

THE Rabbiter



Issue 287 April 2022

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS**
- **THE ARTWELL PROJECT**
- **NEW COUNCIL LEADERS**

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THE Rabbiter

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EDITORIAL

The crisis in Ukraine has been foremost in everyone's mind during the last month. A collection point for much needed items to be sent to the refugees was set up at Beechdown Club by Sue who works at the Café in the Park. The generosity of local residents in donating items and to helping sort the bags of goods – everything from toothpaste, babies' nappies, pet food to blankets, hats and batteries – was amazing. Thank you everyone for your help. If you are considering hosting a refugee family, Hampshire County Council are setting up a dedicated web page with information – see page 8 for details.

The elections for Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council are scheduled to take place on Thursday 5 May. There are three councillors representing our ward on the Council who each are elected for four years. This year the election will be for one of these councillors. This year there will be a number of prospective candidates looking for your vote. With so much development taking place locally it is important that our councillors are there to represent the interests and needs of all local residents.

2022 is a Jubilee year and the Hatch Warren Community Centre are organising a Treasure Hunt and an Art and Creative Writing Competition – see page 14 for details. The Basingstoke Festival of Transport is being held on 8 May and is always an amazing event. The event is organised by the local Rotary and they need volunteers to help on the day – see page 18.

The regular Community Lunch will be held at the Café in the Park on Wednesday 6 April (All proceeds to the Ukraine Appeal) and Wednesday 4 May – lunch is served from 12.15 until 1.15pm. The Saturday market at the Portsmouth Arms continues to go from strength to strength. The market is open every Saturday from 10am to 1pm. How lovely it has been to go out and enjoy the recent good weather – lunch with family, coffee with friends and a browse round the shops. Sadly Covid is still with us and we must remain careful – stay safe everyone.

Finally, it is almost 30 years since the Rabbiter was first circulated around the estate. Your editor is not getting any younger and it is time for a replacement. Would you like to help? If you are interested please contact the editor for more information.

Editor

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

Councillor Kim Taylor had a meeting with CGH/Operose to discuss the number of complaints that she has received from her constituents, and the quality of care overall in their surgeries. Our Chair and Vice Chair attended this meeting where there was an interactive discussion about the way forward for Operose and its patients in Basingstoke. The following plan was devised to monitor service levels:

- 1 A full implementation plan with deadlines will be drawn up by Operose and circulated to councillors and PPGs.
- 2 A quarterly progress report by Operose will be circulated to everyone involved in the meeting.
- 3 Quarterly meetings will take place as per the original meeting.
- 4 Contact for surgeries to be circulated to ensure channels of communication are fully open.
- 5 Operose to support PPGs with communicating to patients.

We will keep you updated on this issue as things progress.

SURGERY UPDATE March 2022

We held our first formal meeting with our new providers Operose this month and things seem to be operating fairly well although the changeover and merger of IT systems proved to be more problematical than Operose were led to understand from NHS England. Operose on our behalf put pressure on NHS England IT staff and we are given to believe that things now are back to normal. However, if you are still experiencing problems with your NHS App or unable to order repeat prescriptions via the web please do contact the surgery and they will be able to help you. Operose also reported some challenges in the reception area particularly during the first couple of weeks that the surgeries merged as some staff had previously sanctioned leave owing causing a temporary staff shortage.

The telephone system at Beggarwood is to be upgraded to allow a greater number of calls to be handled and to allow monitoring and recording of calls. This will allow Operose to accurately monitor any possible complaints from patients regarding treatments etc. and take action where necessary. There also seems to be a perception that there is a problem with a lack of people answering the phones but Operose responded that they were confident that the right number of staff was employed in this area but they were investigating working practices within the team. It was also acknowledged that

the quality of the reception staff is more important than that of the GP as they are the first point of call for a patient.

We also reported to Operose that we had received emails via our PPG email address that showed patients are concerned that Beggarwood will stop operating separately and it was clear the surgeries will merge at some stage – even if patients are not aware of this. Operose understood our concerns but asked us to judge their performance over the coming months and agreed that it would be a good idea to hold a Patient Open Evening later in the year (July/August) to meet patients and listen to our feedback. This will take place at the Beggarwood Community Centre.

Social Media and Complaints

We are aware that some social media platforms are receiving many complaints about some of Operose's (CGH) other surgeries. Commenting on these types of platform allows us to talk to others who may have similar issues, but it is not the best way to get help with legitimate complaints. Each NHS provider must have a robust complaints system in place and it is this system that will yield the best results for all. In Beggarwood's case the correct email address for complaints/comments is: nhccg.beggarwoodsurgery@nhs.net or by phoning or visiting the surgery and asking for a formal complaint form. Please note it is important that these matters are communicated in writing in this way they will be seen by the CQC when the surgery is inspected. The surgery then has a set number of days to investigate the situation and respond to your complaint/comment. If you feel after receiving the reply that it did not meet your expectations or did not correctly respond to you then you can then escalate the problem to the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) again via email : nhccg.complaints@nhs.net or nhccg.enquiries@nhs.net. The CCG will carry out its own investigation and report back to you.

PPG email address

To gather a wider patient view of Beggarwood Surgery we have published 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.

beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com

Finally, we are always looking for new members to join our PPG and so if you would like to join please use the email address to register your interest and we will be happy to have you on board.

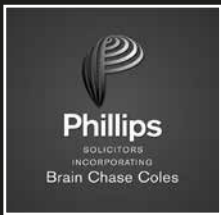
CAMROSE, GILLIES AND HACKWOOD PARTNERSHIP (PPG)

CGH News: A meeting was held on 10th March between local Councillors, Operose, the CCG and PPG, where there was significant discussion about patient dissatisfaction with service at all levels of CGH. Plans are being put in place to address this, with attention to recruitment, training and retention of employees. A new Human Resource system will soon be in place to reduce time taken to recruit staff, and CGH is now registered as a Living Wage employer, paying 10% above the national living wage, and 27 days holiday per year. More support will be given to the PPG in terms of updates, and helping more patients to get involved. Patients with concerns and complaints should contact the practices directly to properly log issues for action. Efforts to reduce call waiting times continue, and are showing gradual improvement.

The problematic E-consult is to be replaced with DriQ, an App which will direct enquiries to the right resource, allowing GPs to deal with more urgent and complex issues. DriQ is a free, NHS online consultation platform, customised for each practice according to patient demographics and needs. Members of the PPG will form part of the initial trial group, and will be trained on how to use DriQ. Information can be found at <https://www.dr-iq.com>. N.B the App for CGH is not, as yet, in place, and will need to be tested by CGH patients before introduction.

PPG News: Our PPG website is now up-to-date: www.cghppg.co.uk.

