

THE Rabbiter



Issue 278 February 2021



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- **BIG BASINGSTOKE SLEEP-OUT**
- **DOG FOULING FINES**
- **TALKING MENTAL HEALTH**

and much more

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EDITORIAL

Happy New Year! 2020 was a strange year and sadly it looks as if it is not over yet. Normally when I write the editorial I try to promote the activities and events happening locally but now the high spots of my life take place on Zoom. A year ago I had never heard of Zoom, now I Zoom with friends or family nearly every day. There is a big box in our spare room full of Christmas presents waiting to be shared. Staying home is the new normal. There is bread to be made, books to be read and yarn to be knitted. Many of us have taken on new hobbies or spent more time on existing ones. How have you used your time during lockdown?

Sadly many of us have lost friends and family in the last year and we offer our condolences to those who are grieving. A dear friend of ours sadly left us recently. A wonderful man who fixed my broken sink, boarded our loft and provided wise words of wisdom – he will remain in our hearts forever.

There are local elections planned for 6 May – see the article on page 6 for further information. Whilst we hope that we will be out and about by then if you would prefer not to go to the polling station you can choose to vote by post by applying for a postal vote from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Work is now underway on development of land at Hounsome Fields. More housing is planned for the golf course, warehouse units on Junction 7 and now there is a proposal to build 2,500 houses on land south of the M3 at Cliddesden – see page 10 for more details. The impact on our roads and open spaces will be considerable.

Beggarwood Bookworms continue to go from strength to strength. Members meet via Zoom each month to discuss the book they have been reading. The January meeting will review 'Away with the Penguins' – a delightful story about an eccentric OAP travelling to the South Pole to see penguins and also finding her grandson. In February they will be reading 'Façade' by Helen Matthews who will join the Zoom meeting to discuss the book.

The Hatch Warren WI is also holding their meetings via Zoom and they welcomes new members – see page 6.

The Rabbiter would not be able to carry on without its advertisers. Please support all our local advertisers particularly during these challenging times. And a big thank you to all our deliverers who are out in all weathers to ensure everyone receives a copy of the Rabbiter.

The Editor

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

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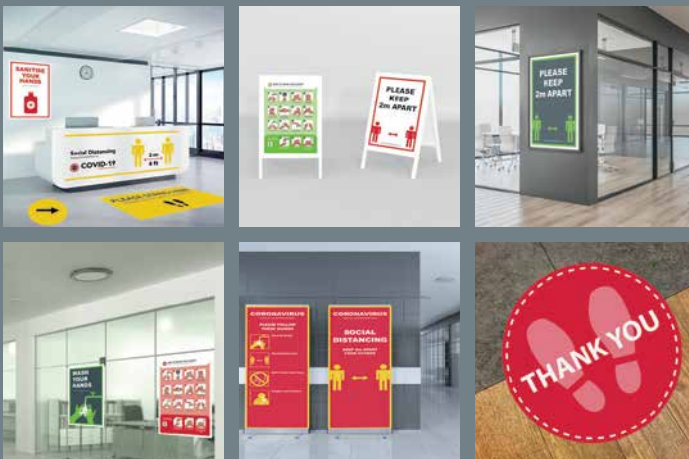
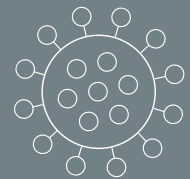
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HATCH WARREN W.I.

Hatch Warren W.I. started their new year programme on Thursday 7th January with discussing the four resolutions proposed by NFWI, ten minutes was given to each resolution proposed and discussed. Each resolution had its own merits and this caused quite a debate. Members now have to vote on their chosen one and then the results are first sent to HFWI and then the results go forth to National where the top two will go forth to the AGM. Afterwards we had a very fun quiz with Fran which everybody enjoyed.

Our first Zoom coffee morning was held on Friday and it was lovely to get to chat again and laugh over a cup of coffee in our own homes. This is a good way to keep in touch with everyone. Our genealogy group will meet later this month. A Zoom virtual event will see members join a virtual tour of Sterling Gin Distillery and afterwards they will be able with their packs to join in a gin tasting session. This month members can join a Zoom talk 'A Portrait of Antarctica' by Johnathan Walton.

February 4th will be our next zoom meeting when we will enjoy our member Liz Janes on her talk entitled 'My Travels' which will surely lift everyone's spirits.

If you would like to join us please contact our President Lynette on 07824 535868 for more information.

VOTING SAFELY AT THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS

On Thursday 6 May 2021 residents in Basingstoke and Deane will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, parish council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

While these elections may not be until May, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is already making plans to help residents stay safe while casting their vote and is keen to remind people of the options available to them.

There are a number of ways people can have their say during the elections:

- vote in a polling station
- by post
- or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote.

The borough council's electoral registration officer Rebecca Emmett said: "The elections this year will see residents in Basingstoke and Deane voting on who will represent them on the borough council, county council, possibly their parish council and as Police and Crime Commissioner.

"This is an opportunity for people to have their say and we have already starting planning now so that however residents choose to cast their vote in May, they can do so safely. We are putting arrangements in place to help people stay safe at the polling station but we also want to remind residents that they have the option to vote by post or proxy and applying to do this is very simple."

Residents must be registered to vote to have a say at the elections. For more information and to apply for a postal or a proxy vote visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/postal-proxy-voting or call 01256 844844.

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BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT DISABILITY FORUM (BDDF)

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) are excited to announce the dates for the next Chineham and Sherfield Park Scarecrow Trail Summer 2021! Last year's event was hugely popular and raised vital funds for BDDF. Noting we have taken the feedback onboard to run over a longer period. The event will take place over the first week of the school holidays, 24th to 30th July 2021, with map sales available over the first weekend.

Please look out for details on our Facebook page on how to vote for this year's theme and how to sign up to be an entrant which will open later in the year.

