

THE Rabbiter



Issue 239 March 2017

All the regular features plus

- **COMMUNITY CENTRE CLASSES**
- **FILM NIGHTS**
- **WOODLAND WALK**

and much more

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EDITORIAL

Spring is definitely just around the corner – snowdrops in the garden and early daffodils flowering in the Winchester Road. A cheerful sight but sadly the amount of litter around our estate does not bring a smile to the face. There are bags, cans, general litter hiding in the borders and wooded areas across Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. On a recent trip to Florida I was impressed to see local residents volunteering to collect the litter in and around their road on a rota basis. Wouldn't it be lovely if we had a similar scheme here?

Talking of volunteers, Basingstoke Hospital Radio needs people to help bring a smile to patients days and Hatch Warren school is looking to recruit a co-opted governor – see page 5. Work is about to commence on the Beggarwood Community Centre and is asking Beggarwood residents to get in touch with their ideas for the Centre – see page 22. Were you a scout, guide, brownie or cub when young? Perhaps your children joined these amazing groups. Why not join up as a leader of one of these groups – see page 30 for Martin Loynds inspiring article.

Did you go to Cranbourne School? The school is 50 years old this year and are eager to see all ex-students at their celebrations on 22 July.

The Immanuel Church Film Nights are one of the highlights of each month and they have some smashing films coming up with a special showing of 'The passion of the Christ' with Mel Gibson on 10 April – see page 14 for details.

Now the weather is starting to warm up it is time to get out and sort out the garden – Sarah Bailes, who is our regular garden contributor has some inspiring tips to help us along – see page 19.

The 1st March is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It is traditional to give up something for Lent and your editor is planning to give up alcohol – not only is she hoping to feel healthier but the money she saves will be donated to charity. Are you planning to give up something for Lent? A few years ago I sponsored a friend to reduce her wardrobe to 6 items of clothing during Lent to support poorly paid textile workers across Asia.

With the advent of warmer weather the words 'Spring cleaning' come to mind. This is a great opportunity to de-clutter the house of unwanted presents etc. The Rabbiter Free Ads will help liberate you from those unwanted items and raise some money. Just email details, price and a telephone number to editor@therabbiter.biz.

Finally, a big thank you for the kind words from a few readers who have noted that your editor will be retiring at the end of 2017. We urgently need volunteers to help keep the Rabbiter going. If you are interested please contact us at editor@therabbiter.biz for more information.

Jenny, Editor

THE Rabbiter

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PROBUS LEARN OF "THE FORGOTTEN BATTLE" - THE BATTLE OF THE SCHELDT ESTUARY IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1944

Retired RAF Squadron Leader Chris Perkins MVO, from Kempshott, is himself a member of the Probus Club of Basingstoke the social organisation for retired professional and business managers. He gave a presentation to members about his recent activity tracing his old squadron's role in supporting the Allied Forces in their campaign to free Belgium and Holland from German occupation during WW2.

Based for many years at RAF Odiham, 33 Squadron is today more familiar to the residents of Basingstoke for flying the Puma troop carrying helicopter and Chinooks from other squadrons based at this station. However, during the Second World War it operated the Supermarine Spitfire in the ground attack role in the support of the army.

In the course of following the fortunes of both air and ground crews in their journey from the Normandy landings, Chris has uncovered an incredible story regarding a battle, almost completely overshadowed by the tragic events occurring at that time at Arnhem.

The Battle of the Scheldt was a military operation in northern Belgium and the south western Netherlands to secure the port of Antwerp, essential for allied re-supply use. The First Canadian Army was given the task of clearing the Scheldt area of German occupiers. Believing the retreating troops to be demoralised and lacking in fight, the initial attacks in September proved otherwise. Hitler had told every member of his forces dug in around the Scheldt estuary that they had to defend their positions to the last man and bullet. Their families would be held as retribution if they failed to do so.

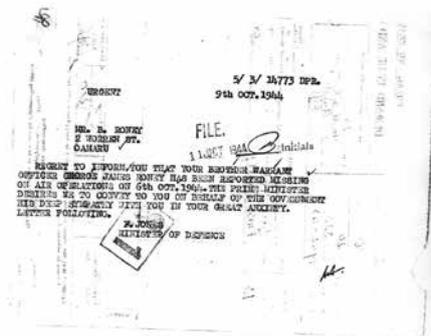
Under the command of General Crerar, the First Canadian Army was international in character. In addition to Canadian infantry and armoured troops, it included the 1st British Corps, and the 1st Polish Armoured Division. At various times it also included American, Belgian, and Dutch units. The First Canadian Army in north western Europe during the final phases of the war was a powerful force, the largest army that had ever been under the control

of a Canadian general. The strength of this army ranged from approximately 105,000 to 175,000 Canadian soldiers to anywhere from 200,000 to over 450,000 when including the soldiers from other nations. It was totally volunteer in nature.

The enemy opened the sea locks and flooded the whole countryside making what some historians considered to have been the most difficult battlefield of the Second World War. With flooded and muddy terrain and the tenacity of the well-fortified German defences made the Battle of the Scheldt especially gruelling and bloody. At the end of the five week offensive, the victorious First Canadian Army had taken 41,043 prisoners, but suffered 12,873 casualties (killed, wounded, or missing), 6,367 of whom were Canadians.

And what of 33 Squadron from RAF Odiham? At that time it was also an international unit and consisted of many volunteer pilots from around the world. The Spitfires were used to support the ground troops by attacking enemy positions. Unfortunately many pilots lost their lives. Chris located a number of these brave young airmen now resting in remote cemeteries. Two graves were for 22 years old New Zealander Warrant Officer George James Roney and that of Flt Lt Godfrey Argument a 23 years old Canadian.

WO George Roney took off at 15.00 on 6th October 1944 as part of a three Spitfire armed reconnaissance sortie. Good weather favoured the German air defence batteries and all three aircraft were shot down after encountering heavy flak. George went down with his Spitfire near the hamlet of Schoondijke. On 9th October 1944 his family received a "Missing on air operations" telegram. His remains were not recovered until 9th



June 1948 as were his personal possessions which included a "penny" or tin whistle which he brought with him from the other side of the world as his family all played musical instruments. On 12th June 1948 WO George Roney was given a proper burial in the local cemetery where he is the only Commonwealth War Grave and has been adopted by children from the local school.



The "penny" whistle is now on display in a war museum in the Zeeland area of Holland.



If you want to know more about the Probus Club and the activities of this group of retired professional and business managers there is a wide array of information on their website www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or ring the Secretary Paul Flint for an informal chat on 07770 886521.

DIVORCE RECOVERY WORKSHOP

Are you struggling with the breakdown of a serious relationship or marriage?
Asking yourself why me?
Struggling with the trauma?
Feeling like nobody understands?
What ever stage of a divorce or separation you are in, the Divorce Recovery Workshop may be able to help you! Our Moto is that you can go through it or grow through it. We are a national charity run by local volunteers who have ourselves experienced divorce or separation and been through the workshop. Our next workshop starts on Tuesday 14th March and runs for 6 weeks held at Buckskin Evangelical Church. Please visit our website www.drw.org.uk or contact us for more information or to book a place give us a ring. Call Erica on 01256 478778/ 07789717076 or Frank on 07799141891

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

The North Hampshire Downs Ramblers group, is part of the Ramblers Association, we walk mostly in Hampshire and the surrounding countryside. In the last few months our group has enjoyed both walks and social activities including a Christmas Lunch and our Christmas Jumper walk.

The group walk on both Tuesday and Saturday and cover areas in and around Basingstoke as well as sometimes going further afield. We have had some lovely winter walks over the last few months and are now looking forward to bluebells and Spring.

Our Tuesday morning walks, which are typically 6-7 miles continues to attract quite a number of walkers. We have recently walked around Hartley Wintney, Oakley and Hannington to name but a few. We usually end up with an end of walk pub stop, to give people time for a catch up.

Our Saturday walks tend to be longer, with fewer walkers, and can sometimes take most of the day. This last quarter we have enjoyed walks around Tisbury in Wiltshire, done parts of the Thames Path, and walked from Overton to Whitchurch with a bus back.

As well as the walks, the group also enjoys some social activities, this includes an Annual Summer Picnic, Boys lunches and the group occasionally organise weekends and days away. This May there is a coach

trip planned to Bourton-on-the-Water and also a break in Paignton in June, which will involve 4 days of organised walks

The group have an active path patrol group, who report problems to the local council and also do some work on the paths, which can be as varied as checking waymarking and replacing waymarking discs, minor clearing or even repairing stiles and gates. To date this group has replaced 20 plus gates in conjunction with the local council. The latest tasks were replacing a rotting sleeper bridge at Ashford Hill, and replacing a stile at Hannington with a Kissing gate

If you are interested in finding out more about the North Hampshire Downs group, there is more information on our Website. www.northhampshiredownsrabblers.org.uk.

