

THE Rabbiter



Issue 238 February 2017

All the regular features plus

- **MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION**
- **MINI PROFESSORS**
- **MAD HAIR DAY**

and much more

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EDITORIAL

Belated Happy New Year greetings to all our readers. 2017 is going to be a great year and is a special one for me as I shall be celebrating one of those birthdays with a 0 at the end!

The Rabbiter will also be celebrating a landmark this year – its 25th birthday! Issue 1 was published in August 1992 to celebrate the opening of the Hatch Warren Community Centre. Apart from a break of about 6 years in the late 1990s, I have been editor of The Rabbiter since that first issue. And now I think the time has come to hand over to a new Editor and team to continue publishing The Rabbiter. If you are interested in being involved, please let us know – editor@therabbiter.biz. Sadly if no-one comes forward to take over, The Rabbiter will cease publication in at the end of this year. I have had a wonderful time publishing The Rabbiter but it needs new ideas and energy to continue meeting the needs of our community.

The Hatch Warren Community Centre continues to provide exciting events – see their page for some of the major events they are planning this year. It is a great venue for many activities and classes are now running to help children with their Maths and English – see page 4 for more details. We have started providing reviews of local eateries and this month our roving gourmet visited The Beacon – see his review on page 20. Our reviews are completely independent of the venue. If you have a recommendation of a great venue for lunch please let us know. And talking about food, don't forget the wonderful Pancake Tea on Shrove Tuesday from 5pm-6.30pm at Immanuel Church. Last year the pancakes were scrummy!!

Wherever you look locally there seems to be more houses being built and roads dug up – see Terri Reid's update on page 14. There is considerable concern regarding the application to build houses in Cliddesden. Do we want to start infiltrating the lovely countryside south of the M3 with new housing estates? Is the local infrastructure sufficient to support more houses? Are these going to be affordable houses for local people or will they be too expensive for those just climbing onto the housing ladder?

With all the cold weather we are having at the moment, gardening may not be high on your agenda. The ground is too hard to dig and it is cold out there. However there are still lots of things that can be done – plan your vegetable patch, start off seeds on your window sill until the ground warms up to plant them out – see February in the Garden written by local horticultural expert Sarah Baines on page 19.

On cold and frosty mornings staying warm under the duvet and phone in to work might be very tempting but there are potential risks to doing this – see Phillips Solicitors' article on page 16 for more on the consequences of a 'sickie'.

100 years of cubs and scouts – amazing. My father was a scout in the 1920s and had a great time and it is good to see that our young people are continuing to enjoy and benefit from this amazing organisation. Activities such as scouting and guiding rely heavily on volunteers to keep them going and a big thank you to everyone who gives up their time to working with young people.

There are many regular clubs meeting in and around Basingstoke and some send us details of their events and activities. Probus have some very interesting speakers and I was particularly fascinated by this month's article on 'The art/science of the dowser' – see page 10.

Please continue to let us have your news and details of events. The Rabbiter is about our community and I am sure many people will be sad to see it close down at the end of the year so I hope that local people will consider carrying it on for many years to come.

Jenny, Editor

THE Rabbiter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 4 ENGLISH & MATHS TUITION
MINI PROFESSORS
HATCH WARREN RUNNERS
- 5 CALLING ALL FLUTE PLAYERS
MAD HAIR DAY!
THE SUN AT DUMMER
BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB
- 6 WHAT'S ON
- 7 THE MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL DAY
DISABILITY FORUM
CALLING ALL MAKERS
LODDON VALE INDOOR BOWLING
VICTIM SUPPORT HAMPSHIRE & IOW
- 8 LAMB BROOKS LEGAL EYE
SAINSBURY'S
- 10 PROBUS LEARN ABOUT THE ART/
SCIENCE OF THE DOWSER
CYCLING CLUB
- 13 BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE
RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP
HATCH WARREN W.I.
- 14 DISCOVERY CENTRE EVENTS
A CENTURY OF CUB SCOUTS
PLANNING UPDATE
- 16 PHILLIPS SOLICITORS
- 17 CHRISTMAS COMPETITION
- 18 CHILDRENS' CORNER
- 19 FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN
- 20 THE BEACON PUB
- 22 COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 23 THE WARREN
- 25 SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
- 26 RABBITER CONTACTS
- 28 CLASSIFIED ADS
SOUTH HAM LIBRARY
BUS TIMETABLE
- 29 FREE ADS
- 30 OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD
WILDLIFE GROUP



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ENGLISH & MATHS TUITION AT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Does your child struggle at times in maths and English? Many parents consider this at various times during their child's school years and perhaps are put off by not knowing what, if anything, they can do about it.

An answer to this problem can now be found at the Hatch Warren Community Centre where a new class started in January. Run by experienced and highly qualified, teachers, specialising in maths and English their aim is to tutor children in these important subjects throughout their school years, from Reception up to year 11, including those worrisome SATS and GCSE years.

Under the name of Hampshire Learning they have been successfully running two sessions each week at Rooksdown

Community Centre and are now running these academic booster classes at HWCC on Wednesdays all year round. This professional operation is run by Kiron Gill BA and Narinder Dhothar MA, who base their teaching on the latest national curriculum helping students with preparation for the major examinations and improving their progress at school.

"We find that the earlier children begin to prepare for these examinations the better. We focus on strengthening their Foundation knowledge in the earlier years to build confidence and we encourage them to take ownership of their independent learning. This allows them to build the key skills and techniques they will need in exams for many years to come. By engaging them in a way that suits each child's learning style, we see students finding joy in understanding subjects that they couldn't before" Narinder explained.

The class time is 3.30 – 6.00 pm and pupils come at a time to suit themselves, for between thirty minutes to an hour dependent on age and the subject choice. The monthly cost is £55 for a single subject or discounted at £95 if two subjects are undertaken. See www.hampshirelearning.co.uk for more information.

MINI PROFESSORS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



It's never too early to learn about scientific subjects. That's the view of new classes on Fridays at the Hatch Warren Community Centre, designed specifically for pre-school children.

Each forty minutes session makes science fun and enjoyable for young children with a wide range of subject matters covering the two year programme. They will learn something new each week from germs to chromatography or making clouds as well as all time favourites such as dinosaurs and space.



All the children wear mini white lab coats and they love becoming involved with two hands on experiments each session. There is a specific story and short video about the topic of the day. There is lots of fun and there is normally a "I didn't know that" moment for the parents too.

The children learn about the basic principles of scientific experimentation and it is a great opportunity to prepare them for pre-school and school. Parents are encouraged to join in too and carry on the learning experience at home with their children.

Friday 3rd February is the start date with the first class at 10 am – 10.40 am for 2 – 3 year olds with a second class 11.00 am – 11.40 am for 3 – 5 year olds. There is a maximum of 14 children to each class which are in term time only. Cost is £6.50 for each session and there is the opportunity of a free taster class always provided that there is space available on the day.

For further details email Basingstoke@miniprofessors.co.uk or phone Michelle Grzbiela on 01256 476394.

HATCH WARREN RUNNERS

'New Year, new me'. That old adage comes to the fore for many of us after the over-indulgences of the festive season. Not all runners find the time to keep up their fitness routine over this period and so not surprisingly, our numbers have continued to swell since the 1st of January, with many new faces joining club runs and some of the 'old faces' getting back to their routines! If proof were needed, on January 7th, Basingstoke parkrun boasted a remarkable 568 finishers; 63 more than ever recorded and 37 of whom were 'Hatchies'.

