Rabbiter

Issue 263 July/August 2019

All the regular features plus

- BIN COLLECTION CHANGES
- LIVING IN THE CROFTS
- SUMMER FESTIVAL

and much more

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EDITORIAL

'Here comes summer, school is out , oh happy day!' is the beginning of a hit song from the 1960s – and as the sun comes out from behind the clouds I find myself singing this! Summer is a time to get out and enjoy all the wonderful events and local countryside. The Summer Festival on 13 July at the Hatch Warren Community Centre is definitely an event not to be missed – see page 18 for more details. There is outdoor theatre at Dummer Down Farm on 5 July – The Wind in the Willows is a favourite with all the family so take a picnic and enjoy the performance – see page 15.

The use of plastic and its impact on the environment is a key issue for our society. Sainsbury's are working hard to reduce their use of plastic in packaging – see page 20 for more information. What are you doing to reduce plastic in your life? Let us have your ideas and we will publish tried and tested ideas in our September issue.

The Rabbiter is pleased to welcome the Rev. Mary Barker to Immanuel Church. The Rabbiter are looking forward to meeting her. A big thank you to Pauline Pitcher for holding the fort with Spiritually Speaking during the interregnum.

Many of us are creatures of habit – we have been putting our bins out every Monday for more years than I can remember but this could change very soon. There has been a review of our refuse collection and is possible that collection days will be changing in July – see page 6 for more information. The revised schedule will be available on the Council website from I July.

The diggers are out on the island site next to the traffic lights by the Beggarwood turn – see the Councillors Update on page 5 for more information.

Do you enjoy reading? Beggarwood Bookworms meet every month at the Café in the Park – the book for July meeting is Life After Life by Kate Atkinson and August is Degrees of Guilt by H S Chandler. Come along at 7.30 on the fourth Wednesday of the month for a glass of wine, cup of coffee and maybe a homemade cake and let everyone know what you think about the books. Haven't read the book yet? Come along anyway and meet everyone.

The Rabbiter has always aimed to help build a community across Hatch Warren and Beggarwood – encouraging people to make friends and enjoy local activities. This spirit is strong in The Crofts and we enjoyed reading about their activities. Does your road have an organised event?

The Rabbiter takes a holiday in August so the next edition to drop through your letterbox will be at the beginning of September: Enjoy the summer:

The Editor

P.S. Don't forget the Community Lunch at the Café in the Park on the first Wednesday of each month. There will be special items on the August menu for kids so bring them along for lunch!

We need helpers to distribute the Rabbiter. This takes about half an hour a month. Sadly we can't offer any financial reward save the satisfaction of helping our community. The following rounds need a deliverer:



I. Camford Close



- Heating installations
- Boiler changes/upgrades
- Servicing
- LPG Gas installation/service



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Breakdowns

Power flushing

• Water softeners

• Landlord Safety Checks

Keep an eye out for the web symbol – you can find out more on these articles and possibly others articles we unfortunately had no space to feature at: www.therabbiter.biz

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SOUTH HAM LIBRARY?

In Hampshire library service summer brings one of our busiest times of the year with the Summer Reading Challenge promoted by the Reading Agency. This year children from 4-11 will be encouraged to go on a SPACE CHASE from 13th July to 14th September. They will be helping the Rocket family find all the books missing from the Moon Library and commemorating 50 years since the Moon landing. To do this they will need to read 6 books during the school holiday, and they will be rewarded with Stickers, a certificate and medal. Staff from the local libraries will be visiting all the local schools with more information so look out for an invitation in your children's school bag. We would love volunteers to help us with this so please contact the library if you would like to help.

It is **Craft Club** on Saturday 6th July, drop in between 10am-Noon to make a Flying Saucer. This will be repeated on 13th July. During the Summer Holidays we will also have a SPACE CHASE Treasure Hunt, come and join in the fun and find the Aliens hiding in the library. We will also have an Out of this World collage for you to add planets and stars to decorate the Children's area of the library.

Story time in July continues to be held at 10:30 am on TUESDAYS. Come and join us for stories and themed colouring.

The Construction Club continues after school on Tuesdays, with the opportunity to play with Lego and Duplo from 3:30pm-4:45pm; this will continue during the holidays too.

The **Chatterbooks** reading group for primary aged children will be held on Friday, 19th July at 4pm for an end of year celebration and will join with ourT.R.A.S.H. group (Teen Reading At South Ham).

Rhymetime continues every Friday with fun rhymes and songs at I I am for babies and toddlers

Age Concern continue to provide computer instruction for the over 50s on Tuesdays from 10:00am-1:00pm; appointments need to be booked through the local office.



May Meeting

Our book choice for May was 'Normal People' by Sally Rooney. This book has won several awards including Costa Best New Novel of

2018, British Book and Novel of the Year, and was long listed for the Man Booker Prize. It has been hailed as a future classic.

It tells of the intense relationship between Connell and Marianne both growing up in a small town in rural Ireland but coming from very different backgrounds.

This book choice promoted much discussion with some Bookworms loving it for its intense and dark study of a teenage relationship and some disliking it because it lacked an interesting plot and became boring and repetitive. It was also written in a style which lacked punctuation and some Bookwormers found this very annoying. As a result this book was scored only 4 out of 1 0 and takes the bottom slot on our scoreboard.

The book chosen for next month is a non- fiction choice 'A History of Britain in 21 Women' by Jenni Murray. If you enjoy reading why not come along and join in with our lively discussions over wine, coffee and cake! We meet monthly at the Cafe in the Park and you will be very welcome.

COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

ISLAND SITE

The planning application for the Mcarthy and Stone development of older people's accommodation has been received and is online on the BDBC planning pages. If anyone would like to know more or would like to make a comment the link is: https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PRV1GPCR FIV00&activeTab=summary

BIN CHANGES

The council with their suppliers Serco are planning round changes to the bin collections. Depending on where you live, this may involve a change of day. The new rounds are proposed to being w/c 22nd July, but everyone should have received a notification by the second week of July explaining any changes. There are more general details on the BDBC website as follows: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/binchanges

BEGGARWOOD SURGERY

Once again, at time of writing there is still no update as to the future of Beggarwood surgery from the Clinical Commissioning Group. The partner practice at Rooksdown has been confirmed as having a local practice to take over once the contract with Cedar Medical ends in September, but no practice is confirmed yet for Beggarwood. This raises real concerns for local people who still don't know whether they will have to move surgeries in a coupleof months. With all the potential development planned for this side of town, it is imperative that infrastructure such as local medical services is guaranteed. This was a promise of the administration when the new local plan was confirmed - that there would be no development without the necessary infrastructure, and the council will be failing in its duty if this promise is not kept.

