

THE Rabbiter



Issue 279 March 2021

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EDITORIAL

Many of us listened to the Prime Ministers announcement regarding the roadmap out of lock-down with their fingers and toes crossed that we would all be meeting up very soon. We were hoping that the bag of Christmas presents would be opened, the pudding cooked and eaten and maybe even a few crackers pulled to celebrate meeting up again. A friend told me recently that they have kept their Christmas tree with lights in the house to cheer themselves up – they felt they were still waiting for everyone to join them and celebrate. However, the end is in sight now we hope. Vaccinations are going well – congratulations to those managing the Hampshire Court Hotel centre where I went for their amazing and efficient organisation. The Hatch Warren Community Centre is looking forward to opening their doors again with the After Schools Club re-opening on 8 March. The Café in the Park are hoping to be able to open for takeaway coffee (and cake I hope!) during March. All being well, the Community Lunch will start again on the first Thursday in July – fingers crossed!

Is there no stopping Richard at The Portsmouth Arms? Not only is he still running his Quiz Nights to raise money for charity he is walking 10,000 steps a day during February to raise money for Basingstoke and District Young Carers. Well done that man and his dog! The Saturday market in the car park at The Portsmouth Arms continues to go from strength to strength. It opens at 10am – but get there early if you want to buy bread and cake from Indigo Bakes or meat and vegetables from Fernworth Farm. There was a pie maker there last Saturday and I am looking forward to trying their wares this week. Plus lots of other local stalls.

Hatch Warren WI are continuing to meet via Zoom and the March meeting looks just what I need – The Life Changing Magic of Tidying – see page 6 for details.

The proposed development of warehouses at Junction 7 is due to be discussed by the local Council in early March – see page 15 for details. There is considerable concern regarding the removal of trees both here and at Basingstoke Golf Club site where 1000 homes are scheduled to be built.

Beggarwood Bookworms are busy reading. The February book is Façade by Helen Matthews who joined the group's Zoom on 24 February – more on this next month. See page 15 for details of the March book. And a big thank you to all the members of the group who shop and support each other during lock-down.

It seems that there have been more nuisance calls during lock-down and many of these are linked to scams – see page 22 for advice on how to protect yourself from these fraud calls.

As the weather improves during March we will be able to get out more for a walk and to enjoy the local gardens. The bright daffodils on the front cover of this month's edition definitely bring a smile and hope for the future. Stay safe and well everyone.

The Editor

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

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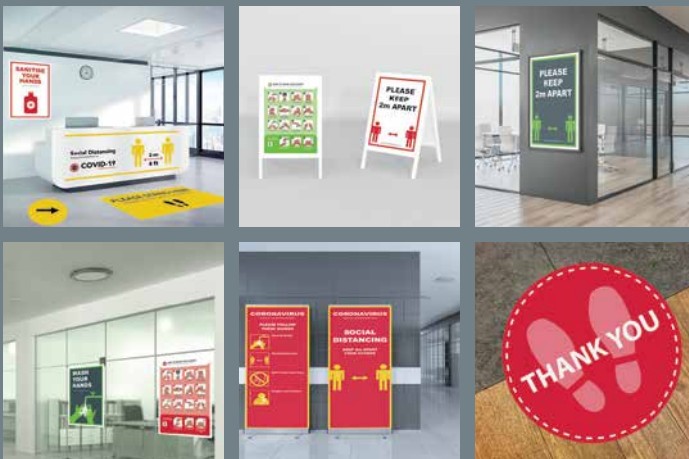
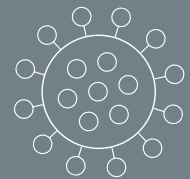
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HATCH WARREN W.I.

Ladies of Hatch Warren W.I. were taken on a magical train journey with fellow member Liz as she recounted her experiences of having taken early retirement and with her husband decided to travel the world for two years. Having left Basingstoke they set off for Paris and then onto Zurich and Milan, before boarding the Orient Express to Venice. On to Budapest, Bratislava to Krakow, Bialystock to Vilnius and St. Petersburg in Russia. They then transferred to the Trans-Siberian railway for their journey to Beijing. The best restaurant car on their journey was crossing Mongolia. They had to change wheels on the train when they crossed from Russia to Mongolia as the train track is a different gauge, Liz said this was quite an experience to watch. When they arrived in Beijing they took a tour bus and the other passenger on the trip turned out to be from Basingstoke. The experience of seeing the Terracotta Army was a huge highlight of their trip. Liz ended her talk at Shanghai and we hope that later on she will return to tell us more about her adventures.

Following the very successful 'Gin tasting' evening we are going to have a Zoom chocolate tasting evening with Hotel Chocolat on 11th March and we are also hoping to have a cheese tasting evening later in the Spring.

There are Zoom talks to be enjoyed this month including, Rob Shenton 'Running for Life', Lyn Burrows 'Quirky birds Paint-along', next month there will be a cook-along and a talk on creating a garden for all from HCFWI.

There is going to be an exhibition of 'What the Bride Wore' at Viables in July and all W.I. members have been asked if they can contribute to this exhibition. Hattie's Huddles found one of our members writing about her own Bridal experience which was very interesting.

As more of us become eligible for our Jobs we are hoping that we will soon be able to start our monthly meeting in person but until that wonderful date we look forward to welcoming new members to our Zoom meetings and coffee and chat morning, craft group and genealogy group. If you would like to join us please contact our President Lynette on 07824 535868.

Our speaker for next month will be Sue Spencer 'The Life Changing Magic of Tidying' on Thursday 4th March at 7.30 p.m.

Members would like to say a big thank you to all who are providing the roll out of the vaccinations in this area.



