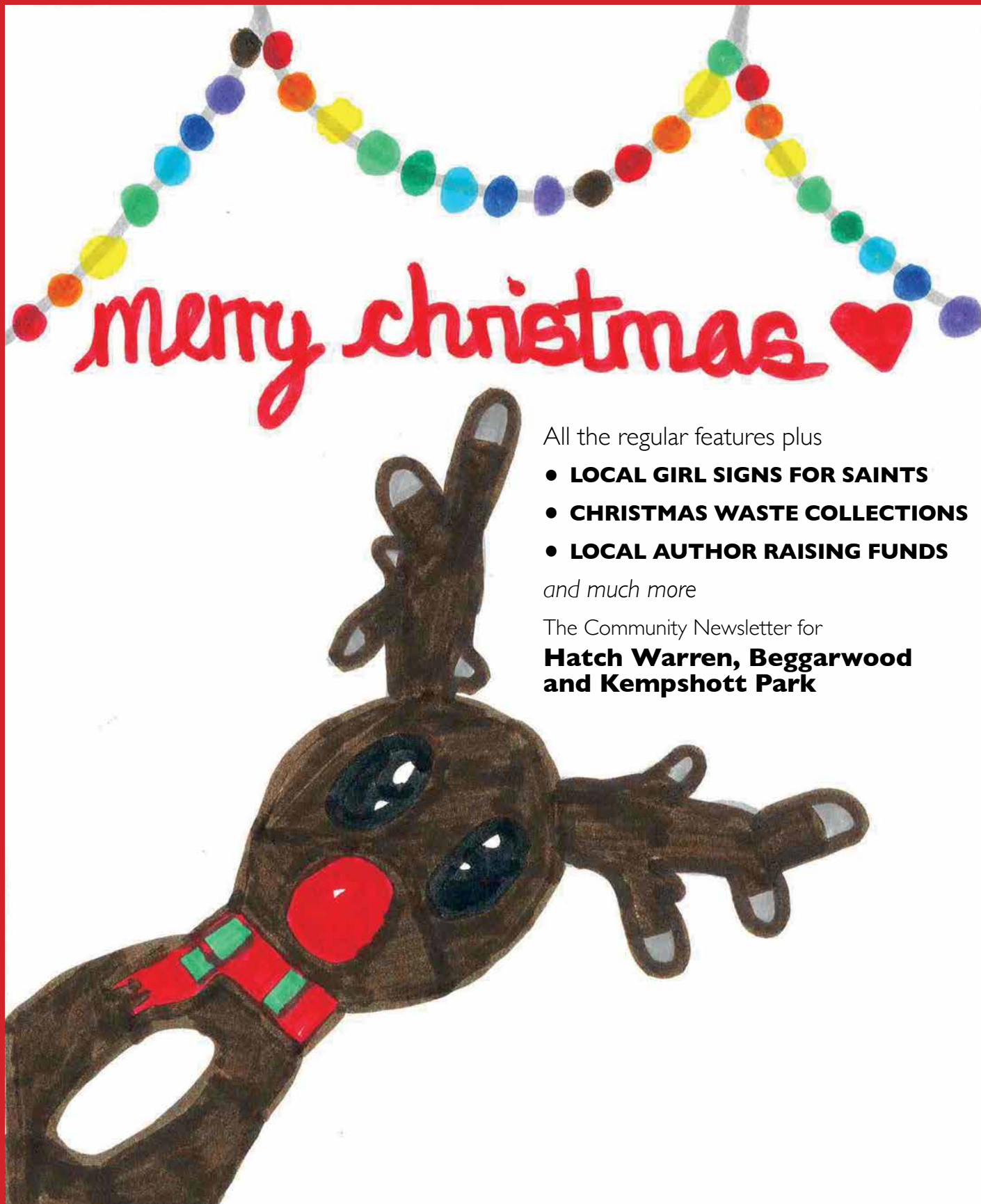


THE Rabbiter

Issue 277 December 2020 / January 2021



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- **CHRISTMAS WASTE COLLECTIONS**
- **LOCAL AUTHOR RAISING FUNDS**

and much more

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THE Rabbiter

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EDITORIAL

The announcement this week that we will be able to see close family for Christmas has been the best news I have heard for weeks. I am sure that this has been good news for many local residents. Sadly we are still under many restrictions and will need to take care to keep ourselves and others safe. But there are many positive things that have emerged recently. The Saturday market in the car park at the Portsmouth Arms is such a hit. Even in the pouring rain the queue for Indigo Bakes was very long – and they do sell the best almond croissant! There is also a very good meat and vegetable stall run by a couple who farm near Newbury, and a stall selling loose spices.

Every year we ask the children at the Hatch Warren After School Club to create a picture for our December front cover. This year the winner is Isla Barrett, aged 10 years, and the runner up is Evie Sheen aged 6 years. We love Isla's cheerful reindeer on the cover this month and hope all Christmas trees are as green and bushy as the one drawn by Evie! The winner and runner up will both receive a voucher kindly donated by Sainsbury's.

We are looking forward to the opening of Lidl on the estate on 3 December. You will find it in the units previously occupied by Argos.

Christmas is all about eating far too much and usually that includes chocolate. Why not treat your family to the scrummy Triple Chocolate Brownies – see recipe on page 10. If you don't fancy cooking one yourself, try the Café in the Park for a takeaway coffee and cake – see page 18 for opening days/hours.

Beggarwood Bookworms continues to go from strength to strength. We read all sorts of books – some we love and others we don't like quite as much. The February book is *Façade* written by Helen Matthews. Helen will be joining our meeting (either in person or via zoom) to tell us about writing her new book.

Have you noticed how many more people are out walking? It has been wonderful to watch the changing seasons as we enjoy the local countryside. There are many other good things we have discovered during 2020. A big thank you to all the supermarket delivery drivers who have kept us stocked up with food and necessities, our postmen who have got post and parcels to us no matter what the weather, the dustmen who keep our bins empty and all the other unsung heroes who keep life ticking over. My latest discovery is a company called 'Oddbox' who provide a weekly box stocked with odd shaped and surplus fruit and vegetables – find them at www.oddbox.co.uk.

The Rabbiter does not publish in January so our next edition is February 2021. We would like to wish all our deliverers, readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Let us hope that the proposed vaccine will be available to all very soon and life will start returning to how it used to be.

The Editor

Cover: Winner, Isla Barrett, 10 years old,
Year 6 St Mark's Primary School

Right: Runner-up, Evie Sheen, 6 years old,
Year 2 Hatch Warren Infant School



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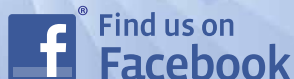
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NEW FUND SET UP TO HELP FEED LOCAL FAMILIES

Food banks across the south are set to benefit from a new fund set up by a regional co-operative. Southern Co-op has made an initial donation of £5,000 to its Feed a Family Fund so local food banks can start applying for help straightaway.

The independent co-operative is also asking its customers and members to donate to its fund which will enable local groups to purchase essential equipment or cover running

costs. The micro grants of £200, which will be distributed via the online platform Neighbourly, will ensure the funding helps a wide number of food banks and reaches those who need it most.

There are currently 75 stores with food bank collection points for product donations including Basingstoke Foodbank supported by The Trussell Trust. To find out more about Southern Co-op's commitment to its communities, visit <https://www.thesouthernco-operative.co.uk/love-your-neighbourhood>.



OCTOBER ZOOM MEETING

Ten members joined this month's meeting to discuss *The Farm* by Joanne Ramos. This novel visits Golden Oaks which appears to be a luxury retreat with everything you could wish for but where you are paid to stay for nine months. It is in essence a baby farm where some of the richest women in the world can pay to have a surrogate baby. This novel follows Jane from the Philippines who decides to be a surrogate in return for a large sum of money that will be life changing for her and her daughter. This was a really thought provoking novel raising issues such as poverty, immigration, exploitation and personal choices. We likened this to *The Handmaid's Tale* being a glimpse into a dystopian future but then considered the thought that maybe similar places already exist around the world. Whilst we felt the poor were being exploited for the wealthy it did raise the question 'What would you do in Jane's desperate situation?' The book scored 6.6 out of 10 with the bookworm readers.