In December, on a foggy cold morning, HWR's latest group of novice runners completed their first ever 5k parkrun, having taken part in the 9 week 'Couch to 5k' course coached by leaders and helpers from the club. Each received a well-earned club medal and were supported and accompanied by other Hatchies around the course. Many of them are now ready to embark on their next challenge to complete a 10k event. This now brings the total number of local people HWR has helped get from their couch to a 5k since 2013, to 150, with the vast majority having remained active members of the club. Some have since completed 10k, half marathons, marathons and endurance events, proving that no matter what your age or experience anything is possible with the right support to achieve it!



HWR C25K Graduation Group – Saturday 18th December 2016

Spring marathons and half marathons (including Brighton, London, Reading, Fleet, Farnborough) are just a few weeks away and this means that a good number of us are now well into longer training runs, with groups catering for all abilities and paces. These take place at weekends and large groups can be seen enjoying outings from 10-20 miles all over the Basingstoke area with many taking advantage of the scenic (and hilly) countryside as well as trundling along the tow path of the Basingstoke Canal. *continued...*

In other news, we are thrilled to advise that the HWR 24 hour relay event which took place at the end of November, supported by Sainsbury's Kempshott raised over £2.5k for Naomi House Children's Hospice. This now brings the amount raised for charities by HWR to a 'whopping' £85,000 in less than 4 years!

Next month our Hatchie 5 Minute Interview will return as a bi-monthly feature. The club has some inspirational and very interesting people amongst its number and we hope you will enjoy reading a bit about them.

Happy New Year from us all at Hatch Warren Runners.

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



CALLING ALL FLUTE PLAYERS

Come along and hear local flautist Nick Cartledge play Mozart's Flute Concerto with Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra. Any children or adults who are learning to play the flute can be inspired by listening to Nick's dazzling playing on this beautiful instrument. We are hoping lots of flute students will attend and so have arranged for Nick to be available during the interval for "Meet the soloist". You can chat to him and ask any flute related questions!

The Orchestra will also play Beethoven's 8th Symphony, Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture and the beautiful Serenade for Strings by Elgar. Following on from the success of our recent family concert, we are keeping ticket prices for under 16s at just £2 when accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 11 February 2017 7:45pm
www.bso.org.uk and book tickets at anvilarts.org.uk

HAVE FUN ON MAD HAIR DAY!

St. Michael's Hospice is delighted to announce the return of their fun campaign Mad Hair Day which will take place on Friday 10th February to raise much needed funds for the Hospice. The local community are encouraged to wear crazy wigs and style their hair in weird and wacky ways.

'Mad Hair Day' is the perfect excuse to go wild and have fun with your hair', says Lynne Grimshaw, Community Campaigns Co-ordinator at the Hospice. 'Maybe you have always wondered what your hair would look like pink, permed or in a beehive, or perhaps ladies, you have always wanted to be brave enough to have your head shaved, or gentlemen your legs or chest waxed. Well Friday 10th February is the day to give it a try. You can have great fun and really help your local Hospice at the same time by getting sponsored too.' In the past, the Hospice has had wonderful support from schools and hairdressers but individuals and businesses are always welcome to join in too.

St. Michael's is the local Hospice for North Hampshire, providing care and support through the In-Patient Unit, Day Service and Hospice at Home services. All services are completely free of charge to people with life-limiting illnesses. The running costs of the Hospice last year were £3.9 million of which only 20% is funded by the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The support of the local community in campaigns such as Mad Hair Day really does make a huge difference to our fundraising.

For more information about supporting Mad Hair Day or holding an event, please call Lynne in the Fundraising Department on 01256 848845 or email lynne.grimshaw@stmichaels-hospice.org.uk for a fundraising pack.



BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

www.basingstokelions.org.uk

I think Lenny the Basingstoke Lion must have been given an early Christmas present of a flying carpet. He certainly managed to flit about Basingstoke like a demented bluebottle over the Christmas period. He appeared at the Tesco food bank where he helped to raise £130, served early morning breakfasts, took part in the Christmas parade and the Daniel Rolfe fun day in aid of Wessex Heartbeat. All that in addition to doing shifts in support of our own collections which, thanks to everyone's generosity, raised £2847. Many thanks to all who contributed and to ASDA, Homebase, Old Basing Co-op and the Chineham Shopping Centre for allowing us to collect on their premises. Now, you'd be forgiven for thinking that it is always someone different in the Lion suit. But it isn't. Typically it's our President hiding her light under the proverbial bushel.

WELFARE: Over the Christmas period we made donations to homeless charities, the women's refuge and organizations serving the needy elderly. It'll be a couple of days until I find out what else our committee has been doing.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

04/03/2017 CHARITY SWIMATHON:

We are now contacting schools, colleges, sports clubs and businesses to invite them to enter teams in this event. The **2017 SPECIAL OLYMPICS** are being held in Sheffield this year. This gives swimmers with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to compete against their peers. Members of The Basingstoke Bluefins (Disability) will be competing and we will be supporting their participation. You too can help us by getting together a team of 6 to swim in our event which also allows you to support other charities. Get on our website. Click the link on the Home Page. Click "contact us". Enter the name of your organisation, your team name, your team captain's name and an email contact address. It's that easy. Even I can do it.

08/04/2017 QUIZ NIGHT: Come along and see how many brain cells you've lost as a result of overindulgence during Christmas and New Year. Contact Philip Wilson Tel: 01256 352393 or philipjhwilson@btinternet.com to book your table

THE SUN AT DUMMER

Many of you may have heard recently that The Sun at Dummer is up for sale. The good news is that the landlord is not changing so we will be able to continue enjoying the excellent cooking in the restaurant and the bar. If you haven't been there recently lunch in the bar is definitely not to be missed - a cup of soup and delicious sandwich or a deli plate for sharing.

WHAT'S ON – FEBRUARY

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

31 January	for 11 weeks - Alpha Course, Immanuel Church – see page 25
2 February	Hatch Warren WI – see page 13
8 February	Film Night at Immanuel
9 February	Trip to Wicked, Hatch Warren Community Centre
9 February	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-house.vpweb.co.uk
10 February	Mad Hair Day in aid of St Michael's Hospice – see page 5
11 February	Race Night, Hatch Warren Community Centre
11 February	Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra, The Anvil
24 Feb-13 Mar	Marie Curie Daffodil collection – see page 7
26 February	Wedding Fayre, Hatch Warren Community Centre
28 February	Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day!!)
28 February	Pancake Tea at Immanuel Church – see page 25

Future Events

1 March	Ash Wednesday
1 March	St David's Day
4 March	Charity Swimalong – Basingstoke Lions Club – see page 5
4 March	Open session at Dandelions – see page 18
9 March	Film Night at Immanuel
9 March	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-house.vpweb.co.uk
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
20 March	Spring Equinox
24 March	Red Nose Day
26 March	Clocks go forward – start of daylight saving
26 March	Mothering Sunday
4 April	Film Night at Immanuel
8 April	Quiz Night – Basingstoke Lions Club – see page 5
9 April	Palm Sunday
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

27 April	Trip to 'The Girls', Hatch Warren Community Centre
1 May	Early May Bank Holiday
11 May	Laughter House at Red Lion – www.laughter-house.vpweb.co.uk
29 May	Spring Bank Holiday
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

THE MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL DAY

Happy New Year to everyone.

Thank you very much for your generosity last year.

Marie Curie Care provides nursing for seriously ill people in their home and in some cases in hospices. Unfortunately they are unable to provide nurses in the Basingstoke area but they do have nurses in other parts of Hampshire. They also use the money to pay for research into Palliative Care which is shared with other organisations.