If you are new to walking and want to give us a try, or already walk, you would be given a very warm welcome by the Group. We hope to see you soon!

If you are interested in joining the Ramblers we suggest you come along for a couple of walks with the group first to get a taster. Membership details are available from the Ramblers' national website: www.rabblers.org.uk

Rabblers Charity England & Wales No: 1093577 Scotland No: SC039799

HOSPITAL RADIO BASINGSTOKE

Hospital Radio Basingstoke is the free radio service for the patients and staff at Basingstoke and North Hants Hospital. There has been a radio station at the hospital in Basingstoke since 1972 and our aim is to provide information and entertainment to patients throughout their stay.

Our programme schedule covers requests and dedications and a range of other shows of all types, from comedy and plays to specialist music shows. Our record library goes right back to the 1940s and spans all decades right through to current chart sounds.

Listen at <http://webradio.radiomonitor.com/m3u/HRBasingstoke>

We provide programming 24 hours a day but most importantly, our request shows are on the air in the evenings and during the day at weekends.

We are always looking for new members to join the HRB team. Full members will

be shown how to produce and present a regular show, while Ward Visitors spend time during the day or in the evening visiting patients, collecting requests and promoting the station.

In addition to presenters and ward visitors we are particularly looking for anyone who may be interested in one of several Committee positions: Fundraising Officer; Public Relations Officer; Secretary or Station Manager.

If you would like to have a chat about volunteer opportunities on Hospital Radio Basingstoke (HRB) then please contact Roger Scott – 01256 782477 or email: mailbox@roger-scott.co.uk You can also check our website at www.hrbasingstoke.co.uk

Local Radio can be lots of fun, so why not give me a call.

Roger Scott

HRB Committee Member

FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

The operators of the nearby Anearobic Digester will be holding their annual public open day on the morning of Saturday 18th March. There will be tours of the facility and there will also be the opportunity to ask questions of staff. Places need to be booked in advance so please email basingstoke@tamar-energy.com to reserve a place on a tour.

Work on the very long awaited Beggarwood Community Centre is finally due to get underway. Pre-commencement works are due to start on 20th February with work properly getting underway from 20th March. If all goes to plan the centre should be ready to be opened before the end of the year.

South East Water have announced that as part of their upgrades to the local water system they will be installing 447 metres of new main around Hatch Warren roundabout and part of Winchester road. The work is planned to start on 20th February and could take up to 12 weeks. This may involve a road closure along part of Winchester Road and will include lane restrictions.

Hatch Warren Infant school is looking to recruit a co-opted governor to join the governing body. The vacancy is ideally for someone from the locally who wishes to give something back to their community. Volunteering as a governor is a great way to contribute and use your skills and experience to improve the lives of local children. The governing body has representatives from school staff, the local authority, parents and the community who work as a team to support and challenge the leadership of the school. To find out more please contact Michelle Moore, the head teacher, on 01256 350313

Cllr Terri Reid

WHAT'S ON – MARCH

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

1 March	Ash Wednesday
1 March	St David's Day
2 March	Hatch Warren W.I.
4 March	Charity Swimalong in aid of St Michael's Hospice – see page 13
4 March	Open session at Dandelions – see page 18
9 March	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-house.vpweb.co.uk
14 March	Divorce Recovery Workshop – see page 4
17 March	Trip to The Lion King, Hatch Warren Community Centre
17 March	St Patrick's Day
19 March	Health, Beauty and Wellbeing Fayre, Hatch Warren Community Centre
19 March	Cliddesden W.I. Annual Jumble Sale – see page 25
20 March	Spring Equinox
20 March	Film Night at Immanuel – I, Daniel Blake
24 March	Red Nose Day
25 March	Board Game Open Day, Chineham Christ Church, in support of The NSPCC
26 March	Clocks go forward – start of daylight saving
26 March	Mothering Sunday

Future Events

4 April	Film Night at Immanuel – Marvellous
8 April	Quiz Night, Basingstoke Lions Club – see page 13
9 April	Palm Sunday
9 April	St Michael's Hospice Farleigh Wallop Woodland Walk – see page 28
10 April	Film Night at Immanuel – 'The Passion of the Christ' – see page 14
11 April	First day of Passover
13 April	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-house.vpweb.co.uk
14 April	Good Friday
16 April	Easter Sunday
18 April	Last day of Passover
20 April	Film Night at Immanuel – Me before you
27 April	Trip to 'The Girls', Hatch Warren Community Centre
1 May	Early May Bank Holiday

9 May	Film Night at Immanuel – Spotlight
11 May	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-house.vpweb.co.uk
29 May	Spring Bank Holiday
16 June – 9 July	Basingstoke Festival
1 July	Disability Awareness in Town Centre – see page 7
8 July	Summer Event on the Playing Field, Hatch Warren Community Centre
9 September	Beer Festival, Hatch Warren Community Centre
15 October	Wedding Fayre, Hatch Warren Community Centre
25 November	Coach trip to Bluewater, Hatch Warren Community Centre
26 November	Craft Fayre, Hatch Warren Community Centre
2 December	Bath Xmas Market, Hatch Warren Community Centre

REGULAR EVENTS

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

Baby Clinic, 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month Community Centre 10.30 – 12.00 (contact Health Visitor 01256 320567)

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-house.vpweb.co.uk

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

HATCH WARREN RUNNERS

February can be a dreary month and with a daily average of just 2 hours sunshine, we all need a means of boosting those endorphins. Running can be just what the doctor ordered!

Spurred on by an England Athletics initiative our Coaching Coordinator, Helen Brooker, currently out of 'running action' after sustaining a broken leg, organised a 'run and talk' event.

Also supported by Mind, the mental health charity, England Athletics are encouraging people to #runandtalk to improve their mental well-being through running and to break down the stigma associated with mental health by getting people talking about it. A fellow club member Matt Holman who is also a Samaritan, joined over 40 other runners for a 4 mile all abilities run finishing with a social gathering at The Portsmouth Arms. It was unanimously agreed the evening was a real hit and HWR are planning to make the #runandtalk event a regular date on the monthly club calendar.

On the 5th of February a hardy 'Hatchie' Nathan Pitsch (pictured) completed the 'Thames trot' 50 mile endurance event. Nathan signed up for it soon after recovery from a hernia



operation after being persuaded to do it by fellow HWR member. Nathan had a few problems with logistics for the day as his lift/ race team fell ill. However, the race director was very helpful, and although Nathan was running his first ultra, with no other Hatchies, he had been advised the 'ultra-community' was very welcoming and he had made sure he had completed

plenty of long runs. The route was very muddy due to rain the week before, but the support staff were very helpful and there was very good race food at the checkpoints. The course tested his map reading skills but the high spirits of everyone and team work kept him going. Nathan would recommend 'Thames trot' 50 but says do take a head torch (Nathan didn't!). You also need training buddies and he did a lot of his training with fellow Hatchies Jeff Mitchell and Elliot Holt who gave him lots of tips and inspiration. Without them he didn't feel he would have risen to the challenge!

The Hatchie 5 Minute Interview

Interviewee – Alison Ammundsen

Q. What's your Job Title?

A. Fire Fighter

Q. What does this entail?

A. I respond to emergency calls. These can include fires, road accidents, assisting the ambulance, rescuing people and animals. We also carry out 'Safe and Well' visits to make sure the elderly are getting the care that they need. The list is endless. When we are not responding to incidents we have lots of training to complete, which makes us better at dealing with the incidents when they occur.

Q. What's the most unusual situation you've encountered in your daily work?

A. Difficult one to answer - I am stuck on this one. We mainly go to nasty things. Or kids with things stuck on their heads!

Q. What made you join HWR?

A. I started to run with a friend after having children. She heard about HWR and suggested we join. I was not sure that I would like running in a group of people but instantly saw the benefits.



There is such a variety of training/run sessions every week and also great support when I having a bad run. I have made some wonderful friends too.