We do miss our group and are sorry that many of you are unable to join Zoom but we are really pleased to have such a vibrant What's app group where everyone can join in the discussion with their points of view and their score. Our November book is 'The Weight of Small Things' by Julie Lancaster. Several copies were won by one of our members (thank you) in return for receiving our book reviews. There is no book for December as we will have a fun Christmas party Zoom. But read along with us in January when our book will be *Away with Penguins* by Hazel Prior.



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COUNCIL NEWS

Council makes a clean sweep of autumn leaves

Borough council crews are out and about sweeping leaves across the borough.

Leaves are swept by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's street cleansing team throughout the year, but in autumn and winter the leaf clearance schedule comes into force.

From November 2020 to January 2021, the teams will be targeting different areas each day and this schedule is now available on the council's website for residents to check. In rural areas of the borough local street cleaning teams will carry out leaf clearance as part of their work.

The dates may change due to adverse weather conditions or service priorities resulting from the pandemic, so please check the website for the latest information.

Last year the teams collected over 860 tonnes of leaves through mechanical and manual sweeping.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "Autumn is a beautiful time of year but fallen leaves can cause a variety of issues. Our street cleansing team has already started work to tackle the leaf fall across the borough."

"We ask residents to check the schedule and bear with us as we tackle leaves that have already fallen and are ready to fall. If residents have a specific concern about a particular area, they should call the council or report it via the council website."

The full leaf clearance schedule can be found at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/leafclearance. Any issues with leaf fall can also be reported by calling the Contact Centre on 01256 844844 or logging on to the council's website.

'Tis the season to recycle

Christmas can generate plenty of extra household waste and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is urging residents to recycle more and waste less during the festive season.

There is no limit to how much you can recycle and any extra recycling can be put in cardboard boxes or clear sacks next to your green bin for collection. If you are recycling large cardboard boxes, make sure they are flattened next to your recycling bin and please remove the polystyrene and plastic packaging before leaving cardboard out.

There are lots of items that can be recycled during the festive season and all year round including cardboard packaging, paper, newspapers and magazines, food tins, drinks cans, aerosols and plastic bottles.

Christmas wrapping paper cannot be recycled and needs to go into your grey waste bin. Christmas cards can be recycled but only if they do not contain glitter, ribbons or bows.

If you are unsure about what can and can't be recycled visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle or call the council on 01256 844844.

For a second year, garden waste customers will be able to put their real Christmas trees out for collection with their fortnightly garden waste. Christmas trees over 6ft need to be cut in half and decorations must be removed.

Real Christmas trees can also be recycled at one of several drop-off points across the borough between Monday 4 January and Sunday 31 January 2021.

For more information visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree

Christmas can also mean more glass recycling. Your glass box or glass bin should be placed next to your green recycling bin by 7am on your recycling collection day. All bottles and jars should be rinsed out and any corks or tops removed.

Make sure you don't overfill your glass box or bin as it will not be emptied.

Please do not put bottles or jars out for collection in any other container; they will not be collected.

You can order a 140 litre red glass bin for £28.15 as an alternative to a box if you have lots of bottles and jars to recycle. Order at 01256 844844 or visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling for more information.

This year bin collections will be affected over two weeks and, unless adverse weather or lockdown restrictions affect bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 11 January 2021.

Normal collection date

Wednesday 23 December

Thursday 24 December

Friday 25 December

Monday 28 December

Tuesday 29 December

Wednesday 30 December

Thursday 31 December

Friday 1 January

Monday 4 January

Tuesday 5 January

Wednesday 6 January

Thursday 7 January

Friday 8 January

Festive collection date

Wednesday 23 December

Thursday 24 December

Monday 28 December

Tuesday 29 December

Wednesday 30 December

Thursday 31 December

Saturday 2 January

Monday 4 January

Tuesday 5 January

Wednesday 6 January

Thursday 7 January

Friday 8 January

Saturday 9 January

Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "Extra rubbish will be inevitable over the festive period but a lot of that can be recycled including glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, aerosols, tins and cans. We can all make changes to contribute to a more sustainable start to 2021 and recycling more is among them."

Check your bin collection day at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections or call 01256 844844.

BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and safe 2021.

A huge 'Thank you' to all the generous local people who donated Shoeboxes for our annual Christmas appeal.

Can you help Basingstoke Deane Rotary provide improved Cardiac Service at Basingstoke Hospital? Find out more on our website: www.rcbd.org.uk. Still time to donate, go to:-

www.gofundme.com/f/a-healthier-hampshire-in-a-heartbeat

BEGGARWOOD PARK

The installations in the two areas in Beggarwood Park are complete and they are subject to an independent safety inspection before these sites can be opened. There are a number of snagging items to be resolved before we can open them to the public. I would welcome the residents to be patient and as soon as everything is safe we will open it as soon as possible.

Many thanks for residents' patience and I am so proud of them.

Please stay safe and healthy at this time of lockdown. I take this opportunity to wish you all a HAPPY HEALTHY AND WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A BEAUTIFUL NEW YEAR.

Cllr Dan Putty JP.



COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

VISION DOCUMENT: The Borough Council has published its draft vision for the South West of Basingstoke. It sets out, in broad terms, where housing, employment and roads might be located. It is a document that is likely to shape our quality of life and readers may wish to view it and comment.

OLD DOWN: I spoke at the meeting that discussed the vision and asked that the idea of designating Old Down as a Local Nature Reserve be resurrected. Some years ago a carelessly drawn picture showed Old Down as a potential location for a new road and this stopped the designation happening. The new vision document does not have that road in it, so I hope that there is no longer an impediment to protecting Old Down. It is an essential part of the green corridor for this area, joining up with Beggarwood Park across the A30.

DISTRIBUTION DEPOT: The vision document is also very strong on protecting the green credentials of the area. How this stacks up with the possibility of a distribution depot at Oakdown Farm remains to be seen – the thousands of lorry movements involved would surely have a detrimental impact on the environment.

NEW HOSPITAL: referred to in the vision document is the announcement from the Hospital Trust that a location near Junction 7 is one of two it has shortlisted for a new hospital. The other is a redevelopment of the existing site. The location was previously selected for the Critical Treatment Hospital that never went ahead. The CTH solution has

been dropped – the Trust is now thinking in terms of a general hospital.

PLAY AREA: Work has completed on the new play area at Beggarwood Park. There was a slight setback when people gained access to the site before the final safety checks had been completed. Hopefully, this is now resolved. The early feedback is positive and, along with the other improvements made by the Borough Council, we have significantly improved facilities to enjoy

CCTV FUNDRAISING APPEAL: The Beggarwood Community Centre has been a target for vandals. Operating as a not-for-profit charity, the Trustees want the Café in the Park to be a welcoming social space for visitors from all parts of the age spectrum. In response to the vandalism and the outpouring of support from the local community, the Trustees have started a fundraiser to protect the building with a CCTV system that will hopefully help to deter future attacks or identify the culprits. Gary Marsh, who is a member of the local community, has kindly donated his expertise so all that remains is to raise the money! Donations can be made through the local social media groups.

FLOODING AT BEGGARWOOD LANE: The cause of the flooding near the Holly Blue has been found and rectified. Highways officers have told me that a drainage pipe to a soakaway within the new development was blocked, causing water to back up and flood out of a rodding point. The blockage has been removed, so hopefully there will be no repeat of water flowing into the road.

BRIGHTON HILL ROUNDABOUT:

County officers are looking at options for a revised improvements scheme now that the Borough has turned down the planning application on the Camrose site, which included the link road diverting Western Way southbound. At the time of writing, the intentions of the applicants are not yet known – they could appeal the refusal. If the roundabout improvements go ahead without the link road, the full capacity increases might not be achieved.

