose of them in the waste bin. Fungal disease will transfer if placed in the compost bins. Keeping on top of your weeding helps to keep any fungal diseases under control and allows you to have a good look if there are any disease issues. The quicker you can deal with them the less chance they have to spread to other plants.

Now is also a great time to prune your Wisteria back in to shape. This will be the Wisteria's second pruning of the year, the first in January or February. The first pruning was more for structural reshaping and removing bigger branches. Pruning now, you should focus on tying in and cutting back any runners that have got a bit out of control. You need to wait until the Wisteria has finished flowering

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STUNNING WORK BY BEGGARWOOD ARTIST

Do you remember the wonderful Rhino sculptures that were decorated in various styles and then placed around Southampton as part of Marwell Zoo's Go Rhino event three years ago? They were then auctioned off for charity.

Well, Sian Storey of Beggarwood, painted two of them. And she has just completed a Zebra for Marwell's Zany Zebras project which again will go on show in Southampton for 10 weeks this summer. The style is very psychedelic with hint of a Paisley pattern influence. A charity auction of the sculptures will then raise funds for critically endangered animals and increase awareness of the Grevy's zebra which is the fastest declining land mammal in Kenya.

Sian has become well known in certain circles for this type of artwork as she had previously produced a decorated London bus on behalf of Transport for London in the style of 1960s Swinging London. This was followed by a life sized park Book bench in the style of a paperback for the National Literacy Trust. At the charity auction of the benches Sian's creation achieved one of the highest bid of £8,000. But that is only a side line for Sian as her main interest is in paintings that depict faces and birds some of which have clear Japanese influence.

"I always liked the Japanese style and this was reinforced by my visit to that fascinating country two years ago and today this can



be seen in my paintings of birds and geisha girls. Different artistic influences can be seen in portraits of women and some recognisable men which are juxtaposed against an intensely coloured or patterned background."

Sian continued, "Visiting Russia also influenced my use of material patterns for backgrounds in my work."

Painting in acrylics and spray paint Sian has exhibited her work at various venues in Basingstoke and Overton and has appeared on BBC's South Today, the BBC website and featured in several national newspapers.

She sells both original works of art as well as prints to make owning one easily affordable all of which can be seen on her website sianstoreyart.com or see her Facebook page [Facebook.com/SianStoreyArt](https://www.facebook.com/SianStoreyArt) for up to the minute news about her work.

And her current project is back to those sculptures. Only this time it's for Hampton Court Palace and is a large gnome which goes on display there from 23rd July. At the moment it is standing in her home studio and is currently completely fibreglass white but soon Sian will be approaching it with her usual creative flair. No doubt the finished result will be visually stunning but you can bet it will not look like anything you have seen in a children's picture book.



SUMMER FESTIVAL FUN, FUN, FUN !!!

That's what organiser Karen Coomber expects to happen at the largest free entry event in Hatch Warren this year on Saturday 9th July. It is being held between 12.00 and 3.00 pm on the playing field adjacent to the Community Centre.

"There are so many things happening that there is something to suit every one's interests. We have great static displays of a fire engine, a drag racing car and a Chinook helicopter and activities from a large climbing wall and bouncy castle to a crazy golf course. Children's interests are covered with face painting, field games, circus skills, SCL soccer coaching, zorbing balls, hooping and play doh fun. There will be L'il Party People Dinky Dancers and the

very popular After School club. And the children can join in with Perform (Drama & Acting)."

On show will be some of the popular activities from the Community Centre giving displays of Clubbercise, and Bounce Dance Fit which both adults and children can join in. Musical tastes are covered with two bands, a soloist and the Hatch Warren Adult Pop Choir. For the more sedentary and with a little money to spend there are numerous craft stalls, licensed bar, ice cream and hot food, tombola and a competitions.

The Mayor, Cllr Jane Frankum, will be attending as well as local borough councillors Dan Putty and Terri Reid who commented "The Summer Festival is an amazing, free, community event with something for everyone. It will be a great

day out and I can't wait to be part of it."

Karen Coomber summed it up as "Whether you are young or old, have as little as an hour or as much as three to while away or, simply want to keep the children occupied while you grab a burger and a cheeky glass of wine, there will be something there for you. We are sure it will be an enjoyable afternoon for all."





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CHANGE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Annual General Meeting of the Hatch Warren Community Centre took place in June and there was a change within the trustees who have overall responsibility for the running of this highly popular venue through the experienced effective daily management of Clare Britten.

Nicola Layland became Chairperson of the trustees as Stu Colman stood down from this position after three years but remains on the committee. Jeannette Welton returned as Treasurer and Jenny Bounds became Secretary with her predecessor Diane Lovett also remaining on the committee.