The PPG are holding a Patient Feedback Workshop at Brookvale Community Centre on 5th April, from 1900 to 2100. This is an opportunity for you to talk to the PPG, and share your patient experience of CGH over tea/coffee and cake. It will enable us to give feedback to CGH for attention. Free tickets can be obtained via our website. Feedback and output in our next newsletter.



Gill Brown



Jacqueline Kendal



Anna Burdett

EMPLOYMENT LAW TIPS FOR START-UP BUSINESSES

Starting a new business is an exciting time, but if you are planning to take on an employee, there are various laws, rules and regulations that you should be aware of.

Before recruiting it is important to make sure your business premises are safe and fit for purpose and that you are adequately insured for public liability and also for employer's liability.

An employment contract exists as soon as an applicant accepts your offer of employment even if the contract is only verbal.

It is a must to have a written employment contract at the start of employment to ensure that both you and the employee are clear about what you expect of each other.

There are legal obligations placed on all employers including notice periods, the right to be paid the minimum or living wage, rights in respect of holiday pay and sick pay, breaks, pension provision and rights to time off. Checking the employee's right to work in the UK before the employee starts work is also a strict legal obligation.

The rights to time off include such statutory rights as flexible working, parental leave, dependant leave, maternity, paternity, adoptive and shared parental leave. As an employer you must familiarise yourself with these matters which protect the rights of the employee as well as your obligations in respect of pay during these absences.

You will also need to consider policies and procedures that you will wish to rely on later such as grievance, capability and disciplinary procedures.

If hiring self-employed people initially you also need to be aware that if they are not employees but are workers, then they will still have certain rights including an obligation for you to pay them holiday pay and in some cases sick pay. Even workers hired through an agency acquire the right to be treated in some respects the same as employees after 12 weeks in the business.

Employment law is complex and is constantly changing, with many potentially expensive pitfalls for the unsuspecting. It is imperative that you seek the advice of an Employment law specialist, such as Gill Brown, Jacqueline Kendal or Anna Burdett at a very early stage so that you do things correctly from the outset.

Gill Brown on 01256 854605 or gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk
Jacqueline Kendal on 01256 854626 or jacqueline.kendal@phillips-law.co.uk
Anna Burdett on 01256 854603 or anna.burdett@phillips-law.co.uk

Letter...

to the editor

Another Saturday night of at least 20 to 30 cars revving in Sainsbury's car park. This is the second week in a row and nothing seems to be being done by the Police or Sainsbury's. It's starting to become a bit of a joke but not for people close by who are having sleepless nights.

Sainsbury's need to close the car park at night and only allow access to Sainsbury's staff.

I know lots of people who have rang the Police and been told they have more important things to do and will attend when they can but normally turn up after the offenders have gone.

Where are these people coming from? Do they even live in Basingstoke?

We all pay our rates and bills are going up so we expect a good service.

Name provided to the Editor

Please also see the Councillor's Update on page 8 for more information.

CAGE NEWS

LATEST WAREHOUSE PLANNING APPLICATION ON J7M3

Thanks to all those who supported CAGE's campaign to stop the Amazon warehouse development. The developers withdrew their Amazon plans and have now re-submitted a Lidl one. Please can you respond to this latest application by writing to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council?

There are still serious flaws in the developer's plans, see: CAGE website and Facebook page: (www.cleanairgreenenvironment.org and [Facebook.com/cleanairgreenuk](https://www.facebook.com/cleanairgreenuk)). You will see that there is little difference visually between the Amazon and Lidl planning applications. Still the whole development will be approx.. 1 kilometre long and 18 metres high – it will have a massive impact on the landscape and environment on the western side of Basingstoke.

Please quote 22/00667/FUL in your letter and email: www.planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk or write to: The Planning Dept., Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH.

Thanks for your support – **CAGE team**

COUNCILLOR PUTTY

Our main roads are suffering from an increase in the volume of vehicles. Woodbury Road, Longcross Lane and Danebury Road are most affected by the roadworks on the A30. Kempshott roundabout has been very clogged for some time. Brighton Hill roundabout works are in place and will continue for a very long time. The residents of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood will be most affected. I urge every driver to reduce their speed and if they are forced to use our roads to be patient and drive safely.

Lots of developments are happening in our area such as the Golf Course, Hounsme Fields and soon it will be Manydown. I am trying my best to get the best infrastructures and community facilities. It is a very hard battle when developers put profits before people.

I will continue to protect, care and serve the people of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

Best regards

Cllr Dan PUTTY JP



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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

DOCTORS' SURGERIES: I attended a meeting at the hospital organised by County Councillor Kim Taylor at which we were able to meet Operose, who have taken over the running of the Beggarwood Surgery as well as Camrose, Gillies and Hackwood in this part of the town. Also in attendance were the Chair and Vice Chair of the Beggarwood Patients' Participation Group and Councillors from wards in which Operose have a presence. Operose shared with us some of their plans for the future of their operations in Basingstoke, including the planned introduction of an important phone app that patients will be able to use. We made it clear that we want phone calls to be answered in the surgery, as at Beggarwood, rather than a centralised call centre. Operose shared some confidential information regarding their business model, and I hope to examine that with them in more detail to see how well it maps onto Hatch Warren and Beggarwood's demographic profile.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: the most recent meeting of the Beggarwood PPG was on 16th March and was the first to take place with the new management in attendance. It discussed practical issues arising from the merging of the Beggarwood and CGH operations, the need to maintain an effective reception facility and synergy that could be generated within the larger group.

CAR MEETS AT SAINSBURY'S: For the second Saturday in a row there was a car meet at Sainsbury's on 5th March. This one was nipped in the bud by the Police, who turned up promptly following immediate calls from local residents. The Police had earlier dispersed a meet elsewhere in the Borough, and when reports came in of another problem developing in Hatch Warren, they moved over and stopped people from entering the car park.

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CAR PARK. The more I dig into the circumstances surrounding the re-emergence of this problem, the more indistinct the answers seem to get. I was told by Mitie, Sainsbury's agents, that the Automatic Number Plate Recognition equipment in the car park had been damaged and was not operational on the night of the first meet. However, I was given different information by Sainsbury's themselves, who said that the ANPR was indeed operational, in which case the car meet attendees could receive fines for overstaying the ten-minute limitation that

exists after the store closes. I was told by Mitie that the Police did not turn out for the second meet, when in fact they did, and dispersed it. The positive news is that Mitie have responded to my request for a meeting of stakeholders and their stated intention is to install a permanent ANPR system in the next financial year that is less prone to being vandalised. Also, Mitie arranged for their Mobile Disruption Unit (a marked CCTV van) to be redeployed from its previous location and be in Sainsbury's car park for the weekend of 12th March, to record any activities but more importantly to act as a mobile deterrent. That weekend saw no meet take place.