The **TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS** on the A30 from the M3 have provoked some criticism for not adequately protecting cyclists and I have written to the County officers asking what might be done to address this.

CRASH ON BEGGARWOOD LANE it appears that the accident in the middle of November near the Co-op resulted in at least one arrest for drink-driving. Nevertheless I have written to the officers of the Highways Authority to ask for a double check that the road and recent developments in the area did not contribute.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. This is the last Rabbit of 2020, a particularly difficult and sad year for many of us. More than ever, therefore, I wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and hope that 2021 brings a return to normality.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor.
Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

BEGGARWOOD GIRL SIGNS FOR SOUTHAMPTON FC

Lily-ann Beckingham age 11 was the youngest and 1st girl to sign and play for Basingstoke Town F.C and play in the U10s junior Premier League.

Lily-ann started playing football at the age of 7 for Down Grange FC in the Peter Houseman League, her coaches at the time could see the potential in her and helped guide and improve her along the way. The following season she played in a higher division for Popley Pumas FC and she developed even more as a player. She left Popley Pumas to play up an age group for an all girls team with Hatch Warren Fireflies U11 who in their first season if it wasn't for Covid would have finished 1 or 2 in their League. They did battle well to make it to the Cup finals but unfortunately came 2nd to a very strong long established Fareham

Town FC. She was also part of the first Basingstoke girls U11 district team, again playing up an age group.

Lily-ann also joined the Chelsea foundation in 2019 and during this time one of the coaches, Emily Martin could see her potential and invited her to a trial for Basingstoke Town F.C U10 team. Lily-ann soon got stuck in with the boys and enjoyed scoring goals and assisting the team. During Covid Basingstoke Town Colts playing in the Peter Houseman league on Sundays asked Lily-ann if she wanted to play for them as well. Now with the Fireflies and BTFC playing on the same days and same time she had to make a decision to stay with the girls team or the boys. She chose to stay with BTFC and the support and coaching she has received is second to

none. Her current coach Sean Lewis is a great support and an excellent addition to the coaching team. Lily-ann applied for trials with Southampton, Reading and Chelsea but was informed by them all they had been cancelled due to Covid19, but a month later Southampton F.C contacted Lily-ann and asked if she was interested in a closed trial. Lily-ann undertook the trial for 3 weeks and we are pleased to say Southampton F.C have asked her to sign a contract with them.

As parents we are super proud of her. With all that is going at the moment we thought Basingstoke could do with another little success story.





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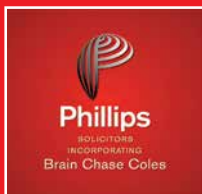
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LEAVE A GIFT FOR CHARITY



Lucy Watson

Whilst many Christmas presents will be forgotten as soon as they have been unwrapped, there is a festive gift that can make a big difference – leaving a legacy to a charity.

Three quarters of Britons regularly give to charity in their lifetimes, but only 6% include a charity when writing a Will.

Without this source of income many charities would have to cut important services and some could not exist.

Lucy Watson, who heads the Wills and Probate team at Phillips Solicitors, said: "Charities rely on both regular donations and legacies in Wills to be able to continue their good work. Leaving money to charity in your Will can make a huge difference and what a wonderful way to ensure that your legacy lives on after you've gone."

"It is especially important to think of charities at the moment when so many of their normal fundraising avenues have been cancelled with the coronavirus pandemic."

Donations can be as small or as large as you wish, as every gift makes a difference. A gift made to a UK registered charity is also inheritance tax free.

"If your estate is large enough to be chargeable to inheritance tax, gifts to charity will reduce not just the overall amount of tax paid by the rest of your estate but also the rate of tax, resulting in your family getting the most of their inheritance," explained Lucy.

"If you are looking to leave money to a charity you may well consider Sebastian's Action Trust, which is Phillips' charity of the year."

Sebastian's Action Trust provides emotional, social and ongoing support for seriously ill children and children with life limiting illnesses as well as their families.

It also offers respite holidays to families from all over the UK at The Bluebells – the Trust's unique facility in North Waltham, just outside of Basingstoke.

For help in leaving a charitable legacy, or for any other Wills and Probate issues, please contact Lucy by emailing lucy.watson@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854646.

More information about the wide range of legal services offered by Phillips Solicitors, can be found at www.phillips-law.co.uk

CAFÉ IN THE PARK RECIPE

Triple Chocolate Brownies in the shape of Christmas Trees – perfect for the festive season!

Ingredients

Brownies

- 195 g Unsalted Butter
- 195 g Dark Chocolate
- 3 Large Eggs
- 275 g Caster Sugar
- 90 g Plain Flour
- 35 g Cocoa Powder
- 100 g Milk Chocolate Chips
- 100 g White Chocolate Chips

Decorations

- Chocolate Fingers
- 150 g White Chocolate
- Sprinkles/Sweets

Instructions

- Preheat your oven to 180C/160C Fan and line a 9" Square baking tray with parchment paper.
- Melt together the Butter, and Dark

Chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of boiling water; on the microwave for 1-2 minutes until melted. Leave to the side to cool to room temperature

- Using an electric whisk/stand mixer, whisk together the Eggs & Caster Sugar for a few minutes until the colour has turned pale, is very mousse-like, and is double the original volume of the amount of eggs + sugar! You will know it's done because when you lift the whisk up out of the mix it should leave a trail for a couple of seconds before disappearing
- When whisked, pour the cooled chocolate mixture over eggs and fold together carefully. It might take some time, but be patient – you don't want to knock out the air you made up on the previous step
- Once completely combined, sift the cocoa powder and plain flour on top of the chocolate mix and then fold together again – still be careful to not knock out the air
- Once combined well, fold through the chocolate chips and pour into the prepared tin – bake in the oven for

25-30 minutes! Once baked, leave to cool in the tin completely.

- Once cooled, cut the brownies into the tree shapes – Carefully insert the chocolate fingers
- Melt the White Chocolate and drizzle over in a zig-zag, and then decorate with some Sprinkles/Sweets
- These will last in an airtight container for 1 week





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As we enter our busiest period of the year, coupled with the current COVID 19 Government guidelines, we'll be asking customers to shop one adult at a time.

This will allow more shoppers to enter the store whilst maintaining social distance guidelines.

We realise that there are occasions where shopping as a couple can't be avoided but, with the store opening for longer hours during the week before Christmas, we hope your patience with this request will provide a safer journey throughout the store.

We're installing more Smart Shop handsets for you to use during your shop, enabling you to shop safer and exit the store safely.

Brighten a Million Christmases

This year we're delighted to launch our Brighten a Million Christmases campaign, in support of two Basingstoke charities; Inspero & Basingstoke Foodbank.

The campaign will run between December 1st and December 14th. Donations of food can be placed in the donation boxes at the front of the store and, we'll be supplying a list of suggested donations to help you choose.

You may also choose to donate via our Smart Shop handsets and at all our Self Service/Checkouts when you complete your shopping.

At the end of the campaign, we'll divide the total raised between the two charities, and send these funds to them in time for Christmas.

Opening Hours

Government Guidance together with COVID 19 restrictions has meant that, at the time of publication, we're unable to confirm our opening times during the festive period.

We'll update these hours as soon as we can, via social media and signage at the store.

Grocery Online Deliveries/ Collections

During the last few weeks our Grocery Online service has expanded significantly

to help with the demand for shopping safer during COVID 19.

Our Click and Collect team now serve in excess of 1000 collections throughout the day, with over 900 deliveries being made throughout the Basingstoke area every day.

Please continue to check for any slots as we near the festive peak at sainsburys.co.uk

Christmas Food Ordering Service – Collection in Store – NOT Grocery Online

Customers can still order up until midnight on December 16th, for collection on December 22nd, 23rd and 24th. Demand has been unprecedented this year so, check the website for up to date offers.

