

THE Rabbiter



Issue 249 March 2018

BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

All the regular features plus

- **BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENS**
- **SPRING AT OUR PRESCHOOLS**
- **WOODLAND WALK REGISTRATION OPEN**

and much more

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EDITORIAL

The first edition of the Rabbiter announced the opening of the Community Centre as the 'Heart of Hatch Warren' – now there is a Heart for Beggarwood – their new Community Centre. This wonderful facility is running lots of exciting activities – see page 6. There is a coffee shop – see article on page 6 for opening times – and on the first Wednesday of each month a soup lunch will be served from 12.30-2pm. Please come along and enjoy a healthy and filling lunch – a bowl of soup, bread, cheese and coffee for about £3. A big thank you to Sainsbury's for their sponsorship of our first soup lunch on 7 March.

I am planning to walk 10,000 steps a day during March in aid of Cancer Research and have started to get my legs prepared for this. As I walk around the estate I have noticed that the amount of rubbish lying in common areas is growing. While most local roads are kept clear of cans, paper etc. the main roads are often littered with debris. What can we do about this litter? Would you volunteer to help litter pick on these areas once a month? And is there anyone out there who would be prepared to co-ordinate a rota of volunteers to keep our streets clean? I shall be collecting rubbish while I walk – who will join me? Let us keep our estate clean and welcoming – a place we are proud to live.

The Spring Cleaning season is just around the corner. If you have started already and have a box of unwanted items, why not donate them to the Cliddesden W.I. Jumble Sale – see page 7. If you have items that you want to sell, have you considered selling them through the Rabbiter free ads? This month there is a dark wood dresser for sale at a bargain price.

The Rabbiter understands that 27 March is when Argos will move from its present site into Sainsbury's – so if you go to buy something at the present store and it is closed, remember that it is now located in our Sainsbury's Store. Our store is already re-arranging itself for the arrival of Argos and things may not be where you thought they might be – plus the arrival of the great Sushi Bar has led to some changes – I can never find the butter now!!

Easter is very early this year – Good Friday falls on 30 March – see the Sainsbury's item on page 12 for store opening hours over the Easter period.

The new development on the other side of the road from Beggarwood is now occupied and a number of people have moved there from Hatch Warren or Beggarwood. The Rabbiter office was recently contacted by one of these residents to ask if the Rabbiter could be delivered to these new houses. As from this month, the Rabbiter will be extending its delivery to the new houses – good news for the residents and for our advertisers!

The new team in the Rabbiter office are doing a great job at putting our publication together – and they need your news and views. Send your contributions to editor@therabbiter.biz

The Editor



Keep an eye out for the web symbol – you can find out more on these articles and also other articles we unfortunately had no space to feature at:
www.therabbiter.biz

THE Rabbiter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 5 PROBUS CLUB
RESTAURANT REVIEW
- 6 WHAT'S ON
- 7 ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE
WOODLAND WALK
HATCH WARREN W.I.
- 8 LAMB BROOKS LEGAL EYE
DISCOVERY CENTRE EVENTS
WHAT'S ON IN SOUTH HAM LIBRARY?
BASINGSTOKE VOLUNTARY ACTION
- 10 HATCH WARREN RUNNERS
HATCH WARREN PHOENIX FC
- 12 HATCH WARREN BEGGARWOOD
CYCLING CLUB
SAINSBURY'S
- 14 PHILLIPS SOLICITORS
- 15 HATCH WARREN SCOUT GROUP
OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB
- 16 CHILDRENS' CORNER
- 18 COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 19 THE WARREN
- 20 KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP
- 21 SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
COUNCILLOR UPDATE
- 22 RABBITER CONTACTS
- 24 CLASSIFIED ADS
CATS PROTECTION
BUS TIMETABLE
- 25 FREE ADS
CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT
FELLOWSHIP

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PROBUS VISIT TAG AVIATION FARNBOROUGH



A chilly but sunny day greeted a privileged group of members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke on what was to be an extremely informative and interesting insight into the modern day VIP operations on this airfield.

Farnborough airfield is perhaps best known for being the venue for the world renowned SBAC (Society of British Aerospace Companies) Farnborough International Air Show. However, this is a much biased view of what has been one of the most important, albeit non operational, airfields in the UK. Farnborough's part in the early development on military aviation and its subsequent involvement with testing and evaluation has secured its place in British aviation heritage.

Farnborough Common was chosen by the British Army in 1905 as a site for His Majesty's Balloon Factory to manufacture the new dirigible type of balloon. It had plenty of space and was nearby to existing manufacturing facilities at Aldershot. An impressive balloon shed was built followed by gas holders and workshops plus the establishment of a balloon school. The Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) was established in 1993 and has been instrumental in the preservation and safeguarding of this part of priceless aviation legacy.

It was on the common on 16 October 1908 that saw Samuel Cody achieving the first sustained powered flight in England flying British Army Aeroplane No 1 and in April 1911 the site became the Army Aircraft Factory. With the expansion of the RFC during WW1 the site became known as the Royal Aircraft Factory (RAF). The name changed, however, in April 1918 with the formation of the Royal Air Force becoming the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE), and it was in this guise of aviation related research and development that Farnborough remained primarily concerned with until 1985.

Encroaching environmental issues with housing and the overcrowded airspace surrounding the airfield had put pressure on military flying research and development activities. However, a reprieve from total closure was gained because of the site's value as an ideal venue for the SBAC Show and the lack of an alternative. Part of the airfield was released by the MOD for general and business aviation use and an aerospace park was established in the 1990s.

Following further closure arguments, due mainly to poor general aviation uptake, it was decided to sell the site. The company TAG,



(Techniques d'Avant Garde), a Luxembourg registered company only formed in 1977, secured the airfield for a multi-million pound price tag.

Significant capital expenditure was made by TAG in modernising the airfield in keeping with bespoke VIP business jet operations and Civilian Aviation Authority regulations. These included a new control tower, radar unit, spacious specially designed aircraft maintenance hangars and an extensive aircraft apron for multi jet parking, servicing

and operations. The 2440 metres runway was resurfaced. In line with attracting business users TAG also commissioned a luxurious terminal building that provides the very best hospitality in spacious and beautiful lounges for both VIP passengers and Aircraft Crews. Besides customs, immigration and security facilities passengers may drive directly to their waiting aircraft.

The TAG operation at Farnborough supports the employment of over 1000 people and 28,000 aircraft movements. This is to be increased to 50,000, gradually being phased in over the forthcoming years.

More information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke, the social club for retired professional and business managers, can be viewed on their web site www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone their secretary, Paul Flint, on 07770 886521 for an informal chat.



