

THE Rabbiter



Issue 293 November 2022

All the regular features plus

- **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**
- **BASINGSTOKE GANG SHOW**
- **FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM**

and much more

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EDITORIAL

There are lots of events to look forward to in the coming months. The annual Hatch Warren Fireworks Spectacular is something you do not want to miss. Tickets are on sale from the Community Centre but there will be no tickets on the gate. Christmas events are now planned and dates for your diary include the Christmas Market at the Community Centre on 27 November and a trip to Bath Christmas Market on 26 November – see page 14 for more details.

If you are going to be alone at Christmas why not join the Community Christmas Lunch at the Café in the Park? Book your ticket now – details below. Roast turkey and all the trimmings and none of the washing up!!

The Rabbiter is still looking for help. If you could spare a couple of hours a month, please do get in touch – newsdesk@therabbiter.biz.

Editor

Message from PPG,

Reducing call wait times at Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries is our number one priority improvement item.

Please fill in this short questionnaire every time you interact with the surgery by phone.

Please do this to help us monitor the patient experience and see if you have had a good or bad experience. <https://forms.gle/NtDrKKUyJwANF6TS8>



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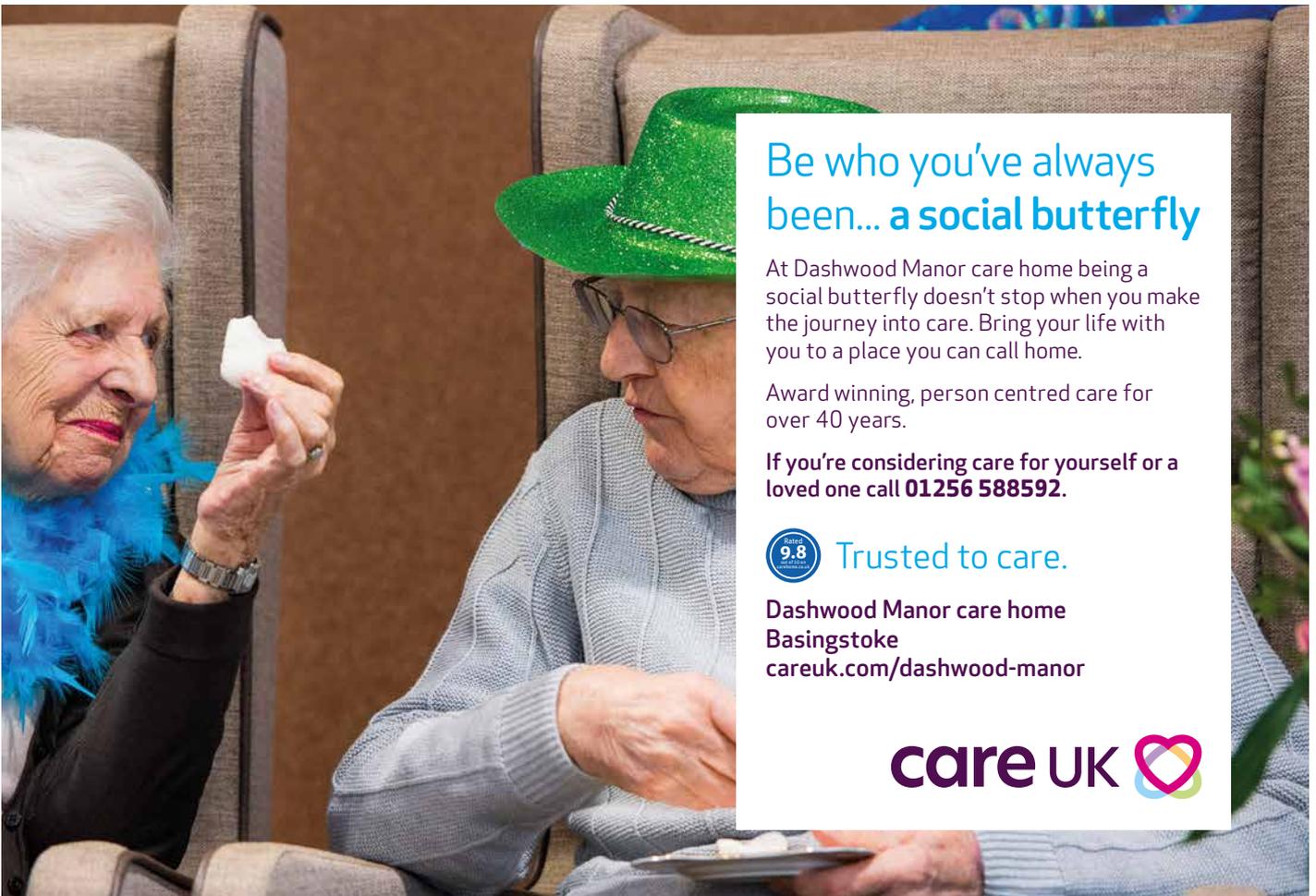
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BEGGARWOOD SURGERY NEWS FROM THE PPG

Surgery

We are pleased to report that blood tests have now resumed at Beggarwood and this should alleviate the need to travel to North Hants hospital for this service.

The Operose re-organisation is now underway which should cut down the wait times in call answering we have been experiencing at the surgery. This is an on-going project but we are reassured by Operose that they intend to complete this as soon as possible and certainly before the year is out. They ask us for our continuing patience while this is carried out and bedded in. Remember the receptionists, the medical and admin team really are trying their best to help us and give us a great service and they are committed to providing as many face-to-face appointments as required as well as telephone and on-line consultations. Operose are also recruiting further full time GPs across all of their surgeries as well as a number of temporary admin people.

As a further part of the Operose re-organisation and to ensure a continuity of care they are creating five "Teams" consisting of various medical practitioners and each patient will be assigned to one of these Teams. Each

Team will have an intimate knowledge of that patient's medical history and should alleviate the need for each consultation to be preceded by the patient having to give a summary of their past care etc. before moving on to their current need for a consultation. We have yet to be informed as to how the patients are to know which Team and specific doctor they are to be assigned to. We will press for further information on your behalf.

Maria Miller MP Meeting

We are still waiting to hear from Operose about our serious concerns arising out of the meeting. We are aware of some progress on a limited basis and we intend to press ahead with the issues raised by you all at the Health in the Community meeting with senior Operose personnel.

Dr.iQ

Current feedback to us is mixed. What are your experiences using the app? Once again replies via our email address please and don't forget the Q&A section on the Beggarwood web site : <https://www.beggarwoodsurgery.co.uk> for more information on using the App.