<https://food-to-order.sainsburys.co.uk>

Festive Wishes

Finally, on behalf of all our colleagues at Sainsbury's Kempshott, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and, peaceful festive celebration for 2020.

**To avoid overcrowding
please shop 1 adult
at a time**



LOCAL AUTHOR RAISING FUNDS

Local (Kempshott) author, Tony Corbin, has just published his latest book, 'Collezione'. Tony is making a very special offer to local residents (see below) who may be looking for ideas on how to easily and safely obtain Christmas (or birthday) gifts this year. He is supporting a good local cause too.

Look at the index for 'Collezione' and you might well ask yourself 'What do the NHS, The Seven Deadly Sins, Cheese, A Bomb, Trick or Treat, Dementia and Kirstie Allsopp all have in common? The answer is that all (and so many more) are explored within the widely and wildly varied topics of Tony Corbin's latest published poetry and prose musings.

The book has a distinctly local focus too. Subjects covered include Whitchurch Silk Mill, the River Test, The Wayfarers Walk, London Street, The Basing Trail, Destination Basingstoke and the Bard of Basingstoke. There's even a 'talk' surfacing the unique difficulties of cultivating a garden on the local chalk!



In examining 'Life's roller-coaster journey' Tony cleverly evokes almost every human emotion. You'll laugh, you'll reflect, you'll mutter 'me too' or you may even shed a tear. Like life itself, each page turn brings the unexpected. To contrast with the local focus, the book also offers an opportunity for the reader to 'armchair travel'. Travelogue extracts in the book cover Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Argentina and Canada,

all part of the varied mix. You will find the content itself, irrespective of subject, ranges from the pithy through parodies to the profound. The advice is, simply let the bumpy 'Collezione' journey entertain and at the same time, inspire or enthrall you.

The book is special in other ways too. £1 from every sale is destined to go to the local area 'Inspero Community Hubs'. These 'hubs' provide valuable support to those who have 'fallen on hard-times'. For local residents, Tony is also offering a limited number of signed 'author-copies' of Collezione at the reduced price of £5 (this includes the donation to Inspero). These can either be collected (call Tony on 07801

166223), delivered to the doorstep or can be purchased from Kempshott Stores, 147, Pack Lane. The book is available on Amazon UK as well, either as an e-book (at £4) or as a paperback for £6.50.

Tony's first writing output appeared only a dozen or so years ago. It was inspired by a combination of Creative Writing tutors, on-line study and fellow aspiring wordsmiths at the town's local Creative Writing Group. A modest start saw contributions from Tony to local anthologies and the occasional magazine article published. 'Destinations' a collaborative effort with the theme of travel and Tony's debut fictional novel, 'Fall of the Dice', helped raise several hundred pounds for local charitable causes.

For the past five years, Tony has run the local Creative Writing Competition, part of the annual Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival (entry deadline for this year's competition is Monday 14th December). Last year, an Audio Book, 'Local Lines', developed in collaboration with Basingstoke Community Radio, helped raise the profile of aspiring local writers. Tony was also a co-author of the business leadership treatise 'Fantasy or Reality?'

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for further information



PROBUS HEARS A STORY OF TILTING AT WINDMILLS

The classic book by Cervantes about the Spanish romantic, Don Quixote, who, thinking they were giants, futilely attacked the sails of windmills, has some similarities with the experience of Probud Club of Basingstoke member, Dave Kitson.

Some years ago, Dave and wife Jennifer, bought a house in Kent, moving from Teignmouth in Devon. They owned a motor home that they wanted to tour around Europe so moved to be close to the Channel ports.

However, the house had an interesting extension – a windmill. Known as Stanford Mill it had been built in 1857 as a corn mill. It was a tower construction of five storeys with four sails that drove a cast iron windshaft and had four pairs of millstones, two steel mills and two roller mills. Milling ceased in 1969.

The ravages of time meant that by the time of their purchase the sails had been removed and a corrugated asbestos roof built over the cap frame. But it was also Grade 2 listed which brings all the authoritarian problems should any owner wish to make any changes.

However, Dave thought it possible to make the place presentable and usable as an annexe to the house even if it was not permissible to make it a separate dwelling. Hoping for some assistance from Kent CC he was to be disappointed by their lack of support. He made enquiries about the background to the mill and had drawings made of its original features.

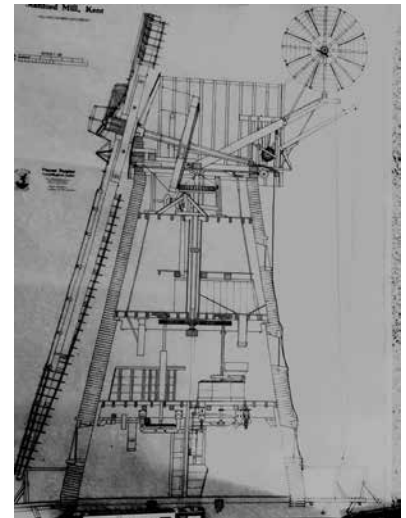
There was a lot of original machinery in the mill, which also had protected status, but some of the floorboards and ladders were rotten or missing. These should have

lasted more than the 150 years the mill had been standing but there was an inherent problem of severe damp in the mill. Old photographs show that the mill had been coated with bitumen trying to prevent the ingress of water.

One day when working at the top of the mill Dave heard someone coming up one of the aluminium ladders he had propped up to replace one of the rotting fixed wooden ones, but there was nobody there. Spooky. Aluminium ladders make a distinctive squeaking noise, so he was beginning to think, ghost? A haunted mill? Surely not. After some time, still mystified he descended via the same squeaky ladder to the outside and then heard the same noise. It came from a man on an aluminium ladder painting the outside of a house but some 70 metres away and yet in the mill it sounded almost behind him.

Standing so long and so visible there were many occasions when the mill came under some form of attack. The solid construction of the mill stood it in good stead in the first World war when a passing Zeppelin dropped a bomb, presumably aiming at the nearby railway, instead landing nearby and caused a split in the brickwork on the ground floor.

Windmills were always getting struck by lightning and Stanford Mill was no different. When Dave and Jennifer were abroad in their motorhome a lightning strike did no discernable damage to the mill but the electric cables between the house and the mill blew out many of the power sockets in the house. This caused a small fire on the carpet in the lounge, which fortunately, extinguished itself.



Another time there was a local earthquake which left the sturdy mill undamaged but separated some of the partition walls from the outer brick skin of the house.

Enough was enough for Dave and Jennifer and when their daughter announced that she was pregnant they decided to move to Basingstoke to be near to her. But selling the house, complete with a potentially problem windmill, did not present any difficulties with the buyer wanting to take possession as quickly as possible. Perhaps he had deep pockets if the mill was to be brought back to some usable condition. Windmills may stand proudly on the landscape but, as Dave Kitson will attest, could need bottomless pits of money for their upkeep.

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

2020 was the year when we should have been celebrating the Basingstoke Group's 50th Anniversary with activities planned to commemorate this milestone in our history. However, as we all know, everything was thrown into disarray by the epidemic so we will just have to adapt and next year celebrate our 51st Anniversary instead.

With all of our meetings and trips cancelled members have continued to be kept in touch with the group by means of a monthly newsletter which has included a quiz sent to us by our Head Office. Also, on the first Wednesday of each month, when it should have been our

meeting, members of the committee have telephoned everyone to have a chat and ensure that they are keeping well. This has been much appreciated especially as for most people whether they be isolating or shielding the lack of socialising has been the thing they miss most. Although we have been unable to run some of our own money making events we realised that the Brookvale Village Hall and Mervyn's Coaches who have helped and supported us in the past would be even harder hit. We, therefore, sent them a donation which we hope will go a little way to easing their current situation.

