

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 288 May 2022

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# THE Rabbiter

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 5 BEGGARWOOD SURGERY PPG  
CAMROSE, GILLIES AND  
HACKWOOD (PPG)
- 6 PHILLIPS SOLICITORS  
WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY
- 8 COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE
- 10 PROBUS HEARS ABOUT CREATURES  
GREAT AND SMALL  
BOOKWORMS
- 11 CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AT BHCS!
- 12 OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD  
WILDLIFE GROUP
- 13 SAINSBURY'S  
GANG SHOW 2023
- 14 COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 15 THE WARREN
- 16 CHILDREN'S CORNER
- 17 COUNCILLOR PUTTY  
BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR  
BASINGSTOKE U3A
- 18 RABBITER CONTACTS
- 19 CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT  
FELLOWSHIP  
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
- 20 CLASSIFIED ADS  
CHINEHAM & SHERFIELD PARK  
SCARECROW TRAIL  
A CELEBRATION OF ENGLISH  
COMPOSERS
- 21 FREEADS
- 22 RESTAURANT REVIEW

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## EDITORIAL

It is local election day on Thursday. There are seven candidates standing for the one vacancy in our ward for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. It is important that the winning candidate will represent the views and needs of local residents on the Council. With so much building underway locally and more being proposed in the near future is there sufficient infrastructure locally to support the increased homes.

There is an update on Beggarwood Surgery on page 5. Meetings have been held with the Operose to address issues and the future plan. There is an open meeting scheduled at Beggarwood Community Centre on 16 July at 10am hosted by Maria Miller MP. This event will give local residents the opportunity to give their feedback on the future of the surgery.

The Council update from our Hampshire County Councillor is on page 8. As usual it provides relevant information on local issues. A big thank you to the County Council for repairing the walkway down from Sainsbury's on Longcross Road – no longer does your car take off if you hit the crossing at the wrong speed!

A date for your diary is the Hatch Warren Community Centre AGM on 8 June – see page 14 for details. The Community Association is a charity and provides amazing facilities and events for local residents. With the Queens Jubilee celebrations coming up very soon they are organising an Art and Creative Writing Competition and Treasure Hunt – sounds good fun! Is your road holding a celebration party or Big Lunch to celebrate the event? Remember to let The Rabbiter have details and pictures of your event – [newsdesk@therabbiter.biz](mailto:newsdesk@therabbiter.biz).

Now we can all get out and about again you may be interested in joining the events organised by the local U3A – see page 17 for details.

The Saturday market at the Portsmouth Arms runs every Saturday morning from 10am – 1pm. This is an opportunity to support local businesses and meet the owners. Regulars include Indigo Bakes – wonderful bread and the best donuts, Fernworth Farm for meat plus there are handmade cards, delicious chilli sauces, cakes, and many other stalls.

In the 34 years since the estate began occupation many groups have been formed – Brownies, Cubs, Cyclists, Runners and many more. The Rabbiter is here to promote your activities and promote them to local residents. We publish 10 months of the year – not January or August – and the copy date is the 15th of the month preceding publication. The Rabbiter is delivered free to every house on Hatch Warren, Kempshott Rise and Beggarwood. Let us have your news!

**Editor**



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## BEGGARWOOD SURGERY NEWS FROM THE PPG

Following the meeting last month hosted by Kim Taylor with senior directors of Operose we have now received from them an action plan as to how they propose to monitor and improve services offered by them to the patient group of both CGH and now of course Beggarwood as they also hold our contract. Further meetings with Operose and ourselves, again hosted by Kim Taylor, are planned for later in May/June to monitor and review the plan.

### SURGERY UPDATE – April 2022

Two new doctors have joined the CGH team, a Dr Robinson and Dr Ambrose who will both come on board in the next few months. A receptionist is being sought for Beggarwood to fill a vacancy.

It was reported that during the last few weeks an occasion had arisen when Beggarwood surgery had reached a staff/patient capacity. Fortunately, CGH has a Duty Capacity Response Team, which enabled urgent patients from Beggarwood to be seen at Camrose. We asked if patients were more pleased just to be able to see a doctor or whether there were complaints about having to travel to Camrose. There have been no complaints about the travel involved. We applauded the decision to open the response team at Camrose to Beggarwood patients. We also asked if people are being told why they are being asked to go to Camrose, and Operose confirmed that a clinician would explain the situation and advise patients about why they need to go there rather than being seen at Beggarwood.

We continue to receive good comments on face-to-face appointments being made available, even at short notice. Also, that the reception team at the surgery are being as helpful as they can in helping patients sort out the confusion that NHS England has caused with the integration of patient records and the inability for some patients to order prescriptions online.

We also noted that Beggarwood no longer has its own dedicated Practice Manager; instead we now have a General Manager (Claire Osbourne) covering all four CGH sites.

Operose said CGH was learning some good ways from Beggarwood and has taken these on board. A new phone system went in last week, which will enable the staff to listen to calls and track any problems.

### Beggarwood/Operose Open Meeting

The Beggarwood Community Centre has been booked by our local M.P. Maria Miller to host the Community Feedback session previously mentioned in our last communication. This will take place on 16th July starting at 10:00 hrs and is scheduled to last 1 hour. Please come along if you can as your feedback will be useful in helping Operose understand any concerns you may have and enable them to, if necessary, fine tune their services at Beggarwood and the CGH practices.

### Social Media and Complaints

Remember, as stated in our previous newsletter, Social Media platforms can be used to give vent to our feelings relating to what we judge are let downs in the service we expect. However, the best way to improve any service we receive is to formally complain to the right people at the right time. In our healthcare issues the correct way to do this is by using the prescribed NHS England channels. 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 CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) 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 the surgery 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

[beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com](mailto:beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com)

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. If you have an urgent medical problem please contact the surgery directly or ring 111.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

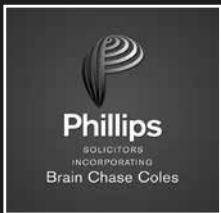
## CAMROSE, GILLIES AND HACKWOOD PARTNERSHIP (PPG)

The PPG are pleased to report that the recent Patient Feedback Workshops proved to be an effective way of gathering your comments and ideas in respect of CGH and their service to patients. The valuable information we now have from the 86+ patients we saw over the two Workshops, is being collated from over 600 post-it notes, and this will be fed back to CGH and Operose Health. The PPG Newsletter, along with previous copies, can be read on our website, [www.cghppg.co.uk](http://www.cghppg.co.uk). If you would like to receive a regular, digital copy, you can request this by supplying your email address in the box provided.

**Covid vaccinations:** Spring booster vaccinations for those over 75 by 30/6/22, are being done at Jameson House by appointment only, as are vaccinations for 5-11 year olds. Patients will be notified by their surgery in respect of booking these. Festival Place clinic, next to the Tiger shop, is now open for walk-ins for any vaccine, including 12-15 year olds with an accompanying parent, plus the spring booster for those unable to get to Jameson House.

