

THE Rabbiter



Issue 286 March 2022

All the regular features plus

- **COUNCIL'S CLIMATE PLAN**
- **CHARITY WALKS**
- **"TIME TO REMEMBER" SERVICE**

and much more

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THE Rabbiter

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EDITORIAL

Ever since The Rabbiter was first published it has aimed to help create community. It wants to keep local residents informed of news, events and information that is relevant to them. Many of the local residents are new to the area when they move into their home so The Rabbiter tries to tell them about local groups and activities that may interest them and encourage new friendships. The Hatch Warren Community Association works hard to provide services and opportunities for all local residents too. They are responsible for the Café in the Park, a great meeting place for all local residents. One of the initiatives at the Café we have promoted is the Community Lunch which is held on the first Wednesday of every month. All residents are welcome to come along for a delicious and inexpensive lunch. However, I am amazed at how many local residents have never visited to try the delicious cakes or knew about the monthly community lunch. Please do support the Café and the other initiatives held locally. Hatch Warren and Beggarwood are great places to live – lets make it even better!

March kicks off this year with a favourite event – 1 March is Pancake Day. How do you like your pancakes? Are you a traditionalist with lemon and sugar? Maple syrup and banana is one of my favourites! With Spring round the corner, now is a good time to get out and enjoy our gardens and open spaces. If you fancy walking or another outside activity the U3A have lots of opportunities for you to join (see page 5), or the Old Down Group or Kempshott Conservation. There is the annual St Michael's Hospice Woodland Walk on 3 April – see Rotary article on page 18 on how to join in. A visit to the Garden Centre is usually on the agenda as we get our gardens ready for the year ahead. If you fancy combining your visit with brunch, lunch or just a cuppa, see this month's Restaurant Review on page 22.

International Woman's Day this year falls on 8 March – find out more about this on page 17. Did you learn the violin or cello at school and would love to take up playing again? The Deane Sinfonia is looking for string players to join their orchestra – see page 18.

Remember to send your news to us at newsdesk@therabbiter.biz. If you have been decluttering during the last 2 years remember you can advertise your goods in our free ads. Have a good month everyone – I'm now off to try and solve today's 'wordle'!!

Editor

Local Weekly Market

Portsmouth Arms Pub Car Park, every Saturday morning from 10AM-2PM.

Farmer's market, artisans, artists, sustainable goods, refills, bakery, tea/coffee, independent stalls, delicious food and more! Different stalls each week keeping it fresh as well as our regulars for your favourite weekly supplies.

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 round need a deliverer:

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BEGGARWOOD SURGERY NEWS FROM THE PPG

February 2022

Not a lot to report this month as it's early days since Operose/CGH has taken full responsibility for the running of our surgery. Early troubles have been reported in the merging of the NHS computer systems during the first couple of days causing a little disruption, but they seem to have been sorted by mid-week. Comments online have mainly been centred around hoping that Beggarwood continues to provide a level of service that we have come to expect over the last 2 years and does not slide down to the level seemingly being experienced with the rest of the Operose/CGH group in this area.

The staffing levels at Beggarwood remain stable and we have been reassured by Operose that they will not be diluting this by spreading the Beggarwood staff around the other surgeries. We have also been informed that we will continue to operate as a separate enterprise from the rest of the group and not have to share the systems that prevail in the other surgeries, in particular the telephone appointment system. We will continue monitoring this situation and working with Operose over the forthcoming months and years to ensure that we don't slip back into the kind of situation we had with the late Cedar group before NHUC took over. We will also maintain a close relationship with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and our local councillors and MP to help us along the way.

Rumours

It has been brought to our attention that an article published in one of the local Parish Magazines has mentioned that Operose may attempt to operate an American style medical insurance practice within Beggarwood. This is NOT the case and certainly outside of the scope of their contract with the NHS. Operose will continue to provide a full NHS service at Beggarwood and the CGH surgeries as with all the previous providers.

PPG email address

To gather a wider patient view of Beggarwood Surgery we have decided to publish a NON-MEDICAL email address that will be viewed by the PPG team so that we can correlate your views into our regular meetings with the practice.

We are particularly interested in your views and experiences as we settle into our new provider's services, both good and bad. It is only with your input that we can provide relevant and constructive feedback to Operose over the running of the surgery. Any feedback we pass on to Operose during our monthly meetings will of course be confidential unless you tell us otherwise. Remember if we want a good consistent service from Operose, we must inform them what is good and what requires improvement.

This email is for Non-Medical feedback.

The email address is:
beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com

We look forward to your comments.

U3A MEMBERS EMERGE CHEERFULLY FROM WINTER AND LOCKDOWN



www.basingstokeu3a.org
facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a

We've all had a difficult two years - keeping ourselves cheerful and out and about hasn't been easy. But the days are lengthening, the temperature's rising and our outdoor groups are outside enjoying 2022.

Our cyclists are planning tours abroad and home - as well as their usual weekly rides together. Our walkers have been enjoying our countryside every week, through the winter. If you prefer a shorter walk, the 'Walking with Your Camera Group' might be for you.

Preferring to walk won't stop you playing sport with us; football and netball both play at walking pace and members move at the speed which suits them. Croquet

will be starting again at the end of March or you could try skittles - which has the advantage of being indoors! As is our Folk and Country Dancing.

Not Feeling Quite so Energetic yet?

Sometimes a good chat with someone can cheer you up and we have groups to help with that. We have the MOTO group for people on their own; other members lunch together at a local college and our 'Ladies Who Lunch' eat together in someone's home.

And for just one annual membership fee, you can join as many groups as you can fit into your week. Check our website or - email: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com
If you would like a paper copy of all our current activities phone: 07787 520 281

ENCOURAGING SCORE FOR COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

Figures published by Climate Emergency UK have shown that the climate change action plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is ranked above the national average and scored second highest in the county.

The council's plan was assessed along with the plans from a total of 409 local authorities in the country and scored 54%, with the average for UK councils being 46%. In Hampshire, only Fareham Borough Council's plan scored more with 61%.

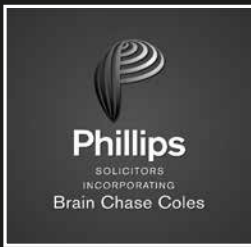
All UK councils' climate change action plans that were published online before 20 September 2021, and written after 2015, were assessed by a team of over 120 volunteers, trained and overseen by Climate Emergency UK, a not-for-profit co-operative. Each council was given a scorecard, with scores being based on councils' plans for actions to address the climate emergency, rather than reflecting steps already taken.

Residents can find out more about how the council is tackling the climate emergency at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/climate-change-and-sustainability

Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment and Climate Improvement Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "We are grateful to Climate Emergency UK for its hard work and pleased that our plan has scored well, with the assessment reflecting the balance of realistic and achievable actions in our ambitious plan while highlighting best practice examples for us to learn from and base future actions on."

