

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several strawberries. Some are bright red with visible seeds, while others are pale yellow or white. The strawberries are attached to green stems with small leaves. The lighting is soft, creating a natural and fresh atmosphere.

THE Rabbit

Issue 289 June 2022

All the regular features plus

- **NEW MAYOR**
- **SUNFLOWER CELEBRATION**
- **BDDF NEWSLETTER**

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THE Rabbiter

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EDITORIAL

Did you vote in the local council elections on 5th May? The results are given below. These elections gave everyone in the ward an opportunity to select the candidate who would recommend your interests on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. There are 7,549 people on the electoral register eligible to vote – 31.5% of these people actually voted resulting in the winning candidate receiving 10% of the possible vote. There will be another opportunity to elect a local councillor next May. The Rabbiter will be providing an opportunity during the coming year for all eligible candidates to let residents know what they stand for and how they will represent local residents. Meanwhile there is an update on local issues from our County Councillor, Stephen Reid, on page 8 of this edition of the Rabbiter.

The weather recently has been glorious and the perfect way to enjoy our local environment is to sit outside the Café in the Park with a coffee, a slice of their delicious coffee and walnut cake and enjoy the view. If you haven't been to the café yet, do visit soon. They have excellent wi-fi and on the first Wednesday of the month the Community Lunch from 12.15-1.15 provides a great lunch for under £5 (soup, jacket potatoes or ploughman's with coffee or tea).

The Jubilee Weekend is almost here and there are many local street parties taking place. Don't forget to let the Rabbiter have pictures and news of your events. Will you be making the amazing Jubilee Trifle? If you are making the trifle, pictures please to newsdesk@therabbiter.biz! The Hatch Warren Community Centre are joining in the fun with a Jubilee Treasure Hunt and an exciting date for your diary is the Summer Festival on 16 July – see page 14 for details.

There are lots of opportunities locally to enjoy the summer weather. Why not join a local conservation group (see page 18) or Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group (see page 12).

Finally, A big thank you to Richard Curtis who is leaving the Portsmouth Arms. Richard did so much during lock-down to lift spirits with his quiz nights. He will be greatly missed by our community and we wish him every success in the future.

Editor

HATCH WARREN & BEGGARWOOD RESULTS

Electorate: 7,549 | Turnout: (31.5%) | Spoiled votes: 4

Candidate	Party	Votes	Elected
CLEARY Spencer	Hampshire Independents	68	
CUSACK Tom	Labour Party	461	
HART Stacy Anne	Women's Equality Party	410	
JONES Julian Greenwood	Basingstoke & Deane Independents	360	
KOTECHA Samir Sureshchandra	Conservative Party	741	Elected
PHILPOTTS Stephen Murray	Green Party Candidate	155	
WOLSTENCROFT Marion	Liberal Democrat	184	



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BEGGARWOOD SURGERY NEWS FROM THE PPG

As you are now all aware our surgery is now being operated by the Operose Group of companies. This is the same group that operate the Camrose, Gillies and Hackwood (CGH) surgeries around our area. The transition from our former operator (NHUC) seems to have gone reasonably well with a couple of exceptions due not to Operose but NHS England. Obviously, the plan from Operose is to maximise their operation and we will eventually become fully absorbed into CGH partnership. This will have some benefits to the Beggarwood patients in that we can gain access to a broader range of services and holiday cover will be less traumatic etc. We, the Beggarwood PPG, are now aware of plans that Operose would like our PPG to join the larger CGH PPG and we are seeking your views on this proposal. This might mean that our "voice" within Operose could become diminished but on a more positive note the CGH PPG could add extra weight to any problems that arise.

What are your views on this? Please give this some thought and use the Beggarwood email address given above and below to let us know your thoughts.

Good news in that staffing levels at Beggarwood, both in the number of doctors, nurses and support staff, are fully up to plan with any necessary temporary shortfalls either occupied by locums or from the wider Operose group.

Scams

It has come to our attention that a particular scam involving Covid and the need to take a PCR test is being propagated via a NHS type text either sent supposedly from the surgery or NHS England. This fake text asks you to pay for the PCR test and requests your bank details. Be aware that NHS will NEVER ask you for payment in a text or an email.

Any Complaints?

If you feel that you have not been dealt with correctly by the surgery or perhaps not had a good experience in dealing with either the surgery or a

member of staff you can make a formal complaint. In Beggarwood's case the correct email address is : NHCCG.BEGGARWOODSURGERY@NHS.NET or by phoning or visiting the surgery and asking for a formal complaint form. 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 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. Suggestions for input might be :

- The ease of booking an appointment or call back
- The surgery waiting area environment
- Helpful suggestions for improvements within practice
- Feedback on the reception and medical staff

Once again, we stress this is for Non-Medical feedback as we are not medically trained and the email address will only be monitored on an irregular basis. If you have an urgent medical problem please contact the surgery directly or ring 111.

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

We look forward to receiving your comments.

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

beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com

CAMROSE, GILLIES AND HACKWOOD (PPG)

Over April and May our PPG has been busy analysing the output from our two workshops held at Brookvale Community Hall. Thank you to those that attended. See feedback at <http://www.cghppg.co.uk/>

Busy Busy - Changes at CGH

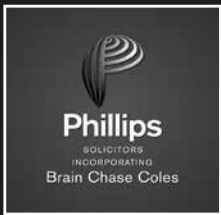
Currently 13 PPG members are trialling a new App called Dr IQ for the surgery. Once launched, probably later this year, it will allow patients to make appointments, request prescriptions and more 24/7.

CGH is also implementing a system called Docman 10. This allows documents to be transferred and filed electronically, to and from hospitals on the same system. So a lot of work and training is going on to implement the new systems, which will make admin much quicker and easier.

Self-Care You will be aware from the media that there is a shortage of doctors. This has resulted in a huge workload for our GPs and hospitals. The NHS is promoting self-care awareness, so we can better help ourselves in the first instance. Information is available to read on self-care on CGH and NHS websites, but of course you should make an appointment if you need to.

Elective Care If you have been referred for a hospital appointment you can get a rough guide of the waiting time for an appointment, operation, or treatment by going on to this web site <https://www.myplannedcare.nhs.uk/>. This does not include cancer treatments.

Covid Jabs Spring boosters are ongoing for those who will be 75 by June 30th 2022. Immunosuppressed people will receive an appointment. 5-11 year olds are being vaccinated at Jameson House by appointment only. Walk-ins for 1st, 2nd, and boosters, including Spring boosters, continue at Festival Place, which is next to the Tiger shop, 12-15 year olds must have an accompanying parent. It's important that all under 18s have 3 months clear of Covid, everyone else 28 days. Festival Place is open 7 days a week from 11.00-17.00.



WHY IS MY CONVEYANCING TRANSACTION TAKING SO LONG?



Lisa Rigby

It is a common grumble that conveyancing takes longer than expected. Buyers are keen to own their new properties as soon as possible but the average transaction takes around 12 weeks from offer to completion.

