

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 290 July/August 2022

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- **WARMER HOME GRANTS**
- **SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS**
- **HOSPICE UPGRADES**

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The Community Newsletter for

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# THE Rabbiter

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Lane and Kempshott Park. Circulation over 4000.

## EDITORIAL

The longest day has passed and summer is now really here. There are long, sunny days and the holidays to look forward to. The Summer Festival at the Hatch Warren Community Centre will be held on Saturday 16 July from 12-4pm. Lots of activities – see page 14 for more details. The event will also celebrate the Community Centre's 30th birthday. The first edition of the Rabbiter was published in August 1992 and promoted the Grand Opening of the Centre. There was an afternoon of fun for all the family, a dog show, craft stalls and in the evening a brilliant barn dance/ceilidh. Magnus Drive won the tug of war, and there were competitions for the most beautiful baby, fancy dress and the best sandwich. The event raised £600 for the centre. Our first Community Worker took up her post in September 1992 (Jan Lefley). Immanuel with St Mark's Church has started meeting every Sunday morning at the Community Centre. Speeding around the estate was an issue back then as it is today and the Police emphasised that there was a 30 miles per hour speed limit. There was concern regarding cars parking on Woodbury Road and along Longcross Lane causing a hazard particularly in foggy/misty weather. Sadly these are still issues 30 years later.

The Camrose, Gillies and Hackwood Surgery Partnership have implemented a new app for booking appointments (although you can still telephone on 01256 479747). It will be interesting to see if this does improve waiting times and access to the doctors – see page 5 and the Councillor's Update on page 8 for more information. It is said that singing can lift the spirit and is good for the soul. Basingstoke Male Voice Choir is looking for new members – see page 6. If you want to get out into the open air, the Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group Work Parties would welcome you – see page 12. The Basingstoke u3a is a wonderful organisation that runs lots of activities and welcomes new members – see page 21.

Beggarwood Bookworms continues to be a wonderful group. Last month local author Helen Matthews came and talked to the group about writing her latest book. July will be the summer picnic and the group will have a stall at the Summer Festival. The book for the September meeting is 'The Island of Missing Trees' – a lovely read. See page 21 for more details of the group – all welcome (and the café is open for a coffee or a glass of something more exciting!)

The Rabbiter takes a break in August so the next edition will come out at the beginning of September – copy date 15 August. Send your news and views to [newsdesk@therabbiter.biz](mailto:newsdesk@therabbiter.biz).

Have a great summer everyone.

**Editor**



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## CAMROSE, GILLIES AND HACKWOOD (PPG)

**CGH News:** CGH handling of appointment requests has fundamentally changed since 13th June. Patients can still contact CGH by telephone, e-consult, face to face or via the new DriQ App. However you contact CGH, each request will be reviewed by a team of 3 triage GPs, who will decide the most appropriate action, i.e. with a GP face to face, telephone consultation, nurse appointment, etc. Once triaged, you will be contacted with appointment details. This should dramatically reduce the time it takes to get an appointment with the appropriate medical practitioner. The PPG will be working closely with CGH over the next few months, whilst this new triage process is embedded.

**PPG News:** we are delighted to report our monthly newsletter will now be featured on the Basingstoke Gazette Community News page, which enables us to reach many more CGH patients with information.

We are pleased to have a lot of people requesting to join our PPG. In order to be representative of the full patient population, we would like to encourage young mothers and, more patients from the under 30 age groups. If you would like to join us, contact us at [cghppg.co.uk](mailto:cghppg.co.uk) and fill in the contact form.

Our PPG representative, John Loots, recently sat on the expert panel at Maria Miller's Community Chat on Health.As has

been reported, a wide range of subjects were discussed. Many of the patient concerns expressed at the meeting are representative of a nationwide problem with Primary Health Care being unfit for purpose. Dr. Claire Fuller, a top family doctor, was commissioned by NHS England to conduct a major review of the current system of Primary Health Care. Work is now being done to implement the recommendations made in this publication, aimed at joining up services provided by GP's, Dentists and Pharmacists through integrated care systems. View the report at [www.england.nhs.uk/publication-next-steps](http://www.england.nhs.uk/publication-next-steps)

If you watched BBC Panorama on June 13th you will have seen interviews with members of our PPG. This is available to watch on BBC I Player.

Active discussion is taking place with Beggarwood PPG and Practice Managers in respect of merging with CGH PPG. This will make our PPGs stronger by working together, and improve our efficiency for helping patients.

**Other News:** the new, permanent Health Hub is now open in Festival Place from 1100 to 1700, 7 days a week, at the former Laura Ashley store. It offers a wide range of Health Care services to patients, and will help develop the NHS long term plan for Integrated Care Systems to improve patient access to services. Full details can be found at [www.hampshiresouthamptonandisleofwightccg.nhs.uk/news/](http://www.hampshiresouthamptonandisleofwightccg.nhs.uk/news/)

## THOUSANDS OF POUNDS RAISED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY CAUSES

More than £65,000 has been raised by co-operative colleagues and customers in Hampshire.

Thousands of pounds will be shared between 62 separate charities and good causes which were the 2021 local partners of The Co-operative Food stores in Hampshire.

The money was raised through collection pots and fundraising activities at the Southern Co-op stores and will be rounded up to make sure each charity receives at least £1,000.

More than £4,500 was raised at seven stores for Chestnut Tree House - providing care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions in Sussex and South East Hampshire.

Some local causes benefitting from the funding are Alresford Pigs Association, Friends of Four Marks, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, Hampshire Search and Rescue, Headway Basingstoke, Overton Playgroup, Tadley and District Community Association, The Warren Youth Club.

Every year, each of Southern Co-op's local food stores choose a local partner which aims to create greener, safer, healthier or more inclusive neighbourhoods.

To find out more about local funding and other support available, visit [www.neighbourly.com/SouthernCoop/campaigns](http://www.neighbourly.com/SouthernCoop/campaigns).

## GRANTS TO HELP LOWER ENERGY BILLS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

Grants of up to £25,000 are available for Basingstoke and Deane residents struggling to pay their bills and living in cold homes to make home improvements that could help lower their energy bills.

Residents with a household income of less than £30,000 or on means-tested benefits and living in homes with an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G can apply for funding for energy efficiency improvements such as loft and solid wall insulation as well as solar panels and air source heat pumps.