"We'll be presenting our latest progress on delivering against our strategy and action plan to the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee in March."

To view the scores for the council's climate change action plan in the full table of results see: <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/district/#jump=basingstoke-and-deane-borough-council>



TIPS WHEN BUYING A NEW BUILD PROPERTY



Jo Francis

Jo Francis, Senior Associate in Residential Property at Phillips, is a specialist with new build purchases, including purchases under the Help to Buy Scheme. Buying a new build has many benefits but, from the legal side, the conveyancing can be complex. The potential for something to go wrong is higher with a new build, which can be costly if not addressed. Jo fully understands what is required and highlights key points to consider:

- Ensure your finances are in order - developers often insist finance for the mortgage is secured before contracts are exchanged.
- Most mortgages are only valid for six months, if completion is not within this period, you need to apply for an extension from your lender or you may have to reapply for the mortgage, depending on circumstances. However, some lenders offer specific new build mortgages lasting for 9 months.
- Check the property specification details carefully before reservation. Pay attention to the landscape drawings and development plans. Visit other sites built by the developer to see if the properties meet your requirements.
- Reservation fees are paid when making an offer or a sale is agreed, ranging from £500 to £5,000 or more depending on property value and usually set for 28 days, covering the period leading to exchange of contracts. This fee is non-refundable, if you fail to exchange contracts in time or you decide to pull-out of purchasing. Your mortgage should be agreed in principle before making a reservation.
- A deposit is paid of 5% or 10% of the full purchase price, depending on whether the Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme is being used.
- Usually, mortgage lender valuations are taken at the beginning of a new build project but sometimes after construction is completed. A long period between exchange and completion could risk the property value decreasing, affecting the mortgage offer and amount your Lender agrees to lend you. You would still be contracted to purchase the property for the price agreed upon exchange.
- At completion, there will be an official handover. Ensure you are given copies of all the guarantees for the property.
- Before handover, check for defects, i.e. 'snagging', which the developer should rectify.

If you would like to discuss purchasing a new build property, please contact Jo by calling 01256 854634, emailing jo.francis@phillips-law.co.uk or visit www.phillips-law.co.uk/residential-property-services When contacting Phillips, please mention The Rabbiter.

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

There were 55 members at the meeting held on 2nd February who were welcomed by the Chairman, David Cowling. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, then gave details of the forthcoming trips planned for this year and reminded everyone of the AGM to be held at the next meeting in March to be followed by lunch at the Conservative Club. He also asked if anyone would like to put their names forward to be on the committee as we were still 2 members short. Our Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then went on to give an update on those members who were not well and those who were recovering.



The speaker this month was Mike Brooks who spoke about some of the highlights of his 32 years in Amateur Dramatics. He recounted some of the most outstanding performances and some that had not gone according to plan. He followed on by giving a rendition of one

of Alan Bennet's "Talking Heads" and then, accompanied by his colleague Isobel, acted out some very amusing sketches including the Two Ronnies and one of his own creation which envisaged a world where Artificial Intelligence ruled the roost. He finished his entertaining talk with a soliloquy from Rowan Atkinson on the "Certainties of Uncertainties".



The next meeting is the AGM on 2nd March when we are also having a presentation from Co-operative Insurance Services. The next outing is an exclusive guided tour of Dorney Court on Wednesday 23rd March followed on Friday 1st April by A Day at Newbury Races and then on Thursday 28th April Afternoon Tea at BCOT. Full details of the group's activities can be obtained by contacting the secretary at csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome.

David Cowling

COUNCILLOR PUTTY

I have to bring to your attention the use of motorised scooters and skateboards on our footpaths.

I was witness to a lady using her motorised scooter who toppled on an uneven footpath in Kempshott just before Christmas. She was loaded with shopping and lost control in a dip in the footpath. Luckily a kind lady with her toddler son came straight to help and with some neighbours and myself we helped her up. She did not suffer severe injury but did have a head injury so an ambulance was called. Motorised scooter users need to be very careful around pedestrians and aware of the footpath condition.

There are also the motorised skateboarders who zoom past, frightening pedestrians with their speed. I would urge them to refrain from using the footpaths and grateful if they can only use them in safe and dedicated places.

Many thanks

Best regards stay safe and healthy

Cllr Dan PUTTY JP



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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

BEGGARWOOD SURGERY: there has been a lot of activity regarding the surgery this past month. The handover from North Hampshire Urgent Care to the Camrose/Gillies/Hackwood partnership has taken place. This involved couple of days of computer downtime when the patient databases were being transferred but no large-scale disruption to the operation of the surgery, which is good.

BEGGARWOOD PPG: the Patient Participation Group issued an important statement at the end of January. They understand that CGH does not intend to change the way Beggarwood surgery runs. Staff at Beggarwood will continue to answer the phones, so the calls will not go to a central point as they do at CGH. CGH believes that all the non-medical and administration staff have opted to stay on and the outgoing Practice Manager said all staff were happy with the conversations they had had with CGH. It is also hoped that the salaried doctors and locums will continue. The PPG has impressed upon CGH that it wishes to operate as a separate PPG for the foreseeable future to monitor closely the level of service provided, and not be amalgamated into the wider CGH PPG. An open meeting with Maria Miller, our local MP, has been arranged for July 2022 to review the situation.

RUMOUR REBUTTED: the PPG has scotched (in no uncertain terms!), the suggestion that CGH/Operose might introduce an American-style insurance-based service. This is not allowed within their contract with the National Health Service.

PPG E-MAIL ADDRESS: To gather a wider patient view of Beggarwood Surgery, the PPG has decided to publish a non-medical email address that will be viewed by the PPG team. The idea is to give patients the opportunity to comment on issues such as the ease of booking appointments or call backs, the surgery waiting area environment, suggestions for improvements within the practice or feedback on recent interactions with the surgery. This initiative caused some internal debate: the risk is that people might put private medical details into this address and the PPG is made up of non-medical 'lay' members. The email address is: beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com.

GRIT BIN: I am pleased to report that the new grit bin I requested has been installed in Gloucester Drive, which residents will know is quite a steep hill and potentially difficult in icy weather. This initiative was fraught with delay, not least because the bin was originally put in the wrong place!

COMMUNITY CENTRE ONE-WAY SYSTEM: the Hatch Warren Community Centre has had new signs installed to encourage drivers to respect its one-way system. The importance of this relates to child safety: the centre's car park is the recommended parking area for the school run to St Mark's Primary. Ill-disciplined drivers going the wrong way round the system can not only cause contention in the parking area but potentially put children at risk. The new signs are very clear

ROAD WORKS ON THE A30: I attended a meeting about roads in Basingstoke and raised questions about monitoring the quality of work done by contractors who dig them up. In particular I wanted to put down a marker about the water main works on the A30. Who sets the standards and who checks that the road is reinstated in accordance with them? The answer was that the contractors are responsible for restoring the road to defined national standards and the work will be quality-inspected by Hampshire County Council as it progresses. I intend to monitor this.