Disability Awareness Day
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COUNCIL CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR PROGRAMME OF SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

With the ongoing uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is exploring options to safely deliver a programme of outdoor arts, music and performances this summer.

Basingstoke Festival is set to make a return to the borough this summer with 17 days of performances, music, dance and arts between Friday 25 June and Sunday 11 July 2021.

Due to the uncertainty of social distancing restrictions which may still be in place and to keep Basingstoke and Deane safe, the borough council is working with artists and local art organisations to explore how it can hold virtual and socially distanced events.

However, it is unlikely that crowds will be able to return for B LOVE Festival, which brings over 100 live music acts, family entertainment and art in unusual places to War Memorial Park and is the finale event of Basingstoke Festival.

While work continues to investigate how the festival can be safely delivered in line with government restrictions which may be in place in the summer, there is still plenty to look forward to.

From February, the council's Art in Unusual Times virtual programme, in partnership with local artists and organisations, will bring residents the best in arts and crafts, dance, theatre performances and public art.

Activities include arts and craft sessions using recycled materials with Basingstoke-based entertainer Junk Jodie, interactive Basing-folk storytelling sessions with local theatre company Pumpkin Pantos and the return of the successful Window Wonderland project which will return to communities across the borough, filling their windows with bright and colourful art.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: "We know the COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for residents across the borough and we are keen to provide a fun-filled programme of entertainment this summer that everyone can look forward to.

"But ultimately, the safety of our residents must come first and we are continuing to monitor the latest government guidance and are working with art organisations and members of the arts and culture industry to understand how we may be able to safely deliver the annual Basingstoke Festival.

"We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations in our borough. I am pleased that we are able to bring residents an exciting selection of virtual arts and culture through our Art in Unusual Times programme which we hope will bring some much-needed entertainment to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes."

For lots more to see and do, visit www.basingstokefestival.co.uk @BasingstokeFestival on Facebook and @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram

EXPLORE THE BEST OF BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE FOLLOWING LAUNCH OF NEW LOVE BASINGSTOKE WEBSITE

An exciting new website showcasing the best of Basingstoke and Deane and providing information for residents, visitors and businesses has been launched.

The new Love Basingstoke website – www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk – provides a one-stop-shop with lots information and advice for residents, visitors and those looking to move to the area, including the very best of local heritage and stunning views, culture and events, attractions, food and drink, places to stay and much more.

For those already living in the borough, there is a section of the website dedicated to showcasing communities across Basingstoke and Deane, inspiration for walking and cycling routes, information on local transport and education and details of businesses that are currently open.

Aiming to ensure Basingstoke and Deane remains high on the list for attracting external investment, it showcases the ambitious development projects under way including the £500 million regeneration of Basing View, a new garden community with up to 3,520 new homes and facilities at Manydown and a planned transformation of Basingstoke Leisure Park.

A key part of the borough's economic recovery, the new website also includes plenty of support for businesses with information on financial support, tips to grow your business, networking opportunities and information for those looking to relocate to the borough.

Over 50 small and independent businesses in the borough are also getting a chance to sell their products online to residents and those further afield through The Borough Basket, which forms part of the new Love Basingstoke website.

The website will be regularly updated and residents and businesses are being invited to contribute to the content to ensure it continues to highlight everything the borough has to offer.

Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "Basingstoke and Deane is a great place to live, visit and work and this new website is a great way of showcasing everything we have to offer, from things to see and do to the work we are doing to plan for the future, all in one place.

"As we look ahead to the borough's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Love Basingstoke website will have a key role to play in highlighting and supporting our strong and diverse business community, encouraging more businesses to come and grow with us and promoting investment opportunities to ensure the borough remains a great place to live and work for years to come.

"I hope visitors to the site will take time to explore what's on offer and get inspiration for getting out and about when the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions are lifted and the warmer weather arrives."

The Borough Basket and Love Basingstoke platform was set up by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, The Designlab and partners through the Love Basingstoke group, and is supported by IncuHive Business Incubation services who assists shop owners with business advice.

The Love Basingstoke group comprises Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Basingstoke Together Business Improvement District, Destination Basingstoke, The Malls, Festival Place, Basing View, Anvil Arts, BDT and London Clancy property agents.

Find out more at www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk



ISOLATION BUSTING GROUP LAUNCHED

Peter and Margaret Humphreys are a Basingstoke couple who have suffered from tinnitus for many years and it has got worse as they have got older. Tinnitus is the name for noises in your head that are not coming from outside of yourself. It is a condition which often leads to a feeling of isolation and depression which can be helped by contact with others in a similar situation. It is a very common condition which can affect 1 in 3 of people at some point in their lives. Elsewhere in the country there are support groups, but not in Basingstoke.

Recently there was the National Tinnitus Week. You can find information on this and a lot more on the British Tinnitus Association web site (tinnitus.org.uk). So to mark this Peter and Margaret decided to see if there is interest in creating a Basingstoke and Area Tinnitus Support Group. The aim of the group would be 'isolation busting', by sharing experiences, passing information and advice and social and networking opportunities. It would have regular meetings starting on Zoom



and then, when safe and allowed, moving to physical meetings.

If you are interested in joining this group or would like to find out more, please either email baatingroup@outlook.com, with your name and phone number or phone Basingstoke Voluntary Action on 01256 423816 to let them know of your interest. The plan is to have regular meetings at first on Zoom and then when safe and legal, to move to physical meetings at a convenient location in the Basingstoke area. It is no problem at all if you can't access email, Zoom or a phone. Just write to Peter and Margaret at Basingstoke and Area Tinnitus Support Group c/o BVA, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke RG21 4AF. They will respond to everyone who contacts them.