Different amounts are available depending on whether a home is connected to the mains gas network, with people in on-gas homes eligible for up to £10,000 while those in off-gas homes are able to apply for up to £25,000.

The grants are funded by the government through its Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme for on-gas homes and its Home Upgrade Grant scheme for off-gas properties. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is working

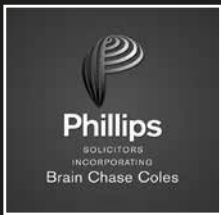
with partners through the Warmer Homes Consortium, led by Portsmouth City Council and managed by AgilityEco, to deliver the measures.

The grants do not need to be repaid and cover 100% of the costs of home improvements for people who own their home. Residents renting private accommodation are also eligible, with the grant covering up to two thirds of the costs and their landlord contributing the remaining amount.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Action Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "With the ongoing cost of living crisis and the energy price cap set to go up yet again in the autumn, these fully funded improvements could help residents to stay warm while using less energy, potentially saving hundreds of pounds a year on heating bills and reducing emissions in support of our target to become a net zero carbon borough."

Funding is being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis with measures to be installed by March 2023.

For more information and to apply see [www.warmerhomes.org.uk](http://www.warmerhomes.org.uk).



### CAN I TAKE MY CHILD ON HOLIDAY IF THE OTHER PARENT OBJECTS?



Hayley Eachus

This is a question we are often asked when the summer holidays are approaching. The issue for taking a child abroad for a holiday can often be a cause of conflict between separated parents.

If you have a Child Arrangements Order which says your child lives with you, then you can take your child abroad for up to one month as long as there are no other court orders prohibiting this.

#### What if the holiday has been booked and paid for?

For parents who have previously been able to agree on matters among themselves without requiring legal intervention, the other parent would still have a right of veto over a holiday abroad. This is even if the holiday has been booked.

In practice, the Court will consider what is in the best interest of the child, if parents cannot agree, and can make an order about whether they can or cannot go on a particular holiday. If the holiday is soon you would have to seek an urgent hearing and this is not always simple.

As a guide, here is what the Court will take into consideration; known as the welfare checklist:

- the wishes and feelings of the child concerned

- the child's physical, emotional and educational needs
- the child's age, sex, background and any characteristics of the child which the court considers relevant
- the likely effect on the child of any change in circumstances
- how capable of meeting the child's needs is each of the child's parents and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question relevant
- any harm that the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering

Under normal circumstances the Court will take a view that a holiday for a child is a good thing to be enjoyed.

#### We are here to help you

Here at Phillips, 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.

To find out more please contact Hayley Eachus, Head of our Family Law team, by calling 01256 854633 or email [hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk)

To find out about the wide range of legal services offered by Phillips, please visit [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

## PROBUS CLUB 42ND AGM

Although the foundation of Probus Clubs was in Caterham, Surrey in 1965, for retired professional and business managers, hence the name Probus, it wasn't until 1979 that Basingstoke saw its Probus Club formed which has continued uninterrupted ever since. The club has just convened its 42nd Annual General Meeting at the Test Valley Golf club, the venue of their regular business meetings and lunches.

Outgoing president David Wickens reviewed his year of office which has included presiding over talks by guest speakers, and visits by the Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane BC, Cllr Onnalee Cubit and the president of the Ladies' Probus Club, Revd Jane Leese. Throughout the past year, once things returned to normal last September, there have been social activities that included wives/partners either at special lunches or visits to interesting destinations.

Alex Marianos was invested with the chain of office as the new president. He is a retired civil engineer who was responsible for bridge building on the M4.

The newly installed mayor of Basingstoke & Deane BC, Cllr Paul Miller, is also a member of the Probus Club and, uniquely, will be the guest of honour at the July meeting.



Today there are more than 4,000 Probus Clubs throughout the mainly English speaking world with 180,000 members in the UK. Entry is open to any man with some supervisory experience.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club)

## BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR

Our recent Open Evening (as advertised in this magazine) proved to be a great success and the choir is now larger than it was post Pandemic. The hard work of integrating new singers into our line-up now begins and already rehearsals are proving to be an enjoyable experience for them.

However there is no such thing as a choir that is too large – at our peak, BMVC membership stood at 98! **We still need more singers.** You may have missed the Open Evening but you're welcome to attend our rehearsals which take place each Tuesday evening at 7:30 in St Michael's Church Cottage, Basingstoke.

We may not get to 98 but we'd love to see more singers on board. Come along – you'll enjoy it!

## BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE ROTARY

### Who are we?

Currently we have 37 members, 37 ordinary local people from varied backgrounds who want to make a difference and members have been working in our community for over 37 years. We hail from a whole host of working backgrounds and together we bring many different skills, experiences, ideas and networks to support what the club does.

Many of our members are in work or are recently retired. All live locally, though some commute out of the borough for their work or reflecting the post covid situation, work from home

[www.rcbd.org.uk](http://www.rcbd.org.uk) Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane  
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## COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

**BROADBAND AND PHONE PROBLEMS:** The big story affecting our area in June was the disruption caused by damage to phone and Internet cables at the Brighton Hill roundabout. It was very serious, knocking out not only homes and businesses but also Winchester Hospital, and doctors' surgeries. The contractors were drilling a deep hole to take a pile and in the process they fouled multiple ducts carrying the crucial copper and fibre optic cables. The initial claim is that the cables were not mapped accurately. The contractors may also have used ground-penetrating radar but if they did, it failed to warn them of the cables, which were some 2.5 metres below the surface. Because the cables were so deep, the contractors had to dig a trench to give Openreach access to the broken cables. Openreach then worked through the night (I checked!) and the weekend to restore services. The fibre-optic cables were restored first. The copper cables took longer to recover. Hopefully, by the time you read this, all services will be back.

**QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERING:** The initial priority has been to get the phone and internet services back up and running, especially those serving the NHS. But I think this incident raises some longer-term questions that will need to be answered, and I am asking them:

- who can be held responsible for this specific instance?
- will compensation be payable to the residents and businesses that lost services for which they have paid?
- do utility companies have an obligation to supply accurate mapping information and what penalties attach if they don't?
- do Council contracts include clauses for penalties to be payable if utility companies supply inaccurate mapping information?
- do Council contracts include penalty clauses if contractors make mistakes that cause the sort of problems that we have experienced in Basingstoke?

My advice is that if you lost service during this emergency, contact your service provider to see whether you can be compensated under the terms of your contract.