Several factors can contribute to delays:

Identification – Conveyancers are required by law to verify the identity of clients and the source of their funds. Ensure you have ID documents and proof of deposit readily available at the very start of the transaction.

Lost Documents – If have carried out work to a property you are selling, get planning and building regulation paperwork together. Check you have your Final Certificates. A surprising number of sellers do not request the building inspector for a final inspection so do not receive their Completion Certificates.

Lost Title Deeds – Although most properties are now registered with the Land Registry some unregistered land remains, particularly where the property has remained in the same family for many years. If you have original deeds, please keep these safe.

Missing Rights – When viewing a property make a point of checking for private access roads and shared driveways, private or shared services such as drainage, and other unusual features.

Service Information Packs – Properties that are leasehold or have an estate service charge require these, and they can take anything between 2 to 8 weeks to be returned by management companies. If your property is subject to a service charge, let your conveyancer know early.

Missing Landlords and Defective Leases – If your property is leasehold or subject to ground rent, ensure you have your latest ground rent receipt or freeholder contact details available.

Finance Problems – Speak to your bank or financial adviser before making an offer. If you are funding your purchase from savings, check how long it takes to release the funds - a Life Time ISA can take up to 3 weeks to be released. If you are receiving a gifted deposit, you need to provide information on the source of the funds to your conveyancer and mortgage lender, so submit your paperwork early.

Search Delays – Most local authorities can return an Official Local Search within two weeks, but some require longer as not all records are readily available. Further searches may be required in particular circumstances like former mining areas or relative to the particular property such as a Highways Search where there are access issues.

Whilst delays can be frustrating, there may be factors outside of your conveyancer's control. It is important that the documentation is correct and complies with legislation to avoid future problems, so you need to be flexible with target dates and review these regularly as the transaction proceeds.

Phillips' Residential Property team work hard to make sure risks are minimalised, contracts are kept to and your transaction is as seamless as possible.

For more information, please contact Lisa Rigby on 01256 854645 or email lisa.rigby@phillips-law.co.uk

KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

The Battle with Blackthorn

Blackthorn is a wonderful resource as it provides sloes for birds, animals and gin makers. However, as we say, you can have too much of a good thing. If you don't keep an eye on it, it can spread quickly and it propagates by shallow root suckering. There are several patches in Down Grange Meadow that have grown quite quickly over the past two or three years because of our restricted ability to get out due to Covid. We have now started tackling this job using "tree poppers" which, if used correctly, can do a great job. The key to success is not just to get rid of the whip or shrub, but to also lift as much of the root as possible.

A Community Payback session in early February got to work on our most obvious clump of blackthorn by the side of a desire path, which was pushing the path further into the Meadow. After some tuition, they went at it with a will and cleared a significant quantity.

Payback participants like jobs where, at the end of a session, the result of their efforts can be seen. The following day at a regular volunteer work party one of our members carried on the good work. This is an example of what can be achieved with good ground conditions, technique, patience and a lot of effort.

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

BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE ROTARY

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

The sun brought the crowds to the War Memorial Park for the 31st Festival of Transport organised by Basingstoke Deane Rotary and sponsored by Basingstoke Deane Borough Council. We welcomed a record breaking 20,000 visitors at this free event to see a wide range of transport on show - Pre War Cars, Post War Cars, Commercial Vehicles, Tractors, Stationary Engines, Motor Bikes and Car Clubs. Cup for 'Best car in Show' presented by the Mayor to Paul Brazier for his 1961 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud II

Rotary pledged to donate a minimum of £2,000 from the parking fee at this event to Ukraine Disaster Relief! Proceeds from the Festival will go to mainly local and a few national and international charities

CALLING ALL GOLFERS

The Pink Place & Blue Space Cancer Charity, a local charity providing FREE support & wellbeing services to adults affected by cancer is holding a Charity Golf Day 17th JUNE 2022

Hosted by Weybrook Park Golf Club, Basingstoke. The course standards are now so high that they were finalists for 'Club of the Year' at 'England Golf Awards 2022' and so promises a good day's golf with your friends whilst raising much needed funds for the important work the charity does.

To book Email events@thepinkplace.org.uk or tel 07899 970841

www.rcbd.org.uk Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

FENCE MENDED: I am pleased to see that the fence in Danebury Road, alongside Chatsworth Green, has been repaired. I reported the damage, which was caused by falling trees, following contact from a local resident shortly after the storms that hit Basingstoke in the Spring. The new wood looks obviously fresher against the weathered wood of the undamaged sections, but they will undoubtedly even out over time.

LONG CROSS LANE: I am also pleased to report that the sunken brick crossing behind Sainsbury's has been repaired. I reported it a long time ago and was increasingly concerned that the dip in the road was getting worse. The bricks have now been removed and replaced with Tarmac. The surface is now much smoother - let's hope it lasts!

WAREHOUSES AT JUNCTION 7: At the time of writing, the decision of the Development Control committee for the warehouses application at Junction 7 was approaching (due 18th May). I wrote to oppose the application, and Maria Miller MP has given notice that, in the event of approval, she and her colleague MPs will ask the Secretary of State to call in the decision. This is because of its significance in the contest of the potential new hospital on the other side of the A30.

ACTION AGAINST CAR MEETS: Mitie, Sainsbury's agents, have installed speed humps to make the car park safer and at the same time reduce the amount of space that 'doughnutters' may have to misuse the car park at night. Together with the newly-installed Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, it is hoped that there is now a range of measures in place that will successfully deter future car meets there. New signs are now in place all round the car park, stipulating how long drivers may leave their cars. In summary: three hours during store opening times and ten minutes outside those times. If you use this car park, it would be worth familiarising yourself with them.

COUNCIL ELECTION: On May 5th, Samir Kotecha (Conservative) was re-elected to be Borough Councillor for Hatch Warren and Beggarwood for the next four years.

ON-LINE HUSTINGS: Hatch Warren and Beggarwood ward saw an innovation in the local elections this year, in the form of an on-line hustings event. Hatch Warren and Beggarwood had the longest list of candidates in the Borough and all seven were invited. In the event, five took part. It was organised by Stacey Hart and chaired by ex-Councillor Terri Reid. Following the event, the recording was placed on YouTube. It will be interesting to see whether this initiative will be repeated next year and whether it will spread to more wards. Hustings used to be an important part of elections but by-and-large they have died out. The ability to hold them on-line, and peoples' familiarity with Zoom post-COVID, may make a difference.

POSSIBLE MIS-USE OF BEGGARWOOD LANE: I have picked up on social media the suspicion that some people are using Beggarwood Lane as a racetrack. I have asked for more details but, at the time of writing, have not received any. Please let me know if there is, indeed, a problem.

The **BRIGHTON WAY CYCLING AND WALKING ROUTE** has been opened. This allows pedestrian and cyclists to be completely segregated from traffic along this busy road. It runs between Sullivan Road and the Brighton Hill roundabout which is currently being increased in capacity.