RESIDENTS TO BE PROUD OF

Hatch Warren and Beggarwood can be very proud of mother Jacqueline and son Jordan who I met collecting many bags of rubbish thrown by irresponsible people in Kempshott Rise. Cans, papers, wrappings and many other items of rubbish are discarded throughout Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

As borough councillor I feel so PROUD of BOTH OF THEM and CONGRATULATE THEM for making our lives better.

MY SINCERE THANKS TO THEM ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY.

Best regards stay safe and healthy

Cllr Dan Putty JP



Cllr Dan Putty with Jaqueline

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HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF BASINGSTOKE TOWN CENTRE

Residents and businesses across the borough are being asked to share their views to help shape the long-term future of Basingstoke town centre.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has appointed a team of experts in looking at how places can be transformed, including HemingwayDesign with Allies and Morrison and JLL, to help develop an ambitious strategy for the town centre area.

High streets across the UK have experienced, and continue to experience, the effects of changes in shopping habits. Although Basingstoke town centre, including Festival Place and The Malls, has had success in attracting investment and new retailers in recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that town centres across the country are facing significant challenges, such as a decline in footfall and shop closures.

Recognising the importance of a sustainable town centre as a key part of the borough's recovery from the pandemic, the aim is to create a vision and masterplan to guide work and ensure the town centre offers an exciting shopping, leisure and cultural experience.

The study carried out by experts over the next six months will include comprehensive engagement with residents, businesses and other groups

and a detailed analysis of the town's requirements and aspirations to create a final vision and masterplan.

Working closely with town centre partners, this long-term vision will ensure the council can provide support where it is most needed and maximise joint development and investment opportunities.

Residents, businesses, organisations and visitors are being encouraged to share their views of the town centre, their shopping habits and what they would like to see to improve the area in future years by taking part in an online survey at www.talkbasingstoketowncentre.co.uk. Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live our lives and as we plan for the borough's economic recovery, it is important that look at how we can ensure our town centre remains a top shopping and leisure destination that attracts people to the area.

"We have lots to be positive about and it will be important for us to build upon our key strengths, including heritage, our mix of retailers and strong arts and culture offer, while addressing issues such as connectivity, how we incorporate our town centre parks and sustainable travel. "We cannot do this alone and I would

encourage everyone to share their feedback as it will be important for us to understand how we can improve our offer to help shape our final strategy and ensure the town centre responds to changing customer expectations in the future."

Wayne Hemingway MBE Co-founder of HemingwayDesign said: "All of us know how town centres have been facing a multitude of challenges resulting from a change in our shopping habits and spending preferences. COVID-19 has accelerated this and progressive towns and cities are soul searching, and making plans and taking actions to ensure that they purposefully enter these changing times and positively embrace these societal shifts to become places that have something for all residents, businesses and visitors whether it be places to shop, socialise, enjoy leisure facilities, live and work.

"We urge all of you to have your say, after all it's you who are driving these changes so tell us what you want from the future of your town centre, and what you want to do and see there. So hit this www.talkbasingstoketowncentre.co.uk please and empty your head - we promise we are listening!"

The survey will be open from Monday 15 February to Friday 19 March at www.talkbasingstoketowncentre.co.uk

CAMROSE CENTRE FOR HOMELESS AND VULNERABLY HOUSED PEOPLE IN BASINGSTOKE

Thanks to the amazing staff at GO Outdoors Basingstoke who went above and beyond recently when we went to purchase boots for our clients only to find our voucher had expired!

We had been gifted the £300 voucher which Camrose Support Worker Chris Jenner wanted to use to buy some walking boots that met the needs of our rough sleeper clients.

Thankfully Store Manager Stuart was able to reactivate our expired voucher as well as agree to an amazing series of discounts which enabled us to buy 15 pairs of sturdy new boots.

Chris said "Staff member Gary spent over 2 hours going through nearly every boot in the shop explaining the pros and cons

of each. At no time was there any rush or were we made to feel we were being a pain. These are good quality boots that

will last clients a few years. Thanks to Go Outdoors for being so helpful and wanting to help our clients".



Gary from Go Outdoors with Chris from Camrose

HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER: BUILDING A BETTER NETWORK OF CARE

The ambition of the Hampshire Together programme goes beyond building a new hospital to serve north and mid Hampshire - the aim is to give local people a truly joined-up system of NHS and social care.

Bringing teams and services closer together is the right approach for everyone. For patients, it means better results and a better experience, while for staff, it means that skills can be developed and pressures better managed.

The process of integrating services is already well underway across north and mid Hampshire, and the Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Service programme offers a rare chance to accelerate that process of change further.

Much of the focus of Hampshire Together may appear to be on the provision of new facilities, including the potential for a hospital as part of the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan. However, behind the scenes, the process already involves GPs, mental health and social care teams, community services and charities, all working together alongside hospital teams and commissioners.

The shared focus is on finding ways to building a network of outstanding care, both inside hospitals and within communities, delivered in the right place, at the right time and by the right health healthcare professional.

Dr Matt Nisbet, a local GP and a clinical lead at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of CCGs, said: "In the past the NHS tended to ask patients to fit in with the system. Now our task is to design a system that fits around the needs of our patients.

"The Hampshire Together project is a rare and exciting opportunity for us all. It gives us the chance to look again at how our health and care services work together, and how we serve our patients.

"And we can only get that right if we hear from the people who use local services. During public consultation, which is due to take place this year, it will be invaluable for us to hear from people about their experiences, what has worked for them, and what doesn't work."

There is already a huge amount of work underway to build a network of care in

north and mid Hampshire – one which reduces the amounts of times patients are passed from one team to another, and provides better, more convenient care.

"Positive changes have already been made – but our challenge now is to go further still, and improve care for more people," said Dr Nisbet. "For example, we are currently working on a successful system where hospital-based paediatricians hold monthly meetings in GP surgeries, bringing together a wide range of staff to discuss patients. It helps build relationships, and means that those young patients get better, faster care."