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM:** one of the victims of the broadband problems was the on-line Annual General Meeting of the Community Association. I logged into the meeting but not enough participants had been able to get through to constitute a quorum, so it was reorganised for a week later. At the time of writing, the outcome is not known.

**PASSENGER TRANSPORT FORUM:** I attended this forum on 9 June. It discussed the National Bus Strategy. Bus demand is still down after COVID, running at about 80% of previous levels. Hampshire County Council is consulting on a new Local Transport Plan and all residents are invited to take part in this.

**BEGGARWOOD SURGERY:** The surgery has been introducing its new on-line application called DR IQ and patients should now be able to use it for online consultations for medical conditions. By using the App, patients do not have to phone the surgery and wait in a call-queue. The App is intended to be a more convenient way of accessing GP services such as requesting repeat prescriptions, updating health data from home, such as recent blood pressure readings, asking queries of the reception team and accessing NHS self-care advice. There were reports of

service disruption during its roll-out but hopefully the long-term benefits will be appreciated.

**OPEROSE:** I watched the Panorama programme about Operose, the company that now runs the Beggarwood surgery. The Chairman of the Patient Participation Group has promised that the issues raised will be placed on the agenda for the next PPG meeting. The programme featured a section about the Gillies Medical Centre, which many residents of Hatch Warren and Beggarwood use, but did not mention Beggarwood.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIGHTON HILL SCHOOL.

The recent OFSTED inspection awarded 'outstanding' in three headings and one 'good', confirming that our local secondary school is one of the best in the country. I was a founder governor when the school first opened and very proud of it. It went through a bad stage, but Head Teacher Chris Edwards and his team have turned it round. Parents recognise the progress that has been made, as there is now a waiting list of potential pupils.

**LINK ROAD:** I think I may have been instrumental in getting a change of position from the County Council about the potential link road through the Camrose site. At first they issued a press statement saying that the money for this had been handed back and it would not be going ahead. After I publicised the situation, the position was modified to say that it might still go ahead if funding can be secured. I believe that the capacity of the Brighton Hill roundabout must be maximised if the A30 corridor is going to cope with the traffic generated by new developments.

**LOCAL PLAN:** On 9th June I attended a meeting of the Borough Council's Economy, Planning and Housing Committee to offer my views on the emerging local plan. In particular I suggested the site for warehousing near Junction 7 would be better used as a science park, that a new crossing of the railway line is needed if the Manydown developments are to be sustainable and that the plans to develop Popham Airfield with 3,000 homes is an error. My two minute offering resulted in me being questioned for half an hour!

**DIGESTER ODOUR:** Reports have continue to come in about odour from the Anaerobic Digester. As part of the investigation, Biogen (the operators) have brought in an independent specialist odour consultant to attend the site, test the performance of the odour abatement systems and undertake a general survey to assess potential sources of the smells. I hope that the consultant finds some scope for improvements - it is not right that neighbours of the plant have to suffer this inconvenience. This will no doubt be discussed at the next liaison meeting.

**OLD DOWN:** The Borough Council has unanimously agreed that the Cabinet should grant Old Down the status of a Local Nature Reserve. Campaigners look forward to seeing the Council's action plan and finally getting Old Down the protection it deserves.

**HOUNSOME FIELDS:** Because the developers are building the homes slower than originally planned, the primary school on Hounsomes Fields has been put back by a year.

**Stephen Reid**

County Councillor.

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## OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

At the time of writing this report (mid-June) it feels as though we haven't had a Spring but by the time you read this in early July hopefully one can say – "Summer is here". And hopefully both sites now have wonderful displays of wild flowers and many species of butterflies to see and admire. Walking around Beggarwood in early June it was good to see quite a few different species of butterfly, such as:- *Common Blue*; *Brimstone*; *Large Skipper*; *Orange Tip* and *Small Blue*. Day-flying moths were also spotted there:- *Mother Shipton*, *6 Spot Burnet* and *Burnet Companion*.

There wasn't much warmth in the days of May and early June but surprisingly the butterfly numbers in early June on Old

Down showed a higher number than last year. But then the Spring weather wasn't too great last year either.

Nationwide there is a decline in butterfly numbers due to loss of habitat and the effects of climate change. So we must do all we can to help butterflies by planting the right flowers and bushes. The Group seeks to plant, spread and encourage the right plants on both sites. Some of the wild flowers and bushes that attract butterflies are *Knapweed*; *Kidney Vetch*, *Horseshoe Vetch*, *Lady's Smock* (also called *Cuckoo Flower*) *Stinging Nettle* and *Bramble*. All of these can be found on both sites. You can also help by planting butterfly friendly flowers in your garden – garden nurseries now clearly mark those plants that attract butterflies and bees.

The Group does keep up a Facebook page. Sadly it is clear that very, very few people look at this. Perhaps you could make a point of giving it a quick look now and again and also mention its existence to family and friends.

**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](mailto:odandbwd@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/odandbwd](http://www.facebook.com/odandbwd)



Burnet Companion



Knapweed



Lady's Smock

## Café in the Park

WE ARE NOW FULLY OPEN!

PLEASE JOIN US

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10am – 2pm

Beggarwood Bookworms – 1st Wednesday every month. To enquire email [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)

Community lunch 1st Wednesday every month

Free hot drink with 10 stars collected using our loyalty card

Sunday offers from 1.30pm onwards

Midweek deals - coffee and cake only £4

Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft – 15<sup>th</sup> July (call 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month

Lots of regular events – please ask at the cafe

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

WEEKEND BAPS



TOASTED PANINIS  
AND SANDWICHES

We look forward to  
seeing you soon!



FRESH HOMEMADE CAKES



HOT & COLD DRINKS



## BRIGHTON HILL SCHOOL

AOFSTED have published their report relating to their inspection of Brighton Hill Community School in April. There are 4 areas of judgement and 4 grades awardable (Outstanding being the highest). We are super proud that we have been graded as follows:

Overall: Good

- The quality of education: Good
- Behaviour and attitudes: Outstanding
- Personal development: Outstanding
- Leadership and management: Outstanding



To get 3 'Outstanding' grades is an excellent outcome and reflects what a fantastic school community we are.

Please see below some quotes from the report:

### 'What is it like to attend this school?'

Pupils are eager to explain why they believe that Brighton Hill is such a special school. They appreciate the time that staff take to get to know them as individuals. There is a collective focus on making sure everyone achieves their very best. Respect and diversity are at the centre of this. ... The importance of kindness is at the heart of the school's ethos. High expectations of behaviour and very low incidents of bullying mean that pupils can learn happily and safely.'