CAMROSE DECISION: The Planning Inspector has ruled in favour of the developers who want to build on the Camrose, the

old football ground. This raises the question of whether the plans for a link road through the site will be resurrected. I have written to ask that question.

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER: A meeting of the Liaison panel was held on 27th April. The meeting discussed signage to the site, and the recent reports of odour pollution. The cause of the odour incidents is being investigated, but Biogen (the operators) wanted to complete the exercise before offering a commentary. Biogen shared the disappointment of local residents that there are still issues and offered an assurance that the company will do whatever is necessary to address them.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING: The Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association's Annual General Meeting is being held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th June. It is being hosted via Zoom to enable everyone to take part without having to leave home. The Community Association is such an important part of our lives in this area that it is important to ensure it is properly supported. They need a minimum of 25 HWBCA members to achieve a quorum. Membership renewal is easy and costs £10 per year per family.

THANK YOU: I was sorry to read that Richard Curtis is leaving Hatch Warren's Portsmouth Arms public house. His innovations and energy transformed the business and he was a tower of strength during the lockdowns. The community owes him a heartfelt 'thank you'.

CLIMATE CHANGE EVENTS: The Borough Council is advertising that grants are available to help fund community events and activities focused on climate change during the Great Big Green Week, taking place from Saturday 24th September to Sunday 2nd October. Community groups, not-for-profit organisations, town and parish Councils, charities and schools can apply. Applications in the range £200 to £4,999 will be reviewed monthly till 30th June.

GRANTS TO HELP UKRAINIAN REFUGEES: The Leader of Hampshire County Council has agreed that community and voluntary organisations may apply for funding through the Leader's Community Grants for projects that are intended to provide community benefit and help local communities thrive. Supporting refugees in the community fits well with two of the key aims of the scheme which are to help people in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives and to enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities. Applications will be considered from Parish and Town Councils and local branches of national charities (where the support being provided is delivered specifically in Hampshire). Further details are available by contacting cbsgrants@hants.gov.uk.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: Hampshire County Council is inviting residents to comment on its new Local Transport Plan. They want to hear what people think about the vision for future transport and travel infrastructure, which will affect the way everyone travels around Hampshire for work, education and leisure. They have opened a consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) which is open until 26 June 2022. You can read the information pack and complete the response form on the HCC website at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan>.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor.

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PROBUS ENJOYS A TWIN VISIT TO SALISBURY

The benefits of having an arranged trip to Salisbury Cathedral manifests themselves with small nuggets of information that evade the casual visitor. Such things came to the fore when members and wives/partners of the Probust Club of Basingstoke visited Salisbury Cathedral and to Arundells, situated in Cathedral Close, the home of the ex-prime minister Sir Edward Heath who is buried in the cathedral.

A guided tour of the cathedral was only able to gloss over the surface, but it was enthralling learning about the foundation of what has become known as the cathedral that moved. The original cathedral shared space with the local garrison but relations soured so much that the Pope gave permission to build a new place of worship. An arrow was fired and where it landed would be the site, but it hit a deer that eventually died where the cathedral now stands.

The foundation stone was laid in 1220 but the eight hundredth anniversary could not be celebrated as the building was a vaccination centre during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The dimensions and logistics are extraordinary. It took only 38 years to build and used 60,000 tons of stone, 2,800 tons of oak and 420 tons of lead and all this sits on foundations of only four feet. Several rivers pass beneath the building and the presence of water maintains the firmness of the ground. The water level is regularly checked with a dip stick.

This constant supply of water is used in the modern font which is over ten feet across and has overflowing spouts at four corners clearly demonstrating the style of infinity pools. In opposition to this is the world's oldest working mechanical clock which has no dials but rings the hours. For a church of such size the cathedral does not possess a change ring of bells typically seen in our churches.

Salisbury Cathedral houses what is claimed to be the finest of the four remaining copies of the Magna Carta, signed by King John in 1215. This is on permanent display in the Chapter House.

A short stroll diagonally across Cathedral Close sits Arundells, now known as the Prime Minister's home. It was home for the last twenty years of ex-prime minister Sir Edward Heath and was bequeathed to



a charitable foundation set up in Sir Edward's name following his death in 2005.

Parts of the house go back to the 13th century and six architectural periods are visible and it is set in a two-acre walled garden that stretches down to the confluence of the rivers Avon and Nadder, with amazing views back towards the spire of Salisbury Cathedral.



building with life size busts of Sir Edward Heath and HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Some depicting other famous people are available to buy but need a fat wallet.

The house is open from the middle of March to 1st November this year, with guided tours on Tuesdays which provide the visitor with a greater sense, not only about

its last inhabitant, but also the great history of this house so connected to Salisbury Cathedral.

www.probusbasingstoke.club

Inside the house has been largely left as it was when Sir Edward lived here with gifts displayed from world leaders such as Richard Nixon, Chairman Moya and Fidel Castro and many photographs depicting a life spent in politics.

Only taking up sailing at the age of 50 Sir Edward became a successful sportsman. There is a collection of models of Morning Cloud yachts, which is the name most people remember when Sir Edward was the owner and skipper of the winning British crew of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race. Because of the sail number 2468 was allowed to be transferred, Sir Edward named four subsequent boats to also be called Morning Cloud.

As well as paintings of his boats the house is decorated throughout with original paintings, some by famous artists including two by Sir Winston Churchill, L S Lowry and Augustus John. There are beautiful collections of ceramics, glassware and sculptures and treasures from the Far East – including hand painted Chinese wallpaper; and a stunning collection of Japanese woodblock prints. Many bronze sculptures can be seen in an adjoining



BRIGHTON HILL SCHOOL

At Brighton Hill School, our Spring Term Deep Learning Day is an opportunity for students to delve deeper into topics relating to keeping healthy and safe. Whilst these topics are covered the 'My World' curriculum delivered during tutor sessions, some topics are of even more benefit to students when there is more time for discussion and response to what they have seen and heard.

Y7s were able to explore the dangers of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco; safe relationships online and offline; and how bacteria & viruses spread, the role of antibiotics and vaccines.

Y8's learnt and used First Aid techniques; explored the dangers of online relationships and how to manage anxiety.



Y9's learnt about the importance of self-examination, the science of blood, stem and organ donation; the media's portrayal of body image and stereotypes; and what drugs, alcohol and tobacco do to you mentally, as well as physically and the legal implications.

Y10s covered elements of the SRE (Sex and Relationship Education) curriculum: STDs and contraception were delivered by the NHS Solent Sexual Health team, HIV; consent and students revisited drug and alcohol abuse.

Y11s spent time with the Science and Maths teachers for exam preparation and with options teachers to develop their coursework.

The students were really engaged and judging by the feedback from them, they found the day very useful!

The next Deep Learning Day will be 'Careers' themed as we continue to prepare our students for life beyond school.

Wendy Moore

Whole School Values Lead, Brighton Hill Community School

COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

We all suffer mental health issues to some degree in our lives and know how to manage, cope and live with it.