Other examples include GP spending time on placements with hospital teams, and the development of integrated care teams – groups of staff members from a range of organisations and disciplines working together for the benefit of the people under their care.



MEALS ON WHEELS: THE CAMROSE CENTRE IS STILL HELPING THE HOMELESS DURING LOCKDOWN

Staff and volunteers from The Camrose Centre have set up a temporary 'meals on wheels' service, delivering hot food to clients. Homeless and vulnerably housed people are unable to access food or support which they usually get from The Camrose day sessions, as the Centre is currently closed for lockdown. Clients are being housed during this time (via temporary Government funding) in several hotels in the region, but food is not included.

Camrose staff have begun deliveries of the hot meals, which are prepared by volunteers at the Camrose Centre kitchen and personally delivered three times a week.

Clients are being supplied with a hot meal such as sausage casserole and mashed potato, followed by home-made cheesecake, along with additional food packs, toiletries and underwear.

Centre Manager Clare Farrow said "Our homeless clients are missing the atmosphere

and care that they normally receive when they come to the Camrose Centre. With the help of staff and volunteers, we can come to them while lockdown continues."

To help us continue to support the homeless and vulnerably housed in Basingstoke please consider donating here >> <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14589>



Volunteers Jen and Leo prepare takeaway boxes with hot food.



PROBUS HEARS ABOUT ADVENTURES IN A MOTORHOME

In the years leading up to retirement, Probus Club member Dr Jeff Grover and his partner, Mary, had travelled the four corners of the globe and post retirement had intended to continue their adventures.

By 23 March 2020 they had planned to jet off to Las Vegas to hit the tables, ride in a helicopter over the Grand Canyon and horse ride on a nearby ranch before moving across to LA for a relaxing Mexican cruise.

Then the 'big C' put an abrupt stop to these ambitions – no, not cancer, but Covid -19. Lockdowns, isolation, on-line shopping, bubbles and Zoom all entered our vocabulary but underpinning all this was 'Where can we go on holiday?'

Jeff explains that they had often thought about buying a motorhome but now this had become a genuine option and bought a thirteen year old 2-berth motorhome, with only 16,000 miles on the clock, which fulfilled all our requirements. We had several test runs to the New Forest and south coast each time improving our experiences with this new way of holidaying.

This was all in preparation for the BIG ONE. Two weeks in Scotland negotiating the North Coast 500 during September 2020. This is 500 miles, driving, in our case, anticlockwise from Inverness up the east coast to John O'Groats, turning left towards Durness, and returning to Inverness down the spectacular setting of the west coast of Scotland.

The other important difference from our southerly sojourns was the introduction of wild camping which is legal in Scotland. Simply put, this involved finding a suitable parking place, lay-by, or car park where we stayed for the night free gratis. Once darkness descends all traffic ceases and a good night's sleep is guaranteed.

We motored northwards up the east coast until we finally arrived at John O'Groats where we parked up for the night. We had arrived! This motor-homing lark was becoming a doddle. However, there was a gale coming off the North Sea but our four wheels clung tenaciously to the tarmac. The following morning, we



headed off to Dunnet Head – actually, the most northerly part of mainland UK before staying in a campsite by the beach in the metropolis of Thurso.

Continuing eastwards along the top of Scotland we negotiated the single-track roads with their often, hair-raising passing spaces along the way. We wild camped at every stop over, most memorably one overlooking a small bay, where when opening the bedroom curtains in the morning we were met with a mesmerising sea of tranquil beauty.

The scenery was stunning. Particularly surprising were the expansive but empty sandy beaches located in every bay. If it wasn't for the weather the Scottish west coast could easily rival any Spanish Costa. The dramatic, moody, mountains (or munros), sheltered valleys coated in bracken and thistle with lochs surrounded by water sodden peat – all with virtually no sign of habitation, were magnificent.

Another highpoint (pun intended) was the route towards Applecross, which has the steepest ascent of any road climb in the UK, rising from sea level at Applecross to 2,054 ft, and is the third highest road in Scotland. This put the motorhome and its driver (me) through their paces negotiating the hairpin bends and testing the efficiency of the brakes and strength of nerve of both occupants.

Walks, whisky tasting (of course), beaches and magnificent scenery were all highpoints of our motorhome adventure. We finished our Scottish adventure at Gretna Green where we spurned the anvil but enjoyed a delicious Scottish breakfast before crossing the border to go home. In total we travelled in excess of 2000 miles in 14 days without incident or trouble.

The secrets of motor homing are patience and tolerance. It takes a while to get used

to living in such a confined space, whilst sharing the minutia of everyday life and leaving all inhibitions behind you.

Was the purchase of our motor home a good decision? The answer is yes definitely! Trips to France and Spain have already been mooted, although we could take off at any time to any part of the UK once Covid restrictions are lifted.

Having said this however, we have booked a flight to Argentina in December 2021!!!!



COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL? I expect we all know someone who has now received their vaccination against COVID and the local feeling seems to be much more optimistic than it was a few months ago. If you are not registered with a GP surgery, you may wish to consider doing so, as the invitations are being managed using the doctors' lists. Please be wary of scams that try to extort money from you: the NHS injections are free.

HOSPITAL CONSULTATION: 'Hampshire Together' is planning a major consultation exercise regarding a new hospital in Basingstoke, one potential site for which is near junction 7 of the M3. The first stage is to find out what form the consultation should take. People are being asked how they would like to receive information and provide feedback on potential changes to hospital services.

The Hampshire Together programme was set up in response to the New Hospital Programme as part of the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan, which named north and mid Hampshire as one of the areas to receive funding for new facilities. You are invited to visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HampshireTogetherSurvey> to take part in the online survey, which will close at 5pm on Thursday 24 March 2021.