THE STAG AND HOUNDS PUB & RESTAURANT

Winchester Road, Basingstoke, RG22 9HN 01256 359983

Despite living on the south western side of Basingstoke for nearly twenty years I had only been in the Harvester Stag & Hounds once, a couple of years ago. I'd been impressed on that occasion so when madam's birthday approached and her family suggested having lunch there I looked forward to the experience again.

Placed on the old part of Winchester Road leading to Pack Lane it doesn't have a large frontage wedged between Hobby Craft and what had been Home Base, now in the new guise of Bunnings warehouse and facing Home Bargains. For many years I hadn't realised that tucked away at the rear was a Travel Lodge hotel. I had only seen the frontage with its large umbrellas to protect the smokers from the elements. However inside is a bit like a Tardis with an expansive dining area with tables and booths for different party sizes.

The menu options are extensive and clearly follow the Harvester principle of catering for the whole family with good choices for children and adults alike. Help yourself to the salad bar, as many times as you like, which the hungry teenagers in our party did, as well as the bottomless soft drinks system where they were presented with an empty glass and off they went, again several times, for various cola, lemonade and orange beverages. The Early Bird special is a bit of a misnomer as it is on offer from 11.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, and at £7.49 is great



value with the unlimited salad bar and an array of grilled chicken, gammon, ribs, plaice and various burgers all served with chips or alternatives. Sweets are extra, with either sundaes or chocolate fudge cakes to cheesecakes. After 5.00 pm the full menu offerings are there to tempt you should you be so inclined as to dine out in the evening.

They have a breakfast menu up to 11.30 am as they have to cater for the hotel guests, which, having studied the menu, offers great choices from a simple continental breakfast through to a full English. When we have a free morning it is definitely in our plans to try this out.

Our experience was very positive, with attentive servers who took our selections on a hand held device, good quality food, promptly served and value for money. With seven in our party and everyone having a sweet and drinks the bill came to £108. Not too shabby, and because they had run out of candles, the staff went across the road to Home Bargains to buy some more so that when the sweets were presented madam had the privilege of a lit candle on her cheesecake and we all sang "Happy Birthday". That really was excellent customer service.

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 editor@therabbitter.biz

Copy date is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

March Events

- 1 March Hatch Warren WI
- 1 March St David's Day
- 3 March Swimathon – Basingstoke Lions
- 5 March Film Night at St Mark's
- 7 March Soup Lunch at Beggarwood Community Centre – 12.30-2pm
- 8 March Laughter House at Red Lion, featuring Zoe Lyons
- 11 March Mothering Sunday
- 13-17 March Fiddler on the Roof, Haymarket
- 17 March St Patrick's Day
- 17 March Murder Mystery at St Leonard's, Oakley – Basingstoke Lions
- 18 March Cliddesden WI Jumble Sale – see page 7
- 19 March The Lavender Fields – Basingstoke Horticultural Society
- 23 March Sports Relief Day – www.sportrelief.com
- 25 March Health, Beauty & Wellbeing Fayre, Hatch Warren Community Centre
- 27 March Argos opens at Sainsbury's
- 30 March Good Friday

Future Events

Note – From April, Laughter House will be at the Apollo Hotel in Basingstoke.

- 1 April Easter Sunday
- 8 April Farleigh Wallop Woodland Walk – see page 7
- 12 April Laughter House at the Apollo, featuring Nathan Caton
- 23 April St George's Day
- 28 April Lager Festival, Hatch Warren Community Centre

Hampshire Farmers Markets

Alton – 2nd Saturday of the month

Winchester – 2nd and last Sunday of the month

Farleigh Wallop Estate Club

Good Friday open at 7pm

Easter Sunday open at 2pm, last orders 5.30pm

Saturday 14th April Karaoke evening

Saturday 5th May Quiz evening

White Hart, London Road, Basingstoke

Every Friday Improv Comedy Drop-in Rehearsal and Jam
Beginners welcome. £5pp.

THE NEW BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENS

The long anticipated Community Centre has now opened and is situated on the edge of Beggarwood Park behind Kiddi Caru pre-school. Instead of turning left towards the surgery and the Co-op just drive through the opening into the new centre.

One of the great developments is the Café in the Park. This was very busy on the opening weekend and will no doubt prove popular with locals and encourage greater use of the facilities in the centre. It will be open Wednesday – Friday 9 am – 11 am and then 3 pm – 5 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays it will be open 9 am to 12 noon.

User groups already confirmed:

Caterpillar Music jasmine.mccarthy@caterpillarmusic.com
Monday at 9:45 and 10:35 am

Pop up Play Village Erica Mudd basingstoke@popupplayvillage.co.uk
Monday at 12:45-2pm

Yoga with Debra – Debra Mann debra@dummeryyoga.co.uk
Tuesday at 11am and 12:15

Kids Kan Dance – kidskandance@gmail.com

Wednesday 5pm -7:30pm and then Adult Dance from 7:30-8:30pm

Move it or Lose it - Amanda Bellia amanda.bellia@hotmail.com classes
Thursday at 10:30 – 11:30 am

Pilates with Kimberley Stent kimastent@outlook.com
Thursday at 11:45-12:45pm

Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Thursday at 4pm-8:30pm

MESSY PLAY for preschool children Friday at 9:15-10:45am

Coming soon: STRONG by Zumba & ZUMBAGOLD with Jo Harris

Soup lunch: planned 1st Wednesday of month serving homemade soup from the café from 12.30-2pm – volunteers required!

Pop in to chat to Rhiannon Bullock who is the centre manager (no landline installed yet so please direct all calls to 01256 811262 for the interim) or email office@hatchwarren.org to enquire about renting the community hall space for a child's party or community group.

Beggarwood Community Centre, Broadmere Road, RG22 4AQ

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.hwrrunners.co.uk

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE FARLEIGH WALLOP WOODLAND WALK



Sunday 8th April

Farleigh Wallop Estate, Farleigh Wallop, Basingstoke RG25 2HX

Registration has opened!

While we wait for spring to arrive, why not plan something to look forward to by registering for a wonderful day out on the Farleigh Wallop Estate enjoying country walks organised by St. Michael's Hospice. Last year's event took place in glorious sunshine and was so popular that we have had to limit participant numbers to 500 this year.

To sign up and for more information please visit the Hospice website at: stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events or call fundraising on 01256 848 848. Alternatively, follow us on Twitter @smhbasingstoke #WoodlandWalk



HATCH WARREN W.I.

Hatch Warren W.I. welcomed new members and visitors to their fun evening with a fish and chip supper followed with indoor curling on 1st February.

