

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 279 April 2021

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- **EASTER BISCUITS**

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# THE Rabbiter

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## EDITORIAL

Happy Easter! If anyone had told us a year ago that we would still be in lockdown at this Easter we would probably have told them not to be so silly. But here we are still waiting to see our family and friends. But there is good news – the Café in the Park is now open for takeaways and we can again meet with others in our gardens (just need some sunshine first!) The Holly Blue and Portsmouth Arms are scheduled to open for outside service on 14 April (see page 22). I am looking forward to a pedicure at the Courtyard and to seeing my daughter!

Meanwhile life has gone on. Most of our local groups have continued to meet – thank you Zoom. If you are an avid reader or need inspiration to check out some new books why not join Bookworms (see page 22). The local WI welcomes new members and have some very interesting speakers (see page 6).

Work is now progressing on the new houses at Hounsme Fields. Sadly the development has led to the removal of quite a few trees. A decision is still awaiting on the plans for warehouses at Junction 7 (see page 20) and the proposal to build many houses on land between Cliddesden and Farleigh Wallop.

The Saturday Market held each week at the Portsmouth Arms is always very busy. The bread and pastries from Indigo Bakes are very popular so we are pleased to welcome Amanda from the company to our pages. This month she has included a very topical recipe for yummy Easter Biscuits (see page 10).

Welcome also to the new B&M store on the site next to Sainsbury's. There are lots of new initiatives at Sainsbury's including a smart way to start saving for Christmas (see page 10).

During lockdown many of us have enjoyed watching the local bird population. When we moved here 32 years ago bird-song was totally absent, then the starlings arrived and now there is a varied and busy bird population. Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group ask that if you are walking on Old Down you avoid disturbing the birds which are now busy nesting (see page 13).

If you have been decluttering during the last year, you can advertise your unwanted items for free in The Rabbiter. Just send details to [newsdesk@therabbiter.biz](mailto:newsdesk@therabbiter.biz) by the 15th of the month.

Take care and stay safe.

### The Editor

## !! PLAYERS WANTED !!

The successful Hatch Warren Phoenix Heat, are starting the recruitment drive for the 2021/22 season for our U12's. Either a current U11 (year 6, year 7 in September) seeking the challenge of playing up or a current U12 (year 7, moving to year 8 in September) seeking a new challenge. The team has great spirit, friendship, hardworking and above all fun training and playing games.

Please get in contact with us via [heat@hatchwarrenphoenix.co.uk](mailto:heat@hatchwarrenphoenix.co.uk) and we will arrange a time to discuss everything in more detail with you and arrange a trial.

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

# 1<sup>st</sup> Response

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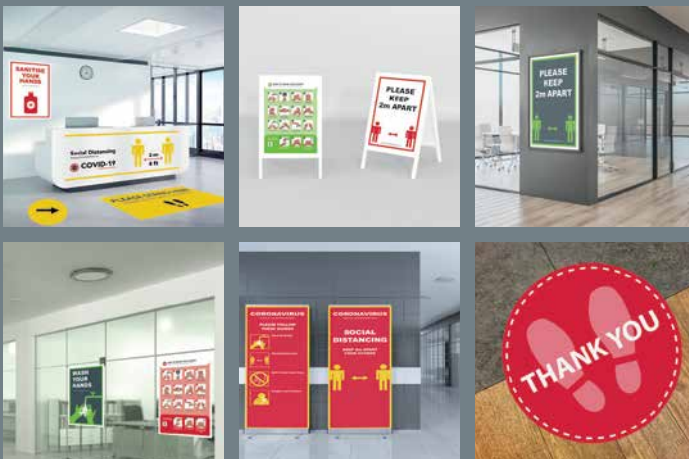
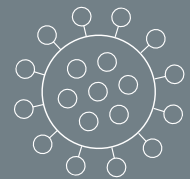
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## HATCH WARREN W.I.

On 4th March Hatch Warren W.I. held their Zoom meeting. With Sue Spencer a Professional Organiser and certified KonMari consultant. Sue was a busy working Mum who decided to take a career break, she had a home full of items and decided to declutter which made her feel more in control of her life. Home should be the place that you feel relaxed in. Tidying improves your mental wellbeing, reduces stress and anxiety, increases productivity and saves time and money. Declutter the space around your bed which then will give you a better night's sleep.

KonMari is based on Japanese culture, gives you understanding of things you and love and gives you joy. Sue then went on to explain how to declutter by grouping things together and then you can decide what you would like to keep and what you can discard. Members now will be busy trying out Sue's tips before lockdown is lifted and how to stay motivated in the future.

We have a very busy month ahead with HCFWI Zoom events – Create a garden for all seasons, Easter Bonnet fridge magnet make-along. This month is our annual Spring Council meeting which will be a Zoom meeting this year. We look forward to hearing first Denise Smythe-Wright 'Climate Change' and then Amanda Owen 'The Yorkshire Shepherdess'. Lots of us will have followed the Owen family on the remote farm in the Yorkshire Dales.

March was Ovarian cancer awareness month and the winning resolution that will go forward to the NFWI AGM in June is to raise awareness of subtle signs of Ovarian cancer. International Women's Day was Monday 8th March

We have decided to re introduce our Craft Group and you will be able to join in on Zoom, as this is a very popular group it will be nice for members who are interested in craft to get together and show what they have been doing during lockdown. We will also have our chocolate tasting evening with Hotel Chocolate if members can resist from tasting them before the evening.

Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday 1st April at 7.30 pm when we will welcome Ian Margetts from Summer Down Mint and his talk on growing and producing mint and buying products that are made from it.

If you are interested in joining us please contact our President Lynette on 07824 535868 where Lynette will be happy to tell you all about our W.I. and Zoom meetings that we have each month to keep us connected.

---

## PLAY CROQUET!

Croquet: six hoops, four balls, a mallet and a patch of grass. Sounds easy enough?

However croquet is a game of skill and strategy, angles, tactics and guile. A bit like snooker on grass. It is enjoyable at all levels and you don't need to be an athlete to play it.

There is now an excellent facility in Basingstoke with a top class lawn and a cosy clubhouse.

We will be following government Covid guidance which at the time of writing means we will be starting play from the 29th March.

If you would like to give it a try get in touch with us via the contact form on our website – address below. Equipment will be provided, just wear casual comfortable clothes and flat shoes. There is no charge for an initial try-out. While you are waiting we have some excellent training videos on the website well worth a look.

