



THE Rabbiter

Issue 28 | September 2021

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- **BEST PUB IN HAMPSHIRE**
- **MORE EVENTS RETURNING**

and much more

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THE Rabbitter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 5 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND
PORTSMOUTH ARMS
- 6 PHILLIPS SOLICITORS
- 8 COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE
COUNCILLOR'S VISIT
BASINGSTOKE BRIDGE CLUB
- 10 SAINSBURY'S
CAMROSE, GILLIES AND
HACKWOOD (PPG)
- 11 OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD
WILDLIFE GROUP
- 12 BLUEFINS SWIMMING CLUB
BOOKWORMS
CAFE IN THE PARK
- 14 COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 15 THE WARREN
- 16 CHILDREN'S CORNER
- 17 BASINGSTOKE U3A
HATCH WARREN INFANT SCHOOL
BRIGHTON HILL
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- 18 PROBUS CLUB
PORTSMOUTH ARMS MARKET
- 19 HATCH WARREN WI
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
- 20 CLASSIFIED ADS
CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT
FELLOWSHIP
BASINGSTOKE LADIES CHOIR
BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND
- 21 FREEADS
- 22 RESTAURANT REVIEW

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EDITORIAL

September is a new beginning for so many of us. The school year starts, as does the college and university year. The weather is slowly changing and autumn is on the horizon. We reflect on past summer days spent on the beach, picnics, festivals and seeing family. Currently we are experiencing the beginning of a return to normal life. Pubs and restaurants are open, meeting up with friends and family, and holidays in the sunshine are being planned. However the message remains to stay safe and don't throw away those face masks yet.

There are lots of exciting events happening locally – Basingstoke Concert Band will be celebrating the Last Night of the Proms (see page 5), the Lager Festival on 25 September (see page 18) and book now for the best local Fireworks Spectacular to be held on 6 November (see page 18). The Community Lunch at the Café in the Park will be back on 6 October serving delicious jacket spuds with beans and cheese or ploughman's lunch – yummy!

The Rabbitter received a letter this month from a local resident regarding the Borough Council grass cutting policy around the estate – see page 5 for the letter and for the response from Cllr Reid. Do you support the view that the real reason is financial cuts or it is good to see the Council supporting initiatives to support a policy of carbon neutrality and insect life, plant pollination and wildlife?

Congratulations to the Portsmouth Arms for being recognised as the Best Pub and Bar in Hampshire – see page 5. The pub is also the venue for Saturday Market from 10am – 1pm every week. Indigo Bakes are there with their wonderful breads and cakes – the doughnuts are delicious, Fernworth Farm sell good quality vegetables and meat plus there are stalls selling spices, cakes and a good variety of gifts.

This month our roving gourmet had lunch at Tylney Hall – expensive but worth every penny. If you want to treat yourself, why not visit the Honesty Café at Dummer Down Farm. If the weather is good you can sit outside on the decking and enjoy a view of green fields. The service is good and so are the cinnamon buns! There is a deli shop attached selling cheeses, sausages and a great variety of jams and pickles etc. They even stock dog ice cream!

Have a great September and stay safe.

Editor



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Letters...

to the editor

❖ I smiled when I read in The Rabbiter Cllr Reid's explanation for the uncut grass on our estates. Cllr Reid must think his constituents are naive. He says council 'problems' and a 'green initiative' are behind our once nice estates looking like something out of the third world.

Had the council actually planted wild flowers there might be some strength to his argument, but the reality is waist-high weeds everywhere you look. And a quick call to the council offices revealed that the real reason grass is not cut is in fact financial cutbacks.

So despite the level of Council Tax paid by residents of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood, we're left with uncut verges and open spaces leading to: lines of sight at junctions being blocked, an increase in ticks (with the risk of Lyme disease), dog owners unable to clear up dog poo because it's now hidden in long grass; increased allergic symptoms for those suffering from hay fever; more rats and mice, overhanging metre-high nettles and places where once our children could play, now thick with weeds.

To be fair to Cllr Putty, he did his best to get something done, but apparently the green lobby among the Tory council is so strong that the 'back to nature' brigade won't hear of our estates being tidied up.

Name and Email supplied

Response from Cllr Reid

❖ Just to remind everyone, here is the neutrally worded and factual content from my report: "this last month saw discussions on the grass cutting in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. The Borough Council had been experiencing problems and had fallen behind but started to catch up during June. Residents will see that increased areas are being left uncut to encourage insects and wildlife as part of green initiatives."

I was not party to the phone call that your reader reports but, again, here is a factual quote taken from the Borough Council's website: "Although the grass will be cut less frequently than at present, under the new arrangements each cut will take longer to carry out, therefore we expect this arrangement to be cost neutral."

Both the County Council and the Borough Council are committed to achieving carbon neutrality and are encouraging everyone to act responsibly to restore our decimated pollinating insect populations and wildlife. Despite what climate change deniers and others claim, this is not about saving money but about saving the planet.

❖ Every weekday morning at 7am and evening (anytime from 8pm to 11pm) there is a 50/125cc motorbike that screams with its baffles removed down Centurion Way waking everyone who lives in the adjoining roads such as Solent Drive and Petworth Close. What inconsideration for his neighbours!!! If he doesn't care (as I guess he's doing this to impress his friends) then surely his parents should have something to say. It is illegal to ride a motorbike with the baffles removed so please I appeal to this youngster to respect his neighbours and replace his baffles to help dampen the VERY LOUD noise that he makes when riding his motorbike or I may have to report him to the local authority. We are a family of motorbike riders but there is no way we would subject all of our neighbours to the daily noise pollution put upon us by this rider.

Name and Email supplied

THE PORTSMOUTH ARMS IS CROWNED BEST PUB IN HAMPSHIRE BY NATIONAL AWARDS SCHEME

The Portsmouth Arms in Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, has been named the 'Best Pub & Bar in Hampshire' by The National Pub & Bar Awards.