BRIGHTON HILL ROUNDABOUT: I spoke at the Hampshire Cabinet meeting in favour of increasing the funding for the improvement works on the Brighton Hill roundabout. The cost is now expected to be slightly over £20 million. Work is well under way on the preparatory phase of the works. When work starts on the roundabout itself, the objective is to keep traffic flowing using traffic management. During peak hours (6:30am - 9:30am and 4pm - 6:30pm) the same number of lanes will be maintained on the A30 through the Brighton Hill Roundabout but the other entries (Western Way/The Harrow Way/Brighton Way/Winchester Rd) will be reduced to single lanes. Off peak, the contractor may require additional road space. Sadly, I predict that there will be delays. Interestingly, the contractors will be using recycled bio-fuel to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and will also be trialling electrically powered vehicles and plant during this construction.

TREES: I have seen questions on the local bulletin boards regarding replacement of the trees that have been removed as part of the roundabout works. My understanding is that they will all be replaced (+ 10%). The fact that the numbers will be maintained is good, but I don't think that is the whole story. Removing established habitats for wildlife is always sad and it will take many years for the new trees to grow to maturity.

RETAIL PARK: the expected planning application to convert the Brighton Hill retail park into warehousing / trade counters has been submitted to the Borough Council. If you want to view the documents, the application number is 22/00163/FUL.

HOUNSOME FIELDS ROUNDABOUT: The roundabout that will serve Hounsome Fields and the Golf Course is now open, with some signage yet to be completed. The green space bordered by the new road and the A30 on the Basingstoke side is the site for the new primary school, and that is in the County Council's capital programme too. The road into Hounsome Fields is also one of the potential entrances to Manydown South when that is developed.

WAREHOUSES AT JUNCTION 7: At the time of writing, I am planning to attend a consultation being held by Newlands to discuss their revised plans for developing their site near Junction 7. This was the location where the believed-to-be-Amazon warehouses were eventually turned down. It looks as if the new approach is scaled back from the four units that were previously proposed, and Newlands have trailed that LIDL are interested. I will want to find out what the impact might be on the potential hospital opposite and the traffic implications for the motorway junction and the A30 past Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS: I have been talking with the Community Association about plans for the Queen's jubilee. They are planning to combine the jubilee with the thirtieth Hatch Warren summer fair. You may want to think about street parties in your area, or other celebrations. After the two years we have all been through, I think we deserve to celebrate a little!

Stephen Reid

County Councillor:

Basingstoke South West 07976 310206



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PROBUS HEARS HOW A PIECE OF STRING CONNECTS TO H-BOMB TEST

There will be many readers from the older generation who remember the nuclear bomb tests in 1957/8 that took place in the remote South Pacific on Montebello Islands, Malden Island and perhaps more famously, Christmas Island. David Stiles, the speaker at the latest meeting of the Probuss Club of Basingstoke, while he was not one of the military personnel who witnessed the Hydrogen Bomb tests, was in the RAF but he was based in the tropical paradise of Hawaii.

Many aircraft in those days did not have the range to fly non-stop from the west coast of USA to the H-Bomb test islands. The USAF Hickman base near Honolulu on Oahu in the Hawaii islands, 1,335 miles away, became a staging post for aircraft on their flights to and from the nuclear test sites. The speaker was posted to this paradise purely because he was a specialist instrument and avionics engineer.

The RAF used Handley Page Hastings aircraft, introduced after WW2, as both cargo transporters and troop carriers. One day a Hastings, en route to Christmas Island, arrived with a top-secret VIC. This turned out to be VITALLY IMPORTANT CARGO. A large bulbous object was lashed securely with a tarpaulin cover that had its fastenings wax sealed. The pilot claimed not to know what it was, but most people had thoughts that it was needed for an H-Bomb test due in a few days' time.

The plane had arrived later than expected. The reason, as explained with fruitful language by the pilot, was that there was something seriously amiss with the navigational equipment that had forced the plane off course several times resulting in extended flight time. The plane was fitted with a dual system of a magnetic compass

and a giro compass. A magnetic compass would behave differently the closer the plane flew to the north pole and the giro compass was there to counteract this action. On this flight it had proved impossible to make manual adjustments and the plane had veered considerably off its flight plan.

The speaker was charged with rectifying the problem and went through a series of procedures including having the aircraft physically moved around to check the compass readings which proved accurate. At the upper end of the port wing was a small square hatch cover over an electronic device whose purpose was to use signals to synchronise the giro compass to maintain a true heading. This equipment was held in position with small nuts on its underside which made it difficult to remove for inspection. In order not to drop the tiny spanner used for undoing and tightening the nuts in this very difficult position, and working by feel only, a piece of string was tied to the little spanner and looped on to his little finger so that if dropped the spanner could be easily recovered.



After several frustratingly unsuccessful attempts at undoing one of the small nuts the little spanner slipped from his grasp. Aghast, he realised the safety string had inadvertently come off his finger. Now both string and spanner were lost but had to be found.

Feeling blindly into the dark abyss, he miraculously discovered not only the tiny spanner and string, but another huge spanner not remotely used in that area, but in the engine bay 30 feet away. How come



this large spanner was under the detector unit causing huge magnetic errors for the gyro compass? Each time the aircraft banked the large spanner moved, causing yet further errors.

Ironically, by accidentally losing his little spanner and string, he discovered something that could have seriously jeopardised the plane, that VITALLY IMPORTANT CARGO and the testing of an H-Bomb.

The questions then centred on how did the spanner get into the sealed cavity at the end of the wing? It was the size and type used on the plane's engine maintenance, but it could not have slid along inside the wing as the fuel tanks completely blocked any access.

Was it sabotage? Enquiries were no doubt carried out, but no findings were passed down to this RAF NCO. His reward was to receive a promotion and eventually be returned to UK duties working on Victors, part of the V bomber force in place during the cold war.

Perhaps enemy forces had hoped that by creating navigational problems the longer flight time would have caused the plane to run out of fuel and crash into the Pacific Ocean. Two days after finding the spanner the final H-Bomb test took place on Christmas Island. Would this have happened if a tiny spanner tied to the end of a piece of string had not solved the navigational problem?

www.probusbasingstoke.club

SOUTHERN CO-OP

Food banks across the south are to receive donations totalling £30,000 thanks to Southern Co-op members scanning their cards as they shopped in December. Membership cards were scanned on nearly 300,000 separate occasions which the independent co-operative is converting to 10p per swipe and rounding up to £500 per food bank.