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## COUNCIL HEADLINES

### **Budget proposals to protect front line services approved by councillors**

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

Approved by Council on 25 February 2021, a £5, or 10p per week, average increase for the borough council part of the council tax for 2021/22 is likely to make it one of the lowest of the districts in Hampshire, and most of the rest of the country, again.

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

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

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

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

### **Don't forget to apply to EU Settlement Scheme**

European Union citizens living in Basingstoke and Deane are being encouraged to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before the deadline of 30 June 2021.

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, European citizens living in the UK are required to apply to the scheme to continue living, working and studying in the UK after 30 June.

Help and support to apply for the scheme is available locally through Citizens Advice Basingstoke and Tadley.

Digital assistance is also available for residents who do not have the access, skills or confidence to complete the online form by appointment. To arrange an appointment, please call We Are Digital on 03333 445675.

Further information is available at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/eu-settlement-scheme](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/eu-settlement-scheme)

### **Have your say on community and leisure facilities**

Residents and groups across the borough are being encouraged to help shape the borough's future approach to community and sports facilities.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is currently updating its Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment. This assessment will form a framework for establishing the borough's future approach to open space, sport and recreation, including consideration of how community buildings, playing pitches and indoor sport facilities are serving community needs.

With more residents across the borough spending more time in their communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the updated Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment will ensure the council can provide support where it is needed most.

To complete the community and sports facilities surveys, visit: <https://basingstoke-and-deane-community-buildings-user-survey-luc.hub.arcgis.com/>

We are also particularly keen to hear from parish and town councils to help shape the playing pitch strategy. The survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BDParish>

### **Multi-million pound boost for projects to shape the future of the borough**

Actions to work towards Basingstoke and Deane's ambitious climate change targets and to support a post-COVID economic recovery have been given a £2 million funding boost.

Helping to ensure Basingstoke and Deane remains a great place to live and work, an additional £1 million will support the council's work to tackle climate change and a further £1 million has been allocated to boost the borough's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, with both priorities working together to shape a green and prosperous borough.

As the pandemic hit the country in March 2020, the council quickly implemented measures to protect its budget and ensure it was well placed to respond to financial impacts such as a reduction in income and increased costs.

Due to the level of funding now allocated by the government in support of COVID-19 pressures on the council, it is possible to use the one-off council savings that have been achieved to provide further support for the priorities identified in the Council Plan 2020 to 2024.

### **Vital funding for support schemes to improve residents' lives**

Community organisations and voluntary groups are to get almost £1 million of funding from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to deliver projects that help improve residents' lives and support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding totalling £959,382 in grants and support for a range of projects and organisations was agreed by Cabinet at a meeting on 9 March 2021. This includes £759,382 in strategic grants to help with the overall running of community organisations that provide specialised services that help to meet the council's priorities. Organisations awarded funding include Citizens Advice, Voluntary Action, Basingstoke Gym Club, Hampshire Cultural Trust, Proteus Theatre Company, Shopmobility, Whitchurch Silk Mill and Young People's Independent Counselling.

A further £200,000 of Community and Voluntary Sector Programme grant funding has been awarded to organisations for one-year projects that promote community cohesion and inclusion, help young people maximise their potential, support people who face barriers to employment and promote mental and physical wellbeing.

A full list of all the strategic and programme grants the council has awarded is available at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/funding](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/funding).

### **Shuttle bus service ends as council explores more environmentally-friendly transport**

The Basingstoke Centre Shuttle bus service will cease operating on Saturday 3 April as the council explore more environmentally-friendly transport options that will serve residents across the borough better for the future.

The Centre Shuttle service has seen a steady decline in passenger numbers over a number of years. An alternative service is available during core hours which has higher passenger numbers and is open to passengers with concessionary passes.

To plan for the future the council is working with partners on how to integrate a park and ride and mass rapid transport system that will help to reduce carbon emissions and serve a greater number of locations such as the M3 junctions, new developments and key areas such as the leisure park and town centre.

Alternative bus services are available from nearby stops. For timetable information contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit [nationaljourneyplanner.travelinesw.com/](http://nationaljourneyplanner.travelinesw.com/)

## COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

Last month I referred to the vaccination programme and in the intervening weeks it has progressed well. Local organisations are now publishing their plans for a careful emergence from lockdown in line with Government rules.

The **HATCH WARREN AND BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRES** have a step-by-step plan. (There is a caveat - things might have to change if there is a national announcement, so watch their website and social media.)

- **CAFE IN THE PARK** will resume its takeaway service on 1st April for the Easter weekend (including Easter Monday 5th April), serving extended lunchtime hours from the park side of the building. It will then revert to its weekend opening pattern on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- **LINK2** launches on 5th April, helping adults with special needs & learning difficulties at the Hatch Warren Community Centre.
- **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** and pre-school classes will return on 12th April.
- The Community Association is planning the reintroduction of its popular **COACH TRIPS** and tickets are on sale for the Tina Turner musical on 23rd September.
- **PORTSMOUTH ARMS AND HOLLY BLUE:** Our local pub / restaurants are planning to re-open on Wednesday 14th April, serving outdoor tables only for the time being in line with Government advice. They are taking bookings now for parties of up to six people. To reduce the weather risk, they will have open-sided marquees in their gardens to keep customers dry.

**BLOOR HOMES** held a briefing for Councillors in March, showing how their plans are progressing for the 1,000-home development of the golf course. Some important details emerged. The traveller pitch, which had been planned for close to existing homes, has been relocated to embed it inside the development. There will be a circular route that buses can use to service the estate and domestic parking will be 'on the plot' rather than in remote bays. In addition Bloor confirmed that any tree felling will only take place after the nesting season.

**NEW STORE:** by the time you read this, B&M stores should have opened their new store in Hatch Warren, in the old Mothercare unit next to Sainsbury's. With LIDL having taken the old Argos store in the Hatch Warren retail park across the road, we now have all the local shop units occupied again.

**BRIGHTON HILL ROUNDABOUT:** the decision has been made to proceed with the £19.3 million upgrade and work is likely to start later this year. The funding comes from the Local Growth Fund by the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership, and from Hampshire County Council. The scheme will significantly improve capacity and reduce delays at peak periods and improve journey time reliability along the A30 corridor. It will widen the roundabout and signalise the existing junctions to increase traffic capacity and cater for the increased number of homes planned for this area. Just to confirm, this scheme excludes the proposed link road through the Camrose Ground. In addition to traffic capacity improvements, the measures also include improvements for walking and cycling including upgraded footpaths and segregated cycle tracks. For more information visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transport schemes/A30brightonhillroundabout>

**PUMP TRACK:** a new 'pump track' is being built at Beggarwood Park. This is an improved facility for BMX and mountain bikers, skateboarders, roller-bladers and scooter riders.