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. Please visit the CGH site as the Beggarwood site is still under construction. The web address is :- <https://cghpartnership.co.uk/about-us/comments-and-complaints/>. Operose employ a full time Complaints Manager and so you should get a speedy response. If you are not satisfied with the way they have dealt with your complaint, you can contact the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman to review your case on 0345 015 4033 or via their website: www.ombudsman.org.uk. The Ombudsman is an independent body established to promote improvements in healthcare through the assessment of the performance of those who provide service.

PPG email address

The Non-Medical feedback email address is: beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com

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

CAMROSE, GILLIES AND HACKWOOD (PPG)

CGH News: There are now 24 FTE GPs, which is close to the planned 25 GPs to cover a list of just over 50,000 patients. A further advertorial is due to be published in the Basingstoke Gazette with updated figures on calls, call-waiting, appointments, DNA, DriQ, etc.

Patient dissatisfaction continues in respect of call and administration wait times, staff attitude, appointment errors and cancellations. Formal complaints can be made on the CGH website at: cghpartnership.co.uk/about-us/comments-and-complaints, which will be actioned by their full-time Complaints Manager.

Over 10,000 have now signed up to DriQ. Feedback continues to be mixed, with some patients still experiencing problems. Help can be found via the DriQ team at CGH on 01256 479747 or; via: support@driq.com, 02037433033. Full DriQ information can be found on the CGH website: cghpartnership.co.uk/online-services, where there are two help videos on How

to Register, and Features. Help can also be found via the PPG website : cghppg.co.uk, where you can contact us for assistance.

CGH hold various clinics in the surgeries for diabetes, respiratory disorders, mental health, frailty, etc., one of which is the Lindsay Leg Ulcer Club, which is held in the Community Hall at St. Andrews Church. This was the first club of its type in Hampshire, and results are excellent. Patients are helped in caring for ulcers, and changing dressings, in a safe, social environment for people in a similar situation. If you would like help for this weekly club, email nhccg.cghpartnership@nhs.net. More information can be found at: www.legclub.org. Details of other clinics can be found via the CGH website: cghpartnership.co.uk.

PPG News: CGH and Beggarwood PPGs have now merged, making us stronger together. Proposals on how the CGHB PPG will operate have been discussed with Operose. A full update will be in

next month's newsletter, together with an update on how CGHB PPG will tackle the issues arising from Maria Miller's Community Health meeting last July.

Volunteer members of your PPG have been successfully assisting CGH with flu vaccine clinics, acting as marshalls. Total numbers of vaccinations have yet to be finalised but, on one Saturday alone, 834 were done.

Other News: West Hampshire Community Diabetes Service are running online sessions for people with type 2 diabetes, giving up-to-date information and advice for managing this. Education videos can be found at: www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/wnhcds. A New2T2 course, and a refresher (WISER) course, take place twice monthly. Details can be found on the above mentioned website. CGH Practice Nurses can sign you up for this course via NHS e-referral. Contact your surgery for more details.

Phillips Law

STAMP DUTY CHANGES FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES



Lisa Rigby

On Friday 23rd September the Chancellor announced some changes to the stamp duty thresholds in the mini budget. The threshold for payment of stamp duty has been raised to £250,000 which means that no stamp duty will be payable on a residential property costing up to £250,000 (unless a surcharged rate applies such as the 2nd home or non-UK resident surcharges). With effect from 23rd September 2022 the Stamp duty thresholds are as follows:

- £0 – £250,000 = 0%
- £250,001 – £925,000 = 5%
- £925,001 – £1.5 MILL = 10%
- £1.5 Mill above = 12%

The 3% surcharge for second homes will continue to apply as well as the non-UK residents charge but the changes have resulted in savings for most home buyers.

Company purchases continue to be charged at the higher rates but the increase in the lower threshold will generate a saving of up to £2,500.00 on an average buy to let purchase.

Changes were also made to the first-time buyer discount bringing greater savings for those buying their first home. No stamp duty is payable on the first £425,000 of the purchase price of a property costing up to £625,000.00 for first time buyers who intend to live in the property being purchased and are UK resident. If, however, the purchase price property being purchased exceeds £625,000 then the discount will not apply, and the standard stamp duty thresholds will continue to apply to the purchase.



For further assistance with any conveyancing matters, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Rigby by calling 01256 854645 or by emailing lisa.rigby@phillips-law.co.uk

COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

1 in 7 men are known to suffer from prostate problems. If left undetected it can lead to great difficulty in life or even ultimately be fatal. It is simple to request your doctor for a blood test for PSA after the age of 50 or even earlier annually if you suffer from these symptoms:

- Difficulty urinating, and weak or interrupted flow of urine
- Frequent urination, especially at night
- Difficulty emptying the bladder
- Pain or burning during urination
- Blood in urine
- Pain in the back, hips or pelvis that doesn't go away
- Painful ejaculation

I believe our NHS is fully equipped to deal with this illness. Doctors usually refer to have an MRI followed by a biopsy then the expert doctors deal with it.

For all senior men it's a bit like a well man clinic to be aware of this illness and take action when appropriate under the direction of their medical practitioners.

This is why I believe a simple blood test annually for PSA is advisable.

Best regards stay safe stay healthy.

Cllr Dan Putty JP



OCTOBER REPORT

This month we welcomed one of Britain's leading forensic psychiatrists Dr Gwen Adshead who has written a very informative book entitled 'The Devil You Know'. This is based on her experiences of providing therapy for 30 years in secure units such as Broadmoor Hospital. She read an extract from her book and then discussed possible reasons that drive someone to commit an act of terrible violence. Many members posed very interesting questions which prompted much thoughtful discussion. Everyone left with many thoughts and questions and we would love to welcome Dr Gwen back again.

Our meeting was well attended and our thanks go to another local book group who joined us for the evening and had kindly enabled Gwen's visit.

Next month we are lucky enough to be welcoming another local author as part 2 of our crime season. Mike Hollow has written a series of books called The Blitz Detective. We are currently reading 'The Pimlico Murder' book 6 from his series .

Our group meets at The Cafe in the Park and all proceeds support the community centres here in Hatch Warren and Beggarswood.

Follow us on Facebook for more details.