I believe people fail to grasp the level of distress hair loss can cause man. It is stated that baldness is attractive but the process of losing hair is bound up with loss of virility and masculinity in a way just as menopause is often linked to a loss of femininity for women.

Young men worry about thinning of hair in their twenties which is usually linked to loss of strength and power. It is often fear of being laughed at and about ageing and mortality as in old men. Anxieties about our bodies feeds into our appearance, insecurities and self esteem. Young men worry about not finding partners and older men find that their partners will find them unattractive.

It is of great concern that we worry too much in life and our mental health suffer and deprive us of enjoying life to the full.

Many thanks best regards

Cllr Dan Putty JP

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

Every spring migratory birds arrive in the UK to breed - birds such as the Swallow, House Martin, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Wheatear, Whinchat and Cuckoo to name but a few. In this area, however, in past years the species and numbers arriving have declined. A few years ago migratory birds would have been seen on and around both Old Down and Beggarwood but it is particularly noticeable this year that none have arrived. This is most likely as a consequence of loss of habitat. So many of our local fields, woods and green spaces are being lost to house building. A migratory bird you may have already heard this spring (and may have been lucky enough to see) is the Cuckoo. Sadly you are unlikely to hear one on Old

Down or Beggarwood - there has been no record for some years. Countrywide Cuckoo numbers have been on the decline for some years due to habitat loss. It is always lovely to hear one's first cuckoo in the spring - heralding in spring and the warmer weather. The Cuckoo is a summer visitor (arriving mid-April onwards) coming all the way from Africa. Generally they do not stay over here very long, some returning to Africa as early as late June. It is a very distinctive looking bird with blue-grey upper parts and a white and black striped belly. Cuckoos lay a single egg in the nest of another bird - always small birds such as the Reed Warbler and the Dunnock. Each year it can lay up to a dozen eggs each in a different nest.

At the time the group was planning its

2022 AGM covid cases were still high and so it decided against a face to face meeting. An annual report with accounts for 2021 was sent out to members some weeks ago. If anyone would like a copy please email. Hopefully we will be back to normal next year. It is hoped that existing members will renew memberships and new members will come forward. The annual membership fee is still set at £5 per person. This can be paid by bank transfer to account no. 71196706 Old Down & Beggarwood Wildlife Group, Sort Code 60-02-49 and please add your name as the reference.

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
www.facebook.com/odandbwd



Café in the Park

WE ARE NOW FULLY OPEN!

PLEASE JOIN US

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10am – 2pm

Beggarwood Bookworms – 1st Wednesday every month. To enquire email office@hatchwarren.org

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 – 17th June (call 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1st Wednesday every month

Lots of regular events – please ask at the cafe

For party bookings please visit: www.hatchwarren.org

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



WEEKEND BAPS



TOASTED PANINIS
AND SANDWICHES



FRESH HOMEMADE CAKES



HOT & COLD DRINKS

We look forward to seeing you soon!

NEW MAYOR APPOINTED FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR

I feel very privileged to have been elected, following a Mayor Making ceremony at the Civic Offices on Thursday 12 May, as the 71st Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane during the reign of Her Majesty The Queen in her Platinum Jubilee year and as the 44th Mayor since the establishment of our borough. As first citizen I am here to dedicate my term in office to the residents of this borough.

Having served as a councillor in the Chineham ward since 2009, I shall represent the borough at events during the landmark jubilee year supported my wife and Mayoress, Sandra. The focus for the mayoral year will be on bringing the community together to support each other as the borough emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic and the country faces an economic crisis.

Mayor's Charity Appeal 2022/23

During the year I shall be supporting two local good causes - Tough Enough To Care and The Pink Place.

As a veteran of the armed forces, I have a particular interest in the welfare and mental health of the military community and has chosen to support Tough Enough



To Care, a local mental health charity that focuses on male dominated environments such as the military, construction trades and sports clubs aiming to remove the stigma that surrounds the subject of mental health.

I became aware of The Pink Place, incorporating The Blue Space for men, when assisting it to gain charity status. The charity provides free wellbeing services, complementary therapies, counselling, mindfulness sessions and support to adults affected by cancer, living in Basingstoke and the surrounding area, from initial diagnosis, throughout treatment and beyond.

Donate online to the Mayor's Charity Appeal 2022/23

My Deputy Mayor for Basingstoke and Deane during 2022/23 is Cllr David Leeks and the Deputy Mayoress is his wife, Amanda.

The Mayoress and I welcomes you, your friends, family and colleagues to join us at the following Civic Events.

The Big Platinum Jubilee Picnic

Sunday 5 June 2022 from 11am to 3pm

War Memorial Park, Basingstoke

Don't forget your picnic | Free activities for all the family

Mayor's Jubilee Civic Service

Sunday 5 June 2022 at 3pm

St Michael's Church, Basingstoke

It is tradition in Basingstoke and Deane to hold an annual Civic Sunday Service for residents, councillors and other dignitaries to welcome the town's new Mayor at the start of their year of office

Armed Forces Day – Flag Raising

Monday 20 June 2022 at 10am

Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke

A flag raising ceremony supporting the Armed Forces

Sandra and I are looking forward to attending and supporting many events within our wonderful borough throughout the mayoral year. If you would like to invite us to attend a function or event, please complete the online Request Mayoral Attendance proforma.

Regards

Cllr Paul Miller

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane

01256 844844 Mayor@Basingstoke.gov.uk

BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

'He who plants a tree plants a hope'

(Lucy Larcom 1824 –1893)

Basingstoke Lions Club, a fixture in the town for 55 years, is delighted to report that two more lovely cherry tree 'hopes' have been planted in Basingstoke in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's upcoming Platinum Jubilee, under the auspices of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. This time it was at the Old Basing Royal British Legion Social Club.

Acquired by the Club from The Woodland Trust, 30 saplings have found homes via the Club in various locations in the Borough, including North Hants. Hospital, BCOT, Audley's Resource Centre, Parklands Hospital and various schools. This British Legion placement was a particularly fitting tribute to Her Majesty, who has been its Patron since 1952.

Charity donations have been hard to come by in these difficult times but the Club's motto 'We Serve' applies whatever and whenever.

The Basingstoke Lions Club proudly continues to 'Serve' its community.

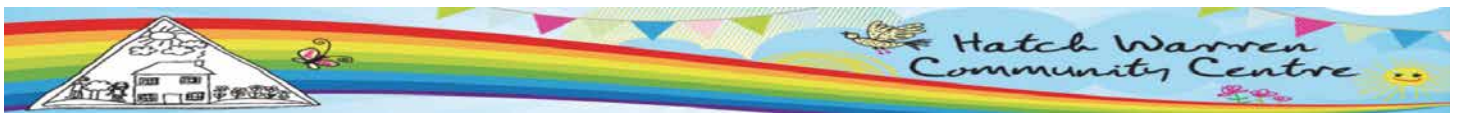


Club's manager, Kyle Merritt who has carefully nurtured the little saplings until they were ready for the big outdoors, giving them the love and attention required to take root.