Let us all hope that with the news that a vaccine may soon be available we will be able to return to our usual programme sometime next year. In the meantime we send everyone Christmas Greetings with the wish that you enjoy yourselves as much as possible and look forward to a New Year filled with the things you love to do.

When things do return to normal the group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Further details can be obtained from csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

David Cowling

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Hatch Warren
Under Fives Preschool

HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

This time of year is always magical at preschool and Christmas always comes early to Hatch Warren Under Fives. We are already full of glitter and sparkle and the children are busy making marvelous Christmas creations.

Plans are also well underway to finish the year with a lovely Christmas party for the children, complete with a magical grotto.

Over the last month we've been exploring the season of autumn and have spent lots of time on outdoor walks in the woods looking at autumn colours, listening to autumn sounds and collecting lovely natural resources to use in preschool. One of our favourite autumn activities was hammering golf tees into pumpkins – a great activity to help with children's fine motor skills.

We had lots of events to get involved with in November too – we started the half term with fireworks and Diwali. The children listened to the story of Diwali, danced to Diwali music and made clay Diwali tea light holders. Fireworks were all about colour and texture and the children made some amazing pictures, as well as making some special firework biscuits. Remembrance day was another November highlight – the children created some beautiful poppy prints and they learnt all about the meaning of Remembrance Day. They even joined in with a two-minute silence and did an incredible job!

We also joined in with Children in Need in November with some super Pudsey inspired activities and lots of dressing up throughout the week! And we supported anti bullying week by wearing odd socks to preschool.

We are continuing with our small group work each week with Write Dance, a super fun session and a fantastic way to build motor skills and introduce writing skills; Science experiments – this week we looked at how a lit candle needs oxygen

to stay alight and what would happen if you limit the amount of oxygen. And the children still love our cooking sessions when they make or bake treats to take home each week. Next on the baking table will be some yummy Christmas goodies!

You can see weekly updates from Hatch Warren Under Fives on our Facebook page "Hatch Warren Under 5s Preschool", where you will see lots of photos and learn our Makaton signs of the week.

Don't forget - applications are now open for Year R spaces for September 2021. You must apply to Hampshire County Council and the deadline for all applications is 16th January 2021. For more information, or to apply, visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. We are certainly looking forward to welcoming 2021!

We still have a few spaces remaining for this academic year, to enquire about a preschool place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Angela Blomquist, Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

We also manage another lovely preschool, Kempshott Under Fives, located a short distance away at St. Mark's Church in Kempshott.

www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Merry Christmas from CVP!

It is such an exciting time of the year and our Christmas activities have started at pre-school. The children have been so busy making Christmas cards for their families, decorating the Christmas tree with our homemade decorations, making Christmas lists, ice-cream cone Christmas trees with icing and sprinkles as well as listening to and role playing the story of The Nativity.

We are not letting the pandemic stop our fun at pre-school and the term is ending with a fabulous Christmas party snack week with lots of treats to eat. The children will be visiting Father Christmas (virtually) in our grotto and he will be leaving a present for all the little ones. The children have been practicing the Christmas songs and we will be recording them onto the online Learning Journals for the parent to see.



Due to the COVID-19 restrictions we will be welcoming back socially distanced show rounds after the current lockdown and in the meantime we have some short videos on our website.

Just a reminder that Candover Valley Pre-School is only 5 miles from Basingstoke and Alresford and we currently offer:

- Forest School Sessions
 - 8.30 am Starts,
 - 15 and 30 hour funding places,
 - Socially distanced show-rounds,
 - Settling-in sessions and garden visits
- 01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

Lisa Collisson

CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Preschool!

This term the children have been singing their hearts out as we learn different nursery rhymes. Inspired by our favourite rhymes, the preschoolers made some terrifying Incy Wincy Spider hats, fluffy Baa Baa black sheep and Humpty Dumpty on his wall as well as had heaps of fun playing with shaving foam and practising pencil and scissor control.

With all this autumnal weather we have also taken the opportunity to get out and about for walks around our lovely village. We talked about the colours we could see, why the leaves fall at this time of year and of course no walk would be complete without visiting our feathered



friends at the duck pond. An October highlight was when we went on a pumpkin hunt, finishing off with a play at the park. More recently the children learnt all about Remembrance Sunday and made beautiful poppy artwork and poems to take home. During this second lockdown it has been wonderful for the children to be able to

run around with friends and enjoy creative activities, sports and play in their safe and familiar pre-school.

About Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School: We are a small, friendly, Ofsted Outstanding ranked pre-school located in the Rathbone Pavillion, North Waltham. 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. To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172.

01256 398172 www.cuckoomeadow.co.uk

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT VISION FOR LAND NORTH OF M3

Residents, local community groups, businesses and other organisations are being urged to have their say on a draft vision for the area north of junction seven of the M3 to help strengthen the final version.

Starting Friday 20 November, the consultation on the draft will run until January 2021.

A number of proposals have been put forward for the area, including it being highlighted as a potential location for a new hospital, a planning application for a distribution hub and land owners putting forward possible development sites for consideration for the Updated Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

Work is already underway on building new homes on sites allocated in the area in the current Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan to 2029, with planning applications approved for others.

Aiming to set out a joined up approach to the area, the vision identifies the types of infrastructure needed, for example transport improvements, facilities and utilities.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is already working with highway authorities to move forward the transport strategy for the borough, discussed by councillors last night (Thursday 19 November) at the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee. This includes a 21st century public mass rapid transport system connecting the area to the town centre and bus and railway stations, along with road network improvements, cycle and walking links.

The draft vision highlights areas where investment or more detailed work would be needed, helping other local services to plan ahead in a coordinated way. It aims to put addressing climate change at the heart of future proposals.

Recognising that this area is an important gateway to the town with nearby historic villages with their own distinctive identities, the vision sets out the need to reflect the characteristics of the local environment and the potential concerns of nearby communities. New strategic gaps around villages such as North Waltham and Dummer are proposed.

The aim of the vision is to guide early discussions, helping to set the direction for future planning policy which will emerge as the new Local Plan is developed.

Cabinet Member for Planning Infrastructure and the Natural Environment Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "We want to hear lots of opinions, ideas and comments to make this a shared and joined-up proactive vision for this area. There are so many parts of this, with land owners, residents, groups, other organisations and levels of government involved. We need views on the issues and opportunities for this location in our borough so we can set out our shared ambitions to get the right infrastructure and protection for existing villages and the natural environment."

Based upon comments received and any additional technical evidence available, the vision is set to be updated for adoption by the council's Cabinet in March 2021.

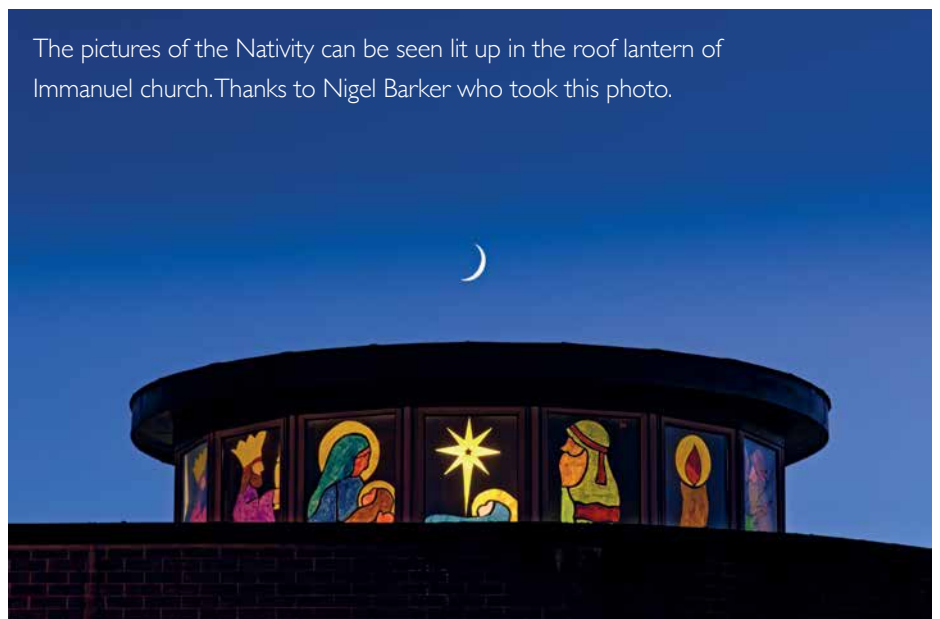
For further information please contact: Communications and Marketing Manager Sara Shepherd on 01256 845493 or email sara.shepherd@basingstoke.gov.uk.