Members attended a talk on 'Loneliness' by Dame Esther Rantzen on her charity 'Silver line'. When Esther lost her husband she had to downsize and found herself very lonely and had a light bulb moment, having written an article in the newspaper and saw the huge response to loneliness she set up 'Silver line' where you can ring their number twenty four hours a day and speak to someone. They can arrange for you to have a phone call on a regular basis and even arrange group calls which are all completely confidential.

Arrangements are now in place for two celebrations to mark one hundred years of the start of the W.I. in Hampshire, a dinner at Elvetham Hall and a cruise of Southampton Waters in the summer. Hatch Warren members are looking to have a day in Salisbury in April and this month members will attend the W.I. AGM at the Guildhall in Portsmouth where the main speaker for the afternoon will be Anton du Beke.

We look forward this month to our coffee morning with 'bring and buy stall'. Our next meeting on 1st March we will welcome Victoria Kennedy 'Vintage Fashion Treasures', we meet on first Thursday of the month at Hatch Warren Community Centre at 8 p.m. if you are interested in coming and joining us for the evening please contact our president Jane on 07798 842487

CLIDDESSEN WI JUMBLE SALE

Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall on 18th March at 1pm

Donations from 11am at the door. For more information please contact Diane Rampton on 01256 467533

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WHEN MINI BREAKS JUST DON'T CUT IT

Employment Appeal Tribunal has held that compensatory rest breaks must be at least twenty uninterrupted minutes long in length not as a series of mini-breaks.

This warning comes after Network Rail was found to have failed to facilitate full 20-minute rest breaks despite the employee being in a role that has special provision for alternative arrangements.

All workers are entitled to an uninterrupted 20-minute rest break away from their work station after six hours of working under the Working Time Regulations (WTR).

Minimum rest periods are there for the protection of health and safety and this ruling demonstrates,

once again, that employment tribunals will not allow employers to shirk their responsibility or alter a worker's statutory rights to fit around business needs.

As with all terms of employment, the starting point should be a clear policy that everyone knows and understands, especially in environments in which pre-scheduled breaks are hard to operate, or workers are working alone. It's important to re-evaluate regularly and see if problems are arising, and take steps to ensure that breaks are being taken. You also need to be proactive about it, as arguing that a worker never asked for a break is not going to let you off the hook.

If you have a situation where it is difficult to give workers an uninterrupted break, away from their work station, then it's

worth reviewing the position with some specialist guidance, as the alternative may be an expensive tribunal claim.

If you are affected by the outcome of this decision, or need advice on any other employment matter, call one of our employment experts today - Karen Bristow on 01256 305508 or Sophie Keene on 01256 305534.



Expert Legal Advice in every issue of the Rabbiter

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.

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.rabbiter.biz for details



BASINGSTOKE VOLUNTARY ACTION

February has been a busy month here at BVA with a well attended Voluntary Sector Forum discussing the work of the Basingstoke and Deane Health and Wellbeing Partnership and how voluntary organisations can work together on these issues, particularly increasing social connections, and also on issues relating to older people living in our community. BVA's group development team continue to support local groups with advice on grant and other funding applications, and also to help you recruit volunteers that you so need for your work.

We have also run various well attended training courses – Trigger tool training, digital learning and cyber security, data protection and how to prepare for GDPR. We would like to draw your attention to training events coming up on Social enterprise – to help groups develop their income and trading activities, and the popular volunteer training event in April "attracting, keeping and supporting your volunteers", together with a number of courses which will be of particular interest to groups working with young people – do look at BVA's website for details. Please do let us know if you have any specific training needs that we could help you with.

At the VSF we also announced that Action Hampshire will shortly be publishing two very interesting surveys – one on the State of the voluntary sector across Hampshire and the second on Commissioning experiences – BVA plans to use both of these to help shape the support we give to local voluntary organisations in the coming year, and to help Action Hampshire's work with local commissioners. We will publicise these on our website shortly.

BVA – bphelps@bvaction.org.uk

Bridget Phelps - Acting CEO for Basingstoke Voluntary Action

WHAT'S ON IN SOUTH HAM LIBRARY?

Join us every Saturday morning for drop in fun from 10am-midday. All activities are free of charge. We request that children under 10 are accompanied by an adult.

1st Saturday Craft 3rd March – World Book Day Craft

2nd Saturday Board Games 10th March

3rd Saturday Construction Club 17th March

4th Saturday Storytime 24th Feb- Join us at

10:15 and 11:15



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HATCH WARREN RUNNERS



The new year kicked off with Dave Warman running the 25th Anniversary Walt Disney World Marathon in Florida. This was close to Dave's heart as he lost

both of his Grandmothers over the past 18 months and wanted to do something they both would have approved of. It was a hard race which started at 0530, but there were character stops and rollercoaster rides along the way, so also good fun – well done Dave on your achievement; your Grandmothers would have been proud!

6 Jan saw Jamie Dunkerley take part in 'The Fan Dance' in the Brecon Beacons. It is a gruelling 24k SAS Selection test march staged on Pen y Fan, the highest mountain in the Brecon Beacons, but civilians can also do it for fun! Jamie decided to go 'clean fatigue' which means survival kit only (some runners had 40kg packs). The race goes up to the summit, descends down Jacobs Ladder to a checkpoint, back up Jacobs Ladder then down Pen y Fan. The weather was cold, snowy and icy, but Jamie finished in 10th position for his age group – an amazing achievement!

Gloucester Marathon was next; Kevin Biles ran for the Fire Fighters Charity, well done Kevin! This was closely followed by Farnborough Half Marathon on 21 Jan, where 25 runners ventured out in snowy and sleety conditions.

27 Jan was Tony Nicholls 100th parkrun in Basingstoke. This was a very special event and an awesome achievement as Tony has been blind from birth. Tony was guided by Candy Wong and took part in the celebrations and refreshments after. Tony was also awarded a badge from the Mayor, who attended this special event.



On 27 Jan Rob Stait took part in his first ever half marathon. Lee Valley Velopark is usually a cycling venue but on this day was

used for a selection of running events. Rob ran the race in 1.45, which is a fantastic time for a first half marathon - well done Rob!

19 runners also took part in Romsey's 5 mile race on 28 Jan and on 4 Feb, 14 runners travelled to London for the Winter 10k run, so lots of venturing out this month!

A very popular event for HWR is Bramley 10/20. This took place on 11 Feb and runners can run either 10 or 20 miles. This year the club had 36 running 10 miles and 14 running 20 miles. Everyone finished; some with amazing times and personal bests on a sunny, but cold and blustery day!

Entries are now open for the 3rd Farleigh Wallop Trail Race on Sunday 23 September at 0930. The last 2 years have proved very popular, so get in there quick if you want to take part - secure your place at www.fullonsport.com.