We would welcome volunteers to help with the planning, organisation and execution of the event. Virtual meeting will take place on Thursday 18th February at 7pm. If you have skills to offer or time available to help us run this event, or simply a passion to get stuck in, please get in touch!

BDDF's services. Our weekly seated exercise for mobility and wellbeing; and Friday Teabreak club; are both free and take place online. Our Walking Club will resume once it is safe for us to do so; as will our courses to help people use their personal IT devices. If you are interested in registering for any of these activities, please get in touch.

Disability Awareness Event. BDDF are preparing to host our annual Disability Information & Awareness Day virtually this year. If you are a charity who would like to be represented at this online event; or if you are a key speaker on issues affecting disabled people because of Covid

Disability Signposting Services. Have a disability related issue or question? Don't know which way to turn? We will do our best to point you in the right direction, just let us know.

Get in touch & Keep up to date. Please get in touch with regards to any of our updates via email info@bddf.org.uk or via Facebook Messenger.

We offer regular newsletters via email, paper version is available by post if you do not have internet access. To be added to our postal mailing list please call 01256 423869 leaving your home address, name & telephone number.

Information on all our free services are updated regularly on our social media and website. Keep up to date by liking our page on Facebook @BDDForum, Insta @BasingstokeDisabilityForum via our website www.bddf.org.uk, or tweet us @BDDForum.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS DURING LOCKDOWN

Support is available for residents across the borough who need help with access to food, medicine and support services during the national lockdown.

On 4 January, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that England would enter a new national lockdown to prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 variant and protect NHS services.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is working with Basingstoke Voluntary Action and Hampshire County Council to provide assistance to residents in need of support with the help of local community organisations.

Residents with an increased risk of illness (clinically extremely vulnerable) are being asked to begin shielding and advised to stay at home at all times, unless for exercise or medical appointments.

Those who are advised to shield are encouraged to use priority slots provided by supermarkets for shopping, prescription delivery services and support from family and friends.

However, residents who do not have this support are being encouraged to register for help at www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support or by calling the Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline on 0333 370 4000. The helpline is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm, 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays and between 10am and 3pm at weekends.

For more information about the support available for vulnerable residents and other support services available for issues such as debt, loneliness and domestic abuse, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub

TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR DOG- FOULING OFFENDERS

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is cracking down on dog owners who fail to clear up after their pet has fouled in a public space by introducing tougher penalties.

Anybody caught not cleaning up after their dog has fouled in a public space, or not carrying with them a way of clearing up after their dog, such as dog poo bags, faces an on-the-spot fine of £100 or a court prosecution. This is double the previous Fixed Penalty Notice of £50 which could be issued for dog fouling offences.

A borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog fouling will enable the tougher penalties to be enforced. It is an offence for dog owners to not clear up after their dog has fouled in a public space and requires they carry an appropriate means to pick up their dog's poo.

The council is reacting to growing concern and numerous complaints from borough residents about an increase in dog fouling in their neighbourhoods.

A public consultation on plans to introduce the order saw 97 per cent of the 848 respondents agree that people who fail to pick up after their dogs have fouled is a problem in the borough and supported the proposed powers to deal with this.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "We have introduced the Public Space Protection Order across the borough in a bid to eradicate the unsightly and dirty problem of dog fouling and to respond to public concern."

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/PSPO-dog-fouling

JULIAN HOUSE CALLS ON PUBLIC TO SLEEP-OUT AT HOME AS COVID FORCES CHANGE TO THE 'BIG BASINGSTOKE SLEEP-OUT'

After the disappointing postponement of Julian House's Big Basingstoke Sleep-Out 2019, due to the first national lockdown for Covid-19 in March last year, the charity will be running this year's Big Sleep-Out as an at home event.

The charity is now calling on families and households across Basingstoke and the local area to join and sleep-out for one night in their own garden on Friday 5th March to help raise vital funds and awareness for men and women forced to sleep out every night.

The event, which should have been held at the War Memorial Park, has had to change and adapt due to the national lockdown announcement and rising COVID cases. However, the At Home Sleep-Out carries the same important message.

The national lockdown evokes further feelings of isolation and desolation for



most men and women in Julian House's services. On top of this, the plunging winter temperatures have now become a threat to their lives.

By choosing to sleep out on Friday 5th March and raising vital funds, families, friends and colleagues you can help provide the life-saving services and support men and women experiencing homelessness so desperately need right now.

It's a grim realisation that without support like Julian House, the life expectancy of a long-term homeless person is just 44 years! Event organiser, Rachel Avent, said: "The fact that the Sleep-Out is at home this year, provides a greater stark contrast to the dangers men and women living on the streets must face – especially during this on-going pandemic.

People taking part in the Big Basingstoke Sleep-Out: At Home may be cold and a little wet. However, the next morning people can go indoors, have a warm bath, a cooked breakfast, chat to family and friends about their experience or just catch up on lost sleep. The big difference for people who are forced to sleep rough is that they don't have that option.

This year, the Sleep-Out maybe a little different. But while we can't be together in person, we can virtually. That's why we will be hosting an optional series of live streamed events on the night so we can be together and share our own 'sleep-out' experience with each other."

Households without access to a garden are encouraged to join by sleeping out on a secure balcony or on their living room, porch, kitchen or bathroom floor.

Rachel added: "Or think out of the box and sleep in your bathtub! Anywhere a little unexpected and a little un-comfy works."

To find out more about the Big Bath Sleep-Out: At Home and to sign up visit: The Big Basingstoke Sleep-Out website or sign up at Eventbrite email Rachel Avent bigbasingstokesleepout@julianhouse.org.uk

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As at the time of writing – 14/1/2021 – we have significantly reduced the number of customers within our store and, respectfully, ask that all customers wear a face covering and, or visor whilst they shop. You will have also hear/seen our latest social media messages encouraging customers to shop for one person, per household.