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING: I requested a further meeting of Stakeholders to discuss the resurgence of Anti Social Behaviour and this has been called for after the cut-off date for this report, so more next time. One idea I want to examine is putting a barrier on the car park (overnight staff could have an entry code).

PARKING RESTRICTIONS: You may wish to familiarise yourselves with the parking notices that have been put up in the Sainsbury's car park. In particular, waiting is now restricted to ten minutes after 10pm at night - enough to visit the cashpoint and leave. This is part of the process of bearing down on the antisocial car meets, but I would hate to see unwary innocent users being caught out.

ROAD WORKS, HEATHER WAY: I wrote to Hampshire's Officers about the large pile of spoil in Heather Way associated with the works being carried out by South East Water and asked for a safety review because it was obstructing sight lines for drivers exiting Lavender Road. An Inspector carried out a site meeting and discussed these concerns with SEW, as a result of which it was agreed that the use of Portable Traffic Signals and reducing the overall size of the spoil heap would help alleviate the issue. But the traffic lights were not a success: they caused traffic to queue out onto the A30, which is unacceptable. It was therefore decided that the junction of Lavender Road be closed until the scheme is completed and the Borough Council made an order on 11th March. The fact that an emergency order has been necessary makes me feel that the works were poorly planned and the likely inconvenience to motorists and residents did not feature sufficiently highly on South East Water's agenda.

SAINSBURY'S CAFE: It looks as if the café at Sainsbury's Hatch Warren is one

of those slated for closure. They have not stated what the future of that space will be - perhaps a franchise will take it over as happened in the past. I have spoken to the store manager asking for clarification.

ROAD ADOPTIONS: I have received more queries about the adoption of roads in the area round the Co-op. The process of adoption stalled over the alleged inclusion of a parcel of land into a private garden, which put an important drainage access point out of reach. Attempts to resolve the matter by consent have not been successful, which means that a tribunal date must now be set to try to resolve the issue. Strictly speaking this is a dispute between the homeowner concerned and Taylor Wimpey, the developers, so Hampshire County Council is not party to it, other than providing statements of fact. Until this is resolved, it remains the developers' responsibility to repair potholes and faults.

POSTS IN DANEBURY ROAD: it looks as if the posts that I reported as having been removed from the field in Danebury Road have been replaced. These are important as a defence against illegal trespassing.

STORMS ACTIVITY: Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin saw winds up to 80mph hit Hampshire. In the three days at the height of the bad weather, Hampshire received 2,500 reports of issues on the highways, of which 1,200 were for tree-related problems.

COUNCIL TAX REBATE FOR ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS: The Borough Council has announced that it is planning to contact residents this month about delivering the £150 Council Tax rebate to those households who are eligible (properties in bands A to D). They are also warning that it may take longer than usual to answer the phones because of an anticipated upsurge in queries. Although they didn't put this in the note they sent out, I understand that the process will be easiest for those who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES: I expect that many households across Hatch Warren and Beggarwood will be asking how they might help Ukrainian refugees who make it to this country. The County Council stands ready to give help, and has created dedicated web pages at www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine if you want to know more.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor:
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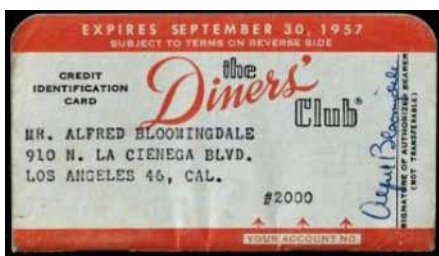


PROBUS LEARNS TO PLAY THEIR CARDS RIGHT

The phrase, generally attributed to, but denied by the actor Sir Michael Caine "Not a lot of people know that!" could be applied to some of the information that came from the talk at the latest meeting of the Probuss Club of Basingstoke.

The talk, titled *Play Your Cards Right* by Michael Luck, an expert in card payments systems, was about the history of credit cards and how their security has changed over the years with advancing technology. One fact that instantly connects to the phrase above was that a pin number, used to confirm the user, is not seen by the bank when making a payment but stays within the chip on your card.

The first on the scene was the Diners Card in 1950 followed by the American Express card in 1958, both of which were printed on cardboard. This goes some way to explain why today being made of plastic they are still called cards. Amex changed to a plastic card with embossed lettering in 1959. These two early ones were in fact charge cards in that the full amount had to be paid off each month.



Barclaycard arrived in the late 1960s with a credit card as we know them today. Zip-Zap imprinters used three-part payment slips which the user had to sign.



The magnetic strip, as still seen today, was introduced in 1970 and contained the name, card number, expiry date and some other data. Point of Sale electronic terminals in 1980 used to swipe the magnetic strip which was considered secure as there were no computer viruses and hackers in those days. The latest chips contain even more information which means that in all probability the magnetic strip will eventually vanish.

It was the French, in 1975, who developed the use of a chip placed on the reverse of the card while it took until the early 2000s for the Safeway supermarket chain being the first in the UK to use this technology.



Contactless cards were introduced into the UK in 2008 and had very slow acceptance as people were concerned that if their wallet was close to a terminal that a payment just might be actioned. Young people, as with many technological advances, saw the ease of use and this was especially so when in May 2011, the restaurant chain

McDonald's introduced this no signature required system. With most of their sales transactions below £20 this was seen as a great benefit by the company and today they have one of the most sophisticated card payment programmes in the World.

The Covid pandemic saw the rest of the UK rapidly come to accept this system especially when the maximum limit was raised to £100. However, this also brought about increased fraudulent activity if a card was stolen as no signature was needed.

What next, you wonder? The future has arrived and as from March this year, as banks and retailers boost their security systems, customers will be sent a code by their bank to enter online or at a terminal in a retail establishment as proof that they are who the card says is the account holder. This is called Strong Customer Authentication (SCA). This will not happen on every occasion, perhaps one in four, especially for small value transactions, but if a retailer is not ready for the new process there could be times when a card is declined.

Some retailers are already using this system when large values are involved or when a customer uses a web site for the first time. There is a problem that a user might be confused as not all banks use the same criteria. PayPal is included and Apple Pay on mobile phones already use a code, fingerprint or facial recognition to approve the payment.

If there weren't so many dishonest people in the world these changes to the security systems would be unnecessary but the banks are doing their best to ensure that only you access your money.

www.probusbasingstoke.club

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Local Hero Scheme

Our colleagues continue to support a wide variety of local community groups in their spare time. Sainsbury's supports their volunteering by donating up to £200 per year, to the community group where they volunteer.

We're proud to recognise that over £10000 has now been donated to organisations such as The Holocaust Memorial Trust & Basingstoke Colts.