Q. What's your current running goal?

A. I would like to get my distance back up to half marathons and get quicker at the shorter distances. I would like to do a half 'iron-man' (triathlon)

Q. If you could run any event, anywhere in the world, what would it be and why?

A. would love to do an endurance event; anywhere just to have that amount of fitness would be amazing.

Q. What's the most useful piece of advice you could give to a new runner?

A. Running never gets easier as your goals will always change. Just get out and enjoy it.

HWR meet on Monday & Wednesday evenings with runs starting at various locations in Hatch Warren, Beggarwood. For more details visit www.hwrrunners.co.uk, email hwrrunners@sky.com or look for Hatch Warren Runners on Facebook.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR HOME EDUCATED CHILDREN

There are a large number of home educated children in Basingstoke and quite a few right here in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. While they benefit from many classes and activities as family groups, drop off facilities for younger age groups have been non-existent. Until now. Starting in April, Home Ed Hub will be a new weekly drop-in session for home educated children aged 5 to 11. Held in The Warren Youth Club at the Hatch Warren Community Centre, it will have a

different theme each week. Sessions will also run through school holidays and half terms so will be open to school-going children too on those dates.

The idea is that home educated children's learning can be supported by people who share the same educational outlook and values and whose home educated children will also be present on each session.

Hatch Warren resident Vanessa Deakin is organising these sessions. "Being a home educating parent is hard work and can

prove to be exhausting. I felt that many home educating parents will welcome a safe environment where they can leave their children for a few hours together with their peers."

www.homeedhub.com or email Vanessa on info@homeedhub.com and she will be happy to explain more.



UNMARRIED COUPLES NEED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

by Laura Bell

A recent landmark victory in the Supreme Court has seen an unmarried woman win a share of her former partner's pension. This is likely to add impetus to the drive for greater rights for unmarried couples. But, in the meantime, cohabitants should face up and formalise arrangements, rather than keeping their fingers crossed.

Such difficulties play out all too often for cohabiting couples, whether in relation to shared property or what happens to their assets when they separate or die. Many still believe in the idea of so-called 'common law marriage', assuming they have legal rights like married couples or civil partners on death, only to discover the harsh truth when problems arise.

It may seem unfair; but cohabiting couples do not have the protection that comes with marriage or civil partnership. Currently, the onus is on the couple to take action if they wish to protect both parties in case of death, separation or other life changes.

There are three main areas where couples should look to protect themselves, and each other; and that's with a cohabitation agreement, formalising how property is owned and each making a will. These all help to avoid uncertainty if the worst happens.

A cohabitation agreement is a formal arrangement setting out what will happen if a couple separate. This can also set out day-to-day matters,

such as who is responsible for household expenditure and in what proportions. It should be drawn as a deed, independently witnessed and with both parties able to demonstrate there was no duress and each was able to seek independent advice, if required.

For further information on cohabitation, separation or other family matters, please contact Laura Bell on 01256 305530 or email laura.bell@lambbrooks.com



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Red Nose Day & Comic Relief

The noses are back! The store will be hosting some wacky and funny fundraising events during February and March for Comic Relief. Comic Relief are one of our Corporate Charity Partners and, this year we're looking to continue the tremendous support Comic Relief provides here in the UK.

One charity within our community has benefitted with grants from Comic Relief: Inpero. So, your support via buying Scratch-Cards, Bags, Mugs and donations for our in-store fundraising, really does make a difference locally.

Watch out for some interesting fundraising in-store as we'll be seeing some of our colleagues having their legs waxed, as well as some other exciting promotions.

There are nine noses to collect this year including a very special rare nose; Frankinose!

Contactless

You may have noticed that 'Contactless' has reached Kempshott! We're already seeing some fantastic customer feedback from breaking into the 21st Century.

The final piece of the 'Contactless Jigsaw' is being trialled in stores during March so we can offer the service to our customers at the Petrol Station. We hope to have this available by May 2017.

5p Bags

You may recall that funds from the sale of the 5p plastic bags, are donated to our Local Charity of the Year, at the end of each financial year. This is still the case but, it is disappointing to report that, due to some theft of the bags at the store, we've removed the boxes containing the bags at our self-checkout tills.

Colleagues still provide customers with a bag and, we'll monitor the re-introduction of the boxes over time.

We'll let you know the amount donated once all the figures are in, during May/June time.

Charity Collections at Kempshott

April 7th – Parkinson's UK

April 8th – Basingstoke Wolverines

April 9th – Hatch Warren Infants

Our Local Charity of the Year; The Pink Place, host their final collection days as our charity partner during May.

In June, the store will once again be supporting Carer's Week. If any organisation wishes to be involved in raising awareness during this time, please let us know.

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BASINGSTOKE WATER SOFTENERS



This is a **very hard water area** & unless you already have softened water you will be familiar with scaled up kettles, showers & taps. Unfortunately you don't see the build up on heat exchangers, or inside boilers & washing machines until they break down. As many of you have found out this is an expensive recurring problem.



On top of that there is constant cleaning, money spent on de-scalers & chemicals & many people suffer from dry-skin & **eczema** aggravated by hard water.

As a local, family business we have been improving the quality of water for people in this area for over 20 years.

To find out what can be done to eliminate hard water problems please call to arrange a demonstration. Lorna will come out to show you our TwinTec softener, tell you what is required to fit one & give you some facts & figures.

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CATERPILLAR MUSIC CLASSES STARTING



A promise to bring great musical and sensory experiences to young children has been made by Jasmine McCarthy (Jaz to her friends) who started her Caterpillar Music sessions at the end of February at the Hatch Warren Community Centre.

A professional music teacher, with three young children, she is harnessing her skills together with her experience of being a young mum to engage and stimulate young children making each Caterpillar Music class an exciting experience for the child and their parent.

"We have exciting instruments, bubbles, parachutes and sensory equipment as well as learning about colours, numbers, shapes and more. Children learn through play and song and make friends while doing it. There's a lovely relaxed atmosphere at my classes and children are encouraged to join in as much or as little as they wish."

Jaz is highly experience in this venture as she runs Caterpillar Music classes in Tadley, Bramley, Chineham, Oakridge, Basingstoke town centre, Viabes and Brighton Hill and was nominated "Best Activity Leader for the Under 5s (South)".



There will be two classes at HWCC on Tuesdays in term time; 10.00 – 10.40 am and 10.50 – 11.30 am. There is a maximum of fifteen children in each class and cost £33 payable for each half term or pro rata. Contact Jaz on 07952 935021 to find out more or to make a booking.

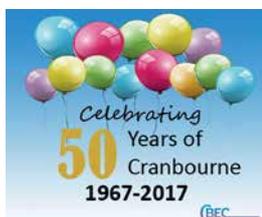
NEWS FROM CRANBOURNE

We have had a very exciting and successful start to the year, with many community events. We hosted our successful Primary Athletic Cluster Event, attended by our junior schools and run by our amazing sports prefects and the wonderful Mr Kimber in conjunction with Mr Phil Jeffs, School Games Organiser, Basingstoke Schools.

On Friday 27 January 2017 we welcomed 90 students from the infant and junior schools within our Primary Cluster to our Aspirational Cluster Conference. The day was opened by Deji Tobias, a 100m GB sprinter, who spoke about his aspirations to get to the Olympics and the successes and barriers he has had to overcome so far. This set a real appetite for the day and all involved took this inspiration into their sessions which were run by Headteachers from across the Cluster and included art, team building, music, careers and athletics.

For all ex Cranbourne students out there: we are 50 this year, so look out for news of our half-century birthday extravaganza, planned for Saturday 22 July 2017. All will be very welcome!

Jane Aplin, Headteacher



RELAXED KIDS? DON'T YOU WISH!



That's the aim of a class called Relax Kids that is starting at the Hatch Warren Community Centre in March. Run by experienced Relax Kids coach Kath Routledge the purpose is to improve the behaviour of children with better concentration, listening skills, attention span, confidence and self esteem.



The classes are different from others as Kath uses a unique combination of movement, mindful games and exercises, stretching, breathing and massage as well as positive affirmations and visualisations. This allows children to have fun but also learn vital life skills that will help them for years to come.



Starting on Tuesday 7th March from 4.15 – 5.15 p.m. at HWCC this class, for years R – 6, will meet each week thereafter for the half term and costs £30. Even as the Rabbitter went to press this class was already fully booked with ten children but interested parents can book for the Easter half term and those school days beyond – see www.bookwhen.com/rkbasingstoke or email on rkbasingstoke@yahoo.co.uk or phone Kath on 07989 476533.

Relax Kids creates calm confident kids.



MUMMABFIT POSTNATAL EXERCISE CLASSES

Do you have a baby aged between 6 weeks and a year old? Do you want to get fit and regain your shape? Then a new exercise class for young mums will be just right for you starting at the Hatch Warren Community Centre on Wednesday 1st March.



Vicky Tidy is bringing her MummaBfit to Hatch Warren following her successes at South Ham, Bucksin, Oakley and Overton.