The division of responsibility with the other trustees was unchanged which ensures continuity. Gordon Piper is Vice Chair; Julia Veall is the Youth Officer; Henry Chumun and Kelly Dillon are the Licensing Officers, Karen Coomber and Ron Gallagher run Events with Mike Roberts and Lee Hollingdale responsible for IT. Also trustees are Sandrine Dufour, Fr Michael Smith, Amanda Wise and Sam Hamilton.

Retiring trustees, Cheryl Callendar, Alison Leighton and Tracy Dobell were thanked for their support over the last three years which has seen the building enlarged and growing usage with a monthly footfall now of around 8,000.

Community Centre manager Clare Britten commented. "From the potentially troubling situation we found ourselves in three years ago it is wonderful to see that we have seventeen trustees with such a wide range of experiences that will ensure our Community Centre will go from strength to strength in the next three years"

"However," she continued, "we still need volunteers to help out with specific events like the Summer Festival on Saturday 9th July so please get in touch if you can help, even if it's for only an hour. And if you have additional skills like DIY, HR or Legal experience we would love to hear from you."



Nicola Layland
new Chairperson

SCOUT REPORT

June was another great month for us at Hatch Warren Scout group with the highlight being the District camp that most scouts in the Basingstoke West District attended. The Basingstoke West District includes Kempshott, Brighton Hill, Oakley, Overton, Worting, Winklebury, South Ham, Sherborne St John and, of course, Hatch Warren so over 500 young people attended.

Based at the Ferny Croft Activity Centre in the New Forest, over the course of the weekend the young people and adults had the opportunity to experience activities such as climbing, rifle shooting, aeroball, adventure course, inflatable courses and many, many more things. As well as having a campfire the weekend was probably the first opportunity that many of the new young members had had the opportunity to camp as a group away from home. You can catch up with what happened at camp by following @BasingstokeWest on Twitter or visiting basingstokewestscouts.org.uk.

Earlier this month, we held our 22nd AGM where parents, leaders and members of the Scout District and community were invited to see how we did this year through presentations to young people and adults as well as an amazing video created by the Scout Leader, Chris. We are always looking for people to join us and have a say in the running of one of the major community groups in the Hatch Warren area so if you would like to discuss the opportunities Scouting can offer you, please feel free to contact me at GSL@hatchwarrenscouts.org.uk.

Josh Hensman

Group Scout Leader



BAYO CRAFTS AND MUSIC FAIR

Sunday 10th July 2016.

A number of young people from the Hatch Warren area regularly participate in ensembles with Basingstoke Area Youth Orchestras and Choirs (BAYO) and they will be performing at their Summer event, a crafts and music fair,

on Sunday 10th July 11am – 5pm at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3HF. This is an annual event which always proves to be a great day out where you can browse a variety of gift, craft and children's stalls whilst enjoying something from the BBQ and listening to great music from the many ensembles. Entrance is just £1 adults / 50p concessions.

For more information please visit our websites www.craftsandmusic.co.uk and www.bayo-hampshire.org.uk as well as www.facebook.com/craftsandmusic and www.twitter.com/craftsandmusic



JULY EVENTS AT THE BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE



To book a place, you can order online from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php>, or visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

To find out more about Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Hampshire Libraries visit www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/bsdc.htm>

<https://twitter.com/BasingstokeDC>

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Please visit www.rabitter.biz for the full list

HATCH WARREN W.I.

Hatch Warren W.I. celebrated their 23rd Birthday party in style at Hatch Warren Community Centre. The theme of the evening was music with the John Glasscock Jazz Band who entertained us with new and old jazz songs which soon got everyone's feet tapping along to the music. Some members took to the floor as the evening progressed. The room was decorated with white table clothes and black cut out jazz instruments and notes and all the members wore black and white. We entertained twelve members from various W.I.s in our group with a lovely buffet and black and white music themed birthday cake. Lynette stretched everyone's mind with a quiz to tackle of anagrams of instruments that you might find in a jazz band on each table, which got everyone talking. Hetty our rabbit mascot looked on to overseas the birthday proceedings.

Our speaker next month will be Mike Brook with his experiences of 'Am Dram'.

We meet at Hatch Warren Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. and if you are at all interested in coming along to a very fun evening with Mike and his stories of the stage. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday July 7th, please contact our president Jane 01256 810225 for more information, we look forward to welcoming you all.

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



The Group had its open meeting on Wednesday 1st June and over 50 members enjoyed pastries and cakes while being entertained by Ken Wiseman with a nostalgic look back to the music and songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s.

The next outing is to Lymington and Barton-on-Sea on Wednesday 13th July which will be followed on Thursday 11th August by a Horse Drawn Barge trip on the Kennet and Avon Canal. If you would like to join us on either of these please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791. The next meeting is on 6th July at which Michael Wells will be giving a talk detailing the work done by the charity Canine Partners.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Further details about meetings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com.