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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

NEW HOSPITAL: I am troubled by mixed messages coming from the Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust. Their preferred location for a new hospital is near Junction 7 of the M3. When I was a Governor on the Trust, I supported this. I still do. Their second preference was to redevelop the hospital on its existing site, but we were told that would be more expensive, logistically difficult and inconvenient for patients whilst it was happening. So I am confused by reports that the hospital trust is buying land near to the existing hospital and wonder whether they changed their position. My colleague, Cllr Juliet Henderson, and I have a meeting arranged with the Chief Executive to seek clarity.

MOTORWAY JUNCTION CHANGES: Despite requests, the Executive Member at Hampshire did not agree to defer his decision on policy recommendations for the M3 at Junctions 7 and 8. Fellow Councillors from this area and I had jointly requested extra time for consultation and comment. The decision has therefore been made to ask National Highways, who are responsible for motorways, to consider closing the south facing slip roads.

TRANSPORT STRATEGY: I have been making representations, and will continue to do so, about the emerging transport strategy for the new developments to the west of Basingstoke. It appears that the County and Borough Councils are putting their faith in the concept of 'modal shift' whereby bus lanes and bus gates make public transport faster and more attractive. My feeling is that people will not easily be persuaded to give up their cars, and the approach could be a recipe for gridlock in the area. I shall continue to work on this.

DENTAL SURGERY ON THE ISLAND SITE: I have not had feedback from the new owners of the dental surgery site regarding my suggestion of discussions. I had a useful meeting with Bloor Homes who will look at options on the Gold Course.

WAREHOUSES: The Public inquiry into the application for warehouses near Junction 7 was scheduled for 18th October. Pressure Group CAGE invited concerned residents to demonstrate their objections to the development to show the inspector how much people care about this warehouse plus 2 others, almost 1 kilometre long between the M3 and the A30 on open countryside. If it goes through, they say there will be at least 2,000 HGV movements a day in and out of the site. At the time of writing I do not know how that went, but I am planning to attend and argue against the development.

DOCTOR'S SURGERIES: I attended a meeting on 12th October to discuss the merger of the Camrose/Gillies/Hackwood surgeries' Patient Participation Group with Beggarwood's PPG. It looks as if the combined body will be chaired by Beggarwood's Thelma Wiseman, which I regard as good news. I am, however, concerned at the direction of travel. I thought, when Operose took over Beggarwood, that they would be running four surgeries in the area. Instead it looks as if their approach is to treat it as one surgery with four locations, which is a completely different concept. My fear is that they will try to squeeze too much synergy

out of the operations and end up with under-management and patients being directed to inconvenient locations.

DIGESTER: the Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee met on 10th October. It was a brief meeting as the improvements works are not fully completed so the plant has not been operating a full capacity. I had reported on an instance of an AD lorry following the wrong route through Hatch Warren, which was confirmed. The driver was a new visitor to the site and has been spoken to about the importance of following the correct route. Please let me know if you spot breaches: the lorries are supposed to use Woodbury Road.

FOOTPATHS: As part of Hampshire County Council's annual programme, some paths in our area are scheduled for resurfacing about now. The treatment is applied to the existing surface, sealing it from water ingress, which is a major cause of deterioration. The work was scheduled to start around 25th October and includes parts of: Winchester Road, Calleva Close, Hatch Warren Lane, Constantine Way and Woodgarston Drive.

THEFTS: the Police have published alerts about thefts from cars in the Hatch Warren and Brighton Hill areas. Solent Drive was one of the roads to suffer. Please remember not to leave property in your vehicles, not even small change, and double check that your vehicle is locked and secure. To sign up to alerts, go to <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/>

NEW VETS PRACTICE: It looks as if Beggarwood will be getting a new vets practice in the spring of next year. It will be located at Woodland Court, which is the building on the other side of the Island site from the Holly Blue. The Hampshire Vet brand says it will be open from Monday to Saturday, and will work closely with a dedicated out of hours provider, Vets Now, to ensure 24/7 access to expert emergency care. They will also have their own veterinary team onsite overnight to hospitalise stable patients admitted during opening hours.

HEDGE CUTTING: I have received comments about hedges not being trimmed in the Beggarwood area, which I have reported to the Borough Council. When it has been raining, and the bushes are very wet, it is very difficult to navigate overgrown paths without clothes getting soaked.

POUNDSTRETCHERS: I am sure many people were sad to see the closure of Poundstretcher on the Hatch Warren retail park. I have not heard any news about a replacement store.

LONDON MARATHON: Hatch Warren runners had about 30 entrants in the London Marathon. Their fastest female contestant was Rebecca Reid, who completed the course in just under three and a half hours (yes, my daughter - very proud!)

BLOG: I am sometimes asked for more information behind the stories in this report. I now write a blog, where I am able to go into more depth. You can find it at <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor.

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Christmas



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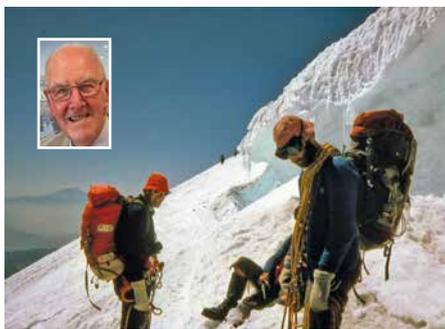
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PROBUS HEARS ABOUT A JOURNEY TO THE BIG HILL ACROSS THE POND

Most people have heard of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service but know little about its history and how it operates. It was first organised during WW2 to rescue aircrew from the large number of aircraft crashes into high ground due to navigational errors and bad weather. In many cases the crews, although injured, had survived the impact due mainly to slow moving aircraft. However, the remote nature of the terrain coupled with the time taken for the station medical officer to assemble a search party, caused a disproportionate number of fatalities amongst the initial survivors

Today the rescue team is a highly organised professional body whose members, in recent years, also attend civil emergencies. While being regular members of the RAF they are volunteers and attend the equivalent of thirty weekends each year in training. Probust member, retired Squadron Leader Chris Perkins MVO, was a member of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service for several years and he recounted his recollections of a significant training exercise that took place four decades ago.



With today's ease of access to mass travel, many team members may have been fortunate to experience overseas mountaineering in the Alps, Pyrenees or even to the Himalayas. Forty years ago, the situation was very different and the opportunities to mount expeditions to further areas of the globe were extremely limited.

Supported at high level it was agreed that a specialist training exercise would be undertaken to Mt Rainier in Washington State in the northwest of the USA. At 14,410 feet Mt Rainier was a dormant volcano in the Cascade mountains and while on this exercise the expedition

members witnessed the eruption of Mount St Helens that caused worldwide disruption to communications and transport.