**ANAEROBIC DIGESTER:** Small but nevertheless valuable improvements are to be made to the signage directing HGVs to the Anaerobic Digester. Work is expected to take place in April or May. Also to report is that the operators are seeking a relaxation of some of the restrictions on their working hours. They are asking for consent to work on site on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. They are not asking for any change to the number of HGVs attending the site.

**AND FINALLY** .... please continue to be vigilant and protect yourselves from COVID.

**Stephen Reid**

County Councillor:

Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

## BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK - SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE OUT OF CRISIS

With the help of volunteers from churches and the community, Basingstoke Foodbank continues to reach out to people in need throughout the region. Over double the number of people were fed in 2020 compared to 2019, and during the Spring of 2020 almost *four times* as many people per month were fed than usual. On average we have been feeding between 700 - 1000 people monthly and distributing on average over 8 tonnes of fresh and non-perishable food every month.

The Covid pandemic has had a notable impact on the people of Basingstoke & Deane. According to our referral agencies, people's incomes have been affected by such reasons as job loss, reduced furlough income, domestic violence, increased food and energy bills, debt and sickness. Our volunteers work tirelessly to keep up with the increase in demand. We continue to deliver to people's homes, so we have increased our delivery & collections driver team throughout the pandemic. Also, we've 'grown' a 'Caller team'

who phone clients to provide a compassionate listening service in the absence of being able to sit and chat to clients in the Centre over a cuppa.

We passionately believe that in addition to feeding people, our clients should be linked with specific local agencies who can offer support to alleviate some of their many challenges, be they financial, physical, emotional, and circumstantial. Long term food insecurity can lead to additional problems such as depression, anxiety, ill health and stress.

We have received an increase in generous financial donations from the community which has meant that the Foodbank has been able to buy additional fresh food, and non-perishable food when shortages occur. This year we are planning for some exciting new development initiatives once lockdown is over, including: operating the Foodbank from several community-focused churches in the area, plus the provision of access in our new locations to debt support, money advice, job clubs and mental health signposting. Watch for further news to come!

**Phil Thomas**

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You will have no doubt seen our colleagues wearing the new Hi-Vis jackets on the shop floor, reminding everyone about social distancing and, the increase in hand sanitiser stations across the shop floor for your use.

At the time of writing, we're also continuing to limit the total number of customers allowed in our shop, in line with the latest Government guidance.

We're also continuing to ask, where possible, for our customers to shop alone. We acknowledge this isn't always possible but, by shopping alone, we can allow more customers to shop for their essential items.

### Smart Shop

The safest way to shop is by using our Smart Shop service, either via the handsets at the front of the store or, via our Smart Shop App which is available for all devices – Android/Apple.



All our handsets are sanitised before being replaced in the charging bays.

You may also use the handset to pay for your shop at any checkout, not just the dedicated

Smart Shop checkouts.

It's also worth remembering that there is no minimum number of items to purchase when using the handsets. Therefore, if you wish to avoid the Self-Checkouts, use Smart Shop.

### Digital Nectar

Digital Nectar has been a phenomenal success since its launch. Over 5million downloads so far. The App can be used in conjunction with the Smart Shop App, allowing you to look at any saved offers you have during your shop.



Every week, Digital Nectar, offers bonus points which you can save to your account and enjoy bonus points on your everyday shopping.

Give it a try by downloading from either Android or Apple stores.

### Christmas Club

Too early to start talking about Christmas? Sainsbury's have launched a Christmas Club savings account/card.



The cards are only available in store – at the moment – from the Gift Card stand next to the checkouts.

Simply activate your savings card at any till and start saving for Christmas.

Not only can you save up to £2000 on the card but, you can earn bonus cash on any balance you have saved by November 1st.

The maximum bonus available is £25 on balances up to £500, which equates to 5% You'll then be able to spend your balance saved, at either Sainsbury's or Argos.

Full terms and conditions can be found here: [https://help.sainsburys.co.uk/help/products/christmas\\_club\\_card](https://help.sainsburys.co.uk/help/products/christmas_club_card)

## EASTER BISCUITS

Hello everyone, Amanda from Indigo Bakes here. I hope you are all well and staying safe. Hopefully, a lot of you will have had your first vaccination jab, I've still got a few months to wait for mine, so I am still being super careful.

We are looking forward to some warmer weather as spring still creeps up upon us. We have hyacinths coming through in the garden and lots of crocuses and primroses showing us their colours. I am using the waste eggshells from the bakery on my flower beds to stop the early slugs and snails eating my tulips as they come through. I will keep you posted on how that is working.

I am writing this sat next to our ovens in the bakery, keeping warm having just eaten a lovely cottage pie!

The recipe for this Rabbiter edition is Granny Indigo's Easter Biscuits it will be

slightly late for Easter, but a great one to bake with the kids during the holidays.

### Ingredients:

- 100g Caster Sugar (extra for topping biscuits)
- 100g softened butter
- 250g Plain Flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 medium egg
- 80g currants
- 2 tbl milk
- 1 tsp mixed spice

### Method:

- Pre-heat oven to 200c
- Cream sugar and butter together until pale and fluffy
- Add egg and beat until fully incorporated.
- Add flour and baking powder and mixed spice and stir in.



Add enough milk to make the dough pliable. Stir in the currants.

Turn out onto a floured work surface. Bring the dough together and roll out to around 5mm thick. Cut out biscuits and place onto a parchment lined tray. Bake in hot oven for around 10-12 mins, the edges should just start to go golden.

As soon as you take the biscuits out of the oven, sprinkle with caster whilst still piping hot and then leave to cool.

Best enjoyed with a lovely cup of tea! Remember you can order your home delivery of fresh baked goods from Indigo Bakes: [www.indigobakes.co.uk](http://www.indigobakes.co.uk)

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SC008608

## VOLUNTEERING TESTIMONIAL FROM THE BOAZ PROJECT- 'LEARNING AND WORKING TOGETHER'

Galina was made redundant in September 2019 from her role as a project manager with a large bank, and before returning to professional employment she volunteered at the Boaz Project, a therapeutic work environment for adults with learning disabilities located in Sutton Scotney. She said, 'I decided it would be great to help the community and do something useful that would not actually require 24/7 involvement. Instead, I would do what I could to help some people, and feel good about that.'