We recognise that such an ask isn't always possible but, in reducing the number of customers within the store, we're supporting the guidelines to shop for only essential items.

Of course, this advice is reviewed on a daily basis so, please check our social media updates for the latest guidelines when visiting the store.

Smart Shop

We'd also like to remind customers about our Smart Shop App and Smart Shop handsets. All our checkout position are configured to accept the Smart Shop handsets to pay for your shopping.

We're minimising the number of customers through our Self Service and Smart Shop positions so, please feel safe to pay for your Smart Shop purchases at any checkout.

Click and Collect Grocery Orders

We have significantly increased the number of Click and Collect slots available for our customers.

Our colleagues now serve over 100 customers during the day from the Click and Collect car park facility.

Where possible, please consider using this service to help free more delivery slots for the elderly and vulnerable customers who have been advised to shield.

Supporting Our Community

As Lockdown 3 continues to dominate the way we live, Sainsbury's will continue

to support two local charities with their efforts, to support the venerable across our communities.

We'll continue with the food donation points at the store for Inspiro and Basingstoke Foodbank.

We'll continue to review, in line with government guidance, how to operate this scheme in a Covid secure manner, given any availability issues and social distancing guidelines.

Please be assured that, where we are able to, we will continue to support these organisations in their efforts.

We'll also have more news next month with initiatives we're supporting across the Borough via Basingstoke Voluntary Association and their charity partners.

A final word

Please stay safe.

To avoid overcrowding please shop 1 adult at a time



UPPER SWALLICK PROPOSAL

I am sure by now you will be aware of the proposal by Viscount Lymington and Portsmouth Estates to build 2500 houses on over 300 hectares of highly productive farm land south of the M3. The development if approved would stretch from the A339 to Woods Lane and the M3.

That's all very well but what's it to do with me, I may hear you say.

The answer is that it will have a life changing effect on you just as it will for the villages of Cliddesden and Ellisfield.

Your access to the countryside will be curtailed dramatically. During this awful period of lockdown, people from across the South of Basingstoke have made use of this beautiful area, walking, cycling, running, walking the dog or just enjoying the countryside.

The area is the lungs of South Basingstoke, providing clean fresh air, helping the supply of fresh water to the aquifer and providing much needed food from the land. Should

the project be approved, all of this will be lost and once it is gone it is gone for ever.

In addition, 2500 new homes would produce some 6000 new cars and approximately 15000 journeys per day. How will all these cars get out of the new estate? Some will go via the A339 which prior to Covid was a notorious bottle neck. However, it is more likely that most will want to leave via Woods Lane into the roads around Brighton Hill and Hatch Warren or via Garlick lane and into Beggarwood.

So, it will have a major impact on everyone who lives in South Basingstoke.

It is not as if Basingstoke was desperate for the houses. The council has many "Brownfield" sites which could be developed and the Covid outbreak is likely to mean other buildings such as offices and retail parks will become vacant and useable for housing.

If like us you believe the development is unnecessary, what can you do to help? Well,



if you have not done so already you could sign the petition, just as over 5250 people have already done (www.stanhhd.com).

In addition, you could email your local councillors and express your opposition to the proposal. Join us in protecting this much valued landscape

STaNHd

Stand up for the North Hampshire Downs



P E M B E R L E Y H O U S E C A R E H O M E


Stay Safe This Winter

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OPERATION PRINCE' NOVEMBER 1985

Probus Club member, Chris Perkins MVO, a retired RAF Squadron Leader gave an insight into a humanitarian mission in South America in November 1985. As aircrew on an RAF Odiham Puma helicopter squadron, we were used to being caught on the hop during those uncertain days of the 1980s! It all started on a November Friday evening 35 years ago at a supper evening with the 'Boss'. A short telephone call turned the evening upside down for four of us with an early departure to Bogota in Columbia the following morning. The British Government had been requested to provide search and rescue plus humanitarian aid in the wake of a volcanic eruption. The information was sketchy and our task was to augment helicopters crews flying down from a squadron detachment in the Central American country of Belize. Flying kit gathered we eventually reached the Station Medical Centre. A standby doctor had been called in to administer a plethora of jabs against 'horrible afflictions'. This he did at one go and very reluctantly, as alcohol had been 'imbibed' during the evening!

At Heathrow early the next morning we met with civilian SAR specialists to grasp a fuller appreciation of the unravelling situation on the other side of the world. An 18,000ft high volcano, the Navado del Riuz, had erupted three nights previously, melting the ice cap and sending down a wave of mud and boulders to engulf the town of Armero.



There followed an 18 hour flight via Miami to Bogota arriving late at night. An attack by the M19 guerrilla movement on City's Palace of Justice had resulted in the enforcement of rigid military control and there was evidence of tanks and armed patrols on the streets. It was quite reminiscent of being back in Northern Ireland! Overnight accommodation was provided by the Defence Attache and an RAF Hercules transport deposited us at the Palenquero

Columbian Air Force base the following day.

Our helicopters travelling down from Belize had been refused diplomatic transit clearance by the Nicaraguan Sandinista regime and would not arrive for another 36 hours. That said, within two hours of arrival the helicopters were ready for first sorties. Arriving over Armero, we were stunned with what we saw. A town the size of Hook had all but disappeared under a covering of mud. 23,000 people had been killed or missing, swept away in the mud flow. Human and animal remains were abundant and smaller helicopters were darting about with rescue parties collecting those alive, moving them to aid posts. We made our first approach into one of these for offload, using the rising smoke from a burning mound as a signal giving the wind direction. I don't think that I will ever forget the smell on opening the door on finals to land. With temperatures in the upper 30 degrees, typhoid had broken out and before effective fumigation, the Columbian Army were initially burning corpses using petrol.