**CGH News:** Our PPG public meetings highlighted a number of areas of complaint, including access/making contact with the surgery, the actual appointment, call wait times, prescriptions issued/rejected and hospital referrals/feedback. CGH are fully aware of the work required to improve patient services, and acknowledge that the difficulties patients are experiencing cannot continue.

A development plan has been prepared in response to the Cross Party Councillor Meeting held in March. The planned improvements include a mystery shopper programme reporting back to management on customer service, full engagement of the PPG, new working patterns to improve call answering at peak periods and reducing call wait times, a clear time window for clinician call back, DriQ fully implemented and e-consult decommissioned. The time frame for this, and more, is April to December, 2022. A Cancer Project to support patients diagnosed with cancer during and post treatment, is planned to soon be operational. With 42080 patients, CGH received 23000 calls during March, and carried out 16000 appointments. Per week, this equals 3402 telephone appointments, 1535 face to face appointments and 700 online consultations. There has been a 65% increase in call volumes in under 2 years.



## PLANNING FOR WORSE CASE SCENARIO



Jack Gardener

We often like to think of ourselves as invincible. A lot of the time we are. I am constantly amazed by what business owners manage to achieve whilst also balancing the never-ending challenges of running a business.

Sadly, sometimes life events can bring a halt to our best laid plans. I recently helped a family friend through a very difficult situation which I wanted to share so that you can ensure you have the relevant plans in place for you, your business and your family.

### Background

My family friend was happily married with three children. Her husband was a one third shareholder in a professional service company. He was in his early 40s and was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Very sadly, he died six months later.

I became involved, after his death, and it was clear that little planning (which was not that unsurprising given his age) had been put in place. This left his wife and children in a difficult situation.

There was no life insurance in place, and by the time he received his diagnosis, it was too late to get any insurance in place. There was also no provision in any of the company's constitutional documents as to what happened with the shares.

As a result, my contact was left with a large mortgage

to pay, three children to support and minimal income as she, at the time, was retraining.

Given that most business owners are growing their business ultimately for their family's benefit, I wanted to set out some of the points which you may want to consider:

1. Set out a clear process in the articles of association or shareholders' agreement as to what will happen on the death of a shareholder.
2. Consider whether a cross option agreement may be suitable for your business model.
3. Ensure you have adequate life assurance in place for you and your spouse/ civil partner
4. Make sure you have a Will in place and that it is up to date
5. Consider having a lasting power of attorney for both financial and health matters.
6. Consider what the effect on your business would be if you were unable to work for a prolonged period or were to die.

I highly recommend that you do spend to time to consider these points and discuss them with your fellow shareholders and family.

I would be delighted to discuss with you your plans and thoughts for your business because for us business is personal.

Please contact Jack Gardener on 01256 854665 or [jack.gardener@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:jack.gardener@phillips-law.co.uk)

## THANK YOU, FROM THE WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY BASINGSTOKE

By Stacy Hart – Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Local Election Candidate

By the time you read this, the May 2022 election will be done and, whatever the outcome is, I feel blessed to have been welcomed by the people of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood throughout my campaign. I spoke to literally hundreds of you, was so wonderfully received and had the privilege of hearing your stories, which allowed me to tailor our platform to your needs, as it should be. I've always said this is not a one-shot deal for me but only the start of a platform of independent representation and equality that WE Basingstoke want to build in the ward, and throughout our town.

Whatever your politics, it's undoubtedly true that we are facing unprecedented societal challenges. I believe those challenges can only be met with three things. Engagement, because we can't improve society without society voting to do so. Collaboration and coalition, because tribalism serves only those who benefit from the status quo. And vitally, the bravery to make change because (as the saying has it) the definition of insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different results.

I will be here in the years to come, continuing to work for equality and for the change we need. And for that privilege, and for every welcome I have had over the last months, I wholeheartedly thank you.



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This great band is returning with a reformed line up. R.I.P. Duncan Highet and welcome to his son Luke on bass and vocals, another talented member of the family. Farewell to Frank McConnell, we wish him well in his retirement and welcome to Martin Spellman who has worked with the band before, on guitar and vocals. Welcome back Tony Seamen on guitar and vocals, Martin Jezzard on drums and Steve Pearce on the keyboard. Come along and enjoy their tight rhythm sections, creative guitar and soulful vocals. They deliver a sound which grooves when it swings and punches well above its weight when it rocks.

All welcome - 8pm till late.

£10 cash on the door. Licensed bar with low prices.

Future dates: The club will take a summer break in June, July and August and reopen with The Cadillac Kings on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

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## COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

**CAR MEETS:** Mitie (Sainsbury's agents) have installed the permanent Automatic Number Plate Recognition system in the supermarket car park. Following a period of testing, they will be in a position to start enforcement actions on people who stay longer than ten minutes after the store has closed. They are publicising the change using posters and an external banner. In addition, a speed bump scheme for the car park is being costed. We will need to monitor how the new restrictions are enforced: the targets are the people who behave in an antisocial manner, not the responsible citizens who take eleven minutes rather than ten to go to the cashpoint.

**A30 SPEED LIMIT:** the Borough Council has made an order to impose a temporary 30mph limit on the A30 between Saunders Way and the new Hounsme Fields roundabout. This is designed to slow traffic so that works to construct development access roads can be completed safely. The order came into effect on 18th April and will last for a year, though they hope that it will be lifted after 7 months if the works have been completed. That would mean November, if all goes well.

**STARBUCKS AT SAINSBURY'S:** On 23rd March, Sainsbury's submitted planning application 22/00885/ADV. The proposal was seeking permission to erect a Starbucks fascia sign above the entrance to the café at the Hatch Warren store. The sign will advertise the new Starbucks concession and therefore confirms the expectation that some of us had, that Starbucks are moving in to take over the existing café. This will come as welcome news to everyone who feared that the facility might close down altogether.

**SOUTH EAST WATER ROADWORKS:** Many people will be breathing a sigh of relief that the South-East Water road works on the A30 have finished. The hold-ups caused by the three-way lights at the Hatch Warren roundabout were severe, and caused a lot of traffic to divert through the estate roads. The huge pile of spoil in Heather Way has been removed and the emergency closure of the junction with Lavender Road, that it caused, has been lifted. The verge has been levelled out, though it will take some time for the grass to grow back. My feeling is that these roadworks caused more disruption than they should have, and they could have been better planned.

**BRIGHTON HILL ROUNDABOUT:** We are entering the period when work on the carriageways starts, requiring diversions and changes. The first moves include a footway diversion near the Brighton Hill Retail Park. In addition the bus stop on the eastern side of the A30 Winchester Road at the Brighton Hill Retail Park will not be in use. A temporary bus stop will be in place on Pack Lane near Homebase for Brighton Hill Community School pupils travelling home to Oakley.