David Cowling



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PRACTICAL ADVICE WHEN FACED WITH BEREAVEMENT FROM PHILLIPS SOLICITORS



By Jonathan Jacobs,
Solicitor and Probate
Specialist

'Losing a relative or close friend is hard and can be difficult emotionally, even before you start thinking about how to deal with your loved one's Will and financial affairs. The last thing anyone wants in their grief is to worry about forms and the legalities of death,' says Jonathan Jacobs, solicitor in the Wills and Probate team at Phillips 'and that's why it's so important to get some professional help straightaway.'

Probate is the process of sorting out the 'estate' of someone who has died, so that there is someone legally entitled to deal with the deceased's affairs. It's easy to be confused by all the legal terms and procedural matters, so if you like many others, have never been involved in doing this before, here are a few practical tips:

- Get the Medical Certificate from the Doctor
- Register the death with the Registrar of Births and Deaths
- Tell family members, friends and any employer
- Find the Will if there is one
- If no will exists or cannot be found contact a Solicitor to find out who can sort the estate and who receives the money – this is known

as 'The Intestacy Rules'

- Engage a funeral director
- Ask a trusted solicitor to help you deal with the administration of the estate. Having someone you trust, someone who specialises in probate issues all the time can bring enormous relief and will help to make your life that bit easier, leaving you and the family to cope with your grief.

Finally, Jonathan advises 'if a family dispute erupts because someone disagrees with how the assets are distributed, our experts at Phillips can assist. So whether you need some straightforward advice on what steps to take next or you would like someone to deal with the estate on your behalf, call us 01256 460830. We're here to help.' If you would like to find out more about Probate then you can contact our Wills & Probate Solicitors:

Jonathan Jacobs on 01256 854618 or at jonathan.jacobs@phillips-law.co.uk

Caroline Wallis on 01256 854637 or at caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk

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ON THE ROAD WITH THE..... HATCH WARREN & BEGGARWOOD CYCLING CLUB



The club rides are steadily increasing in size as membership grows week by week. New members are very welcome and we continue to offer prospective members three rides before making a commitment to join the club. Membership is only £15 for the year.

June has included a variety of weekend rides, from an 8 mile leisurely paced ride through to a more pacy, longer distance 50miler. We've also included a regular 20 mile Tuesday evening ride; on one occasion experiencing all the seasons in a short space of time with hail, sun, rain and wind! On Sunday 5th June on a beautiful sunny day, over 30 riders came to join different pace groups. We've averaged over 20 riders a time with a core of regulars and always a new face or two. Bikes are admired and experiences shared.

The most exciting new development of the month has been the arrival of new club shirts - so look out for club members riding around the local countryside in their splendid new bright yellow and blue kit. More kit is on the way with shorts in club colours making an appearance very soon.

You can find out more via our Facebook page or Twitter feed and website:

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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Open Day' in June we enjoyed meeting you all and hope that you enjoyed taking part in a session at Hatch Warren Under Fives. We look forward to welcoming many of your children to the pre-school in September 2016 & our Under 3 groups in October 2016 and February 2017. If you were unable to attend then we have an open door policy, so please pop down at any time to have a look around at the facilities we have available and meet our team.



We have a very busy end of year; Our Parent Group Pre-play are off to Laverstock farm; Our Pre-Schoolers have the opportunity to go to Finkley for the day, whilst the community centre is used for voting. Then we sadly have to say goodbye to our older children who will be starting a new adventure in September – off to school! This year we are off to the park for fun and games and then back for afternoon tea with all the parents including a 'sing song' and graduation.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGES- EYFS (Part 5)

We have looked at the 3 Prime areas of development over the past few months, so we will now look at the 4 specific areas of the coming months.

- Literacy
- Mathematics

- Expressive Arts & Design
- Understanding the World

Literacy

There are 2 elements within this area. For those aged between 22 months – 36 months you might notice some of the following:

1. Reading

- I have some favourite rhymes and songs.
- When you read my favourite stories I can join in with words and phrases that appear over and over again.
- I can tell you the missing word or phrase in stories and rhymes that I know really well, such as "Humpty Dumpty sat on a"

2. Writing

- I can tell you about the different marks I make in my writing and drawing.
- I can hold a chunky crayon, pencil, pen or paint brush and makes lines that go across, up and down or round and round.
- I can draw lines that go across, up and down, round and round and pictures to show numbers and amounts

Things you can do at home to help with this learning:-

Reading

- I like to turn the pages in books – let me.
- Let me use my toys to help me tell you stories that we've shared.
- When you read me stories that I know really well, stop at different parts and let me tell you the missing word.
- Let me explore lots of books from the library or nursery with my friends and on my own.