LONGACRE DEVELOPMENT

New residents are reporting a number of issues with the development. If you are affected by this you can contact one of your local councillors: Cllr Diane Taylor, Cllr Hannah Golding, Cllr Stuart Frost or the Dummer Parish Council chairman.

GOLF COURSE:

Last month the council's EPH committee considered the draft Supplementary Planning Document for the proposed development of the Golf Course. I raised a number of concerns including the siting of the travel pitch, the current precarious position of the Beggarwood surgery and green infrastructure including the loss of many veteran and precious trees. The council's planning officers will continue to develop the document and it will then go out to public consultation before going back to full council in October.

Cllr Terri Ried

WHAT'S ON – JULY

Do you have an event locally that you would like to tell people about. The Rabbiter reaches over 4000 homes locally so is the perfect way to publicise your event. Just email details to editor@therabbiter.biz

Copy date is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Community Lunch at Beggarwood					
Community Centre					
Wind in the Willows, 6.30pm					
Dummer Down Farm (see page 15)					
Car Boot Sale, St Mark's CE Primarty School					
10am-12pm (see page 17)					
Deep Blue Friendship at Hobbycraft Basingstoke					
- crafting with Katie from Deep Blue Crafting					
Summer Festival 12-4pm					
Hatch Warren Community Playing Fields					
(see page 18 for full event listing)					
Classics in Concert, Sherfield-on-Loddon					
Village Hall Garden. (see page 7)					
Future Events					
Top Gun, 7pm Dummer Down Farm					

177 102030	
	(see page 15)
29 September	Hatch Warren Runners Farleigh Wallop 10k Trail
	Run http://farleighwallop10k.co.uk/ (see page 12)

Hampshire Farmers Markets

Alton – 2nd Saturday of the month Winchester – 2nd and last Sunday of the month

REGULAR EVENTS

Hatch Warren W.I., 1st Thursday each month 8.00pm Community Centre (contact Jane Kerry 01256 810255)

Basingstoke Knit and Natter, Every Monday 6.30 – 9pm, Waitrose Café, All knitters, crocheters and spinners welcome

The Warren Youth Club, Friday evenings at the Warren attached to the Community Centre

Aldworth Badminton Club,

Thursday evenings 7.00 – 8.30pm Aldworth Science College **Cliddesden W.I.**, Cliddesen Village Hall, 7.30pm, third Thursday every month (contact Pat Rampton 01256 461034)

Old Down & Beggarwood Wildlife Group, Meet everyThursday 10-12noon, Old Down Hall. For Beggarwood – usually 3rd Saturday of each month at the Maze www.olddownandbeggarwood.org.uk email: odandbwd@gmail.com

Hatch Warren Nature Group,

contact Paul Beevers, hatch.nature@gmail.com

Cliddesden, Ellisfield and Farleigh Wallop Horticultural Society, contact Mrs M Smith (01256 462584) for details

Laughter House, www.laughterhousecomedy.club Hatch Warren Runners, meet Monday and Wednesday at 7.15, Portsmouth Arms and at the Co-op Beggarwood. www.hwrunners.co.uk

CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S BIN COLLECTIONS

Rubbish, recycling and garden waste collections in Basingstoke and Deane are set to change as part of a move to improve bin collection routes to make them more efficient and environmentally friendly.

Working with Serco, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is changing waste, recycling and garden waste collections to reduce the distances bin trucks are travelling, revise the routes to incorporate new homes in the area and simplify collections for some residents so their glass and recycling is collected on the same day.

The changes will be introduced from Monday 22 July and will mean that over half of Basingstoke and Deane's homes will see a change to the day or week their waste and recycling is collected. Nearly all of the garden waste customers across the borough will be affected. Those residents remaining on the same collection day may have a change to their collection time, therefore bins need to be put out by 7am. The waste bins will continue to be collected weekly and recycling and glass collections will remain a fortnightly service. Those people signed up to the garden waste service will continue to have their bins and bags collected every two weeks.

The council will send a leaflet to all Basingstoke and Deane residents in early July to advise of any changes to their existing waste and recycling service. Garden waste customers will receive a separate leaflet.

Information on the new collections will also be available on the council's website www. basingstoke.gov.uk/bin-changes from Monday I July. Updates will also be provided on its social media channels.

The borough council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "Working with our contractor Serco we have been looking at how we can improve the efficiency of the bin collection routes, simplify collections for some of our residents and ensure we are prepared for new homes in the borough. "By revising the routes our bin trucks currently take and changing the days or weeks some residents receive their collections, we can achieve all of these benefits while also retaining a weekly waste and fortnightly recycling collection." Cllr Eachus added: "I appreciate these changes may be confusing at first as we are all in the habit of putting our bins out on a certain day, but we will do everything we can to minimise the impact of these changes and keep residents informed."

Serco's Transformation Director Duncan Hadland said: "These changes will also ensure that the workload is more equally spread across all of the crews, who have been fully involved in the process. Their local knowledge has been invaluable with the fine-tuning of the rounds and I would like to thank them for all of their help and support."

For more information about bin changes in Basingstoke and Deane please visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bin-changes



RESTAURANT REVIEW

ROSEBOURNE, BASINGSTOKE ROAD, ALDERMASTON RG7 4LD www.rosebourne.co.uk

Something different this month. And a bit further afield. But well worth the trip.

For years a piece of land lay dormant just the other side of Aldermaston village centre until the Rosebourne garden centre was opened at the beginning of autumn last year. And like most large garden centres it houses a restaurant – and this is definitely not a café.

With a seating capacity of 200 this is not the typical place for a snack whilst looking at plants for the garden, or using the extensive food hall or buying a gift from the large selection of house wares available. No, this is on a different level altogether:

With wines, spirits and beers available the hot drinks selection is wide ranging too from all the current coffee trends to speciality teas and juices. Cooked breakfasts or light versions are available until 11.00am followed by light or full lunches until 4.00pm but for those who really only need a snack then what are described as treats are served all day. I can only describe a small percentage of the extensive menu selection but there is more than enough for the most discerning diner including full afternoon tea if required. We decided to stay with the special lunch options on offer. Madam chose the chicken wrap which was the largest she had seen. Cut diagonally in half it came on a wooden platter with a bowl of chips, homemade coleslaw and a salad. I had scampi, chips, salad and a dish of lime and lemon mayonnaise. A pot of Earl Grey tea for madam and I had a diet coke. For once madam was beaten and had to leave a substantial portion of the second part of the wrap. She was offered the option of taking it home in a box, but declined. And there was no need to eat anything in the evening, either.