**BEGGARWOOD SURGERY:** I expect there will be a report in this magazine from the Patient Participation Group, so I won't duplicate that. I observed the most recent PPG meeting, and I must say that I find the engagement from the new operators to be positive and constructive. Many people feared that things might go backwards towards the terrible situation that existed a few years ago, but I feel reassured that everyone wants to avoid that.

**BIODIVERSITY:** The Borough Council is continuing the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Biodiversity Improvement Zone initiative for this year. It has surveyed the sites and found that, for the second year in a row, more species have established themselves. A total of 213 grasses and wildflower species have been recorded across the eight verges and open spaces - an increase of 34% over last year. In addition 135 invertebrate

species including butterflies, bees, spiders and wasps have been spotted. The Council has run the BIZ since 2020 and during this time the selected areas have been cut differently and regularly monitored to improve habitats for wildlife and flora and to create green corridors for wildlife to travel from one area to another.

**FENCE IN DANEBURY ROAD:** following the recent storms, damage was caused to the fence in Danebury Road where trees fell. I have reported the damage to the Borough Council who have undertaken to make repairs. It is taking a while to do: I suspect there is a backlog of similar tasks to complete after the violent storms.

**ANAEROBIC DIGESTER:** Disappointingly, there has been a flurry of reports of odour pollution again from the Digester. No doubt this will be discussed at the next meeting of the Liaison Panel which, at the time of writing, was being organised for the end of April.

**MEMBERS' GRANTS:** the County Council is looking to restart its Members' Grants facility earlier than usual this year, so that Councillors can consider applications relating to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Officers are hoping to re-open the Hampshire scheme in mid-May.

**UKRAINE APPEALS:** I am delighted at the positive responses generated for the victims of the war in Ukraine. Hatch Warren's Sainsbury's has posted its thanks to everyone who has donated towards its Ukrainian Crisis Appeal, whilst Hall and Woodhouse (Holly Blue and Portsmouth Arms) has reported that they have raised almost £60,000 across their outlets. Many people are considering hosting Ukrainian refugees which is great, though I have a concern: the danger exists that the relationships between the hosts and the refugees might break down, and we need to be clear what will happen then to people who have already lived through so much trauma. I have raised this with County Officers and the Council is pressing the Government for a 'rematching' service so that the families may be offered new hosts.

**BOBBY SCHEME:** This service may of interest to residents in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood: the Blue Lamp Trust runs an initiative called the Bobby Scheme. This provides free home security visits, long-life smoke alarms and advice to vulnerable residents, particularly the elderly and victims of burglary and domestic abuse. A full crime prevention and fire safety survey is carried out by a specialist trained and police-vetted fitter. The service will provide both general and specific crime and fire prevention advice to improve residents' home safety. When appropriate the fitter can install items such as locks, spy-holes, door chains and smoke alarms. The service is completely free to those who are vulnerable due to age (over 65), circumstance, disability, or being a victim of household crime. Anyone can make a referral including individuals, friends, family, doctors and social workers via the Blue Lamp Trust website - <https://bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-landingpage/> - or by ringing 0300 777 0157. As a Councillor, I am sure that I could facilitate a referral.

**PINCH OF SALT!** I read with a mixture of amusement and puzzlement, the sales pitch from Linden Homes' for their new-build properties on Hounsme Fields. They are describing the site as "... located off Winchester road, in close proximity to the town centre." Given that Hounsme Fields is one of the most distant developments from the town centre, the 'close proximity' claim does seem to smack of 'poetic licence'!

**Stephen Reid**

County Councillor.

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# Planning a party?

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## PROBUS HEARS ABOUT CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Most of the senior readers will remember times during the 1950s when the only "foreign" animals school children would see were either those lucky enough to visit a zoo or see Tarzan films at the cinema or on small black and white televisions in programmes such as David Attenborough's Zoo Quest and those of intrepid explorers Armand and Michaela Dennis and under water film makers Hans and Lotte Hass.

Today, it is a different situation with both the increase in foreign travel that allow face to face experiences with exotic creatures and locations but also for the considerable amount of television programmes that these days highlight concerns about global warming with its danger to animals, plants and humankind.

The speaker, Stephen Thair, himself a member of the Probuss Club of Basingstoke, sought to bring his concerns about the way our planet is heading at the latest meeting of this club for retired professional and business managers.

The RSPB's recent Big Garden Birdwatch had over 700,000 participants and spotted 11 million birds. This may sound a lot, and there have been some increases in certain species, but the organisation calculates that in the last 50 years, from 1972, this country has lost over 38 million birds. Having said that, and because they are more house types of birds, you will probably see more species in your back garden than on a walk in the Hampshire countryside.

The speaker cited many reasons for changes in the world's ecology. Global warming has

meant that in the UK plants are flowering a month earlier than they used to. Animals operate by day length which means that orchids now flower before bees have emerged to pollinate them. Increased rainfall brings planned housing developments into question with either dangers of building on traditional flood plains or as is happening close by in the Arun valley existing water extraction may be having an impact on the environment and any new developments need to be neutral in the consumption of water.

Spain has severe water shortages and strawberry growers in Andalucía have been illegally tapping water for some time. This has now been regularised by the regional government due to a combination of political and commercial pressures.

Over the years there has been progress on several fronts. Whaling was a substantial industry, including in Britain where a large fleet was based in Whitby, but these days the International Whaling Commission set catch limits to preserve stocks. In 2020 only Japan and Norway were whaling commercially although four countries conducted aboriginal subsistence hunts. Today whale watching has become a tourist activity.



Reductions in many fishing fleets throughout the world have been necessary as several varieties have been fished out and Cod stocks in the Grand Banks off Newfoundland are still only at 10% of the level seen in 1960. Herrings, around Britain, are now said to be in good numbers following a ban from 1977 – 1983.

Tins of Tuna now claim that the contents have for some years been caught by lines rather than by nets but even this method attracts criticism from the RSPB

as Albatrosses are sometimes themselves caught on these long lines.

A success story has been the Tequila fish that was extinct in the wild in Mexico. It has been reintroduced to its native area after being bred in an aquarium at Chester Zoo. Rewilding at the Knepp Estate in West Sussex has seen the return of Nightingales, Turtle Doves and breeding White Storks.

And last year at another English site 72 pairs of Common Crane fledged 40 chicks with the result that today there are more in this country than in the 17th Century.



Tropical rainforests, known as the lungs of the world, are subject to extensive logging activity. Extensive deforestation of biodiverse forests takes place in parts of the world to grow palm trees for their oil, destroying the habitats of already endangered species like the Orangutan, pygmy elephant and Sumatran rhino. Civilisation is relentlessly advancing towards them so that today 70% of rain forests have a road within one mile.