In addition to developing COVID policies using skills from her previous employment, her role included working through the morning alongside members in tasks such as counting chickens' eggs, feeding animals, and doing woodwork. She said, 'to an unexpected extent, this experience changed everything- my ability to assess what people can do, and I learned from the members the passion they had for their work and their great resilience towards problems in life.'

'The Project was a breath of fresh air after my previous job which could require traveling around Europe for 20 hours a day'. Boaz was so welcoming, and its country setting made me feel very peaceful and calm'.

Galina has moved onto a new job that offers a volunteering day and hopes to use this to continue volunteering at Boaz in the future.

If you think you might be interested in volunteering or supporting the Boaz Project, please visit their website at: [www.boazproject.co.uk](http://www.boazproject.co.uk) or contact site manager Stuart Palmer on: 01962 761749, or email: [admin@boazproject.co.uk](mailto:admin@boazproject.co.uk)

## HOWARD PARK BOWLS CLUB

With the distinct possibility that we will soon be able to play outdoor sports, now is the time to consider a club that played all last summer, three sessions a day plus weekends, when other clubs could not be bothered.

There has been an influx of new people in the area recently so now is the opportunity of trying something different. Bowls equipment is supplied and free coaching sessions are available from mid-April onwards. Outdoor bowls is available from April to September and Short Mat indoors from October to March.

The club has an updated building thanks to Basingstoke and District council with a modern kitchen installed. The clubhouse is available for meetings, parties and other functions.

Please contact Alan Tait Tel No 01256 329493 or mobile 07932 064252 or pop along any Wednesday morning when the maintenance team are in attendance. We will be happy to offer you a cuppa.





## PROBUS HEARS ABOUT COMMUNIST CZECHOSLOVAKIA

With the mass vaccinations against Covid-19 we shall shortly enjoy freedom of movement. Foreign travel is eagerly awaited by many and weekends away to European cities will become an attraction.

Cities like Prague, capital of today's Czech Republic, have become tourist destinations. The Castle overlooks the Vltava river with its eighteen bridges. Wenceslas Square is a large rectangle with traffic on both sides. Rising gently, at the top, is the statue of this saint, surrounded by tourists.

Few western tourists were seen forty years ago when Probuss Club member, Paul Flint, became a regular visitor over the following twelve years. Czechoslovakia was part of the Eastern Bloc controlled by the Soviet Union. The 1968 Prague Spring, led by Alexander Dubcek, attempted some reforms but was quickly overwhelmed by invading Warsaw Pact troops to protect the country from an imagined invasion of the Sudetenland by West German and NATO troops.

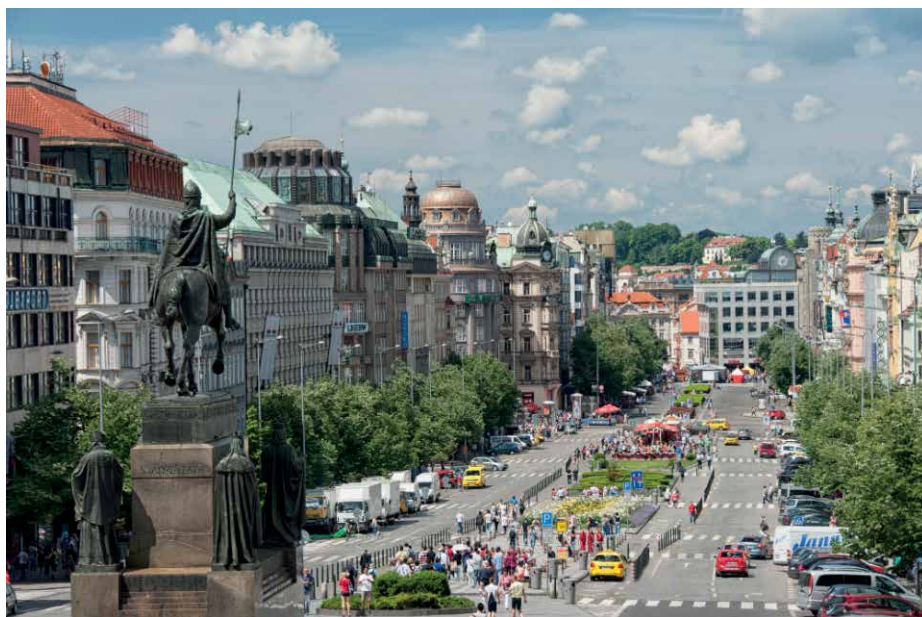
The Russian military presence was everywhere with armed soldiers on the streets and driving their Moscovic and Lada cars. The small number of foreigners found it difficult to distinguish the local police who also wore khaki uniforms and carried automatic weapons but drove Skoda Estelles.



Democracy started in late 1989 with the Velvet Revolution, led by playwright Vaclav Havel. 73,000 guest Russian troops had to leave.

Before then, passports recorded how much Sterling had to be changed into Czech Crowns. There were four levels of exchange rates; the official rate, a commercial rate, a tourist rate and the black-market seeking western hard currencies. The black-market rate was around four times better than the tourist rate which tempted low-cost purchases.

Prague airport had four departure security checks. Receipts were checked to ensure that the total did not exceed the money recorded in the passport. If greater it proved that money had been



*View of Wenceslas Square*

exchanged on the black-market and goods were seized. Czech currency could not be exported, so any remaining Crowns were confiscated. The relief, before take-off, sitting in the British Airways plane, was palpable.

The government had a way of mopping up black-market exchanges. Special shops had tempting western goods that could only be bought with hard currency – with no questions asked.

Passports were carried constantly and kept each night by the hotel for checking by the police. When visiting business premises of any sort, passports had to be left with the reception.

Meetings in Prague were with a trading house, whose role was to find export partners for Czechoslovak products and import goods needed by their economy. My company was their UK venture partner for selling and servicing Czechoslovak made printing presses.



Many visits were made to the factory near to Brno, in the south of the country. There were reminders of the Soviet occupation with army tanks set on plinths and in villages, with no street lighting, there were masts equipped with loudspeakers. European dealer conferences were held there most years and to entertain their guests, visits were made to glass engravers and vineyards that produced some excellent wines and champagne style products.

Determined not to repeat conditions three of us had endured squashed on the back seat of a Skoda Estelle for three hours from Prague, instead we flew into Vienna and collected a rental car and drove to Brno. One day we were stopped by a Russian soldier aiming a machine gun. Fortunately, we had with us a lady from the trading company who spoke Russian, but I wondered what might have happened to us if we had been on our own.