Writing

- Draw and paint with me and tell me what you're doing.
- When you're writing lists or filling in forms let me have my own paper or forms so that I can make my own marks.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRE-SCHOOL & OUR PARENT & TODDLER GROUPS:-

<http://www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk/> & give us a like on our Facebook page: 'Hatch Warren u5s Preschool'

Michelle Tejevo - Head of Pre-School
Tele: 01256 322788

DANDELIONS

WOW! We have had so much fun this term already!



Thursday 9th June saw us celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday with a Royal Street Party. The children dressed up as kings and queens, princes and princesses and we played party games inside and outside on the grass and had party lunch outside! Jackie was the Queen for the day - everyone was very excited!



The next week was a very important event - Father's day! As mummy's get to come in for afternoon tea, we decided we would invite Daddy to come to Dandelions for breakfast. We were so pleased to welcome most of the daddies, who had toast and jam, croissants and muffins for breakfast with their children. We do hope the daddies enjoyed it as much as the children did - they took great pride in showing Dad what they do when they come to their special place.

We have some special events planned for the end of term, and as always it is with mixed emotions that we see our Lions go on to school. We would like to thank our parents for allowing us the honour of being such a special part of your child's early years education and hope we have helped you provide your child with a firm foundation on which to build their school education.

Many of you will know by now that having been with Dandelions from the start, Jackie is retiring, although I do believe her husband has other plans! We will, of course miss her tremendously, having been the driving force behind both of the groups. All staff and we are sure parents, both past and present would like to wish her all the very best to enjoy her retirement.

We are also very excited at the start of a new era for Dandelions and Snapdragons Community Pre-schools. Our new Manager, Jane will be in the role from September!

Jane has also been with Dandelions since 2005 so knows it pretty well already! Good Luck Jane.

If you haven't heard from us yet and you are on Dandelion's waiting list, please accept our apologies, this group is now full. As ever we have not managed to accommodate all the children on our waiting list, however, we do have some spaces available at Snapdragons - a short jaunt under the underpass at Sainsbury's! If you are interested in a place please do contact Jackie on 01256 818857.

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

(within Preston Candover Primary School)

Tel: 01256-389008

Hello from CVP!

Hot sunny days in the pre-school garden means the children spend lots of time in the sandpit where the sand is completely dry and time in the mud kitchen in the shade of a tree making cooling mud for their mud pies. They love working together for a purpose, adding water, soil and with plenty of mixing and stirring. The children show great pride in their achievement of creating the perfect mud and mud pie making can keep children busy for hours.

We are nearing the end of the summer term and it is with great sadness but masses of pride too, that we say farewell to our children who will be starting school in September. Many of the children have



been with us since they were 2 years of age so we have seen them grow and develop through the stages of being a 2 year old, then a 3 year old and now a 4 year old. Over that time, the bond between the keyperson and child becomes very strong and a wonderful sense of trust and love has formed. That is why we are sad to see the children leave us.

However, we have to be brave! We wish all the children and their families a fantastic summer and, for the children starting school, we say farewell to you and your family and have fun at school. We are very proud of you and we will miss you.

Melanie Gill - Head, Candover Valley Preschool

CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from all at Cuckoo Meadow Preschool in North Waltham! We are based in North Waltham village, which is just a 10-minute drive from Hatch Warren along the A30, and is in a beautiful rural setting. The children who attend come from within the village and the surrounding area including Hatch Warren, Kempshott, Beggarwood and Brighton Hill, and all agree that the location and wonderful caring staff mean that it is more than worth the short journey. Please contact Jo or Fiona to come and see for yourself!

The children have been enjoying celebrating the Queen's birthday. They have made some wonderful self portraits and then placed 'themselves' on a large carriage with a picture of the Queen in the centre. As a special treat they held their very own celebratory street party - and made the most of the lovely weather - by having their lunch outside. Sadly Her Majesty wasn't able to join them... maybe next year?! They have also made and decorated their own crowns and (creatively) coloured in Union Jacks so they were able to celebrate the Queen's birthday in style.

Tracey, the owner of 'Pots to Doodle Do' in Cliddesdon, visited Preschool and helped the children make some thoughtful handprint ceramic coasters to commemorate Fathers' Day. The children decorated the coasters with handprints and stencil letters, and Tracey took the works of art away to be fired and glazed, before returning them wrapped and ready



to be given to the Dads. This was another experience enabled by the generous voluntary contribution scheme at Preschool, so thank you to all the parents - we hope you enjoyed the results!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out at the Fun Toddle, whether you donated raffle prizes, baked cakes, helped on the day, or just came along and enjoyed the afternoon. There was a big turn out and thankfully no rain, so we are hopeful that we have raised lots of money to buy much needed toys and equipment for the children. Thanks to Jo, Fiona and all the Pre School staff and committee (especially Kat and Liz!) for organising the event.