The major fundraising event of the year is the Daffodil Day. There are many local collections from 24 February - 13 March.

Tesco (Hook), Basingstoke Metro Tesco (Town Centre), Basingstoke Town Centre, Morrisons and Basingstoke Station.

Also Chineham Shopping Centre; hopefully at the end of February

If you can spare an hour or more please call Sally or Wendy on 023 8026 3123 or go to https://t.campaign.mariecurie.org.uk/webApp/mcc_supporterRegistration to register for a collection near you.

NEWS FROM BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT DISABILITY FORUM

Join Basingstoke Disability Connections for a free cuppa and chat in a friendly atmosphere about anything disability related on the first Tuesday of the month 12:30-2:30pm in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre's Community Room.

Do you have a disability related question and don't know which way to turn? Pop in to the Basingstoke & District Disability Forum's Signpost Service on the first Tuesday of the month from 10:00-12:00 in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

Do you want to know more about becoming a volunteer Trustee of Basingstoke & District Disability Forum? Join us in The Orchard on Monday 23rd January 2017 from 10:00-12:00 for an open recruitment meeting.

Would you like to get involved with a disability raising awareness event in Basingstoke town centre on Saturday 1st July 2017? Everyone is welcome! We need volunteers to help run the event and teams to take part – are you part of a club who would like to earn sponsorship for your chosen charity and for BDDEF? Get in touch.

Email: info@bddf.org.uk

Tel: 01256 423869



CALLING ALL MAKERS

Makerspaces are community workshops set up by volunteers to share tools, knowledge and ideas with like-minded individuals. Reading, Newbury and Southampton have one and we are now starting Basingstoke Makerspace.

What goes on in a Makerspace depends upon its members. Applying new technologies such as laser cutting and 3D printing is popular, along with computing and using more traditional metal working and carpentry techniques. What comes out of a Makerspace is equally varied, from arts and crafts projects through to robots or perhaps a scaled-down medieval siege engine!

The heart of a Makerspace is its workshop and the search is on for rental accommodation with access throughout the week. Makerspaces are funded through members' subscriptions but we would also like to hear from potential sponsors willing to support community ventures through donations of any kind!

Whether your preferred tool is a needle, an Arduino, or a lathe, as long as you like making things, Basingstoke Makerspace would love to meet you! Come along to our meetings at the Four Lanes Community Centre in Chineham, held on alternate Tuesday evenings, have a look at our website at basingstokemakerspace.org.uk/ or contact Paul Hyde on 01256 470135 for more information.

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Or email: a.tait1@hotmail.co.uk

Or visit: www.lvibc.co.uk

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VICTIM SUPPORT HAMPSHIRE & IOW

Victim Support Hampshire & IOW are currently recruiting for volunteers to Support Victims of Crime in the North Hampshire Area. Our next training course is March 2017.

Full training is given and the role involves helping people explore how their experience of crime has affected their lives and identifying ways to enable them to recover from the experience. Support is provided either face to face or by telephone, there is also the opportunity to go on to do further training to support with serious crime. For more information please email Hampshire&iowvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk website: www.victimsupport.org.uk

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE PROPOSALS TO RAISE THE SMALL CLAIMS LIMIT TO £5,000.00

By Sarah Lake

A government consultation process proposing a range of measures to reduce or scrap damages awards for some personal injury claims is underway. Under current proposals injuries could be graded and damages fixed according to the duration of the injury, which could involve injuries lasting up to two years.

Key changes would see the Small Claims Limit rise to £5,000.00 and this could be applied to all types of personal injury claims.

Justice Minister Sir Oliver Heald took part in a House of Commons debate on 11th January 2017 and gave no indication that the Government would back track on its plans. Although

Claimants would still be able to bring their own cases before the Small Claims Court they would not be able to recover costs and so would have to carefully consider the economics of seeking legal advice.

The widely held perception is that the measures will eradicate fraudulent whiplash claims but the proposed limit would also apply to broken ribs, a fractured leg or wrist for example.

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has made representations to the Government insisting that raising the Small Claims Limit to £5,000.00 would restrict access to justice but would not stop fraud.

Claimants running a claim without legal representation face the risk of being undercompensated. Lamb Brooks' specialist Personal Injury Team has extensive experience of representing Claimants and offers No-Win, No-Fee Agreements. If you have suffered personal injury and loss as a result of an accident at work, in a public place or in a car accident call us on 01256 844888 for a free initial consultation.



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Sainsbury's



Our Values make us Different

Comic Relief 2017

The noses are back by popular demand. You will see lots of store activities during the next few weeks as we gear up for Red Nose Day on March 24th.

Active Kids 2017

The campaign is back in full swing and, having listened to feedback from organisations, we've returned to issuing vouchers instead of the coupons. This will help you in collecting and counting your vouchers.

Since 2005 over £170million worth of equipment has been donated via the scheme.

If your organisation hasn't enrolled for the scheme, please visit - <https://activekids.sainsburys.co.uk/>

Christmas 2016

Many thanks to our customers who donated to the charities and organisations raising money over the Christmas period.

The Hatch Warren Runners kicked things off superbly with the 24hr Marathon, ending with the wonderful choir from Immanuel Church.

In total, over £4000 was raised during this period, which is phenomenal. Thank you.

For the first time this year we also gave away quadruple Nectar Point vouchers to over 500 shoppers to boost their points and, delivered over 250 Classic Pantones to selected Online shoppers.

Local Hero Scheme

The focus for the start of our new financial year in March, turns to helping our friends at a number of projects, via the Local Hero Scheme.

Colleagues at the store enjoy volunteering in your community, helping to distribute close to £10,000 during this last year.

We're always on the look out for

volunteering opportunities for our colleagues and, whilst we can't commit to supporting everyone, it would be great to find out what support our community requires.

You can email the store at: prl.kempshott@sainsburys.co.uk

The Pink Place

Our successful partnership with the Pink Place, together with our customers' generous financial donations, has resulted in a new service being launched – The Blue Space at The Pink Place.

This service is aimed at supporting men living with the effects of cancer. We're looking forwards to helping this exciting partnership at the café in the store one evening. Keep an eye out on our noticeboard for more details.

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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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PROBUS LEARN ABOUT THE ART/SCIENCE OF THE DOWSER

Michael Haxeltine, a member of the British Society of Dowzers, gave an abridged presentation to the Probus Club of Basingstoke, which was a snap shot of the extensive breadth of this subject. His normal presentation can be an all day affair but he had to make do with one hour.

Most of us have heard about water divining. The speaker gave other instances of its practical use and told of an instance where he had been able to identify 15 out of 17 known problems found by CCTV in a 200 m drain. However not many attendees knew about the extensive use made by dowzers in all manner of circumstances and the speaker gave practical demonstrations to help his cause.

And members of this social club for retired professional and business managers were encouraged to take part. One member sat with an open design pyramid over his head for half an hour which when removed was shown to have created an aura of about 75 cms around him. The

weighted end of a flexible metal rod was seen to rise when placed in the middle of the pyramid. Similar open pyramids have been proven to help seeds germinate by raising local temperature. A torch beam made a dowsing rod move down the light beam which was explained because light is a mix of waves and particles.

All present had a dowsing rod made of a wire coat hanger with a right angle handle which we had to use to search for articles previously hidden in the room. Some had success but others had to count backwards to stabilise their mental position. One volunteer had the left side of his body checked by a dowsing rod to identify any old injuries. Some foods were checked if still suitable to eat by suspending a pendulum over it, similar in style to a plumb line, and if it rotated clockwise the food was edible.