It was a major project involving a party of 15 personnel, all selected from RAF Mountain Rescue teams in Scotland, Wales and Yorkshire. The majority had alpine snow and ice climbing experience, and many were winter mountaineering instructors.

At that stage in his career, Chris was an Air Traffic Controller based at RAF Valley on Anglesey. During daylight hours it was busy with high intensity jet training for young pilots and provided a 24-hour NATO diversion facility for all manner of aircraft. The long night time hours on readiness in the radar room proved ideal for detailed expedition planning.

In those days before computers and word processors meant that documentation was produced as typed hard copy for signature and dispatched by surface post. Sometimes they were able to use the latest technology of a tele-printer. Frequent telephone liaison with USAF bases accessed their trans-Atlantic military networks and crucial contact with liaison agencies in Washington State. It was necessary to obtain approval for members of the British military to operate within the borders of the United States.

The logistics involved a RAF VC10 aircraft from Brize Norton on a training flight to familiarise several pilots with airfields across



the US, transported the team via Ottawa to Washington DC, stopping overnight, then onwards via Dallas, Colorado Springs, Denver and San Francisco finally to Mather USAF base Sacramento. Instead of the planned lengthy Greyhound Bus journey up the west coast an opportune telephone call with a British Army liaison officer at Fort Lewis, revealed that his next-door neighbour commanded a C130 Hercules transport squadron at the adjacent McChord USAF base, and kindly agreed to fly down to pick up the expedition.

Vehicle hire of a Dodge mini-bus and cargo van awaited the arrival of the aircraft necessary for the movement of the team and equipment. During the two-week journey 2,400 miles were driven. Also arranged was base accommodation, purchase of the latest US Army Special Forces Long Range Patrol rations and appropriate National Park Permits for access and travel. And, importantly, connected the expedition with the Department of Emergency Services in Washington State.

Climatic conditions throughout the expedition were ideal. Daytime temperatures rarely fell below 30 degrees Celsius, and the nights remained clear but cold at height. Such conditions aided the night time ascent of Mt Rainier, however they caused numerous dangers on the descent from opening crevasses, collapsing ice bridges and rock falls.

At the end of the expedition period the party was offered USAF air passage back to the UK. However, it was decided to revisit the Greyhound Bus option to experience air-conditioned comfort overnight from Tacoma via Vancouver to Calgary. Again, RAF Command came up trumps, providing VC10 aircraft space to Brize Norton via Germany. The Mt Rainier expedition, four decades ago, gave all expedition members valuable experience of mountaineering, backpacking at altitude, glacier travel plus proficiency of journeying into vast wilderness areas. It provided the team with improved practices for future emergencies in extremely difficult terrain.

This was a journey of a lifetime only made possible with invaluable military and civilian assistance. Evidence, perhaps, of the special relationship so often talked about between our two nations.

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OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

With summer and autumn over it is time to report on the butterfly transects carried out on Old Down this year. 2022 started a bit cold but from the end of April until the end of August most transects were carried out in sunny, bright and warm (and even hot!) weather. Numbers were generally good during that time but they did tumble quite fast during September. Species that did really well on Old Down this year were *Gatekeeper*, *Holly Blue*, *Marbled White*, *Ringlet*, *Speckled Wood*, *Small Tortoiseshell* and, especially, the *Small/Essex Skipper* which, at 309, was the best year yet. The *Common Blue* has done very well after several disappointing years.

However, quite a few species did not meet last year's numbers – maybe because of the very hot weather and dry conditions. The *Small Blue* did not produce a second brood in late summer as is usual and the *Large White*, *Green Veined White*, *Small White*, *Meadow Brown*, *Red Admiral* and *Peacock* were all down in numbers compared to previous years.

There were a few exciting highlights, strangely all on the same day (29 July), with two *Clouded Yellow*, one female *Chalk Hill Blue* and, for the second time on Old Down, one *Dark Green Fritillary*. The *Chalk Hill Blue* was last seen on Old Down in 2015 and the *Clouded Yellow* in 2019.

Over the 26 week period of the transects

a total of 2,743 butterflies and 27 species were recorded for the period April to September.

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 page for interest.

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



Clouded Yellow



Female Chalk Hill Blue



Dark Green Fritillary

Café in the Park

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Community lunch 1st Wednesday every month

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Sunday offers from 1.30pm onwards

Midweek deals - coffee and cake only £4

Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft – (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

Card & Cuppa
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Dec 16th

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ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE (NORTH HAMPSHIRE)

Light up a Life

Sunday 4th December 2022, 6pm
St. Michael's Hospice, RG24 9NB

@smhbasinstoke #lual

Remember and celebrate the life of someone special by dedicating a star as part of our Light up a Life appeal. Our special service offers time for reflection and to share memories with those closest to us. Our Light up a Life appeal and service is open to everyone, not just those who have been touched by our Hospice care. Please remember to wrap up warm if you plan to attend the service.

To dedicate a star to a loved one, please visit:
www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk

For more information please call 01256 848848 or email events@stmichaelsospice.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1002856

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

St. Michael's Hospice

Reindeer Run

Sunday 18th December 2022, 9am
 Setting off from Queen Anne's Square, Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

3K RUN

Join us for a festive family fun run!

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY: **festival PLACE BASINGSTOKE**

Sign up here!

Find out more:
www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk
 #ReindeerRun @smhbasinstoke

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

SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER
Gates Open 5.30pm - Display starts 7.30pm prompt

Hatch Warren Community Centre presents...

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

DJ Mark Halliday * Competitions * Light up novelty glow toys
Burgers * Chips * Hot Dogs * Thai Street Food * Hog Roast
Waffle Wagon * Sweet Stall * Licenced Bar * Mulled Wine

TICKETS ON SALE TO MEMBERS 1st SEPTEMBER & GENERAL SALE 1st OCTOBER
NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT - BUY EARLY AS LIMITED TICKETS ON SALE
TICKET SALES CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

ADVANCED TICKET ONLY EVENT - NO TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE GATE

FAMILY £24 <small>2 adults plus up to 2 children up to age 15</small>	ADULT £12	CHILD / SENIOR £5 <small>Children 6 - 15</small>
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TICKETS ON SALE VIA THE WEBSITE OR IN THE OFFICE.
Payment by cash or internet banking.
A surcharge will be applied if purchasing online. All tickets are non-refundable.

Remember!
Remember!
The 5th of November!