The UN COP-15 conference about biodiversity was held remotely in October 2021 due to Covid. The follow-on COP-15 part 2 due at the end of August at Kunming in China to review progress and finalise the post 2020 biodiversity framework has been postponed due to Covid. The key aim is to make 30% of the Earth's land and seas to be protected areas by 2030. Alarmingly none of the twenty goals set by governments at a similar conference in 2010, to be achieved by 2020, have been fully met.

The pressure is on us all to do something to bring these targets back on track. Time is running out.

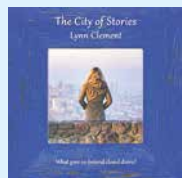
[www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club)



### April 2022 meeting

At our last meeting we had a visit from local author Lynn Clement.

Who has written the fascinating flash Fiction book *The City of Stories*. We learned all about the origins of flash fiction and enjoyed discussing possible outcomes of the stories. Flash



Fiction can be anything from a sentence to a few pages. Setting the scene for a story. Often leaving the reader to fill in the ending themselves. We discussed the Ernest Hemmingway's tale in six words "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn". How different we thought the outcome could be. We really enjoyed reading Lynn's book and a brilliant introduction to reading Flash Fiction which is perfect for short attention spans or to read if you have a spare couple of minutes. How the story can leave you with such emotion and twists and turns all within a page is incredible. Lynn's

book is available to purchase online and in person. She is also running some creative writing workshops in Kempshott if you would like to find out more please do get in touch. Thank you Lynn for such an enjoyable evening. We look forward to inviting you back with the next book.

To come along just purchase a ticket from The Hatch Warren Community Association Ticket source site. See our Facebook site for information. We are looking forward to more author visits other the next couple of months.



## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AT BHCS!

We have recently created an EARA group at school made up of students from Y7 – Y10. EARA stands for Equality and Rights Advocates. I interviewed Mr Wilkinson to find out more about this group.

### What is the aim of EARA?

- My main Aim for EARA is to raise awareness about the importance of equality and diversity in school by reminding students of the 9 protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010:
- Age
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment / gender identity
- Marriage and civil partnerships
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and Belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation



### Why are you called Advocates not Activists?

- To keep in line with the Hampshire model

### What does EARA mean to you?

- I hope for an improved environment for a living and working environments
- To stop poor behaviour linked to poor understanding of diversity

### What else would you like our readers to know?

- To feel free to speak to a member of staff or of the group if you are struggling – you can find members of EARA in Wellbeing Square every lunchtime
  - Listen to others who are different to us
  - Do not be negative about our group
  - Be respectful of the group and the work they do

Thank you for your time.

**Liana, Y8 Student Reporter, Brighton Hill Community School**

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## OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

The petition to get Basingstoke Council to designate Old Down as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) has sadly not achieved sufficient support from the public. There were only just over 3,000 signatures to support Old Down as a LNR. To oblige Basingstoke Council to debate the issue there needed to be at least 4,000 signatures. This means there is no obligation on Basingstoke Council to debate the petition. However, the petition was placed on the agenda at Full Council on 24 March but without the 4,000 plus signatures it was not debated and the decision was taken to look at the issue later in the year. This does not look very hopeful for Old Down. Considering how many people use Old Down for

walking (and many say what a wonderful site it is), it is surprising that more people did not bother to support Old Down as a LNR. LNR status gives protection to a site as a statutory nature reserve; a place for wildlife and people. Without this protection there is risk of the site being lost to another use or development. Old Down is an amazing site – in particular the native wild flowers in the meadow and its location with views across the town and towards Kingsclere. It is a site that should be preserved. So please support getting LNR status for Old Down.

Recently Basingstoke Council considered a number of sites in the borough for LNR status and has now come up with just the one, Crabtree Plantation and Black Dam Ponds. Unfortunately, not Old

Down. So Basingstoke Council will now be concentrating on Crabtree, meaning that is unlikely there will be any resources or interest in working towards giving Old Down LNR status.

**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. And please do look at the Group's Facebook site for interest.

<https://sites.google.com/site/olddownbeggardwoodwildlifegroup>  
Email: [odandbwd@gmail.com](mailto:odandbwd@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/odandbwd](http://www.facebook.com/odandbwd)



# 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 – 13<sup>th</sup> May (call 07884 303557 for info)  
Health Walk – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month  
Lots of regular events – please ask at the cafe

For party bookings please visit:  
[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)

FRESH HOMEMADE CAKES



TOASTED PANINIS AND SANDWICHES



HOT & COLD DRINKS



We look forward to seeing you soon!

WEEKEND BAPS



# Sainsbury's

**Our Values Make us Different**

## Café Closure

Work has now started to include a new Starbucks located where the old café was. We look forward to welcoming the team from Starbucks with a provisional opening set for the end of June.

## Neighbourly Food Donations

Since launching our partnership with Neighbourly six months ago, over a tonne of food has been donated across the Borough, equating to over 1000 meals.

We still have an option for charities to apply for collections and any interest, in the first instance should be made to Neighbourly.

## Nectar Donate

You can now choose to donate Nectar Points to any registered charity in the UK. Registration is straightforward and there are no fees.

You can find out more details for registering for the scheme via this link. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/nectar-donate/for-charities>

## Smart Shop & Self-Serve Tills

Thank you for your patience and feedback during our recent trials at our checkouts. The way our customers shop with us is ever changing and the trial looked at ways in which we can continue to learn from our customers. Using Smart Shop and the Nectar App can make a significant saving in time for our customers and in the prices you pay. With the launch of Nectar Prices you can make significant savings to your weekly in store shop. Later in the year we'll be including Nectar Prices for our online customers so keep an eye out for any announcements.

## Car Park

Thank you for your continued help in keeping our re-cycling area clear from fly-tipping. Our In-Store team provide a tremendous job in trying to keep the area clean from rubbish and pests.

You will have also noticed a significant investment in the car park to tackle dangerous driving.

Our primary concern is for the safety of our customer and colleagues who use the car park at almost all hours of the day.



## BASINGSTOKE GANG SHOW IS BACK!

### AUDITION NOW!

If you like to laugh, sing, dance and entertain then come along to the auditions for Basingstoke Gang Show - the longest running and 'bestselling amateur show in Basingstoke'.

We're looking for a cast of 70 Basingstoke Guiding and Scouting members to join

our 28th Show taking to the stage across 11 performances in February 2023 at The Haymarket Theatre.

The members of the Production team have been busy creating an array of numbers with wonderful choreography, sensational songs and hilarious sketches that make Basingstoke Gang Show, fresh, relevant, edgy and fun, ready for the rehearsals that start in September 2022.

Auditions are open to all members of Scouting and Guiding who will be 10½ or over on 1st February 2023 and all Cubs who will be 8 or over on 1st February 2023.