"I run postnatal exercise classes designed to reintroduce you to exercise after the birth of your baby in a safe and fun environment." Vicky enthused and continued "Classes are suitable for any mum, from 6 weeks postnatal until their infant is mobile.

The two classes at HWCC are at 12.30 and 1.30 pm and will run in 6 week blocks at a cost of £40. Vicky's reputation precedes her as the 12.30 class is already full and the second class is filling up quickly. With all equipment provided this is a great way for new mums to meet up and enjoy their time together with their babies.

Contact Vicky via her Facebook page www.facebook.com/MummaBfit, email info@mummabfit.co.uk or phone her on 07917 035520.





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KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

Bird Box Roundup

All ten boxes in Down Grange Meadow have now been checked. 2016 was a particularly bad and stressful year for birds. Having had the second warmest winter on record, only 1869 was warmer, with slightly above average rainfall, it was looking good going into March. March and particularly April were, however, colder and wetter than average. This had the effect of killing off or suppressing the emergence of caterpillars and other insect larvae, the type of food that parent birds feed their chicks, just at the wrong time.

Results

In analysing the contents of the nest boxes, a number of them appeared to have been reused. The first (bottom) nest had very little to show apart from the occasional unhatched egg. This may imply that the parents abandoned the nest through disturbance or lack of food. The results from the second or top nest were very poor. Out of ten boxes, only two had no remains of dead chicks and/or unhatched eggs. One cannot even say that an empty nest was a success, as it could have been abandoned without producing anything. Unfortunately, unlike Robins or Blackbirds, our Blue and Great Tits generally only raise a single brood, which is why they have so many eggs in a clutch, typically between 8 and 12. To summarise:

2014 - No dead chicks were found and only 1 unhatched egg remained

2015 - 9 dead chicks and 9 unhatched eggs were found

2016 - 12 dead chicks and 13 unhatched eggs were found

Nest Material

We are constantly surprised at what material gets woven into a nest. Those boxes along the Northern Belt (between Down Grange Meadow and the sports pitches) all had coloured wool. What was surprising was that each female will use one predominant colour, which varied from box to box. Presumably, having found a source of wool, the female would return again and again to raid the same source? The boxes along the Insect Walk (parallel to Winchester Road at the bottom of the meadow) used a soft woolly felt like material, very similar to that used to cover tennis balls. The colour range we found precludes actual tennis balls, but what the material was, and where it came from, is still a mystery.

For more information about our activities on Down Grange Meadow, please call Marion Wolstencroft on (01256) 470171. Alternatively, send an email to kempshott-serve@tiscali.co.uk or visit us at www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk

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BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

It is difficult to describe the nail biting tension that precedes each of our fundraising endeavours. Will we get an audience? Will we break even? Will we make sufficient to enable us to help those who have no other source of assistance? Even with a brilliant group like ABBA Sensation there is always that niggling uncertainty. Fortunately the eternal attraction of that wonderful music won out and 180 people braved the bad weather to come out and enjoy themselves at QMC on the 21st. This is the fourth time that the Group has appeared for us and they certainly live up to their name. Their performance was electrifying and the audience took full advantage of it by dancing with great enthusiasm and almost as much skill. It was obviously thirsty work because they also made a very good attempt at drinking the bar dry and bought raffle tickets like they were going out of fashion. The whole evening put everyone in great good humour and gave a marvellous boost to our Charity Account of £1215.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

04/03/2017 CHARITY SWIMATHON: By the time you read this it'll be over. I'll report next month.

EASTER EGGS: If you visit your local over the next couple of months the odds are that you'll see a very large chocolate Easter Egg being raffled. We provide the Eggs and, if the pub supports a specific charity, half of the proceeds can be donated to that charity. The other half goes into our Charity Account. So please do support.

08/04/2017 QUIZ NIGHT: Come along and pit your wits against our notorious question master. Contact Philip Wilson Tel: 01256 352393 or philipjhwilson@btinternet.com to book your table. Remember we can take only 22 tables.

WELFARE: In the current climate the failure of a domestic appliance can represent an insurmountable problem for many families and a high proportion of our income is spent meeting such needs brought to our attention by Social Services.

Cheer up! Spring is just around the corner.

www.basingstokelions.org.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. Camford Close
3. Oyster Close, Paxton Close, Harris Hill, Wights Walk, Sandbanks Drive and Vanburgh Gardens
4. Longwood Copse Lane

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FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE JANE AUSTEN AND OTHER HOME-GROWN TALENT

'Born in the borough' has been announced as the theme of the sixth Basingstoke Festival, which is set to be the best yet.

Attracting international artists and big name acts to perform in the borough is part of the planning work now underway for the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council-run festival from Friday 16 June to Sunday 9 July.

But there will be a special reason for the festival to focus on local talent too, as July marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Jane Austen who was born in the borough at Steventon. Events and performances will be held through the festival to celebrate the world-renowned 19th century author, who drafted some of her best known works while living in this area.

Keeping this 'home-grown' focus, festival organisers are keen to ensure that as many areas as possible host a 'Festival in the Community' local event, especially helping to bring arts and performances to underused places around the borough.

Basingstoke Festival has grown in popularity and size since it started in 2012. Last year the festival featured more than 140 community events, such as plays and food festivals, complementing the main programme of world class events and experiences.

The borough council's Deputy Leader, who is responsible for art and culture, Cllr Terri Reid said: "On the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, it is only right that the 2017 Basingstoke Festival, held in the borough where she was born, should highlight how her work still entertains and inspires people today. Special new pieces are being commissioned specially for the festival showing the continuing relevance of the themes in Jane's writing.

"And the 'born in the borough' theme gives us the opportunity to focus on the wealth of other talent we have here today, from local bands in Basingstoke Live to our young people being given the chance to perform on the Haymarket stage.

"Basingstoke Festival is becoming known as an diverse showcase of arts and performances, attracting world-renowned acts to perform and mixing this with celebrating work created on our doorstep by local people. We really hope groups across the borough will get involved again too, bringing music, arts and culture to their areas by hosting a Festival in the Community event."

The 2016 Festival featured everything from a sacred masked dance by Tibetan monks, a celebration of female authors and a NASA-film backing Holst's Planet Suite performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to an audio journey in a boat in Eastrop Park created by local artist Ben Mills and the Hanover Band performing a Handel masterpiece alongside Basingstoke Choral Society.

To find out more about holding a Festival in the Community event, contact Ross Harvie on festival@basingstoke.gov.uk or call Ross on 01256 845676 before April 21.

To keep up to date with the latest news from Basingstoke Festival 2017 follow @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram or like 'Basingstoke Festival' on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/basingstokefestival>)

Immanuel Church
Film Nights
2017

Wednesday 8th February	Monday 27th February
Monday 20th March	Tuesday 4th April
Thursday 20th April	Tuesday 9th May

Special showing of Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' (Cert. 18) will be shown on Monday 10th April (Holy Week) at 7.30pm.

films will be advertised on the church news sheet

**7.30pm prompt start
all welcome**

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

Plenty of free parking on site

No charge but donations toward running costs appreciated
Coffee & Tea provided. Please feel free to bring something stronger if desired!

FILMS SHOWING - 2017

Wednesday 8th February	Captain Phillips
Monday 27th February	Hunt for the Wilderpeople
Monday 20th March	I, Daniel Blake
Tuesday 4th April	Marvellous
Thursday 20th April	Me before you
Tuesday 9th May	Spotlight

There will be a special showing of Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' (cert. 18) on Monday 10th April (Holy Week) at 7.30pm.
refer to www.imdb.com for reviews, certification, trailers & full details of films

7.30pm prompt start
No charge but contributions to running costs welcome. Fresh Coffee & Tea served. If you'd like something stronger, feel free to bring a bottle!

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YOU CAN'T CHOOSE YOUR NEIGHBOURS



By Ben Pearson

They say, 'you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family.' The same could also be said of neighbours.

Neighbour disputes can be particularly fraught; apart from the old adage that 'an Englishman's home is his castle,' there are some obvious reasons for this. Firstly, it is the parties' home and family lives that are directly affected which inevitably makes them highly 'personal.'

Secondly, parties are necessarily living side by side and as a result don't have the luxury of space and time away from the problem, which can often serve as such a sobering influence in a dispute. It is that much harder to approach matters calmly and practically when confronted on a daily basis with the problem and often matters escalate needlessly as a result.

There are a number of ways disputes can arise. If handled properly though, there is every chance of avoiding formal litigation, which can be lengthy, extremely costly and is always highly stressful for the parties involved.