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

In association with **Sainsbury's**

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
BATH CHRISTMAS MARKET
COACH TRIP



SATURDAY 26th November
£25.00 PER PERSON

COACH DEPARTS AT 8AM FROM OUR CAR PARK AND RETURNS FROM BATH AT 5PM

- Let us take the strain out of your Christmas shopping
- Over 140 traditional wooden chalets adorn the streets
- Unique, handmade and unusual gifts, decorations and food items
- The 'Christmas Capital of the West' is famous for its market and quality independent and favourite high street stores.

THIS TRIP IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead

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

This event is being held as a fundraising event for the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity #1161117

Come & visit Father Christmas at our Christmas Market & support our local traders.

Christmas Market

Hatch Warren Community Centre
Sunday 27th November
12 - 4pm

Pre-loved toys Tombola Festive games Children's Craft Zone
Food Court

Entry £1 (kids go free)

Meet Father Christmas in his Grotto
£4 per child (including gift)
bookable slots in advance



This event is being held as a fundraising event for the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association Charity No 1161117

CAROLS IN THE PARK

Thursday 15th Dec
from 6.30pm-7.30pm

Cafe in the Park,
Beggarwood Community Centre, RG22 4AQ

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.
Dontations welcome.

Advance free ticket only event please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/hwca/t-zzoodxa

This is a fundraising event for Hatch Warren Community Association Charity No 1161117



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

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 Follow Us on Facebook @The Warren and Instagram @thewarrenyouthclub

The Warren is open! Booking is essential!

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

Friday 4 th November	Human Hungry Hippos, Firework art and chocolate covered marshmallows.
Friday 11 th November	Hockey, sand art and hotdogs.
Friday 21 st November	Dodgeball, slime making and milkshakes.
Friday 28 th November	Sumo suits, Mosaic tiles and cake decorating.

What have we been up to in October... all of our sessions have been fully booked and the young people have been having a great time. They have enjoyed henna tattoos, jewellery and keyring making plus a football quiz.

For our well-being sessions this month, we looked at self-care and the young people made plans on how to look after themselves and what to do if they are feeling overwhelmed or stressed. During the session they also made their own stress balls.

The highlight for last month was our Halloween disco!! We got the DJ decks out and the young people enjoyed games and party food. Some truly terrifying costumes! Such fun!

Each session we offer hot food such as pizza, chips and toasties each for a small cost of £1.25. The tuck shop is stocked with sweets, chocolate, crisps and a variety of drinks. Prices range from 50p-£1.25.



The club are continuing to help the young adults look for jobs. Several have been successful with finding jobs, and we wish them the best of luck with finding their feet in the new role. We continue to search for companies who are prepared to give our young people a chance. Sometimes it is all they need as they are really keen to work and are ready to please.

BCOT are supporting the club and are running an evening class called Kitchen Confidence. This will be running throughout the winter and will extend the opportunities the club offers to it's members.

We have started our computer course which is being run at the Café in The Park. The club is also running Money Management session with the addition of till work for those who would like to move into retail.



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!

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.

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





HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We've had a great first half term at Hatch Warren Under Fives – some lovely new friendships have been made and our little ones have had fun getting to know each other.

Our topic this half term has been autumn. We've been making the most of the weather and have spent lots of time outdoors discovering autumn colours, patterns and the changes that we see in the environment as the seasons change. While we've been outdoors, we've been looking out for conkers, pine cones, twigs and leaves, which are all great natural resources to use in preschool at this time of year. We have made lovely autumn pictures in the art area and we have also been looking at animals that hibernate as part of our autumn topic. Lots of children have spoken about hedgehogs, so we have been using the leaves the children have collected as part of an experiment where we use hot water bottles and leaves to demonstrate hibernation.



October is Black History Month, so the children have been celebrating a range of different cultures and have been making African masks, decorating baskets, dancing and playing musical instruments. We have also been encouraging the children to talk about how we are all different. What are our houses like? Who makes up our family? What is my hair and eye colour? What colour skin do I have? We have some lovely new books and resources to share with the children on these subjects. In the role play area we have created a hairdresser and barber shop and the

children have been working on their fine motor skills cutting and designing hair styles (using spaghetti!). We have also been placing a big importance on reading and enjoying books and stories, so we have been placing books in lots of areas around the room which has worked really well with encouraging the children to pick up books more often.

Coming up in our next half term we will be getting creative with clay when we celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, and with bonfire night coming up we'll be using lots of colour to create our own fireworks and will be exploring lots of sounds for firework night too.

You can see weekly updates from Hatch Warren Under Fives on our Facebook page "Hatch Warren under Fives", where you will see lots of photos from our week. We still have a few spaces remaining, to enquire about a preschool place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Pam Jones, Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

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

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

We have been exploring Autumn through sensory experiences the last few weeks. Creating natural art and researching hibernation using our new technology which we were lucky enough to have purchased through a local grant.



We have been reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears and using this to discuss friendships, kindness, and emotions with the little ones. We have been role playing scenarios and identifying how our friends might be feeling as we play together throughout the day. The little ones have

been making fruity pizzas with Rachael after reading The Fruitysaurus story and hedgehog biscuits.

We have been working on some important communication areas such as asking for help and expressing our needs. We carry this out in a variety of ways including modelling and during play with small world toys. We also use visuals and Makaton to suit the little one's needs best. At pre-school we model 'please', 'thank you' and 'may I get down' to the children throughout the day and it is lovely to see them copy us and use these manners when they are ready.

DramaTots lessons have been such fun with the children visiting the circus, dinosaurs, exploring Autumn, Harvest and 'off to work' which has been great for our little ones, helping them understand why Mummy and Daddy go but come back to pick them up from pre-school.

The children have been so creative during the forest sessions, swinging in the hammock, exploring the area, making pinecone creatures and clay faces on the trees. This term's sessions at The Hornbeam Hideout are only a few weeks away! Hope to see you soon!

Lisa Collisson

Pre-School Head

Tel: 01256-389008

Email: cvpadmin@btconnect.com

www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/

DANDELIONS

It is lovely to see the children all settled as they embark on their journey at Dandelions. They have been very inquisitive about the changes in the environment and have been exploring using their senses.

To inspire curiosity the staff have provided a range of learning provocations to promote children's engagement. Our provocations are open-ended and focus on the children's interest.

From making magic potions with water and food coloring with a hint of spice! To getting slimy with the Dinosaurs!



We have been practicing fine motor skills by finding toy bugs with tweezers in our natural resources and mark making.