The December membership and community campaign ran from 1 to 31 December with 10p donated from all Southern Co-op member transactions with no minimum spend.



25TH JANUARY – VICTORY HAS BEEN DECLARED!!!

TOGETHER WE'VE SAVED THE OAKDOWN OAKS

104,491 people signed the petition on change.org to save the Oakdown Oaks. The destruction of the trees has been halted as the outrage of local and national supporters has been acknowledged by Basingstoke Council and Newlands, the developers. Sincere thanks to all who signed the petition.



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WWW.BAOS.ORG

Walk for Cruse Basingstoke

Sunday 20th March 2022

Meet at The Cafe In The Park,
Broadmere Road, Beggarwood, RG22 4AQ 9.30-10.30am

A special walk taking in beautiful local views and raising money to support bereaved people in Basingstoke.

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

There is still time to sign the petition asking Basingstoke Council to designate Old Down as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The petition is being led by our MP Maria Miller and County Councillor Stephen Reid supported by our ward councillors. Old Down is such a beautiful site particularly its location with views across to Kingsclere and Reading. It would be so awful to lose such a gem. LNR status will ensure Old Down is not lost to development and remains with us for many years to come as a green space for the benefit of wildlife and people. The number of signatures needs to be over 4,000 and sadly we are not there yet. So please, please spread the word and get friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to sign. <https://www.change.org/OldDownLNR>.

If you should see anything interesting on either of the two sites – plants; birds; insects - please let the Group know. February onwards is the time to start looking out for the early insects – such as bumble bees, hoverflies and the early butterflies (*Red Admiral* and *Brimstone*). The photo of the Bumble bee was taken locally, mid-February and the *Brimstone* was taken last year in early March. The male *Brimstone* is yellow but the female is very pale, almost white.

Work Parties: For Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon and for Beggarwood at the café on the first Tuesday of the month 9-12noon. Please do come and join us. Check the website for further information.

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



FORCE CRIME PREVENTION TEAM

Parcel delivery text message scam

Even if a parcel is taking longer than expected to turn up, be aware of delivery scam text messages.

Always #StopChallengeProtect when you receive any requests for payment or personal/financial information.

Crimestoppers: Sexual Harassment Survey

The aim of this research is to learn more about people's experiences of sexual harassment in public spaces. The findings from this research will become the cornerstone of a national Crimestoppers campaign.

If you would like to complete the survey please visit: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SafeInPublic

Crimestoppers, working in partnership with the University of Suffolk Centre for Abuse Research, have launched an anonymous survey called Safe in public: understanding how sexual harassment affects people's use of public space.

cpahampshire@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

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 – 11th March (call 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1st Wednesday every month

Lots of regular events – please ask at the cafe

For party bookings please visit:
www.hatchwarren.org

WEEKEND BAPS



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

**TOASTED PANINIS
AND SANDWICHES**



We look forward to
seeing you soon!

FRESH HOMEMADE CAKES



HOT & COLD DRINKS





January 2022 meeting

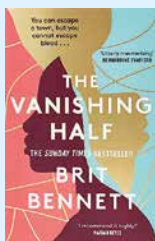
We have started our 2022 meetings with another amazing author visit.

Kathryn Croft, with a million book sales behind her, kindly came to talk to us about her latest psychological thriller entitled 'The Other Husband'. This is a gripping and twisty thriller that keeps readers guessing to the very end of the book. It is a tale about the friendship of two couples that ends in disaster!

The bookwormers had prepared their questions for Kathryn about the writing process and how she developed this story. She assured us the characters were not based on anyone she knows and she begins to write with just a beginning and ending in mind. She tries to write two thousand words a day and can finish a book in eight weeks. This is quite an achievement! She even managed to complete two during lockdown. She has written nine books and is currently working on her tenth with six more ideas ready to go. Kathryn likes to write books that she would enjoy reading herself and her favourites are psychological thrillers especially books by the husband and wife team Nicci and Sean French.

Kathryn kindly bought along books and goodie bags for us to raffle to raise funds for the Community Centre. She was happy to sign her books for some of the members and we all enjoyed a great evening.

Next month's book choice is a very different genre. 'The Vanishing Half' by Brit Bennett is the story of identical twins growing up in a small, southern black community until aged sixteen they run away and follow very different lives.



Why not read along with us and follow us on Facebook or join us for coffee, cake and book chat at The Cafe in the Park. Please see ticketsource.co.uk Beggardwood Bookworms to book a place.

Sainsbury's

Our Values Make us Different

Red Nose Day

Whilst we're still restricted with face to face fundraising at the store, our colleagues are getting into the spirit of Red Nose Day behind the scenes.

You can check on their fundraising at the dedicated Red Nose Day fundraising page if you wish to donate.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sainsburys-kempshott

Clothing Recycling

Our clothing recycling partner is experiencing significant delay in clearing the donated items. Whilst we wait for this situation to improve, could you please respectfully cease donating. The health and safety of our colleagues remains important and keeping this area tidy is key.

Community Fundraising and Support

Our new Community Programme will be launching soon. In the meantime, any budget we have for helping with ad hoc donations is still 'on-hold'.

Our Local Hero Scheme remains an important part of our support and could provide your charity and/or community group with funds.

Every Sainsbury's colleague who volunteers in the community can claim

£200 per financial year for the charity they volunteer with.

If your organisation knows of any such Sainsbury's colleague, then please get in touch with us at the store; we'd love to help.

In the last year we've donated close to £5000 via the scheme helping organisations from the Royal British Legion to local football clubs.

Nectar Donate

Sainsbury's has partnered with Crowdfunder to give you the chance to donate some of your Nectar points to local and national charities.

It's quick and easy to donate, there are no hidden fees, and you'll be helping make a difference where it's needed most.

Charities should register in the first instance via this link.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/nectar-donate/for-charities>

You can then share this link with your supporters. The great thing is that no matter how small or large their donation, the charity receives 100% of the donated amount.

Customers can begin searching for local and national projects via this link.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/nectar-donate>

KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

Return of an Old Friend

On New Year's Day, a couple of our members out for quiet walk saw a Green Woodpecker foraging in Down Grange Meadow. Green Woodpeckers were once regularly seen around the back of St Mark's Church but they have not been spotted for some time, so it's good to see one back. This is a shy bird more heard than seen.