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

HATCH WARREN PHOENIX FC

The children of Hatch Warren Phoenix FC have so far been enjoying the 1st half of their seasons, whilst the wet winter weather has cancelled a few games due to water logged pitches it certainly hasn't dampened their spirits.

With the 'Firestarters – Intro to soccer school' for boys and girls currently in school year R&I really enjoying their Saturday morning coaching sessions, those in school year I will soon be getting ready to become the newest sides in the Phoenix family as Under 7s from September. The younger ages are having a blast, learning the fundamentals (fun being the key word) of the game, team work and certainly expending lots of energy with vacancies available from March all taught by FA qualified and DBS checked coaches.

The SSE Wildcats girls contingent have just gone from strength the strength as the girls have developed their motor skills, control and team spirit and are really becoming a talented bunch, once again if any girls would be interested in coming along they would be made to feel very welcome – open to



girls in school year 2 – 7 (Ages 6-13) no experience necessary and at £3 per session it's great value. Proving that it isn't just about learning the game and the value of sport and teamwork the Phoenix Wildcats had a special invitation to Reading FC as guests for the FA cup tie. They helped create a fantastic guard of honour of flag bearers for the teams as they made their way onto to the pitch. Everyone in the group enjoyed a terrific evening out with smiles all round.

The Fireballs (U7s) are a busy bunch, growing mid-season to now offer an additional team taking the count to no less than 4 sides in this age group, with weekly training and matches there are constant reminders of how well the children are doing as they receive Player and spirit of the match awards. There has been plenty of smiles all round, normally after getting themselves a few goals and covered in mud!

In other news the Lawnmaster sponsored Phoenix Fire U12s enjoyed a buoyant Autumn cup run only to be left disappointed in the semi finals after the dreaded penalty shoot-out "These kids are marvellous, they've come so far and we all felt for them. Their spirit and team ethic carries them week in week out but to come so far; playing terrific football is always heartbreaking when it ends in penalties." Steve Moria – U12 Fire coach "That said, the boys are made of sterner stuff, they've already dusted themselves down and are moving on continuing to develop their individual creative game and team spirit"



www.hatchwarrenphoenix.co.uk
email on info@hatchwarrenphoenix.co.uk

The club has once again secured the Charter Standard kite mark, indicating that it is a safe place for children to learn and enjoy sport and all of the benefits it can bring.

Daren Bavister | Club Chairman



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HATCH WARREN BEGGARWOOD CYCLING CLUB



It only seems like two minutes since "Big Ben" was chiming in the New Year, yet both Easter and Spring are now literally just around the corner. Spring also means that the days are getting longer and warmer, and this change in the weather encourages more people back into the great outdoors, and more people to get back on their bikes.

Despite the snow, rain, wind, and low temperatures, many of our members have not been dissuaded, and we have had good turnouts on our monthly 50-mile café rides, to both Leckford Farm and Long Barn. We also finished our recent Saturday ride, at the brand new Beggarwood Community Centre and Café in the Park. It's safe to say, we will be back there on a regular basis.

Around 20 of our members are in training for a trip to Belgium in April, where they will be taking part in the Liege-Bastogne-Liege Sportive, which takes place on Saturday

21st April. This is the day before the professional peloton tackle the course, and we're sure that whilst it will be physically challenging, they will certainly enjoy the experience. Plenty of planning has gone into organising this trip, and our members are excited by both the challenge, and the after event Belgium beers. To commemorate the event, we have specifically commissioned a limited edition club jersey, which incorporates the "Wallonia Rooster".



On the 6th May a large contingent of the club, are planning on travelling to the Isle of Wight, to take part in the 60 mile round the island randonnée. We have taken part in the event for the last 2 years, and it is a day we all enjoy. Let's hope the sun is shining.

We would also like to say congratulations to the small number of our members who have just found out, that they have been allocated a ballot place in this years Prudential Ride London 100 event. This event is the cycling equivalent of the London Marathon,

and it is significantly over subscribed each year, so to be awarded a ballot space is an achievement in itself.

We currently have 169 members, and our new membership year starts on the 1st April. However we are already accepting applications, so if you are interested in joining early, please go to the membership section on the British Cycling website. Simply type "British Cycling Hatch Warren" into Google. If you are not ready to commit just yet, why not come along for a trial ride. For more information on our scheduled rides, please see our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/HWBcc/

British Cycling are sending a Coach to us on Saturday 10th March. The coaching involves training our members to lead groups on the road in a safe and enjoyable manner, and it will take place on the roads within Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. Part of this training, will involve us riding in groups of two a breast, so if you happen to come across us on the 10th March, please bear with us.

Sainsbury's

Our Values Make us Different

This change will see our General Merchandising and TU Clothing offer being moved nearer to the front of the store, with a fresh new look for customers. We'll be welcoming our colleagues from Argos, with a scheduled opening of 27th March.

Sushi Gourmet

The team from Sushi Gourmet have seen a fantastic response from Kempshott customers since their opening. They're located to the rear of the store, opposite the Food to Go Counter.

The team are highly knowledgeable about their craft and love the interactions with



the customers. Make sure you pay them a visit the next time you're at the store.

Store Refit

As part of the refit to accommodate Argos, we'll be moving the magazines and newspapers to a dedicated aisle opposite the Self Checkouts.

The crisps and snack items will move to the wall adjacent to the Kiosk.

Your patience during these changes is greatly appreciated and, we'll make sure you'll continue to find the same great Kempshott service you receive now.



Easter Opening Hours

Store Opening Hours

30th March – 7.00am – 20.00pm

31st March – 7.00am – 22.00pm

1st April – CLOSED

2nd April – 08.00am – 19.00pm

Café Opening Hours

30th March – 08.00am – 19.00pm

31st March – 08.00am – 20.00pm

1st April – CLOSED

2nd April – 08.00am – 18.00pm

Petrol Station Opening Hours

30th March – 06.00am – 20.30pm

31st March – 06.00am – 23.00pm

1st April – 09.00am – 18.00pm

2nd April – 07.00am – 20.00pm

Argos Refit at Kempshott

We're changing the store during the next few weeks, as we prepare to welcome the team from the Hatch Warren Argos store. The Argos will be located at the rear of the store and, is set to be one of the largest within a Sainsbury's store, at just over 5000sq ft.



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LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY (LPA)



Caroline Wallis

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The term Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) may sound like an exciting TV series, but it is in fact a very useful legal document that people really ought to consider having in place alongside their Will.

An LPA is a way of giving someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf should you lose mental capacity in the future or if you are worried about managing your affairs in the future. This person is called an Attorney.

You can have more than one Attorney and these can be anyone you chose such as family members or close friends. Clearly, they should be people you trust explicitly. One could be a professional adviser; such as a solicitor; who could oversee the activities of the main Attorney.

