

THE Rabbiter



Issue 294 December 2022 – January 2023

All the regular features plus

- **COVER COMPETITION WINNER**
- **SCHOOLREADERS VOLUNTEERS**
- **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

and much more

The Community Newsletter for

**Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren,
Beggarwood and Kempshott Park**



For over 25 years we have been improving homes in Basingstoke

- ✓ Windows & Doors
- ✓ Conservatories & Orangeries
- ✓ Garage Doors
- ✓ Guaranteed Work
- ✓ Great Prices
- ✓ Finance Available

RIPTON
Windows &
Conservatories

Offering peace of mind for years to come

Call 01256 841522 riptonwindows.co.uk

Why not visit our showroom?

We have lots of example conservatories, windows and doors, with free parking and a decent cuppa.

Quote 'RABBITER' for a preferential quote.



THE Rabbitter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 5 CGH & BEGGARWOOD SURGERY NEWS
- 6 PHILLIPS SOLICITORS COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY BEGGARWOOD BOOKWORMS
- 8 COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE
- 10 PROBUS HEARS ABOUT THREE VCS AWARDED TO THE HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT IN WWI
- 12 OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP
- 14 COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 15 THE WARREN
- 16 CHILDREN'S CORNER
- 17 ANVIL ARTS
- 18 BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY
- 19 BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
- 20 CLASSIFIED ADS WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY
- 21 SCHOOLREADERS NEEDED KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP
- 22 RESTAURANT REVIEW FREEADS HATCH WARREN WI

Printed by Greenhouse Graphics Ltd
 www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk
 This publication is freely distributed to
 Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren, Beggarwood
 Lane and Kempshott Park. Circulation over 4000.

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to our amazing young artists at the After School Club. Every year they present some lovely pictures and we have the task of choosing one for the front cover of the December edition of the Rabbitter. This year's front cover picture was drawn by Poppy Wright – I wonder if we will get snow this Christmas! There are two runners up Grace Burrows and Owen Fletcher – well done everyone. And a big thank you to our Sainsbury store for sponsoring the competition.

Are you alone on Christmas Day? A single parent, living alone or unable to prepare a traditional Christmas lunch. There will be a traditional Christmas Day lunch at the Café in the Park on 25 December – cost £12 for adults and £6 for children – see page 20.

The Rabbitter has always worked hard to support our Community. We aim to support local initiatives, activities and our residents. We rely on local people to help with delivery and submitting news and updates. The Rabbitter urgently needs volunteers to deliver to local homes – could you spare half an hour a month to help? Also after over 30 years, the time has come for some fresh blood. Your editor is not getting any younger and the time has come to pass the baton on. Would you like to join a couple of others to overview the Rabbitter and contribute to writing the editorial each month? How much time will be needed? No more than a couple of hours each month. If you can help please contact editor@therabbitter.biz.

A big thank you to the Hatch Warren Community Association for organising another stupendous Firework Spectacular. Despite the wet weather, the crowds were there to watch. However there were many people who parked up to watch the wonderful display blocking roads for others. Garlic Lane was blocked preventing local traffic getting through. Parking on the estate continues to be a problem on a number of access roads across the estate. Please do park considerately.

The Rabbitter takes a break in January and the next issue will be February 2023. Copy date for your news is 15 January. Send your news and views to newsdesk@therabbitter.biz.

The Rabbitter would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Editor



Grace Burrows




Owen Fletcher



1st RESPONSE
Heating & Plumbing

Call Jamie Davenport 24hr - 7 Days a Week
Tel No: 01256 398611 Mobile No: 07876 687422

Worcester
Bosch Group
Accredited Installer



212273

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

- Breakdowns
- Landlord Safety Checks
- Power flushing
- Water softeners

An established, family run local business with 20 years' experience



All Seasons Window & Driveway Cleaning

Domestic & Commercial
Window Cleaning Services

Additional services include :

- Driveway Cleaning
- Cladding / Signage Cleaning
- Gutter / Fascia Soffit Cleaning
- Conservatory Roof Cleaning
- Pure Water (NO CHEMICALS)

Please Contact Steve :
01256 353727

info@allseasonswindowcleaning.com



All Seasons Window & Driveway Cleaning



Conservatory
Deep Cleans



Safe, Efficient
Ladder-Less Cleans



Refreshing, Driveway
& Pathway Cleans



www.allseasonswindowcleaning.com



Be who you've always been... a daredevil

At Dashwood Manor care home being a daredevil doesn't stop when you make the journey into care. Bring your life with you to a place you can call home.

Award winning, person centred care for over 40 years.

If you're considering care for yourself or a loved one call **01256 588592**.



Trusted to care.

Dashwood Manor care home
Basingstoke
careuk.com/dashwood-manor

care UK

CGH & BEGGARWOOD SURGERY NEWS FROM YOUR PPG

Web Site: cghppg.co.uk

As some of you may know, the Beggarwood surgery is now run by Operose/CGH. Since this acquisition we have been under some pressure from Operose to merge our activities with the Beggarwood PPG. At first we resisted this move but after careful consideration and after meeting with the Beggarwood PPG team we have decided to accede to their request.