The pub is part of the Hall & Woodhouse family and has been nationally recognised as the best pub in Hampshire for its diverse and creative approach to hospitality. Additionally, the pub has been praised for the way the team navigated the past 18 months in light of the pandemic and for the stringent safety measures that have been in place to keep guests safe.

Tristan O'Hana, editor of Pub & Bar magazine, which organises the awards, said: "I've never been prouder of this industry. The entries for this year's awards demonstrated the undeniable value that communities place on their beloved pubs and bars. To be able to acknowledge the hard work and diligence of venues across the UK is an absolute privilege. These outstanding venues deserve this recognition now more than ever."

The awards have selected 94 county champions from across the UK including another of Hall & Woodhouse's managed pubs, The Old Granary in Wareham, has also won the 'Best Pub & Bar in Dorset' Award.

Chris Chapman, Head of Managed Operations at Hall & Woodhouse, said: "After a turbulent 18 months it is fantastic for two of our houses to be nationally recognised as

being the best within these two counties.

"The Portsmouth Arms and its team has played an integral role in their community during the various lockdowns, while also managing to raise over £70,000 for charity.

"I am so proud of the team for achieving this accolade after such a difficult year. They deserve this national recognition for their dedication to providing the best hospitality to our guests, despite the ongoing challenges that we are facing as an industry."

The 94 county champions will be officially crowned at a red-carpet celebration in London on Monday 6th September. At the awards ceremony 15 regional winners will also be announced, as well as the overall winner of the 'National Pub & Bar of the Year' award.

The Portsmouth Arms is a traditional thatched roof pub at the heart of the Hatch Warren local community. Like all Hall & Woodhouse pubs, it is dog-friendly and provides fantastic hospitality for the whole family. The pub has a warm, traditional and cosy interior combining a dining room and more informal bar areas to make it a pub for all occasions.

In the summer months, guests have the option to enjoy the pub's equally beautiful beer garden and a pint of Hall & Woodhouse's own and exclusive Badger Beer.

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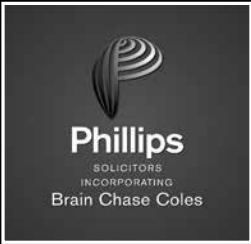
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BUYING A PROPERTY THROUGH THE SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME



Trish Coutts

Taking that first step on the property ladder can seem daunting especially in today's climate with house prices at record high levels.

For those who are not able to buy a property on the open market, it is worth considering going down the shared ownership route, which makes buying a property more affordable for many first-time buyers.

Trish Coutts, who is a conveyancer working in the Residential Property Team at Phillips specialises in working with first-time buyers and dealing with shared ownership transactions. She said: "In essence shared ownership is a tried and tested way of buying a percentage of a property and involves paying rent on the remaining share that you do not own."

This year the Government has implemented several changes which should make the scheme accessible to more people.

Those who are purchasing under the new Shared Ownership Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026 are now able to buy a smaller share in the property to begin with.

"Until April this year, the minimum you could buy into a shared ownership property was 25%," said Trish.

"This has now been changed to just 10% with first-time owners paying rent on the remaining 90%. This is especially good for people who would have had difficulties in putting together a larger deposit."

Properties on existing developments will still be limited to a first-time purchase of a minimum of 25%.

One of the benefits of the Shared Ownership Scheme is that when you can afford it, you can increase the share you hold in the property. Trish said: "This is known as staircasing and enables a purchaser to buy a larger percentage of the property."

However, Trish points out that you will need to pay for legal and mortgage fees each time you increase your share by staircasing. "It may make better sense to save up for a bigger share and staircase in one go rather than do this several times over a certain period," suggests Trish.

If you would like to discuss this or any other family legal matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you are a first-time buyer and are considering shared ownership, please do not hesitate to contact Trish by calling 01256 854621 emailing trish.coutts@phillips-law.co.uk or visit www.phillips-law.co.uk When contacting Phillips, please mention The Rabbiter.

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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

WAREHOUSE AT JUNCTION 7: at the time of writing there is still no news on the request by local MPs for the Secretary of State to 'call in' the decision of the Borough Council to approve the first warehouse at Oakdown Farm. I wondered whether this meant that further work was being carried out during the unusual hiatus period, perhaps to review the traffic and transport figures, but have been advised that this is not the case. At the same time, there is no announcement yet regarding Dummer Parish Council's request that the Development Committee meeting be re-run, in the light of errors they allege in the advice given to Councillors. Local campaigners have renewed the call for residents to sign the petition calling for the protection of the 70 mature trees, of which 67 are oaks, at the entrance to the site.

PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP: the Beggarwood Surgery's PPG invited Maria Miller MP and representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group to a recent meeting, where the major item on the agenda was the tendering process for a new operator to take over the surgery when North Hampshire Urgent Care's contract comes to an end. I attended as an observer. Wanting to choose an operator that is best for our local community, the CCG has made what I think is a significant offer: the Chair of the PPG will be allowed to observe the presentations given by the potential operators and to comment afterwards. This will ensure that the patients have a voice during the decision-making process. The other pieces of positive news at the PPG were that NHUC has agreed to stay on a few months longer to help achieve a good transition.

CHURCH PARISH REORGANISATION: as part of the process of merging the Immanuel and St Mark's Parishes, the Church steering group has been considering a new name. The most popular one put forward at their recent Vision Days was 'The Parish of Basingstoke Down'. This is an historic

name for the geographical area that covers Kempshott, Beggarwood and Hatch Warren. The two churches will keep their individual names.

COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME: The Warren at Hatch Warren Community Centre is operating its activities for young people during the summer holidays and I have been pleased to approve a grant to help them, from my County Councillor devolved budget. I have also been able to help fund a new storage shed for the local Guides/Brownies. Now that the grants scheme is open again, I would be pleased to hear from other organisations that I might be able to assist.

VACCINATIONS: All patients at the Beggarwood surgery aged 18+ have now been invited for their COVID vaccination. If you think that you have been missed, please contact the surgery. It increasingly looks as if 'double-jabbed status' is being viewed as essential for some activities.