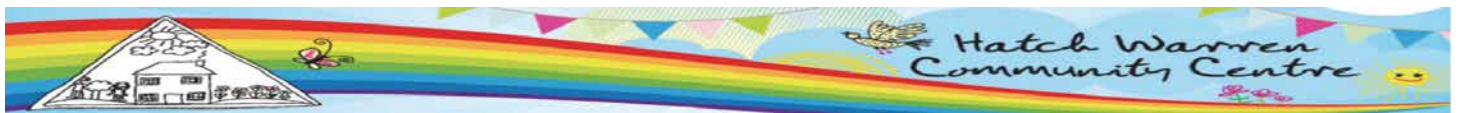


Its call is a distinctive laughing sound that gives rise to its country name of "Yaffle". It is also a solitary bird outside of the breeding season, so it was lucky to get such a good view. Even in dull and overcast conditions, the red head was distinctive. As their main

food is ants they rarely come to bird tables, but during Winter they will forage for worms and grubs hiding in leaf litter:

Last year was a good year for ants in the Meadow and there have been some quite spectacular ants' nests. By the end of summer, there were a number over half a metre high and wide, certainly big enough to trip up the unwary.

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



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

WARREN TOTS

Location: In the Lounge

Date & Time: Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 am

Price: £3.50 per family

(adult plus 2 children – additional child £1)

- Informal and friendly drop in session - come along, grab a coffee and make new friends, a chance to be sociable and have fun in a relaxed and stress free environment
- Suitable from birth to 4 years
- Crazy craft, Messy play, Sensory toys – enjoy a juice & snack, all sessions finish with 'song time'
- Our qualified and dedicated staff, led by Louise, have a wealth of childcare experience and bring lots of passion and enthusiasm to the group

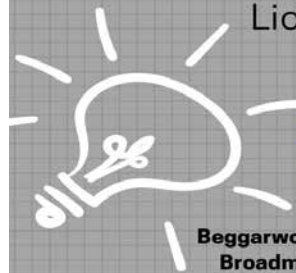


Please email office@hatchwarren.org for more info or give us a call on 01256 811262

QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 11th March
at Beggarwood
Community Centre**

7.00pm for 7.30pm start
£5 per person / teams of 4 or 6
Licensed Bar



Book your team via email
office@hatchwarren.org

**Beggarwood Community Centre
Broadmere Road, RG22 4AQ
www.hatchwarren.org**

This event is being held as a fundraising event for HWBCA
Charity #1161117

Platinum Jubilee & HW centre's 30th Birthday Celebrations begin 30th April with activities for children : Who stole the Queen's Jewels Treasure hunt plus an Art & creative writing competition. More details to follow soon

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP TO



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
THE BRILLIANT ORIGINAL
AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

**Thursday 28th April 2022
7.30PM at Her Majesty's theatre**

Good Stall Seats

**Coach departs at 4.30pm from our car park
Tickets cost £69.50 per person
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)
FULL PAYMENT DUE 28th March**

**This trip is open to all members of the public
Tickets are non refundable**

**To book your place email office@hatchwarren.org
or call 01256 811262**

40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead
This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association
Charity Number 1161117

Hatch Warren Community Centre

LAGER Festival



Prosecco,
Wine, Ale &
Cider too!!

Hot Food
by Global
Catering &
Events

**Saturday
30th April
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

find us on | facebook

Hatch Warren Community Centre

**Tel: 01256 811262
Email: office@hatchwarren.org
Web: www.hatchwarren.org
Following us on Twitter @hatchwarren**



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

The only Youth Club with Open
 Access and a Health Hub serving
 Hatch Warren and Beggarwood

Qualified Staff / Extensive Free Holiday Programmes /Tel: 842111 / Email: vicky@hatchwarren.org
 Follow Us on Facebook @The Warren and Instagram @thewarrenyouthclub

The Warren is open! Booking is essential!

Activities Schedule: Fridays 6pm -7.45 pm, School years 6, 7 & 8

Friday 4 th March	Capture the Flag, Temporary Tattoos. Wellbeing Workshop: Harmful substance awareness
Friday 11 th March	Dodgeball, Pamper Night and Hot Dogs
Friday 18 th March	Laser Tag, Slime, Nachos
Friday 25 th March	FIFA 22 Competition, Mother's Day Craft, Loom Bands and Popcorn
Friday 1 st April	Hockey, Button craft. Wellbeing Workshop: Positivity and Future Goals
Friday 8 th April	Easter Egg Hunt
Friday 15 th April	CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY
Friday 22 nd April	Rounders, Air Dry Clay and Chicken Nuggets.
Friday 29 th April	NERF FIGHT!! Make Your Own Bird feeder

We have had such an amazing start to the year at the Warren. It's been a busy few weeks, from sending our worries flying away during our wellbeing session, to braving the cold to shoot hoops to decorating our hands with henna tattoos and that's just to name a few. We hope our young people have enjoyed it as much as we have. Plus, and we think our young people will agree, there has been a lot of good food.

Session Ideas

As the evenings are getting lighter (and hopefully drier and warmer) we are looking forward to being able to make even more use of all the outdoor space we have around us. As we love trying new things if any of our young people, or even their parents, have any ideas of sessions you'd like to see us run, please let us know. We take all suggestions on board and try our hardest to make them happen.

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



Over the last month we have been very busy visiting various places in Basingstoke. We have been at the youth club at Hatch Warren Community Centre and visited the leisure

facilities now that restrictions are slowly lifting. We also had a lovely evening out at the Dragonfly Pub, had a brilliant bowling session followed by a meal at McDonalds on the leisure park.

March 7th Spruce Goose

March 14th Hatch Warren

March 21st Bowling and McDonalds

March 28th Hatch Warren



Older Sessions

Don't forget if you're in year 9 or above we are open 8pm-9.30pm every Friday! If you want to play pool 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 can also offer you free confidential advice on a range of issues including contraception, pregnancy testing, drugs and alcohol. We are now able to offer focused Emotional Wellness and Issue based sessions again.

March 4th: Harmful Substance Awareness

April 1st: Positivity and Future Goals





HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

It's been lovely to see the signs of spring appearing at Hatch Warren Under Fives – we're making the most of being outdoors and the children have been great detectives and really taken notice of the seasonal changes in the garden. They have pointed out new leaves on trees and we're starting to see some flowers coming through too. We're looking forward to doing our own bit of gardening later this term and planting some spring bulbs.

It's been a busy month at preschool, we've collected materials from our woodland walks to make bird houses and bird feeders and we've also been doing a spot of bird watching; we've looked at our favourite foods and made pitta pizzas with all of our favourite toppings; we created an erupting volcano in our science experiment, which the children loved and we've had a super hero inspired week too.

In February we also celebrated Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day, as well as children's mental health and wellbeing week. For Chinese New Year we turned our role-play area into a Chinese restaurant. The prawn crackers and sweet and sour dip was much more popular than the



egg fried rice! The children performed a special dragon dance to traditional Chinese music wearing masks of all the animals from the story of Chinese New Year.



We also had a visit from a local author, Leanne Edney, who grew up in Kempshott. She read her new book "The Dancing Dragon" from the Gigi and the Giant Ladle series. It was a lovely end to Chinese New Year for the children.