CYCLING AND WALKING: County and Borough Council officers are working together to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Borough. This is a strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements and is the basis on which government funding can be accessed. A stakeholder workshop is planned in March 2021 and details will be published shortly.

ALSO ON THE SUBJECT OF CYCLING: Hampshire County Council has been running a consultation on proposals for improving the cycle path that runs from the Brighton Hill roundabout to Sullivan Road. The proposal is to construct a new 3 metre wide cycle track. Here is a plan:



TREE FELLING AT THE GOLF COURSE: It looked as if another controversy was brewing about tree felling along the A30. Bloor Homes want to fell trees at the entrance to the Golf Course in preparation for its development with housing. As happened last year with Hounsme Fields, residents are worried about the impact on nesting birds, given that the nesting season has started. My latest information is that Bloor will delay the felling until after the nesting season.

BEGGARWOOD ROADS: Taylor Wimpey have conducted a survey of the un-adopted roads in Beggarwood that are still in their care, and residents are reporting that many of the street lights have been repaired. I have also received a query about the white-lining on those roads, which is faded and needs refreshing, and I am asking whether this can be undertaken.

BEGGARWOOD SURGERY: Staffing changes are taking place at our local surgery. Dr. Oshiga has left and the surgery has therefore advertised for a replacement, as well as another permanent doctor. This will mean that the surgery can provide three GPs for all days. The practice is also advertising for further nurses. Progress will be discussed at the next meeting of the Patient Participation Group.

GRIT BIN: Following my representations to County Council officers, I can confirm that a new grit bin will be installed in Gloucester Drive. As residents will know, this road is on a steep slope. It appears that a bin was originally intended near the top but was never actually installed due to worries about leakage and the impact on planted areas around it. However, the Council has agreed to identify a more suitable site and install the extra bin.

DISTRIBUTION DEPOT: CAGE, the pressure group, has been highlighting some of the implications of the planning application near Junction 7. One of them is that the lovely avenue of mature Oak Trees that leads up to Oakdown Farm is destined to be felled. The Tree Officers at the Borough Council have accepted this even though the arboriculture expert has acknowledged that the mature oaks are of a significant quality with a high aesthetic appearance.

NEW GROUP COMING: the Hatch Warren Centre has announced that a new group, Link 2, is coming to the Warren. This was previously the Link Club which ran for 11 years. It will help young adults with special needs and learning difficulties, which is even more important now, following the disruption caused by COVID.

AND FINALLY Please continue to be vigilant and protect yourselves from COVID. We have come a long way and it would be awful if anything happened now.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor.

Basingstoke South West 07976 310206



Hatch Warren
Under Fives Preschool

HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We're really enjoying seeing the signs of spring appearing at Hatch Warren Under Fives – a reminder that brighter days are coming.

We're continuing to spend lots of time outdoors and the children have been great detectives and really taken notice of the seasonal changes in the garden. They have pointed out new leaves on trees and we're starting to see some flowers coming through too. We're looking forward to doing our own bit of gardening later this term and planting some spring bulbs and vegetables.

We're currently revamping our preschool garden and introducing choosing units to encourage independence for the children with their outdoor activities. We're also installing curiosity approach equipment, such as crates, planks and obstacles, to encourage problem solving, sharing, and turn taking.

February was a busy month at Hatch Warren Under Fives - we enjoyed Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Valentine's Day. And coming up in March we have World Book Day, we're planning a wonderful day celebrating our favourite books and encouraging our children to get involved with our



fabulous stories through the day. We will also be celebrating St David's Day and St

Patrick's Day, and of course, Mother's Day. We expect to see lots of busy hands at the craft tables making surprises for Mummy! Easter comes early this year too, so there might even be some eggs to find hidden around the garden.

Numbers are part of our everyday play at preschool – this term we have created ladybirds and number trains with the children, we have used our counting skills when selling items in our role play shop, as well as using numbers in our small group activities and in singing games. Our favourite number songs are Currant Buns, Speckled Frogs and Little Men in a Flying Saucer.

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 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.

Read more about our preschools at www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk

CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School! This month the children have all been learning all about winter animals, baby animals and pet animals – so whether it's R for rabbit, S for snake or T for tarantula, the children's imagination has truly been sparked. Can we just apologise to any parents who are now having pleas for pets big and small!! There have been stories about Hairy Maclary and show and tell with the letters Q, R and S – with the children fully embracing the remote learning and videos filmed by our wonderful staff.

Our teachers continue to share fun ideas on how to stay busy at home with activity sheets and game ideas. The plan is to return to Pre-School when primary schools reopen, which is awaited with much eagerness from children, teachers and parents alike. In the meantime, for the latest

news from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cuckoomeadowpreschool.

Following the theme of online support, we also invite you to take part in the Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School lottery. This lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children. It's a fantastic way to bring parents, carers, teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our Pre-School, and at the same time give something back. Visit www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk and search for: Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School.

Lastly, may we please ask again that you continue to support us – and thanks so much to the parents (past and present) and community members who have been in touch. As mentioned last month Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School is in need of donations to help fund a brand new water table for the children. 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!

To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172. www.cuckoomeadow.co.uk

SHOOTING STARS

School Vision, Mission Statement and Values

What we do... Our purpose is to provide highly effective teaching experiences and opportunities which support each individual child, enabling them to make significant progress. We achieve this by working closely with families and never using a 'one size fits all approach'.

Why we do it... To teach children to 'reach for the stars and shine' so that they develop life skills and learning behaviours to equip them for their learning journey throughout life.

Our core values...