Modern technology and attention to detail is evident in that our orders were taken using a smart phone and when it came to pay the same waitress had a mini printer and card reader around her waist. And the price? Only £23.90. We felt that this was great value and will definitely be back.



HOWARD PARK BOWLS CLUB

On Saturday 11 May Howard Park BC welcomed Disability Bowls England and the British Wheelchair Bowls Association for a social game of bowls. The two Associations came together from around the South of England to form a team. Their players experience a range of disabilities, such as Rose who is partially sighted, Stewart suffered a stroke some time ago, Keith communicated through sign language and Christine bowled from her own special bowls wheelchair. A facility we are able to provide at Howard Park.

However, these situations proved no barrier to our guests with everyone enjoying a competitive but friendly game of bowls. Both Disability Bowls Association and British Wheelchair Bowls Association were delighted to be involved in the event, as was Howard Park Bowls Club to stage the game and we are looking forward to a return match next year. The message for the day was certainly that disabilities can be overcome if the desire is strong enough and the game of bowls certainly provides an excellent opportunity for everyone to compete and enjoy themselves on an equal footing.

On Sunday 2 June in round one of the Bowls Hampshire Mixed Top Club competition Howard Park were successful when we came up against Aldershot Underwood winning 3 games to 2. In the next round on 19 June will be playing Alton Social.

Our membership continues to grow and for anyone who is interested in trying bowls then please telephone Alan Tait 01256 329493 or mob. 0739 2064252 who will be happy to show you around our facilities.

Drop in sessions every Monday 2.00pm – 4.00pm. and Tuesday 6.00pm – 8.00pm. www.howardparkbowls.co.uk

Letter... to the editor BIKES AND PAVEMENTS

On the May 25th I was walking back to my house after spending the afternoon with my daughter and grandchildren when I had an unexpected "accident". I got to the roundabout by St Marks School and was about to walk up Danebury Road when I met an individual on a bike coming in the opposite direction on the pavement (at speed). This resulted in me having to go to A&E for 4 hours for a check up, followed by a visit to Frimley the following day for 5 stitches to my head. The individual was apologetic but he shouldn't have been on the pavement in the first place. Yesterday I walked in the opposite direction and was in a near collision with another bike on the pavement. The pavement is for walking it's not a cycle path.

A variety of classics including Carmina Burana, Flower Duet from Lakme, Slaves Chorus (Nabucco) and Offenbach's Barcarolle. Come and enjoy an open air concert with **Basingstoke Concert**

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Legal Eye

5 Initial Steps to Get a Divorce

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I. Be Certain

Are you acting in haste to a recent argument or is this a decision you have **4. Consider your Children** carefully considered? You might find it useful to confide in a friend or family member.

2. Find Your Marriage Certificate

You will require your original marriage certificate to obtain a divorce. If you have misplaced it then don't panic, you can order a replacement via the .Gov website.

can be complex, but here is a brief Make a list of your assets, liabilities summary of the first 5 steps to take if and incomes – include things like your property value, cars, foreign assets, investments, credit card debts, loans, savings accounts, salaries and pensions.

If you have young dependents, be mindful of how they may be affected by divorce. Consider how you foresee contact arrangements working.

5. Appoint a Solicitor

It is best to get professional advice as soon as possible. This will help you understand the process, your options and give you an idea on costs and timescales involved. You will no doubt

feel anxious about your first meeting with a solicitor, but keep in mind that divorce lawyers see people every week and are able to give the professional support that is required.

If you would like further information on the first steps towards divorce or separation please do not hesitate to get in touch with our friendly Family Law Team. Call us on 01256 305596 or email enquiries@lambbrooks.com



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LIVING IN THE CROFTS

The original residents of The Crofts moved in during 1994, so this year its 75 households are celebrating 25 years together. Of course there have been comings and goings during that period, but a significant number of current residents have lived there throughout that time.

Right from the start there has been a Crofts Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch (CRA) that has organised annual events for their neighbour and provided advice and information on home security, helping to bind the community together. Many residents have been committee members of the CRA for a period during that time.

The Crofts is blessed with a large green that is particularly enjoyed by the children as a play area throughout the year. However, on one day in the year they are joined by many of the residents for a barbeque and games. In addition to traditional sprints, sack races and three-legged races for adults and children, there is a bouncy castle for the young ones, face painting, tug-of-war contests (including a fiercely contested one between the residents of the odd and even numbered houses) and, to finish it off, an eggthrowing contest (always a messy affair!).

In addition to the summer Fun Day, the CRA also organises an Easter Egg Hunt for the youngsters and a Christmas event where carols are sung, and children receive presents from Father Christmas. The feeling of togetherness that exists throughout The Crofts is also typified by the readiness of residents to get together to clear snow...usually followed by a visit to The Portsmouth Arms.

One resident sums up what living in The Crofts means to her: 'Where have 25 years gone to! My husband and I were the first people to occupy in the Odds on 17 June 1994. It was all very exciting, followed a few weeks later with a celebration on our silver anniversary. It's been a very happy place to live in with very kind and caring neighbours, many still from 25 years. Our CRA works very hard and we look forward to the 25th Summer Fun Day.'

HATCH WARREN WI

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR came to Hatch Warren W.I. on June 6th. The hall was decorated with bunting and stalls for guest and members to try their luck at. Our guest Madam Wong 'Chinese Fortune Teller' went down well. We welcomed Gina Ireland our County Chairman and guests from other W.I.s in our group. There was a very impressive circus backdrop with stripped cloth with cakes, popcorn and sweets to eat with flashing lights and all the fun of the Fair, we also enjoyed hot dogs. A prize was given for the most outrageous Fair hat. A very fun evening was had by all who came.



Our trip to Oxford was also a huge success with eight members enjoying the sights of Oxford. Some walked while others took the open top bus and we all met up for lunch, and then visited the Botanic Garden, it was agreed that we need another trip to see all that Oxford has to give.