There are two different types of LPA. One of them covers decisions about your property and finances, and the other covers decisions about your health and welfare. You can choose to have one or both.

You can appoint the same person or persons to be your Attorney for both LPAs or you can choose different Attorneys.

The LPA will only be valid if you have the mental capacity to set it up and have not been put under any pressure to create it.

It must be countersigned to this effect by a trusted third party and registered with the Office of the Public Guardian.

If you are married or in a civil partnership do not assume that your spouse will automatically be able to deal with your finances and make decisions about your healthcare. This is not the case as, without an LPA, they will not have the authority.

We recommend that everybody has an LPA in place as mental capacity can be lost or diminish suddenly, as a result of a serious accident or suffering an illness.

An LPA can certainly provide some peace of mind for all concerned.

If you would like to discuss setting up an LPA, please contact Caroline Wallis, head of the Wills & Probate team at Phillips, by calling 01256 854637 or by emailing caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk

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HATCH WARREN SCOUT GROUP

BEAVERS*

We've been having yet more fun at Beavers this month.

We had a riotous time at the District New Year Party at Aldworth School, where we mixed with Beavers from other colonies in the district. We enjoyed a performance by Magic Charlie, a talented magician with close up magic amazing everybody in the audience. It was wonderful to see the surprise and confusion on the faces of the Beavers he asked to join him on stage.

Our photography badge work has got off to a good start. They all brought in costumes and had a great time dressing up and taking funny photos of each other. The leaders all graciously supplied photos of themselves for a 'guess the leader' competition, won by James Hope and Joseph Hansford. We won't share those pictures for the rest of Hatch Warren to see though except the one of me as a boy.



Talking of badges, we've had so many Beavers completing their own badges at home that we've had to introduce a timetable so we can schedule in opportunities for them to present their work to the rest of the colony. It is fantastic to see so much enthusiasm and effort from the Beavers; from the work done last term at Beavers, we've awarded 58 badges and 12 badges are due to be awarded for activities completed at home since Christmas. A big well done to all our Beavers.

cubs*

Another busy month at Hatch Warren Cub pack, with lots of activities in the hall plus two outings.

The Cubs had the opportunity to practice knot-tying and construction skills in a challenge that saw them building bridges with rope and wood. Extra points were gained for weight held by the bridge.

One evening was spent taking part in the Super Six Challenge where Cubs compete in teams to complete six challenges including a memory game, a word search and catapult construction using bamboo and rubber bands. The finale involved the catapults being tested with ping pong balls as ammunition and leaders as the targets!

A highlight of this month was our visit to the brand-new Basingstoke Fire Station. Here we saw the new premises, had a look around the fire engines, got the chance to practice our aim with a high-pressure hose – no leaders were soaked – and learnt about home safety. Our cubs will be carrying out some follow-up activities at home and as a result we will be awarding them their Fire Safety badges.

Another highlight was our outing to the Basingstoke Gang Show. This featured songs, dancing and comedy sketches and is put on entirely by Scouting and Guiding in the Basingstoke area. We all thoroughly enjoyed the show; in the words of one Cub, it was "the best show ever!".

Next half term the Cubs will be working towards their Environmental Conservation badge by learning about recycling and building bird boxes to take home. Our Sixers and Seconders will be taking part in the district Night Hike too – very exciting as this will be a first night hike for most of them.

And last but not most definitely not least, six of our Cubs (now Scouts!) received their Chief Scout Silver Award certificates from the Basingstoke Mayor in the Council Chambers. Huge congratulations to them for achieving the very highest Cub award!

SCOUTS*

The Scouts hit the ground running this term with our first camp of 2018 only 12 days into the New Year! Along with thousands of other Scouts and Explorers from across the country, we headed to Wintercamp 2018 at Gilwell park - the home of Scouting. There was a wide range of activities on offer including climbing, airbag jumps, quad bikes, segways, rifle shooting, the AA Driving School and a fairground. A few hardy Scouts (and some leaders) even braved White Water Rafting at the Olympic course at Lee Valley (and yes, it was very cold!)

During our regular Thursday night meetings, we have celebrated Burns' Night, exhausted ourselves at FlipOut, played wide games in Micheldever Woods and built wooden bird boxes!

During half term, we had a fantastic night at the Basingstoke Gang Show. It was an amazing show and testament to the huge amount of work that goes into the show by the cast & crew. We are particularly proud of our very own Thomas and April who were starring in the show!

Chief Scout Silver Award certificates presented by the Mayor of Basingstoke



OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

Old Basing Tennis Club is a friendly village club situated at the Recreation Ground, Riley Lane. Old Basing. We have 4 all weather courts and a club house.

The summer season starts at the end of March with our first club night being held on Tuesday 27th March at 6.00 pm. Club nights are then held every Tuesday and Friday evening from 6.00 pm until dusk throughout the season.

As well as social tennis, we will field teams in the local league and run a Summer Tournament for members. We also hold several social events throughout the year, including a Quiz.

If you would like to find out more about joining please contact Lynne Thomas: lynne.thomas@btinternet.com

We would love to hear from you!

HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES PRESCHOOL

Spring is here! The days are getting lighter and longer, the sun is starting to shine and it's always a great term at Hatch Warren Under Fives. This is one of the best times of year to see wildlife and flowers so over the next few weeks we'll be exploring the season of spring and looking at the baby animals that are born in springtime.

Last term we followed National Storytelling Week and read lots of stories with the children, encouraging them to make up their own endings and asking lots of questions aimed at developing their thinking and understanding (Listening to stories with increasing attention and recall is an expectation of a typical child aged 30 to 50 months). The children became Little Red Riding Hood and decorated biscuits to take to Grandma; the Three Bears had small, medium and large chairs to sit and eat porridge and Jack and the Beanstalk cut up runner beans, looking for the magic ones!

Our other February highlights were Chinese New Year, Pancake day and Valentine's Day, where we sampled Chinese food, had lots of pancake races and got busy with hearts and sparkle at our craft tables.

The celebrations will continue into March... there will be daffodils for St David's Day and shamrocks for St Patrick's Day, and we also have one of the most important days of the year coming up - 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's Easter! There is lots of Easter crafts and activities planned, and we'll also be holding our annual Easter Egg hunt.

Don't forget we also run PrePlay, a fun and friendly drop-in baby and toddler group on Friday mornings at 9.15am-10.30am at Hatch Warren Community Centre. A great place to meet local Mums and little ones. £3 per session, suitable from birth - 5 years. No need to book, just turn up and play!

Find out more about our preschool by visiting our website www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk.