This week we are celebrating Halloween and have been carving a pumpkin to find out what is inside. We are also celebrating Diwali by creating decorations and sampling some tasty treats.

With ours sponsored Treasure hunt coming up in half term we are looking forward to continuing our focus on Autumn when we return. From the autumnal treasures collected we will be creating our very own Dandelions autumn collage.

Spaces are filling up fast and we are building our waiting lists for the next two years so please do contact us for a registration form if you would like to consider us for your child's early years on 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School. The new term is in full swing and we have enjoyed lots of mirroring activities to help us explore our first theme 'All About Me'. Our second theme this term has seen us travel back in time to discover the exciting world of dinosaurs. Using our little one's craft skills and imaginations, the letter 'D' has come alive after being eagerly decorated with dinosaur stickers

and a roarsome set of spikes! The glitter also made an early appearance to help embellish our very own, carefully crafted, hatching dinosaur eggs.

The children have delighted in using mini hammers to chisel away at blocks of ice to reveal frozen dinosaurs. And have enjoyed their own fruits of labour after rolling up their sleeves to bake and decorate some delicious dinosaur biscuits!

Alongside our prehistoric fun, we were treated to a pirate themed music session by the talented Emma from Caterpillar Music. As the warm weather now closes in, we have been keen to soak up the last of the summer sun and have continued to utilise our outside area and beautiful meadow for explorative play.

Planning a pre-Christmas clear out?

On Friday 11th November, Bags2School will be dropping by to collect your generous donations from the garage next to the Pavilion on the meadow.

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.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

UK Winter Tour 2022

The Haymarket (Anvil Arts), Basingstoke, Hampshire

Wednesday 30th November, 7.30pm



Join the Chapterhouse Theatre Company for their winter tradition of touring one of literatures best-loved and most magical tales of joy and discovery,

amidst the Yuletide period. Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is touring theatres, castles, and cathedrals across the UK. This year, Dickens' tale comes to The Haymarket in Basingstoke on Wednesday 30th November.

On Christmas Eve, the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is whisked away on a journey through the past and into the future, accompanied by three ghosts determined to show him the true meaning of Christmas. But will Scrooge's cold heart thaw in time for Christmas Day?

A Christmas Carol is brought to life as a traditional production, complete with beautiful period costumes, song, dance, and a generous helping of Christmas spirit. The show is the perfect festive treat for all ages as the winter evenings start to draw in.

For tickets visit The Haymarket's website (www.anvilarts.org.uk), and for further details about Chapterhouse's tour visit www.chapterhouse.org.

FORMER MAYOR'S CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS CASH BOOST TO HATCH WARREN JUNIOR SCHOOL AND THE SAFE

Cheques were presented by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councillor, Dan Putty JP from the Basingstoke & Deane Community Endowment Fund, managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF). The fund was established when Cllr Putty served as Mayor of Basingstoke from 2013 to 2014 and it has continued to grow over time, enabling Cllr Putty to award a total of £1,941 this year to benefit community groups in the area.

Cllr Putty said: "I am delighted to be able to award a grant of £200 to Hatch Warren Junior School to enable a tree to be planted in memory of Her Majesty the Queen and the incredible Platinum Jubilee that we enjoyed

celebrating together earlier this year. I am also thrilled to support The Safe with a grant of £841 for the vital work that they do to support local families with young children, in particular in the area of child bereavement. It is so good to see that a small amount of funding will make a big difference in supporting the needs of local people."

HIWCF is a grant making organisation specialising in awarding grants across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. During 2021, 483 grants totalling £1.85 million were awarded to support local charitable and voluntary groups.

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**THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2022
7:00PM**

MAYOR'S SKYDIVE

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr Paul Miller has taken part in a skydive to raise funds for his charity appeal, supporting local charities The Pink Place incorporating The Blue Space and Tough Enough To Care.

The skydive was due to take place last month but had to be postponed due to inclement weather. It was rearranged for Saturday 8 October, which provided clear skies and bright sunshine - the ideal skydiving conditions.

Cllr Miller took the leap from 15,000 feet in the company of three representatives from his chosen charities, all raising money for the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

As a veteran of the Royal Air Force, Cllr Miller is no stranger to flying at altitude but this was the first time he had jumped out of a plane. Talking about the experience he said: "I want to say an enormous thank you to everyone who supported my skydive by donating to my charity appeal and to Daniel from Tough Enough To Care and Hannah and Sarah from The Pink Place and Blue Space who joined me jumping out of the aircraft.

"I was the first to jump out of the plane and the whole experience was exhilarating – the noise, the feeling and the scenery were all breath-taking. The whole of the south coast was visible from the air and I feel very lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country.

"My fundraising page will remain open until the end of my Mayoral year, so if anyone still wishes to donate, they can do so. All donations, however big or small, will make a difference to these two worthy local charities."

The mayor's charity skydive fundraising page can be found on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's website: <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayor-skydive>

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Shrek The Musical - This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.co.uk

MORE LOCAL STORES IN HAMPSHIRE OFFERING SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING

Following the success of its trials, soft plastics can now be recycled in even more co-operative convenience store locations.

Once collected, the recyclable material is sent to a company called Jayplas which will turn it into post-consumer plastic granules. These are then made into secondary products such as bin liners, buckets, and construction industry materials.

Examples of acceptable items for recycling project include: Bread bags, produce bags, ordinary carrier bags, bags that nappies come in, bags from cotton wool, cereal box liners, bags from frozen foods, lids on yogurts, cream and desserts, lids from packs of meat and ready meals, wrapping around chicken, fruit and veg flow wrap, chocolate wrappers, biscuit/cake wrappers, bags from dried fruit, sugar, pulses, rice and pasta, protective wrappers from gift wrap, wrappers from pet food, wrappers from pies, pasties and sausage rolls, bagged sweets, pizza wrappers, bags from porridge and muesli pouches, and packaging from baby wipes and similar.

Stores in Basingstoke with soft plastic recycling bins include Kings Road and Wallingford Road, Beggarwood's Broadmere Road.

To view Southern Co-op's commitment to climate change and responsible business strategy, visit <https://southern.coop/how-we-do-it/sustainability>.

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



The October monthly meeting was held on the 5th of the month as usual in Brookvale Village Hall. At the meeting the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed the members present and proceeded to wish Happy Birthday to the persons with birthdays in October. The Chairman also reminded members of the trips planned for the rest of the year.