Next month members will be joining Holybourne Honey's. who we are twinned with for a sixties night at their W.I. Our quiz team did very well and a fun evening was had by all who attended. There will be a walk in the New Forest for members to attend and bring their dogs if they so wish.

W.I. National AGM was held in Bournemouth and both the resolutions were passed and now the W.I. will pressure for the rural bus and don't fear the smear campaign.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month and our next meeting will be July 4th when we will welcome Brian Graham 'A practical demonstration of Candle Making' for more information please contact our President Lynnette on 07824 535868. We look forward to meeting all you Ladies of Hatch Warren.







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-	Soak off (free if having another	full set))	8.00		
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	Eyebrow shape and tint			14.00	100	
	Eyebrow and lash tint			16.00	100	
	Eyebrow and lash tint and eyeb	row shap	pe	24.00		
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1.00	Eyebrow	8.00	Lip	6.50	_	
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6.3	Full leg	22.00	2	12.00	100	
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PROBUS HEARS ABOUT A GRANDMOTHER'S LEGACY

Jenny Mallin, who gave a talk to the Probus Club of Basingstoke, is rightly proud of her five generations of women of British ancestry in India from the days of the Empire to the present day. Although based on her great great great grandmother's hand written recipes she has written and published a charming book which is not just a collection of cookery expertise but it encompasses the life and times of Anglo-Indians during the prime days of the Raj spanning the 19th and 20th centuries.

Army service took the first generation from Mirfield in Yorkshire to India in the late



HATCH WARREN RUNNERS



Entries to the HWR Farleigh Wallop 10K Trail Race are...OPEN!

Our race is BACK on Sunday 29th September 2019. Organised and hosted by HWR this is a fantastic 10K trail course around Basingstoke's beautiful countryside. ALL our race profits go to local charitable causes. We have an award winning medal, HWR marshals to be your personal cheer squad at every turn, new prizes for 'King and Queen of the Hill' and delicious homemade cakes to refuel you post-race.

Places are selling out FAST, so enter quickly to avoid disappointment at http:// farleighwallop10k.co.uk/

The month of May = Hatchie homage to the 5K!

Couch to 5K

The club's Couch to 5K (C25K) began on the first May bank holiday weekend. Over 20 running newbies started our eight week course. Attendance and commitment from participants and Hatchie volunteers has been phenomenal. Our C25K class of spring/ summer 2019 graduates on 29th June and we will have HWR celebrations,



1700s and she has established a family tree to the present day. During this time each generation of women added to the original cookbook which formed the basis of her talk. She covers the railways which grew from 25,000 miles to over 41,000 miles with one grandfather a train driver. Another was a teacher who with the Maharaja of Mysore founded a school that today is the Mysore University, another antecedent became Postmaster General and yet another was the governess to sixteen years old Benazir Bhutto, who became prime minister of Pakistan on two occasions.

She talked about her parents marrying in the Andaman islands, the Indian expedition to Mesopotamia during World War I, the Victorian style of dressing in the 19th century, Eventide homes in Bangalore, Poonas's military station, of hunting trips and the 1,000 miles walk back from Burma during World War 2. The Imperial Civil Service had 1000 people administering a

lots of cake and a warm welcome into the club. A message for our Hatchie Couchies - the club are very proud of each and every one of you!

Festival Place 5K

On Sunday 12th May Hatchies descended in their droves to Festival Place to compete in the Croudace 5K race. It's not often there is a race right on our doorstep so we all take full advantage of it. There were so many personal best (PB) times it would be impossible to mention them all. The atmosphere was electric and each and every Hatchie did the club proud.

St Michael's Hospice 5K (and 10K)

Each year, HWR make a concerted effort to marshal and support the St Michael's Hospice run. It's a charity and provision very close to the club's heart. Thank you to Hatchies Laura Williams and Nicola Lawrence who played such a big part in organising the event and raising money for such an amazing place. The event is anticipated to raise £26,000 once all sponsorship money has been collated.





country of over 300 million inhabitants and many bungalows were built to house



the travelling administrators. Jenny Mallin has every reason to call her book a memoir instead of a cook book, though fans of cooking will find it a treasure trove.

A practical chef she has been a tutor at many prestigious culinary centres including in our area the Newlyn's Farm Cookery School near Odiham and at Lainston House hotel near Winchester.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke, the social club for retired professional and business managers, see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone their secretary Paul Flint on 07770 886521 for an informal chat.

Liverpool Rock and Roll 5K

This deserves a mention for the costumes alone! We represented with Hatchies running as the Village People



and ABBA. Some outfits looked more comfortable to run in than others...

Celebrating the random run

There are so many races each and every weekend. It's spring and the best time of year to get your race on! So for May, we are celebrating the lesser known.

Denis Cunningham undertook The South Downs Way Devil's Challenge (97 miles over three days); Jeff Mitchell, Alex Lee and Elliott Holt smashed The Thames Path 100 miler; Fiona Bone completed the White Star Running Ox Trail Half Marathon; Neal Coleman ran the Marlborough 20 mile off-road race and Rob Kershaw and Pete Vincent took on the Emsworth Relay. Internationally Hatchie Sam Hidson ran the Beijing Half Marathon and Paul Forder ran the Geneva Marathon.

We're an all-inclusive club who simply love running and all the benefits it brings. For more information, please visit www. hwrunners.co.uk, our Facebook page or email enquiries@hwrunners.co.uk.







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STRESSFUL SUMMERS CAN DRIVE DIVORCE



Hayley Eachus

Divorce can come about at any time but often we see a slight spike in enquiries after the summer holidays.

While most couples and families will enjoy the summer break, sadly for some the break often means just that – it is time to end a marriage and go separate ways.

Indeed spending a great deal of time together when a marriage is on rocky ground can often be the final straw.

Existing cracks in a relationship can be emphasised when juggling work and childcare over the course of the school summer holidays, along with the added financial pressures.

Divorce may already be on the cards, but the parents are unwilling to start proceedings until the children are back at school, when couples take stock as to whether the marriage is worth preserving.

It is important that anyone considering divorce or separation should receive the right legal advice

as early as possible from an experienced Family Law solicitor.

At Phillips, our Family Law team are on hand to give advice that you can trust, particularly when it comes to your children, home and sorting out your finances.

We will listen to your concerns and discuss your options, letting you know what your rights are, as well as those of your former partner.

Our objective is to help you as quickly and effectively as possible with the best outcomes for you and your family.