For more information about the Queens Green Canopy project see <https://queensgreencanopy.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/QueensGreenCanopy/>

For more information about the Lions see <https://www.basingstokelions.org.uk>

'Lennie, the Basingstoke Lion' getting in on the act with Mr. Merritt and Lion President Rex Sinden

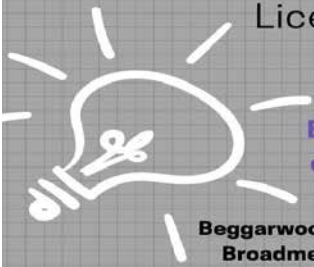


We are a registered charity run by volunteers - working to make Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live!

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

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

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

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.
- 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 the Beggarwood Café.

We are looking for committee members. If you would like to join the team, please email office@hatchwarren.org

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



Just 2 hours is all it takes to make a difference

As a charity, we rely heavily on volunteers to help us provide events and services to the local community at Hatch Warren and Beggarwood centres. All it takes is 2 hours, to bake a cake for a fayre, make bacon rolls at Café in the Park, event set up/clear away, sell tuck at The Warren Youth Club, deliver a leaflet in your street, or even help us in the office with social media posts, boosting membership levels.

Just 2 hours of your time will make a huge difference to your community

We have a whole host of fundraising events planned that rely on your help and support to make them successful.

Sign up today to volunteer your time and enthusiasm to support your community. Meet new friends, gain charity experience, learn new skills and become part of an exciting, caring, friendly community that makes a real difference.

Please get in touch: office@hatchwarren.org. Charity #1161117



Registered Charity Number 1161117

find us on | facebook

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Tel: 01256 811262

Email: office@hatchwarren.org

Web: www.hatchwarren.org

Following us on Twitter @hatchwarren



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

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

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

The Warren is open! Booking is essential!

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

Friday 3 rd June	CLOSED FOR BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 10 th June	Man Hunt, Paint Your Own Pots and Sunflower Seed Planting, plus Pitta Pizzas
Friday 17 th June	Scavenger Hunt, Father's Day Craft and Chocolate Fondue
Friday 24 th June	Capture the Flag, Slime and Ice Cream Sundaes
Friday 1 st July	Dodgeball and Hair Chalks Well-Being Session: End of Year Keepsakes
Friday 8 th July	Human Hungry Hippos, Henna Tattoos and Bacon Rolls
Friday 15 th July	Rounders, Sausage Rolls and Summer Craft
Friday 21 st July	Start of Summer Streetz: WATER FIGHT!!!!



We hope all our young people's SATs, GCSEs and end of year exams have gone well so far! Please remember our youth workers are always happy to listen to you if you have any worries or stress and we also love to

celebrate with you when you are proud of how well you've done!!

Thank you!!

We want to say a big thank you to Roger Parry for his very kind donation of an air hockey table and a table tennis table! Our young people (and youth workers) have enjoyed many games on them already! We are so grateful for your generosity.



Meet the staff

This month we wanted to introduce you to our wonderful Youth Worker Emily:

Hi, my name Emily and I have been a youth worker at the Warren for one year. I have worked with children for many years in preschools and primary schools and wanted this job to gain more experience with older children.

I really enjoy chatting to all the young people during our sessions and am usually the one making all the pizza, chips and nachos!

I have 3 children of my own which keeps me very busy. In my spare time I play netball and see friends, I also enjoy reading, music and watching a good movie.



The plans are in progress for the annual Summer Ball which will be held at The Holiday Inn on 8th July. Our members will enjoy a delicious meal followed by a disco. We have also started making plans for our

summer BBQ.

We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to two of our members as they have secured employment after several month of searching.

The Link2 team are now using Café in the park to help students with their employability skills with handling cash and using the till.

Dates for next sessions;

June 6th Hatch Warren

June 13th The Sprouse Goose

June 20th Hatch Warren

June 27th Bowling



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, air hockey or just want somewhere to hang out come on down. No need to book, just ensure you bring your details to enable us to track and trace and don't forget your face masks!

We 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.

July 1st: End of year Keep sakes

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 are now into the final stretch of the preschool year at Hatch Warren Under Fives. Up until the end of term we are putting lots of work into school readiness for our older children and each day we will be having fun with activities to promote number recognition, personal and social skills, listening and understanding, health and self care to name a few.

During our recent pet theme we created a vet's surgery in the role-play area and the children dressed up as doctors and nurses and took care of the animals, teddies and dinosaurs. The children were also very good at matching up pet foods to animals; they particularly enjoyed looking at mealworms and correctly matched them to lizards and birds. They also learnt the Makaton signs for cat, dog, guinea pig and horse.

On the craft tables we used faux fur to create mouse and cat collage pictures. The children also used their fine motor skills to draw the animals they would like as a pet, the most popular was a dinosaur!

We plan our themes around the children's interests each week, so coming up we will be having dinosaur week – which is sure to be a favourite.

In the Garden Room our theme is the Gruffalo. As well as listening to the story of the Gruffalo and re-creating the story with our puppets, the children have been very creative with making Gruffalo faces with rice cakes, cream cheese and different fruits and vegetables. Next up in the Garden Room will be Jack and the Beanstalk so we'll be growing beans and measuring big and small.

We have an Open Morning for prospective families to join us on Thursday 9th June from 10am-11am. We will be hosting this as a toddler group, with lots of typical preschool activities for the little ones. Included in the session will be a tour of preschool and a chance to chat to staff – and of course teas and coffees.

For more information or to enquire about a space at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Angela Blomquist, Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

The Summer term has arrived, and we have been enjoying reading Pirate Pete with the little ones creating their very own CVP ship along with treasure maps and hunting for gold!

We are enjoying plenty of outdoors learning, lots of friendship skills and the children going to school in September are really working hard with their leaver activities and practising writing their names.



We are so lucky to be able to offer additional events to families at pre-school. This term the children and their parents/carers have enjoyed a wonderful morning at a local kitchen garden, learning all about vegetables, sowing seeds and finished off with a lovely lakeside walk and snack.

Our additional OWLS/Forest sessions at a local farm are now up and running. The children had an amazing time for their first morning session. Meeting some furry friends (guinea pigs and rabbit), toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate – yum!

We also offer:

8.30 am STARTS,

15 and 30 HOUR FUNDED PLACES,

SHOW-ROUNDS, SETTLING-IN SESSIONS and HOMEVISITS

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all our news and upcoming events!

Best wishes,

Lisa Collisson

Pre-School Head

Tel: 01256-389008

Email: cvpadmin@btconnect.com

www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/

DANDELIONS

We have had a great start to the term and our children have had fun with all the messy play experiences we have had on offer. The benefits of messy play are endless; providing sensory experiences, physical development and an opportunity to introduce new language.

We have also introduced challenge groups for our older children who will be leaving us to move on to "big" school. These groups are a fun way to promote independence, confidence and self-regulation as well as covering the areas of learning within the early years foundation stage.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Hampshire Healthy Heroes Hampshire Healthy Heroes for running a session to promote supporting children to learn about their oral health, physical health, healthy eating and mental health & wellbeing. The children learnt so much in a fun way through use of puppets and lots of other activities.