Everyone had a corrugated plastic pipe with a weighted end called a bobber which if rotated clockwise had been used to find oil fields. All down to our mental process, apparently. Medical work had also been successfully penetrated with the pendulum – plumb line – used in vascular dementia



and distance healing. The pendulum is currently under experimentation at the Savill Garden near Windsor where it is being used to establish if when plants are set in a magnetic orientation grow differently to others of the same species. Whilst at these famous gardens he was able to find an ongoing underground water leak to within 6 inches of the fault.

Another occasion Michael had used the pendulum to identify 15 out of 16 known faults with a ship's radar system.

Michael Haxeltine is an enthusiastic amateur member of his society and so is not listed on their web site but see www.britishdowzers.org for more information about this fascinating subject. For information on the Probus Club see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or phone Paul Flint on 07770 886521.



HATCH WARREN & BEGGARWOOD CYCLING CLUB

A month into the new year and we continue to offer our full programme of rides despite the rather chilly weather! Tuesday evenings at 6.40pm and Saturdays and Sundays on alternate weekends. In 15 months we've only had to cancel two rides, the second being in mid-January where a 'pitch inspection' (in reality a car-drive of the 15@10 route) by committee member on a Friday evening revealed a good amount of potentially lethal black ice and with the overnight forecast suggesting temperatures well into the minus numbers, the committee and ride leaders felt there was no alternative to err on the side of safety and cancel the Saturday morning ride. In December we had a fabulous month of both riding and social activity. On the social side of things, we had our first Christmas party at the Holiday Inn. Over 30 came and danced the night away. On Christmas Eve we had a fun ride out with a good number dressed as Father Christmas which attracted the attention of local pedestrians and drivers. The ride ended



at Immanuel Church where mulled wine and mince pies were a welcome source of energy (or something like that!).

The Committee have also been busy planning the year's events and there's plenty in store in addition to the usual rides. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details.

The club are working hard on having a junior membership and enabling under 18s to ride with us. We have had a number of enquiries and requests about young riders and our goal remains the same – to get as many people from the local community out on their bikes; and in particular the younger element. However, as a British Cycling affiliated club and responsible club, we have to ensure that all the necessary practices and procedures are in place before we can take youngsters. Rest assured, though, we are working hard to get to that point.

New to cycling? Dusting the bike off after years in the garage? Our social rides are perfect. They take place on the 2nd weekend of the month on a Sunday at 9am or on the 4th weekend of the month on a Saturday at 9am. Everyone is welcome and we have a gentle cycle at a pace that's comfortable for everyone.

We have over 120 members in the club now and will happily welcome more. There's no minimum commitment in terms of how many rides you need to do and we have a great social programme – there's something at minimum every quarter; from curry nights to the Christmas Party. If your New Year's resolution is to get fit, healthy or to loose weight, come and join us, as we always love to welcome new members. You're able to ride with a group of friendly, like-minded individuals, who will provide an amazing amount of support, both on and off the bike and you'll get to see the glorious Hampshire countryside that surrounds us.

For more information, please see our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/HWBcc/ (Hatch Warren Beggarwood Cycling) or visit our website: www.hwbcc.org

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BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

The Chairman, John Lambeth, welcomed members to the first meeting of 2017 on 4th January and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips to The William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow on Wednesday 22nd February and Chichester on Wednesday 22nd March. He also reminded members that subscriptions for the year were due and that nominations for the committee should be sent to him. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then gave her up-to-date report and welcomed back those who had not been for a while.



This month's speaker was Anne Court who gave a talk on her year as Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane who is the Queen's representative in the Borough. She gave a history of the position which is an unelected one and is usually held by the longest serving councillor. She gave details of her charities for the year and the reasons she had chosen the Ark Cancer Centre, the Basingstoke Multicultural Forum and Inspiro to receive the £24,000 raised. Besides attending over 380 functions in the borough she also went to the linked Belgian town of Briane L'Allend to attend the battle of Waterloo's bicentenary celebrations. Her most abiding memory of the year was though, she said, seeing the extraordinary amount of voluntary work carried out in Basingstoke by a huge number of people spread over a wide range of organisations.

The next meeting is on 1st February when the speaker will be Alan Grace on "Amazing Berlin 1914 – 1989". 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. The year's programme and further details about meetings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com and if you would like to join us on any of our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

David Cowling

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

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HATCH WARREN W.I.

A Very Happy New Year 2017 to all our readers from Hatch Warren W.I.

Our members had a lovely Christmas meal together at the Swan Inn at Sherborne St. John in December. Some members joined Kempshott W.I. on their outing to Bath Christmas Market, other members enjoyed Christmas parties with W.I.s in our group.

We now start our new programme for 2017. On a cold frosty evening members joined together to vote on the new resolutions for the W.I. to campaign for, a lively discussion was held. The resolution with the most votes will then go forward to county and then national for us to vote on at the AGM in June. Afterwards we had hot drinks and nibbles with a chocolate quiz to finish.

February meeting will be held on 2nd February at 8 p.m. where we will have a fish and chip supper followed by learning a new skill of indoor curling with Brian. There will be a coffee morning with a bring and buy to attend, lunch at Winchester with Julia Devonshire a master chef winner to attend.

We always welcome visitors and new members to our meetings and if you are interested please contact Jane our president on 01256 810255, we meet on the first Thursday of the month at Hatch Warren Community Centre, so make a new resolution and come and join us.

FEBRUARY 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

Wonderful Wordsmiths

Wednesday 1 & 15 February

Painting for Fun

Thursday 2 & 16 February

Hearing Impaired

Friday 3 February

Drop-In Surgery with Local

Councillor

Saturday 4 February

Harry Potter Book Day

Saturday 4 February

Birds & Gardens:

Perfect Partners

Saturday 4 February

Children's Crafts

Saturday 4 February

Board in the Library

Saturday 4 February

Disability Signpost Service

Tuesday 7 February

Basingstoke Disability

Connections

Tuesday 7 February

Board in the Library

Wednesday 8 & 22

Memory Box Project

Friday 10 & 24 February

Discover Board Games

Saturday 11 & 25 February

Young Embroiders Club

Saturday 11 February

Chatterbooks

Mondays 13 February

Creative Writing

Wednesday 15 February

Poetry Group

Wednesday 15 February

Crime Fiction

Reading Group

Saturday 18 February

Charlie's Storytelling

Parties

Monday 20 February

Art Workshop

Thursday 23 February

Dragons & Unicorn

Friday 24 February

Family Chess Coaching

Saturday 25 February

StreetPass

Saturdays 25 February

Visually Impaired

Reading Group

Monday 27 February

PLANNING UPDATE - Cllr Terri Reid

Work on the new Beggarwood Community Centre at the edge of Beggarwood Park is due to begin in February provided there are no further hiccups. If it starts on time then it is hoped that the Centre will open before late Autumn this year.

Details of the boundary for the proposed Local Nature Reserve (LNR) for Beggarwood Park are being drawn up as I write. The needs of areas in the park used for specific activities such as the allotments, the maze, the play areas and the Community centre will need to be accommodated within the management plan for the LNR.

There is no date yet for the proposal for a motorway service station to come to committee, although it is interesting that there is now another live proposal from a different developer for a service area to serve both north and south bound carriageways at junction six. If there is no real demand for one, there cannot possibly be enough for two!

At time of writing there was also no date set for the application for a small infill development at Oceania Crescent to come to planning committee. There is great concern locally around the problems with access that this application could create and these concerns will need to be raised when the application is formally considered.