Boundaries are a common source of discord. Whether it is by the land

physically changing over time or by the boundary being poorly recorded, any ambiguity over the position of a boundary can lead to conflict. Boundaries features themselves can also cause problems; whether it is in establishing whose responsibility it is to maintain a boundary feature or whether anything can be done about an offending boundary feature, for example one that blocks sunlight from a neighbouring property.

There are probably endless other ways that could be found to fall out with a neighbour, but the most common other problem areas concern rights of way, parking, and nuisance, for example, excessive noise. Cases all turn on their particular facts and we will be able to advise you clearly as to where you stand in law and what your options are.

Where disputes become heated it can be sensible to avoid a direct approach and seek professional help. In extreme cases where there is any fear for anyone's safety you should in the first instance consider involving the police.

Whilst it remains unresolved, any dispute will directly affect your

property. If you wish to sell, you will have to disclose the issue which could have a negative impact on the marketability or even the value of your property. It may seem that by instructing a solicitor you are escalating a dispute, but in most cases it is the best way of moving towards a solution quickly and calmly. Dealing with a difficult neighbour directly, perhaps over the back fence can make matters worse.

We advise that the best way to resolve disputes is by focussing solely on the legal issues and practical solutions. In fact our advice is to keep actual litigation through the courts to a minimum. If entered into prematurely the court process will be lengthier and more costly and in the vast majority of cases can be avoided altogether.

For more information and to find out how we might assist you, contact Ben Pearson on 01256 854608, or email ben.pearson@phillips-law.co.uk and visit our website www.phillips-law.co.uk.

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Gentlemen:

The Blue Space provides free services and support for men with any form of cancer. Sessions provide an opportunity to talk to and help others, get information and enjoy therapies (massage, reflexology) to relieve stress and improve feeling of well-being.

Partners:

We hold joint social evenings for people with cancer and their partners to socialise, get information, and gain support. We also have a monthly Blue Space Social Group for men whose partners have a cancer diagnosis.

For more details on any of our sessions and events please contact us:

www.thepinkplace.org.uk

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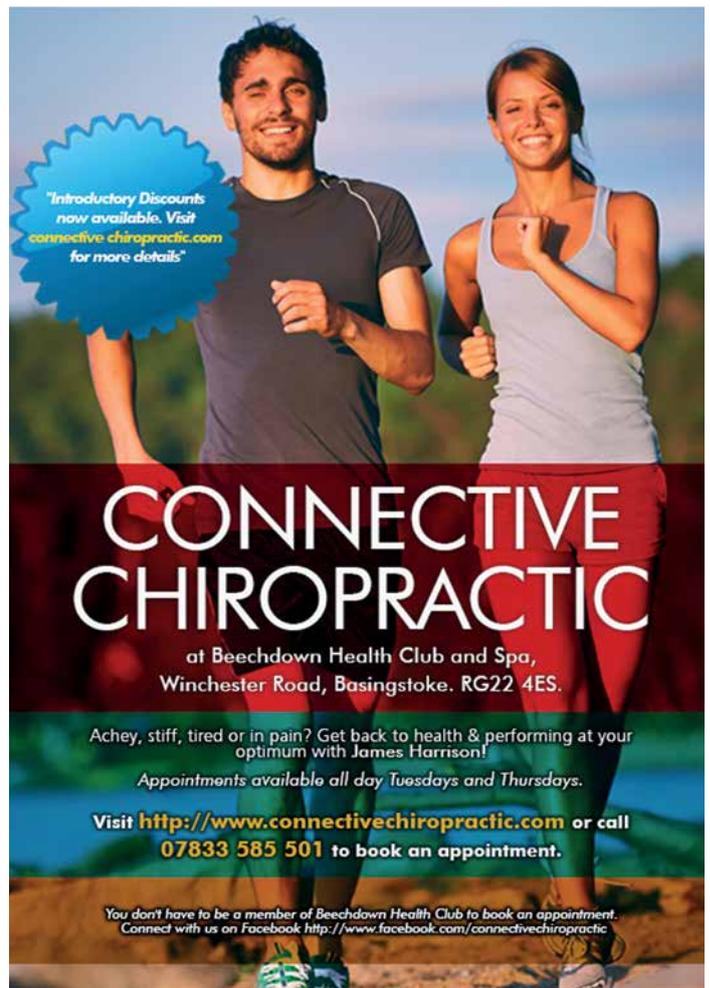


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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES PRESCHOOL

It's March already and officially the start of Spring, so it's time for us to get outside again at Hatch Warren Under Fives for some educational and fun springtime activities. We'll be looking at the trees to find branches with buds and new leaves, we'll be looking for the spring flowers that are starting to grow and will be hoping to discover some deserted birds nests for the children to investigate.

During the last few weeks the children have been "on the farm". We created a Farm Shop for our little ones to weigh and buy vegetables, a perfect activity for using number recognition and the words "more", "less" and "fewer" which ties in with the maths expectation of a typical child aged 40 to 60+ months.

Hatch Warren Under Fives and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We recently took delivery of new calculators for our mathematics area. Between the ages of 40 and 60 months we would encourage a child to

1. Recognise the numerals 1 to 5 so perhaps they will call out the numbers whilst pressing the buttons on the calculator.
2. Select the correct numeral to represent 1 to 5, then 1 to 10 objects. Our little ones enjoyed buying fresh vegetables from our Farmers Shop, matching the amount of vegetables to the number they pressed on the calculator.
3. Our Key Carers can ask the children to say a number that is one more than the given number...can they then find the matching number button?

Along with the calculators we received 3 new sets of weighing scales so the children can enjoy adding and subtracting as they measure various resources.

We also used the counting theme in our Chinese New Year celebrations. We opened a Chinese restaurant where the children used chopsticks to taste Chinese food and count out (and then eat) prawn crackers. The children also had great fun using their chopsticks to find treasure hidden in rice.

The month of March brings us more special days to celebrate. We'll have a daffodil theme for St David's Day and there'll be shamrock shapes and every shade of green in preschool for St Patrick's Day. But our favourite celebration this month is of course Mother's Day. We will be talking about the importance of family with our little ones and we'll also be hosting our "Bring Your Mum to Preschool Week" for all of the Mummies to come in and have some fun with their little ones, with a few little treats and surprises along the way... And then there'll be Easter to look forward to – such a busy term!

Find out more about our preschool by visiting www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk. For registration enquiries please contact Michelle Tejevo, Head of Preschool, 01256 322788 or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

Don't forget – Hatch Warren Under Fives also runs two friendly baby and toddler drop-in groups each week at Hatch Warren Community Centre. Our PrePlay groups run on Friday mornings at 9.15am-10.30am and again at 10.45am-midday. Suitable from birth – 5 years. £3 per session. No need to book, just turn up and play.

Finally, a quick word of thanks to those that attended our Valentine's Family Disco, it was a complete sell out and it was lovely to see so many young children from the community coming along and having so much fun. Thank you!

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL 01256 389008

We have had a busy start to the year so far. Carrying on our focus for Winter and Hibernation the children made bird feeders. We used the animals we talked about during this time such as the bear, bat and snake during our daily Letters and Sounds activity which was rhyming.



We celebrated Chinese New Year by eating traditional food and listening to music. This has been a great opportunity for children to learn about other cultures. The children made home-made spring rolls and helped prepare vegetables before having a turn to stir the food in the wok. We made Chinese lanterns, dragons and Chinese writing pictures. The children were very engaged by the New Year story about how the animals of the Zodiac were chosen from the race involving the animals crossing the river. They had great fun re-enacting this outside.

For the last part of this half term we have been listening to The Stickman story. The children have used salt-dough to create their own Stickman. Exploring colour mixing to paint them as well as Stickman pictures. As a group we created a transient art Stickman outside with leaves and twigs. The children have shown their creativity when building Stickman homes as well as creating sandcastles for a Stickman flag. Lastly, this week, with Valentine's day coming up we have been creating heart pictures with drawings of our families and those we love.

MARCH 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>

<https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeDC>

Please visit www.rabbiter.biz for the full list

MARCH IN THE GARDEN

March is such an exciting time in the garden because you can finally get out and start the jobs. With the daffodils starting to stop flowering, dead head them in your garden to give the leaves energy to store for next year's growth.

After dead heading them give them a good fertiliser with a general feed. A granular brand is best as it will release the energy over time and allow the daffodils roots a chance to soak it up from the surrounding soil naturally.

Plants in the garden can do with a tidy up now. After leaving the growth on certain plants over the winter months to protect the new growth, they can now be cut back. For example, Fuchsia, Bujelia and Hydrangeas can have their old heads chopped off now, and allow the new growth to take over. Hellebores need their leaves cut away to show off the last of their flower blossom. Make sure your roses and other trained plants are still attached to walls and have not received any damage over the winter months.