The ever-present dust and layers of volcanic ash covered everything and made approaches to the confined landing sites



in mountain villages extremely hazardous. 'Ample muscle' was essential to aid the offload of supplies and prevent 'unwanted passengers' climbing on board to escape the area. On one particular heavily loaded sortie 'a man from the BBC' was enlisted to give a hand. With camera and mike capturing both picture and sound, he unwittingly recorded an 'interesting arrival' at the 7500 ft Villahermosa football pitch in 40 degree temperatures. This was shortly aired embarrassingly, with 'no bleeps', back home. During the ten days of operations shuttling supplies and personnel into the Armero area we were part of an international relief operation that included the United States Air Force together with French and Columbian Armies. Working from dawn to dusk 76,000lbs of supplies were transported by our two helicopters. During our journey back to Belize via Panama we too were held up by the Sandanista regime in Nicaragua resulting in an overnight stop in Costa Rica. We had covered some 1500 miles with a total flight time of 11 hours and 15 minutes to Belize Airport Camp.

Detachment business carried on as normal supporting the British Army and Belize Defence Force in a deterrent role against possible invasion from Guatemala. The flying logbook always proves to be invaluable against fast-fading memories, often recording places and incidents. I see that there's a note on an entry for the 23rd December. It involved a re-supply sortie to a remote army post on the Guatemala border. During the flight back to base we 'clandestinely' paused on a pine covered ridge to source Christmas trees in aid of 'seasonal festivities'. Operating over the jungles and pine covered ridges of Belize in all weathers was an incredible experience and the subject, maybe, of further record before permanently forgotten.

COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

We are now in another period of lockdown, but at least we have the prospect of vaccinations being rolled out soon. The message must be to stay safe for one final push, and I start this article with a few items of lockdown-related advice.

BIN COLLECTIONS: the Borough Council has reported that its waste and recycling collection services are currently running as normal and crews will continue to work to maintain them during the national lockdown. They have been forward planning in case the virus affects staffing levels, which are closely watched. The Council advises residents to monitor its website in case the situation changes.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES: as a result of the lockdown, the Borough Council has closed its outdoor gyms and the Down Grange running track. Skateparks are currently still open.

TEXTILE AND GLASS BANKS: With charity shops closed, some clothing banks are not currently being emptied. For now, therefore, residents are asked to store donations at home. There is nothing more unsightly than an overflowing recycling bin with bags strewn around. The same advice relates to bottle banks - but for glass there are the fortnightly kerbside collections to use. You can order an extra glass box for your kerbside collection on the Council's website.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING

CENTRE: the County Council is keeping the recycling centre open and continuing with the advance booking system. If you need a slot, please visit the County's website: new slots are released each day.

The **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU** does valuable work throughout the year and they have published their report for 2019/20. It contains a useful breakdown by ward of the issues that have been brought to them. In Hatch Warren and Beggarwood they helped with 490 cases and the top categories were Benefits and Tax Credits, Debt, and Relationships and Family. It serves as a reminder that even in our comparatively affluent area, there are people experiencing difficulty in their lives. The CAB is a very helpful source of advice if you have difficulties in these tough times.

And now a few items of local significance:

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION DEPOT: CAGE, the campaign group, has been mobilising opinion on the application to build warehouses near Junction 7. The warehouse hub is shown as a possible feature of the Council's vision document for the South West of Basingstoke www.basingstoke.gov.uk/visionM3-j7-land.

ROAD ADOPTIONS: I have chased again for information about road adoptions in the Beggarwood area, near to the shops. It appears that the adoptions have been delayed by legal issues, but whilst the roads remain the responsibility of the developers, there

can be problems regarding street light repairs and other maintenance issues.

BEGGARWOOD PARK: the Borough Council's improvements to the park have been completed and they make a positive difference. The play area has been upgraded and the paths, benches and signage improved. This is an increasingly popular location for local residents taking exercise and the Café in the Park was doing well with its lunchtime takeaway service before the lockdown started.

DENTIST: I have noticed that the building for the new dental surgery on the Island site has not started and have written to the developers to ask if there is a problem.

GRIT BINS: now is the time to let the County Council know if there is a problem with a grit bin in your area - either in terms of its condition or if it hasn't been refilled. I have reported one problem from the Gloucester Drive area. And finally ...

CONGRATULATIONS to Richard Curtis on being awarded the BEM in the New Year's Honours. Richard is manager of Hatch Warren's Portsmouth Arms and has been organising quizzes and charity events throughout the lockdown periods to help keep spirits up.

Regards

Stephen Reid

County Councillor.

Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

BASINGSTOKE CAMERA CLUB

2020 was the centenary year of the formation of the Basingstoke Camera Club and 1921 was the year we became affiliated to the Royal Photographic Society. It is believed one of the Club's original founders was the social historian photographer Edward Hillsworth. We have been researching our history and have unearthed Club programmes dating back to 1947/48, when the club used to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in the Thornycroft Canteen (where Basingstoke Morrisons now stands), and membership was 10s/6d!. We are always

looking for more historical information about the Club from people living in North Hampshire and Berkshire.

The current Club has a membership of around 75 and despite COVID, during 2020 we were still able to run a full programme of talks, workshops and competitions, albeit virtually via Zoom meetings. We also have a very active Facebook and Instagram group. The Club supports the St Michael's Hospice as our adopted charity and we have raised over £12,000 via an annual national photographic exhibition we run. www.basingstokecameraclub.co.uk

HOLLY BLUE ACCESS

I have been requested to find an easier wheelchair and motorised scooters access to the Holly Blue Pub. I have contacted the operators and they confirmed that the access is on the A30 side of the pavement for Wheelchair access. They said it is not possible to provide access from Beggarwood Lane. I hope this information is of benefit to those who requested me to find out.

I would again wish all the residents of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a Happy Healthy Safe and Prosperous New Year of some kind of normality. I have travelled the difficult times with all of you and I am here at your service as a dedicated borough councillor.