THE HATCH WARREN NATURE GROUP: has reported positive effects from the decision to leave more areas free for nature. St Mark's meadow had a plant survey visit from the North Hampshire Recorder of the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI). The most gratifying comment was "This is what a meadow should be". The site has been created through restoration rather than recovering entirely naturally but the plants are those associated with the kind of soils and conditions that exist there and it will change considerably as it matures. The nature group has pictures on its website.

Related to this, the **BIODIVERSITY IMPROVEMENT ZONE** has generated considerable discussion. It sees some areas of grass being left uncut. I was asked whether there had been any consultation on this. Yes, the Borough Council did seek residents' views, including a survey and a drop-in day at the Community Centre, ending on 20 March last year. The web address for more information is <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/hatchwarren-and-beggarwood-biz>. A total of 153 species of herbaceous plant and

grasses were found – an excellent variety for a town location. Species included favourites such as creeping buttercups in the spring and dandelions and daisies. Forget-me-not and Speedwell were also common as were clovers and the white flowers of wild carrot and yarrow. The grassland structure became more varied and species of butterflies, bees, grasshoppers and spiders all benefited from increased food sources and places to live.

BROADMERE ROAD ADOPTIONS: I have made further enquiries about the adoption of the roads around the Co-op. It appears that this issue, affecting hundreds of people, is still being stalled by a dispute regarding one property that may have extended its boundary to incorporate a drainage facility. The developers are attempting to resolve the matter. In the meantime I have asked that the road markings in the Co-op area be renewed as they are badly faded, and the County Council has forwarded this request to the developers.

PARKING PLEA: St Mark's School has issued a fresh plea to drivers dropping off or collecting pupils to use the community centre for parking their cars. There have been instances of people parking near the busy Woodbury Road junction and even using a resident's private driveway.

NEW HOSPITAL: the 'Hampshire Together' group, of which I am a member, continues to meet. Although the consultation timescale has slowed, planning is still going ahead for the A30 site.

NEW PORTFOLIO: Following the local elections I am delighted to have been reappointed to the Cabinet at Hampshire County Council. I have a new portfolio, who covers HR matters, Performance and Partnerships. In connection with this, I am looking forward to learning more about the work being done in supporting families, addressing issues that could escalate into serious problems later, if left untouched.

Stephen Reid
County Councillor
Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

COUNCILLOR'S VISIT

On the 24th June I was invited for a complementary visit to Dashwood Manor. I was received by Leanne Wilkinson and the manager of this prestigious care home. I was given a tour of this complex and I was very impressed at this magnificent business in our ward. It is especially designed and equipped to provide the highest possible standard of nursing, residential care as well as care and support for the older people and those suffering from dementia.

I was absolutely delighted to hear from Leanne for the outlay of her outreach work with the community. She would welcome

groups especially those caring for relatives who are suffering from dementia.

I would appeal to carers of dementia people at home to contact Leanne Wilkinson at Dashwood Manor on 03300583244 to arrange a visit for a bit of respite and at what Dashwood Manor can offer to help and support them in the community.

I am proud to have been instrumental in having this business in our ward which is good for employments and community outreach.

Best regards stay safe

Cllr Dan Putty JP

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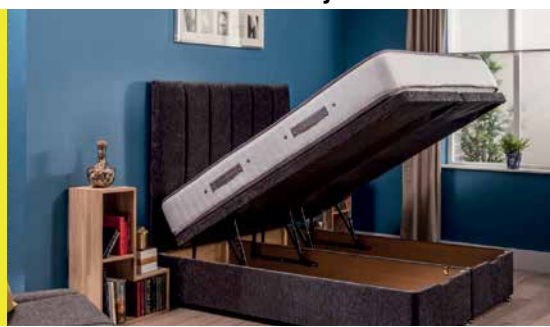
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Helping Everyone Eat Better

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CAMROSE, GILLIES AND HACKWOOD (PPG)

NEWS FROM CGH

We ask that we all "Be kind and respectful to each other". Throughout the pandemic, our NHS staff have gone above and beyond to help our nation tackle COVID-19. This has been a difficult time for everyone, including the teams in our local practices who have had to deal with lots of changes in the way they work and with high demand for GP services. This can cause frustration, and some staff have experienced abuse during this time which is of course upsetting for them and is not acceptable. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to CGH staff for continuing to provide patients with a good service, under very difficult circumstances.

The **new website** is now up and running after a bit of a delay. It can be found at <https://www.cgpartnership.co.uk>. Please visit the website (About Us -> Practice News) to read the quarterly newsletter; and (About Us -> Patient Participation Group) to read the minutes of our last meeting with the Practice held on 11th August.

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

What a mixture of weather we have had over the last two months – dry, hot, very hot, windy, cool, wet and very wet. But through it all the wildflowers on both sites have flourished and bloomed and the butterflies, bees and insects have just carried on regardless.

On both sites there is quite an abundance of *Common Ragwort* this year (the Group pulls some quite regularly but hasn't been able to keep up in the last two years due to lockdowns and restrictions). Ragwort is a beautiful rich yellow and stands tall

within the meadows but, as you may know, it is poisonous to cattle and horses (affects the liver). Thus farmers with livestock will clear ragwort from their fields. However, insects and butterflies love ragwort and in particular the cinnabar moth (day flying) lays its eggs on ragwort. The caterpillars consume the plant and the plant toxins build up in their bodies and this deters predators. The Group therefore deliberately leaves some ragwort around. Another beautiful rich yellow flower found in around meadows is *St John's Wort*. The two plants look similar and so are often confused but close-to the difference in

petals and leaves is obvious. On the *St. John's Wort* the filaments on the flowers are much longer and there are only five petals. (see photos)

The *teasel* on both sites has also done well this year and it too is very popular with insects. The purple flowers of the *teasel* bloom around the head in a circle starting at the bottom and working up in stages so there is never a full head of purple. Years ago the dried *teasel* heads were used to brush up the nap on cloth – and that is where the word "teasing" comes from.