Other areas of the garden will benefit from a good fertiliser feed too. Plants such as Roses, Raspberries and Fruit trees should receive a good granular fertiliser at the base of the plant or in their pots. Acidic loving plants such as Blueberries, that are in pots will especially appreciate this treatment. There are lots of fertilisers out there and lot of brands. You want to look for a fertiliser with Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Potash. These three ingredients will help to promote shoot growth and provide your roots with a boost for structure. If you have a good healthy plant it will help to guard against drought or diseases.

Now is a great time to start planting seed based vegetables. If space is limited you

can plant onions and garlic in pots around the garden. Seed potatoes are also now available for Chitting. You should always buy seed potatoes if you are hoping for a good quality crop. It's very tempting to save last year's potatoes or use shop bought ones that have sprouted in the cupboard. They will still produce you some potatoes, but you will have a lot less, and they will be prone to rotting in the ground before you have a chance to harvest them. Chitting them before putting them in the ground helps the eyes develop and you will get a better crop from them. Place them in a tray in a warm, light place that's frost free. Within a few weeks you will see them starting to sprout.

Towards the end of the month you can plant out your potatoes. If you are planting directly into soil dig trenches about one spit depth and place out your potatoes about 1 foot apart. Cover the potatoes with soil, making sure you have space for a small trench either side of the rows. This is so you can heap the soil when the leaves start to show through to protect against potential frost damage. If you are planning to plant your potatoes in pots, fill them with some multipurpose soil about two foot deep. Place your potatoes in the tub and cover over with soil. Try to leave some space at the top so when the leaves start to poke through you can top up with soil, covering over the leaves and once again protecting them from frost.

Now is the perfect time to continue seed sowing, pricking out, and potting on larger seedlings. It's always a juggling act to find space, getting everything ready to go out. To prick out your seeds they need to have germinated so the first set of leaves have fully formed. You may be concerned about the size of the leaves to prick out, but you need to move them out of the seed tray as soon as possible. This is because seed soil

only has a very basic nutrient content and the seeds will soon start competing with each other for what nutrients are left, as well as space, water and light. By potting on into smaller cells you can be sure they are getting good nutrients, and can fully root out before going outside. I like to use a multipurpose soil at this stage and then add any fertiliser when watering if needed. You can tell if your seeds need fertilising because your leaves will start to go yellow and sometimes the edges start to roll over.

To prick out a seedling carefully place a thumb and finger on to one of the leaves. Using a Dibber, or bamboo cane, scope out the soil around the base of the seedling ensuring you get as many of the roots as you can. Lift the seedling out gently. Make a hole in the seed cell tray, and place the seedling in, ensuring you cover all the roots and the plants leaves are sitting just above the soil surface. If you can grade your seedlings making sure larger ones are at the back. This will help with light competition. Keep a close eye out for pests as well. Aphids and white fly love a nice young leaf to eat. You can help prevent this by spraying your plants with a solution of water and washing up liquid. Coating the plants in a thin layer of solution that makes it difficult for pests to cling to them. You can also put out yellow sticky traps which attract the pests to the colour rather than the plants. Once they get trapped this attracts further pests, trapping more of them. Make sure you change these as they become full. These pest yellow sticky traps are great for Scarred Fly.

Have fun and see what you can grow this month.

Happy Gardening!

Sarah Bailes

Horticultural Training Manger,
Share Community

#RUNANDTALK WITH HATCH WARREN RUNNERS AND BASINGSTOKE SAMARITANS

On Wednesday 1st February, Hatch Warren Runners organised a special club run to support the MIND and England Athletics campaign #RUNANDTALK, as part of the national campaign to support people with mental health challenges through talking. More than 50 runners participated in the event, of all ages and abilities, and the session took around 45 minutes to complete, with a drink in the pub afterwards for those who needed rehydrating!

Helen Brooker, who organised the event for Hatch Warren Runners, said "tonight

was a wonderful event. Thank you to all our wonderful runners, both old and new who joined us and a fabulous turnout in the Portsmouth Arms for the post run talk too. Thanks everyone for a lovely evening, and we certainly will not be waiting until next year to host our next #RUNANDTALK.

Basingstoke Samaritan Matt Holman, who is also a member of Hatch Warren Runners commented "it was great to bring together two passions for members of this amazing club, running and talking. Whilst most runners do enjoy a conversation whilst

running with their friends, it was nice to have a chance to talk with a wide range of runners with all abilities and their own amazing running stories, and journeys. Basingstoke Samaritans is all for supporting these local community initiatives and helping people to talk is something that is high on the national agenda of many charities and organisations right now. I cannot wait to attend the next club event!"

If you ever need a safe place to talk when things are getting you down, you can contact Samaritans 24 hours a day 7 days a week on Freephone number 116 123, or visit the website www.samaritans.org for more information.

THE FOX INN, GREEN LANE, ELLISFIELD RG25 2QW

For many years I had driven down the hill passing the Fox Inn so it seemed logical that this interesting looking country pub, with an air of a Swiss cottage, ought to have the benefit of my patronage. So on a Wednesday lunchtime in the middle of February that's exactly what madam and I did. And it was a very pleasant experience with well cooked, nicely presented food in generous portions.



Lucy Tuffs is the chef/patron having taken on the lease of this free house two years ago and has worked hard at presenting a good selection and standard of food which is steadily building up the business.

"I only cook food that I like" explained Lucy. "I am not into the gastro pub concept. My menu has all the traditional British fare that people enjoy but with a few international dishes for added interest".

The previous night, being Valentine's Day had been a sell out so there was no liver and bacon available so I had to study the extensive a la carte menu. I selected beef lasagne with chips and salad and madam had one of the day's specials of barbecued pork loin with sautéed potatoes, salad and homemade coleslaw served on a large square plate. The food was tasty and hot and madam was impressed with her meat.

Dessert was toffee apple crumble and fresh custard for me and a baked vanilla and cherry cheese cake with whipped cream for the distaff member. She was very complimentary about her dessert as it reminded her of her time when she worked in Germany.

With six coffees on offer we both had Americano which came with a mint crisp – a nice touch for a pub lunch. With a pint of lager for me and a large slim line tonic the bill came to £46.30. Not cheap but probably about right for the quality supplied.

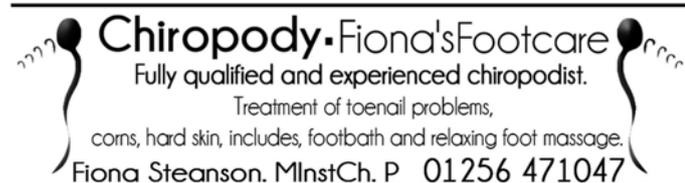
There was a light lunch menu of baked potatoes and sandwiches as an alternative choice and a children's menu has something to tempt most kids.

Sunday lunches are usually fully booked and they do have special nights. On Tuesdays there is a Mexican deal of chilli, rice and nachos with a drink for £10 and on Friday nights it is steak night when the meal for two is £27.99.

And at the weekend cooked breakfasts are available from 10.00 am. A quiz night is planned for Thursday 2nd March and a Psychic supper will occur on Monday 6th March however it is advisable to book.

The Fox Inn is a proper country pub serving quality home cooked food, fine wines and real ales. Families and dogs are welcome. There is a roaring fire and a dart board: what is more traditional than this?

See www.thefoxpubellisfield.co.uk or phone 01256 381210.

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HATCH WARREN W.I.

February meeting saw members welcome four guest to our fish and chip supper evening, unfortunately we were not able to have our 'Curling' event, so we all played bingo instead, which was great fun. We hope to be able to learn the skill of indoor curling at a later date.

This month we have 'A Homeless Experience' at the Railway Institute at Eastleigh with a lunch to attend. Members will be able to see first hand how and why people become homeless and how we can help them to improve their lives.

Our speaker on 2nd March is Peter Moore 'A Special Policeman', if you are interested in coming along and being our guest for the evening with maybe becoming a member you will be very warmly welcomed. Please contact our President Jane on 01256 810255. We meet at Hatch Warren Community centre on the first Thursday of the month at 8 p.m.