As we enter the last few weeks of this academic year we have lots of exciting events planned for the children and families.

With Father's Day approaching we are inviting Dads to come in for a light breakfast with their little ones and to spend some time exploring the setting.

The term will end with our Jubilee family picnic. This is open to all existing, new and potential families. Please do come along and join in the fun. The picnic provides a much-needed time for all our families to get together following covid..

The event will take place on Friday 27th May between 3.00 & 4.30

Bring along your picnic and some pennies as we will have a cake sale, tattoos, hook a duck. For more information please call us at Dandelions on 01256 818857



CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School!

Summer has arrived on the meadow and we are all enjoying everything the season has to offer. The children have been running back and forth on our wonderful green space, having sunny trips to the swings in the park and not forgetting zooming around on their bikes. Hats and suncream at the ready, hooray for the warmer days!

It's a busy first half of term with the highlight being the visit from Zoo Lab and all its creatures to entertain and educate our little ones. To complement their visit, the children have been learning about mini beasts and seeking them out on the meadow. Whether it's a ladybird, ant or woodlouse, magnifying glasses and log books will be at the ready. On returning to our classroom the children will be encouraged to talk about what mini beasts look like, how we could best draw or paint them and even how could we move or sound like them. Thank goodness it's more insect chirps and less lions roars.... although experience would dictate that we may have the odd roaring ladybird!

Jubilee celebrations continue to be planned and we can't wait to keep you informed on our Facebook page. If you haven't liked our page yet please do – where you'll hear all about our 'Jubilee Afternoon Tea', fundraising Jubilee tea towels and so much more. Not forgetting our stalls at the North Waltham Big Jubilee Lunch event on Sunday 5th June at Cuckoo Meadow. It's free to attend and we would love to see you there!

We are a small, friendly, Ofsted Outstanding ranked pre-school located in the Rathbone Pavilion, 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.

Sainsbury's

Our Values Make us Different

Welcome

Simon Church has been appointed as our new store manager at Kempshott. Simon joins us from the store at Broadcut (Fareham) and we wish him continued success at Kempshott.

ANPR Camera & Car Park Improvements

Eagle-eyed customers may have noticed the new ANPR camera system at the entry to the car park. Please note the new signage across the car park – allowing a 3 hour maximum stay – and the time limits for exiting after store closure.

Improvements have also been made following the anti-social behaviour we've recently experienced. New style speed limiters are now in place together with a new speed limit of 5mph.

Thank you for your co-operation while we trialled the ANR system, prior to this permanent fixture.

Community Launch

We're close to launching our new community programme for the year ahead.

The focus will be aimed at supporting charities and projects across the Borough to 'Help Everyone Eat Better' whilst enhancing our partnership with Neighbourly to donate any food waste from the store.

We'll be allowing fundraising at the store during specific times in the year and look forward to welcoming groups over the Christmas period; COVID restrictions allowing.

We'll release more details about our work, following the opening of Starbucks, so that we can combine the efforts of Sainsbury's, Argos and Starbucks.

Starbucks

Colleagues are undergoing training ahead of the opening, which is provisionally set for June 29th. Thank you for your patience whilst the improvements and changes are being made to the old café site.

BLUE SKIES AND BLUEBELLS MAKING THE MOST OF SPRING TOGETHER

www.basingstokeu3a.org
facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a

And Sometimes in France!

Longer days are here and our outdoor groups are all coming fully to life. Croquet, walking football and rounders have restarted for example, joining our walkers and cyclists who've been meeting throughout the winter. A band of our cyclists thoroughly enjoyed exploring byways in France recently, whilst walkers have loved the scents and colours of the bluebell woods around Medstead and its old church.

Around Fifty Things to Do for Just £25

Many of us are meeting indoors - though still as safely as possible for our more cautious members. As always, together

we are dancing and singing towards the summer; playing games or doing quizzes. Some are knitting or sewing; others are enjoying netball and table tennis. Those who love a good debate are sharing ideas within science, technology or philosophy groups. And quite a few of us are trying several of these things at once. At no cost beyond their membership fee!

Until September, the membership fee is just £25 so it really is a good time to give membership a try. Trips out, holidays and excursions come with extra costs of course, but everything is organised for you and it's a brilliant way to meet new people with similar interests. So do check our website or email: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

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



FOSTERING MYTHS

Fostering is a commitment that could change more than one life for the better - but there are also many myths out there that are giving fostering a very bad reputation.

One Basingstoke foster agency is on a myth-busting mission to dispel some of the commonly held myths surrounding fostering in a bid to encourage more people to come forward and consider looking after vulnerable children.

Foster parents come from all kinds of backgrounds, cultures, and walks of life. They are from all corners of the world and types of homes. Just as every child is unique, every foster family is unique too.

Every year thousands of new foster families are needed in England. As of 31 March 2021, there were 45,370 fostering households and 76,640 foster carers in England. Between March 2020 and March 2021 the number of children in foster care grew by around 11%.

Regardless of their background, foster parents make a huge impact on the lives of the children that they support. Meet some of Orange Grove's foster parents who are encouraging others to come forward.

Myth 1 - "Foster children have massive behaviour issues and they will trash your house"

Myth busted by Ian and Lynne, parents for the last year

"It is a common public misconception that every single foster child or teenager out there has behaviour issues and will be disruptive. This simply isn't the case! We know it happens, but I think that is probably a big hurdle for people considering fostering because like us, you could possibly hold back because of this myth about foster children's behaviours. Every child is so different, and so you can't have just one blanket vision of what a foster child looks like."

Myth 2 - "Age is a limiting factor when you want to become a foster parent"

Myth busted by Suso, aged 73, foster parent for 23 years

Twenty-three years ago, Suso, now aged 73, was inspired to become a foster carer by his wife Ruth, who was a nursery nurse for several years but always dreamt of extending their family.

However, in 2009, Ruth sadly passed, leaving Suso to look after their foster children alone.

Suso said: "Since my wife died, fostering has really helped me to keep busy and to focus on other things. Ruth inspired me to become a foster carer and it was always her dream to have a big family, so I'm glad I can fulfil this and make her proud, even at the age of 73!"

Myth 3 - "You have to commit to fostering full-time if you want to significantly change a child's life"

Myth busted by Karen, aged 62, respite foster parent for almost 5 years

"Our first foster child came just for the weekend to give both him and his full-time foster parents a break. We had a great time and really enjoyed our weekend together. He continued to come and stay with us for respite. He said to me that we were like his 'foster grandparents', which was just so heart-warming to hear.

"We were able to be the one constant for him, whenever he needs a respite placement, he comes to us, and that's good. Everything that a foster parent does, whether it's on a respite or ongoing basis is the same. If we have a child for one night, it is still vital that we know everything possible about fostering, we are all doing the same thing."

Myth 4 - "You have to have your own children to be able to foster"

Myth busted by Ian and Lynne, foster parents for the last year

"You don't have to have your own children to foster. We're doing a great job and weren't previously parents ourselves."