Work Parties: For Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12 noon and for Beggarwood 10-12 noon at the café on the first Tuesday of the month. Please come along. Check the Internet address below for up-dates.



Common Ragwort



St John's Wort



Teasel

<https://sites.google.com/site/olddownbeggarwoodwildlifegroup>
 Email: odandbwd@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/odandbwd



TRY COMPETITIVE SWIMMING - JOIN BLUEFINS!

Basingstoke Bluefins Swimming Club is the only competitive swimming club in Basingstoke and the surrounding areas. We firmly believe it is important to offer a variety of pathways to children (and adults) to promote lifetime participation in aquatic disciplines.

Our fully inclusive programme is open to all swimmers across the aquatic disciplines and our Swim Academy programme follows Swim England's pathways taking your swimming lessons to the next level with an introduction into competitive swimming.

Skills Academy is the home of where swimmers start their journey learning fundamental skills in a squad-based programme. Our Skills Academy is aimed at swimmers aged 7-12 years and forms the base for our competitive squad structure.

We aim to just keep you in the water, whether it's to challenge your competitive nature or just to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Our Skills Academy, Competitive Training, Water Polo, Swim for Fitness and Masters 18+ Squads gives you the opportunity to set goals and build a healthy mind and body. Squads overview

- Skills Academy Pre-Squads 7-10
- Skills Academy Squads 8-12



- Competitive Squads 8-18+
 - Skills & Fitness Squads 13-17
 - Water Polo 9-18+
 - Masters Competitive & Fitness Squads 18+
- Basingstoke Aquadrome is the home of Bluefins, supported by Basingstoke Sports Centre, Tadley Leisure Centre, Queen Marys College and Cranbourne school. We are always looking for new members across our venues. To take that next step, please get in touch with Ali - admin@bbfsc.org to book your trial.

We look forward to seeing you in the water soon.

The Bluefins Team

Facebook: swimbluefins
Instagram: basingstoke_bluefins
www.bbfsc.org



We have read a fantastic list of books this year, with two author Zooms. We thank our members for the continued enthusiasm even when Zoom fatigue has set in. We are looking forward to getting back to the Cafe in the park in September. We have missed the delicious cakes. The book we have chosen to read is Small Pleasures by Clare Chambers which has been long listed for the women's prize for fiction. Set in the 1950s a reporter is sent to investigate the tale of a virgin birth with surprising consequences. Please see our Beggardwood Bookworm Facebook page for details of how to book tickets for our next meeting.



Café in the Park

WE ARE NOW FULLY OPEN!

PLEASE JOIN US

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10am – 2pm

Community lunch 1st Wednesday every month
Free hot drink with 10 stars collected using our loyalty card
Sunday offers from 1.30pm onwards
Midweek deals - coffee and cake only £4
Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft - every 2nd & 4th Friday (call 07884 303557 for info)
Lots of regular events – please ask at the cafe

For party bookings please visit:
www.hatchwarren.org

Beggardwood Community Centre,
Broadmere Road,
Basingstoke,
RG22 4AQ.
Tel: 01256 811262



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*Valid one per person, per transaction.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



HOT & COLD DRINKS



PLANNING A PARTY?

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Weddings or a fun get together with friends...*

Beechdown is the perfect place to celebrate!

Choose from a delicious buffet, a hearty hog roast, a succulent carvery and anything in between.

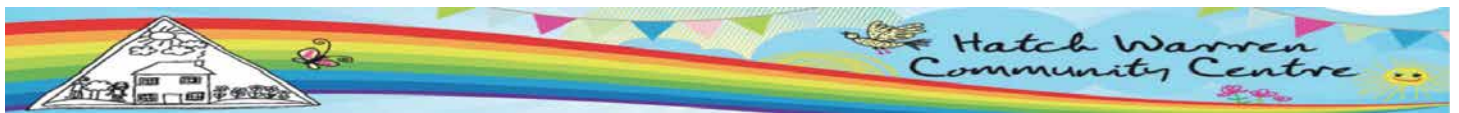
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We are a registered charity run by volunteers - working to make Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live!

Hatch Warren Community Centre

LAGER Festival

Prosecco, Wine, Ale & Cider too!!

Hot Food by Simply Hog Roast

Live music from Johnny Marvel's BLUES GROOVE

Saturday 25th Sept 7-11pm

ADULTS ONLY

Tickets £6
£3 members (on production of valid card and limited to 2 per family)

To book tickets see our website

www.hatchwarren.org / 01256 811262

This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity No 1161117. Tickets non-refundable

SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER
Gates Open 5.30pm - Display starts 7.30pm prompt

Hatch Warren Community Centre presents...

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

DJ Mark Halliday Competitions Children's Rides Hog Roast Burgers Bacon Baps Hot Dogs Pizza Paella Chilli Sweets Doughnuts Licensed Bar Music Light-Up Novelty Toys

ADVANCE TICKET ONLY EVENT - TICKETS ON SALE FROM 1st OCTOBER
NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT - BUY EARLY AS LIMITED TICKETS ONSALE
TICKET SALES CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

TICKET PRICES FROZEN FROM 2018 - NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE GATE

FAMILY £22 <small>2 adults plus up to 2 children up to age 15</small>	ADULT £10	CHILD / SENIOR £4 <small>Children 0 - 15</small>
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TICKETS ON SALE VIA THE WEBSITE OR IN THE OFFICE.
Payment by cash or internet banking.
A surcharge will be applied if purchasing online. All tickets are non-refundable.

Remember! Remember! The 6th of November!

www.hatchwarren.org
www.facebook.com/hatchwarren
Office open 9am-3pm Monday - Friday
Tel: 01256 811262

In association with Sainsbury's

Registration is open for September places at our After School Club

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AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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Contact us:
odette@hatchwarren.org
01256 811262
www.hatchwarren.org

Hatch Warren Community Centre,
Long Cross Lane, Basingstoke, RG22 4XF
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Registered Charity Number 1161117



Children & Young People's support lines
 Childline - 0800 1111 - Samaritans - 116 123
 Young Minds text service – 85258

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Qualified Staff / Extensive Free Holiday Programmes / Tel: 842111 / Email: vicky@hatchwarren.org

Follow Us on Facebook @The Warren and Instagram @thewarrenyouthclub

The Warren is back! Booking is essential!