Auditions for Basingstoke Gang Show 2020 will take place at: Everest Community Academy, 10am - 4pm, on the following dates:

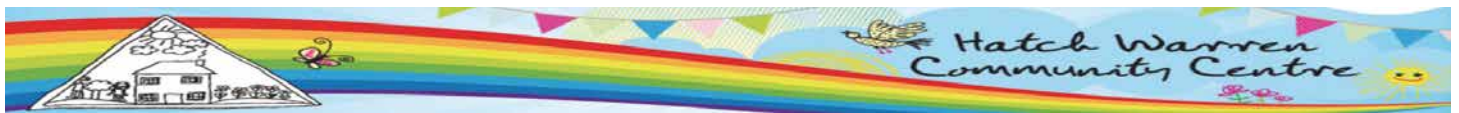
Surnames A-L: Sunday 15th May 2022

Surnames M-Z: Sunday 22nd May 2022

To register to audition visit [www.basingstokegangshow.com](http://www.basingstokegangshow.com). You can also look at Basingstoke Gang Show Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BasingstokeGangshow](http://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeGangshow) for more information or ask a question.

We look forward to welcoming you to the auditions!





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



### NOTICE of AGM Meeting via ZOOM 7:30pm Wednesday 8th June 2022

We are excited to announce that this years AGM will be held via Zoom to enable the whole community to be involved. You are invited to attend a short meeting to support the trustees of Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association. The charity exists to provide, run and manage Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Centres and to provide social and educational facilities to improve the conditions of life for the residents of the community of postcodes RG22 and RG23. An update of our achievements and our plans for the future of HWBCA will be reviewed.

HWBCA are now responsible for 2 community facilities and we have a lot of dedicated people who have given up their time, but we still need all of you to continue to support your centre. We need a minimum of 25 HWBCA members to achieve quorum, to vote on the night to keep us going for another year, don't assume someone else will turn up on the night. We can't survive without YOU! Membership renewal is easy and costs £10 per year per family.

Below is the registration details for the event. You are invited to the HWBCA AGM.  
When: Jun 8, 2022 07:30 PM London. Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7wtd06oqzki5tre0nu1Dh9QhbM1pf5QnG>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

**WE ARE A REGISTERED CHARITY, run by people like you, from your community!**

Without the continual support from you, our valuable services may be at risk



## AGM

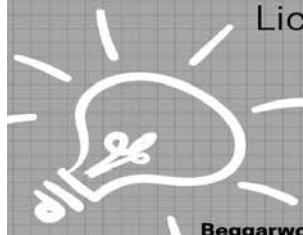
Annual General Meeting

Registered Charity Number: 1161117  
Hatch Warren Community Centre  
Long Cross Lane, Hatch Warren  
Reading, RG22 4XP  
Tel: 01256 811262 Web: [www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)  
Email: [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org) Follow us on Twitter @hatchwarren

# QUIZ NIGHT

## Friday 17th June 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](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)

Beggarwood Community Centre  
Broadmere Road, RG22 4AQ  
[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)

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

Summer Festival stalls are still available. To book your pitch please email [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)

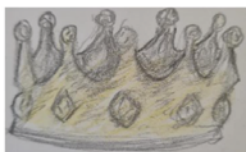
HWBCA present.....

### 2022 Jubilee celebrations



## 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 Beggarwood Café (or you can email your submission to [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org))



#### Categories

- Pre-school
- KS1; Yr R,1,2
- KS2; Yr 3,4,5,6
- KS3; Yr 7,8,9
- KS4; Yr 10-11
- Adult

Close date for submission: 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? Your Art /creative writing work can reflect why community is important/ how life has changed since 1952 (when Elizabeth II became Queen).

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

HWBCA present.....

### The Jubilee Treasure Hunt!!

Who stole the Queen's jewels?



- \*Good exercise!
- \*Explore your local area!
- \*Family fun!
- \*Chance to win!

- A 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 Beggarwood Community Centres (inside café) for you to submit your answer. You may also submit your answer online at [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> 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 the Beggarwood Café.

Registered Charity Number 1161117

find us on | facebook

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Tel: 01256 811262  
Email: [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)  
Web: [www.hatchwarren.org](http://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 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Tile Painting and biscuit decorating. <b>Wellbeing Workshop: SATS and End of Year Tests Stress Busters</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Sumo Suits, Canvas Art and milkshakes
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Football, Tie Dye (bring your own item to Tie Dye)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Jubilee Party and Crafts
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>CLOSED FOR BANK HOLIDAY</b>

We have had a lot of fun these past few weeks. It makes us so happy to see everyone enjoying the activities we have planned!

We have some very exciting news! We have been chosen as one of the charities to potentially receive a Tesco Community Grant! But we need your votes. If you happen to be in any of the local Tesco stores during April May or June, please vote for us! We are hoping to be able to use any funds we receive to open extra nights over the summer. We know our young people love these extra sessions and it's important to us to be able to hold them! Thank you!!



### Meet the Staff!



We thought it was about time you guys get to know some of us! This months Youth Workers profile is the brilliant Donna!

Hi, I'm Donna Western and have been a youth worker at The Warren for a year and absolutely love it. I'm a mum to two very energetic boys, and I also work as a dinner lady so I spend a lot of my time with children! I'm also very interested in nutrition and mindful eating and have completed my diplomas in CBT therapy, psychology and nutrition. I'm now working towards my advanced psychology diploma.

I love working at the youth club, we are so lucky to have such a fantastic team, and getting to know the children has been a pleasure. I particularly enjoy the crafts, getting creative with the kids and chatting to them while getting messy is always fun!



We wish to celebrate with you the final total collected from our WALK WITH UKRAINE, an amazing total of £6,250 including gift aid. Our members not only completed the long 5 mile walk but we also admire their determination to seek donations from friends, work colleagues and everywhere.

Over the Easter holiday, we will be visiting the Portsmouth Arms and we have an evening at the Anvil for The Wizard of Oz.

DATES for our next sessions: May 2<sup>nd</sup> bank holiday—no Club

May 9<sup>th</sup> Dragonfly

May 16<sup>th</sup> Hatch Warren

May 23<sup>rd</sup> Bowling & Mc Donalds



## THANK YOU - YOUR DONATION IS ON ITS WAY!

Your gift of **£5,000.00** plus **£1,250.00** in Gift Aid will go towards funding UNICEF's work to support children affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup>: 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

We had a wonderful spring term at Hatch Warren Under Fives; it's hard to believe we're now into our final term!

This term the children learnt all about the season of spring and all about life cycles. In the lead up to the holidays we enjoyed lots of Easter activities, including Easter cooking and Easter egg hunts through the woods. We have also been hard at work in the garden and the children have been planting seeds and looking after the herb garden.