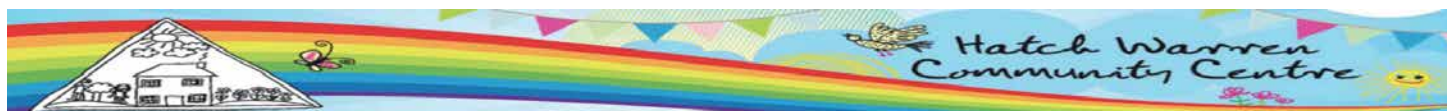
CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Real Christmas trees can be recycled. If you have signed up to the garden waste scheme with the Council, Christmas Trees can be put out for collection with their garden waste. Alternatively there are drop off points for trees from Monday 4 January until Sunday 31 January. The trees are transformed into ProGrow soil condition for gardens and our parks. Our local Christmas Tree recycling location is Hatch Warren Community Centre.



The pictures of the Nativity can be seen lit up in the roof lantern of Immanuel church. Thanks to Nigel Barker who took this photo.





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Registered Charity Number 1161117

Christmas Market

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Sunday 13th December

12 - 4pm

Entry £1 (kids go free)

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Fully Covid-19 compliant
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Stalls inside and out
Refreshments available outside; big-pan, baked goods, fresh coffee and mulled wine

This is a fundraising event for the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association Charity No 1161117

Café in the Park

At the time of writing Café in the Park is open Friday to Sunday, from 10am - 2pm for takeaway service only

Enjoy delicious homemade treats, fresh coffee and weekend breakfast baps, whilst supporting our community café

Book one of our chaperoned coach trips and celebrate the opening of London Theatres in 2021 in style!



Tina Turner
Thur 24th June

Lion King
Fri 1st Oct



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Registered Charity Number 1161117

find us on | facebook

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Tel: 01256 811262

Email: office@hatchwarren.org

Web: www.hatchwarren.org

Following us on Twitter @hatchwarren

The Warren is planning to reopen on Fri 4th Dec but we are constantly reviewing all new government guidelines/restrictions

We are hoping The Warren will be open Friday 4th, 11th and 18th Dec, for all young people Year 6 and above, from 6.00-7.30pm. Booking is essential, please see our Facebook page for booking forms. Bookings open on a Tuesday evening.

- One bubble of 15 young people
- Social distancing in place
- All young people will be required to wear a mask during the session unless exemptions apply
- Sessions will NOT be open access during the pandemic, young people will be required to stay in the youth club for the duration of the session
- Free entry
- Mixture of free activities available each week; arts and crafts, X-Box, PlayStation, quizzes and much more!
- Tuck shop open

The Warren will be closed for Christmas and plans to re-open on Friday 8th Jan 2021

We understand life is not how it should be and this may cause additional worries. For any support needed by young people we can signpost you to <https://www.themix.org.uk/> or <https://youngminds.org.uk/> in particular if support with anxiety or mental health is needed. Reach out and remember the good times at The Warren. Stay active and stay safe!





OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

We are at the end of a very strange year. The many restrictions have impacted on work parties which mean that both sites are now rather overrun with bramble and dogwood. So there is much to do when we do get back to normal meetings. We have quite a few saplings to plant which have been provided for free by the Woodland Trust. It is always nice to add to the sites rather than always taking out and cutting back.

It has been a good year for berries which is good for the birds (and for us!). Sloes and blackberries have been particularly plentiful and luscious. Both sites are showing good crops of berries - rowan, holly, rosehip, spindle (beautiful girly pink), sloe (the blackthorn) and dogwood (glossy black) (some photos below) - some are eaten by several different bird species. Bird numbers are again down from previous years. It is quite surprising how few numbers and species there are on the sites this year but perhaps this is down to all the development going on nearby.

It is good to report that work parties on Beggarwood have restarted with the first meeting on 3rd November with 5 volunteers led by Keith. The meetings will now be monthly on the first Tuesday of each month 10-12 noon however because of lockdown the December work party will be held on Tuesday 8th December. The intended tasks for the next few meetings will mainly be pulling and pruning dogwood



which is spreading too far into the grass and flower areas.

Christmas is just a very few weeks away. Sadly celebrations and gatherings of family and friends are likely to be restricted. But whatever you are able to do - the Group hopes you all have a really good Christmas and hopefully 2021 will be a happy and prosperous time with no restrictions - and regular work parties!

Work Parties - For Old Down, we meet weekly outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon. Hopefully (if permitted by the Council) there will be a meeting on 3rd December for Old Down and on 8th December for Beggarwood. If you are interested in joining either work party please email odandbwd@gmail.com. Always check our website just in case there is a change in dates.

www.olddownandbeggardwood.org.uk

Email: odandbwd@gmail.com



Spindle



Sloe



Dogwood



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BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT DISABILITY FORUM

The local charity for our disabled community continues to run regular free activities. Please follow us on social media and check the latest news on our website www.bddf.org.uk.

Activities include walking groups (Wednesdays & Thursdays); online winter coffee mornings called *Friday Tea Break Club*; and weekly mobility improving seated yoga (both online and face to face). Note all require pre booking.

Covid allowing, our next **Disability Information Day** will be held at Basingstoke's Malls shopping centre on 26th March 2021. This event is an opportunity to gain information, support and advice on disability related subjects from local organisations, businesses and government departments. We are keen to start up a new in person support group for those affected by disability who would like to meet new people in a safe environment. If this is something you would be interested in, please email info@bddf.org.uk.

Do you have a disability related question and don't know which was to turn? BDDF have extensive signposting information. We can point you in the direction of the service or local organisation who will be able to help.

Volunteer opportunities - BDDF are looking for Walk Leaders (one hour per week commitment) to lead fully accessible & inclusive gentle walks in your local area.

Keep in touch - As well as following BDDF on social media, or visiting our website, you can sign up to be a BDDF Member (free) and will receive our regular newsletter detailing our latest events and services.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly supported and joined BDDF during a very difficult year for charities.

"Be happy in the moment, that's enough. Each moment is all we need, not more." - Mother Teresa

BDDF wish you and your families a very merry Christmas.

Your local church in Hatch Warren



Lively worship every
Sunday at 10.00am.
Weekday activities.

Immanuel Church

Church Centre, St Mark's School, Danebury Road, Hatch Warren

All Enquiries to: 07922 516761
www.immanuelhwb.co.uk

Immanuel Church Christmas services:

Sunday 6 December - 4pm Christingle service on Zoom, contact Rev May to book

Sunday 13 December - 6pm Blue Christmas service at Immanuel for those who find Christmas difficult.

Sunday 20 December - Carols by candlelight will be on our Facebook and website. We will also be showing the video of this service at Immanuel at 7pm for those who do not have internet access. Contact Rev May to book.

Thursday 24 December - Crib service will be on our Facebook page and website

Friday 25 December - 10am Christmas Day at Immanuel church and Worship@Home on Facebook and our website

• • • • • SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING • • • • •

• Christmas •

December is such a busy month and there is always so much to do. As I write this article we find ourselves in a second lockdown which, hopefully, in early December might come to an end. We have had to learn to live with so many changes on so many levels for much of this year. Many have experienced a sustained period of anxiety and uncertainty. When we think about this Christmas, we may need to celebrate Christmas differently and things that we usually do may not be able to happen.