Whatever the issues you face we can help you and your family find a way forward.

To find out more about our Divorce or Separation Legal Services or to arrange a meeting with one of our divorce solicitors, call Hayley Eachus on 01256 854633 or email hayley.eachus@ phillips-law.co.uk

More information about our wide range of legal services can be found at wwww.phillips-law.co.uk



TWELVE HOURS – THE STORY OF JANE **AUSTEN'S OVERNIGHT** ENGAGEMENT

It is a big decision to say, "Yes," to a marriage proposal. It is an even bigger decision to refuse the offer after twelve hours. Especially if you are Jane Austen.

In Twelve Hours, Phil Howe, director of Hidden Britain Tours, a company specialising in exploring Jane Austen's early life in Hampshire, recreates an intense event in her life that is often overlooked.

Twelve Hours can be read as a story, a dramatic monologue or performed in theatre or non-theatre spaces. It is a sensitive subject which he has approached with sentiment, humour and respect.

This book is a must-read for all fans of Jane Austen, her real-life, her novels. the films and TV dramas based on her books, and all book-lovers who thrive on stories of romance.

Born in December 1775 she lived in the small village of Steventon near Basingstoke in Hampshire. It was in her father's rectory where she wrote the drafts of her first three novels, Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility and Northanger Abbey. It was in this quiet valley, described as the cradle of her genius, where she spent her formative years.

It's December 1802. Her father has recently resigned as rector and moved with his family to Bath.

Jane Austen is now twenty-six, is back in Hampshire visiting her friends Catherine and Alethea, members of the Wither family on the prosperous Manydown estate.

Their brother, Harris Bigg-Wither, proposes to Jane Austen.

This is the emotionally charged story of those twelve hours.

Phil Howe, Twelve Hours, Hidden Britain Tours Press, 2019, ISBN 978-1-999691103, 48 pages, paperback.

Copies available from York Publishing Services, £9.99 excluding post and packaging. http://www. ypdbooks.com/the-

arts/1954-twelve-hours-YPD02132.html

Phil Howe

info@hiddenbritaintours.co.uk

http://www.twelvehours.co.uk 01256 814222









HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

The year has flown at Hatch Warren Under Fives, and it's nearly time to say goodbye to our children leaving for primary school. They've all gained so much confidence and independence and are completely ready for their next exciting adventure... But we've still got lots more fun to squeeze into our final few weeks!

There's been lots happening this term. Our older children have been busy with visits to their new schools and we've had a strong focus on school readiness and independence. Our Play Yoga sessions have been so popular that we're now running yoga lessons twice a week. It's magical to watch the children engaging with their teacher and trying so hard! Yoga is great for children to enhance their physical flexibility and it also develops focus and concentration. Our teacher uses lots of fun activities to encourage calm and help our little ones cope with strong emotions.

Our latest addition to the garden is a fabulous new water table, even more encouragement for our children to get wet and have great fun with water play! And there's been lots to smell, see, feel, taste and touch at preschool as we've been learning all about our five senses.

We held our annual sponsored obstacle course in June, which was just like our own mini sports day. And of course we had our "Dad's Day" to celebrate Father's Day – an afternoon of bacon butties, doughnuts and cups of tea just for the Dads, Grandads, Uncles and Father figures.

Coming up soon is our final event of the year - Graduation day. After a morning of play at Beggarwood Park we'll be heading back to preschool to join family and friends for afternoon tea and our graduation ceremony to say goodbye to our leavers. We'll have tissues at the ready! We have lots of people to thank for supporting our preschool over the last year, our community puts so much into our preschool and really helps to enhance the children's' learning experiences. A big thank you to all the local businesses and individuals that have given us support. Our committee deserve a big thank you too they've organised some brilliant events for parents and children including a preschool disco, a Christmas raffle, Easter egg hunts, Mother's Day afternoon teas, Father's Day afternoons and sponsored obstacle courses. A really big thank you to our parents for their support and involvement and of course our fantastic children too.

TRANSITION

Over the last few weeks many of the children have been making visits to their new "big" schools. It's an exciting time but we should remember that change is difficult for us all. At Hatch Warren Under Fives we do our best to support the children and help them through the transitions into new schools. Research suggests that transitions are central to young children's development and emotional well being, and the way in which the first transitions are handled could have a significant impact on the child's capacity to cope with change in the short and long term. At Hatch Warren Under Fives we support the transition process in a range of ways. We help to prepare a child for school by liaising closely with the schools, working with our families, taking the views of the child into account and providing 'school-like' experiences. What is very important to remember is that TRANSITION IS A PROCESS NOT A SINGLE EVENT.

We wish all of our children leaving us this summer lots of luck and every success at school!

Hatch Warren Under Fives is now enrolling for the 2019/20 academic year. To enquire about a space, please contact Michelle Tejevo, Area Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

We are excited to announce that from September 2019 we will be running forestry session twice a week at pre-school. We have great fun so far with the children and parents at our taster sessions. The children have been exploring, using magnifying glasses to bug hunt, making stick and wool art and clay to create different patterns from different textures throughout the woods.

The children have participated in the Sports Day at Preston Candover Primary, running their very own race. We also have the annual Fun Run coming up where the children all take part in races cheered on by their parents.

The children have been busy creating some artwork for the 'Summer' display at Tesco, Chineham. They have worked together as a team to paint an ice-cream van, made their favourite lollies and written some summer words. This has broadened their understanding of the world, communication and led to lots of mark making opportunities.

The older children have also been taking part in their leaver and transition activities including getting changed for PE and writing their names to prepare them for school. We are always sad to see them leave but extremely proud as we know they are ready to leave the nest.

If you would like to make an appointment to visit pre-school, please contact us. I hope you enjoy the Summer holidays and we'll see you next year.

If you are interested in joining a wonderful, nurturing team as Bank Staff (hours between 9-3) please call or email cvpadmin@btconnect. com 01256 389008

Lisa Collisson





Hatch Warren Infant School Happiness and Wonder Inspires Success



As part of our drive to increase the amount of hours across the whole school we spend learning outside, we had fire training from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife trust. We spent a very enjoyable two hours becoming qualified in lighting fires with children. We were introduced to how to safely teach using a fire pit, how to make small fires and boil water on Kelly kettles. After all that learning we used the fires to cook crumpets, hot drinks and chocolate bananas. Finishing our training looking at how to safely extinguish the fires with the children. We are now gathering the resources we need for lessons involving fires and are excited to use our new skills with our classes.