There is a planning application for around forty houses for the village of Cliddesden, at Southlea Meadow. A local action group and petition have been set up to fight the proposal.

Roadworks on the Kempshott roundabout should be completed by the end of February. Hampshire County Council are making improvements to the roundabout as a result of the building at Kennel Farm on the A30. This will include widening of the carriageway, soakaways and a new kerb line. HCC have stated that there should not be any major disruption to traffic except when lanes will need to be coned off for re-surfacing.

A CENTURY OF CUB SCOUTS



Every year with the Hatch Warren Scouts is crammed full of activities from human Hungry Hippos to camping in the New Forest and 2016 was no exception!

Perhaps the greatest highlight of the 2016 Scouting calendar was the nationwide celebration of 100 years of Cub Scouts. This significant milestone was marked in the way that Cubs know best, with a party! Every Cub was invited to a local Promise Party on the 16th of December where they joined together at 7:16pm to remake their promise. Hatch Warren decided to celebrate with a sleepover at JJs with the other Basingstoke West Packs.

It was an evening full of screams, laughter and sweaty children! The braver leaders proved that you are never too old to have fun, facing the sheer drop of the famous "red slide" to the amusement of the Cubs! At the allotted time we came together to recite



our promise: "I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Cub Scout Law." The significance of the occasion was felt by all who participated and the feeling of purpose and belonging was tangible.



Once an ideal sleeping spot was decided upon amongst the bridges, slides and ball pits, the Cubs finally settled down with a bit of encouragement from the leaders! A cooked

breakfast in the morning was the perfect ending to an enjoyable, heartfelt evening which we shared with Cubs across the whole of the UK. It was the perfect platform to launch the next 100 years!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Leaders and volunteers for making 2016 such a fantastic scouting year. We hope to make 2017 just as memorable, taking on new and exciting challenges as we go!



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& fillings.
All very welcome

Immanuel Church, Danebury Road, Hatch
Warren, RG22 4US

This is an event for all ages. Children will need to be accompanied.

www.immanuel.co.uk
facebook.com/immanuelhub




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PULLING A SICKIE – THE CONSEQUENCES



By Karen Bristow

Cold and dark mornings result in many people feeling the winter blues, tempting some into “pulling a sickie.” If you are an employee considering calling in sick, or an employer dealing with this issue, it is important to understand the potential consequences.

If an employee makes up or exaggerates an illness or injury in order to pull a sickie, they can be dismissed by their employer for misconduct. This is because it breaches an implied term of their employment contract called mutual trust and confidence. An employer will usually be able to fairly dismiss an employee if there were reasonable grounds for belief in the misconduct, following a reasonable investigation, and the misconduct in question was sufficiently serious to merit dismissal.


Employees may take a sick day for a genuine reason and in some cases there is added employment protection for such employees. For example, where their mental and or physical condition amounts to a legal disability, relates to a pregnancy, an accident at work or is due to the unreasonable conduct of their employer. Employees should note that there are very short time limits that apply

to employment claims, in most cases three months, so they should not delay in seeking advice.

On the other hand, some employers are left with malingering employees either constantly pulling sickies or on long term sick leave, which can have a crippling effect on their business. If employers do not follow a fair process they could find themselves pulled into lengthy and sometimes costly employment tribunal litigation.

We offer fixed fee initial consultation meetings where you can discuss your work issues in a supportive environment and receive the advice you need to help you protect your rights and resolve any work related issues.

If you have been taking sick days for genuine reasons and feel that you have been treated unfairly or if you are concerned about a member of your staff taking sick days you can contact Karen Bristow on 01256 854670 karen.bristow@phillips-law.co.uk or Gill Brown on 01256 854605 gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk

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CHRISTMAS COMPETITION PRIZE GIVING

The Hatch Warren After School Club are invited each year to draw a picture for the front cover of The Rabbit and our Christmas Card. This year's winners were the talented Phoebe Fisher and Bhaswati Muratali who each received a lovely teddy bear and Sainsbury's vouchers. The prizes were awarded in early December at the After School Club. A big thank you to Sainsbury's for sponsoring this competition.

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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

It's great to see all of our children back for a New Year at Hatch Warren Under Fives.

It has been wonderful listening to the children talk about their holidays and who they spent time with. And it's been lovely to see them recreating some of their festive memories through their play. We've seen children making Christmas cakes in the role play area, having dinner with Nanny and Grandad, even opening and requesting to wrap presents so they could be just like Mummy. All that present wrapping has involved lots of visits to the craft cupboard for extra paper! This links perfectly to the Department for Education's "Early Year's Outcomes" which says that a typical child aged 30-50 months should be able to "remember and talk about significant events in their own experiences" and "recognise and describe special times or events for family or friends".

Our Main Room has been buzzing with activities based around new toys and gifts the children received for Christmas. The Home Corner became a garage with car park, car wash and transporter. Outside, the children have enjoyed a spot of fishing, shooting at targets and taking teddy bears on a picnic. In the mark making area we had Paw Patrol themed paper and Argos books for the children to cut out pictures of their amazing new toys. The children have also been kept busy in the Garden Room washing and feeding their new babies and making Superhero balloons and bracelets.

This month of course you won't be able to miss the reds, pinks and hearts in preschool. There will be lots of Valentine's crafts, and biscuits that will be decorated with love. And there's Pancake Day to look forward to – we'll be having pancake races with a little treat of pancakes at snack time.

We're also counting down the days to our first ever Valentine's Disco on February 11th. As a charity-run preschool we organise a number of fundraising events throughout the year - our Valentine's Disco is a fun date for all the family featuring face painting, glitter tattoos, glow sticks and of course lots and lots of disco dancing!

On Saturday February 4th our sister preschool, Kempshott Under Fives is hosting an Open Day. Kempshott, which is also managed by Michelle Tejevo, is a smaller preschool than Hatch Warren and is based in St Mark's Church, Homesteads Road. Open from 9.30am-12pm this is an ideal opportunity for parents and children to drop in, stay and play and meet the team. For more information please contact Yvonne Hunt, Preschool Leader on 07951 660401, or email kempu5@aol.co.uk.

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

Don't forget - we also run four friendly baby and toddler drop-in groups each week at Hatch Warren Community Centre. Our PrePlay groups run on Monday and 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.

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

Within the EYFS we look at how children develop their imagination, as they've been doing with us over the last month. Here are some examples of typical behaviour we might expect to see during the age range of 30 - 50 months old:

- Notices what adults do, imitating what is observed and then doing it spontaneously when the adult is not there.
- Engages in imaginative role-play based on own first-hand experiences.
- Builds stories around toys, e.g. farm animals needing rescue from an armchair 'cliff'.
- Uses available resources to create props to support role-play.
- Captures experiences and responds with a range of media, such as music, dance and paint and other materials or words.



Community Pre-school
Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, RG22 4US
Telephone 01256 818857

Inviting all children on our 2017/2018 waiting list

(children born between 1st Sept 2014 & 31st Aug 2015)



Saturday 4th March 2017
12 – 2pm

Come for a fun session on Saturday 4th March between 12 and 2pm. This is a great opportunity for some fun, to see the 'Outstanding' (Ofsted Nov 2014) Pre-school and meet our friendly team.

Our waiting list for this year is extremely long, and we know we are not going to be able to accommodate all the children. If you already know that you no longer require a space, we would appreciate it if you would let us know by e-mail to the address below.

If you have any other questions, see our website at www.dandelions-preschool.org.uk, call Jane Stone on 01256 818857, e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk or just pop in and see us!