The end of term is fast approaching - Preschool finishes on Monday 18th July with the end of term party followed by the Leavers' ceremony. It's hard to believe that another year has passed and that we will be saying goodbye and good luck to the older children as they get ready for 'Big School' in September. On behalf of all the parents, I'd like to thank the staff for looking after our children so well and preparing them for the next stage in their big adventure. Thank you Mrs Cotterell, Mrs Harman, Mrs Hull, Mrs Howard, Mrs Havers, Mrs Knight and Mrs Bryant...we will all miss you.

For any queries about the preschool please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172.

NEWS FROM FARLEIGH CLUB

Saturday 21st May didn't start the way that we hoped as we had a power cut, candles were found and the band began playing slightly later than planned. Once power was restored the band played a lovely selection of 50s & 60s music which got most people up on the dance floor.

The garden was transformed on Sunday 5th June for a silver wedding anniversary party, the garden looked really nice with flowers on the tables, rugs on the grass and cushions everywhere for people to sit. The weather was very hot with the sun shining all afternoon. The Pimms was free flowing and everybody had a really good time.

We woke up Sunday 12th June to pouring rain, thinking our picnic in the garden for the Queen's 90th birthday was going to be a wash out. In fact it turned into a wonderful afternoon, we only had one downpour, the rest of the time the sun was shining and it was really warm. The children enjoyed the bouncy castle as did a few adults (me included), the donut eating competition went down a treat there was a quiz with a lovely bottle of Prosecco as the prize. The craft table was well used with children making royal crowns. It was so nice to see so many people enjoying themselves. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us. Stuart & Andy for the bouncy castle & music, Mary & Pete for organising the quiz and children's bean bag game and Joe for supplying and putting up the flags.

Saturday 2nd July we are having a Bingo evening so come and join us for a fun evening. Eyes down about 8pm

Saturday 6th August is Quiz night, always a popular evening so come early to make sure of a seat. The Quiz should start about 8pm.

If England make it through to the Euro final on 10th July we will be open.

If you've not ventured through our doors before pop in and see us, you can be assured of a warm welcome and can enjoy our facilities for up to 4 times without becoming a member. If you like what you see membership is £10 a year for singles and £15 for a family.

We open at 7pm Monday to Saturday and from 2pm on Sunday till 6pm unless there is cricket when we stay open a little later.

www.farleighwallopclub.co.uk or Facebook

OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

Old Down

The meadow is now full of colour with a myriad of wild flowers such as: *clover*; *marjoram*; *oxeye daisy*; *viper's bugloss*; *wild carrot*. The small blue butterfly seems to be particularly abundant this year across the meadow and around the tumulus. Really good news this year is that a pair of willow warblers has (maybe for the first time on Old Down) successfully bred and the young have been spotted.

Beggarwood

Hatch Warren Cubs have installed a bug hotel on Beggarwood to provide a site for bees and opportunities for over-wintering insects e.g. *ladybirds*. It is located in a sheltered spot behind the maze. There is already a bug hotel on Old Down which was installed by

the 1st Kempshott Brownies two years ago and has been colonised by *red mason bees*.

Group Events

The Group put up a table at the Kempshott School Fair on 11 June. We showed what we do and what we have achieved and we provided a bird quiz and a butterfly quiz for the children to try – both very popular – and also a wildlife quiz for the parents

– not so popular! We also had a selection of pots containing various bugs and moths – it was pleasing to see so much interest from the children. ODBWG has been asked to accompany some Kempshott School class walks across Old Down during June to give information about the history of Old Down, the work of the Group and the flora and fauna found there. Again it is lovely to see that the children are so interested in wildlife.

We like to receive any reports of wildlife sightings on Old Down and Beggarwood. This week a regular dog walker has reported two sightings of a stoat on Old Down in the same area – down by the triangle copse. As far as the Group is aware this is a first.

Work Parties

For Old Down, we meet at Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon. For Beggarwood, we meet monthly on the last Saturday of the month 10-12noon. Please come and join us. Check the website for further information about work parties and events.

www.olddownandbeggarwood.org.uk

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There will now be two sessions of Dinky Dancers on a Wednesday at 10am and 11am in the Lounge. Sessions are suitable for walkers through to 4 years. £6 drop in, £20 pre-pay for 5 weeks. To book your space, please call 811262 or email office@hatchwarren.org

WEDDING FAYRE - EXHIBITOR SPACES

Our next Wedding Fayre is on Sunday 16th October, we still have limited exhibitor space available. If you would like to get involved please contact Clare or Georgina on 811262 or email office@hatchwarren.org

SAVE THE DATE - FIREWORKS NIGHT

Our popular FIREWORK EXTRAVAGANZA will return on Saturday 5th November in association with Heart FM. Tickets this year will only be available in advance. More details coming soon.