### 'What does the school do well?'

Lessons are calm and focused. When asking pupils about this, one simply explained, 'It's how we do it here.' Everyone knows and understands the rules and routines that should be followed. ... Vitally, pupils respect the importance of making sure their classmates can learn without disruption.'

### 'Safeguarding'

#### The arrangements for safeguarding are effective

The school's comprehensive PSHE programme gives pupils important information about how to stay safe. Pupils value these lessons and events... Pupils know the importance of reporting any concerns they may have so they can quickly get the help that they need.'

School life still goes on post-OFSTED. At the time of writing, the Y11s are over halfway through their GCSEs, plans have been made for Y5 & Y6 taster days, new student editors have been appointed and new Student Reporters have joined the team, sports teams are competing at County level and the excitement is building for Sports Day and Rewards Week.

Everyone at BHCS hope you have a fantastic Summer!

**Wendy Moore**

Whole School Values Lead, Brighton Hill Community School

## HATCH WARREN INFANT SCHOOL

Here at Hatch Warren Infants we love the outdoors. Our Year Rs are outside all the time and Year 1 and 2 get outside as much as possible. Each half term we hold a special outdoor learning day where the whole school spends the whole day outside. Yes, in all weathers; sun, rain, snow and hail and sometimes those all in one day. Although, we did have to abandon things in the middle of the afternoon during our Spring 2 day as we were experiencing gale force winds!!



We recently held our first outdoor learning day of the summer term and we were lucky with dry weather. Year R had an amazing day at our pond where they saw dragonfly larvae emerging from the water then shedding their outer skin to reveal their wings beneath! Incredible!

Meanwhile, Year 1 had a great time when they wrapped cling film between the trees and painted the cling film so that their pictures looked like they were floating in the air. The children really enjoyed having the space and freedom to paint whatever they wanted and the result was stunning.

In Year 2 they were busy building bridges! Their topic had included learning all about Isambard Kingdom Brunel so they were set the task of using the big build resources to create a large but, most importantly, steady and stable bridge to carry some toy cars across. The children put themselves into groups and worked as a team to try and create the biggest and strongest bridge they could. They had a lot of fun with this and did well at learning from any collapses on how to make the bridge stronger and more stable.



We now look forward to our final outdoor learning day of the year in July and all the new experiences that will bring for all the children.

Is your little one due to start school in September 2023? If so, then look out for the September issue where we will have all the dates for our school tours starting in October. We offer evening, as well as daytime tours and we can't wait to meet you and your little one to show you our fantastic school.

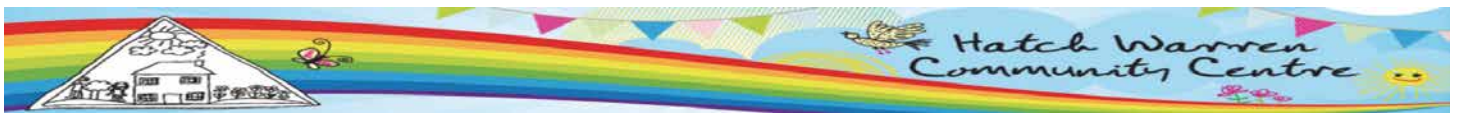
Our contact details are:

01256 350313

parent.mail@hwis.hants.sch.uk www.hwis.hants.sch.uk

## MORE SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS

The Camrose Centre for the Homeless in Basingstoke will be able to open its doors on Sundays in addition to its three usual operating days, for at least the next year, thanks to a generous grant of £10,000 from the Linbury Trust. The Centre offers a hot meal, rough sleeper food packs, showers, clothing, practical help and advice, as well as a friendly shoulder to lean on to local homeless and vulnerably housed people who need support.



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

FREE ENTRY FAMILY FUN DAY

# SUMMER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 16th JULY

HELP CELEBRATE THE COMMUNITY CENTRES 30th BIRTHDAY!

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
PLAYING FIELDS 12-4pm

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

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

[WWW.HATCHWARREN.ORG](http://WWW.HATCHWARREN.ORG)  
THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR HWBCA CHARITY #1161117

## DOG SHOW

**JOIN THE PAW-TY!**

SATURDAY 16TH JULY 2022

- WAGGIEST TAIL • FRIENDLIEST DOG • BEST VETERAN ( 8YRS + )
- MOST HANDSOME DOG • PRETTIEST BITCH • BEST TRICK

£2 PER CLASS OR 3 CLASSES FOR £5  
PROCEEDS GO TO CANINE PARTNERS

WHERE  
HATCHWARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
LONG CROSS LANE  
BASINGSTOKE  
RG22 4XF

REGISTER ON THE DAY  
@ ST KITTS STALL

We are looking for committee members. If you would like to join the team, please email [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)

THE ONLY PROVIDER OF A FRESHLY HOME COOKED MEAL

PASSIONATE, DEDICATED & LONG STANDING TEAM

ARTS/CRAFTS AND GAMES

FRIENDLY, SAFE, MODERN ENVIRONMENT

HEALTHY WALKING BUS FROM SCHOOL

EASY ACCESS TO AN OUTDOOR AREA INCLUDING LARGE FIELD, ENCLOSED PATIO AND SPORTS COURTS

FULLY QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED DBS CHECKED STAFF

**HATCH WARREN ASC**  
Established 2013  
**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

Price per session £12.30

Flexible bookings & extra sessions can be accommodated

Contact us:  
[odette@hatchwarren.org](mailto:odette@hatchwarren.org)  
01256 811262  
[www.hatchwarren.org](http://www.hatchwarren.org)

Hatch Warren Community Centre,  
Long Cross Lane, Basingstoke, RG22 4XF  
OFSTED EY 491834  
Registered Charity Number 1161117



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

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

Qualified Staff / Extensive Free Holiday Programmes /Tel: 842111 / Email: vicky@hatchwarren.org

Follow Us on Facebook @The Warren and Instagram @thewarrenyouthclub

## The Warren is open! Booking is essential!

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

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Dodgeball and Hair Chalks <b>Well-Being Session: End of Year Keepsakes</b>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Human Hungry Hippos, Henna Tattoos and Bacon Rolls
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Rounders, Sausage Rolls and Summer Craft
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 6pm-8pm	Start of Summer Streetz: WATER FIGHT!!!! Plus Hot Dogs
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Sumo suits, Face paints and Burgers
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July 6pm-8pm	Zorbs and Ice cream Sundaes
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Slime Night and Doughnuts
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 6pm-8pm	Nerf War! Shamballa Bracelets and Slushies
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Tie Dye, Rounders and Nacho
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> August 6pm-8pm	Manhunt, Tile Decorating and Milkshakes
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> August	Rugby, Temporary Tattoos and Chicken Nuggets
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August 6pm-8pm	Graffiti Art, Dodgeball and Coke Floats
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Pamper Night, Hockey and Waffles
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 6pm-8pm	Football and Festival Glitter
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	End of Streetz Disco and Barbecue

We are so happy to be able to open extra nights over the summer holidays for Summer Streetz. We have so many fun activities planned for everyone We hope you are all as excited as we are!