Coming up in March we have World Book Day, we're planning a wonderful day celebrating our favourite books and encouraging the children to get involved with our fabulous stories through the day. We will also be celebrating pancake day, St David's Day and St Patrick's Day, and of course we'll be busy making special treats for Mother's Day.

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 can also learn our Makaton signs of the week.

To enquire about a preschool place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Angela Blomquist, Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

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

DANDELIONS PRESCHOOL

The children have continued to enjoy our outside area making various potions in our newly acquired mud kitchen.

Due to our expansive space we are so lucky to have three mud kitchens for everyone to enjoy!



Starting from an interest in a book about volcanoes this has led the children to either draw or make models of volcanoes.

They even got to see a volcanic eruption!! We are really looking forward to the

Asda Community Champion coming in to make pizzas with the children and also our sponsored read to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of World Book Day.

We have limited spaces available for this academic year and we already building our waiting lists for the next two years so please do contact us for a registration form if you would like to consider Dandelions for your child's early years on 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk

CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School!

The Pre-School as ever has been a bustle of energy recently, from the celebration of the Chinese New Year (the year of the tiger... Grrr!) to making Valentine's Day artwork and cookies, flipping pancakes and preparing for the 50th anniversary of World Book Day. And that's not all as we look forward to many fundraising events over the spring and summer, with the finale being lots of fun to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. For more detail on all our activities and fundraisers please visit the Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Facebook page.

Finally once again with we would like to invite "People who help us" to come and meet the children and tell them all about their jobs. We have already got some airline staff lined up which we are very excited about – and in past years we have had the fire and police service say hello, to the joy of Pre-Schoolers and teachers alike! So whether you're a hairdresser, farmer, baker, chef, vet, mechanic, pharmacist or anything else, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Pre-School.

About Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School: We are a small, friendly, Ofsted Outstanding ranked pre-school located in the Rathbone Pavillion, North Waltham. The children who attend come from within the village and the surrounding areas including Oakley, Dummer, Hatch Warren, Kempshott and Beggarwood and all agree the location and wonderful caring staff mean it is more than worth the short journey. To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172.



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PLAY NOW:
Go to www.bandcommunitylottery.co.uk
and search for: **Viabes Community**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Stacy Hart - Women's Equality Party Basingstoke Leader

The first IWD gathering was in 1911; today, IWD belongs to hundreds of groups worldwide. Its purpose is unchanged: to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women; and to call for action to accelerate women's equality, which is still sorely needed.

The statistical fact is that gender equality benefits everyone. More equal societies are happier, healthier & wealthier. More equal businesses make more money. The biggest challenges of our time, the climate crisis chief among them, are better met by more equal Governments. The barriers to these things – to a better economy and averting environmental destruction; to a healthier and happier citizenry; to a future for all children which is truly fair and free – are simply ideological ones, promulgated by those who have long benefitted from inequality.

IWD, then, is a day of celebration and hope. Because if barriers to equality are ideological, the decision to make the world a better place resides with us! We need only decide that the time is now. What action will you take for IWD 2022? It could be as simple as resolving to call out sexist language, asking your bosses about equal pay or the local school about sports offerings, or challenging your local representatives on equality issues. Equality truly is better for everyone: IWD 2022 is the perfect time to demand it!

You can find out more at womensequality.org.uk/basingstoke and @wepbasingstoke.



HALF TERM ROUNDUP AT BHCS

As I write this, we head towards February half term, so it is a good time to reflect on all the amazing opportunities our students have had in and beyond the classroom. It never ceases to amaze me how many extra-curricular activities our students engage with despite having completed a day of learning, the chilly weather and dark evenings.

Every Friday after school, inter-house activities are held where students from all year groups can earn house cup points. Activities are run by all the different faculties so there is something for everyone!

In addition to the inter-house activities, extra-curricular activities include:

- Young enterprise (Y10)
- Taking part in the Great Debate

2022, the History Associations debate competition

- Taking part in a debate as part of 80 students and guest speakers – the theme being: *'Nothing ventured, nothing gained. What role does risk play in progress and excellence?'* (Y11)
- The School's Football Week
- Ski fit sessions for those students going on the ski trip
- Lots of sports including volleyball, badminton, football, gym club, dodgeball and table tennis
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (Y10)
- Y8 STEM club
- Rehearsals for the school's performance of Annie

The opportunity for students to take on extra responsibility include being:

- An ambassador for a specific subject
- On the Student Council
- An Equality and Rights Advocate

Meanwhile, in lessons:

- Y11s have completed their PPEs (mock exams)
- Y11 had the opportunity to watch a live theatre performance of Macbeth to support their learning for English Literature
- Y10 DT students tested their trebuchets
- Y10 Business students had the opportunity to develop their chocolate bars as part of the marketing unit of work
- Art students joined a live video event with Grayson Perry MBE

I think we can confidently say that our students enjoy a rich education!

**Wendy Moore, Values Lead,
Brighton Hill Community School**



HELLO FROM SIMON SAYS CHILD BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

We are a registered charity supporting Hampshire children and young people up to the age of 18 years who have a significant person in their life who has died or is dying. The death of someone important can have a devastating effect but we know that given support children and young people can be helped to understand what has happened and assisted to rebuild their lives.

Our support groups across Hampshire offer children, young people and their families the opportunity to work through what has happened. These sessions are important as they help children and young people to normalise their grief and realise they are not alone.

We host a **Basingstoke** support group once a month in Hatch Warren. It is free of charge to access once registered and can be accessed for as many sessions as you need. Accompanying adults stay onsite and can seek the advice of our volunteers and find peer to peer support. Refreshments are available.

The session is set up depending on the age of the child. Our Basingstoke children's group is for those aged up to 11/12 years and our Basingstoke Young Peoples Group is for those aged 11/18 years. A typical children's group will use planned craft activities, games and stories to focus on common themes of thoughts, feelings and emotions related to death and dying e.g., sadness, anger, guilt and memories. Young people are encouraged to engage in shared aspects of their stories to support them in working through feelings and emotions.

For more information and to register please visit our website www.simonsays.org.uk, contact our free phone support line 023 8064 7550 or email us at info@simonsays.org.uk

"Simon Says meetings make me happy because the craft and games we play help me with my different emotions"

Simon Says group member aged 10.



CAMROSE, GILLIES AND HACKWOOD (CGH) PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

We are delighted to announce our own PPG website. Please visit it at www.cghppg.co.uk. We will be moving our newsletter into a digital format which will give us more content space than at present. Please subscribe to our mailing list using the "Sign Up" form. Our PPG newsletter will be delivered straight to your email inbox. You won't be bombarded with messages, and we plan to have a short, monthly newsletter, plus a larger, quarterly newsletter. The Web site also has a "Contact the PPG" form. Please use this to send feedback direct to the PPG on any issues you would like to raise with the surgery, with whom we have formal meetings every two months. NOTE: Clinical or medical issues must be raised direct with the surgery. The PPG does not deal with medical issues.