We look forward to seeing you for lots of fun!

Charity Number 1108178
Registration Number 5187302 England
Registered Office Dandelions Community Preschool, Danebury Road,
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CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from all at Cuckoo Meadow Preschool in North Waltham. We are based in North Waltham village, which is just a 10-minute drive from Hatch Warren along the A30, and is in a beautiful rural setting. The children who attend come from within the village and the surrounding areas including Hatch Warren, Kempshott, Beggarwood and Brighton Hill, 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!

The children are learning about winter weather this half term. They have been talking about what they need to wear in the cold weather and then painting pictures of the items. They have practiced their scissor skills whilst making frosty tree pictures, and are also creating snowmen

and igloos. All this wonderful artwork is on display in preschool.

Another popular activity has been making (and eating!) some delicious melting snowman biscuits. There are lots more fun activities planned for the rest of term and we'll keep you posted!

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

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Happy New Year to you from CVP. Wishing you a happy and healthy 2017.

Our Christmas celebrations were very successful by holding the pre-school party in the pre-school room for the first time. We created Santa's grotto complete with fire place, wreath, stockings and some carrots for the reindeer. The children visited Father Christmas and were each given a present. Music, dancing and games

with singing to their parents at the end of the party meant lots of happy children and relaxed staff too!

This term we are welcoming new children and their families to the pre-school. It's very rewarding when children settle down and begin to relax and enjoy being at pre-school with a variety of toys and activities and making new friends.

One of our focuses for learning is Winter and Hibernation. The children are fascinated by learning a new word and finding out what some animals and insects do during the cold months. The children have made hibernation boxes, love finding small places under furniture to hibernate and acting out a song about bears sleeping but growling loudly when they are woken up. It's a fun way to learn.

Open Sessions:

Thursday 26 January, 1.00pm - 2.30pm

Friday 27 January, 9.30am - 11.00am

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

This winter has highlighted the extreme changes to our weather's climate once again. We have had warmer weather followed by colder weather which may cause confusion with in our plants. From flowering early to long hibernation of others causing bud breaking as well as running sap in our trees. Whilst we still need to ensure we are protecting plants when the colder weather is around there are many positives to the warmer weather coming sooner though. You can start sowing your seed much earlier and get a longer growing season for the vegetables but be prepared to protect any seeds or newly planted containers, as the weather is still changing.

Start any seeds off on a window sill and ensure they are in a frost free environment in case the weather does change to cold! By the time they are ready to go in the ground, the soil should have started to warm up enough. You can help the soil by placing a 'Cloche' over the ground to help warm it and to remain frost free.

As for the garden, be sure to have water butts in place so water from them can be used in the warmer summer months. With the weather changing you should check on any plants you have wrapped up for winter and if any damage needs to be taken care of. Any plants stored in the green houses may need watering sooner than expected and check for any pest

and disease. You may find mice and other visitors coming in to the warm and dry along with Scarid Fly around any open soil. Placing mice traps and yellow sticky trap place by the side of each pot should help to reduce their numbers. Keep an eye on any onions or bulbs you have planted as you may need to put netting over the tops to stop any animals digging for the roots below. Any summer flowering bulbs such as Alliums or Lillies you had be waiting to plant out should be planted as soon as possible. Have a good look at them before planting to make sure none of the bulbs have started to go mouldy.

Traditionally vegetables such as Potatoes, Parsnips and Beetroot should be stored in the ground until you are ready to eat them. As long as the weather stays cold and fresh this is fine to do so but watch out for the wet weather or they may rot in the ground or start to sprout. With the wetter weather, you should lift and store in a dry cool place to prevent the loss of your crop from rotting in the ground.

Normally bulbs won't be seen in flower until end of February at the earliest. But, with the weather ever changing, this could impact bulbs by having a much shorter flowering time and they may also become susceptible to rotting in the ground. There are ways we can help our favourites to survive the wetter winters. By adding

drainage, such as grit to the soil and lift very sensitive plants you can still achieve your favourite displays.

Drainage should also be added to the lawns through spiking, to help the water pass through during these wetter months. Try not to walk over it unless necessary. The grass is continuing to grow, so if you can, get out there and mow as and when required.

You may also notice that the hedges around your garden will need to be re-trimmed as they start to grow. Other spring flowers will start to come in to life now including the Forsythia, Skimmias and Spireas. Only prune these shrubs after they have finished flowering to ensure you get good flowers for next year.

You can sow some seeds direct into the ground as the weather warms up. Such as Sweet Peas, Broad Beans and Leeks. Make a small trough in the ground and place some fleece over it for a few days to help warm up the soil. Sow the seeds and place the fleece back over to help maintain the warmth in the ground. As the weather warms up you may need to lift the fleece during the day time and don't forget to check on the watering.

Happy Gardening!

Sarah Bailes

Horticultural Training Manager,
Share Community

THE BEACON PUB

Somebody had said that the Beacon pub was worth a visit as it does good food. They were not wrong. It is an amazing place. Refurbished last July to the tune of £250,000, the inside completely dispels the image from the outside of this late 1950s pub set in the middle of the South Ham housing estate.

And in nice weather there is an extensive garden which gets the sun all day.

A Greene King house, they have a contemporary internal setting with a wide range of seating styles from traditional tables for two, through high seated benches for six, up to American style booths. And young children are well catered for with plenty of high chairs and a great kids' menu.

Talking of the menu, it is extensive with several meal deals that encourage you to dine, when food is served from 12 noon 'till 9.00 pm. And the prices are extraordinary and must be the best value in the district. Freshly cooked on the premises the quality could not be faulted the day madam and I visited. Monday lunchtime in early January will hardly find a busy pub anywhere and the Beacon was no different with probably not more than a dozen customers but we were made very welcome by Tracy Downham who has worked there for twenty two years in March. She has seen many changes over the years but even she is impressed by the value for money the menu offers.

We decided on one of the meal deals, the Seniors' Menu. Available with a starter and main course for only £4.99 we decided to go the whole hog and have the dessert for an extra £1. Madam had garlic mushrooms which came with a pot of mayonnaise and a salad garnish and I had roasted tomato soup with bread and a pat of Flora spread. For mains she had macaroni cheese with a salad garnish and I had an all day breakfast with chips. Pudding was a chocolate gâteau with vanilla ice cream and I had treacle sponge and custard. Including a diet tonic and a bottle of Peroni lager the bill came to £15.33. If we had selected one of the other meal deals the Peroni would only have been £1.

There are too many meal deal selections to list here but some that stick out are 8 oz rump steaks for £5.69 (Monday – Wednesdays) Match Munchies (chicken goujons with chips on big match days shown on the large TVs) a burger selection, Giant's portions, baguettes, jacket potatoes and Sunday roasts for only £5.99. The drinks side is equally well priced and you can expand a spirit order from single to double for only £1.50 extra.

With some electronic gaming machines and a Wednesday night quiz the pub clearly caters for the locals but if you want to eat then the best value for money can be found at the Beacon.