Streetz is open to ALL young people aged 10-17 6pm-8pm. In addition to these sessions we will continue to run our Friday older session from 8pm-9.30pm for ages 13 and above!



### Staff changes

We are very sad that after 10 years of working with us our utterly amazing Youth Manager Vicky will be stepping down from her role at the end of the summer. We are sure you will all agree Vicky has done an incredible job running the youth centre and will join us in thanking her for all her hard work. The good news is we still might see her every now and then as she will be working as bank staff.

We are, however, very happy to announce that our wonderful Emily Joseph will be stepping up to the role of Youth Manager from September.



We are now hosting Hampshire Football Association at LINK2, they are providing an hour of football coaching for any member who is interested. We had the first session at the beginning of June and will run again from June 20<sup>th</sup> and throughout the Summer. It is really good to be able to provide this training as many of our members are no longer at College and therefore do not have easy access to regular sports.

The summer will be full of activities. We are having a Dinner Dance at the Holiday Inn and hope to run a BBQ for members and their families in July .

### Dates for next sessions

Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> Diner dance at the Holiday Inn

July 11<sup>th</sup> Hatch Warren with football training

July 18<sup>th</sup> BBQ for members and their parents/carers



### 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.

### July 1<sup>st</sup>: End of year Keep sakes

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



## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

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!

We've had some fabulous weather lately that led our children to think about holidays. We set up a travel agent shop in our role-play area and found lots of exciting places to visit on our world maps. Our little ones were very busy packing suitcases with clothes they will need for hot and cold holidays. Outside, in traditional seaside style, they got the buckets and spades out and played in the sand and water trays. The children also made post cards and ice creams and created their very own passports.

We also celebrated Father's Day with our "Bring your Dad to Preschool" week. It was lovely to see lots of Dads, Grandads and other important male carers accompanying their children into preschool, and the children enjoyed serving them up a special Father's Day treat of doughnuts at snack time.

In a few weeks time our older children will be leaving us for their next adventures at primary school, so we are looking forward to celebrating their time at preschool with a Graduation party.

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

### TRANSITION

Very soon many of the children will be moving on 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 HAVE SPACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 – to enquire or to book a visit, please contact our Manager, Angela, on 01256 322788 or email [preschoolmail@aol.com](mailto:preschoolmail@aol.com).

You can see weekly updates from Hatch Warren Under Fives on our Facebook page "Hatch Warren Under 5s Preschool", where you will see lots of photos and learn our Makaton signs of the week.

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

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

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

The children celebrated the jubilee in style for the Platinum Jubilee with some fun activities during their Dramatots session as well as making crowns to really help develop their fine motor skills, picking up and making choices of their favourite gems. Great fun in the forest where the little ones decorated a commemorative wooden ornament as a souvenir.



The children had an amazing adventure at the local kitchen gardens, planting a variety of seeds including sweetcorn and pumpkins to take home with them. A beautiful walk around the local estate gardens and lake, finished off with a snack to take in the surroundings. Enjoyed by both children and their adults.

It is always such a bittersweet time at the end of the school year as we say goodbye to our school leavers and are so excited for them on their next journey. We are celebrating in style with our end of year party and graduation service for our little ones going to school in September.

We are really looking forward to returning after the Summer holidays to welcome our new little ones to pre-school. We will have so much fun exploring the sensory trays, climbing up the climbing frames indoors and out, digging in the mud area and making potions in the outside kitchen.

We are also looking forward to the return of our OWLS (Outdoors Woodland Learning Sessions), exploring and learning about nature, making new shelters, dens and exploring for mini beasts.

### Lisa Collisson

Pre-School Head

Tel: 01256-389008

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

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

## DANDELIONS

We ended our last term with our Jubilee family picnic which was a huge success and it was so lovely to see so many of our families all together again.

We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did, particularly the cake sale with the cakes kindly donated by Morrisons.

We have been exploring our outside environment and learning about different textures through messy play and natural resources. This has been a great way to extend the children's vocabulary and through water play the children have been supported with their mark making skills

Thank you so much to the Daddies and family members that joined us for breakfast. The children loved having you in to share the treats and spending time together at Pre-School.

Our Sports week was a huge success and the children did a fantastic job completing



all of the races with smiles and cheers!

As we see some of our children go onto school we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for allowing us the honour of being such a special part of your child's early years education and we wish the children well.

We look forward to the children returning to us in September and welcoming our new families.

SEPTEMBER 2022 – we still have some spaces available for the next academic year. Please contact us on 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail [info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk](mailto:info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk) to discuss your requirements and to book a show around.

We would welcome the opportunity to showcase our amazing setting.

## CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

A huge thanks to all who helped and supported our Pre-School fundraisers at The Big Lunch on Cuckoo Meadow, 5th June. It was a roaring success with the Pre-School hosting a number of stands, generating well over £200 for the charity. Whether you were hopping away on the bouncy castle, giving jam jar ping pong a go, spending pocket money at the nearly new toy sale, adorning your newly beautified crown at the crown decorating station or being one of our fantastic volunteers.... THANK YOU! The Pre-School is a charity which depends on the support of the community and of course the parents. And goodness the support was overwhelming – thank you.

With The Big Lunch a happy memory we are now back to Pre-School as usual, continuing our theme of mini beasts. The children wait with huge anticipation for our chrysalids to transform into butterflies, which should happen any day now. We continue to welcome Emma from Caterpillar Music to entertain the children regularly (most recently with more of a maxi-beast in the hilarious T Rex outfit which we all adored!) And of course we have Sport4Kids coming on a weekly basis to their ActivKids sessions – lots of different skills and games – which they love. This is of course all on top of our usual learning, stories, playing, nature walks, art, singing and so much more.