As part of our life cycles topic we have been growing our own butterflies. It's very exciting that the caterpillars have now changed into cocoons so we think we're close to hatching our butterflies. The children have also been using the laptop to research the lifecycle of a caterpillar and compare what they have learnt online with what they have seen with our real life caterpillars at preschool.



Our older children had some very exciting news over the Easter holidays – they found out which schools they will be going to in September! It's always lovely to hear all about the "big" schools and who is going where. So this term is when our "school readiness" begins. We will begin to introduce lots of activities to prepare our bigger children, for example, can the children change into their PE kit by themselves? Can they independently wash their hands and open the food in their lunchbox? We'll also start to focus much more on numbers, health and self-care and communication and language.

School readiness is described in the foundation stage as "Children reaching a good level of development in the prime areas and literacy and mathematics".

Some of the expected characteristics that should be displayed by a child to show school readiness;

- Independent in toileting
- Able to dress themselves
- Understands expected levels of behaviour
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Can take turns and share
- Can sit still for a short period
- Can separate from parents/carers
- Communication and language skills needed to communicate needs and listen to others
- Can actively learn and creatively and critically think

Some of these characteristics may of course be difficult for all children to achieve and this shouldn't leave parents or practitioners concerned that a child isn't school ready.

**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](mailto:preschoolmail@aol.com).

Don't forget, you can see regular updates and photos from Hatch Warren Under Fives on our Facebook page "Hatch Warren Under 5s Preschool".

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

Read more about our preschools at [www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk](http://www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk)

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

The Hungry Caterpillar story has been a wonderful experience for the little ones. We have been watching our very own caterpillars grow, make a cocoon and are eagerly awaiting for them to emerge as butterflies. We have made fruit kebabs and used craft experiences to create butterflies and all things Spring to display on the children's art board.

The children have also had great fun searching for their named eggs during our pre-school egg hunt and were so excited when the Easter Bunny had filled them up with a treat at home time!

We have lots of excitement coming up next term including visiting our new forestry site at a local farm, for some special sessions and the opportunity to meet some of the farm animals along with some great outdoor learning opportunities.

**About CVP:** 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 a child-centred approach with exceptional care and learning.

If you are interested in coming to view the Pre-School, please contact us for a Socially Distanced Show Around. We are still also offering our usual Settling-In sessions for parents to meet their child's Key Person, ensuring children feel confident and happy when they start with us. We also offer 15 and 30 hour funded places. You can find lots of photos and information via our website or our Google listing online.

We are looking for Bank Staff Members, so please contact us if you are interested.

We look forward to welcoming you very soon!

**Lisa Collison**

Pre-School Head

Tel: 01256-389008

Email: [cvpadmin@btconnect.com](mailto:cvpadmin@btconnect.com)

[www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/](http://www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/)





## CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School!

Spring has arrived on the meadow and it has been fantastic to see the children point out the snowdrops... and the daffodils...and the muddy puddles... lots of fun to be had by all!

When not outside relishing the spring sunshine the children have been enjoying learning all about our weekly themes. Recently we have had much fun creating pirate hats, pirate parrots and not forgetting trying to talk like a pirate. We have also loved reading The Gruffalo together and recreating scenes from the popular book on our Pre School wall.

**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.

Rathbone Pavilion, Church Road,  
North Waltham, RG25 2BL.  
www.cuckoomeadow.org  
el: 01256 398172

## COUNCILLOR PUTTY

April is a Stress Awareness month. It is very important to manage stress whether you are at work or with your families and friends. It is also important to support anyone who is suffering with stress and encourage them to take one step at a time and seek professional help.

Best regards

**Cllr Dan PUTTY JP**

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?



Singing is one of the oldest enjoyments known, going back at least 4,000 years.

The Basingstoke Male Voice Choir hasn't been around quite that long! Founded in 1964 it has performed at hundreds of venues, toured overseas, and raised many thousands of pounds for charities. We sing in accompanied four-part harmony, and perform a range of music – traditional, musical theatre, modern and even pop.

Now we want to reach out to you - the Pandemic has depleted our numbers and we need new singers.

Have you thought you would like to sing with others? Well, if you would like to, we will shortly be having an "open" evening on May 24th for you to come and hear

us. This will be at our rehearsal hall, St Michael's Church Cottage, (St Michael's Church, Church Cottage, Church Square, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW) at 7:30 PM.

We'll be putting on a mini-performance, absolutely free, so you can see what we do and how much pleasure we get from it. There will be opportunities for you to ask questions and talk to choristers to better understand the world of male voice singing.

Let us know if getting there or finding us is a problem for the "open evening." We will try to arrange transport with one of our members for you. For those of you who may be apprehensive about your ability to sing in harmony, the Choir will hold free, basic singing and music lessons for new members with our Musical Director.

Coming along to our "open evening" places no commitment on you whatsoever. Of course, we do hope you will like what you hear and decide to join us! The evening should last about an hour.

Contact us at [BasingstokeMVC@outlook.com](mailto:BasingstokeMVC@outlook.com) or visit [www.basingstokemvc.org.uk](http://www.basingstokemvc.org.uk)

**Basingstoke Male Voice Choir**

**Open Evening**

**May 24th, 2022, 7:30 PM**

## PLANNING SUMMER FUN OVER TEA AND CAKE

[www.basingstokeu3a.org](http://www.basingstokeu3a.org)

[facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a](https://facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a)

together like this. Keep an eye out for us or get in touch for details.

### Coming Together to Make Sure We're not Missing Out!

There are over 60 groups in our U3A, all meeting regularly to enjoy different things together, and all coming together monthly (all for just one annual membership fee of course - currently £25 until September!).

We all came together in Lychpit recently to have a good chat about our future and make sure that we continue to run the activities people want. It was great to hear everyone exchanging ideas with friends they don't see quite so often. Some



members brought a friend with them to see what's on offer before joining, and we're planning several other get-

### Some of Us Prefer A Good Discussion Best!

Many of us come together to enjoy sports such as football, cycling and badminton; some dance, sing or play games from bridge to quizzing to skittles; others write, paint, photograph, sew or knit.