Factory personnel were not supposed to fraternise with westerners but, surprisingly, one invited several to his home. Everyone kept a pig in their back garden which they would butcher for pork and to make sausages.

Representatives from the factory and trading company visited the UK annually. Despite them being forbidden to be entertained, over the years we took them to West End musicals and dined well.

Gradual democratisation raised quality standards making their products more acceptable to western markets. There was substantial investment by western companies in Czechoslovak businesses with possibly the most well-known being the takeover of Skoda by Volkswagen. As the owner of two Skoda cars over the last six years I can certify their reliability and quality.

The Velvet Revolution worked.



## OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

Birds are now busy pairing up and building nests. There isn't quite the variety of species we used to see on

Old Down but there will be the more common species like *robins*, *goldfinches*, *blue tits* and *blackbirds*. Despite building disturbance there is still a rookery up by the new Longacre development but certainly not the numbers of *rooks* there used to be. Of course, one species that never seems to decline in numbers is the pigeon. The pigeons seen on the two sites are mostly *Wood Pigeons* and these are the most common. They breed and nest most of the year. But there are also feral pigeons

and these would be the ones you mostly see in town and city centres (banished from Trafalgar Square some years ago). Also, there are the *Collared Doves* which are very sweet, timid birds. They pair up for life and you will most often see them around in pairs. Pigeons build terrible nests – really poorly constructed to the point that sometimes eggs fall through the structure. The domesticated white dove/fantail is also a type of pigeon. We dismiss pigeons as a species because they are so common but their markings are really quite intricate.

Because of disturbance to birds that are now nesting it would be most appreciated if walkers on Old Down could avoid

cutting through and walking along the field side of the Manydown hedge. Bird numbers on Old Down have declined over the years and anything we can do to cause less disturbance to them might encourage more numbers. Also, it is assumed that crops will soon be sown so no doubt the farmer will appreciate less damage to his field.

**Work Parties:** Still suspended for the time being but restrictions are starting to be lifted. When meetings are resumed - for Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12 noon and for Beggarwood 10-12 noon on every first Tuesday of the month. Check our website for up-dates.

[www.olddownandbeggardwood.org.uk](http://www.olddownandbeggardwood.org.uk)  
Email: [odandbwd@gmail.com](mailto:odandbwd@gmail.com)



Wood Pigeon



Feral Pigeon



Collared Dove



## BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

For this issue we interviewed our Headteacher Mr Edwards about how he was managing during lockdown.

**Q: What sort of things have you been doing to keep the spirits of students and staff high?**

A: Well, my job as Headteacher is to do everything I can to keep everyone's spirits high, which is much more difficult when everybody is apart, but it's not impossible. My aim is to try to keep all of the staff as happy and motivated as possible, so that they can deliver the best possible experiences for my beloved #YellowArmy!

We have been doing staff challenges on Teams, having breakfast cooked by the leadership team; we have also reduced the amount of screen time throughout the day to try to ensure that students and staff are able to get a good break from their computers.

**Q: What sort of activities have you been doing to keep yourself occupied during lockdown?**

A: When you're spending lots of time indoors, it's so important to get yourself out in the fresh air, even if you don't really feel like it. It invigorates you for the rest of the day and makes you feel great about yourself. I set myself a challenge of at least 10,000 steps every day. I love listening to audiobooks when I'm out walking, as it is a great opportunity to learn new things, whilst exercising. At the moment, I'm listening to a book about script-writing, which is something I have always been interested in.

**Q: What sort of things are you proud of the students?**

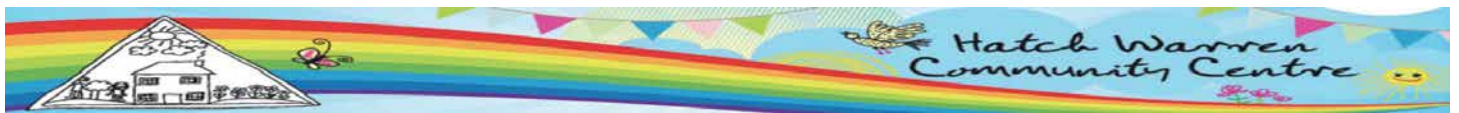
A: I've been bowled over by the work I've seen from our students during lockdown – your teachers regularly share with me the work you've been doing at home. I'm proud of every single student who has managed to get up and give their absolute best every day of this very difficult lockdown.

**Q: What would you say to students that are struggling with the lockdown?**

A: I want to reassure students that it's absolutely normal to struggle at the moment. Even I find some days difficult, so don't be too hard on yourself if you're not feeling 100% all the time. Please remember though, that it won't be forever and there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel. One day, this will all be over and you'll be able to tell your children and grandchildren about how you managed during the COVID-19 pandemic when they are learning about it in their history lessons in years to come!

Just keep doing what you're doing and don't panic if you feel you're falling a bit behind – we will ensure that everything is caught up when you return, which won't be long now. I can't wait to welcome you all back!!

**Anna, BHCS Student Journalist**



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

We are gradually welcoming groups back as the restrictions are being lifted. Check out our website for details.

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## Café in the Park

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

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Email: [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)

Web: [www.hatchwarren.org](http://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



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!

### \*\*\* LAUNCH DATE \*\*\*



is aiming to open it's doors again at The Warren on April 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be so exciting to welcome everyone back. We will be running small support groups of 15 members on a Monday night from 6pm. Booking in advance is essential. Please text or call Dilys Buchan 07951 137821 .

Future Link2 events for your diary.

- Summer Ball
- Swimming
- Bowling and Meals out

Huge thanks to The National Lottery Community Fund for supporting Link2



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Hatch Warren  
Under Fives Preschool

## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

It's been a great month at Hatch Warren Under Fives - we have welcomed all of our children back to preschool and it's been so lovely to see everyone together again.

It's been a busy few weeks – we celebrated Mother's Day a few weeks ago and the children made beautiful cards and planted flowers for Mummy. The lead up to Easter has been equally fun with lots of Easter crafts and egg hunts in the garden.

We have also been learning shapes on our maths tables, so as well as planting flowers, the children have been making pictures of flowers using different shapes.