At Immanuel Church we have been busy planning our services and this year many will need to be online. I have put our proposed services at the end of this article. The Church of England have put together an Advent and Christmas campaign called Comfort and Joy. As part of this they have written this prayer: God of comfort and joy, may we know your presence with us today and bring your gentle, joyful love to others, this Christmas and always. Amen

Whatever happens there will be Christmas Day, the day Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. I'm reminded of the song 'O come, O come Immanuel'. Immanuel means God is with us. The message that God is with us has not changed even though so much has changed for us all over the past year. Mary and Joseph were a couple who knew what it was like living with change and facing difficult times. As they left their home and made their way to Bethlehem, they would have met many strangers and gone to unfamiliar places. Then Jesus was born into their lives and was the perfect gift. I love the fact that a gift is a symbol of love, given without a demand for anything in return. Mary had accepted the gift of God's love, a gift that would turn the world upside down. This tiny, vulnerable baby is the greatest Christmas present we could ever have.

I love hearing the Christmas readings that are filled with hope, which are so needed at this time. These two verses stand out for me, "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) and "Jesus came as a light in the world." (John 8:12). Christmas is a time when many of us put up lights inside and outside our homes. A simple light that we as a family enjoy every year is candlelight. I love watching the flickering flame with the dancing patterns on the walls. It is a warm inviting light, a guiding light. On that first Christmas Day the stable was lit by the bright star over the stable. That star led visitors to the new family, who came filled with awe, bearing gifts and expectations for the future. A tiny, vulnerable baby, born to be a light to this world in a stable filled with so much love and hope.

The John Lewis Christmas advert this year asks us to give a little love. This Christmas spare a thought for those who will be working over the festive period, for those who will be alone, those missing family, those recently bereaved, those who are unwell, those who are unemployed and for those with nowhere to stay. I'm sure you can add to this list. Let us give a little love to those around us this Christmas and bring Christ's light into the darkness.

Come and join us at Immanuel Church and online this Christmas. See our website and Facebook for more details.

Blessings,

Rev May

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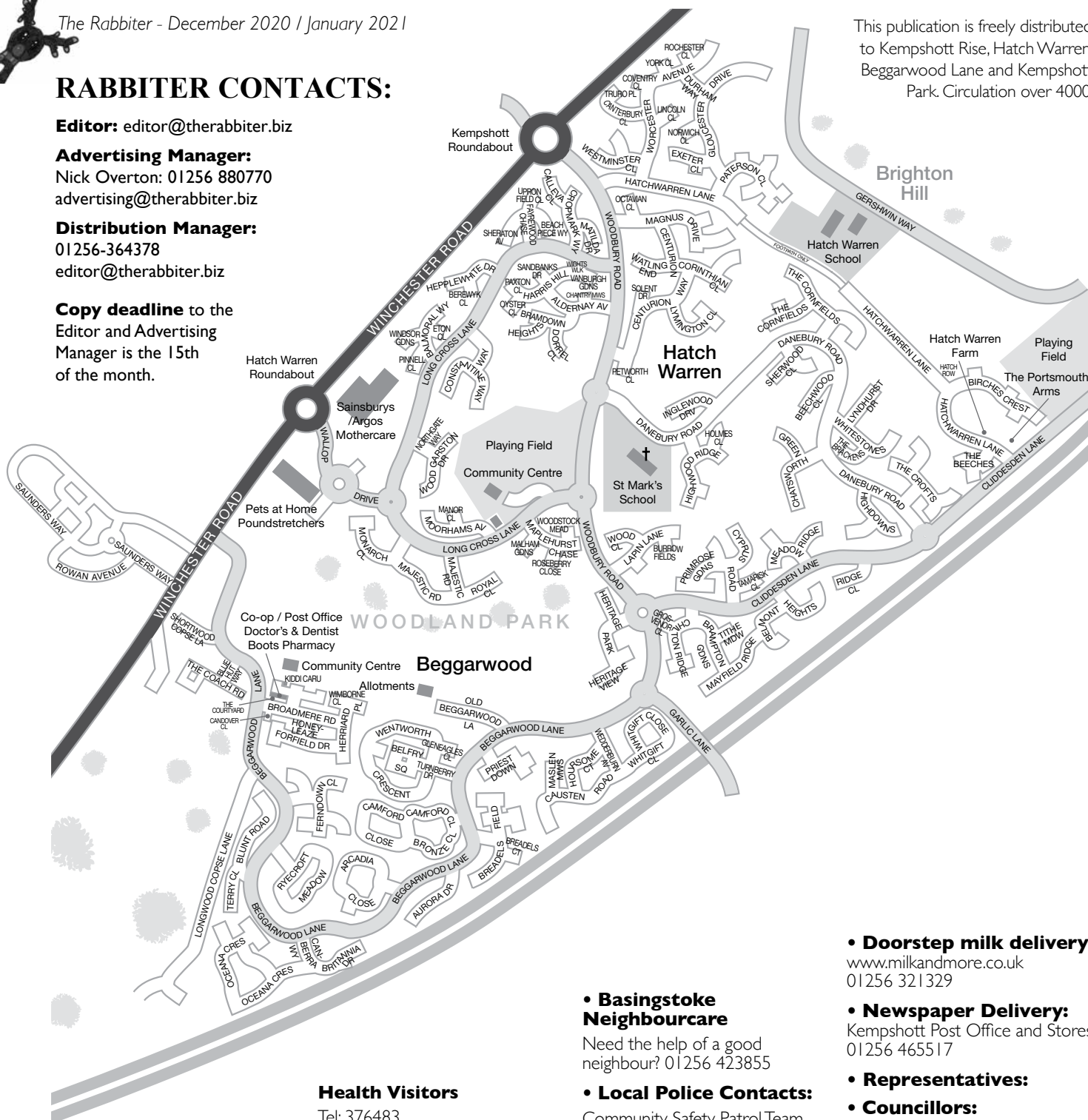
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HATCH WARREN W.I.

Bonfire night saw members of Hatch Warren W.I. enjoy a talk from Robin Galvin about Medical Detection Dogs. This charity was formed about 12 years ago when a Doctor thought dogs could detect cancers in humans. A lady had a mole on her leg which her dog kept worrying her about, having gone to her GP it was found to be a malignant cancer. Tangle, a chocolate spaniel, who had been trained to sniff out bowel cancer, kept going to the spot which they thought was clear but the dog knew that something was wrong and it turned out to be kidney cancer. Bio dogs only detect cancers in spots. Dogs sense of smell is extremely keen, they can detect a teaspoon of sugar in swimming pool the size of two Olympic pools. They use mainly gun dogs or working dogs and are used to detect drugs, explosives etc. They are working to be able to train dogs to sniff out Covid 19. Medical Alert assistance dogs partnered to an individual take 4-6 months to train and can transform someone's life. They are given to people who have life threatening conditions with no warning symptoms.

Hampshire Federation will be the first Federation to try out a Virtual W.I. which will enable people to join with out having to leave their homes. If this is found to be successful it will then be

rolled out over the country. There are Zoom talks to join in this month 'Talk on Violette Szabo,' 'Always look on the bright side of Life' a talk on a double lung transplant. Christmas craft-along and Christmas baking with Solonettes W.I. and a Cheese and wine tasting evening.

Sandra's snippets this month was the story of how the W.I. started in Canada. We continue with our Zoom coffee mornings each week and our Genealogy group and WhatsApp to keep us all in touch with one another. Something which is very important as we are now yet again in lock down.

Our next meeting will be 14th December at 7.30 p.m. when we will celebrate our Christmas Zoom meeting with the hilarious Judy Theobald 'Christmas and other problems'. Wear your Christmas jumpers and hats, there will be a competition for a Christmas table decoration.