With close to 2500 colleagues working

for Sainsbury's within Basingstoke, we'd love to celebrate with more of our colleagues who volunteer. We know they're out there; it's just they often don't realise they are volunteering.

Please ask at your next committee meetings if any of your volunteers, work at Sainsbury's. Just two colleagues will mean a cash injection of £400 for your organisation.

Support for Ukraine

Sainsbury's continue to work closely with our charity partner Comic Relief, to support those in Ukraine and surrounding countries. So far Sainsbury's has donated £1.5million.

You can still donate Nectar Points to boost any fundraising you see locally, which will be matched by Sainsbury's up to £500,000

Changes within Store

As we gear up to the new government legislation in October, regarding High Fats, Sugar and Salt, we've made the final changes to our Fresh, Ambient and Frozen offer.

Our colleagues are ready to help you navigate through the store and, you'll be pleased to see our new signage.

Thank you for your patience whilst we've made these changes.

KEEPING CHEERFUL TOGETHER IN DIFFICULT TIMES

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Happily Sharing our Interests with Each Other

It's hard to come to terms with current world events and many of our members are finding meeting others and having a good chat, can make a big difference to how they feel.

In addition to physical outdoor activities, our u3a supports many things to do indoors as well. These range from country dancing, badminton and table tennis, to more sedentary fun, taking part in sewing and knitting, singing, arts and crafts, Bridge, Rummikub and Scrabble, Mahjong and quizzes.

Some are face to face, some are still on Zoom - our website is the best place to check them out.

There are always excursions and holidays to take part in too; there's a trip to RHS Wisley in May for example. As we are half way through our membership year, you can now join in with as many of our 60+ activities as you want, for only £25!

Want to Meet Others Interested in Something which Isn't on Our List?

U3a groups are all organised by our members, supported by a central committee, which brings them together every month, in Queen Mary's College. If you've got something you'd like to do, which isn't on our list, do please get in touch with us and we can help you try to set up a group of your own.



email: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

If you would like a paper copy of all our current activities
phone: 07787 520 281

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

This is the time of year when the birds are busy singing and finding a mate.

On both sites (throughout the year) there are a good number of *Blue Tits* and *Great Tits*. The females build the nest on their own laying eggs in early April; the *Blue Tit* lays 8 - 10 eggs and the *Great Tit* 7 - 9 eggs. They nest in holes in trees or walls and will readily take to nest boxes. The *Blue Tit* usually has only the one brood each year but the *Great Tit* may have a second brood. There have been sightings of *Long-Tailed Tits*; such a sweet pretty bird with a noticeably long tail and they never seem to rest. They often move around in groups and are always on the move flitting from branch to

branch. The voice is very distinctive – a thin high-pitched 'see, see, see'. Sadly there have been no sign of their nests on either site – but that doesn't mean there are none. The nest is an amazing little oval or round structure made from moss, cobwebs and feathers. There is probably too much disturbance for these birds to feel comfortable enough to build their nests.

Hedgehogs will now be out and about so perhaps you could put out food for them. Tinned cat food or the dry cat food (not fish based or flavours) is okay for them. As you may know the number of hedgehogs has declined greatly over the last years so they need all the help we can give them. Hedgehogs love to eat slugs. If a slug has

ingested slug pellets that contain metaldehyde then that is lethal for the hedgehog. It is good news that the use of slug pellets containing metaldehyde is now banned for the better protection of wildlife.

Work Parties: For Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon and for Beggarwood at the community 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/olddownbeggardwoodwildlifegroup>
Email: odandbwd@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/odandbwd



Blue Tit



Great Tit



Long-tailed Tit

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 – 8th April (call 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1st Wednesday every month

Lots of regular events – please ask at the café

For party bookings please visit:
www.hatchwarren.org

WEEKEND BAPS



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

FRESH HOMEMADE CAKES



**TOASTED PANINIS
AND SANDWICHES**



We look forward to
seeing you soon!

HOT & COLD DRINKS





March 2022 meeting

Our meeting in March at the Cafe in The Park saw us happily welcome several new members. Our chosen book was 'The Vanishing Half' by Brit Bennett. This novel about identical twins set in the 1970s who follow very different lives raised many current issues and that prompted much lively debate in the group. As the story unfolded one of the twins decided to pass as a white woman which meant she had to turn her back on her twin. Eventually the twins were reunited but was it a happy ending?



Several members said it was not a book they would have chosen to read and they were pleased the book club had encouraged them to do so whilst others did not enjoy it so much. Many found it thought provoking and enjoyed finding out about American culture of the time. Overall the book scored 7.2 putting it just about halfway in our reading list.

We have again been lucky enough to receive books to review, 'The School for Good Mothers' by Jessamine Chan and 'Everything's Perfect' by Nicola Kennedy. Big thanks to The Reading Agency and Head of Zeus and the members who secured the books for us.



Next month we will again be welcoming an author and this time she is a very local Basingstoke writer. Lynn Clement will be discussing her flash fiction book of short stories and poetry titled 'The City of Stories'.

Why not read along with us and follow on Facebook or book a ticket to join our meeting and enjoy coffee cake and book chat in the cafe.

HOSPICE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AND THANKS THE COMMUNITY WHO SUSTAINS IT



This year marks 30 years since St. Michael's Hospice started seeing patients on Aldermaston Road.



Hillary De Ferranti - digging the first turf



The Hospice has always been funded by the local community and St. Michael's think the community should be celebrating the role it has played in maintaining this vital service. To remember the extraordinary ways in which the community has kept the hospice going, the Hospice is launching its anniversary with an appeal for stories. Do you have a story to share about care you or a loved one received?

Stories like Sharon Fryer's. My mum was in the Hospice 30 years ago, when you first opened, and were brand new. I can

remember the smell of the new carpets. You were all so kind and nothing was ever too much trouble. Susan Pearce was 49 and spent almost a month in your care. She had ovarian



cancer and we sadly lost her on 29th August 1992. All your staff were amazing and you couldn't do enough for us as a family. I was 22 when my dear Mum passed in the Hospice but I know how safe mum felt in your care, Sharon told the Hospice.

"We hope to connect the community to the extraordinary difference it has made to the lives of its neighbours and telling stories is the perfect way to do that. We are sure that everyone is connected some way, they may know someone who has had our care, may have worn a crazy hairstyle for Mad Hair Day or brought in donations to a store," said Sue O'Flinn, Communications Manager at the Hospice.

"We are really excited to be celebrating this anniversary. It gives us an opportunity to look back and reflect on how far we have come but also to get share with the community where St. Michael's is heading as we expand our services.



"This year we plan to make our Hospice at Home service 24/7, further reducing strain on hospital services and allowing people to stay at home where they are most comfortable. We plan to expand our Day Services to support patients and their families earlier in their diagnosis, helping them with their symptoms but also allowing them to grow support networks with other patients" said Iain Cameron, Chief Executive.