"We felt inspired to become foster parents as we thought it was time in our life to give something back. We haven't got children of our own, so we thought, let's try and do something different. Not having children of our own didn't hold us back in any way".

Myth 5 - "I couldn't foster because I'd get too attached"

Myth busted by Jim and Jeanette, foster parents for the last 18 years

"Foster caring is not a job, it is a vocation and they aren't our foster children, they're our children. Watching them grow, become lovely young people and do something valuable with their lives is wonderfully rewarding. We just want to offer them a place where they can always go back to if they ever need to, our home will always be their home. People shouldn't worry about attachment, they should worry about the quality of care they are providing.

"We're big believers that a great difference

can be made to the children's lives with just a bit of love and affection. And, of course, looking after children, regardless of age, will never be a walk in the park. But the rewards are infinite."

Orange Grove FosterCare is an independent fostering agency which currently takes care of 400 children across the Southeast, Midlands, Northwest and Yorkshire.

If you'd like to learn more about the role of a foster carer at Orange Grove, then please call the friendly team on 0800 3698513 or visit <https://www.orangegrovefostercare.co.uk/offices/>

DO YOUR BIT FOR NATURE IN OUR AREA

This is a plea to become a member of your local conservation group. These groups work to help conserve the little bit of nature we have locally and ensure our green spaces are not lost. Basingstoke and Deane Council has set up a few local green space volunteer groups. The idea is for these site specific voluntary groups to help maintain, protect, conserve and improve public green spaces for the benefit of wildlife and people. The groups work with the support of the council but plan their own tasks and aims.

Each group has its own membership and committee with a small budget given yearly by the Council. This enables each group to buy the plants and tools.

The groups are in need of more members. As a member you can consider being on the committee, attending relevant training courses (such as first aid), making suggestions as to the way forward, joining the work parties. The more members each group has the stronger is the public message to the Council to conserve, maintain, improve and protect the green spaces, nature and wildlife in our area.

Locally there are the following groups:

Fuzzy Drove

chairman@fuzzydrove.co.uk

Hatch Warren

Hatch.nature@gmail.com

Kempshott Conservation Group

Kempshott-observe@tiscali.co.uk

Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group

odandbwd@gmail.com

Silvermead Hedgerow Group

admin@naturalbasingstoke.org.uk

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

There were 52 members at the meeting held on 4th May who, after the usual tea, coffee and biscuits, were welcomed by the Chairman, David Cowling. The Secretary, Tony Brazier then gave details of the forthcoming trips particularly reminding everyone of the change of date for the visit to Hatfield House which is now on Friday 26th August. He also asked if anyone had suggestions for speakers and trips as we would soon be compiling the programme for next year. Our Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then brought us up-to-date on those members who had not been well.

The speaker this month was Terri Reid who had titled her talk "Putting Your Best Foot Forward" and was about how people managed during the war years and coped with rationing and the points system. She demonstrated a recipe for chocolate spread which used a mixture of mashed potato and cocoa powder and highlighted some of Marguerite Patten's recipes which included a "Surprise Banana Cake" - the surprise being that there was no banana, but parsnips. She then went on to give examples of "Make do and Mend" such as unpicking old woollen garments to re-use the wool, using curtain material to make dresses and how, if you were lucky enough to find it, parachute silk could be made into underwear. After showing us instructions for making toys and telling us how everyday products could be used for make-up we ended up with singing some of the old wartime songs.

The group's next outing will be on Thursday 16th June which is a Cruise on the Thames from Runnymede, with lunch included, followed on Thursday 14th July by a visit to Hever Castle.

The next meeting is on 1st June when we are looking forward to a return visit from Mel Rees with some of his highly amusing insights into everyday life. 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.

David Cowling

CROHN'S & COLITIS UK Inflammatory bowel disease affects 500,000 people in the UK and we support sufferers with guidance as well as raising awareness and funding for research. Those with the disease often have to have intestinal operations or need a stoma and have been particularly vulnerable during the Covid pandemic. Anyone interested in joining C&C or volunteering can email richard.marmoy@gmail.com for more information.

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

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www.immanuelhwb.co.uk & www.facebook.com/immanuelhwb

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Oh no, not another Provider!

I wonder if this has been your experience. You desire to end a contract with one of the major Insurance/Phone/Broadband providers, while having little, if any, faith that another company will be any better? During recent weeks and completely independent of each other, everything of a technical nature failed to work properly. It began with our phone, then email, TV, broadband, freezer, and perhaps most impactful of all, our only vehicle. I imagine we all at times face, to a greater or lesser degree, irritations and challenges that appear to build layer upon layer seemingly with no end in sight.

Yet, in these very same weeks as I've looked out on the garden, walked our pathways or better still deeper into the country, I believe subconsciously to have soaked in a sense of perspective. In a world and a time that is far from perfect, and thus it has always been, I have noticed, as if to counter my worries and fears, a remarkable feeling of peace and thankfulness. April and May usher in an astonishing feast of nature at its glorious best. Each day new growth and colour, even if I don't know everything by name. I recognise Snowdrops, they're early, then Daffodils, Tulips, Cowslips and Bluebells. It sounds as if I know what I am talking about, but reaching Forget-me-nots is oddly appropriate, as it is about my limit of seasonal knowledge. Though, at this moment viewing from my desk, I notice the stunning contrast of a copper beach tree and its neighbouring sycamore, as they seem to butt up, as their leaves compete for space. The vibrancy of colours almost takes my breath away.

I reflected again on my current concerns; the many long hours and 'live chats' to call centres in South Africa and the Philippians before weeks later an engineer finally arrives at our door. I'm not technical, but I knew we needed such expertise from the outset. And the insurance claim for a car part that can only be accessed in Japan continues. It looks like our 'Just in time' culture is not quite as perfect as its proponents suggest, particularly as global trade arrangements and energy supplies remain so uncertain.

However, it seems most fitting that our new Parish of Basingstoke Down is currently exploring the Apostles Creed, associated with services of Baptism and Confirmation, as well as Communion. This affirmation of the Christian faith handed down over the centuries from our spiritual ancestors, helpfully summarises the Biblical narrative from Genesis through to Revelations in just 108 words. It begins 'I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth' and ends with '... the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.' Perhaps a timely reminder through all of life's up and downs that we can rely on God, not just for our immediate concerns, but always as the most trustworthy of Providers.

Hilary Nickell

A Personal Reflection

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BASINGSTOKE MAKERSPACE FULLY OPEN AFTER COVID LOCKDOWN

Basingstoke Makerspace is a not-for-profit community workshop for people who enjoy making, creating, collaborating, sharing and learning new skills.

The Makerspace has a wide range of tools and equipment available for the use of members. The current list of equipment includes a Laser cutter, woodworking lathe, bandsaw, industrial sewing machine, 3D printers, a vacuum former and much more. There is also a Photographic studio and darkroom. Members get 24/7 access to the space.