Activities Schedule:

Fridays 6pm -7.45 pm, school years 6, 7 & 8

Friday 27th August	Celebration BBQ supported by ASDA Community Fund
Friday 3 rd September	Obstacle Course, Uno and Slushies
Friday 10 th September	Zorbs and Milkshakes
Friday 17 th September	Frisbee Golf, Bingo and Mocktails
Friday 24 th September	Sumo Suits, Make Your Own Key Rings and Waffles

What a whirlwind of fun, Summer Streetz has been already!! We have really enjoyed being open the extra night so far and want to thank all our young people for being so amazing and getting involved in all of our activities.

Thank you!!

We want to say a huge thank you to Councillor Stephen Reid for his generous grant, that has enabled us to open on Thursday nights and offer such a variety of activities at no charge for our young people, throughout the summer. **Hip Hip Hooray!**

Older Sessions

We are so pleased we have been seeing so many brilliant young people during our Friday night Older Sessions. We are delighted that you are enjoying the Warren. We will continue to be open Fridays 8pm-9.30pm for school years 9 and above. If you want to play pool, air hockey or just want somewhere to hang out come on down. No need to book, just ensure you bring your details to enable us to track and trace and don't forget your face masks!



We have moved forward very carefully with the easing of Covid restrictions. Amazingly we had pre-booked the Holiday Inn for a summer Ball on July 19th, the very day strict Lockdown ended. We decided to go ahead but all members took a lateral flow test before coming. It was a brilliant evening. For some it was a long awaited school prom which could not happen in July 2020. Everyone dressed up and we had a formal meal and disco.

We held a BBQ at Hatch Warren and despite the gloomy weather and cloud bursts we had a lovely evening for 60 members and parents.

Dates for September;

6th - Hatch Warren Youth Club

13th - Portsmouth Arms Pub

20th - Celebration BBQ supported by ASDA Community Fund



Warren Youth Team are here to help!

If any of our young people from either age group have any worries or concerns or just need someone to listen, particularly with a new school year coming up and many of our members starting new schools or their GCSE years, please remember our Youth Workers are here to listen and always happy to try and help.

For the latest info please keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages or Email our Youth Manager Vicky: vicky@hatchwarren.org





Hatch Warren
Under Fives Preschool

HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We've been looking forward to welcoming our children back to Hatch Warren Under Fives after the summer break, and it's been great to meet our new children too.

The start of a brand new term can be a difficult time for young children and the first few weeks of settling into a new environment is a time of crucial importance to a child's later happiness within a setting. Our first few weeks are always about settling in and helping our children make new friends and get to know staff. All children are individuals, and while some children will adjust fairly easily and quickly to a new environment and new routines, others will take longer to feel comfortable and secure. At Hatch Warren Under Fives we work hard to ensure that all children settle happily.

Our first topic "All About Me" is a great chance for the children to learn all about themselves, their new friends and their families. We use stories, arts, crafts and songs to help our children discover what is unique and special about themselves and each other.

As the weather is still good we will be using our outdoor learning environment as much as possible and we have some great activities planned for extending our children's learning outdoors. We'll also be learning about autumn this term and exploring colours, outdoor sounds and hibernating animals. And we'll be holding weekly cooking sessions and weekly science experiments too.

HWU5s and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Hatch Warren Under Fives work to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework in all our activities. The EYFS sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five years old.

At the start of any new academic year change is ahead for our little ones. Will they see new teachers? Stay at preschool for a longer amount of time without Mummy or Daddy? Will they be starting their school journey for the very first time?

One of the areas of the EYFS is 'PSED' which stands for Personal, Social and Emotional Development. A large part of what we do here at Hatch Warren Under Fives is to ensure that we bond with your children and encourage their confidence building. We would encourage and observe a little one to see if, between the ages of 22 and 36 months, they can separate from their main carer with support and encouragement and also express their own interests and preferences. If they are not quite ready we work on it together. It is lovely to hear your little ones asking for a particular toy that may not be out on that day...and yes we will get it for them.

We have a few spaces available for the 2021/22 academic year, to enquire about a place 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. Kempshott Under Fives also has a few spaces remaining.

www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP! I hope you have all had a wonderful Summer with your families and friends as much as is possible during these times.

We are so excited to be back for a new term. Our little ones have grown up so much over the Summer and we have been welcoming our new starter children. We have been reading the story Owl Babies, a wonderful story about the transition when Mummy has to leave us for a little while and it is hugely helpful in talking with the children coming back after a break or starting pre-school for the first time.

So much fun to be had playing with all the fantastic resources and activities that we



have on offer. So many different sensory trays to choose from, painting, sand, water and of course mud play.

Our Forest Leaders are so excited to be back at the forest! Busy setting up ready for a new year full of fun with our children on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings, exploring and learning about nature again.

01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

Lisa Collisson

CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School! The children are all currently enjoying a well-deserved break during the summer holidays and will return on Monday 6th September, ready for their new term. We had a gloriously sunny leaving ceremony for all our Pre-Schoolers starting Reception in September - we wish them lots of love and luck - it has been wonderful teaching them, mostly since the age of just two. For the latest news do visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cuckoomeadowpreschool.

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children. Visit www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk and search for: Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School. To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172.

SHOOTING STARS

A comment from one of our newest parents who looked round last week...

I was so nervous about putting my son back into nursery as it has just been the two of us for a while, but it was such a positive experience walking around the nursery. All questions I had were answered and I can feel 100% confident that my son will have an amazing time as the staff are so dedicated to the children and their needs.

Our parents are enjoying being able to send their term time only Shooting Stars in for the odd session during the holidays...