If you have a tale to tell, get in touch at stmichaelsospice.org.uk/30th-anniversary/ or by email at sue.oflinn@stmichaelsospice.org.uk.

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 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

FREE ENTRY FAMILY FUN DAY

SUMMER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 16th JULY

HELP CELEBRATE THE COMMUNITY CENTRES 30th BIRTHDAY!

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
PLAYING FIELDS 12-4pm

DOG SHOW BY ST KITTS VETS
FUN ASSAULT COURSE
ZORB FOOTBALL & SUMO SUITS

* FUNFAIR * CRAFT STALLS * FACE PAINTING *
* CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES *
* LIVE PERFORMANCES * LICENSED BAR *
* HOT & COLD - FOOD & DRINKS *

WWW.HATCHWARREN.ORG

THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR HWBCA CHARITY #1161117

Summer Festival stalls still available. To book your pitch please email office@hatchwarren.org.

Hatch Warren Community Centre is celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with A Treasure Hunt & An Art and Creative Writing competition.

Treasure Hunt!!

Who stole the Queen's Jewels?

- Hunt for clues around the local area.
- In each location you will have to figure out the clue to find the letter.
- Once all letters have been found- piece the letters together to form a word(s)/ 'find out' the location of the jewels!
- There will be a box at both Hatch Warren and Café in the Park (inside café) for you to submit your answer. You may also submit your answer to office@hatchwarren.org.
- Winner: Prize draw of all correct entries; Cake & drink in the café for 2!

How to join in: The trail will be available from Friday 29th April to 30th June. Download the map and clues from the Hatch Warren website or Facebook page. Alternatively, some paper copies will be available at Hatch Warren Community Centre and Café in the Park.

Art & Creative writing competition

- Entrants can submit either an original art piece (any style/method), photograph or piece of creative writing.
- Themes: Option 1) Community Spirit 2) The Queen's Jubilee or a mixture of the 2.
- Great family fun prizes for the winners.
- To enter: Schools, groups, individuals may submit their entries - either hand in to Hatch Warren Community Centre or at Café in the Park (or you can email your submission to office@hatchwarren.org. Closing date: 12 June 2022 - winners will be announced in the Rabbiter and an exhibition of work will be displayed in the Community Centres.

Tips/ ideas - What makes living in Hatch Warren/Beggarwood great? What does the local community mean to you? How has the area changed since 1952? Why community is important/ how life has changed since 1952 (when Elizabeth II became Queen).

On the back - Write your name, age & your contact details (phone number/email or school/group name)



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 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.

It's getting lighter in the evenings and we are so happy because it means we can start planning more sessions using our outside space. We just love putting on sports tournaments and taking our craft sessions on to the patio. Just a reminder we are closed on Friday April 15th for Good Friday. But fear not, you still get chance to hunt for chocolate, just a week early. Check out our



tattoos from our Temporary Tattoos session, as well as our healthy fruit kebabs! Perfect to refresh us after our football games!

Meet the Staff!



We thought it was about time you guys get to know some of us! This months Youth Workers profile is our wonderful Debbie! 'I've been at the Warren for just over 3 years. Having always worked with children it seemed like a great role for me. I enjoy the side variety of activities we offer, especially during summer streetz when we can be outside.

During the day, I work at a local secondary school and before that I was at a primary school for 11 years, mainly working in year 5&6.

I have 2 children of my own; an 18 year old son who has just started university and a 12 year old daughter who loves playing football.



With the current events happening in Ukraine, the Link2 members wanted to show their support by doing a sponsored walk. The members walked from Hatch Warren Community Centre to Milestones and then to Festival Place. In the total the members walked 4.5 miles which is an amazing achievement. It was fanatic to see so many members of the LINK2 community coming together to take part in our walk for Ukraine.

All the money raised is going directly to the UNICEF Ukraine Crisis Appeal, and we are so grateful for all the sponsorship and support we have received.

To date with collections, sponsorship and go fund me the club has raised £3000.

Dates for April

April 4th Hatch Warren

April 21st Trip to the pantomime at The Anvil



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.

May 6th: Exam and End of Year Tests Stress Busters

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

This month has flown by at Hatch Warren Under Fives.

We've been enjoying the brighter weather and are making plans for some gardening. The children have given us ideas of what they'd like to grow so we'll soon be busy planting vegetables and flowers.

We recently celebrated Mother's Day and the children made beautiful cards. We have also had fun celebrating pancake day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day and Holi Hindu. We are now in the lead up to Easter and enjoying lots of Easter arts and crafts and egg hunts in the garden.

The role-play corner has been set up for camping this month, which has been a huge hit with the children. And staying with the theme of the great outdoors we have been learning all about mini beasts – and hunting for them! We have been on walks through the woods uncovering logs and leaves to see if we can discover any little mini beasts hiding. As part of their mini beast topic the children painted symmetrical butterfly pictures, they have used their fine motor skills to trace the names and shapes of spiders and worms, they have counted spots on ladybirds and made their own ladybirds using clay. The children also used cardboard boxes to create their own bug house.

We celebrated World Book Day in March and dressed up as our favourite book characters. We had lots of lovely costumes and characters in preschool. We also really enjoyed reading the children's favourite books.



Our small group work this month has been focussed on maths and phonics. We have been identifying numerals, looking at simple adding and subtracting and learning to read number sentences. In our small group phonics work we have been listening to the initial sound in a word and matching it to a letter.

Our older children will be learning which primary school they are going to over the Easter holidays, so we are eagerly awaiting to hear the big news when we get back to preschool after the holidays. Next term we begin our preparations for the transition to big school. We will start by giving the children lots of mark making opportunities and activities that strengthen little hands for handwriting.

Hatch Warren Under Fives and the EYFS

Here at Hatch Warren Under Fives we love to make marks. This can be using pens, paper, paintbrushes, chalks, pens or even using our fingers to make marks in soil, jam or flour.

Why is Mark Making Important? Mark making gives children the opportunity to explore imaginatively, physically and creatively, to test their ideas and extend their play. Writing begins long before a child can physically hold and control a pencil or crayon effectively, the journey to becoming a confident writer begins at birth and mark making is the foundation that underpins a child's ability to write. Remember children learn that marks have meaning by watching adults writing. Encourage your child to 'write' with you e.g. shopping lists, phone messages, memos and greeting cards.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

WE ARE ENROLLING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 – to enquire about a space at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Angela Blomquist, Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

There has been so much going on at CVP this month!

World Book day was an amazing experience for the little ones to dress up as their favourite book character and bring

their stories in to read and share with their friends.



Preparations for Mother's Day with the children creating a very bespoke card for their Mummy's along with a wonderful hand-made gift.