CANDOVER VALLEY PRESCHOOL

We have just enjoyed two weeks focussing on Going on a Bear Hunt and the Gruffalo stories. The children have enjoyed hiding and looking for bears in the garden, creating bear masks and making Gruffalo crumble in the sensory tray.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year by eating traditional food and listening to music. Children will be learning the names of vegetables and spices as they help prepare food and trying out chopsticks. We will be making Chinese lanterns, lucky fish and learning about the New Year story; how the animals of the Zodiac were chosen from the race across the river.

We will focus our learning on Book Week this half term which will tie in with World Book Day. We will plan activities and develop more as the weeks progress and we will follow the children's interests.

Upcoming excitement in May Happy's Circus is coming to CVP! Sunday 13th May to book your tickets please go to <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/cvp> Everyone is invited so we look forward to seeing lots of you there!

There's lots going on at Candover Valley Pre-school and you are very welcome to visit us at our Open Sessions or a time that suits you better.

Lisa Collisson



CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

We are based in North Waltham village, which is less than 10 minutes' drive from Hatch Warren, and is in a beautiful rural setting. The children who attend come from within the village and the surrounding areas including Oakley, Dummer, Hatch Warren, Kempshott and Beggarwood and all agree the location and wonderful caring staff mean it is more than worth the short journey. Please contact Jo or Fiona to come and see for yourself.

This term the children have been really busy! Thanks to the generosity of the voluntary donations of parents, the pre-school has been able to run a series of sessions with Rugby Tots. These have been a big hit and the children have been able to practice their teamwork, ball skills and have learnt some rugby terminology as well! The pre-school also received a visit from a local supermarket last week. A representative brought in a rainbow variety of fruits and vegetables, some common and some a bit more unusual. The children listened attentively and played some games by categorizing the produce by colour. The excellent behaviour of the children was commented upon. Well done everyone!

If you are thinking about pre-school for your little one, there are spaces available at Cuckoo Meadow for the September 2018 term. Sessions run from 9-12 and 12.30 to 3 with a lunch club available for older children. To find out more about the Ofsted Outstanding rated pre-school and to book a visit, please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172.

Alice Crocker

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

Beggarwood Community Centre Launches

Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association were delighted to launch the new Centre and wonderful community cafe; Cafe in the Park, on Saturday 10th February. An exceptionally busy day saw members of the community gather to sample wonderful coffee, tea and cake and admire the new building and its fabulous setting in Beggarwood Park. The facility already has a wonderful range of community and other groups booked to use the Centre. Cafe in the Park will be open Wednesday to Friday 9am-11am and 3pm-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-12 noon. Pop in and support this amazing community building and meet our new centre manager, Rhiannon Bullock and her team. For further information or booking enquiries please email office@hatchwarren.org. We would love to hear from you if you can spare an hour or 2 to help at busy times, especially clearing up at session end!



We are excited to announce the return of our

Health Beauty and Wellbeing Fayre

Sunday 25th March

12-4pm

Entry £1 (under 16's free)

Nourish Beauty, Sole Foot Health, Holistic You Indian Head Massages, Diabetes UK Hopi Ear Candling, Psychic Rainbow Star Dermaplaning & Aromatherapy

For stall enquiries please email office@hatchwarren.org

Hatch Warren Community Centre

LAGER Festival

Live music by Dirty Rotters
Hot food available

Saturday 28th April 7-11pm
ADULTS ONLY

Tickets £6
£3 members (on production of valid card and limited to 2 per family)
To book tickets see our website

www.hatchwarren.org / 01256 811262

This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association
Charity No 1163117

Tickets available for DREAMGIRLS on Thursday 10th May at the Savoy Theatre London £60.00 per person (includes coach) email office@hatchwarren.org to book. This trip is open to all members of the public, tickets are non refundable



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**FRIDAY NIGHT TERM TIME YEARS 6-8
YOUTH CLUB ACTIVITIES (see below)**

**FRIDAY NIGHT TERM TIME AGES 13+
OPEN ACCESS & HEALTH HUB**

MARCH/APRIL 2018 Programme 6.00 to 7.45pm

- 2nd Mar "What are healthy relationships?" and soup
- 9th Mar Wii sports and super smoothies
- 16th Mar Scratch craft and hot dogs
- 23rd Mar 5-a-side football and ceramic craft
- 30th Mar GOOD FRIDAY - CLOSED
- 6th April Movie night and popcorn
- 13th April Quiz night and nachos
- 20th April Dodgeball and ice cream sundaes
- 27th April Chalk pavement art and chicken burgers

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Health Hub Programme - 8.00 to 9.30pm

We are open Fridays 8pm-9.30pm for young people aged 13 years and above. If you want to play pool, FIFA or just hang out come on down. We sell food and drinks (including tea and hot chocolate) and we can also offer you free confidential advice on a whole range of issues including contraception, pregnancy testing and chlamydia screening. In addition to all this we will happily help you with CVs, revision and even job applications. We run focused information nights for 13-18 year olds, our next nights are:

2nd March - What are healthy relationships as I am getting older?

6th April - Alcohol Awareness, what happens to my body when I drink?

If parents have questions about the topics we discuss please feel free to contact us.

So as Easter will soon be upon us, we thought we should take a break from eating Mini Eggs and Chocolate Bunnies to remind you all that we are closed on Good Friday (Friday 30th March), however we are open Fridays as normal throughout the Easter holidays and beyond.

As well as eating all the chocolate, we've been rocking out with rock and cupcake decorating, a glo-disco and chilling with a pamper night... to name but a few things!!



New Youth Manager

We are super excited to announce that our Youth Worker Vicky, is now our new Youth Manager. Vicky has been a much valued member of the team for many years and we think she will be the perfect person for the role! Congratulations Vicky!!



A big thank you to everyone who has voted for us using the Asda Green Tokens! We rely on schemes such as these to allow us to stay open and to continue offering the variety we do. We don't know how much we have from this yet but we are so grateful for any amount we receive!

We would also like to shout out a massive thank you to our lovely volunteer named Ray who came in and fixed our pool table for us. As we have said before, our pool table is a much loved piece of equipment used by our young people and youth workers alike. We are so happy to have it restored back to its former glory!

KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP



It really is true.....dog poo fairies don't exist, not even in Down Grange Meadow! The most unpleasant problem we sometimes have is dogs' mess, bagged or otherwise, left in and around the Meadow.

The vast majority of dog walkers show consideration by bagging and binning it, but there is a persistent minority who seem happy to leave it where it is or throw filled bags into the undergrowth. Please help by acting responsibly and ensuring that any mess created by your dog is picked up and disposed of properly.

Our final Meadow Work Party for the current season will be on Thursday, 29th March for two hours from 2.00pm. Our meeting point is the Meadow's Homesteads Road entrance. Why not join us to see what we are up to? We can always do with some extra help. All equipment is provided, but please bring your own gloves.