Our topic this term has been spring, so we have been on walks through the woods to look for signs of spring. We are also looking at mini beasts, so we are uncovering logs and leaves in the woods to see if we can find any little mini beasts hiding. Spring is the time of year when we get busy in our garden so the children have been busy planting spring flowers and vegetables in our garden planters. We are eagerly checking our flowers and veggie patch every day to see what is starting to grow. This term we introduced a new "Rising Fives" group to preschool. In Rising Fives we work with small groups of children through



the week to focus on school readiness. We work on gross and fine motor skills, pencil control, literacy and numeracy, attention and listening skills. Our current theme is the Hungry Caterpillar where we have been looking at life cycles, story sequencing and retelling a story, naming and counting fruits, size ordering and prepositions. We have also been using the story of the Hungry Caterpillar in our yoga classes, practising balancing and being very still and calm. All of our Rising Fives activities are also broken down into simplified activities for our younger children so they are able to work alongside and share in the fun. Our older children will be learning which primary school they are going to over the Easter holidays, so we are eagerly awaiting to hear the big news when we get back to preschool after the holidays. Next term we begin our preparations for the transition to big school. We will start by giving the children lots of mark making opportunities and activities that strengthen little hands for handwriting.

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.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

WE ARE ENROLLING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 – to enquire about a space at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Angela Blomquist, Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

We also manage a sister 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](http://www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk)

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

### Hello from CVP!

The children have just been celebrating world book day. It has been an amazing experience to include the parents of our little ones, who posted videos reading their child's favorite story, eagerly watched by all at pre-school. We have also been exploring The Hungry Caterpillar, drawing, stamping, and painting his food, making fruit kebabs and looking for the caterpillar hiding on the field.



We have been so fortunate and excited to be able to see new-born lambs at feeding time this year and a reading experience with our local PAT dog Toffee via a virtual experience.

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 and Garden Visits 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 look forward to welcoming you very soon!

Best wishes,

01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

**Lisa Collisson**

## CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School! This month, as shoots start to pop up from underground, the children are learning all about Spring. Blossom based art and spring nature walks are just some of the ideas coming from our devoted teachers – as well as combining activities with show and tell. Can you find anything Springlike beginning with T? Tadpoles, twigs, trees or some tulips are all ideas coming from our children!

Hopefully by the time of publication the Pre-School will have swung open its doors on



## RELAXWITHJO

Last month on March 19th, we celebrated World Sleep Day. Lots of my parents/ caregivers ask me "how do your Relax kids classes help promote better sleep using the 7 steps to relax?". Steps 3 to 7 are all about settling and calming down their minds and physically and mentally feeling calmer. Some parents use the last 4 steps in the hour before bed for their children.

I wanted to share with you my 5 top tips for your child to have a better nights sleep. Firstly the benefits of good sleep:

- Helps boost our immune system. During sleep, our immune system releases proteins called cytokines, some of which help promote sleep. Certain cytokines need to increase when you have an infection or inflammation, or when you're under stress. Sleep deprivation may decrease production.

### *Cuckoo Meadow continued*

8th March along with other primary schools. The excitement is palpable! For the latest news do visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/cuckoomeadowpreschool](http://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](http://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](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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.com](http://www.cuckoomeadow.com).

- Sleep improves memory, aiding to strengthen our attention span and focus and concentration.
- Strengthens our heart. Good quality sleep decreases the work of your heart, as blood pressure and heart rate go down at night. Sleep-deprived people show less variability in their heart rate, meaning that instead of fluctuating normally, the heart rate usually stays elevated
- Sleep promotes growth. Whilst we sleep, a growth hormone is released and if sleep is irregularly disturbed and broken it can affect the growth hormone being released
- Reduces levels of stress held in the body. As we rest our bodies and let go of tension in our muscles we become well-rested and refreshed, more alert and focused. Promoting a good self-care routine.

These are all well and good if your child is happy to go to bed and manages to fall asleep as soon as their heads hit the pillow.

Realistically most households can be a little more chaotic for the child and the parent/caregiver. So here are my 5 tips:

- Create a calm and quiet environment with music or natural sounds ahead of sleep time. This has shown to slow the heart rate down and lower blood pressure. Reducing stress levels in our body and starts to prepare the body to slow down.
- To wear comfortable clothing, to use cotton bedding and also being in a cool room can help your body regulate.
- Read independently or share a soothing meditation/story. This will help your child to let go of their day's thoughts. Promoting a peaceful mind and increasing their imaginary skills. MP3s, CDs or Bluetooth speaker linked to your music device. Lots of children's meditations are accessible for free on [headspace.com](http://headspace.com), [parent.com](http://parent.com). Relax kids have many.
- No screens 2 hours before bedtime. Room lighting should be kept soft with no blue or white lights. Red and orange lights are said to be the best lighting to help calm the senses. Fairy lights work well too.
- Brain dump. Invite your child to use a journal to write down their day's

achievements or worries they may have. Ideally not at bedtime time, always allow enough time for them to process the day's events. Some children prefer to draw their emotions. A sketch pad is ideal.

- Cat strokes. Take turns in giving each other massages - positive touch helps to produce Oxytocin and Serotonin. These hormones then get released into the body helping us to feel good. Simple repeated strokes or swirls or light tapping for a short time will all help your child to feel relaxed.

The children have a full-on physical day, allowing enough time for them to unwind, which actually allows them to be ready to sleep. Find your way to encourage your older child to own this hour before bedtime. Research shows us how many hours are recommended for our children's ages. Realistically, we know that some children will need a later bedtime with a much shorter sleeping routine while others need more. Allowing a good time to settle their mind and body ahead of expected sleep. Being consistent with clear boundaries can improve their quality of sleep. [Healthline.com](http://Healthline.com) have more advice.

I'm looking forward to my new weekly community classes starting on the 19th of April\* at St Leonard's Centre, Oakley. Also in the Green Hut, Oakley, on 22nd of April, this is an infant class from 3.45-4.45pm. My primary class starts on 22nd April from 5-6pm. These are confirmed. If you are interested in my 7 steps helping your child to calm then please get in touch.

Community classes and bespoke courses are available.