Recently Year I have had a very exciting time at school. At the end of May, parents were invited to our castle celebration day. Along with their children they participated in activities such as medieval dancing, jousting and knight training and the children were also treated to a medieval banquet. Another exciting time was our whole school outdoor learning day. The year I's enjoyed the warm weather and had fun painting on cling film, that was wrapped from tree to tree. The results were amazing. They also painted cobbles to make a path in the new Year I outside area and had lots of fun and laughter weaving, exploring the music wall and playing games with the parachute.



This half term we are enjoying our topic of Wonderland. We have been learning about our local area and looking at aerial maps of the school, making routes and drawing maps to places around the school. We have had fun writing letters to parents and posting them at the post office on our trip to Asda. Later in the term parents are invited to join the children in making a model town in the hall by constructing paper bag houses and using construction toys to make other features. What a fantastic last half term at Hatch Warren Infant school Year 2 will have! They will certainly be missed but are ready for the new challenges and experiences the junior school holds for them. This half term the children are learning about the seaside. They will even get a day trip to the beach, where fun is always had by all, staff Included! From making sandcastles to collecting shells the children thoroughly enjoy it and deserve it after all their hard work in the Summer Term. The children will also be able to show off everything they have learnt during their time at HWIS in the leavers concert, I'm sure there will a few tears when they sing 'When I grow up'. From all of the staff at HWIS, we wish year 2 every success in the future.

On July 17th Hatch Warren Infant school will be putting on a show to give our musical clubs and drama clubs the opportunity to share their talents. If your children are joining us in September, why not come along and see what our clubs have to offer. Tickets are available at the Haymarket Box Office for \pounds 12. It would be great to perform to a full house.





To book a place please call 01256 818857 or

email info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk



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JULY/AUG 2019 Programme

5021/1000 2015 11	-8
Fri 5th Jul 6-7.45pm	Science experiments and chicken burgers
Fri 12th Jul 6-7.45pm	Man hunt and sausage rolls
Fri 19th Jul 6-7.45pm	Buzz, hair chalks and loaded fries
Tue 23rd Jul 6-8pm	SUMMER STREETZ starts with a huge Water Fight!!
Wed 24th Jul 6-8pm	Laser Tag
Thur 25th Jul 6-8pm	Tie Dye t-shirts
Fri 26th Jul 6-8pm	Dancing with Happy Feet
Tue 30th Jul 6-8pm	Manhunt
Wed 31st Jul 6-8pm	Nerf Gun fight
Thur 1st Aug 6-8pm	Graffiti art
Fri 2nd Aug 6-8pm	Pamper night and paint splash
Tue 6th Aug 6-8pm	Martial arts
Wed 7th Aug 6-8pm	Sumo suits and lip sync battle
Thur 8th Aug 6-8pm	Dodgeball and tile painting
Fri 9th Aug 6-8pm	Rugby and nail bar
Tue 13th Aug 6-8pm	DJ Decks and festival glitter
Wed 14th Aug 6-8pm	Rounders and face painting
Thur 15th Aug 6-8pm	Zorb balls and temporary tattoos
Fri 16th Aug 6-8pm	Football coaching with Burgclere Football Club & hair braiding with Lana
Tue 20th Aug 6-8pm	Basketball with Reading Rockets and chalk pavement night
Wed 21st Aug 6-8pm	Slime night
Thur 22nd Aug 6-8pm	Inflatable bungee run
Fri 23rd Aug 6-8pm	BBQ and sports day - end of Streetz
Fri 30th Aug	Human hungry hippos and ice cream bar

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Older Sessions over Summer Streetz

Summer Streetz sessions are open for all our young people, from those going into year 6 to 17 year olds. We are lucky to be able to have such a diverse age range during these sessions because everyone is respectful towards one another. We have no doubts this will continue again this year. We are pleased to also be able to continue our Friday sessions from 8-9.30pm for young people in year 8 and above.

Hair Braiding

We want to say a big thank you to Lana Wild and her assistant Emily Bunce for coming down and braiding/ glittering our young people's hair during a recent session. Not only did everyone look amazing and extremely sparkly, but Lana told us how wonderfully polite and great to work with our young people are #proudyouthclub!

She enjoyed working with us so much she has offered to come back during a Streetz session in August. Check out her skills on Instagram @wildinspirationscreations



In addition to hair braiding we have also played Human Hungry Hippos, made stress balls and hidden away from the rainy June weather and burned off some energy with some indoor fitness games.





We hope you are all as excited as we are about Summer Streetz!! Remember, if you are going to be starting year 6 in September 2019, then from 23rd July you are welcome to come and join in the fun. Just ensure you have a parent or guardian fill in a consent form before or when you first come down ⁽²⁾ for more info please email <u>vicky@hatchwarren.org</u>

Sainsbury's

Our Values Make us Different

I 50th Birthday

We're delighted to have launched our Community Partnership with Inspero. www.inspero.org.uk

During the next 150 days colleagues will be volunteering at the award winning community gardens, situated behind Kemphott Village Hall. The team from Inspero will be visiting the store during the summer so, keep an eye out for their awareness stand and bag packing activities.







- The removal of produce and bakery plastic bags. (489 tonnes) These will be replaced by a paper alternative and, a bespoke bag made from recycled plastics, which can be purchased.
- plastic trays for asparagus, sweetcorn, tomatoes and carrots (284 tonnes)
- plastic lids from cream pots (114 tonnes)
- plastic sleeves from herb pots (18 tonnes)

Sokphal Din was one of just 50 colleagues selected from across the Sainsbury's Group, to visit the Sainsbury's 'Pop Up' store in Convent Garden recently. Sokphal was chosen due to his volunteering work with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. The day was a special day for Sokphal as he had the opportunity to meet The Queen during her visit.

Finally, a huge thank you to you, our customers, for joining in with the spirit of our birthday initiative. We had a great time giving out the free Tea and Ginger biscuits. The supplies which were left over after the weekend were all donated to The Camrose Centre.

Changes at the Store

During the summer you will begin to see some exciting initiatives launch for our customers.

We'll be installing a bespoke Health & Beauty department, between the Pharmacy and Fruit aisles. We'll have fully trained specialist colleagues to help with customer offers in the department, and we're tremendously excited to have been chosen to include this offer.

As a result of these changes, we'll be re-locating the magazines to the back of the store, near to the Argos store.