THEATRE COACH TRIPS

LIMITED TICKETS FOR ALADDIN THE MUSICAL -

Thursday 6th Oct - £65 per person, payment due now. Coach departs at 16:45 from our car park

THE BODYGUARD - Thurs 3rd Nov - £60 per person, deposit £40 due now, balance due by 5th Sept. Coach departs at 16:45 from our car park

DIRTY DANCING ON TOUR (READING) - Wed 23rd Nov - £50 per person, deposit £35 due now, balance due by 5th Sept. Coach departs at 18:00 from our car park

BLUEWATER COACH TRIP - Sat 26th Nov, £20 per person

BATH COACH TRIP - Sat 3rd Dec, £20 per person

Coaches for both shopping trips will depart at 8am and leave from Bath/Bluewater at 5pm.

THE LION KING - Fri 17th March 2017, £60 per person, deposit £40 due by 22nd July, balance due by 31st Oct, coach will depart at 16:30 from our car park

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hatch warren community centre

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SUMMER FESTIVAL

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE

SATURDAY 9TH JULY

12-3PM

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**FRIDAY NIGHT TERM TIME
YOUTH CLUB ACTIVITIES (see below)
Years 6 to 8 from 6pm - 7.45pm**

JULY Programme - 6-7.45pm	
Friday 1st July	Mario Kart Tournament
Friday 8th July	Ice Cream Sundaes
Friday 15th July	Build a Burger
Friday 22nd July	End of Term Water Fight (bring a towel and a water pistol)

WELL DONE

Our brave Youth Worker Jo jumped out of a plane in June to raise money for The Warren. If you would still like to sponsor her you can do this quickly & easily by texting 'HWCA22 and amount e.g. £5' to 70070
Thank you to everyone who has already sponsored her!

SUMMER STREETZ

Our FREE Summer Streetz activities run from Tuesday 26th July until Thursday 25th August, followed by a BBQ Party on Friday 26th August. Summer Streetz is open to those young people currently in Year 5 who will be moving up to Year 6 in September along with all young people from school year 6 to 11. We would like to say a BIG THANKS to Cllr Rita Burgess, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council & Hampshire IOW Sport Relief Community Cash Grant for providing vital funds that allows us to provide this free service to young people in the Community.
See programme listed below:

**FRIDAY NIGHT TERM TIME
OPEN ACCESS & HEALTH HUB
Age 13+ from 8pm-9.30pm**

Health Hub Programme - 8-9.30pm	
Fridat 8th July	Sexual Health Advice Evening
Congratulations to all our young people on completing their exams. We hope you are getting the chance to enjoy some well-earned fun. Please remember we are happy to give advice on writing your CV if you are applying for a summer job.	

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the Summer holidays getting closer we need a few extra pair of hands. If anyone you know is looking to gain some experience, or wish to have fun over the summer then please get in touch. Becoming a volunteer is worthwhile and looks good on your CV. Just drop in and speak to the team one Friday evening.

WEEK ONE		WEEK FOUR	
Tues 26th July	Hooping & Tile Painting	Tues 16th August	Tye Dye
Wed 27th July	Lipsync Battle	Wed 17th August	Circus Skills
Thurs 28th July	Circuit Obstacle	Thurs 18th August	5 aside Football / Craft
Fri 29th July	Reading Rockets	Fri 19th August	Reading Rockets
WEEK TWO		WEEK FIVE	
Tues 2nd August	Scratch Art Jewellery	Tues 23rd August	CLOSED
Wed 3rd August	Human Hungry Hippo	Wed 24th August	Face Painting & Crazy Hair
Thurs 4th August	Graffiti Art	Thurs 25th August	Movie Night & Popcorn
Fri 5th August	Laser Tag	Fri 26th August	End of Summer BBQ
WEEK THREE			
Tues 8th August	Street Dance		
Wed 9th August	Rounders Game & Craft		
Thurs 11th August	Sumo Suits / Hamma Beads		
Fri 12th August	Zorb Football / Craft		
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• • • • • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING • • • • •

• We are coming to the end of another academic year. Where has the time gone? There will be those who sat exams in the last half term and are anxiously awaiting results, those who are leaving one school year to start another in September and those leaving their school, college or university to start somewhere or something new.

• The past month has been one of immense challenge in terms of the global landscape. In Orlando on 12th June a gunman killed 49 people in a nightclub, the death of the gunman took the death toll to 50. The Euros began and almost immediately, a small minority of thugs made headlines as those from Russia and England did battle on the streets of Marseille and the terraces of a football stadium. On June 23rd the country went to the polls for the referendum on whether we should remain or exit the EU. The campaign for the latter is heating up as I write this with both sides getting more aggressive and personal in their campaigning. Refugees continue to flee war torn Syria and the Middle East and Donald Trump continues to open his mouth with aggressive and violent words spewing out.