### **Jo Hutchinson**

[www.Facebook.com/relaxwithjo](http://www.Facebook.com/relaxwithjo)  
[jo.relaxkids@gmail.com](mailto:jo.relaxkids@gmail.com)

*\*To be confirmed*

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. Wentworth Crescent



# RABBITER CONTACTS:

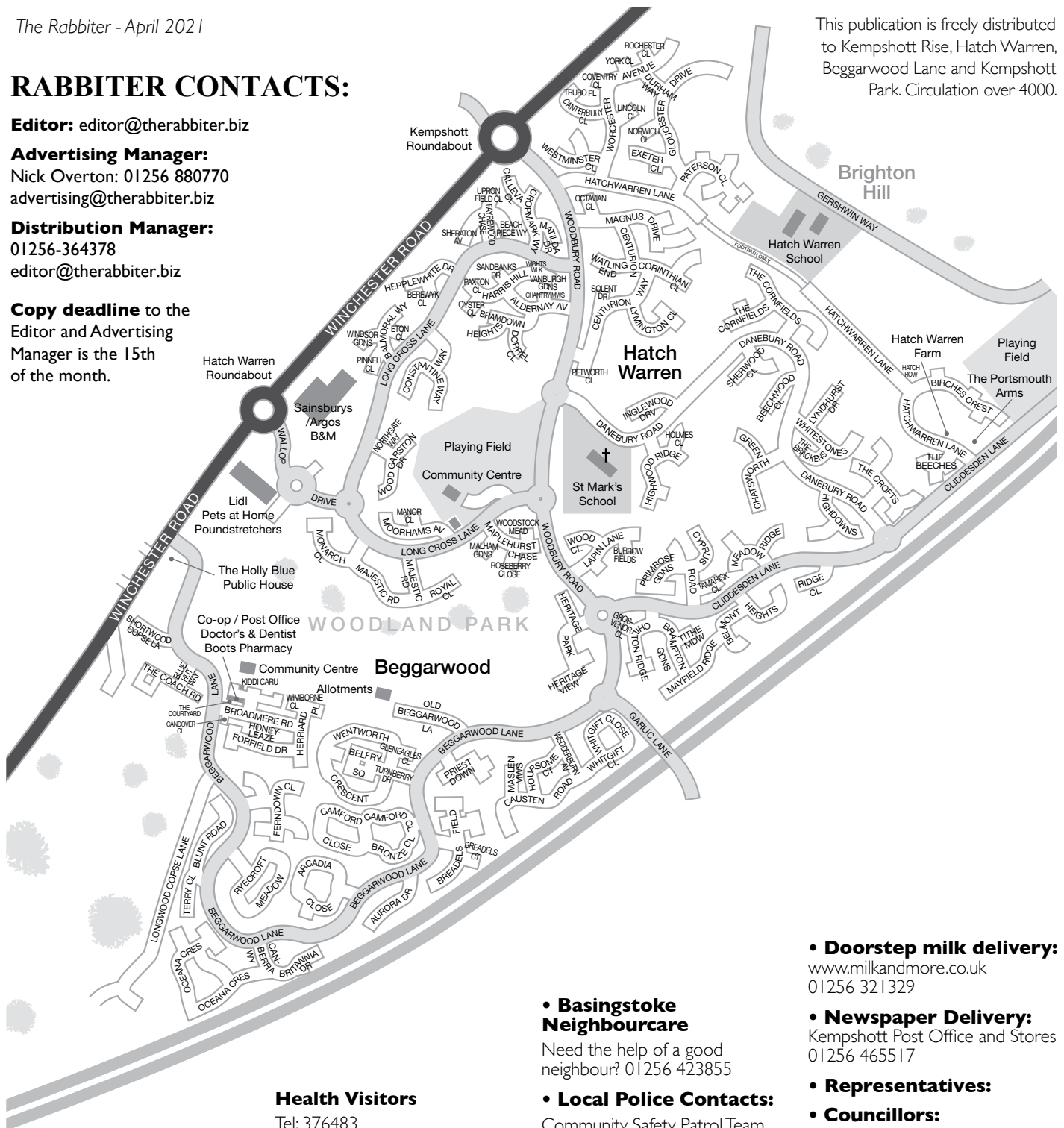
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**Copy deadline** to the Editor and Advertising Manager is the 15th of the month.

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Contact Dan Wake or Margie  
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RG22 4TJ 320860  
Terri.Reid@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Dan Putty**, 1 Gloucester Drive,  
RG22 4PH 356650  
cldr:dan.putty@basingstoke.gov.uk

**• Member of Parliament**  
**Hatch Warren:**  
**Maria Miller**  
millerm@parliament.uk

## SPRING BREAKS INTO ACTION AND WE FOLLOW ON

### Our Outdoor Activities Leap into Life

Days are getting longer, end of lockdown closer and our u3a groups are raring to go. We're keeping to the rules, with our croquet, cycling, walking and Walking with Camera groups planning to start back in March and April. For our excursions and trips, planning is well underway for later in 2021 and bookings are flowing in.



### And Our Indoor Fun Gets Ready Too

Email, Facebook and regular meetings on Zoom have kept us in touch with each other, through recent months. Our Literature Group is reading 'The Enchanted April'; our historians are learning about Ukraine's past and the Environment Group is looking at the changing climate. Needles and Pins members have started a project for a wildlife centre in Cornwall and are making woollen nests for its small birds and animals. Our bridge players have gone one step further and won a u3a nationwide tournament!

We have many pursuits waiting to start, with line dancing, badminton and table tennis leading the way. We're working hard to set up new groups, like walking football and walking netball. Please look at the full range of activities on our website. Don't forget, you can join in with as many as you like for just one membership fee - £15 will give you all sorts of fun with us through to August. You'll be made very welcome by everyone.

facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a

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**••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••**

**• Easter**

• When Jesus was crucified on the cross, one of the thieves who was on a cross next to him said "remember me when you come into your kingdom." He didn't say rescue me or forgive me but remember me. Being remembered is important and St Paul's Cathedral in London has set up an online book of remembrance for all those who have died as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK. You can submit the name of someone you know at [www.rememberme2020.uk](http://www.rememberme2020.uk)

• Easter is a time of remembering and new life. In the gardens around us we see new life everywhere with bulbs flowering, birds nesting and trees bursting into leaf. But the new life of Easter is even more exciting. One the first Easter morning the women who were friends of Jesus went to the tomb and were not expecting to find life, but to find Jesus' body. The women had been discussing who would roll away the stone at the entrance to the tomb. But they found the stone had already been rolled away and then they saw an angel who said, "don't be alarmed he is not here he has risen". This is the promise Jesus made to his disciples only a few days earlier. He told them that he would die but come back to life to show those who believe in him that they would live forever too.

• Jesus died for everyone, he died for you and for me. We can face the world, life and all it throws at us, the future, even death itself with total confidence – not in ourselves and our own strength but in our almighty, all knowing, all loving God.

• At Immanuel this Easter we invite you to join us at the following services:

- **April 1** Maundy Thursday service on Facebook and our website
- **April 2** Good Friday All Age worship 10-11am on Zoom  
Good Friday hour at the cross 2-3pm
- **April 4** Easter Day service 10am in church or online  
Worship@home

• Contact Rev May for Zoom details and visit our website for more details about our Easter services.