Meet the PPG in March : we are holding our first open morning and evening in late March. Dates and venues will be on our website by the time you read this. Each session will be 1.5 hours long and will enable the PPG to take a temperate reading of patient feeling, and hot topics.

We can then take this back to CGH practice managers, and Operose Health, and work with them to improve things. We will also provide tea/coffee and cake. Please sign up via our website to register your interest in attending.

CGH News

CGH have just over 42,000 patients, and average 2,035 appointments a week, by telephone and face to face. Wait time for new appointments is currently 10 working days. Recruitment continues, with three extra GPs joining in February and March, plus a Nurse, and Health Care Assistant, together with more experienced reception staff and an adapted training programme to improve efficiency in answering patient calls. This will bring the total number of medical staff to 24 GPs (including 7 regular locums), 5 Nurse Practitioners, 2 Paramedics, 4 Pharmacists and 1 Physician's Associate. CGH is now a Living Wage employer accredited by the Living Wage Foundation, and have pledged to always pay staff 10% above the national Living Wage to help recruit and retain staff. The CGH feedback and Complaints Manager is Wayne Robinson. If he knows what problems there are, he is able to help. Patients can complete the feedback form on the CGH website for the matter to be resolved.

BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

SAVE THE DATE

We will be 'hands on' at the following local charity events: -

Friday 1st April 2022

Basingstoke Disability Forum Awareness Day, in The Malls.

Sunday 3rd April 2022

St Michael's Hospice, Woodland Walk. See their website to register. Dogs on leads welcome

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th May 2022

Basingstoke Disability Forum Scarecrow Trail, Chineham and Sherfield Park.

Saturday 18th June

Spotlight UK Family Day. Popley Fields

Get in touch to volunteer at any of the above events and join in the fun

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Sunday 8th May 2022

It's a great day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you at this FREE family event (Small charge to Park on the Common) See our website to register your vehicle.

www.rcbd.org.uk

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

LOCAL ADULT ORCHESTRA SEEKING NEW PLAYERS

The Deane Sinfonia is an amateur orchestra whose members come from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and playing abilities. We are currently wishing to expand our string section and seek String Players of Grade 5 standard and above.

The Orchestra perform three concerts per year and rehearse during school term on Monday evenings between 7.30pm and 9.30 pm at Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke.

Interested musicians should email the conductor johnfuller3@gmail.com

“TIME TO REMEMBER” SERVICE



“Time to Remember” A MEMORIAL and thanksgiving service for those who have died during the ongoing Covid pandemic is to be held in Basingstoke Baptist Church, Gershwin Road later this month.

On Sunday March 20th – 10.30am our service focus will be the remembrance of those we have loved and lost from March 2020 to March 2022 – the Covid years. A tree of remembrance will be dressed with labels naming individuals and through the service opportunity will be made for family and friends to bring their thoughts and prayers.

The church minister Dave Bishop said, “So many of us have lost loved ones during the past two years and, due to Covid, have been unable to gather to remember and give thanks for their lives as we would have wished. This is an opportunity to do just that in a special time dedicated to those dear to us. Come as a family group, bring a photo of your loved one, if you wish. This time is for you!”

As a church in the heart of the Brighton Hill community, Basingstoke Baptist continues to look for ways to love and support its neighbours. We hope that this service will help many to celebrate the lives of those lost during this challenging time. Name labels are available in the lobby of the church and refreshments will be available at the end of the service.

Basingstoke Baptist Church, Gershwin Road, Brighton Hill RG22 4HL
01256 324297 www.basingstokebaptist.org.uk

ST. MICHAEL’S HOSPICE FARLEIGH WALLOP WOODLAND WALK

With spring on its way, it’s the perfect time to plan a wonderful day out at the St. Michael’s Hospice Woodland Walk taking place around the beautiful grounds of the prestigious Farleigh Wallop Estate on Sunday 3rd April.

With stunning views across the rolling Hampshire countryside, blooming bluebells, and the opportunity to walk your dog whilst spending quality time with friends and family, there is no better way to start the new season.

Starting from 9.30am, there are two routes, 5 or 10 miles which both guarantee to give you a superb day out, followed by a delicious cream tea in the impressive setting of Home Barn.

For further information about the Woodland Walk and all Hospice events, please visit: www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/get-involved/events/. You can also contact the Events team at events@stmichaelsospice.org.uk or call 01256 848 848.

Follow St. Michael’s Hospice on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @smhbasingstoke and look out for #WoodlandWalk

Your local parish church in Hatch Warren & Beggarwood

Join us for worship for all-ages every Sunday at 9.00am.

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

••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• **Good partnerships**

- What good partnerships do you know about? I’m showing
- my age if I mention Cagney & Lacey, Morecambe & Wise.
- Some even older, such as Gallagher & Lyle and Flanagan &
- Allen. Or some modern ones... Posh & Becks, Michelle &
- Barack, Kate & William....
- Maybe you can think of others? And the best thing about
- them is that although they are individuals they are so much
- more together.
- At the time you are reading this, there should be another
- partnership in place, technically called a pastoral re-
- organisation (you may have heard of this in previous editions
- of the Rabbiter). Immanuel Church in Hatch Warren &
- Beggarwood and St Mark’s in Kempshott will join to form a
- new parish called Basingstoke Down.
- Although the name of the Parish will be different you probably
- won’t notice any other changes. The Parish of Basingstoke
- Down will continue to serve the communities of Hatch
- Warren, Beggarwood, and Kempshott just as it previously
- had. And as more housing is built on both sides of the A30
- we will be serving those too.
- Both churches hold Worship services every Sunday and we
- would love you to join us – even if you have never been before.
- Our services plus other activities and events will be advertised
- on our new website www.parihofbasingstokedown.org.uk
- and our Facebook page. We are here to support the whole
- community through prayer, worship and fun activities such as
- an Easter Messy Church (on April 9th). We are also here to
- answer those big questions in life about God and faith, and
- how important that is to people today. This past year has
- demonstrated how interconnected we all are to each other.
- The two parishes were originally interconnected, Hatch
- Warren & Beggarwood grew out of the parish of Kempshott.
- Immanuel Church was a church planted by the Methodist and
- URC working together with St Mark’s Church, Kempshott.
- For those of you who went to St Mark’s school or have
- children there that’s why the school is called St Mark’s – it’s
- named after the original parish as it once was. The name of
- the new parish has historic roots. One of our church wardens
- conducted extensive research and found the area we now
- know as Kempshott was, for several centuries, part of a larger
- area of common grazing land known as Basingstoke Down.
- In the Bible St Paul speaks about how the people who believe
- in God are connected to each other. He compares this to a
- body – each part of the body is useful and one part cannot
- reject another or say that it is better. This connection to each
- is the same in a community too. Coretta Scott King (wife of
- Martin Luther King) said “The greatness of a community is
- most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of
- its members”.
- So, for this year 2022 and beyond may we the parish
- of Basingstoke Down and the communities of Hatch
- Warren, Beggarwood and Kempshott be connected to and
- compassionate with each other.