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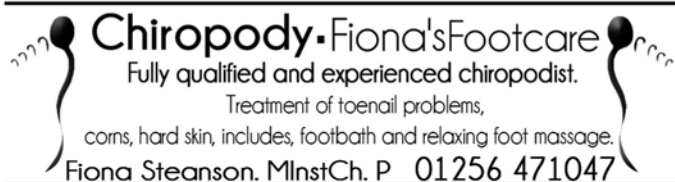
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Sunday 19th March 12pm until 4pm
Entrance Fee 50p

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- Make Up
- Exercise Classes
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Relax in our Inspirational Food Area and enjoy a healthy drink and snack from our Energy Cafe

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Check out our Facebook page for regular updates on exhibitors

Hatch Warren Community Centre
Longcross Lane, Basingstoke, RG22 4XF
www.hatchwarren.org
01256 811262

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

Our popular Wedding Fayre returns in February, we still have stalls available for exhibitors - if you are interested in booking a stall please email office@hatchwarren.org for details



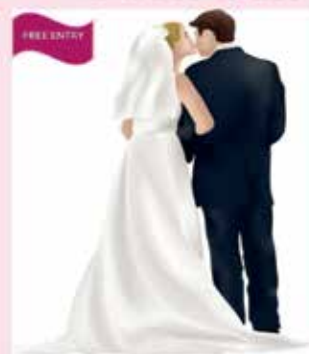
WEDDING FAYRE

Sunday 26th February 2017

11am-3pm

Over 20 exhibitors including:

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- and much more



Hatch Warren Community Centre
Longcross Lane, Basingstoke, RG22 4XF
www.hatchwarren.org T: 01256 811262

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

Our newly refurbished toilets are all now completed and we hope you agree are looking great! We were successful in obtaining grants from Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, to support our financial input to this major campaign, we would like to say a huge thank to them and our builders Keith Dolton at AHV & RJ Dolton Building Contractors



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 6th May Cider Festival 7-11pm
Monday 12th June AGM 7-8pm
Saturday 24th June Lager Festival 7-11pm
Saturday 8th July Summer Event (playing field)
Saturday 9th September Beer Festival 7-11pm
Sunday 15th October Wedding Fayre 11-3
Saturday 4th November Fireworks
Sunday 26th November Xmas Craft Fayre 2-4pm
COACH TRIPS (BOOKABLE VIA THE OFFICE)
Saturday 25th November Bluewater
Saturday 2nd December Bath Xmas Markets

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

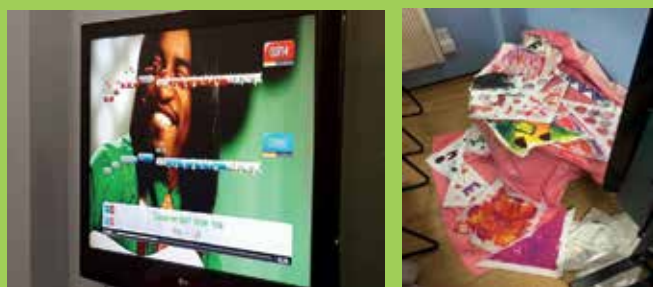
FEB/MAR Programme - 6.00 to 7.45pm

Friday 3rd Feb	<i>Glow disco and chicken burgers</i>
Friday 10th Feb	<i>Valentines cards and decorate your own cake</i>
Friday 17th Feb	<i>Celebrity Quiz and pitta pizzas</i>
Friday 24th Feb	<i>Chill out with a movie</i>
Friday 3rd March	<i>Wii Dance Competition and make your own ice cream sundae</i>
Friday 10th March	<i>Smoes fun</i>
Friday 17th March	<i>St Patrick's themed night-dress in green!</i>
Friday 24th March	<i>Mother's Day crafts</i>
Friday 31st March	<i>Sing Star with tacos and nachos</i>

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you had a fun and safe Christmas and New Year.

We have been blasting away the January blues with Singstar and making our own bandanas.



There are so many good things to look forward to this year already so we don't feel blue at all! In fact we will be feeling very green on 17th March for our St Patrick's Day celebrations!! We also have quizzes, a glow disco and a smoes night coming up in Feb/March.

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

Health Hub Programme - 8.00 to 9.30pm

Health Hub : We are so happy to see so many of you during our older sessions from 8-9.30pm on Fridays. If you are over 13 you can drop in to these sessions during that time, just come in and hang out and use our facilities, but you can also receive 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:

Legal Highs on Friday 3rd February
How to be safe online and whilst out and about after dark on Friday 3rd March

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

Member's Profile

Name: *Frankie Hawkins*

Age: *11*

School Year: *7*

Favourite things to do at the Warren: I get to see my friends and I don't get to see in the week anymore since starting secondary school

Why I come to the Warren: It's exciting and I have met lots of new friends, the staff can be really funny.

GLOW FOR SALE

We are selling glow sticks so you can start stocking up for the upcoming glow disco. Priced between 50p to £1 - all money raised will go towards running the Warren.

We are working very hard on fun ways to raise funds so we can plan even more exiting events throughout 2017, if you have any cool new fundraising ideas please let us know. Likewise if you have an ideas or suggestions for things you want to see at the Warren then please do tell us.

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As I write this the United States, and the world, are preparing for the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States of America. I'm not sure how I particularly feel about this. Generally, not particularly optimistic, having witnessed over the course of his campaign and since his election, the way he deals with any sort of criticism or with those who aren't 'on message'. It contrasts heavily with the way the Obamas have said their farewells after eight years at the White House.

Watching from the other side of the Atlantic, is a fascinating experience, but it will of course, have an effect on the world. We will soon see if the approach of bullying and verbal aggression will achieve much on the political world stage. On February 14th I'm sure many will remember that it's Valentine's Day where we celebrate love. It's an official church festival, the Feast Day of St Valentine, although there are known to be numerous early Christian martyrs called Valentine! Legend has it suggests that Saint Valentine performed clandestine Christian weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry. The Roman Emperor Claudius II supposedly forbade this in order to grow his army, believing that married men did not make for good soldiers.

According to legend, in order "to remind these men of their vows and God's love, Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment", giving them to these soldiers and persecuted Christians, a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on St. Valentine's Day.

This year and in this month, perhaps more than ever, I would suggest that it's really important to think of the love that God has for humankind in our troubled times. Never forget Jesus said, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." God sent Jesus as a reminder of his great and unending love for us and we are asked to love one another. So this Valentine's Day, as well as thinking of and showing your love to someone close to you, I would ask that you show your love to someone you don't know or who isn't close to you; not by giving flowers or chocolates or anything like that but by showing your love of humanity, for example by giving something to a homeless charity, or charity that looks after refugees. Remember that we are all part of the human race, sisters and brothers together that

occupy this planet and the world will be a much better place if we learn to love each other more. Let's start doing that this February.

In terms of the church calendar, On February 28th we mark Shrove Tuesday with our annual Pancake Tea. Together with an army of helpers, I will be making fresh pancakes for everyone from 5pm – 6.30pm. Last year I think we reckon that over 180 pancakes were made – can we beat this? All sorts of toppings and fillings will be on offer and all are welcome to come to Immanuel; both young and the young at heart.

Our popular film night continues on Wednesday 8th February at 7.30pm, with the next film being shown 'Captain Phillips' starring Tom Hanks. The true story of Captain Richard Phillips and the 2009 hijacking by Somali pirates of the US-flagged MV Maersk Alabama, the first American cargo ship to be hijacked in two hundred years. All welcome to join us. Bring a bottle and enjoy the film on the big screen.

As a church, on January 31st we start an Alpha Course, which will run over 11 consecutive Tuesday evenings, starting at 7.30pm. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation. Everyone is welcome. If you're interested, email; immanuelchurchalpha@gmail.com.

We begin Lent on Wednesday 1st March (Ash Wednesday) with a service at 7.30pm and 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."