• Easter is a time of new life and new beginnings. We are experiencing this as we reach new milestones on our journey out of lockdown. May we continue to encourage a real sense of community here in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

• Blessings,

• **Rev May**  
07922 516761  
[revmay@immanuelhwb.co.uk](mailto:revmay@immanuelhwb.co.uk)  
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## BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT DISABILITY FORUM (BDDF)

Your local disability charity has launched a brand-new website.

<https://www.bddf.org.uk> is the address of our new website it contains information about the charity, about our services and events. There is a whole section dedicated to disability signpost information, resources and an amazing gallery full of photos of past events. You can use the sign-up form to become a (free) Member of BDDF to ensure you receive our regular newsletters and details of our free services such as mobility improving yoga, social walks, coffee mornings, etc.

As the disability champions for Basingstoke we have links with statutory bodies who regularly ask us to participate in planning stages of services which are important to people with a disability. As a member of BDDF you will be offered the opportunity to be part of these equality connections within the community, ensuring accessibility, diversity and inclusivity are at the forefront of the decision-making process.

On Friday 26th March we held an online disability awareness and information day fully packed with information about the charity services available within Basingstoke, relevant to anyone who is affected by disability either directly or as a carer. Over 35 local organisations got involved and created a short video showcasing their services, these are available to watch now via our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel. Take a look at the amazing charities here in Basingstoke who are available to support you.

Get in touch & keep up to date Please get in touch with regards to any of our updates via email [info@bddf.org.uk](mailto:info@bddf.org.uk) or via Facebook Messenger.

## HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER

Hampshire Together is a programme that has the potential to deliver a new hospital to serve the people of north and mid Hampshire, as well as many other healthcare benefits, as part of the government's Health Infrastructure Plan to modernise NHS hospitals. All NHS and social care organisations across the area are determined to make the most of this opportunity as they strive to support patients, their families and their carers to access the right care, in the right place, at the right time in order to keep them healthy.

A new hospital supports this ambition, but their ideas go beyond it. The project team is also thinking about ways in which they can change health services across the area to make them work better, both for patients and their hard-working staff.

In the summer of 2020, Hampshire Together carried out a programme of engagement with the public, staff and stakeholders to gather views on the project. This feedback was pulled together into an *engagement report* ([https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/download\\_file/view/139/238](https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/download_file/view/139/238)) and is directly affecting their thinking as they develop options for a way forward. More information about the programme can be found on this site and in the *listening document* (<https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/our-vision/listening-document>) that has been created to set out the challenges, opportunities and decisions involved in Hampshire Together.

The project team will be carrying out further public consultation in summer 2021 on clinical options and proposed locations for a new hospital. Ahead of this, I wanted to get in touch with you and introduce you to John Boyman (copied in), who is leading the communication and engagement for the programme. As key members of your local communities, it would be great if you are able to share information and updates on the programme and encourage residents to take part in the planned consultation later this year so they can have a leading role in shaping their healthcare for future years.

### DECISION TIME!!!

There is still time to write to the Planning Department at Basingstoke Council as the planning application for the 1st of 4 warehouses on J7M3 will be presented on the 7th April to the Development Control Committee who will vote on whether or not to refuse it.

If you meant to but haven't got round to it, PLEASE write to the Planning Department at Basingstoke Council or SHARE on our Facebook page to everyone and anyone you know who cares about the landscape in this part of North Hampshire. Once it's gone, it's gone.....

[cleanairgreenenvironment.org](http://cleanairgreenenvironment.org)



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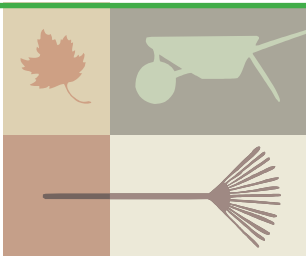
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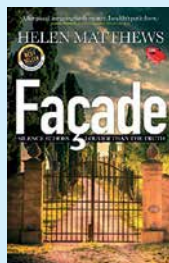
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## BOOKWORMS FEBRUARY MEETING

This month we were delighted to welcome back local author Helen Matthews to talk to us over Zoom about her new book 'Facade'. Helen gave a very interesting presentation about the genre of psychological suspense and how she writes. Crime and thriller books are the most popular and best selling genre at present. I think we were all amazed at the level of research, redrafting and checking of facts and procedures that goes into producing a novel.

This latest book is about secrets that are hidden within a family for years until they slowly emerge with lots of drama along the way. I think we were all pleased not to have a sister like Imogen! Members asked lots of challenging questions and Helen explained where she had obtained her ideas for the plot and settings. She had a very interesting time in Little Venice interviewing the people who live on the canal boats to gain some insight into life on the water. 20 members enjoyed the talk and so we would like to send a big thank you to Helen for giving up her precious time and we look forward to welcoming her back when her next novel is launched.



We are very much looking forward to the day when we can meet again in person at the Cafe in the Park which will be reopening again for take away very soon.

Next month we are reading 'The Woman in the White Kimono' by Ana Johns, which was inspired by true stories and is set in 1950's Japan. Follow us and read along at Beggardwood Bookworms on Facebook.



## HALL & WOODHOUSE REVEALS THE PUBS INCLUDED IN APRIL OPENING PLANS

Hall & Woodhouse has confirmed that four of its Hampshire pubs will open for outdoor use from Wednesday, April 14, following the lifting of government restrictions.

The four pubs re-opening with a limited menu of classic pub favourites, a contactless ordering system and social distancing measures, include:

- Osborne View, Fareham
- The Plough, Bursledon
- The Portsmouth Arms, Hatch Warren
- The Holly Blue, Beggardwood

Matt Kearsy, Managing Director of Hall & Woodhouse, said: "We are delighted to be able to re-open a number of our houses for outdoor use. Our pubs play a vital role in their community and we are excited to be making preparations to welcome our guests back safely. We've missed them.

"We have created all-weather solutions to cope with the obvious challenges of only opening outside in April. Guests will be able to book a number of covered tables



if they do not want to take their chances with the Great British weather."

Guests are encouraged to pre-book a table online. Bookings of no more than six people will be available with a 90-minute slot at the table.

Pubs will open 11.30am-3pm and 5.30-11pm, Tuesdays - Thursdays, from 11.30am-11pm Fridays - Saturdays, and 12-9pm on Sundays.

Guests are advised to check each individual pub's website for food service times.

Hall & Woodhouse will begin the phased re-opening of the rest of its managed house estate across the south from week commencing Monday, May 17, in line with the government's roadmap.

For more information, please visit [www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk](http://www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk)

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