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- Suitable from birth to 4 years
- Crazy craft, messy play, sensory toys – enjoy a juice and snack, all sessions finish with 'song time'
- Our qualified and dedicated staff, led by Louise, have a wealth of childcare experience and bring lots of passion and enthusiasm to the group



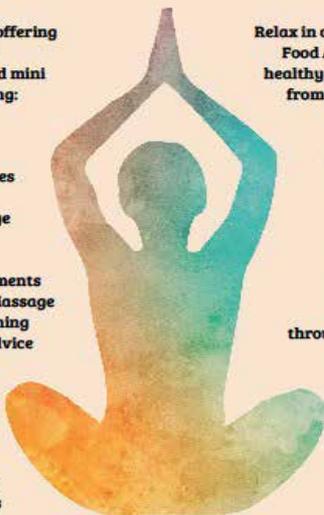
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Check out our Facebook page for regular updates on exhibitors

Hatch Warren Community Centre
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www.hatchwarren.org
 01256 811262

This event is being held as a fundraising event for the Hatch Warren Community Association

JUST ONE HOUR IS ALL IT TAKES

Can you spare just one hour of your time to help your community?

As a charity we rely heavily on volunteers to help us provide events and services to the local community in Hatch Warren. Only with your amazing help can we continue to offer these services, activities and events

All it takes is one hour ... to bake a cake for a fayre, sell tickets for our Fireworks extravaganza, volunteer with our Youth club, deliver a leaflet in your street, paint a doorway, or even help us in the office with filing, social media posts or boosting membership levels. Just an hour of your time will make a huge difference to your community.

We need your experience and expertise to help us to grow and give back to your community.

Sign up to be part of something bigger, and give back to your community.

The great thing is, that you will see the immediate results - volunteering has a direct positive impact on your local community.

We have a whole host of events and activities that need your help and support to make them successful.

Sign up today to volunteer your time and enthusiasm to support your community. Meet new friends, gain charity experience, learn new skills and become part of an exciting, caring, friendly community that makes a real difference.

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Exciting times ahead! By the time this edition of the Rabbiter hits door mats, work should be underway on the new community centre at Beggarwood. It will be managed by the trustees of the current Hatch Warren Community Centre and we'll be looking at how this new centre can provide services for the residents of Beggarwood. We are hoping that there will be a community café within the centre and an exciting events programme. If you're a resident of Beggarwood and can spare a bit of time please get in touch - also get in touch if you have any ideas for the new centre and services we could provide.

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

MARCH/APRIL Programme 6.00 to 7.45pm

- Friday 3rd Mar *Wii Dance competition and make your own ice cream sundae*
- Friday 10th Mar *Smores fun*
- Friday 17th Mar *St Patrick's themed night, come dressed in green!*
- Friday 24th Mar *Mother's Day craft*
- Friday 31st Mar *Sing Star with tacos and nachos*
- Friday 7th April *Easter craft and Easter egg games*
- Friday 14th April **CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY**
- Friday 21st April *Xbox Singstar competition—young peoples choice craft*
- Friday 28th April *Bulldog game and sausage baguettes*

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Another busy month at The Warren, PCSO's Chris and Lee dropped by to talk to our young people and answer any questions they may have, they even let us try on parts of their uniforms!! We can't thank them enough for taking the time out to visit us and make themselves known to us all.



We have also enjoyed a Glo party, celebrated Chinese New Year and made valentines crafts to give to that special someone ♥♥



FRIDAY NIGHT TERM TIME
OPEN ACCESS & HEALTH HUB
Ages 13+ from 8pm—9.30pm

Health Hub Programme - 8.00 to 9.30pm

Health Hub : please remember we are open on Fridays 8.00-9.30pm if you are over 13 and want to hang out. We sell food and drinks and we can also offer you free confidential advice on a whole range of issues including contraception, pregnancy testing and chlamydia screening.

We also run focused information nights, our next nights are:

- Friday 3rd March - how to be safe online and whilst out and about after dark**
- Friday 7th April - what does mental health awareness, that has been in the media recently, mean to me?**

Please remember we will happily help you with CVs, revision or job applications, all you have to do is speak to one of the

Member's Profile

Name: *Sheldon McEwan*
Age: *10*
School Year: *6*

Favourite things to do at the Warren:

I like to play pool, take part in competitions and eat the food!

Why I come to the Warren:

I like seeing my friends and hanging out. I like the staff a lot too.



SALT AND ICE CHALLENGE - a warning to everyone we have heard the salt and ice challenge has been circulating again. This is a very dangerous challenge where people use salt and ice on their skin to cause burns. It is extremely dangerous, can cause your skin severe damage as well as a lot of pain. We have even been told of people ending up in hospital with 3rd degree burns. If any parents or young people are worried or have heard people talking about this challenge please do come and speak to us. Safety of all young people not just the people who visit The Warren is very important to us.

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• • • • • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



- Fake news or Good News – which would you rather have?
- We've all heard about "fake news" - the stories which certain politicians and certain parts of the media invent, or wildly exaggerate, in order to push their own agendas, or boost their own profits.
- The other name for it is "lies". Whether it's a promise of NHS funding painted on the side of a bus, or a non-existent "massacre" used as an excuse for banning immigrants, such lies are more and more common.
- It's bad enough when people get fooled by those lies. It's worse when people make decision based on those lies, because those are inevitably bad decisions – the only people who benefit are the liars. Worst of all is that the liars can then cry "fake news" even when presented with the truth, leaving everyone confused, and making it much harder to find out what is real news, and what is lies.
- In the Gospels, it is Pontius Pilate, the cruel and cynical Roman politician, who asks Jesus "what is truth?" just before making the politically expedient, but wrong, decision to have Jesus executed. Pontius Pilate may have thought that the truth could be distorted, hidden, or killed, but God had other ideas. Jesus said of himself "I am the way, the truth and the life". His life conquered death: Jesus rose from the dead, and the truth was revealed – Good News, not fake news.
- We have a choice: fake news, or the Good News; lies or truth. It's a choice we need to make all the time: will we continue to buy and read 'newspapers', or support politicians, who peddle lies and hate, or will we make strenuous effort to seek the truth, even if it's uncomfortable?
- Jesus also said "the truth will make you free" so to choose truth is to choose life and freedom. To turn a blind eye to 'fake news' is

to choose death, and enslavement to those who peddle the lies. So what will you have: fake news, or the Good News? The choice is yours.

In terms of the church calendar, Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, 1st March. There will be a simple Communion Service at 7.30pm at Immanuel with the imposition of ashes. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, these words are said: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Every Wednesday in Lent beginning 8th March at 7.30pm, we'll be running a Lent Course based on the film 'The King's Speech' with a simple bread and soup supper. Everyone is very welcome.

Mothering Sunday is on 26th March. At Immanuel we will celebrate the gift to us of all who care for us, and the mothering nature of God. Everyone is welcome to our service for all.

Our popular film night continues on Monday 20th March at 7.30pm, with the next film being the award winning 'I, Daniel Blake' by Ken Loach. A film about a 59 year old carpenter recovering from a heart attack befriending a single mother and her two kids as they navigate their way through the impersonal, Kafkaesque benefits system. With equal amounts of humour, warmth and despair, the journey is heartfelt and emotional until the end. All welcome to join us. Bring a bottle and enjoy the film on the big screen.

Michael



I look forward to seeing you soon.