We're also excited to welcome a new trial at the store for our Café. You will see a new branded Café during August with a new menu promised for the autumn. We'll share more details as we near the August launch.

Plastic

We've made tremendous strides within the store to reduce the amount of plastic within packaging. Further to these efforts, we've recently announced to accelerate further reductions, totalling over 1200 tonnes of plastic being removed by the end of 2019. These include:

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

"The Repair Shop" is a current favourite TV programme of my husband's and mine. If you haven't yet seen it and can watch it on catch-up TV, treat yourself and take a look at this fascinating programme. People bring damaged or broken family heirlooms and treasures to the experts for repair and restoration.

The objects can be furniture, toys, mechanical objects, china, glass, works of art and much more. The articles are stripped down, clean and repaired, often rebuilt and then restored to their former glory.

When the owners return to collect their items, they are amazed to find their precious items looking better than they could have imagined. Some owners shed tears of joy and all are in awe of the work achieved by these master craftsmen and craftswomen whose gifts are simply amazing. I know I always am!

You and I are just like these precious objects. We are precious to those who love us and infinitely precious to our creator and father, God.The Psalmist wrote in the Bible (Psalm 139) "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Our flaws, however, are the mistakes and wrong choices that we all make in our lives and we, too, are often broken and damaged by the stuff life throws at us. Our relationships can bruise us and the pressures of life can break us. All of us need some tender, loving care from time to time.

Your local church in Hatch Warren



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Call now for a free quote: 01256 412723 / 0771 7214521 e: info@jcooklandscapes.co.uk www.jcooklandscapes.co.uk Jesus Christ urges us to bring our worries and burdens to him. He said: "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) He walks alongside us helping us to bear our burdens. We are never alone and as the prophet Joel tells us: "God can restore what is broken and change it into something amazing. All you need is faith." (Joel 2:25). Many will say: "I don't have much faith in God" but that's OK - you only need faith the size of a tiny mustard seed. God cares for and listens to every one of us because he loves us and He can make all things new!

"God heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

God always sees our pain. He is our creator and he can make us new. He offers us relief and healing, if we show Him our brokenness and invite Him into our pain. Have a chat with him today – and don't forget to watch 'The Repair Shop''!

This is my last article for "The Rabbiter" – so thank you for reading my humble offerings. As you read this, our new priestin-charge at Immanuel church, Rev. May Barker, will have been licensed and will have started her ministry in our parish . After this, it will be Rev. May who will be writing your 'Spiritually Speaking' articles.

Pauline Pitcher



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• Churches:

Immanuel C of E Church (in St. Mark's School, Danebury Road) 10.00 a.m. every Sunday All enquires to: 01256 351862

Hub Community Church Every Sunday at The Apollo Hotel

Contact Dan Wake or Margie Mendelsohn 01256 316010 connect@hubcommunitychurch.org www.hubcommunitychurch.org

• Buses:

See page 24

• Representatives:

• Councillors:

County Council:

Stephen Reid, 34 Centurion Way RG22 4TJ 320860 email: Stephen.Reid@hants.gov.uk

Borough Council:

Rebecca Bean, 12 Arcadia Close, RG22 4AJ 07506 570926 email: cllr:Rebecca.Bean@basingstoke.gov.uk

Terri Reid, 34 Centurion Way RG22 4TJ 320860 email: cllr:Terri.Reid@basingstoke.gov.uk

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No. 8/9 Services – 8 via Buckskin and Kempshott Park. 9 direct via Winchester Rd. Buses will leave Railway Station Monday to Friday: 0540, 0555, 0610, 0630, 0640, 0645, 0655, 0705, 0715, 0725, 0735, 0745, 0755, 0805, 0815, 0825, 0835, 0845, 0900, 0910, 0920, 0930, 0940, 0950, 1000, **1010**, 1020, **1030**, 1040, **1050**, 1100, **1110**, 120, **1130**, 140, **1150**, 200, **1210**, 220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1845, 1900, 1915, 1930, 1945, 2015, 2045, 2115, 2145, 2215, 2245, 2315 Saturdays: 0645, 0715, 0730, 0745, 0800, 0810, 0820, 0830, 0840, 0850, 0900, 0910, 0920, 0930, 0940, 0950, 1000, 1010, 1020, **1030**, 1040, **1050**, 1100, **1110**, 120, **1130**, | | 40, **| | 50**, | 200, **| 210**, | 220, **| 230**, | 240, **1250**, 1300, **1310**, 1320, **1330**, 1340, **1350**, 1400, **1410**, 1420, **1430**, 1440, **1450**, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1700, 1710, 1720, **1730**, 1745, **1800**, 1815, **1830**, 1845, **1900**, 1915, **1930**, 1945, **2015**, 2045, **2115**, 2145, **2215**, 2245, **2315** *Sundays:* 0815, **0845**, 0915, **0945**, 1015, **1045**, 1115, **1145**, 1215, **1245**, 1315, **1345**, 1415, **1445**, 1515, **1545**, 1615, **1645**, 1715, 1815, 1915, 2015, 2115

Buses will leave Sainsbury's

Monday to Friday: 0531, 0604, 0611, 0634, 0636, 0657, 0658, 0714, 0716, 0734, 0736, 0754, 0756, 0814, 0816, 0834, 0836, 0854, **0856**, 0914, **0916**, 0934, **0936**, 0954, **0956**, 1014, **1016**, 1034, **1036**, 1054, **1056**, 1114, **1116**, 134, **136**, 154, **1156**, 24, **1216**, 1234, **1236**, 1254, **1256**, 1314, **1316**, 1334, **1336**, 1354, **1356**, 1414, **1416**, 1434, **1436**, 1454, **1456**, 1514, **1516**, 1534, **1541**, 1559, **1601**, 1619, **1621**, 1639, **1641**, 1659, **1701**, 1719, **1721**, 1739, **1741**, 1759, **1801**, 1816, **1819**, 1834, **1836**, 1854, **1901**, 1924, **1931**, 1954, **2001**, 2039, **2101**, 2139, **2201**, 2239, 2301,2339 Saturdays: 0649, 0709, 0739, 0746, 0809, 0816, 0834, 0836, 0854, 0856, 0914, 0916, 0934, 0936, 0954, 0956, 1014, 1016, 1034, **1036**, 1054, **1056**, 1114, **1116**, 1134, **1136**, 1154, 1156, 1214, 1216, 1234, 1236, 1254, 1256, 1314, 1316, 1334, 1336, 1354, 1356, 1414, 1416, 1434, 1436, 1454, 1456, 1514, 1516, 1534, 1536, 1554, 1556, 1614, 1616, 1634, 1636, 1654, 1656, 1714, 1716, 1734, 1736, 1754, 1801, 1824, 1831, 1854, 1901, 1924, 1931, 1954, 2001, 2039, 2101, 2139, 2201, 2239, 2301, 2339 Sundays: 0831, 0909, 0931, 1009, 1031, 1109, 1131, 1209, 1231, 1309, 1331, 1409, 1431, 1509, 1531, 1609, 1631, 1709, 1741, 1841, 1941, 2041, 2141