We go above and beyond to be the best
We encourage challenge and curiosity
We are passionate
We are positive
We are reliable and trustworthy
We are unique

Shooting Stars Parent Comments Feb 2021

- You really think about the individual and what they need. You see the good in each child and make them feel welcome. It's clear the kids have a lot of fun too.
- You teach resilience, communication and friendship. Communication with parents is very good. It feels like we are all part of a community.
- You get to know each child so well.
- Child led learning is great as is safeguarding and individual attention to each child.
- It's really great to feel so confident in the care you're providing. It's been so helpful to our family over the past year. Thank you.
- Thank you for providing such excellent care for both our boys. They absolutely love coming to your nursery and I can see how they have both grown as individuals with your support. Couldn't ask for more!

BASINGSTOKE VOLUNTARY ACTION



Community Lottery Update

The Basingstoke & Deane Community Lottery is proving to be a WIN WIN for everyone!

Since the lottery began in November, we have seen upwards of 15-25 winners per week. These winners have taken home free tickets and cash prizes! The cash prizes are always a favourite among our ticket holders for obvious reasons and we are over the moon to be able to say that large amounts are beginning to be won! We have now had three £250 winners. An incredible prize from the £1 weekly tickets. It's great to see the luck leaning in favour of our players.

What makes us even prouder is seeing is the impact these tickets are already having on our community. The lottery is set to bring over £31,000 to the organisations in our community in the first year, every penny being extra special in the current times with the impact of Covid-19 taking its toll on the voluntary sector.

CAGE CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE WAREHOUSES ON J7 M3

Decision-time is looming at the beginning of March when the Planning Dept. of Basingstoke Council may make their recommendation re refusal or approval of the warehouse development to their Development Control Committee.

Despite the appeal of some jobs at a possible Amazon warehouse, the overall impact on the whole area west of Basingstoke will be catastrophic. Visit CAGE-cleanairgreenenvironment.org to see visuals.

These are the main reasons why the development should be turned down:

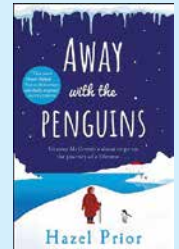
1. Basingstoke Council has declared a Climate Emergency – this plan will add to pollution levels and impact on the traffic volumes in the area. The local road system including J7M3 will need to be up-graded.
2. Visually the 4 giant warehouses would dominate the western area of Basingstoke and be a betrayal of the work done to improve Basingstoke's overall image. The warehouses would impact negatively on the landscape of the area.
3. The possible warehouse site is twice the size of that outlined in the Local Plan.
4. It is right next to existing homes and residential housing currently being built or planned.
5. Other possible developments such as a new hospital, could be jeopardised by the warehouse plans.
6. Vacant suitable space in this area would meet warehousing needs.

Please email: jeffreyn46@gmail.com, 'phone 0208-638-6131, visit: cleanairgreenenvironment.org for details of where to write/ email.



BOOKWORMS JANUARY MEETING

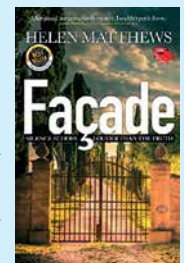
'Away with the Penguins' by Hazel Prior was our chosen book for January and it proved to be the perfect cosy read for this time of year.



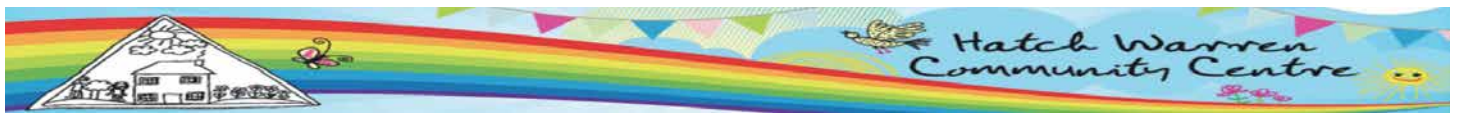
The story was about a very rich, feisty but lonely 86 year old woman called Veronica McCreedy.

She makes a radical decision that will have a significant impact on her life. She decides to undertake the long journey to Locket Island near Antarctica to see at first hand the scientists working with penguins and maybe donate her money to support the project. At first Veronica is not a very likeable character but as her early, painful life story is told through her diaries we can see a very different person emerging. We all enjoyed the book much more as the diary entries began to make sense of Veronica's character. We scored this book 7.8 and it made us all wish for the day when we can go and see penguins again at Marwell Zoo and Birdworld.

In our February meeting we will be joined by author Helen Matthews discussing her book 'Facade'. She attended our last cafe meeting talking about her previous book and that was a year ago! Big thanks to all our loyal members who have been joining in our Zoom meetings and discussion board. It has kept our club vibrant and enjoyable through a tough time for all.



Our March book choice is 'The Woman in the White Kimono' by Anna Johns set in 1950s Japan. This has been reviewed on the Radio 2 book club as a beautifully told work of historical fiction. Follow us on Facebook and read along with us.



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

WE ARE STILL HERE!

HATCH WARREN AND BEGGARWOOD
COMMUNITY CENTRES

BECOME A MEMBER NOW FOR ONLY £10 A YEAR!

During the Pandemic, this is our only income stream

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**REDUCED
HALL HIRE**

**REGULAR
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**MEMBER
DISCOUNTS/PRIZE
DRAWS**

Café in the Park

Beggarwood Community Centre, Broadmere Road,
Basingstoke, Hants. RG22 4AQ
Hall bookings: (01256) 811262

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.

Thank you for supporting our community café

9th Feb 2021



Please help raise funds for our CCTV system.

In light of recent antisocial behaviour incidents and the outpouring of support from the local community, we are continuing to fundraise and need your help to support the cost of the CCTV system.