The November trip to Bordon has been changed to Rosebourne Garden Centre, Weyhill where we will be able to buy lunch as well as visit the Garden Centre for pre-Christmas shopping. This is on the 17th of November. The cost of the trip is £14 and £16 for non-members. For December the trip is the Christmas lunch at BCOT on the 15th the cost of which is £30. If anyone wishes to come on either of these trips please let us know. Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, also updated members on the progress of members currently in hospital or unwell.



Our talk this month was by Alan Jones and titled 'Body Language'. In this interesting talk he explained how humans have the inborn skill to read other humans' body language without even being aware that they are doing this. We do this without words

within 7 seconds, and 76% of the time, we are accurate. We do this instinctively and sub-consciously with women being better at it than men. The hands and face are the first to be noticed when we meet others although not all gestures are universal so some caution is required in foreign countries as some gestures can have completely different meanings to those intended.



The next meeting is on 2nd November with a presentation from Mercy Ships about Medical Care to the Under Served. On 7th December there is the usual Christmas Buffet with a talk from Paul Whittle about his train journey to the Arctic Circle.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Brookvale Village Hall from 10am 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.

Margaret Atkinson

Your local parish church in Hatch Warren & Beggarwood



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

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

Everyone very welcome

Immanuel Church

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Churchwardens Tel: 01256 351862

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

••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• How do you manage the changing seasons? Some may love the evenings drawing in as it signals woolly jumpers and hot chocolate while others struggle with the cold and the dark.

• Autumn may be an exciting time of bright reds and oranges, but it's soon followed by grey skies and bare trees. For some loneliness can be big problem at this time of year.

• Perhaps the changing season means a change of routine, for some it means an inability to go out and about. When managing change, it's important to hold onto normalcy; perhaps keep your morning coffee or your evening shower at the same time even if other things must change. Feeling anxious or sad around changes is normal, but adding guilt or shame is counterproductive. Practicing self-compassion and try to let those feelings go. Asking for support when needed shows strength and self-awareness.

• Humans are social creatures; we need social interaction. From the beginning of the bible, there's creation of 2 humans "so that one would not be alone" (Genesis 2:18).

• The pandemic has asked us to deal with things in different ways; we've managed bereavement and life events in isolation. While things may be "back to normal" for most, people are continuing to feel the after-effects of managing these events alone. Some people will be more vulnerable to loneliness, for example: being estranged from family, having few friends, being excluded from social events due to disability, poverty or discrimination due to other characteristics.

• Loneliness can lead to serious mental and physical illness-health. People may start experiencing low mood, anxiety, loss of enjoyment and problems with appetite and sleep. Cardiovascular health is impacted with an increase in risk of stroke and heart attack.

• As a Christian I know I'm never alone. I know Jesus is walking the difficult paths with me. Praying, for me, is an important way of strengthening my relationships with God—He is someone I can talk to about anything.

• But what does prayer actually do? For me, it isn't about wish-fulfilment, it's about talking things over with God. In prayer, it's important to listen, as well as talk. God has never spoken to me in a big booming voice, but I hear him talking through friends or in subtle ways (a news article or in a change of perspective). Being a Christian isn't about sitting back and expecting God to perform miracles, it's about being his disciple.

• I've gone through many dark, lonely times, sometimes it's felt as though God is distant from me, but I've continued praying and been reminded in bible passages that I'm never alone. Psalm 147 vs 3 tells us "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds".

• If the changing seasons are a concern for you or someone you know, if there's a risk of isolation this winter, whether due to the colder/darker weather, due to underlying vulnerabilities or the experiences of the past couple of years, there's something we can all do. We can look out for each other, be a community. Sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest difference, a smile, a cuppa or a word of encouragement could change someone's day.

• **Frances Coleman-Williams**

• Congregation Member at The Parish of Basingstoke Down



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HATCH WARREN WI

Our speaker last month was Simon Morgan with his talk entitled "My life of Music, Travel and Adventure in the Royal Marines" which was entertaining, educational and amusing, as he talked us through his life as one of the bandsmen. His musical life started when he joined the Westminster Choir School as a chorister at the age of 7 and continued into his working career when he decided to join the Royal Marines, where he served for 25 years.

As you'd expect, a Royal Marines Bandsman plays a lot of band music; Simon played outside Buckingham Palace at the Queen's Silver Jubilee. He also helped step in as Fire Crew aboard a 'Green Goddess' during the Fire Brigade strikes in the 1970s. We learned that when the drum major twirls his baton around he's actually leading the marching band, directing the music and keeping time.

Our next meeting at Hatch Warren Community Centre is on Thursday 3rd November at 7.30pm when we will welcome the Greywell Bellringers. If you are interested in joining us for the evening please contact our president Shirley on 07979 217220.

AUTUMN THOUGHTS AND CHRISTMAS NEWS!

It beggars belief how quickly half-term arrived and I briefly slow some of our activities for the holidays. Then I look at everything we've been working on (see our WE For HWB newsletter sign up below if you want details) and it's no surprise it all goes fast!

I'm privileged that I have chance to spend holiday time with my sons when a lot of families struggle to cover childcare while they work. Fully funded childcare is a staple part of the Women's Equality Party manifesto, which would free families to make the best financial choices for them. At a time when the country is facing a catastrophic economic crisis, looking ahead to food and heating becoming unaffordable this winter, and its leaders seem more interested in tax cuts for their business friends, these policies and campaigns are more important than ever.

I'm reminded why many of us choose to be involved in WE; to seize the opportunity to do things differently, and collaboratively, in the face of the same old soundbites from elsewhere. It's about our big goals like equal pay and ending violence against women, for sure. But it's also that the school holidays shouldn't be a time of dread. Having your kids home without worrying about where they'll go or how you'll feed them shouldn't be a position of privilege, and it's disgraceful that we've reached – by political choice - a stage where it is. I think about my two lovely, challenging, madcap, Pokemon-obsessed scallywags, and want to fight for a country that prioritises feeding their peers.

In the meantime, WE want to do whatever we can to help. So, I'm delighted to announce that, alongside HWBCA, the Women's Equality Party Basingstoke are offering a low-cost dinner at Beggarwood Café on Christmas Day, especially targeted at isolated and/or low-income people. There will be food, drink, entertainment and a small present for each child, tickets are on sale and more info available at hatchwarren.org. My heartfelt thanks go to Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association for supporting with the space, Sainsbury's for subsidising food costs to keep tickets as accessibly priced as possible, and Jenny Crawford. Tickets are very limited so book soon if you would like some company and a low-cost dinner on Christmas Day!