Our upcoming easter Egg Hunt is always a fantastic event for families and a chance for everyone to get together and raise funds for the setting.

Our PAT dog Toffee is popping in again to join the children with our daily 'What's in the box' and phonics activity. A wonderful experience for the little ones and their well-being.

We will be exploring The Hungry Caterpillar story, looking after our own caterpillars and watch as they grow into butterflies as well as drawing and painting his food and making fruit kebabs.

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

Please contact us if you are interested in coming to view the Pre-School. We offer settling-in sessions and home visits to ensure children feel confident and happy when they start with us. 15, 30 hour and 2 year funded places are available. You can find photos and information via our website or our Google listing online.

We look forward to welcoming you very soon!

Best wishes,

Lisa Collisson

Pre-School Head

Tel: 01256-389008

Email: cvpadmin@btconnect.com

www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/

Dandelions Pre-School



At Dandelions we believe that children learn best when they are following their own interests. Our environment is filled with open ended resources and loose parts that provide children with the tools to let their imagination flow.

Please contact us on 01256 818857 or alternatively email on

info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk to arrange a visit or to register your interest

www.Dandelions-preschool.org.uk

Basingstoke Blues Club

BBC3

in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club,
Station Approach, Basingstoke RG21 5NB presents

Saturday 16th April 2022

Richie Milton and the Lowdown

Richie's career started in the sixties when he was 13 years old with his appearance on T.V. He went on to tour with many famous reggae and souls acts and finally became –“a significant figure of the Blues scene” appearing on T.V. several times. As an acclaimed writer his work has been appreciated by famous R & B artists. Don't miss their visit to the club as Richie will be supported by a talented 7-piece band whose performances draw praise from other artists and the press alike.

All welcome - 8pm till late. £10 cash on the door.
Licensed bar and low prices.

Future dates: Saturday 21st May – The Backbone Blues Band.

The club will take a summer break in June, July and August.

Profits to Brain Tumour Research – Charity number 1153487.



LOOKING TO LIFE BEYOND BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

As Y8s start the process of selecting which subjects they will continue to study to GCSE (guided choices), I decided to speak to MrWatkins our Careers Lead at school and asked him a few questions about careers and guided choices and the resources available to support them to choose subjects to study at GCSE and perhaps even their careers in the future!

What resources can students use to help them decide on their subjects?

- Unifrog is an online platform that has all the information you need to know about careers and post 16 opportunities. It is essential that students use this resource especially if you are stuck for subjects or do not know what you need for a particular career.
- The student zone in the careers + enterprises section of the school website
- The careers corridor which has lots of posters showing the requirements of different careers

www.careerspilot.org.uk provides careers information and tools for 11–19-year-olds

Should students choose a wide or limited range of subjects?

When it comes to picking subjects, you have an option. Either a wide variety of choices or a limited variety of choices. It really depends! For example, if you have absolutely no idea what job you want when you are older the best choice for you is to choose a wide variety of subjects that you enjoy (e.g. History, Music, Spanish, Business) however if you know what you want to be when you are older then you should choose subjects based on

your future career (students can find out in the career corridor or on Unifrog).

What should a student do if they do not know what subjects to pick?

Firstly, it is OK not to know. It is completely natural however if it is stressing you out then here are a few tips to help you:

- Unifrog: In this situation it can really help. Firstly, go onto the career's library and like careers that you are interested in. Secondly go back to those careers and read their descriptions. There you will find what subjects you will need to get this job.
- Connect real-life with subjects: This sounds a bit confusing but what it is, is finding a hobby or something you like doing and connect it in all the possible ways with different subjects; an example would be if you enjoy drawing as a hobby, that will link to the subjects Art or Design Technology
- Go to the corridor of careers: Find a career you like and see which subject it links to. Or do it the other way round!

It is good that there is so much help for students when making their guided choices.

Liana, BHCS Student Reporter

AN INDEPENDENT UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

DESTRUCTION OF TREES – Hounsome Fields and the old Basingstoke Golf Club development is continuing with more than fifty houses on Hounsome Fields occupied already. Three arms of the new roundabout for the main access to both sites are complete and now work on construction of the secondary access for the Golf Club site has started. This has led to more trees being destroyed. It will be an "in" only access when development is complete but it will be in and out during construction. This has meant that trees on the central reservation have been felled. Yet more trees will be felled when the fourth arm of the roundabout is constructed, adding to the loss of trees on the old course fairways.

OAKDOWN FARM WAREHOUSE PROPOSAL – Newlands has submitted a third warehouse application on the Oakdown Farm site. The first two applications; one for four warehouses and a second for one large warehouse, rumoured to be for Amazon, were refused. This new application is for three warehouses, the largest of which would be for occupation by Lidl. Newlands claim a reduction in HGV traffic generated by the proposal but it would add to the pressure on the Southwood traffic lights and M3 Junction 7 from Hounsome Fields and the Basingstoke Golf Course. This is before the thousands of homes are built between Oakley and North Waltham as is suggested for the revised Basingstoke Local Plan.

Julian Jones

Independent Candidate for Hatch Warren and Beggarwood

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR UKRAINE?

It's heartening to see so many people offering help at a time of crisis for Ukraine. It is also indicative of how out-of-step parts of the government are with the generosity of UK people; even as thousands have offered their homes to Ukrainian refugees, this week the Government proceeded to the final stages of their racist Nationality and Borders Bill which will make it harder for any refugee to come to Britain.

My advice to those who have room or support they wish to offer would be to contact an organisation like Refugees At Home, who have done wonderful work since 2015 placing those that need them in homes that can shelter them, and fighting for the rights of refugees in a system designed to be a hostile environment for them. We signed up with them some years ago and had the privilege of hosting a wonderful Kuwaiti man named Ahmed in 2018. Our experience with the organisation and with Ahmed was very positive and I highly recommend it. Anyone wishing to know more is welcome to contact me at basingstoke@womensequality.org.uk.

Stacy Hart

Women's Equality Party Local Election Candidate

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

There were 42 members at the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March when the Group held their Annual General Meeting. The Chairman opened by welcoming everyone and said how fortunate it had been that the 2020 AGM went ahead just before the lockdown so that only last year's had not taken place. In giving his report he commented on the help given to him by both the members of the committee and all the others who helped at the monthly meetings which re-commenced in August. The Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Welfare Officer then gave their reports and the officers and committee members for the coming year were appointed.

Chairman - David Cowling, **Vice-Chairman** - David Dance, **Secretary** - Tony Brazier, **Treasurer** - June Brazier, **Membership Secretary** - Sonia Waite, **Welfare Officer** - Christine Broadbent, **Speaker Secretary** - Maggie Hatton, **Raffle Organiser** - Pam Bowen.

A resolution was then unanimously passed to extend the current subscription year until the end of August with succeeding years then running from September to August.