• The world our children are growing up in is challenging to say the least. By the time this edition of The Rabbit is published, I will have been on a week's pilgrimage leading a group of young people to the Taizé Community. A community of monks whose life work is to bring about peace and reconciliation. The founder was killed just over 10 years ago, but he spent a lifetime placing great trust in the young for a future of peace. He listened to them – from across the world – and heard their challenges, their struggles and how they wanted the world to look; both from a Christian perspective but also from those from other faiths or no faith at all. The community has recently welcomed over 10 Syrian Muslim refugees.

• As I reflected on the happenings of the recent weeks, I happened to quote the founder in a sermon that seemed to be incredibly relevant to all that was going on. And remains relevant. Brother Roger has this to say in his last, unfinished letter, started before he was killed:

"Seeking reconciliation and peace involves a struggle within oneself. It does not mean taking the line of least resistance. Nothing lasting is created when things are too easy. The spirit of communion is not gullible. It causes the heart to become more encompassing; it is profound kindness; it does not listen to suspicions."

"In his Gospel, in a dazzling intuition, Saint John expresses who God is in three words: "God is love." If we can grasp only those three words, we shall go far, very far.

What captivates us in those words? The fact that they transmit this luminous conviction: God did not send Christ to earth to condemn anyone, but for every human being to know that he or she is loved and to be able to find a road to communion with God.

But why are some people gripped by the wonder of a love and know that they are loved, or even cherished? Why do others have the impression that they are neglected?

If only everyone could realize that God remains alongside us even in the fathomless depths of our loneliness. God says to each person, "You are precious in my sight, I treasure you and I love you." Yes, all God can do is give his love; that sums up the whole of the Gospel.

What God asks of us and offers us is simply to receive his infinite mercy.

That God loves us is a reality sometimes hard to comprehend. But when we discover that his love is forgiveness above all else, our hearts find peace and are even transformed."

Let us be bearers of peace to those around us. Whether we have a faith, little faith or no faith, let us remember how far we can go and how we can be transformed if we remember to love.

• My blessings for a peaceful summer:

Michael

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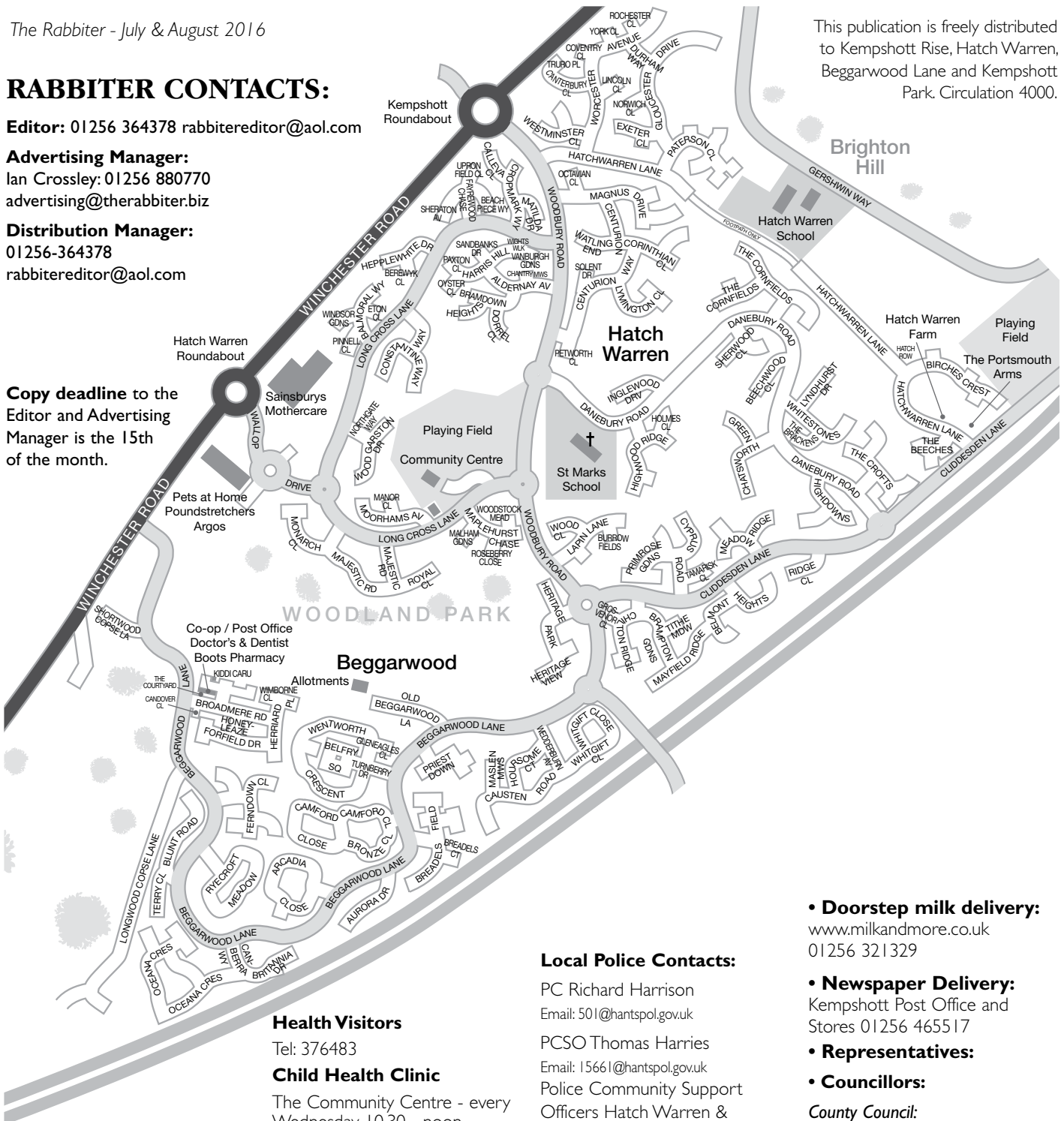
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Make hard water a thing of the past