No. 12 Service – via Brighton Hill) (No Sunday service) Buses will leave Bus Station: *Monday to Friday*: 0710, 0920, 1020, 1120, 1220, 1320, 1420, 1520, 1620, 1725, 1815, 1915 *Saturdays*: 0750, 0920, 1020, 1120, 1220, 1320, 1420, 1520, 1620, 1725, 1815, 1915 Buses will leave Sainsbury's: *Monday to Friday*: 0733, 0943, 1043, 1143, 1243, 1343, 1443, 1543, 1643, 1748, *Saturday*: 0815, 0947, 1047, 1147, 1247, 1347, 1447, 1547, 1647, 1752



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TEA AT 3 THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

With summer in full swing, it's the perfect time to think about hosting your very own Tea at 3 event in support of St. Michael's Hospice. There are so many ways to get involved over the summer months including hosting a coffee morning, garden party, tea dance or teddy bears' picnic! Since launching in 2011, St. Michael's Hospice Tea at 3 events have



raised over £57,000. This has allowed the Hospice to deliver care to 11 patients on the in-patient unit for the average length of stay which is 10 days. If you would like to make a difference to local patients and their families, please contact Lynne Grimshaw on 01256 848845 or email lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk and she will be happy to help.

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT **FELLOWSHIP**

David Cowling the group's Chairman welcomed 45 members and 2 visitors to the annual open meeting held on Wednesday 5 June. The secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips, and the Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, gave an update on those members who had not been well.

The speaker this month was Deborah Brady whose talk was titled "A Female in Fleet Street - My life as a former photojournalist". She described her ambition to work in journalism which after her training took her to London to try and



find employment. Her first job was with the Today newspaper after scooping a photograph of Michael Jackson arriving at Heathrow Airport to begin a tour. This quick one off picture changed her life and she entertained us with stories of her interesting workaday life never quite knowing what would happen next. She spoke of always being at the ready to capture the images that would tell the story, complete with explanatory caption, whilst beating the deadlines along the way. As with many situations it was a case of being in the right place at the right time and quickly coming up with the eye catching caption to match the picture. This is not as easy as it seems as we were to discover when we were invited to do so. She also demonstrated the bulk

of equipment that she and her fellow photographers had to carry around in their work. To do this she loaded obliging volunteer, Hatton, Maggie with all the items



which were required to be at hand. These included the cameras themselves, a bag of accessories, flash guns, a telephoto lens with pole and, when it was thought no more could be carried, a step ladder!

The group's next outing is a Thames trip from Abingdon to Oxford, with lunch at the Duke of Monmouth, on Thursday 12 September. Then on Friday 11 October it is the Mystery Trip which includes elevenses, lunch and afternoon tea.

The next meeting is on 3 July when the speaker is lain Kennedy on "The View from my Sitting Room" in which he describes Queen Victoria's view from Osborne House. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com.

David Cowling





HATCH WARREN BEGGARWOOD CYCLING CLUB

HWBCC welcome all riders, and this month we thought we'd ask one of our members tell you their experience with our club.

About 18 months ago, I was just looking for a club to do some cycling with and to help me lose some weight.

I didn't find this.

What I found was much more. I found a family whose members support each other up the long or steep climbs with encouragement (and sometimes, unfortunately, songs!) and laugh (sometimes snort!) together on the beautiful descents all whilst sharing a passion for cycling.

I had found Hatch Warren Beggarwood Cycling Club, a community cycling club based in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood area of Basingstoke.

I was apprehensive joining my first ride but couldn't have been welcomed more kindly into the group. I had very little experience of cycling and no experience at all of cycling in a group. I joined the introduction to group cycling ride and wow, I loved the riding, the country lane route and encouragement received. The club's motto is "Come ride with us" and the rule is that no one is dropped or left behind. This is truly a friendly, relaxed and enjoyable club encompassing all abilities and age groups. I now have close friends in the group who are 40ish years my senior but through a love of cycling the age and diversity of the group truly are irrelevant and it is just a large inclusive group of friends.

I have now been with the club 18 months and my weight, fitness and mental wellbeing have all significantly improved.

In addition to the regular weekly rides, the club and its members often arrange additional rides and holidays. There is a regular Friday ride organised by Captain Cake which as you can imagine involves a café stop and copious amounts of cake! A must for the cycling diet as I have learnt! Annual foreign trips are also arranged and this May I travelled to Normandy with a group of 20 others from the club.

The first full day's cycling was a 60 mile ride to the D-day Beaches.

With such a diverse group, the different experiences and memories, especially of the ex-service personnel on the trip was very poignant as we passed through and visited several war cemeteries.

There are many cemeteries in Normandy and our rides passed close by to several. Many thousands of British servicemen are buried or commemorated in the area. At 30 miles into the ride we reached Longues–sur–Mer. This is the site of the German Battery which shelled the D-Day beaches on 6 June 1944.

The second days cycling was a 60 mile ride to La Suisse Normande. Norman Switzerland is a delightful, steep! wild area around the Orne Valley south of Caen.





The true ethos of the club was evident here as despite the amazing scenery, the climbs were very challenging but masses of encouragement, friendly banter and (unfortunately) singing was on offer, no one was left behind and the whole group felt massively proud of their achievement of a fantastic, challenging days cycling.

Thank you to all the committee, members of the club and the Normandy Raiders for a fantastic experience so far.

Massive Kudos to you all.

If you feel like getting fitter, improving your mental wellbeing or just fancy a good sociable laugh with the added bonus of cycling thrown in, give HWBCC a go!

If you'd like to join HWBCC more details can be found on our website www.hwbcc.org or on our facebook page facebook.com/ HWBCC.

Come ride with us!

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