We then had a presentation from Ian Saxton on "Tax, Care and Toyboys". The main emphasis of his presentation was to ensure that we knew how to do as much as possible to protect our assets and to make sure that on our death they were passed on to those we wanted to have them. Using different scenarios he illustrated the effects of not making a will and of when making one having it done in the correct manner. He told us about the levels of inheritance tax and how planning in advance would lessen the burden on those left to administer an estate. He covered the different types of property ownership available and explained how these would affect who gained an inheritance. He emphasised how important it was to have a Lasting Power of Attorney in both financial and health matters set up to safeguard against possible future problems and then finished with a question and answer session.

The group's next outing will be Afternoon Tea at BCOT on Thursday 28th April followed by a visit to Hatfield House on Thursday 19th May.

The next meeting is on 6th April when the speaker will be Daniel Cowling, a West London Secondary School Headteacher, on "Getting to Good - A School's Journey". The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon 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

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

A Great Day Out for all the Family!

Sunday 8th May 2022 from 11.00-16.00pm

The Memorial Park will again be filled with over 1000 different types of vehicles on static display - cars, and motorcycles as well as buses, fire engines, commercial and military vehicles

There will also be a variety of specialist car clubs, trade stalls, with all manner of items for sale from motor jumble to plants together with catering outlets and live music

As well as the trade stands, amongst them you will find some of the charities our Rotary Club supports. We are pleased to be able to provide an opportunity for them to showcase the important work that they do, and for them to fundraise to fill their coffers after a difficult time.

NEW LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER AT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr Simon Bound has been elected as Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's new Leader.

At the Council meeting tonight (Monday 28 February), Cllr Bound, who has been Acting Leader since Cllr Ken Rhatigan stepped down at the start of February and was previously Deputy Leader, was voted in as Leader and announced his Cabinet. The new Deputy Leader is Cllr John Izett, who will also be Cabinet Member for Finance and Property.

Cllr Bound said: "I am proud to be heading up the council and to be at the helm of a strong team at a key time for the future of the borough and the services that we provide that people rely on every day.

"I have been elected as leader on the same night that we agreed a budget that invests in frontline services, including street cleaning and an extra waste collection crew. We have committed to up the pace of our drive to achieve our challenging climate change targets and enhance biodiversity.

"As we emerge from the pandemic, we are keen to support our amazing communities who have shown such resilience and empathy for others and to ensure this remains a thriving place with good jobs and great places to live.

"We will be focusing on taking action on the things that people have told us will make the most difference to their lives and are most important to them. We've done lots of listening and consulting and it is now time to get on and deliver. We need to take the right decisions and get things moving forward."

Cllr Bound announced that experienced councillors would be staying in Cabinet roles but with some changes to the areas they cover:

- Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure – Cllr Rebecca Bean
- Cabinet Member for Recycling, Waste and Regulatory Services – Cllr Hayley Eachus
- Cabinet Member for Homes and Economy – Cllr Tristan Robinson
- Cabinet Member for Natural Environment and Climate – Cllr Mark Ruffell.

Two new councillors are joining the Cabinet team, with Cllr Jay Ganesh as Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure and Cllr Jenny Vaux as Cabinet Member for Community Development.

For further information please contact: Communications and Marketing Manager Sara Shepherd on 01256 845493 or email sara.shepherd@basingstoke.gov.uk.

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

••••• APPRENTICES OF ALL KINDS •••••

• We are Apprentice fans, but my husband frequently says he •
 • wouldn't employ any of them! Recently, the candidates had •
 • to design and market new baby food, but the results were so •
 • bad that no-one won. I have NEVER seen that happen before. •

• Jesus had apprentices too, only we don't call them that. We •
 • usually call them disciples. Just as the TV candidates often •
 • make spectacular errors so did Jesus' apprentices. The number •
 • of times they get it wrong. Peter wants to prevent Jesus from •
 • going to Jerusalem because he doesn't understand why Jesus •
 • wants to go there if he knows he is going to die. None of •
 • them really understand why Jesus chose a donkey not a war •
 • horse to ride into Jerusalem. •

• Jesus was trying to make a point that God's kingdom is a •
 • kingdom of love and gentleness. Not war, strength and power. •
 • Putin's view of his 'kingdom' is built on war, strength, power •
 • and fear as he viciously attempts to take control of Ukraine. •
 • This is not the kingdom of God that Jesus was trying to bring •
 • in. I hope and pray that by the time you read this article that •
 • the war will have ended and the Russians will have retreated •
 • from Ukraine. •

• More apprentice errors – Peter again, initially doesn't want •
 • Jesus to wash his feet at the Last Supper. When Jesus explains •
 • that he has come to be a servant not a master then Peter •
 • wants to be completely washed all over. All the male disciples, •
 • except John, have deserted Jesus at the cross, possibly through •
 • fear – only the women remain. The two disciples wearily •
 • walking down the road to Emmaus don't even recognise the •
 • resurrected Jesus and Thomas after the resurrection doesn't •
 • believe the others have seen Him. You see as apprentices •
 • they're not doing a great job. •

• Alan Sugar's "You're fired!" has become quite a catchphrase. •
 • But unlike The Apprentice we don't get fired as Jesus' •
 • apprentices. Jesus doesn't send Peter, or Thomas or Cleopas •
 • (one of the disciples on the Emmaus Road) home. He doesn't •
 • say, "You're fired!" No! Jesus keeps on giving them and us the •
 • opportunity to improve; to be better people again and again •
 • and again. It is called forgiveness and is one of the key ideas in •
 • the Christian faith. Not easy at all, especially if we have been •
 • hurt or betrayed. •

• This Easter I wonder how we can all become Apprentices in •
 • learning how to bring in a kingdom of love, gentleness and •
 • peace- not war and aggression. Jesus tells us the answer in •
 • two simple sentences. " Love God with all your heart, soul •
 • and mind. Love your neighbour as yourself." That means •
 • everyone, including people we do not like or find difficult to •
 • be with. This is THE most difficult apprentice task ever. But •
 • take heart because there is room in God's house for all of us •
 • and we absolutely won't be fired. •

• Grace and peace to you

• **Debbie Veel,**

• Ordinand, Parish of Basingstoke Down

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THE CAMROSE CENTRE WELCOMES EXTRA FUNDING

The Camrose Centre for the Homeless and Vulnerably Housed is delighted to announce its continued financial support from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The Council grant means Friday sessions at the Centre are fully funded; and Sunday sessions can continue for at least the next twelve months thanks to match-funding from one other grant giving organisation.

Mike Browning, Chair of Trustees at The Camrose Centre said "while food and clothing donations are very much appreciated by our clients, the financial support we receive enables us to continue giving the service we give. It gives great encouragement to our wonderful staff and volunteers to know they have the backing of those around them".