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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••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

• 'God's love for us is as excessive as rain falling forever on the ocean.'

• Sara Miles 'City of God'

• It's a very early Lent and Easter this year. Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent took place on Valentine's Day and Easter Day is on April Fools Day! I've reflected on the significance that there might be with those two days in particular! Winchester Cathedral had a whole day on Ash Wednesday with the theme of 'Love is all you need'. I took part as the cathedral opened its doors and got rid of their admission charge for the day, offered prayer stations and 'ashes to go'; reminding people of God's love at the start of Lent; a time when Christians traditionally reflect, fast, pray, study and spend time getting closer to God. With Easter day being on April Fools' Day, perhaps we should think about the foolishness of God's love for us – love without bound and possibly too great to understand – the foolish love of God!

• At the end of this month we enter the most holy of times in the church year when we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey and the week leading up to his arrest and crucifixion. At Immanuel we use to use this time for reflection and have that growing sense of building up to Easter and the emotions of remembering Jesus' trial, crucifixion and resurrection. The climax of a life that was a demonstration of God's love for each and every one of us, without exception. We will be having a full range of services during Holy Week for all. On Maundy Thursday, we'll gather to remember Jesus' last supper with his friends – we'll remember it by having a meal ourselves followed by communion and enter into a solemn time of reflection as we move into Good Friday. We have a time for all ages (and in particular children) on Good Friday morning at 10am, and then at midday we remember the three hours of Jesus on the cross with a time of reflection and contemplation.



• On March 11th, we celebrate Mothering Sunday which is on the fourth Sunday of Lent, when we're almost able to catch sight of Easter (note that it's Mothering SUNDAY! Not Mother's Day - which is a festival celebrated elsewhere around the world). Mothering Sunday is always on what's known as Laetare Sunday; the meaning of which is 'rejoice!' – with Easter almost in sight, a day where people stop their fast or take a break from whatever they've given up; so if you've given up something for Lent, on March 11th you can take a break for the day (great if

you've given up chocolate or something similar!).

• Mothering Sunday is an opportunity for us all to take stock, to rest from whatever we've given up if that's what we have done, and reflect. It's a good opportunity to think about those around us whom we love and need to be thankful for; not just our mothers. During our worship on Mothering Sunday at 10am, we will be giving thanks for all those who have taken on the mothering role in our lives as well as remembering and walking along side those who have suffered pain and loss as mothers or lost their mothers. Who will you be giving thanks for on Mothering Sunday?

• Toward the end of Lent, on March 25th we come together for Palm Sunday, with a procession of palms and all-age communion service at 10am, we will have a full programme of services for Holy Week, including services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and a big Easter Day Celebration. For full details of everything we do look at our Facebook page or website (www.facebook.com/immanuelhwb or www.immanuelhwb.co.uk).

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Michael

Fr. Michael

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••••• COUNCILLOR UPDATE

BEGGARWOOD SURGERY:

As many residents will have seen, the surgery achieved an improved rating from the CQC inspection in December. The CQC continues to express concerns however, mainly around how embedded the improvements are and how sustainable the new leadership will prove. The surgery needs to continue to show improvements over the next six months.

MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA:

Applegreen, the developers of the proposed motorway service area close to junction 7, have stated that they intend to bring forward a formal planning application to the Borough Council in March or April. At that point any proposals will be in public and subject to consultation, so all local residents will be able to see full details and comment on them.

HOUNSOME FIELDS:

The site has been acquired by developers Linden Homes, who have been building on the next door Kennel Farm. The outline planning permission, granted a while ago now, was for around

750 homes with associated school, nursery, shops and community facilities. More detailed information on their proposals should come forward soon as it is believed that they hope to begin work by the end of this year. I will pass on anything I have as soon as I hear.

BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND CAFE IN THE PARK:

A huge congratulations is due to the community team who worked so hard to have the centre ready and the cafe up and running on opening day, so a massive thank you to Centre manager Rhiannon, Father Michael, Karen, Jenny and Clare from Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Centre. They have great plans to make the centre a real hub serving the community.

ISLAND SITE:

The site at Beggarwood known as the Island Site between the A30 and the new development is likely to come to Development Control Committee for decision in the next couple of months. The application is for a pub/restaurant, older persons' accommodation and care home and a dental surgery.

Clr Terri Reid

RABBITER CONTACTS:

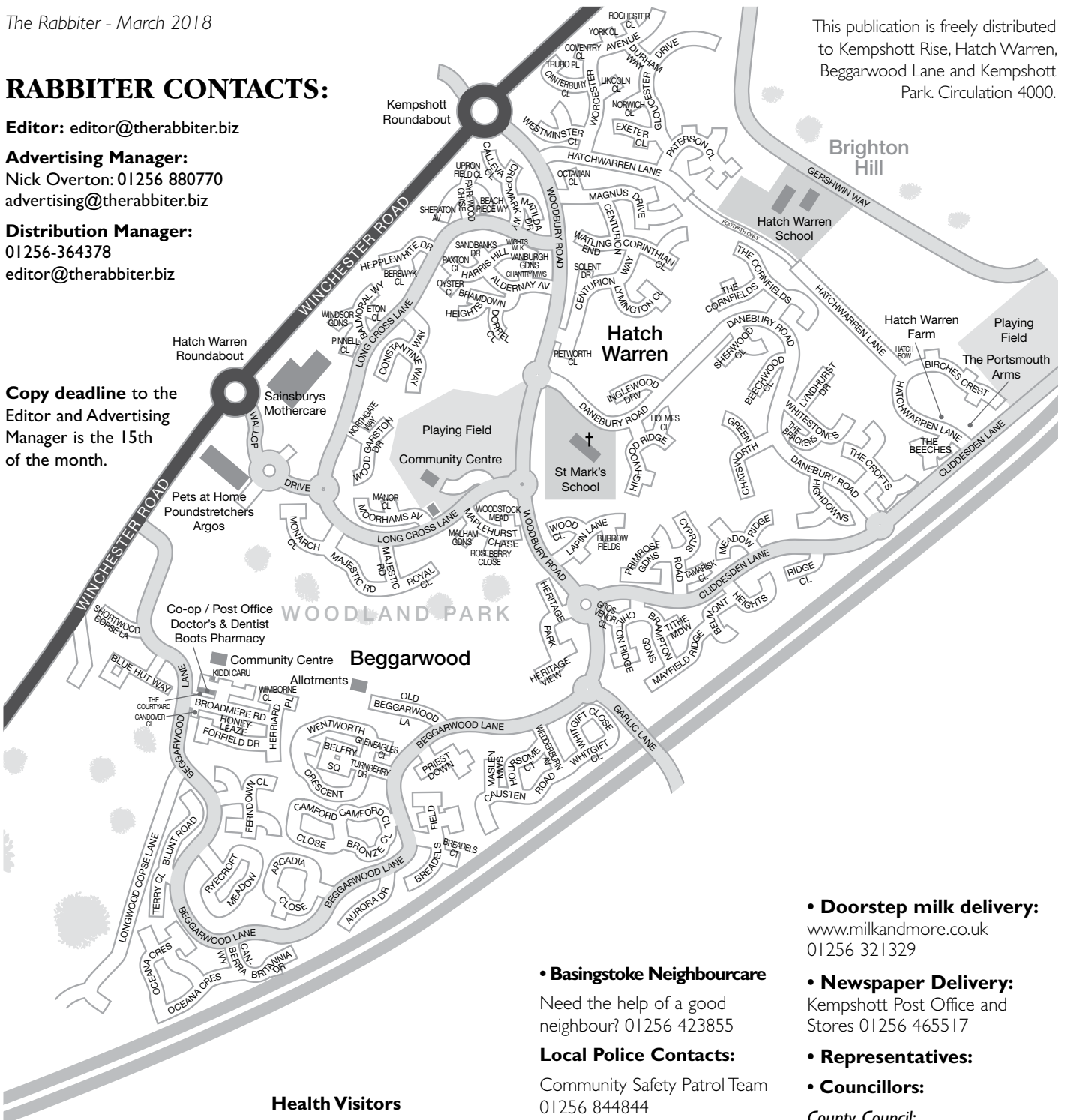
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Advertising Manager:
Nick Overton: 01256 880770
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Distribution Manager:
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• Churches:

Immanuel Church 10.00am every
Sunday at the Church Centre,
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St. Mark's School: 472632
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Church 10.30 every Sunday at
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• Buses:

See page 24

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1. Sherwood Close
2. Camford Close



CATS PROTECTION

Basingstoke & District Cats Protection Branch are holding their Spring Fair at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley on Saturday 10 March 2018. Running from 1.00pm to 3.30pm, it promises to be a fun-filled afternoon for all the family.



The Spring Fair will host the Branch Annual Photographic Competition, kindly organised by David and Marion Canning. In addition photographs will be selected for Mr and Mrs Canning's 2019 calendar which they sell to raise more funds for the branch. To enter the 2018 Photographic Competition or if you would like your cat's photograph in the 2019 calendar please email basingstoke-cats@hotmail.co.uk

As well as a variety of stalls to appeal to all ages, visitors can treat themselves to some of the delicious homemade cakes available and sit down for a cuppa. Entry is 50p or a donation of cat food, so please come along and give the cats your support.

Homing and Welfare Officer, Ann Walsh said "Last year, the branch rehomed 156 cats and kittens and either neutered or assisted with the costs of neutering for 307 cats and kittens. So our bills are considerable and we rely on our wonderful supporters that enable us to carry on our work".

BUS TIMETABLE

No. 8 Service – Kempshott Park, Buckskin, Rail Station, Town Centre. Buses will leave Sainsbury's

Monday to Friday: 0531, 0601, 0621, 0641, 0652, 0703, 0720, 0737, 0752, 0808, 0823, 0838, 0854, then every 15 minutes until 1609, 1627, then every 15 minutes until 1712, 1729, 1744, 1759, 1810, 1825, 1840, 1858, 1923, 1952, 2022, 2122, 2222, 2322

Saturdays: 0649, then every 30 minutes until 0849, 0909, then every 15 minutes until 1739, then every 20 minutes until 1839, 1858, 1923, 1952, 2022, 2122, 2222, 2322

Sundays: 0909, then hourly until 1809, 1908, 2007, 2107

No. 8 Buses will leave Bus Station:

Monday to Friday: 0555, 0615, 0635, 0652, 0707, 0723, 0739, 0754, 0809 then every 15 mins at 25, 40, 55, 10 until 1810, 1830, 1855, 1925, 1955, 2055, 2155, 2255

Saturdays: 0650, 0720, 0750, 0820, then every 15 mins at 40, 55, 10, 25 until 1710, 1750, 1810, 1830, 1855, 1925, 1955, 2055, 2155, 2255

Sundays: 0840 then at these times every hour 40 until 2040

No. 12 Service – Hatch Warren, Kempshott Park, Brighton Hill, Black Dam, Town Centre. (No Sunday service) Buses will leave Sainsbury's:

Monday to Friday: 0652, 0726, 0848, 0933 then at 33 mins every hour until 1333, 1435, 1541, 1640, 1743, 1840, 1951
Saturdays: 0736, 0833 then at 33 mins every hour until 1533, 1638, 1738, 1836, 1951

No. 12 Buses will leave Bus Station:

Monday to Friday: 0655, 0815, 0900 then at 00 mins until 1500, 1605, 1705, 1805, 1920

Saturday: 0705, 0800, then at 00 mins until 1500, 1605, 1705, 1805, 1920



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BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

There were 48 members and 4 visitors at the meeting held on 7th February who enjoyed the usual tea, coffee and biscuits before David Cowling, the Chairman welcomed everyone and gave apologies from those unable to attend. Christine Broadbent, the Welfare Officer, gave her report and then Tony Brazier, the Secretary, gave details of the forthcoming visits to Oxford on Thursday 22nd March which will be a do as you please trip and Chartwell National Trust property on Thursday 26th April.

The speaker at this month's meeting was Barbara Cummins who recounted her experiences of cycling through

the USA, Scandinavia, Central America and Australia. She explained that on retirement she wanted something physical to undertake and after weighing up the options decided that cycling would be best for her. After having a cycle made for her and giving it a trial run here she decided to take on a trip of nearly 3000 miles down the East Coast Greenway of America from Boston to Miami. This was followed 2 years later by a cycling tour of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland through to the Russian border. Then followed Central America, France coast-to-coast and, closer to home, the Pennine Way before setting off in 2016 to Australia, along the Great Ocean Road, Tasmania, New Zealand Fiji and Hawaii. She illustrated her talk with many photographs and told of her numerous encounters

and the kindness and hospitality she received along the way which she reciprocates to cyclists visiting here.

The next meeting is on 7th March when the AGM will be held. Also at this meeting John Howson will be displaying some of his drawings and Claire Eastick from Southern Health will speak on the Frailty Awareness campaign after which we will be going to the Conservative Club for a carvery lunch. 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 and outings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 07715 640171 and if you would like to join us on one of our trips contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

David Cowling



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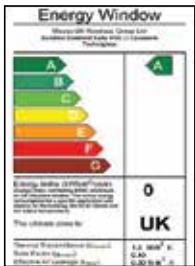
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