In the final few weeks of term we of

course have Sports Day and a few other fun surprises up our sleeves. Do keep checking our Facebook page for updates. In the meantime we do hope you enjoy this beautiful early Summer weather.

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.

## Sainsbury's

**Our Values Make us Different**

### Car Park ANPR Cameras

A polite reminder with reference to the new parking restrictions at our car park. Parking is free of charge for up to 3 hours and 10 minutes after store closure times. The car park is monitored by a warden during the week to help control these enforcements.

If you are at all concerned about the length of your stay, please see a colleague from our customer services team who will glad to assist

### Charity Partnerships & The Local Hero Scheme

We have recently updated the way we help charity and community groups to align with our corporate vision to 'Help Everyone Eat Better'.

We'll therefore be inviting local community groups to visit the store to understand our role within this vision and, working with them in the longer term to help maintain healthy eating standards.

It has meant that we can only support requests for donations which mirror the goal to help everyone eat better. Raffle prizes of chocolate or high in sugar foods (think Easter Eggs etc) cannot be supported.

This is where your help in promoting our Local Hero Scheme to your volunteers, could help you in a better way than seeking ad hoc raffle prizes etc.

The Local Hero Scheme rewards community groups where any Sainsbury's Group employee volunteers in their spare time. At the store we already enjoy a tremendous range of volunteers in the community, which in the last year, has helped to distribute over £6000.

Each employee who volunteers can claim up to £200 per financial year, which is paid direct to the community group they

volunteer with. The funds typically take between 6-8 weeks to be paid as they're sent from our charity partner, Charity Aid Foundation – CAF.

So, the earlier you find any Sainsbury's Group employee who is connected with your community group, the quicker we can release the funds. (£200 is a lot of raffle prize funds)

We'll continue to ask colleagues here at the store but, often they don't realise that the work they do for the community group they support, counts as volunteering.

So, just ask if any of your volunteers/parents/grandparents etc, work for the Sainsbury's Group. They can work at any location; Argos, a Sainsbury's Store, a Depot or at any of our Store Support Centres.

If you have any queries, please pop in and see one of our colleagues at the customer services desk.

### Nectar

Almost 90% of customers who shop with us at Kempshott, hold a Nectar card. However, we know that for a number of reasons, not all these customers have downloaded the Nectar App to their smartphone.

The Nectar App works quietly in the background recommending a number of bonus points each week, tailored to your usual basket/trolley of shopping. It works for Online customers as well as customers using Smart Shop. In the last six months I have earned over 26000 bonus points (£130) on top of the usual points I'd collect.

If you're at unsure of the benefits and savings the Nectar App can bring, have a chat with any of our colleagues; they'll be delighted to help.

To note; Nectar Prices are only available for instore purchases but our Online customers shouldn't have to wait too much longer to benefit as well. Watch this space.

# RABBITER CONTACTS:

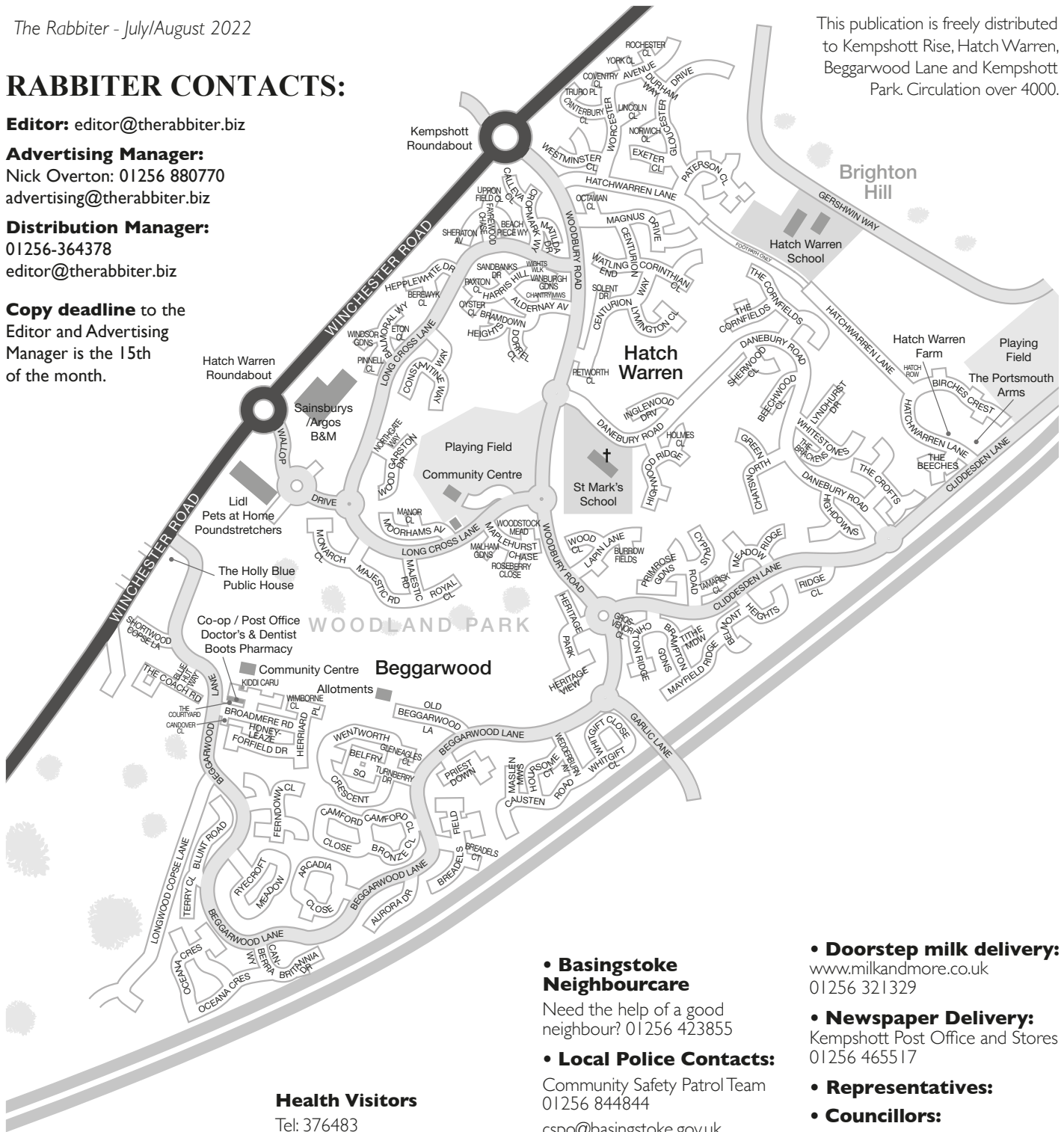
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**Copy deadline** to the Editor and Advertising Manager is the 15th of the month.