Clr Dan Putty JP



Hatch Warren
Under Fives Preschool

HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

Hello from Hatch Warren Under Fives! We didn't expect to start 2021 with another full national lockdown and although all schools around the country are now closed, Early Years settings are currently fully open – so at Hatch Warren Under Fives we are working hard to stay safe and to make preschool fun and positive for our children, despite these strange times.

It's lovely to welcome the children back to preschool, and we've had lots of new children starting who have all settled in brilliantly. Our main focus this term is on wellbeing for the children. As routines have changed at home for most families, we are focusing much more on the area of personal, social and emotional development. It's very obvious that the children are all loving being at preschool, and we are spending much more time in the garden and on nature walks – rain or shine – which makes for very happy children when there are puddles to splash in!

Last term we spent time looking at winter and the seasons, so all of our outdoor activities this term will continue to enhance our children's understanding of the world with more weather and seasons activities in the garden and on our walks. We are also continuing to encourage the children's growing independence by practicing putting on scarves, hats, gloves and wellies before going outside.

February will be a busy month for us – we have Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year and Pancake Day to look forward to. As well as pancake races, we'll be having pancakes on the snack table and there will be lots happening on the craft tables during Valentine's Week. 2021 is the year of the Ox so we'll be celebrating Chinese New Year with some food tasting and we'll be trying to use chopsticks too!

Like most preschools and nurseries, we do have some children opting to stay at home during lockdown – so we're sending some preschool fun home each week through

the children's Tapestry accounts so they can still get involved with all of the things we are doing at preschool.

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. You can also take a virtual tour of our preschool in the video section.

We still have a few spaces remaining for this academic year. We are also now enrolling for the next academic year in September. 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

Hello from CVP!

It has been wonderful to welcome our new starters to pre-school this term as we continue to be open during this lockdown period.

We have been reading *Stickman* by Julia Donaldson, linking this with our sensory tray full of sticks and wooden clothes pegs to make our own little 'stick world'. The little ones have had so much fun exploring this area which is also full of porridge and pasta to create different textures and lots of Maths opportunities. The children have also had so much fun guessing the animals from descriptions for our Letters and Sounds work and it's amazing how many different creatures they can recognise!

Our Forest Leader Annie was out with the children all wrapped up in their winter coats, hats and gloves. Mud, sticks and leaves galore, there is so much to explore during this season!

About CVP:

We are situated in the beautiful village of Preston Candover, only 5 miles from Basingstoke and Alresford. We are a long-term Ofsted OUTSTANDING setting providing children with exceptional care and learning.

If you are interested in coming to view the Pre-School, please contact us for a Socially

Distanced Show Around. We are still also offering our usual Settling-In sessions for parents to meet their child's Key Person, ensuring children feel confident and happy when they start with us. We also offer 15 and 30 hour funded places. You can find lots of photos and information via our website or our Google listing online.

We are looking for Bank Staff Members, so please contact us if you are interested.

We look forward to welcoming you very soon!

01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

Lisa Collisson

CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School and may we wish you all a very Happy New Year. At the time of writing the children are enjoying lots of Pre-School activities – but from home due to the recent lockdown. Whilst they are thoroughly looking forward to seeing their friends again soon, they are excited to do show and tell online as well as hear stories from our teachers via the Facebook page. They are also being sent lots of fun ideas on how to stay busy at home with activity sheets and game ideas – and in the meantime our teachers are deciding how best to celebrate the children's return when it is safe to do so!

In the meantime, we have a New Year's request. Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School is in need of donations to help fund a brand new water table for the children. There are a number of ways to help – please do consider us on www.smile.amazon.co.uk and www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Allocating 'Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School' as your nominated charity on either of these platforms will mean that shops such as John Lewis, Argos and many more donate a % of your purchase price directly to our Pre-School – and at no extra admin for you!

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. www.cuckoomeadow.com

LOCAL BASINGSTOKE BUSINESS OWNER AND PODCAST HOST MATT HOLMAN HELPING TO IMPROVE THE CONVERSATION OF MENTAL HEALTH IN 2021. TALKING MENTAL HEALTH FOR 24 HOURS.

Matthew Holman, a local Basingstoke resident from birth and owner of Mental Health training and consulting company Simpila Healthy Solutions (www.simpila.com), and Podcast Host - 'Matt Holman Talks Mental Health' is planning a talking event to raise the conversation of mental health across the world.

From midday on Wednesday 3rd February until midday on Thursday 4th February, Matt will be recording 24 x 24 minute podcasts with amazing humans from around the world. The podcasts will be recorded and released each hour for listeners to follow the journey. So far conversations are already scheduled with guests from Australia, Singapore, India, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, USA and the UK.

Matt launched his podcast/YouTube channel on 19th November 2020, and finished season 1 with 18 episodes released by 23rd December 2020. The podcasts were around 30 minutes, unedited and unscripted, and recorded with people that Matt has met throughout his life and career. The conversations in the first series included many very impactful moments that the guests were comfortable to share, including Compulsive Gambling, the diagnosis of mental illnesses from Anxiety, Depression, Bipolar, the loss of a baby at birth, and even suicide discussions. No topic is off-limits if the guest is willing to discuss their story. The first guests for the channel were local Basingstoke residents Daren Bavister, Ellie Mirabita and Graham Collins, all with their own unique mental health journeys.

The idea for the Pod-A-Thon event on the 3rd-4th February came whilst planning what to do to recognise Time to Talk Day on the 4th February. Time to Talk is an event dedicated to raising the conversation of mental health. The co-ordinating charity of the day Time to Change will sadly be closing at the end of March, but the event itself will be a good chance to encourage more people to have more conversations about mental health.