Simply go to Go Fund Me and search, Installation of CCTV at Beggarwood Centre



Tickets still available for our chaperoned coach trip to the theatre in London



**Tina Turner Thur
24th June**

email office@hatchwarren.org to reserve your tickets

Fancy winning big whilst supporting your local charity and to be in with a chance of winning up to £25k?



Simply go to Basingstoke and Deane Community Lottery, press play and search for Café in the Park. Thank you for your support and good luck!

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



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Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for any further updates on The Warren & Link2 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



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!

STOP PRESS



is coming to The Warren!

Link2 Supports people with physical or learning disabilities in accessing work, training and volunteer opportunities

in the community . Link2 staff help to rebuild the confidence and lives of young adults affected during the pandemic, whilst championing them into being work ready.

For further information please call Dilys on 07951 137821 or email vicky@hatchwarren.org

Huge thanks to The National Lottery Community Fund for supporting Link2



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.

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

At this time of year the Group would normally be preparing for its AGM in April but of course we are still in lockdown so it is not possible to hold this year's meeting. And with lockdown still in place there are of course no work parties. The weather in the early weeks of 2021 has not been kind to us. Firstly rain, and then more rain, creating some very muddy footpaths making walking hard work. Fuzzy Drove in particular was almost impassable at times and some of the paths on Old Down were very sticky. Then we had snow and frost and it was so cold some days. The birds all look rather miserable in such

weather – always wonder how they get through the really cold nights. They do need a helping hand so do try to put out food for them such as seeds, mealworms, fatballs and scraps such as bread, apple and grapes (but do not put grapes where dogs are around – can be poisonous for them). Also put out fresh water for them. Birds need water for bathing, even in the winter, as well as drinking. A tip for helping the water not freeze over is to float a ball in the water. But despite all the hard weather, Spring is on its way and the early wild flowers are starting to show. The Snowdrop is probably the earliest flower – not that many on Old Down and Beggarwood but there are some lovely

clumps along the cycle path. The bright yellow celandine shows early, hiding in the undergrowth and under hedges. Both sites have primroses here are there and the bund by Old Down Hall has a lovely display, all having been planted by the work parties.

Walkers have made new paths on Old Down, no doubt to avoid mud and other walkers. The Group asks that please can you not make new paths, particularly through hedgerows and copses, as these new routes disturb wildlife habitat and thus we will see less birds, flowers and insects. Also, please respect the farmers' fields who are trying to grow their crops, this being their livelihood.

Work Parties – Still 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.olddownandbeggarwood.org.uk
Email: odandbwd@gmail.com



Celandine



Snowdrop



Primrose



BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

As the latest lockdown strikes, I interviewed two of my friends about their experience of life in lockdown: **Harrison** who is working from home and **Zoe** who's in school.

How did you feel when you were told we weren't going into school again?

H: I was sad as I could not see my friends and my lessons would not be as much fun. However, I was excited to be home with family and pets.

Z: I felt really depressed, as I had high hopes for this year and wanted it to return to normal. I wanted to see friends and family once again.

Are you finding this lockdown easier than the first?

H: It's easier as we have been in this situation before. However, it's a little harder as now everything has changed, i.e. live lessons and work on Teams.

Z: Yes, in a way as I have had a previous experience; but another lockdown makes it harder for us all to look after ourselves and our mental health.

Do you feel happy about this lockdown and for what reasons?

H: Like most situations there are negatives and positives, I think as sad as I am, I'm happy for a new adventure.

Z: To be honest, I am not feeling happy about it, overall. More restrictions are being announced and it seems like COVID-19 has been going for ages.

Do you feel sad about this lockdown and for what reasons?

H: I think it's upsetting as I can't see my friends face to face, and I believe it's not the same as learning in the classroom with your teacher.

Z: I am feeling sad as I have not seen my old primary school friends for over half

a year now. Normally, I would have been able to see them but COVID-19 has prevented me from doing so. Let's all just hope that 2021 will soon be a great year!

Do you prefer lockdown or normal life?

H: In the end, I do prefer normal life. It is simpler and can be less stressful at times. We just have to adjust for now, but it'll be over soon.

Z: I certainly prefer normal life as we can be free with what we do. I wish I had not taken normal life for granted before. Living life like this makes all of us think more positively about how our life was and we are working as one big school community to keep everyone safe and to keep the learning going! Go #YellowArmy!

Hopefully, next time we write life will be more normal.

Anna, BHCS Student Journalist

BASINGSTOKE U3A

LOCKDOWN CONTINUES BUT SO DO WE!

Join as many of our groups as you want for only £15

Website: www.basingstokeu3a.org

Still in Touch

More Basingstoke u3a groups are getting used to Zoom and WhatsApp meetings; we keep in touch by email and we're now using our new Facebook page to 'talk' to each other. Members are sending out quizzes, presentations and webinars for others to join in and, like joining our groups, all this is included within the one membership. We've been exploring China from our living rooms and learning Queen Victoria's secrets!

Still Lots to Do

We've started a new group for French Improvers; 40 members continue to play 'Real Bridge' online regularly, seeing and hearing each other, as they compete. Nothing deters our Excursions/Holiday Group from planning for 2021 - April's trip to Croatia may have to be postponed, but their diary already has Whitby in October to look forward to.

Our Environment Group will be looking at Mangroves in March; our Science Group learning how to 'Play their Cards Right'. Our Arts & Crafts Groups are still sharing their work; our Words and Music Group listening to a wide variety of recordings together. Look for a fuller list on our Facebook page facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a

Do check our website as well, for fuller details of our Groups, other activities you might like and how to join us. Our new members have all said how friendly and welcoming everyone is, whether you're a beginner, an expert, or somewhere in between!