We have a few spaces for some sessions this academic year and a waiting list for others. Now taking bookings for July 2022 onwards...contact us ASAP to visit us and sign your child up for next year.

shootingstarsnurseryschool.co.uk

BASINGSTOKE U3A

Our Meet & Greet Day

No longer in full-time work?

Looking for Fun?

Still wanting to learn?

We always welcome new members, so on this day you can come and find out about all the activities we run, meet people with the same interests as you, and start to make new friends. You can join as many groups as you'd like for just one annual fee! For example: Excursions, Bridge, Cycling, Dancing, Music, History, Quizzes, Sewing, Photography, Languages... and much more.

Wednesday 8th September 2 - 4 pm

Queen Mary's Hall

Queen Mary's Sixth Form College

Cliddesden Road RG21 3HF

E: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

Not on-line?

We keep in touch with all our members regularly. You're important.

Tel: 07787 520 281

HATCH WARREN INFANT SCHOOL

A fresh new year!

We hope that you are all safe and well and have had a wonderful summer full of family, friends and fun. We are very much looking forward to seeing our returners in Year 1 and 2 as well as welcoming all our new children into the Year R classes. We all have our fingers tightly crossed for an as near normal year as possible!



We love reading at Hatch Warren Infants and one of our favourite places to be is the library. So we are very excited that this term sees the opening of our brand-new woodland themed library area complete with reading nooks, a storyteller's chair and log cushions for comfy reading. We are just



putting in the finishing touches and can't wait for it to be open and being used by the children again. But we've popped in a sneak-peek photo for you to see our progress so far!

Speaking of reading, have you completed your Wild World Heroes reading challenge at Basingstoke Library? Don't worry if you haven't, you have until 18th September to read your six books and get your name on our school's roll call of honour!

Although we are just beginning this academic year we are already looking ahead to next September. Is your little one due to start school in September 2022? If so, we would love to show you around our friendly, caring, nurturing and inclusive Infant school where developing the whole child is at the centre of all we do. Please contact the school office to book your place at one of our school tours running throughout October and November (subject to any COVID19 restrictions that maybe in place). More information and tour dates are available on our website.

01256 350313

parent.mail@hwis.hants.sch.uk

www.hwis.hants.sch.uk



BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

What an end to an extraordinary year @ BHCS!

After a demanding year of getting used to school life with Covid in our lives, the final summer term was no less busy!

We saw the launch of the new House system, Sports Day, a Deep Learning Day, Reward trips, the delayed Prom for the class of 2020

and the end of year Awards Assembly. And we found time to raise over £1200 for the Ugandan Orphanage we support as a school as they face another strict lockdown without the support we have here!

In the existing House system, Houses were named after locations of events during the 2012 Olympics, so it was time for a change. After consultation with staff and students the following new Houses were decided on: Horizon, Voyager, Pioneer and Endeavour



(inspired by the space missions, encouraging all students to reach for the stars!).

Sports Day was an exciting event, especially as it was the 1st time the whole school had been able to get together for over a year, albeit in year group bubbles on the field. It was also the 1st event with students representing their new House; Sports Day was won by Pioneer House, setting the bar high for future events.

Deep Learning Days are a day each term where students follow an alternative timetable to spend more time learning elements of the PSHE, RSE and Citizenship curriculums to extend their learning in My World lessons during tutor sessions. We have not been able to hold one since Autumn 2019 so it was great to re-start with 'Keeping healthy and safe'; students had 3 sessions during the day in their tutor groups learning about topics as diverse as self-defence, First Aid and viruses and vaccines. One year 8 told us "First Aid was very fun and I am very glad I have learnt these skills. I hope I won't need to use them, but it gives me peace of mind knowing how to save a life".

Reward trips took place for those students whose conduct was outstanding all year. They had the choice of a range of options: Bowling, The Living Rainforest, Thorpe Park, Rock Up to name a few.

After the sudden end to secondary school for our class of 2020, Mr Beeching (Head of Year) promised that they would get their Prom when Covid allowed, and true to his word they had a sparkling evening at Audley's Wood.

Finally, we had our end of year assembly broadcast via Teams to students in their tutor bases where we celebrated the successes of students in all faculties, across all year groups.

One last thing from us: 4th October is our Open Evening (format TBC due to Covid) so if you/your child is in Y5 or Y6, do come and visit us!

**By Abigail T and Zoe R,
Student Journalists**

Mrs Moore, Values Lead



PROBUS HEARS ABOUT THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOUGLAS BADER'S OPERATION LEG

Many Probust Club members can remember the 1956 film "Reach For The Sky" starring Kenneth Moore as the legless WW2 fighter ace, Wing Commander Douglas Bader. However, very few members knew that it was an aeroplane from 18 Squadron, now based at RAF Odiham, that made the drop of a replacement limb bound for the Luftwaffe hospital holding Bader. Coincidentally, this August marks the eightieth anniversary since Bader was shot down over German occupied France on 9 August 1941.

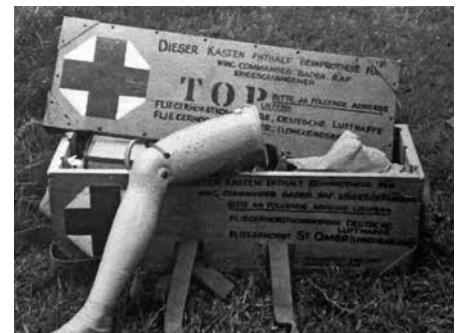
Probust Club of Basingstoke member, retired RAF Squadron Leader Chris Perkins MVO, explained how he came across a faded WW2 photograph of three young aircrew whilst recently researching archives at RAF Odiham, which started his investigation into this historic event.

Douglas Bader only managed to bail out of his stricken Spitfire after a leather strap broke, leaving his right prosthesis jammed in the rudder pedals. His artificial leg was returned to him at a Luftwaffe hospital after some repairs, but a replacement was really needed.