Many of our members want to learn a new language (French, German, Spanish or Latin). Others enjoy a good discussion in the Science & Technology, Environment, Philosophy, Biography and History groups. If you have a different special interest, we can try to help you set up a new discussion group of your own. Come and enjoy summer with us!

email: [basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)

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

# RABBITER CONTACTS:

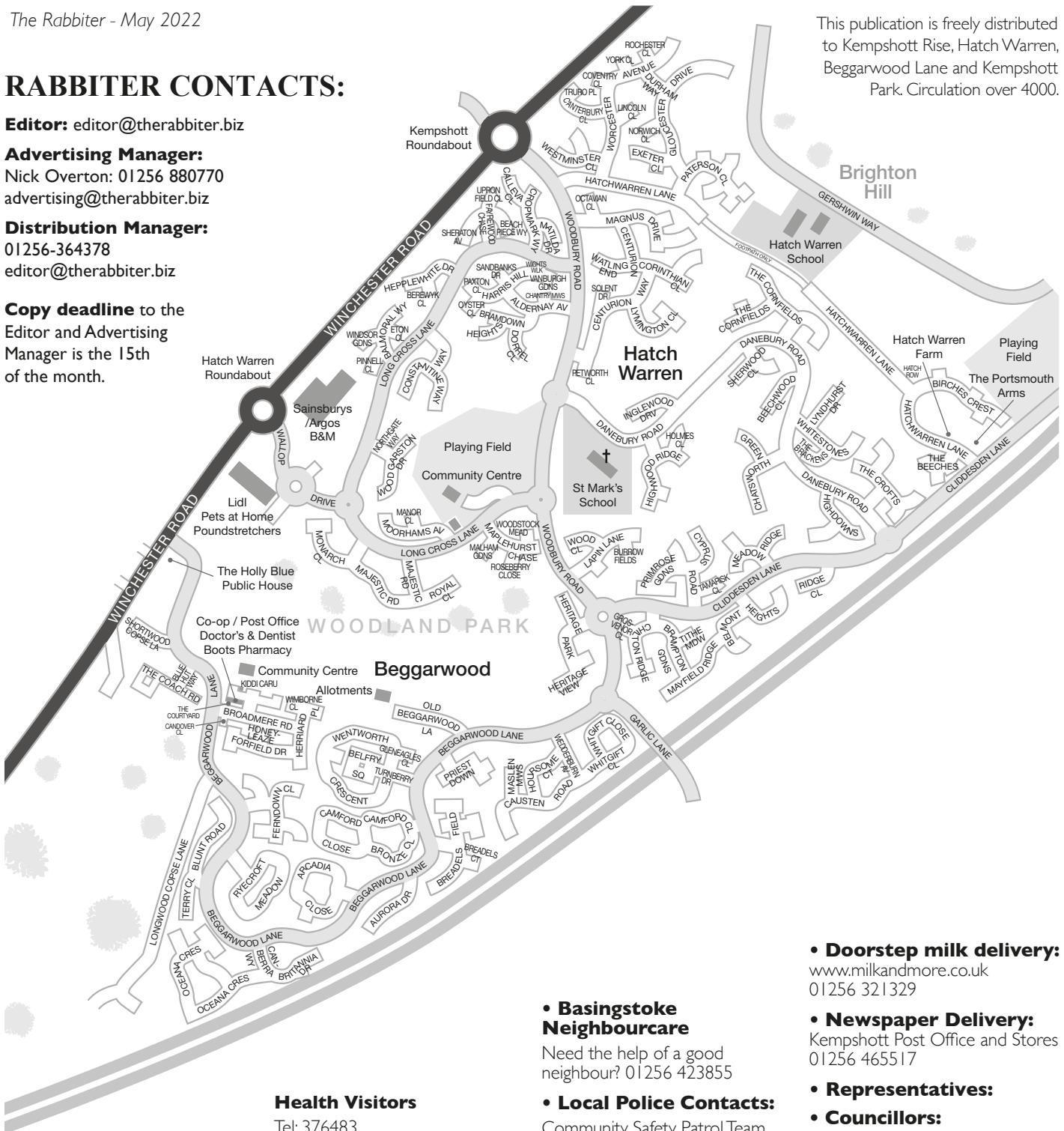
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**• Health: Doctors' Surgeries**

Acorn Health Partnership  
Western Way Tel: 479747  
Mon-Fri 0800-1830

Broadmere Road Surgery  
Tel: 396500  
Mon-Fri 0830-1800  
(answermesssage when closed)

**Chemist**

Boots Pharmacy Broadmere Road  
Tel: 398927 Mon-Fri  
0900-1800 Sat/Sun closed  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Sainsbury's

**Health Visitors**

Tel: 376483

**Child Health Clinic**

The Community Centre – every Wednesday 10.30 – noon.  
All Welcome.

**Dentist**

Broadmere Road – Tel: 391391

**• Library:**

465102 – HCC mobile library every Tuesday evening St. Mark's CE primary school from 4.40pm to 6.40pm.

**• Post Office**

Co-op Broadmere Road:  
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**Samir Kotecha**, 18 Hollins Walk RG21 7JT 07971 470208  
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**Dan Putty**, 1 Gloucester Drive, RG22 4PH 356650  
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**• Member of Parliament**

**Hatch Warren:**

**Maria Miller**

millerm@parliament.uk

## BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

After the usual tea, coffee and biscuits, the Chairman, David Cowling, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and on behalf of the members congratulated the Secretary and Treasurer, Tony and June Brazier on their upcoming Golden Wedding Anniversary. In thanking everyone Tony asked that people helped themselves to a crème egg and then gave details of the next trips.

The speaker this month was Daniel Cowling who is Headteacher at Oak Wood School in Uxbridge where he took up his position in April 2020. He had titled his talk "Getting to Good – A School's Journey" and went on to explain that when he arrived at the school it was OFSTED rated as 'Requires Improvement'. It is an 11–18 mixed comprehensive Foundation School with at present 1094 pupils, including 84 Sixth Form Students, and nearly 200 staff. He gave an outline of his own journey to becoming a Headteacher and then gave details of the measures being taken to ensure that at the next OFSTED inspection the school would receive a 'Good' rating. After giving an insight of the problems faced from having a diverse catchment area, with a higher than average number of children having special needs or not having English as their first language, he explained the challenges that were faced in introducing these measures. After two years progress was being made with better pupil behaviour and attitude, an improved curriculum and a fully committed teaching staff. All of this was being done with the aim of providing the best possible education to the children to equip them with the skills and ambition to succeed in life through the school motto "We Dream, We Learn, We Grow."

The group's next outing will be to Hatfield House on Thursday 19th May and then on Thursday 14th June there is a Cruise on the Thames from Runnymede with, lunch included, followed on Thursday 14th July by a visit to Hever Castle.

A collection at the meeting raised £206 for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

The next meeting is on 4th May when the speaker will be Terri Reid with a talk titled "Putting Your Best Foot Forward." 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 meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting:- [csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com](mailto:csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com).

**David Cowling**

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## APPRENTICES OF ALL KINDS

### How big is your world?

Unique to humans is our ability to change the size of our world at will. At the click of a button, we can travel across the world, in the palm of our hand we have a multitude of news-streams. Equally, when a life-altering event occurs, such as having a baby or an accident, our world shrinks, and the news headlines become irrelevant as coping with our day-to-day challenges is enough.