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**• Health: Doctors' Surgeries**  
Acorn Health Partnership  
Western Way Tel: 479747  
Mon-Fri 0800-1830

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

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

**Health Visitors**  
Tel: 376483

**Child Health Clinic**  
The Community Centre – every Wednesday 10.30 – noon.  
All Welcome.

**Dentist**  
Broadmere Road – Tel: 391391

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

**• Post Office**  
Co-op Broadmere Road:  
Sun-Sat 0700-2200  
Kempshott Post Office and Stores  
01256 465517 Mon-Fri 0800-17.30  
Sat 0900-1500

**• Basingstoke Neighbourcare**  
Need the help of a good neighbour? 01256 423855

**• Local Police Contacts:**  
Community Safety Patrol Team  
01256 844844  
cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk  
Hampshire Constabulary 101  
Crimestoppers 0800 555111

**• 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 United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU at 4pm  
Contact Dan Wake or Margie Mendelsohn 01256 316010  
connect@hubcommunitychurch.org  
www.hubcommunitychurch.org

**• Buses:**  
See previous Rabbiter

**• Doorstep milk delivery:**  
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**• Newspaper Delivery:**  
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**• Representatives:**

**• Councillors:**  
*County Council:*  
**Stephen Reid**, 34 Centurion Way RG22 4TJ 320860  
Stephen.Reid@hants.gov.uk

*Borough Council:*  
**Rebecca Bean**, 12 Arcadia Close, RG22 4AJ 07506 570926  
cldr.Rebecca.Bean@basingstoke.gov.uk  
**Samir Kotecha**, 18 Hollins Walk RG21 7JT 07971 470208  
cldr.samir.kotecha@basingstoke.gov.uk  
**Dan Putty**, 1 Gloucester Drive, RG22 4PH 356650  
cldr.dan.putty@basingstoke.gov.uk

**• Member of Parliament Hatch Warren:**  
**Maria Miller**  
millerm@parliament.uk

## BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

There were 43 members at the meeting held on 1st June who, after the usual tea, coffee and biscuits, were welcomed by the Secretary Tony Brazier in the absence of the Chairman, David Cowling. Tony Brazier then gave details of the forthcoming trips, particularly the itinerary of the Thames cruise from Runnymede on Thursday 16th June. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then brought us up-to-date on those members who had not been well.

The speaker this month was a return of Mel Rees who had titled his talk "An entertaining talk" which it definitely was. Mel's motto is to see the humour in things and he certainly does. Mel said that the talk was "nothing deep and meaningful," however it certainly had all the members laughing at his memories. The talk covered many subjects about everyday life, including Covid and how it has taken 2 years of our lives, his Nan's shop in Clapham Junction which she had from 1930-1972 and he remembers incidents from the age of about 10 or 12 years old. He revisited the area recently with his Daughter and although the area had changed dramatically the shop was still there. Other topics ranged from cards that he had received, bags that he uses now we recycle, his family particularly a son that was naughty and difficult as a child to a 12 week course he attended at Slimming World. In his own words Mel said that "You can't make it up" Mel writes and publishes his own books. They were available for members to buy.

The group's next outing on Thursday 16th June is a Cruise on the Thames from Runnymede, with lunch included, followed on Thursday 14th July by a visit to Hever Castle, and on Thursday August 25th a visit to Hatfield House.

The next meeting is on 6th July and is a light-hearted presentation by (Able Care) called "Life in Care" The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting: -csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com.

**Christine Broadbent**

## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

"Go on then, what is faith?" asked a long-standing friend who delights in challenging my beliefs. I don't think he really knows what he believes himself and I'm pretty sure he's a bit jealous because he thinks I've got The Big Questions sorted. I haven't really of course (who has) but it's fun to make him think I have.

"Faith" I opined "is the confidence that something unprovable is true. I know that God exists and that He is a very important part of my life and wellbeing but I can't prove it"

"Well it can't be true then can it, if you can't prove it!" my friend harrumphed but then went a bit quiet when I said "I can't prove air exists but you'd soon know if it wasn't there"

Our desire for proof of stuff is very deep seated and humankind has an insatiable appetite for clear answers. Science has hugely improved the lives of millions of people both in terms of health and longevity. Yet despite the enormous advances over the past 100 years we are still unsure of much and today's scientific fact may be tomorrow's old wives' tale. We also want things explained in black and white terms: "This is good for you". "That is bad for you". Messages that are easily understood but almost certainly incorrect unless every single facet of your being corresponds exactly to the average.

At points in the past 70 years we have been told that

- a) Smoking is good for asthma
- b) Pregnant women should drink Guinness, as it contains iron
- c) Passing electricity through the brain is a cure for depression

In fact there is very little that we can be absolutely certain is true today and will never change. My faith is that God is there for everyone and that that will never change

It would be nice to know for certain that God exists, to be sure that there is a heaven after death and to know that whatever happens, it's for the best - and actually many Christians do know for sure that these facts are true but for millions of people they are accepted as true though faith, trust, belief rather than categorical certainty.

Why do some people have faith and others don't? Maybe some find it easier to accept abstract ideas? Perhaps those who hear God's call to faith are just more compassionate by nature and therefore more willing to forgive others, to accept others as they are and thereby follow the teachings of Christ.

St Thomas Aquinas probably called it right when he said "To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible"

I guess that at the end of the day you either have faith or you don't and we may never know why some believe and some doubt. What I can say with absolute certainty is that knowing God and having Him in my life is definitely "good for me".

**Laurence Besemer**

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### COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

It is with great PRIDE that my vision of COMMUNITY BONDING is strong, alive and well in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood.

It was on display in Gloucester Drive, Paterson Close, Mayfield Ridge, Beggarwood and other places during the Jubilee celebrations. Many places had cake competitions and I was delighted to see the joy, happiness and laughter of our residents. I was welcomed everywhere and joined in the celebrations for a little while at each place.