The event will be raising funds for MIND (Mental Health Charity), and Basingstoke Samaritans, where Matt has been a listening volunteer since 2015. If you would like to sponsor the event any donation is gratefully received and will go towards providing listening support for those who need someone to talk to when they are struggling. You can donate here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MH2Pod-A-Thon> Matt said 'It has been incredible how well the podcast has been received by the listeners who often express how they have connected with the guests stories. The podcast was launched after a quick conversation with a friend, and then before I knew it we had set up a channel, were recording and the first season had 18 episodes. In January 2021 we already have 14 guests signed up for chats in season 2, and the guest list is almost completed for the first Pod-A-Thon.

The simple part to these conversations is that anyone is invited, everyone of us is a unique story, we all have a journey with our mental health, the impacts of the highs and lows of life, and how we see the world. Our perspective gives us the narrative to our personal story. The podcast is a channel for people to often tell their story for the first time. It not about creating celebrities, but

about creating awareness. We all have mental health, why can't we talk about it.

I am very lucky to have the chance to hear the amazing stories of so many people from the podcast, when I train companies in mental health, and when I support people through my listening work with Samaritans. I want everyone to have the same opportunity."



NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING

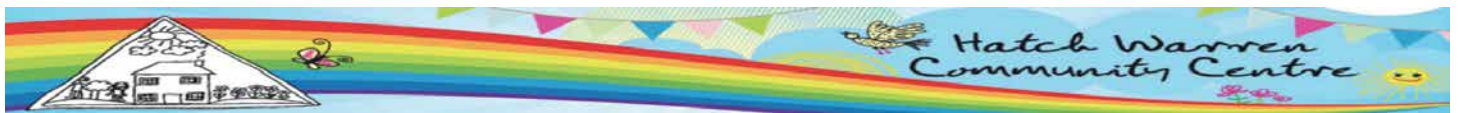
Eleven members met over Zoom to discuss the November book choice which was 'The Weight of Small Things' by Julie Lancaster. This was a challenging story written from the perspective of a nine year old. Frankie was the little girl bought up in a very dysfunctional family. The story was set in a community with an interesting cast of interlinked characters and events. We felt the book was well written but quite a depressing read which left you feeling very sad for Frankie but wanting to know what happens to her in the future. As so many shocking incidents happen in the book we felt it would make a good tv drama! The insightful writing led us to score the book a 6 out of 10.

Our December Christmas meeting was obviously held over Zoom this year but still had plenty of Christmas cheer ,a secret Santa book swap and a Christmas book quiz. The Bookworms enjoyed being delivered a book that another bookworm had loved and would like to recommend. We had a wide range of titles given from Captain Corelli's Mandolin, to the thriller Coffin Road by Peter May. Everyone enjoyed having another book to read over this period of lockdown and its been nice to hear the reviews coming through on what each other thought.

In January our chosen book is 'Away with the Penguins' by Hazel Prior. A delightful tale about a visit to the penguin colony in Antarctica. We have all been enjoying this read over the past few weeks and its the perfect tale for a bit of escapism. Fans of Elenor Oliphant is Completely Fine will enjoy this book. This is followed in February with 'Facade' by Helen Matthews. Helen is a local author and we are hoping she will join us in our Zoom meeting.

Keep on reading! Why not set yourself a reading challenge this year. One thing that The Bookworms have said is it is lovely reading books we might not have picked up otherwise and nice to try reading something we wouldn't ordinarily. Follow our Facebook page for recommendations.





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Due to the current Lockdown and ever increasing risk, we will sadly
not be opening our doors until it is safe to do so.

We have also made the tough decision not to continue our
takeaway service.

With the government advice to stay at home, we do not want to

encourage people out at this
time. We wish to keep all of our
staff and customers safe and
can't wait to see you all again
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Email: office@hatchwarren.org

Web: www.hatchwarren.org

Following us on Twitter @hatchwarren

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for any further updates on The Warren reopening.

When the current Lockdown restrictions are lifted and it is safe for The Warren to reopen, please remember booking is essential. You can find the booking forms on our Facebook page @warrenyouth



****NEW GROUP COMING SOON****

We're excited to announce Link2 is coming to The Warren, formerly the Link Club, who successfully ran for 11 years. Link2 is vital for young adults with special needs and learning difficulties. There is now an even greater need to support these young adults back into the community post Covid. If you would like further information, please email vicky@hatchwarren.org

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!

Hampshire and IOW CYP Crisis Line

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 3:00pm to 8:30pm

Telephone and email support for Children and Young People aged 11 – 17 years old.

Who are experiencing mental health crisis and living in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight.



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BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Happy New Year from Brighton Hill Community School!

2021 has started back in lockdown so once again we are all getting used to another new 'normal' but we had plenty of reasons to be cheerful when we broke up in December. Here are a few highlights:

Survival in the face of a pandemic:

We managed a whole term of face-to-face lessons without having a full or partial school closure because of an outbreak of Covid in the school, this is remarkable and shows just how hard all the staff and students worked to keep each other safe.

World domination!:

In December we were ranked 5th in the world for the number of questions the students answered on Century (an online learning platform for English, Maths and Science)!

Kindness to our community – locally and internationally:

- We managed to raise over £940 for Children in Need.
- We delivered about 200 Christmas cards to various groups and sheltered housing complexes in the community as well as to our 2 student nominated charities – St Michael's Hospice and Kings' Kids Orphanage in Uganda.
- We delivered 112kgs of food to the foodbank
- Donations were made to Spotlight
- As a school community we managed to raise enough money for the King's Kids orphans to have a hot meal on Christmas Day.

Mental wellbeing:

We relaunched our mental wellbeing App and were accredited 'Committed' for our whole school approach to mental health.

And if all this wasn't enough to celebrate and enjoy, on the last day of term students were greeted by 50 members of staff dressed as Santas as they came into school and the staff put together a Christmas music medley video of singing, lip synching and instrument playing for the students' entertainment!



So back to 2021, we are once again getting used to online learning from home (or school for the children of key workers) and being separated from our friends, but it is good to catch up with our teachers even if it is through a screen!

We hope you keep safe and well through this uncertain time.