Fr. Michael

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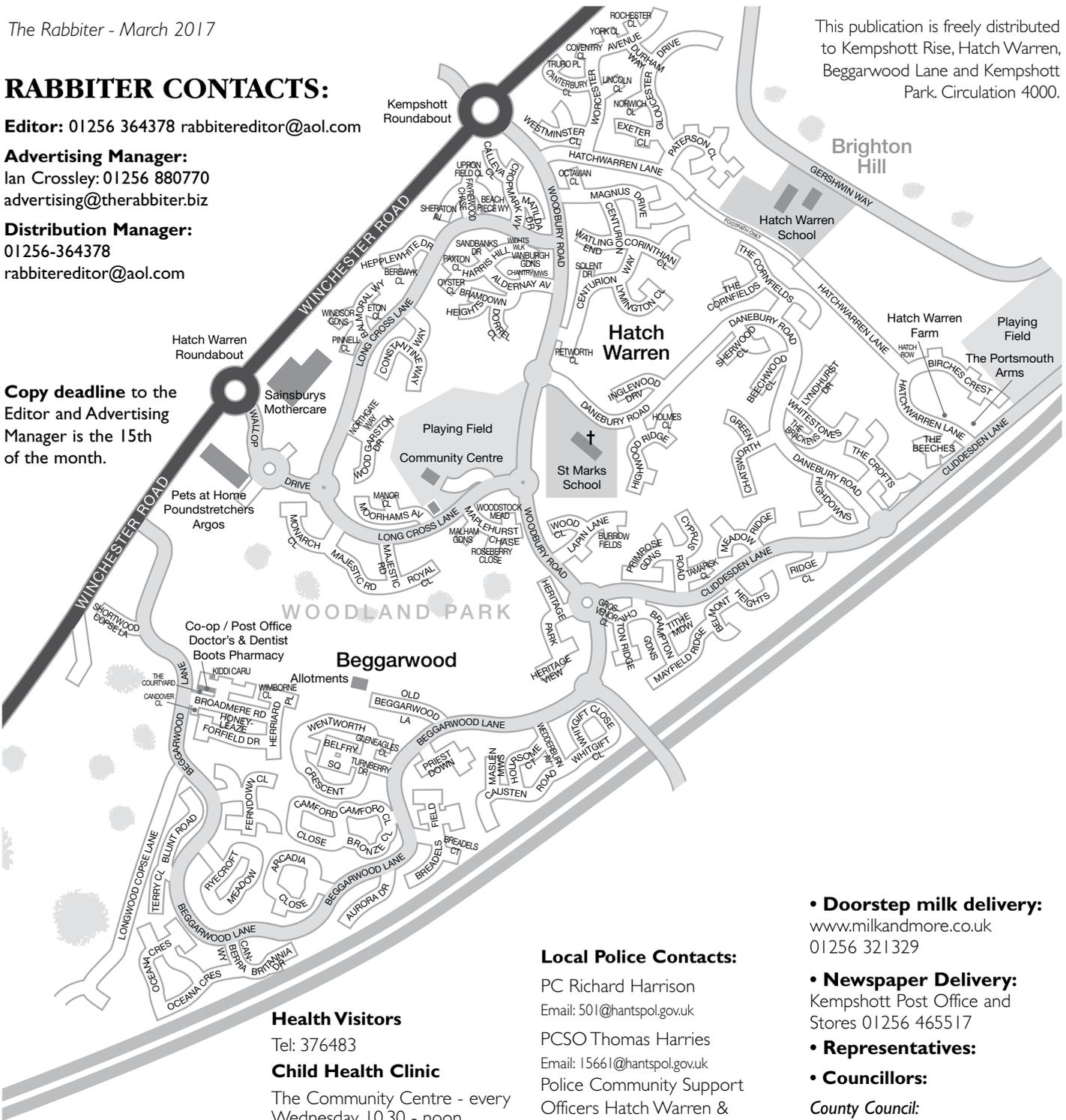
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Copy deadline to the Editor and Advertising Manager is the 15th of the month.

This publication is freely distributed to Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren, Beggarwood Lane and Kempshott Park. Circulation 4000.



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• Churches:
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ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE FARLEIGH WALLOP WOODLAND WALK

Sunday 9th April

Lord Portsmouth Estate, Farleigh Wallop, Hampshire

Registration has opened!

Here's a great opportunity to give yourself something to look forward to; register for a wonderful spring day out as St. Michael's Hospice have again organised walks around the beautiful Lord Portsmouth Estate in Hampshire on Sunday 9th April.

With beautiful views across the rolling Hampshire countryside, blooming bluebells and the opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family, two legged or four legged, what better way to enjoy the new season.

Starting from 09.30, there are two routes, 5 or 10 miles and both guaranteed to give you a superb day out. At the end, you will be welcomed to help celebrate the Hospice's 25th Anniversary by enjoying a delicious cream tea in the stunning setting of Home Barn.

BUS TIMETABLE

Route 8 – Kempshott Park, Buckskin, Rail Station, Town Centre
Buses will leave Sainsbury's at the following times:

Monday to Friday: 0531, 0601, 0621, 0641, 0654, 0708, 0723, 0738, 0753, 0808, 0823, 0838, 0854, 0909 – then every 15 mins at: 24, 39, 54, 09 mins past the hour until, 1609, 1627, 1642, 1657, 1712, 1729, 1744, 1759, 1810, 1825, 1840, 1858, 1923, 1952, 2022, 2122, 2222, 2322

Saturdays: 0649, 0719, 0749, 0819, 0849, 0909 – then every 15 mins at: 24, 39, 54, 09 mins past the hour until, 1739, 1759, 1819, 1839, 1858, 1923, 1952, 2022, 2122, 2222, 2322

Sundays: 0909, then every hour at 09 until 1809, 1908, 2007, 2107

Buses will return from the Basingstoke Bus Station at the following times:

Monday to Friday: 0555, 0628, 0641, 0656, 0709, 0724, 0739, 0754, 0809, 0825, 0840, 0855 – then every 15 mins at: 10, 25, 40, 55 mins past the hour until, 1810, 1830, 1855, 1925, 1955, 2055, 2155, 2255

Saturdays: 0650, 0720, 0750, 0820, 0840, 0855 – then every 15 mins at: 25, 40, 55, 10 mins past the hour until, 1710, 1730, 1750, 1810, 1830, 1855, 1925, 1955, 2055, 2155, 2255

Sundays: 0840, then every hour at 40 until 2040

Route 12 – Hatch Warren, Kempshott Park, Brighton Hill, Black Dam, Town Centre

Buses will leave Sainsbury's at the following times: (No Sunday service)

Monday to Friday: 0705, 0745, 0935, 1035, 1135, 1235, 1335, 1435, 1535, 1635, 1735, 1835

Saturdays: 0810, 0935, 1035, 1135, 1235, 1335, 1435, 1535, 1635, 1735, 1835

Buses will return from Basingstoke Bus Station at the following times:

Monday to Friday: 0715, 0817, then on the hour until 1900

Saturday: 0740, 0900 then on the hour until 1900

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HATCH WARREN & BEGGARWOOD CYCLING CLUB

It must be said that the weather has not been kind to us in February with plenty of sub-zero mornings. Despite the poor weather conditions, we still aim to provide the full ride programme; Tuesday evenings at 6.40pm and on alternate weekends, Saturdays at 9am and Sundays at 1.15pm. It is rare that we need to cancel rides but if the forecast is not looking favourable please check our Facebook page before turning up for a ride.

If you are a bit nervous about joining a club ride it is interesting to know that most of

the HWBCC Ride Leaders are accredited to the British Cycling Ride Leadership Level 1 standard.

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/recreation/article/20151204-Ride-Leadership-Award-Level-1-0>

Many of them have also completed their first aid with IS+Training.

<http://www.is-training.co.uk>

There is a no drop policy and the ride leaders will be happy to assist with any minor mechanical issues during a ride such as punctures and so there is no excuse not to give it a go.

As is traditional at this time of you many of you will have a new year's resolution to get fit in 2017 (you know it makes sense) and

so it's important to have goals to maintain your motivation. This could be to increase your mileage and pace by stepping up through the various levels of club rides or maybe to enter a sportive <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/sportives>.

Many of the members enter these events and so if you have any questions please ask. Riding with others makes the experience more sociable and much more enjoyable. We also organise club away days throughout the year and in April we will be traveling to Belgium to ride the infamous Tour of Flanders cobbled route. Closer to home, we are planning a trip to the Isle of Wight to ride the Randonnee (www.cycleisland.co.uk). This is a fantastic event which tours the whole of the island and best of all, it's free! (apart from travel). Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of these and other events.

The club is continuing to work on the junior membership to enable under 18s to ride with us. We will provide further updates in future new letters.



MY FIRST YEAR



I am 42 years old. A bit old to be joining the Scouts you might think. Well 12 months ago I

did just that; becoming an Assistant Scout Leader at Hatch Warren Scout Group.

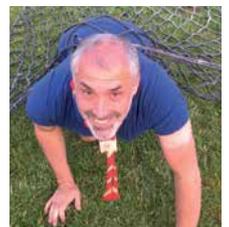
It turned out to be a decision that has had a much more positive impact on me than I would have thought. I was made to feel so welcome. Any concerns I had around whether I had the right skills were mitigated as it soon became clear that the Scout Leaders are a team all bringing different attributes. It is this that makes

Scouts what it is for the young people. It is how we are able to provide a varied and interesting programme. I have been offered training, which is tailored to my needs. I've got a lot out of the training and can do it at my own pace.

It has amazed me how, even after a difficult work day, a Scout meeting seems far from an additional task or chore, but a tonic to *normal* life. I miss it whenever I cannot attend! Without it, my week is not complete!

As a strong team we are able to cover each other's family, work or personal commitments. I think it is this team work and consideration of each other that facilitates my satisfaction for what I do.

I was a Sea-Scout in Derbyshire (not the most likely place for Sea-Scouts!), but many Leaders were not involved at all when young(er).



I hope to be taking part for many more years, especially if they are to be as enjoyable and rewarding as this first one.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Leader at Hatch Warren Scout Group then please email Joshua Hensman at GSL@hatchwarrenscouts.org.uk.

Martin Loynds



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