The German authorities reported his safe arrival and status as a PoW and requested

that a new leg be delivered. They offered safe passage by the Luftwaffe but the British realised the important propaganda opportunity this offered the enemy, so decided instead to use an aircraft involved in a nearby bombing mission to parachute drop the replacement limb.

The faded photograph was of the crew of a Blenheim light bomber of 18 Squadron. They were non-commissioned sergeant aircrew with a 19-year-old Canadian pilot and two twenty something Englishmen as observer and air gunner. They had only been on the squadron a month before the mission to drop the artificial leg came their way and they survived only eleven missions. Their names are listed amongst the 55,000 other airmen lost in Bomber Command during WW2.



PORTSMOUTH ARMS WEEKLY LOCAL COMMUNITY ANYTHING MARKET!

The Portsmouth Arms is a part of Hall and Woodhouse, a 242 year old Brewery and Pub company. One of our values is to enrich our community from generation to generation. Since reopening I have tried to analyse what both Basingstoke and Hatch Warren is missing. For me Hatch Warren is missing a shop and Basingstoke is missing community initiatives for small start-up businesses which for me a solution to both is a weekly community market. Now that leads to me, my name is Richard Curtis, I have been a pub general manager for 10 years and have been at the Portsmouth Arms since September 2019. During lockdown I cemented the Portsmouth Arms place in the local and digital community by running daily pub quizzes that saw over 1,000,000 viewers and raised nearly £50,000 for local charities. We have run the market every week come rain or shine in a essential and non-essential way ever since September. The market now has a very skilled and experienced committee in



place ensuring this is a long term project for Basingstoke and its people.

As an out of the box and forward thinking General Manager I lead the way in digital marketing. Every week a vast turn out attends which is growing each week. We have the exposure of two pages on Facebook, the Portsmouth Arms main page which has over 6,000 followers. Also the Portsmouth Arms Market page which is growing at around 70 new followers every week. We want to give the platform to local businesses to physically sell their products on a Saturday and virtually sell it throughout the week.

As you will see from the picture the Portsmouth Arms is blessed with outside space, making it very easy for a rather large "market" to take place. We open from 10am to 14:00 every Saturday. Stalls change every week and we have a varied lot attending each and every week. No two Saturdays are the same!

Come and support local businesses.

HATCH WARREN WI

Hatch Warren members met for a casual summer get together at the Café in the Park on Thursday 5th August. The sun shone and we enjoyed being able to see one another again in person. We also welcomed three new prospective members who are looking forward to being able to join us in the near future. Thank you to all staff at the Café in the Park for making us welcome yet again.

HCFWI will hold our Autumn meeting in October at the Anvil Basingstoke and the guests for the afternoon will be 'The Jersey Boys'. HCFWI have organised a holiday to Norfolk with visits to include Norwich, Sandringham and the Norfolk Broads for members to sign up to for April 2022.

We will continue through the month of August with our weekly coffee chats on Zoom and our monthly genealogy group and craft group on line. Our September meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday 2nd September at 7.30 pm when we will welcome a talk by Steve Herra on 'Cunard History and Glamorous Stars'.

Our committee will be in talks with Hatch Warren Community Centre regarding us returning to our monthly meetings in the Autumn. Ladies, with the Autumn approaching why not come and join us and see what a lively lgroup we are. You will always find a warm friendly welcome waiting for you. For further information please contact our President Lynette 07824 535868.



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••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• As I write, the Olympic games have just ended and, despite
• the Covid restrictions and limitations, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic
• games were a resounding success. Records were broken, PBs
• (personal bests) achieved and there were tears shed, both of
• joy and sadness as our Team GB's medal haul matched the
• success of the 2012 Games. The medallists on their rostrums
• looked rightfully proud of their amazing achievements as their
• countries' flags were raised high and the gold medallists thrilled
• to the sound of their National Anthems.

• After the ceremonies, all the athletes faced the press and TV
• and radio journalists, and were asked how they felt. Whilst being
• overjoyed at their success, it was then that the athletes began
• to thank all the people who had helped them on their way
• to success. Thanks to their brilliant teachers, coaches, doctors,
• psychiatrists and physiotherapists as well as their families for
• the support they had given them over many years. Thanks to
• grannies who had driven them each week to football training,
• to families who had believed in their talent and made sacrifices
• of their time and finances to enable those they loved to fulfil
• their dreams. Even Lottery ticket buyers were appreciated
• for their contribution to the funding of athletes. No-one was
• overlooked. Medals are won by a few but behind each winner is
• a huge team of people who help make the dreams come true.

• What a lesson this is for us all. It's all about being part of a team
• and being part of something greater than the individual, not just
• in sport but also in every aspect of our lives. Teamwork starts in
• the home, at school and in the workplace.

• As Christians, the bible reminds us that we, as members of
• Christ's church, are all called to continue to do the work he
• began, using our individual skills, talents and abilities. Together, as
• a Team, the bible calls us 'The Body of Christ'. We are required
• to work together as a team to share the Good News of Jesus
• Christ and his Kingdom and to serve others, both in our own
• community and in the worldwide community, and to work to
• take care of the world God gave us.

• St. Teresa of Avila says it so well:
• "Christ has no body now on earth but ours.
• No hands but ours; no feet but ours.
• Ours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on
• this world;
• Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good;
• We are His hands, His feet, His eyes and His body.
• Christ has no body now on earth but ours."
• It sounds a tall order doesn't it? But, with teamwork, we can
• move mountains.

• As you read this, I expect the 2020 Paralympic Games will have
• begun in earnest, so more thrills and excitement awaits us as we
• watch Teamwork in Action.

• From the church family at Immanuel Church
• (The church in St. Mark's School).

•••••

Your local parish church in Hatch Warren & Beggarwood



Join us for worship for all-ages
every Sunday at 10.00am.