Our Hatch Warren and Beggarwood newsletter is at the QR code below or at womensequality.org.uk/Basingstoke, or reach out on basingstoke@womensequality.org.uk with questions about Christmas, but do it soon as they'll go quickly!

HWB Newsletter QR Code:

Stacy Hart

Women's Equality Party Basingstoke Leader



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THE GANG ARE BACK WITH AWARD WINNING BEST-SELLING VARIETY SHOW!

Basingstoke Gang Show returns to The Haymarket for its 28th stunning variety show extravaganza!

With a production of classic to contemporary performances brought alive by over 65 people in this highly entertaining show, the audience can expect to be delighted by magnificent music & LOL comedy.

Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the best-selling and longest running 'family variety show' in our region and showcases an extremely talented cast. The 11 performances, many over February half term week, will entertain audiences as you laugh out loud, tap your toes and sing along to the songs that you love.

Awarded best compilation show by NODA National Operatic and Dramatic Association for our 2020 show. This is an amateur



production not to be missed, as it showcases the very best of local talent in the Scout & Guide associations.

Interested? Book your tickets early for your family and friends to experience this feel-good family show at The Haymarket.

Dates are Thursday 9th to Saturday 18th February 2023, excluding Sunday 12th. Matinee performances are also on Saturday 11th and 18th February.

Ticket prices: Adults £22.00, Children £15.00. Last night (Saturday 18th) all seats £24.

Early Booking Discount (book by 21st December 2022) to save £2.00 off each ticket by quoting code 'BGS23' for performances on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February only.

Group Booking Discount buy 10 or more tickets and get £1 off each ticket if booked by 15th January 2023. One discount only, per booking.



BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY – HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Messiah is one of the most popular works in the choral repertoire. Basingstoke Choral Society will begin the Christmas festivities this year with a fabulous performance at The Anvil on Sunday 27th November.

Come along and listen to favourites such as the *Hallelujah Chorus* and *For Unto Us a Child is Born*, accompanied by a baroque orchestra and outstanding soloists.

Tickets begin at £15, only £7 for under 16s and students, from the Anvil box office.

We're a friendly choir and are always delighted to receive new members, so please come along to our rehearsals on Wednesday nights at The Vyne School. Check out our website www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk or follow our Facebook page.

FOCUS ON THE FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM

"Museums are not static but dynamic": thus wrote George Willis, (1877-1970) Basingstoke shopkeeper, antiquarian and local historian, one time mayor, first Freeman of the Borough, and, in 1931, the founder of the Borough Museum that evolved into the justly named Willis Museum, now run by Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) and called the Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery. Visit the Museum's website and you will clearly see that it lives up to Mr Willis's wise dictum in no uncertain fashion.

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery

With high profile touring exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery, frequently changing exhibitions by local people and groups in the *Basingstoke Community Gallery* – this could be you or your group – and its programmes of talks, workshops, and family activities, you can go there many times a year for a new experience every time. Oh, and enjoy a great morning coffee, or afternoon cup of tea and slice of cake.

No surprise, then, that the Willis has a dynamic Friends' Association, founded in 1978 to "promote, support and improve the Willis Museum." Members enjoy ten free evening lectures a year, mostly about local history, a guided summer visit, newsletters, discounts in the museum café and shop, and, importantly, an opportunity to volunteer their services in interesting ways – all of this for £12 per year. As a fund-raising body it recently handed HCT a substantial sum towards a forthcoming re-display of the *Story of Basingstoke Gallery*, the area dedicated to the history of the town.

To find out more about the Friends call in and pick up a brochure or visit: www.friendsofthewillis.org.uk



July 2021: a party of Friends enjoying an expertly guided tour of the Holy Ghost Ruins and Cemetery

Is your child starting in Year R in September 2023?

Come and join a tour to see and hear all about St Mark's!

Book a tour here:

www.stmarksprimary.net/join

Tuesday 8th November 1:45pm
Wednesday 9th November 7pm
Monday 14th November 9:15am
Thursday 17th November 9:15am
Thursday 24th November 1:45pm
Monday 28th November 9:15am
Thursday 5th January 9:15am



RESTAURANT REVIEW

THE MAIDENHEAD INN

17 Winchester Street, RG21 7ED 01256 316030

The Top of Town in Basingstoke has many eating and drinking establishments and one of the oldest sites is the Maidenhead Inn on Winchester Street. Older residents may well remember the building as a bank but for many centuries it had been an inn and today it is a Wetherspoons dining pub.

A fine dining experience this is not, and some may describe it as spit and sawdust, but for value for money I doubt it can be beaten. The menu is extensive starting with breakfast at 8.00 am through to late dining as it closes at midnight except for Friday and Saturday when it is 1.00 am. Children are allowed until 8.30 pm.

One of the tempters is the price of a pint is only £1 if ordered at the same time as a meal. This means that a drink and main course is only around £9. If there is a problem in choosing what to eat it is that on two occasions on an early Tuesday evening, which is publicised as Steak Night that none were available. It raises a question as to why they still put out the special steak menus.

A bit disappointing but there were plenty of alternatives and curries were speedily forthcoming. It does make one wonder that if a visit was made on a Thursday evening when it is their special curry night, that they may have none available but a steak could be an alternative choice.

Whatever your views on such establishments there is no doubt that their modus operandi is a popular choice as a recent survey showed that in a six-month period over 20 million people were customers. I have no doubt that many were from Basingstoke.



Basingstoke Concert Band
 present their
Annual Christmas Concert
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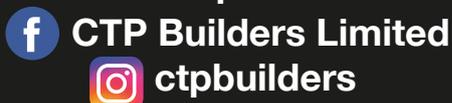
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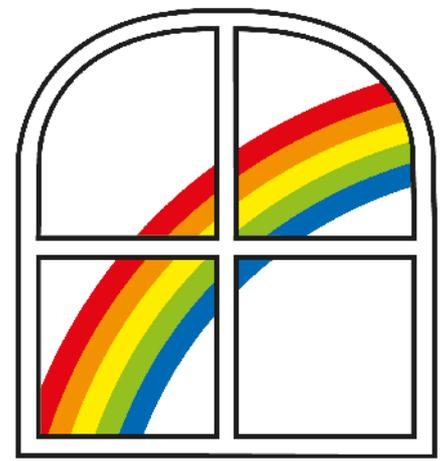
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