Although most of us put up with hard water in Basingstoke, many do not realise that you can do something about it. Limescale furs up our heating systems, causing breakdowns, makes it more expensive to heat our homes and damages our appliances. The other problem with limescale is the constant cleaning of showerheads, shower screens, stainless steel sinks. It can also aggravate skin problems such as eczema and psoriasis. With a water softener no limescale will get into the house, which means you will have to do less cleaning, stop buying limescale related products, cut washing powder use by up to 75% and have less chance of large bills for potential future problems with your heating system and appliance breakdowns.

If you were to purchase an ordinary softener you would have quite a large machine, which requires you to carry a 25kg bag of salt. The TwinTec S3 is different. It is small, requires no electricity and uses block salt - like two house bricks - instead of heavy bags. Harvey Softeners has been manufacturing softeners in this area for more than 35 years and Kevin Goody of UK Water Softeners is one of the top TwinTec dealers.

Why is Kevin so successful?



He puts it down to extensive marketing and a great plumber with a wealth of experience having worked for the manufacturers for the last four years, good customer satisfaction and recommendations. Kevin has installed 5100 water softeners in homes in this area over the last 21 years and arranges everything from initial survey to installation. If you have an old water softener, trade it in for something smaller and more efficient. Call **Kevin Goody** without obligation on **01276 27924** or email kgoody@uk-water-softeners.co.uk or visit www.uk-water-softeners.co.uk Trade enquiries welcome. We also service/repair Kinetico water softeners.

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HATCH WARREN RUNNERS – PAINTING BASINGSTOKE BLUE AND YELLOW

A lovely sunny day, 22 May saw Basingstoke Town Centre painted blue and yellow by Hatch Warren Runners. The event is a 5k that starts in Festival Square and runs through Festival Place, Top of Town, past the new Waitrose, up to Basing View and through Eastrop Park. There are only limited places for this event and it sells out quickly but of the 300 finishers, 112 were our very own Hatchies. The following Sunday saw the female members of the club head off to Purbrook for their 10k Ladies event. A beautiful race through undulating countryside and, with no men able to compete, the ladies can come home in the leading positions!

For more details on HWR please visit www.hwrnrunners.co.uk, email hwrnrunners@sky.com or look for Hatch Warren Runners on Facebook



WANT TO PLAY FOR YOUR LOCAL LADIES TEAM?



Basingstoke Town Ladies had a successful 2015/16 season with both our teams. The First Team are Southern Region Premier League CHAMPIONS and have gained promotion to the FA Women's Premier League Southwest Division 1. Our Reserve Team had a great first season in the Hampshire County Women's Football League Division 2 having been promoted last year.

We are now looking to expand both our squads.

Think you can compete in the Premier League? Or do you want to get back into playing football and expand your social life?

If so, please come along to our pre season training. We train every Wednesday and Sunday at the War Memorial Park in Basingstoke.

Please contact Director of Football Craig Prall on 07552828885 or email basingstokeladiesfc@hotmail.co.uk to register your interest.

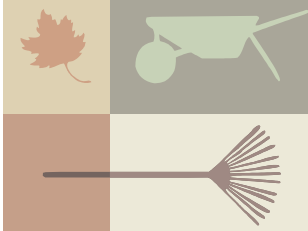
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PLAY

Our popular clay shoot packages are perfect as a team building activity or a day out with friends & family.

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MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday 29th October 2016

Champagne Reception
4 Course Dinner
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£65.00 per person

A full list of forthcoming events please visit our website www.oakleyhall-park.com/events.

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Contact me for a free, no obligation financial review:

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Mobile: 07469 251 761

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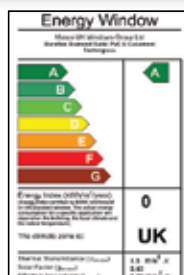
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