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Michael



Fr. Michael

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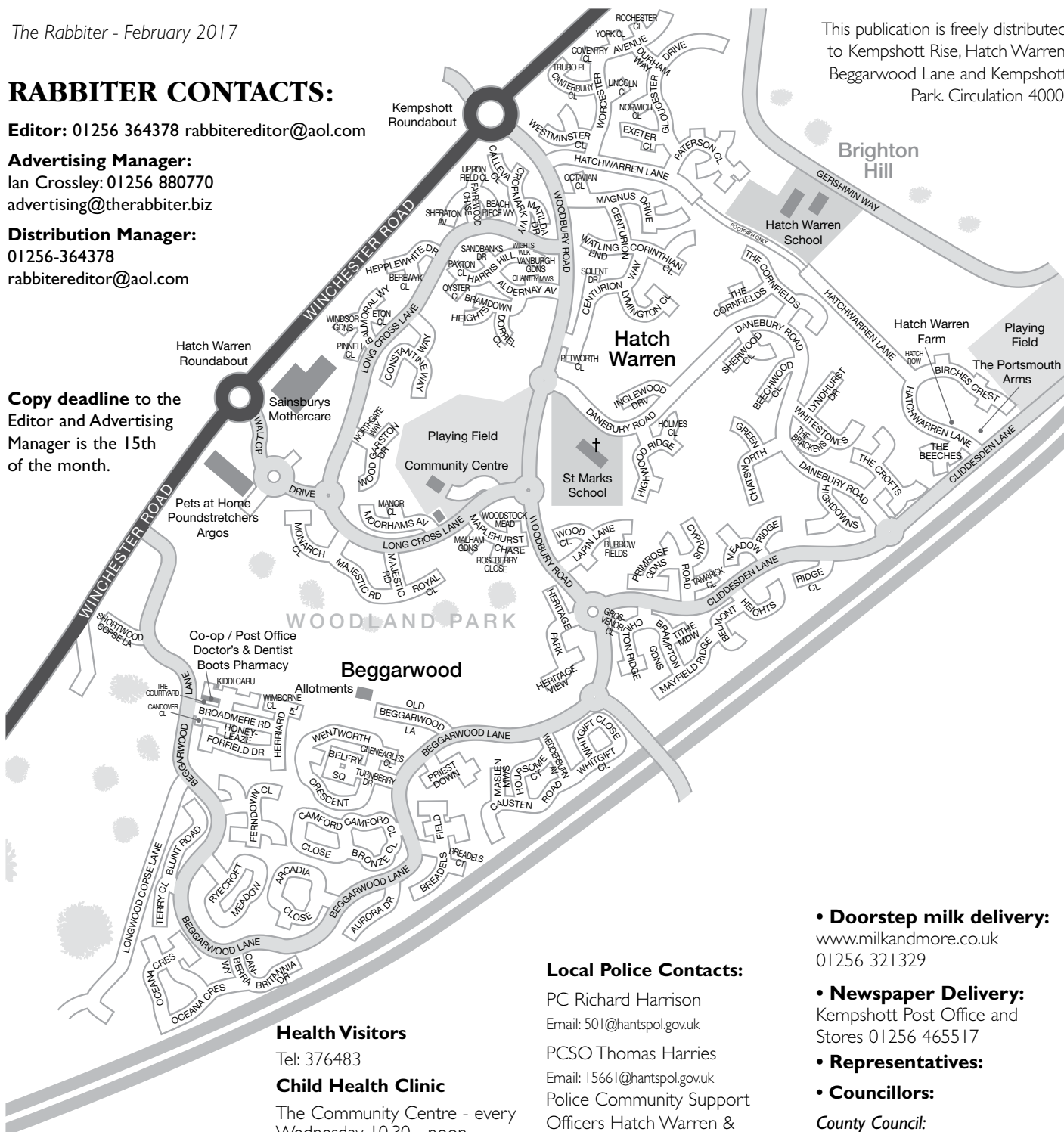
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• Churches:

Immanuel Church 10.00am every
Sunday at the Church Centre,
Rev Michael Smith 07799 730362
St. Mark's School: 472632

South Basingstoke Community
Church 10.30 every Sunday at
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SOUTH HAM LIBRARY

All the clubs and activities held at South Ham Library are now all up and running in 2017 so do please come and pop in and see what is happening.

The **Chatterbooks** reading group for primary aged children will be held on **Friday, 3rd February at 4pm** with craft and book activities on the theme Fantastic Beasts and at the same time our **NEW T.R.A.S.H. group** (Teen Reading At South Ham) will launch for those at secondary school who love books – come and be part of this exciting venture.

The **Craft Club** on **Saturday 4th February** drop in between 10am- Noon will get us ready for Valentine's Day with a "Bee My Valentine" craft.

Story times in February will be held at **10am on Wednesdays 1st, 8th and 15th**.

The **Construction Club** continues to meet after school on **Wednesdays term time only**, with the opportunity to play with Lego and Duplo from 3:30pm-4:45pm. Do keep you eyes open for details of a weekly Coding Club which we are hoping to start after school on Tuesdays after Easter.

Please note there will be no Story Time or Construction Club during half term but there will be an extra Craft Club: Cress Heads on Wednesday 22nd ; drop in between 10am-4pm.

Rhymetime continues every Friday with fun rhymes and songs at 11am for babies and toddlers.

Activities for adults this month include the **Genesis Sci-Fi Reading Group** on the 4th February 10:00am-12:00 noon and **Age Concern** continue to provide computer instruction for the over 50s on Tuesdays from 10:00am-1:00pm; appointments need to be booked through the local office. Don't forget we have 4 computers giving access to the internet and Microsoft office software, a scanner and colour printer and photocopier. The computers are free to use but there are charges for printing. We also have FREE access online to Ancestry, Find my Past, Which? Magazine Online and the British Newspaper Archive Online. Ask a member of staff for help getting started.

We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly, local library this month.

Online booking of all adverts:

All adverts, including classifieds, can be booked at:
www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

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:

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

You may have forgotten about the LNR designation of Beggarwood; the public consultation was so long ago. The process is certainly taking its time but at last is progressing – the exact extent and boundaries of the designated area (affected by the proposed new community centre and increase in allotment area) has to be finally set but this should be decided shortly.

In 2016, the mowing plan on Old Down was altered leaving more areas of scruffy scrub and shrub with a view to protecting hibernating insects and to provide food for birds. So if you thought Old Down appeared rather untidy last year - that is why.

With the exception of the winter months, a fortnightly butterfly survey is carried out on Old Down and it is now apparent that numbers in 2016 were not good however this was the case over the whole country. The butterfly experts can give no reason for this decline in numbers. One positive though; the *Small Blue* numbers on Old Down increased in comparison to previous years. But the *Common Blues* were very thin on the ground.

Development of the Kennel Farm estate adjacent to Old Down has caused a decline in bird numbers on Old Down (as proved by the fortnightly bird survey) but with luck once building is complete numbers will eventually increase. That field was used by nesting *skylarks* but of course they are now gone forever. Unfortunately as a consequence of the installation of the new bus stop serving the new estate, a whole line of thicket and small trees was uprooted along the A30 boundary but new whips (of a decent size due to pressure of the group) have now been planted.

Work Parties

For Old Down, we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon. For Beggarwood, we meet monthly on the third Saturday of the month 10-12noon at The Maze. Please come and join us. Always check our website just in case there is a change in dates and also for further information about work parties and events.

www.olddownandbeggarwood.org.uk
Email: odandbwd@gmail.com



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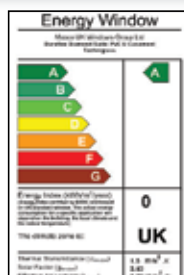
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