Kate Randall, Head of Housing and Social Inclusion for the Council commented, "the services and support provided at The Camrose Centre are a vital part of our joined-up partnership plan to eradicate rough sleeping."

The Centre opens for up to four hours, four days a week and offers hot food, shelter, a shower, clothing, food packs and toiletries. Importantly, it offers a compassionate listening ear from staff and volunteers who help their clients to get out of the affliction that is homelessness.

As well as the practical and emotional support it offers, the Centre also hosts activities including hairdressing, foot care, GP and Mental Health professionals, housing services and a therapeutic art project which are provided by other members of the Social Inclusion Partnership.

Mike adds "We still need to raise £36,000 this financial year to maintain service on Tuesdays and Thursdays and donations are always welcome."

To help support The Camrose Centre please visit thecamrosecentre.org

PLAY CROQUET!

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

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

Basingstoke Croquet Club has a top class lawn and a cosy clubhouse. We welcome new members – experienced or new to the game.

If you would like to give it a try we will be having open days on Saturday 14th May and Sunday 15th May 2022. Just turn up any time between 10am and 2pm. Equipment will be provided, just wear casual comfortable clothes and flat shoes. There is no charge for a try-out. Until then you might like to look at the excellent training videos on our website.

If you can't make it on those days please use the contact form on our website and we can arrange a convenient time for you to come for a try-out.

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WE'RE 'ROARING' AGAIN!

Ending what was for pretty much everyone a 'challenging' period with our customary supermarket Christmas tinshakes, we were concerned the great Basingstoke public may not feel so 'charitable to charities', especially at that expensive time – how wrong we were. Sincere thanks to everyone who reached into their pockets for whatever they could afford – they brought warmth to the chilled tinshakers on duty, including 'Lennie' the Lion (even he/she gets cold!).



And in February we got into the musical groove again – finally! Readers may know we excel at putting on events to gladden the musical heart, either

through still and soundless listening or, as in the case with our magical Motown/Soul evening (courtesy of the supremely talented Mr. Lou Taylor), some manic bopping – a lot of booty-shaking was in evidence – all accompanied by an overriding vibe that it was so 'good to get out there again'.

On the strength of our successful October book sale, another was staged specifically in the February half-term ('Lennie' is a vital ingredient for some of the smaller readers) and with equal success, although prepping it during Storm Eunice was... interesting! No pain, no gain.

By the time you read this our annual – but not for 2 years (wonder why?!) – Swimathon will either have happened or be about to do so in early March... 9 teams

compete for the trophy, swimming relays in limited time - always a popular event.

In April we hope to revert – again FINALLY – to the first of our biannual face-to-face quizzes, having coped magnificently throughout the you-know-what with puzzling people via Zoom (itself also a puzzle for some!).

The merry month (we hope) of May will see a concert from the popular Heritage Orchestra at the Haymarket Theatre in the town (<https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/event/the-lions-club-of-basingstoke-presents-the-heritage-light-orchestra-with-swell-party>) – and then, of course, we'll be adding our usual 'Lions Den' putting game to various summer fetes...

AND we recruited a new member!

AND we're still planting Queen's Green Canopy trees!

As per the title, we're definitely 'roaring' again - to fulfil our motto, 'We serve'.

Annie Vicars

www.basingstokelions.gov.uk

Ordinary people – amazing things!



LOCAL HOMELESS PRODUCE STUNNING ARTWORK

Local homeless clients have produced stunning artwork in collaboration with a local artist. The painting entitled 'Looking through the window' was produced over several months by clients at The Camrose Centre, as part of the artWell project run by artistic director Corinne Marsh. The project aims to empower people through creativity, and Corinne helps those taking part to develop their creative skills, to build confidence and believe in themselves.

Camrose clients were given the option to be involved with the project if they wished. By taking part, the creative process often evoked particular thoughts or memories, and enabled them to talk about their lives, their backgrounds, their challenges.

Corinne Marsh said "Each flower is a favourite flower and represents a person who made this work. The finished piece delights in its lightness and brightness, its sense of hope and potential. It has been my great privilege to work with each person, bringing their ideas together and enabling them to make their ideas a reality and something to be proud of."

Mike Browning, Chair of Trustees at the Camrose Centre said "We've been amazed by the interest shown by so many clients who are homeless or vulnerably housed and who have repeatedly returned to take active roles in the project. The painting has resulted in some lovely conversations. We are delighted with the outcome and look forward to discussing with Corinne and members of the Social Inclusion Partnership where and how the painting may be displayed for permanent public view."

The artWell project is sponsored by The Mayors Community Chest and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

OTTOMAN TURKISH RESTAURANT

20A Winchester Street, Basingstoke RG21 7DZ
ottomanturkishrestaurant.co.uk 01256 351122

Although fairly well travelled I have never visited what has become a popular holiday destination for many readers and therefore never eaten any of their food – until now.

A visit to the Ottoman Turkish Restaurant at the Top of Town has now overcome one of life's missing experiences and created a very positive impression of that far eastern Mediterranean country at the crossroads betwixt Asia and Europe.

It was a wet Friday lunchtime for our visit and initially I worried that as the place was empty was there something that others knew that prevented their attendance? Apparently not. The situation changes from 4.00pm in the week until they close at 10.00pm. With a potential 60 covers it must be a different place at those times.

Madam's son was visiting from his work and abode in Luxembourg, and he knew his way around the extensive menu which fortunately for us provided descriptions of each offering. A dish of Turkish bread appeared as if by magic accompanied by two dips, one a yogurt raita and the other spicy vegetable.

Madam, for starters, had fried calamari, her son grilled halloumi cheese and I had Torpedo King Prawns. Mine were superb and the others said the same. The main dish caused some indecisions but eventually Madam had Chicken Shish which had so much chicken that some was boxed up to take home. Her son had a most interesting dish of Lamb Beyti that came in a shallow metal dish on top of a cage containing a flame. It left lava rocks in the shade for effectiveness in keeping the food piping hot. Mine was Lamb Kavurma, minced lamb that had been rolled in a special bread and sliced on the bias so appeared open. Some rice and a salad garnish completed the square plate.

They have a small list of desserts but for some reason we were not offered any. Not a problem as we were all replete.

Our drinks were a sparkling water, a freshly squeezed orange juice and a bottle of Peroni. A bottle of tap water was also provided. The son had an Espresso which he described as real Turkish coffee, Madam and I had an Americano with milk.

It was Madam's treat as she only sees her son a few times a year and the bill came to £95.10 which was considered reasonable in view of the super quality we had enjoyed.

They do deliveries within a radius of 3 miles between 4 -10 pm, but we shall not be using this service as we shall definitely be back.



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