There are regular presentations and workshops on various topics, for example, recent events have covered Amateur Radio Satellite communications, Pottery, using Blender (an open-source 3D creation software suite) and making Holograms.

There is a weekly Open Evening on Tuesdays from 19:00 to 21:00, why not pay us a visit and see what we do? We can be found at Maritime House, 65 New Rd, Basingstoke.

BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT DISABILITY FORUM

BDDF free postal newsletter service

Our mission as your local adult disability charity is to make sure we are reaching those who need us. Please can you help us to reach members in our community who don't have or want access to the internet?

We are hoping to reach more Disabled adults of all ages and those supporting the Disabled community in a caring capacity. Do you have a neighbour, friend or relative who would benefit from receiving a regular printed newsletter, posted direct to their address, full of information about services available to them in Basingstoke please contact me.

Leave your name & address on our secure voicemail by calling 01256 423869; or email Amanda@BDDF.org.uk, or drop a note into us at The Orchard, White Hart Lane. Amanda will arrange for a copy of our most recent newsletter to be posted. The newsletter as with all BDDF services are free to receive.

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THOUGHTS ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

I want to start by saying thank you again to the people of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood who voted for me in quite amazing numbers. The work and the relationships I have built will grow over this coming year and I will continue to work as hard for the ward as I have done over the past four months.

We set out to prove not only that equality is a priority for everyone's benefit, but also that WE are a viable independent alternative to the main political parties and in coming third in front of four other candidates, and close behind the other two, we have shown exactly that.

Those of you who watched the hustings I organised will know I believe strongly in civic engagement having the power to bring about positive change. To that end, I want to ask HWB residents how they would most like me and the WEP to engage with them over the coming months. People I spoke to on the doorstep will know my commitment to that work, but it's not always convenient for residents and many aren't keen on cold callers! So, are there specific times that would be convenient for you to book in a chat with me and let me know your thoughts on local issues? Perhaps you and some neighbours would like to get together for a cup of tea and have me drop round to talk about the changes that we want to bring to Hatch Warren and Beggarwood and hear your input? Are any of you organising community picnics or street parties this summer that I could help out with and get to know you better while I do? I strongly believe that the better we all know each other, the stronger our communities become, and I am here to engage via whatever method is most convenient for you. Plus, I make a mean ginger cake and I'm always happy to contribute to community efforts!

You can reach me on basingstoke@womensequality.org.uk. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Stacy Hart Women's Equality Party Basingstoke Leader

SUNFLOWER CELEBRATION LAUNCHED FOR ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

As part of their 30th Anniversary celebrations, St. Michael's Hospice has commissioned hand-crafted metal sunflowers from local Hampshire based company, Hurstbourne Forge.

Sunflowers are regarded as symbols of hospice care as they draw strength from focusing on the light and not the darkness. The seed represents the patient, and the surrounding petals represent love, care, and compassion.

People from across North Hampshire are being given the opportunity to own one of these limited-edition flowers— some in memory of a loved one, others to mark an occasion or simply support the hospice.

Lorraine Pink, Director of Income Generation at St Michael's Hospice said, *"The amazing thing is that by donating £30 for a sunflower, people not only have the chance to dedicate it to their loved one, but also can hopefully take comfort in knowing that the money raised from their sale is helping us to continue providing care to local people too."*

The flowers are forming part of St. Michael's Sunflower Celebration which is taking place in the hospice grounds on Sunday 12 June at 2pm. All the sunflowers will be on display during the event and people will be able to take them home afterwards or collect from the hospice at a later date.

The hospice only has a limited number of the flowers available, so don't miss out. Visit the website <https://www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/event/sunflower-celebration> or call 01256 848848.



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MAY meeting

This month we discussed the dystopian novel *The School for Good Mothers* by Jessamine Chan and took a peek at the world of mummy social media influencers in *Everything's Perfect* by Nicole Kennedy. Two very contrasting novels but with similarities of perfecting the perfect mother. If there is ever such a thing! The social media mummy bloggers faking perfection and the school for good mothers being imprisoned in a school to teach perfect parenting.

We found the *School for Good mothers* was in the same vein as *The Handmaid's Tale*. We all agreed it had terrifying consequences and was quite hard to read in places. We felt sorry for the main character Frida despite having made a terrible mistake we found the consequences were very tough.

Everything's Perfect was a well written first novel by Kennedy that shines a light on the world of social influencers. How all is not as we see on social media. For example, the comic fake kitchens and rivalry. A great summer read we

recommend the book if you like the odd Instagram influencer it will make you laugh out loud. We look forward to welcoming Nicole in the autumn with her new book *After Paris*.

Next month we are so excited to welcome back local author Helen Matthews to our meeting. She will be talking about her new psychological suspense novel *The Girl in the Van*. Helen has joined us twice before the first being our last meeting before lockdown and then she Zoomed in to our virtual meetings. The meetings have always been so interesting, and we have enjoyed seeing how Helen's writing career has taken off. *The Girl in the Van* is available from all outlets now as well as her other novels *After leaving the Village*, *Façade* and *Lies behind the ruins*. We highly recommend these books for an enjoyable page turner. If you would like to join our friendly club, please just purchase a ticket on [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) just search for Beggarwood Bookworms tickets are £3.00 with all proceeds from our meetings being ploughed back into our community centres.



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

ASK ITALIAN

Festival Place (opposite to entrance to the Vue Cinema)
01256 212628 <https://www.askitalian.co.uk>

This was not a planned visit. It was just one of those things that happened because another arrangement had gone awry and suddenly we had some time available in the middle of the day. I had never previously frequented this Italian style food chain, however Madam had been for lunch with her granddaughter some time ago and was keen that I should try the place for myself.

It was a pleasant experience. The place has an interesting Mediterranean style of décor with a large back lit wall devoted to a saying by the Italian film maker, Federico Fellini, "Life is a combination of magic and pasta." This is reflected in a simplistic but comprehensive menu offering from pizzas, pastas, specialities, salads and desserts. Clearly, it is a well proven formula as there are 120 such outlets in Britain.

A nice touch was the complimentary shot glass of lemonade to toast together. Madam started with a dish of green olives and I had Chicken Lecca-Lecca. This was four breaded chicken breasts with spicy tomato dip and garlic mayonnaise. Not to be confused with chicken goujons. Very tasty.

Our main courses were Asparagus Pancetta Carbonara Frilly Tagliatelle, which Madam will be happy to have again, and I had Fettuccine Bolognese which, again, was very tasty. Everything being freshly cooked in the open kitchen.

The dessert menu had an abundant range of gelato, rich tarts, cheesecakes and Tiramisu but we both had the coffee and cake offering which gave a small slice of blood orange and chocolate tart with a regular Americano with cream.

Drinks had been a slimline tonic with ice and slice for Madam, and I had a small Peroni. The overall cost was £52.55 which we felt was reasonable value considering the good quality food.

I did not see a children's menu, but they must have one as there were families with children of all ages with plenty of highchairs for the very youngest. All in all, it is a reliable family restaurant and well worth a visit.



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