••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• **Lent and the wilderness**

- During the six weeks of Lent we are reminded of the forty days and forty nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness. The wilderness was an important time and place for Jesus, it was a place where he was preparing himself for all that he would face throughout his life. It was important that he was somewhere on his own, so that he could focus on God, with no distractions. In the wilderness Jesus was tempted by: food, power and wealth, but he stayed strong and did not succumb to them. I can not begin to imagine the depth of emotions that he must have experienced during this time. There would have been times of extreme loneliness, times of doubt, times of uncertainty and sadness.
- Being in the wilderness echoes with life in the pandemic with the depth of emotions experienced by us all. Many have been living on their own, many have faced uncertainty with health and jobs and many have been so sad. We have longed to meet up with family and friends, for some sense of normality. Lent is a reminder to Christians today that when things get hard, or they are tempted to forget God, they can trust in God who never leaves them. The Bible offers words of comfort. "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." John 14:18. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 The Psalms show us words of lament, praise, encouragement and can act as a prayer when we struggle to find the right words.
- In this season of Lent we are invited to step into the wilderness. To use the time to reflect on our own journey with God and to discover afresh what is important in our lives. It is also a time to reflect on what temptations take us away from God. Through this time we may learn more about ourselves and more about God. I wonder what wilderness experience we are encountering this year, what challenges are we facing personally, with family, with work.
- As we move towards spring and lighter evenings we see signs of hope all around us. From the nesting birds, warmer weather and bulbs showing their beautiful colours. We have hope in the remarkable way the vaccine has been delivered in communities. The hope that life will change for the better.
- Blessings,
- **Rev May**
- 07922 516761
- revmay@immanuelhwb.co.uk
- www.immanuelhwb.co.uk

Your local church in Hatch Warren



Lively worship every
Sunday at 10.00am.
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Immanuel Church

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

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www.immanuelhwb.co.uk

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We need helpers to distribute the Rabbiter. This takes about half an hour a month. Sadly we can't offer any financial reward save the satisfaction of helping our community. The following rounds need a deliverer:

1. Priest Down and Old Beggarwood Lane
2. Camford Close
3. Broadmere Road, Forfield Drive,
Honeylease Road, Herriard Place,
Candover Close, The Courtyard, Wimborne Close.

(This is a large round so could be split)



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Editor: editor@therabbiter.biz

Advertising Manager:

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The gift of time is something that costs very little and can bring unexpected rewards to the giver. At the moment it is the NHS and other COVID-19 needs that are providing opportunities to volunteer. All charities also need volunteers and you don't have to make a huge commitment. Help for just one event or possibly for just a few hours. Giving your time may also be chatting to an elderly person; you may be the only person they speak to all day. www.rcbd.org.uk

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Rotaract is a younger part of Rotary

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To find out more Contact Rotarian

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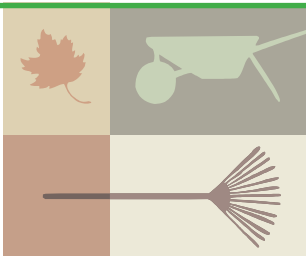
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CRIME PREVENTION UPDATE

National Insurance Scam Phone Call

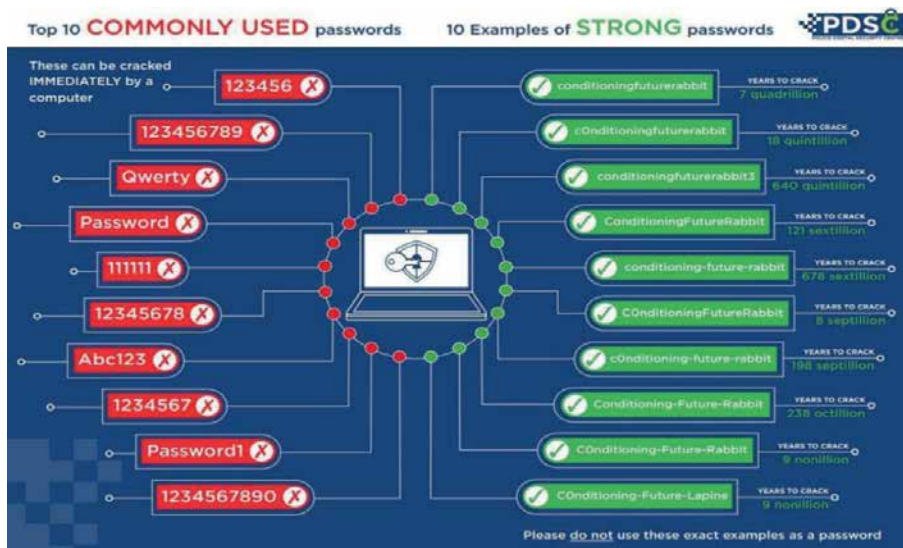
Action Fraud is warning the public about a [National Insurance scam](#). Victims have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their “National Insurance number has been compromised” and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to “press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller”.

You can report a scam call to Action Fraud via [the website](#) or by calling 0300 123 2040. Additionally, if you’ve received a suspicious phone call, you can help the HMRC’s investigations by providing your phone number, the caller’s phone number, the date and time of the call and a brief description to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk



Protect your online accounts: Use strong passwords

Passwords are essential to the security of online accounts. Cyber criminals have developed techniques to break-in to online accounts and act as the authorised user. These attacks are successful when users create weak passwords or utilise common techniques. Strong, unique passwords can combat these attacks. Please see the [Police Digital Security Centre](#) for further details.



Two-factor authentication to further protect your passwords



Two-factor authentication (2FA) can be enabled on important online accounts to protect them. Action Fraud say it is the single best thing you can do to improve the security of your most important accounts such as emails. It can protect the account even if the password has been stolen such as in cases of a data breach. It is an additional layer of protection for your accounts.

For further Crime Prevention advice please visit www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/

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