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

Unfortunately yet again work parties are suspended. It is all so sad. Both sites are in need of attention both from the work parties and the Council. Perhaps by the time

you read this, restrictions have been eased and we can plan ahead. Before Christmas the group was able to plant a few trees on Old Down and there are more to put in (group members are growing some on at their homes).

It is difficult to know how birdlife is faring on the sites as of course the group has been unable to visit the sites for proper record keeping. But the corvids seem in usual numbers, red kites are drifting above and many sparrows and goldfinches are around. There is still disturbance from the housing developments and this will be going on for a very long time. Inevitably this will affect birdlife on Old Down in particular.

A new surprising sighting in the Kempshott area has been some *Stonechats* – seen along the Basingstoke/Oakley permissive footpath/cycle path. Very pretty small birds, the male having with distinctive markings on the head and nape (see photos). They make a clack sound (sounding a bit like two stones hit together – hence the name) rather than a song. Last month I mentioned a scarce winter visitor – the *Siskin*. It is great to report that a male *Siskin* was spotted on Old Down in early January. Not a common sight on Old Down.



Male Stonechat



Female Stonechat

Work Parties – Suspended for the time being but when resumed - for Old Down, we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12 noon and for Beggarwood 10-12noon on every first Tuesday of the month. Check our website for up-dates.

www.olddownandbeggardwood.org.uk

Email: odandbwd@gmail.com

BASINGSTOKE U3A STILL LOCKED IN BUT DEFINITELY NOT LOCKED OUT

Despite another lockdown, Basingstoke's U3A will not be beaten, with more than 30 activities for members to enjoy! The 'emailer's' include a weekly quiz group, music and words, cooking for men. Circle dancers are practising their steps at home, with the help of YouTube trainers. 'Zoomers' are getting together, including art appreciation, biography, the environment, needles and pins. Members without online access are kept in touch too, with a monthly newsletter delivery.

Creative Writing Group

We started the Creative Writing group last September and members now Zoom twice a month, to discuss their writing and work on various schemes together. The focus of the group is writing for fun and includes all levels of ability, from those who occasionally write the odd short piece to those who take it quite seriously. Some have submitted work to the Bramley and Basingstoke writing competitions. One member writes mostly poetry and another has self-published three novels on Amazon.

Monthly webinars

We are running a series of live webinars, using Zoom. In February, we will see "Heroes and Villains of the Basingstoke Canal" and in March a talk about Henry VIII's life and his wives. As always, there are further details on <https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/> or alternatively ring 07787 520281 to speak to us. We're on Facebook now too! Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a>. Membership is £15 from now until end August, with unlimited access to all our activities, so do give us a try.

••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• All you need is love •

- 'All You Need is Love' is the title of one of the Beatles most famous songs. I wonder what you think about the song?
- Is love the most the most important thing in life? During February many of us turn our thoughts to love as we celebrate Valentine's day. It is hard to imagine how only a year ago we were able to go out freely to pubs and restaurants and celebrate this day. This year will be so different as we will still be in a lock down.
- St Valentine was known for being a deeply romantic figure.
- Over time the focus of Valentine's day has been one of romantic love so not surprisingly it is the fifth most popular day for marriage proposals. In the past it was a day when all love was celebrated. The love between parents and children, between siblings, friends and God's love for us and his creation. Christians believe the greatest love of all this, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16. God demonstrated his love for us in the unfolding events of Holy Week and it continues to have an effect on our lives today.
- In our news we see many acts of great love. Those working on the frontline in our communities, those who volunteer to help others – I'm sure you can add to this list. One person who has hit the headlines is the footballer Marcus Rashford who has shown his love for those children struggling to have food in the school holidays. His compassion saw him confronting the politicians for change and action. Jesus too was not afraid to confront those in authority and to seek justice and action to transform the lives of those in need.
- The season of Lent is fast approaching and begins on 17 February with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time when many people think about something to give up for six weeks, or maybe take on something new. It is a season where we can reflect and prepare ourselves before the celebrations of Easter.
- At Immanuel Church we have taken the decision to not hold services in the church building during this lockdown but you can join us anytime at our online service Worship@home on the church website and Facebook. Immanuel Church is here for all of the community so please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you. At 10am every Monday we meet for an hour on Zoom to pray for the community, the school and Immanuel. If you would like to join us or you would like us to pray for you or a particular situation, please email me. We have also started a Communion Service on Wednesdays at 10am on Zoom. For joining details contact Rev May.
- May God hold us in the palm of his hands as we navigate our way through this month.
- Blessings,
- **Rev May**
- 07922 516761
- revmay@immanuelhwb.co.uk
- www.immanuelhwb.co.uk

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CAGE NEWS UPDATE

www.cleanairgreenenvironment.org

Happy New Year to all CAGE supporters!

After the Christmas break we thought you'd like to know what's happening at the start of 2021.

We now have another opportunity to let Basingstoke Council know how strongly we object to the Newlands' warehouse development. The warehouse hub is shown as a possible feature of the COUNCIL'S VISION DOCUMENT www.basingstoke.gov.uk/visionM3-j7-land. Please write or email to object to the inclusion of the development in the document by the 15th January - if you cannot meet this deadline, please still write as all letters count.

LETTERS OF OBJECTION TO THE TWO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(20/02162/OUT & 20/02586/FUL) These continue to be written, so please make sure you have responded to both applications. See: www.cleanairgreenenvironment.org.

It is annoying to have to write twice but the developers have a strategy to get their planning applications passed and CAGE campaigners need to take action.

TREES AT OAKDOWN FARM.

This old avenue of oak trees lined the road into Dummer before the M3 was built. It was hoped that the Tree Officers at Basingstoke Council would make it clear that these trees should be protected but we are to be disappointed. In their report they stated: the applicant's tree plans are 'acceptable and appropriate' even though all these trees are to be demolished for the



access road and car park and despite the admission by the developer's arboricultural expert that this avenue of mature oaks is of a significant quality with a 'high aesthetic appearance'.