Astronauts, seeing Earth from outer space experience something called the overview effect (coined by Frank White). Feeling incredibly small, but with a powerful self-awareness at the same time. NASA astronaut Ron Garan explained, while looking down at the Earth he felt "flooded with emotions", "as if time stood still" but sadness came over him as "despite the overwhelming beauty...serious inequity exists on the apparent paradise...nearly one billion people don't have clean water to drink...injustice, conflicts, poverty...". From this perspective he felt nothing was impossible.

As Christians we believe Jesus Christ was God's son. God in human form. In Jesus' time, there was no internet so he couldn't travel across the world at the click of a button. His concerns were solely to do with the people he was with in the here and now. Jesus met with the sick, the poor and the outcast from society.

Jesus didn't travel very far, only on foot or by boat but he would pull huge crowds, sometimes over 5000! Jesus would be asked questions, for example "who is my neighbour?" or "who will get into the kingdom of heaven?". Jesus often didn't answer questions directly but would answer in parables. This would help people to look at things from a different perspective. For example, learning the importance of humility and our neighbours may be someone from a very different culture to ours.

If Jesus was around today, what messages do you think he would have for us? Would he carry the latest iPhone in his pocket? What apps would he use? Who's at the fringes of our society? These are the people he would spend his time with.

When I was at Kew Gardens a couple of weeks ago, I found the Treetop Walkway breath-taking. We'd only taken 108 steps up into the tree canopy but I felt the new perspective, looking across London, allowed me to realise both how small and how powerful I can be. I am but one human. In my role as a counsellor I only ever sit with one person at a time. Sometimes I feel as though my world is small, it's just me and the person in front of me. I'm no world leader but it doesn't make my work any less important. While it's incredible that we have the technology to find out what's going on across the world, it's what we do in the here and now that's important. We have the power to think like Ron Garan (astronaut), if we put our minds to it, nothing is impossible.

**Frances Coleman-Williams,**

Congregation member, Parish of Basingstoke Down

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## CHINEHAM & SHERFIELD PARK SCARECROW TRAIL

Come and join Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF) on 28th-29th May for this fantastic annual community event. 'The Rolls Royce of Scarecrow Trails' returns, which follow this year's theme 'A Moment in History' to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Last year, we surpassed all expectations and the 500 families that attended enjoyed the 68 amazing entries over 2 trails which covered a total of 8 miles. This year all scarecrows will remain on display over the extended Bank Holiday weekend until 5th June, so everyone has a chance to complete the trail.


Chineham Christ Church will host us on Saturday 28th with a community café, you can get your trail map, raffle tickets and a cup of tea and cake. On Sunday Sherfield Park Community Centre will host and we will be joined by local charities offering lots of fun activities for the whole family.

If you are unable to visit at the weekend you can download a copy of the map at [www.bddf.org.uk](http://www.bddf.org.uk), or collect a copy from Chineham Christ Church. We are a small charity and rely on the support of our volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please contact [suzi@bdf.org.uk](mailto:suzi@bdf.org.uk). We are still able to take stalls on Sunday 29th May and are looking for volunteers for the weekend.

By supporting this event you will be raising vital funds for the charity— all services are free to access, from seated yoga to IT courses and our signposting services, and will support our mission to facilitate increased awareness, active involvement, and healthy promotion of disability and those who live it. For more information, please visit [www.bddf.org.uk](http://www.bddf.org.uk), telephone 01256 423869 or follow us on social media to keep up to date.

Thank you to Loddon Properties for sponsoring the event again this year.

We can't wait to see you over the weekend!



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For Basingstoke Choral Society's 2022 summer concert on Saturday 25th June at The Anvil, we shall be celebrating some of the best in English choral and orchestral music and, to mark the Platinum Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen, the programme includes three pieces performed at the Coronation in 1953.

The programme includes *Zadok the Priest*, by naturalised Englishman, George Frideric Handel, and Sir Hubert Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens* and *I was glad*. The choral repertoire for this concert is completed by Ralph Vaughan-Williams' *Fantasia on the Old 104th*, and the first performance of *Dover Beach*, a setting for chorus and orchestra of the well-known 19th century poem by Matthew Arnold, composed by David Lucas, a long-standing member of the choral society.

No programme of English music would be complete without including a work by Sir Edward Elgar. The two orchestral pieces in this concert are his *Cello Concerto*, and *Crown Imperial*, composed by Sir William Walton for the coronation of George VI in 1937.

The choir's musical director, David Gibson, will be conducting the concert and the choir will be performing with the New London Sinfonia. Tickets are available from the Anvil Box Office: 01256 844244 or from [boxoffice@anvilarts.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@anvilarts.org.uk)

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A Moment in history...



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## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### BREWDOG BASINGSTOKE

Unit R8 Festival Square Basingstoke RG21 7BB  
 Email: basingstokebar@brewdog.com Phone: none published

BrewDog, the Scottish based brewer known for their range of beers, have taken over the premises of what had been the Coal restaurant in the corner of the outside dining square near to the Vue cinema. There is plenty of competition here and so the offering from BrewDog needs to be unique. And so it is.

They have set out to attract a range of customers from those that want to attend their beer schools to those wanting to hot desk (somewhat difficult the day of our attendance as their wife was down) to doggy parties – yes you can have a party for your canine friends through to those like Madam and I that wanted to test out their food.

Selecting a drink was not simple as the offerings were all unknown brands but Madam had a half pint of German style Pilsner, and I had a pint of Czech style pale lager:

We both chose a burger in preference to chicken wings that were the specialty of the day. Madam had Chuck Norris which was butter milk deep fried chicken while I had the Jackpot burger consisting of a 7 oz beef patty, chorizo sausage and black pudding. I thought that the BBQ sauce poured over mine prevented me from tasting the meat while Madam considered the chicken to have been fried for too long as it was dark brown and quite difficult to cut. A cup each of fries completed our choices.

We decided to have a sweet otherwise this review would have been incomplete. A short selection of just seven options which really were variations of each other, and madam had two scoops of ice cream with salted caramel sauce, and I wanted to have the caramel butterscotch sundae. As there was none available it was replaced with vanilla ice cream with caramel sauce topped off with some nuts and aerosol cream.

The BrewDog style has cutlery in soft drink cans, although there was none on our table, and the food is delivered on what appear to be small tin trays with a large steak knife plunged through the burgers. The ice cream was in a small, enamelled pie dish and my dessert was in a small screw top jar. Perhaps it is all part of being carbon neutral and everything appearing to be recycled.

The booking system gives time slots of an hour or 90 minutes but even though we were ten minutes early for our table which had been booked for an hour it took over 90 minutes to complete our lunch even though there were few customers. The bill came to £54.18, and I suppose that these days artisan burgers do cost this level. Incidentally, while there was a short starter menu and an even shorter one for children, coffee was not on the menu.

Their business model must be successful otherwise why would they open in Basingstoke. We concluded that we are a different generation to their target customer base and will probably forego visiting again.





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