• **Revd Kim Robins**

• Curate – St Mark’s Church

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BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERT

Basingstoke Choral Society is combining with Croydon Philharmonic Choir and the choir of St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Oxted, to sing Carl Orff's rousing Carmina Burana at Fairfield Halls, South London's largest arts centre, in the heart of Croydon, on Saturday 2nd April, at 7.30 pm.

The choirs will be joined by Docklands Sinfonia, a young and pioneering orchestra. Completing the repertoire is Constant Lambert's enchanting jazz-age The Rio Grande for choir and orchestra, based on a poem by Sacheverell Sitwell. This is sure to be an exciting and enthralling evening, not to be missed!

Tickets from £15, available from bhlivetickets@bhlive.org.uk

PLACE TO BE PROUD OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

The 19th 'A Place to be Proud of' community awards is open for nominations. The Awards celebrate local unsung heroes and nominations are invited for individuals, organisations and projects that have made a special contribution to the local community. There are a range of categories all sponsored by local businesses from Unsung Hero to Arts and Entertainment. For further information or to nominate go to www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk. Entries close 14th April.

READ EASY

There has been a great deal of publicity about adults who struggle to read as a result of Repair Shop presenter, Jay Blades, taking part in a recent BBC documentary This follows his journey as he faces up to the challenge of learning to read as an adult with his local branch of Read Easy, and in particular, his remarkably patient and encouraging Volunteer Coach, Emma.

In the Basingstoke & Deane Council area, we have been helping adults with their reading skills for the past two and a half years, and we have seen at first-hand what a difference that learning to read makes. We have had a number of our Readers now graduate from the Read Easy programme. One of these, Paul from Tadley, only learnt to read in his 40s and is now encouraging others who may be struggling, to ask for help. He wanted to make his wife and daughter proud, and he has certainly achieved that. Another, Joelma, is so pleased to be able to help her children with their homework, and a third Reader says that learning to read "is the best thing that's ever happened to me". We are very proud of all of our Readers.

We have trained Volunteer Coaches ready and waiting to help, providing free one-to-one reading coaching for adults who are unable to read or who find it difficult. If you know anyone who would need our help, please contact Read Easy Basingstoke on 07592 450789 or email basingstoke@readeasy.org.uk.

To find out more about learning to read as an adult with Read Easy visit www.readeasy.org.uk.

MARIE CURIE CARE

The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal is making a return this year. This is the main fundraising event of the year for Marie Curie. It raises much needed funds so that the nurses, hospices and helplines can continue offering vital care and support to those who need it.

There is a collection at Chineham Shopping Centre on 26 March. Additionally, there are collections at Morrisons supermarket most weekends in March (3 March - 23 March).

If you can spare an hour or two to collect you can sign up by

1. Visiting mariecurie.org.uk/daffodilappeal
2. Calling 020 7853 3436
3. Emailing LondonandSouthEast@mariecurie.org.uk

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PICKING UP THE THREAD

Basingstoke Creative Stitches' new exhibition, "Picking up the Thread" is now open at Whitchurch Silk Mill until 27th March and includes spectacular textiles and embroideries created by members from beginner to expert. This is the Group's 25th anniversary and to celebrate members have created works which include silver thread. Over 30 such pieces are on display as well as a wide range of other pieces.

Originally known as Basingstoke Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild, the Group had to reform in 2021 to become Basingstoke Creative Stitches. It hosts a series of talks and workshops as well as members' days. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday in the month at Popley Fields Community Centre, Basingstoke and for more information, contact darlingtoniejp@hotmail.com

Whitchurch Silk Mill is open from Tuesday to Sunday 10.30am to 5.00pm and normal Mill entry applies.



Disability Awareness Day

Friday 1st April

9am - 5pm
Castle Square
The Malls
Basingstoke



Information, support and advice on disability related subjects from local organisations, businesses and government departments.

Come along to find out about services & opportunities for people affected by any type of disability & how you can get involved!

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Email: info@bddf.org.uk

Tel: 01256 423869



www.bddf.org.uk

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

RIVER BANK RESTAURANT

Conkers Garden Centre, London Road, Old Basing, RG24 7LJ
Telephone: 01256 373425 Email: river-bank@btconnect.com

Eating places in garden centres have become successful in pulling in customers in the hope that increased footfall will add to the sale of garden products and the household items that sustain out of season business.

Conkers, the family run garden centre on the A30 at Old Basing have had their River Bank named restaurant for several years and Madam and I had lunch there on a Wednesday. It turned out that arriving just after 12.30 pm was rush hour because all twenty odd tables were occupied, and we had to queue for some time before we were seated. Clearly a popular place.

They have quite an extensive menu offering from hot meals through to sandwiches and a daily specials board that on this visit was offering Hunter's chicken and chocolate brownies amongst other treats. We both selected from the standard menu with Madam having fish cakes that came with a mixed salad and chunky chips. The two large salmon fish cakes had a cheese centre and were very filling.

I had traditional ham, eggs and chips, or as the menu described them as gourmet fries. Other places might call them triple cooked chunky chips, but as the bard said, "a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet." The quality was very acceptable.

I had a large slice of coffee and walnut cake, but Madam needed nothing more having wished that she had asked for a doggy bag to take home the second fishcake.

Although the establishment has a drinks licence we kept our selection simple with Earl Grey tea with lemon for Madam that came in a deceptively capacious pot that provided her with almost four cups, whilst I had a diet Coke.

Simple enough fare and worth the money at a total of £27.39p

Brunch to afternoon cake and tea extends their attraction for popping in when passing and the range of gift items in the extensive shop makes for pleasant browsing.



Interested in playing bowls ?

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www.thornycroftbowlsclub.co.uk



Hospital Radio Basingstoke are looking for a new Treasurer (Bookkeeper) to take overall responsibility for the finances of the charity, with support from other members of the committee of trustees.

For further information or if you would like to apply for this role, you can send an email to chairmanhrb@hrbasingstoke.co.uk with your skills and experience detailed for the position or go to our website <https://www.hrbasingstoke.co.uk/apply-to-join/>

HRB is a registered charity that broadcasts 24 hours a day to the patients and staff of Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital. The radio station is operated by volunteers.



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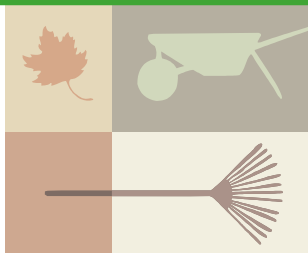
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