AIR POLLUTION

This article <https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/18958952.air-quality-figures-basingstoke-revealed> from the Basingstoke Gazette talks about the measurement of pollution at various sites in and around Basingstoke. The estimated 4,000 traffic movements every day at the warehouse site, will impact on the air quality in the area. The potential increases in emissions from traffic, housing and consequent pollution from nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide and particulates should be accurately researched before any more building goes ahead. Make sure that your local councillors and MPs (Ward councillors: Diane Taylor, Stuart Frost and Hannah Golding, MPs: Kit Malthouse and Maria Miller) know about your environmental concerns.

We will be posting on Facebook and WhatsApp regularly to keep you informed. If you wish to join the **A30 Distribution Hub WhatsApp** please phone: 0208-638-6131

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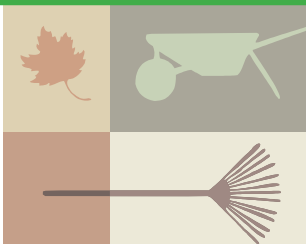
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READ EASY BASINGSTOKE

Read Easy Basingstoke set up in August 2019 as a **free** service to help adults who struggle with reading. We were delighted to have been able to celebrate in December, in a social distancing setting, our very first graduation. Despite all the difficulties of 2020, Joelma and her Coach, Claire have managed to continue their coaching sessions, one way or another. In the second lockdown, they both had reading manuals and continued their sessions over the phone which worked surprisingly well.

Claire says that Joelma has made fantastic progress and Joelma is thrilled that she now feels sufficiently confident to read to her children, and help them with their own reading. It has been life changing for her.

A very proud moment for both of them:

Our Volunteer Coaches have been training online which means that coaching sessions for Readers can take place during this Lockdown safely from home. Readers can do their coaching sessions online with tablets, which we will supply at no cost, or otherwise on their phones. Help will of course be given on how to use the tablets, but it's as easy as pressing a button!

Our services are **completely free** and so please get in touch if you know someone who might benefit. With 2.4 million adults in England, and at least 7,000 in Basingstoke, who cannot read at all or who can barely read, we know there is a huge need for our service.

Please call us on 07952 450 789 or email basingstoke@readeasy.org.uk



Joelma's graduation

DOMESTIC LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCES

With the third lockdown upon us, and, therefore, no restaurant reviews to write for the Rabbitter by my partner, I was getting fed up thinking what to put on the table to eat each day. I did not consider we ate out that much but then I remembered all the times I met friends in town or Reading for lunch or a coffee, a club which meets once a month over lunch at BCot, my partner's monthly clubs which meant on those days I could please myself and not think what to cook, and then the times when we were out together and stopped somewhere for lunch. All in all, quite a few meals away from the cooker.

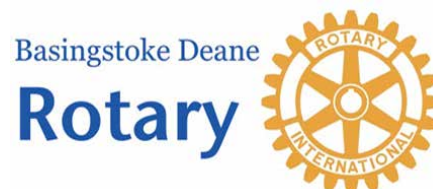
We had not been well which left us devoid of energy and last week the only food I fancied was a McDonald's. With all due respects to those who regularly eat this food, for us it is about a once-a-year treat. However, the desire to eat a burger and chips was so strong I investigated ordering via Just Eat. We easily made our selection and twenty minutes later a polite young lady delivered our food. Yes, it could have been a tad hotter - a quick flash in the microwave would easily solve that problem - but that was not going to stop us tucking in. We thoroughly enjoyed it and after my initial hesitancy I would certainly do something similar again.

Many readers experienced great lockdown frustrations when ordering on-line groceries. During the first lockdown we had great problems getting deliveries even with a company I used regularly. However, it sorted itself out and we managed with occasional trips to a supermarket between

deliveries. Due to the generosity of family, over Christmas and afterwards we were well stocked up with food in the form of hampers (put together by the family members suitable for our needs) and so it was not until 4th January that I went online to place an order with my usual retailer. No slots were available until 24 January at 10 pm (even for someone they recognise as being vulnerable and elderly). Knowing that we could not survive for that length of time I was advised to try Amazon Fresh. Again, this was a new experience and the order placed on January 5th was delivered at 3pm on January 6th. All the food was totally acceptable and delivered in paper bags which could immediately be recycled. I can thoroughly recommend them.

Frustrated at lack of delivery slots with my usual retailer I emailed their chief executive. I received a call the next morning! Of course I was advised (and also fully aware of) the extra work they had in lockdown but I pointed out that as we were KNOWN to them as a priority surely some IT whizz kid could make a program only available to those on the priority list to give guaranteed access, rather than fighting for a slot with everyone else. He said he would flag it up at the next team briefing. Let's hope so. I know you can forward plan by bagging a slot and ordering anything to exceed the minimum order price, but when you are not well, ordering food is not always your top priority. If things change, I will let you know.

Meantime - back to the drawing board for dinner tonight!



And so we review our year

We helped Mencap sell some of their produce, which raised much needed money for them and fund the replacement of their dying van.

We also helped Besom replace their van.

We purchased equipment for Helping Hands for the Blind

We supported the Spotlight food bank both financially and with drivers in the longer term to help deliver food parcels.

We have again supported Age Concern with their social therapy groups.

We continue to support Lend with Care, a microfinance charity which enables people in the UK to make small loans to entrepreneurs from poor communities around the world.

Against all the odds we managed to set up a pop-up restaurant to provide Christmas lunch for the clients and volunteers of the Camrose Centre who do wonderful work caring for the homeless in the borough

As Rotarians, the icing on the cake at the end of 2020 was that, at very short notice, we, along with the other Rotary Clubs in North Hampshire were asked to help the local GP practices with setting up the site and marshalling patients for the vaccination programme. It's our hope for the future.

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