I would like to pay tribute to the organisers for their hard work and the participants for their contributions.

I would say well done to our communities and keep the spirit ongoing in the future for all generations to come.

My sincere thanks to all.

**Cllr Dan Putty JP**

## ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE UNDERTAKES CRITICAL UPGRADES TO INPATIENT UNIT

St. Michael's Hospice will undertake a refurbishment of its Inpatient Unit this summer. The project will see all existing corridor flooring replaced, new lighting and redecoration.

North Hampshire's only adult hospice is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. Over these 30 years the requirements governing infection control have been constantly evolving. To bring the Hospice up to date and transform the environment for staff, patients and visitors the carpet, lighting and decoration of the inpatient unit will be replaced.

This refurbishment was planned prior to COVID in 2020 but postponed due to the pressure for beds the virus caused on healthcare system.

These upgrades must now be undertaken as a matter of priority. For the two-week period the refurbishment will take, the Hospice will care for our patients in the community via increasing the workforce capacity of its Hospice at Home team. The safety and comfort of its patients and staff were paramount in making its decision.

Iain Cameron, Chief Executive of St. Michael's said "We have planned this progressive refurbishment with our healthcare partners and have the total support of our staff to ensure that patients will continue to receive the highest standard of round the clock specialist palliative care. We have communicated widely to our supporters and volunteers in the community to explain how the refurbishment will benefit patients and their families. By making these positive building improvements we will dramatically improve the physical working environment for patients and the dedicated teams delivering care to our patients".

Philippa Aslet, Director of Nursing at St. Michael's Hospice is passionate about the transformation process. "The refurbishment project is an exceptional opportunity to really improve the environment in which patients are cared in. All the teams are very excited and looking forward to seeing the result. For the duration of the refurbishment our clinical staff who work tirelessly delivering exceptional care to patients on the inpatient unit will work in support of their community colleagues. This ensures we have the additional capacity required to meet patient needs. In addition, we will continue to provide a 24hr a day phone line manned by specialist clinical staff to provide support to patients and families. Whilst it can sometimes be more challenging delivering care in the community, we are confident that there will be minimal interruption to the support our Hospice provides to the community. At the end of the refurbishment process we will have a hugely improved environment that is easier to maintain, meets the latest infection control requirements yet remains welcoming for patients who visit to receive vital treatment, care and support."

The work will begin on July 1st, and is scheduled to last 14 days.



### June meeting

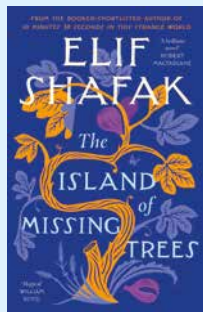
This month we were delighted to welcome back local author Helen Matthews. Her latest novel *The Girl in the Van* was recently published by Darkstrokes Books. It tells the story of Laura, a bereaved mother trying to forge a new life when an unexpected stowaway in her camper van disrupts her life. A thrilling mystery then unfolds which eventually leads to Laura discovering the truth about her daughter's untimely death. It touches on modern slavery, an issue close to Helen's heart as she is an ambassador for the anti-slavery charity Unseen.

Helen talked us through the process of writing, finding a publisher, editing the book and producing an engaging blurb and eye catching front cover. Our meeting was well attended and members were keen to ask Helen many interesting and challenging questions. Helen is currently writing her fifth book and we look forward to a future visit.

Please come along to the Summer Festival at the Community Centre on July 16th. We will be there with our book lucky dip! Come and support us.

In September our book choice is *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak set in Cyprus 1974.

Later in the Autumn we are planning a crime night with a visit from a published crime writer. Follow us on Facebook for more details and you are welcome to join us for coffee, cake and book chat at the cafe.



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## THE SUN CAME OUT FOR OUR JUBILEE CELEBRATION AND OUR MEMBERS DID TOO

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### HUNDRED AND TEN OF US CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE

Our u3a came together over half term to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee - some of us able to share our coronation memories too. We dug out our memorabilia, packed a chair, grabbed a drink and set out for a picnic in Stratton Park. Our Committee kindly provided each person there with a goodie bag, containing some snacks, a u3a pen and a coaster, to celebrate the occasion. And the sun came along too!

Our members all belong to lots of different groups, with different interests of course. We do have a monthly meeting where everyone can come together, usually with a speaker, but our Stratton Park picnics give us a chance to come together in a very informal way and have some fun in the sun!




### And Netball used the moment!


We organise all kinds of activities, covering sports, board games, creative arts, science, languages, literature, music - to name but a few. Never shy of publicity, our walking netball group came prepared for the camera, leaving our walking football and rounders teams in the shade! Until September our membership fee is just £25, so it's a good time to look at all the activities we run for you to try.

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


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




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## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### WELLINGTON FARM SHOP

Welsh Lane, Stratfield Saye, RG27 0LT 0118 932 6229

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

Everyone has faced it sometime; deciding on where to meet friends for lunch. Especially tricky when living some distance apart and so it was when meeting some friends from Reading. Somewhere in between made sense and so the café in the Wellington Farm shop was an obvious choice.

It can be found westwards from the roundabout where the single A33 becomes the Swallowfield bypass dual carriageway.

The café claims to use hand selected ingredients from the farm shop that you must pass through to get to the café at the back that has views of the Wellington estate from the outdoor terrace. Ours was an inside table for which Madam had made a reservation online.

All day breakfasts, and substantial hot dishes are there to tempt the hungry horses and with cakes and coffee, but we decided on a middle course from their offering. Madam's salad was roasted beetroot and goat's cheese that used pine nut aged Balsamic dressing while I had sandwich of chicken breast, streaky bacon and avocado, with lettuce, tomato and mayo on toasted Focaccia. All very trendy you might say, but really tasty. For drinks I had a bottle of Stella Artois and Madam a latte coffee.

The extensive drinks menu includes wine and non-alcoholic beer but do not be tempted to request a shandy as they will bring a bottle of lemonade and a bottle of beer for the customer to mix themselves as was explained "we are not a pub."

The cost to us was £28.40 which I considered good value for the quality we enjoyed.

Worth going? This is a popular café open seven days a week but with some time restrictions on what food is available and it is recommended that a table booking is made at busy times. All menus, including one for children, can be seen on their web site.





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