For more information please contact our President Lynette on 07824 535868. Wishing all our readers a VERY HAPPY SAFE CHRISTMAS and we look forward to a seeing you all in the New Year.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUDGET PROPOSALS TO KEEP COUNCIL TAX LOW AND PROTECT SERVICES RESIDENTS VALUE

Proposals for a Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council budget, that protects services that residents value most while keeping council tax low, have been agreed for consultation.

Approved by Cabinet 10 November 2020, a £5, or 10p per week, average increase proposed for the borough council part of the council tax for 2021/22 is likely to make it one of the lowest of the districts in Hampshire, and most of the rest of the country, again.

Despite this, the council still has one of the highest spend per heads of districts in England and the highest of districts in Hampshire. This is despite rising costs and demand for services and a huge reduction in government funding.

Like many others across the country, the council's budget has also been put under further pressure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with falling income and extra costs to provide support during this unprecedented time.

Maintaining services that residents value, including weekly bin collections, community safety patrols and keeping areas looking their best, are funded as part of proposals to balance the budget next year.

This includes previous commitments for additional funding to increase community safety patrols and a new scheme for councillors to support small-scale projects in their communities, which were delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help fund services, as well as a small increase in council tax, a 3% average increase in fees and charges to help pay for the costs of these services without putting the burden on council tax payers is proposed.

Feedback from the consultation, that runs until 3 January 2021 at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/budget2020, will be considered before final decisions about the budget are taken at a meeting of Council on 25 February 2021.

STOP THE WAREHOUSES ON JUNCTION 7, M3!!

CAGE's (cleanairgreenenvironment.org) is steaming ahead with plans for more online public meetings. See the website for dates.

Latest information from the Newlands, the warehouse developers, indicates an increased number of vehicles (4,500 every 24 hours) using the site. This will present HUGE problems not only for Junction 7 but for all the roads in the area. Newlands has also suggested that warehouse traffic heading south from Junction 7 will use the A30 as an alternative to the M3!!!

Basingstoke Council has declared a Climate Emergency and the Government plans to ban petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030. There is no doubt that the warehouse plans are going to pollute the environment in this area and contradict the messages from Basingstoke Council and the Government.

Please help us to help you and your family by making a donation - see: www.cleanairgreenenvironment.org.

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BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

School life during a pandemic #YellowArmy style!

Welcome to the first of our regular contributions to your community publication.

Despite facing a year like no other, the #YellowArmy continues to power on. Through March the students of BHCS were told to stay at home; only those children of keyworkers and vulnerable children were allowed on site. This meant the teachers had to learn a whole new way of teaching and students all had to adjust to a whole new way of learning relying on work packs and online lessons to continue their learning. Y10 (now Y11 students) came back in June to restart face to face learning in their core subjects – English, Maths and Science so had a taste of learning under lockdown.

Since September, pupils have been back at school to support their education and mental health but to keep us and our teachers' safe, schools have had to make many adjustments to prevent the spread of the virus. 'Many of us felt closed off; unable to see the world' explained a student.

Brighton Hill Community School has worked extremely hard to match the government guidance to keep students safe. This includes the one-way system around the school, frequent hand sanitization, wearing a mask indoors and keeping year group bubbles apart by staggering the start and end of the day and break and lunch times. This is in addition to welcoming more than 250 Y7 students to the #YellowArmy! 'I felt nervous about going back but I was also excited to see my friends because I had missed not seeing them in person' reported a year 8 student.

Even though at first it took some getting used to things like the one-way system and hand sanitizing on entry and exit of classrooms, it has become the new normal.



Thankfully, teachers are allowing students to be a couple minutes late for this reason!

Many have said that the staff should be congratulated on making this adjustment as easy as it can be, including spending holidays and weekends putting up

marquees for students to spend their breaks and lunches in and our cleaners working extra hours to clean the school throughout the day. The BHCS #YellowArmy continues to support each other in these unprecedented times.

Despite all the difficulties of life at the moment, we still think it is important to support others we don't know – there are always those who are in a worse place than us.

To brighten things up a bit, students paid a voluntary donation to wear something the same colour as their house colour to school for Children in Need. As usual we were led from the front by our Head Teacher Mr Edwards who wore all the schools house colours!



All of us at Brighton Hill Community School wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas.

By HB, Brighton Hill Community School Journalist



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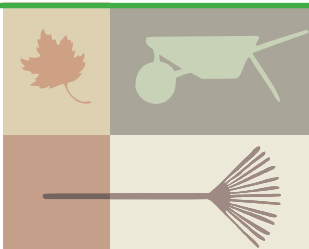
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KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

Our War on Ragwort. We have an excellent relationship with Worting Scouts. When they approached us to suggest suitable work that individual "socially distanced" groups of scouts could undertake, we jumped at the chance. There were a number of jobs, but after a site walk with one of the leaders, we plumped for them pulling Ragwort on Down Grange Meadow, as this did not involve bladed tools, such as secateurs or loppers.

The first session was at the end of August and while the turnout was restricted due to fine weather and families being on holiday,



a substantial amount of Ragwort was lifted. The picture shows the "socially distanced" group with the results of their efforts, not a spike of ragwort in sight! Despite the hard work, this did not put them off and they are planning to return for a number of shorter sessions.

Ragwort is a potentially invasive species and while we like a little to encourage the Cinnabar Moth, a spectacular pink moth which we recorded for the first time earlier this year; you can have too much of a good thing.

Fungi Warning. After some spectacular rain, we noticed a rash of mushrooms in the "Jubilee Copse" which is located on the Coniston Road side of the Meadow.

These turned out to be Brown Roll-Rim (*Paxillus involutus*). They are common mushrooms which are deadly poisonous, so should not be touched and definitely not eaten.

Our next Work Parties on Down Grange Meadow will be on Sundays, 13 December; 17 January, 7 and 28 February (10 00–12 00) and Thursday, 11 March (14 00–16 00). Do come and join us, even if just for an hour. You'll be very welcome. All equipment is provided, but please bring your own gloves. We meet at the Homesteads Road entrance near St. Mark's Church.

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



BASINGSTOKE U3A LOCKED IN BUT NOT LOCKED OUT

Our U3A is currently restricted again, but we have a wide range of groups using Zoom, email, etc. now, so many activities continue.

Our members are playing bridge or practising their dance steps at home. They are joining discussions from literature and science to photos and gardening. Learning is carrying on, from French and Spanish to creative writing and family history. If you are looking for something to cheer you up throughout the winter, have a look on <https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/covid-19> for further details. Membership is still £5 at the moment, with unlimited access to our activities, so do give us a try. There's

even a holiday in Croatia planned for 2021 <https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/excursion-and-holiday-details>.

Make Your Mark with Calligraphy

A specialist is emailing monthly topics to our Calligraphy Group and members email back their work. The Group uses Zoom, where members choose their own projects and later discuss them online.

Beginners are helped to start and all are introduced to new skills and techniques. Why not become a U3A member and make your mark with this friendly group!



<https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/crafts/Calligraphy>

After all, when you meet face-to-face again, everything will stop for tea...

A Christmas Quiz

To help raise money for our U3A, we've put together a Christmas-themed fun quiz: including photos, pictorial clues and a "spot the differences" scene.

If you'd like try the quiz for a small donation, further details can be found on our website at <https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/christmas-quiz>

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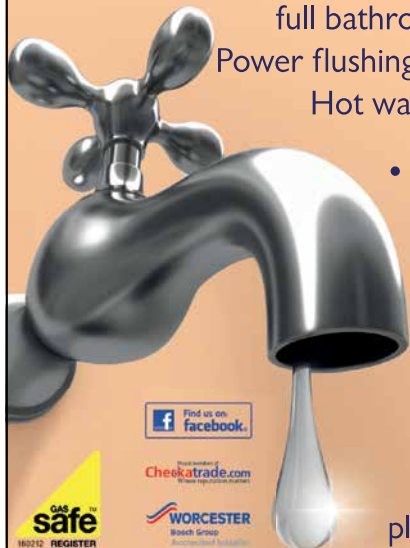


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