Other activities & services - see website
and Facebook page for details

Everyone very welcome

Immanuel Church
St. Mark's School, Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, RG22 4US
Churchwardens Tel: 01256 351862
www.immanuelhwb.co.uk & www.facebook.com/immanuelhwb

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BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

The Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed back 42 members and 4 visitors to what was the first meeting since March 2020 due to the Covid 19 lockdowns. He said what a pleasure it was to see so many there and gave apologies for those unable to attend. Myrna Lyon asked to speak on behalf of the members to thank the committee for keeping in touch with everyone throughout the closure with newsletters and monthly phone calls which she said were greatly appreciated. The Secretary, Tony Brazier gave details of the forthcoming trips that we hoped could go ahead this year and reminded everyone about the new arrangements for the payment of subscriptions. Our Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then gave an update on those members who had not been well and those that had sadly died since we last met.

The group's first outing this year will be the Mystery Trip on Thursday 14th October which includes elevenses, lunch and afternoon tea at a cost of £50 (non-members £52) with the coach leaving Oakley at 9.15, Leisure Centre 9.30 and Town Centre at 9.35. This will be followed on Thursday 18th November with a trip to Haskins Garden Centre for Christmas shopping and then the Christmas lunch at BCOT on Thursday 9th December.

The next meetings are on 1st September and on 6th October with Malcolm Nelson speaking about 40 Years of Catching Smugglers. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com.

David Cowling



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REHEARSALS ARE STARTING

News from Basingstoke Ladies Choir

Basingstoke Ladies Choir may not have been in the public eye during the long months of lockdown but we have not been in hibernation! We have successfully continued to rehearse, hold a variety of social events and generally have a good time all courtesy of Zoom! Our successful Walk Round Britain for Sebastian's Action Trust, which raised £2000+ allowed us to remain supportive of our wider community.

Our greatest joy is to sing and we are looking forward to getting together again as we plan our return to rehearsals in September. So if you are looking for something new to do after lockdown with a friendly group of people we would love to welcome you!

Our choir open evening taster sessions are 13th September 2021, 10th January 2022 and 9th May 2022 or we would be delighted to welcome you on any Monday evening for fun while you sing.

For further information visit www.basingstokeladies.choir.co.uk

Are you interested in joining

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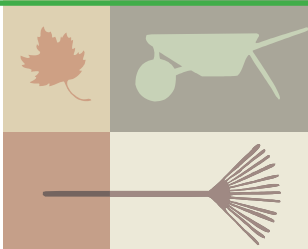
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RESTAURANT REVIEW

TYLNEY HALL HOTEL

Rotherwick, Hook, RG27 9AZ 01256 764881

Ringling up on Monday hoping to book lunch for the next Sunday, or at the latest the Sunday after, I was offered a choice of 12 noon, 1.00 pm or 2.00 pm and was pleasantly surprised that the first Sunday was available.

Selecting the middle time, Madam and I arrived at Tylney Hall in Rotherwick just after 12.30 pm and desirous of a small tincture before lunch we turned into the lounge to be met with a fairly full room and not much choice of seating. A lecturer confirmed our lunch booking and at the suggestion of the maître'd decided to have a G & T at our lunch table.

Shown into the Oak Room restaurant we were seated in the bay window with wonderful views of an avenue of impressive pine trees with the lawns descended into the far distance. While there was a lady tinkling the ivories there were few people dining. Even after the 2.00 pm time came there was only 60 percent of tables occupied so it was a mystery where all the people seen in the lounge were consumed in this impressive Victorian edifice.

Surprisingly, the menu offering was quite restrictive, perhaps a reflection on the fall out from the Covid restrictions and reduced staffing levels. There were five choices each of starters and mains and four desserts including a cheese board. We ate almost in concert except for the dessert.

A bottle of still water was accompanied by a selection of bread rolls with salty butter and our starter was a beautifully presented goat's cheese with figs, carrot shaving and a few drops of sauce. Of course, we both had the roast sirloin of beef with a large Yorkshire pudding and selection of vegetables. Wanting well done meat we were disappointed that it seemed that a grill had been put to good use to turn medium slices into our preference.

Some wine, madam? The wine list was quite extensive ranging from 2019 Malbec at £36 up to £1150 for a 1994 Chateau Latour. I had a glass of Merlot while Madam one of Sauvignon Blanc.

Dessert was Tiramisu for the lady, which was a large cube of chocolate tasting sponge, with no sign of coffee flavouring, and rather than an accompaniment of raspberry sorbet she had double cream. I had the grilled pineapple which came with a quenelle of vanilla ice cream.

Two Americano coffees completed what had been a pleasant occasion although it never was going to be a cheap lunch. The two lunches were £65 but with the drinks, coffee and the inclusive 10% service charge this doubled to a few pence under £130. Was it worth it? Probably, because it is not possible to put a price on the ambiance of Tylney Hall.



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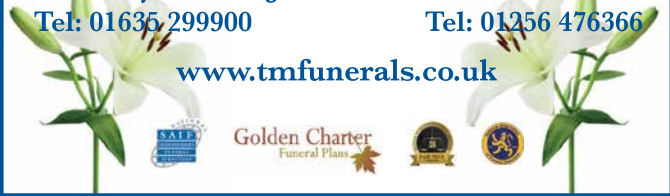
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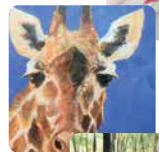
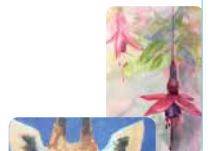
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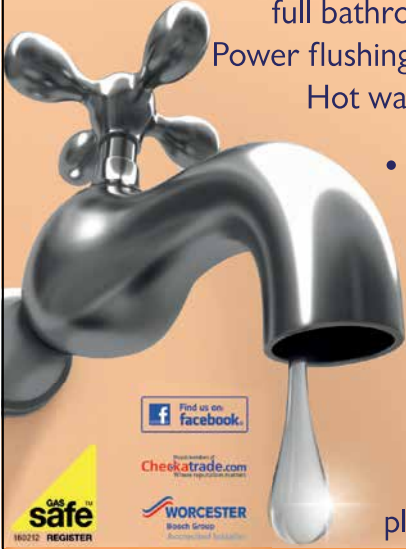


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