During the meeting with the Beggarwood PPG Chair and the Vice Chair we decided that a joint merger has numerous advantages and just a couple of minor disadvantages for us. To counter this threat that both PPGs might have diluted focus it was agreed that a small management type quorum be formed consisting of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of both PPGs. This group will meet with the CGH/Operose management team monthly and then report back to the larger and joint PPG membership. A further win for both PPGs is that we will become the largest PPG group under the Operose flag and we mean to make full use of this in our dealings with Operose and if need be, NHS England. Further advantages are the available skills and experiences across the merged groups to help drive Operose forward.

The structure we will run is as follows:

- Monthly meetings with local and central Operose Management.
- Separate monthly PPG meetings with all members of the larger and joint PPG.
- Minutes of above meetings published on the joint PPG Web Site: www.cghppg.co.uk Inserts across all Parish Magazines and online neighbourhood sites reporting on matters relating to all local Operose run surgeries.
- Inserts into the Basingstoke Gazette as above.

In Summary, we believe we will be stronger together but as ever we will be interested in your views.

As part of our remit, we have chosen to concentrate initially on a couple of key areas with the surgeries resulting from Maria Miller's Health in the Community meeting in July. These being, Telephone answering times and Patient Complaints. To this end we seek your help. What are your experiences when trying to contact the surgeries by phone? So that we can monitor this for the next few weeks and press for effective action from within Operose we ask you to fill in a quick and easy survey reporting your experiences. This can be found here on the PPG web

site and as stated above: www.cghppg.co.uk. See below as to how you can help us monitor complaints into the surgery.

Complaints?

We are aware that some people use Social Media to raise concerns and complaints about the surgeries. We understand that this can relieve some frustration but in reality does not really address or help resolve their issue as the sites are not monitored by Operose and therefore they cannot comment or help with the matter. Therefore, if you feel that you have not been dealt with correctly by the surgery or perhaps not had a good experience in dealing with either the surgery or a member of staff, you should make a formal complaint. Please visit the CGH web site to register your dissatisfaction. The address is: <https://cghpartnership.co.uk/about-us/comments-and-complaints/>. Operose employs a full time Complaints Manager and so you should get a speedy response and certainly an acknowledgement within 3 working days and a formal reply to your complaint with a resolution within 40 working days. If you are not satisfied with the way they have dealt with your complaint, you can contact the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman to review your case on 0345 015 4033 or via their website: www.ombudsman.org.uk. The Ombudsman is an independent body established to promote improvements in healthcare through the assessment of the performance of those who provide service.

Surgeries Update

Call Waiting times as the most important issue to address to reduce the overload on the call queues. Operose are trying different ideas for call answering. There will be a number of different options to enable calls to be placed in different queues and handled by different people and procedures. The options will range from medical emergencies to Prescriptions, Referrals, Medical Secretary and Deceased reporting etc. This will mean urgent calls will be dealt with more quickly leaving the rest of the calls for trained receptionists to deal with. The idea is to navigate the calls to reduce queues. To make this work effectively we must respect the trial system and avoid the temptation to press "emergency regardless of the nature of your call. Sickness with the staff is causing some delays in the level of services. Two numbers are used between the surgeries,

one for Beggarwood and the other for three CGH surgeries. This new system is being reviewed every day. If it proves to not be effective in reducing wait times then it may well be that the model will have to change.

Flu vaccinations have been given to 8,325 patients. Invitations to attend vaccinations have been sent out by text, and by letter to those without mobile phones. It has been reported that some letters were not franked. The practice will refund this postage.

There have been problems with prescriptions at both Boots Beggarwood and Lloyds at Sainsbury's. There is a known issue with the Boots app and these problems appear to be with the pharmacies and not the surgeries.

Operose have agreed to provide us with some key statistics about the running of their operations across surgeries comprising of staffing levels, call wait times, DriQ registrations and contacts etc. We have agreed a formula with them as to how they are presented and we plan to start publishing them here once it is up and running.

Dr.iQ

Current feedback to us is mixed. What are your experiences using the app? Once again replies via our email address.

Contacting the PPG

At present there are 2 email addresses for contacting us. Either one will work in contacting us.

beggarwood.surgeryppg@btinternet.com
cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com

We plan to merge these contact points over the next few months.

Suggestions for input might be:

- Have you been referred to a different surgery within Operose Group? What was your experience of this?
- The ease of booking an appointment or call back
- The surgery waiting area environment
- Helpful suggestions for improvements within practice
- Feedback on the reception and medical staff

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

Phillips Law

LEAVE A GIFT FOR CHARITY

Whilst many Christmas presents will be forgotten as soon as they have been unwrapped, there is a festive gift that can make a big difference – leaving a legacy to a charity.

Three quarters of Britons regularly give to charity in their lifetimes, but only 6% include a charity when writing a Will.



Without this source of income many charities would have to cut important services and some could not exist.

Charities rely on both regular donations and legacies in Wills to be able to continue their good work. Leaving money to charity in your Will can make a huge difference and what a wonderful way to ensure that your legacy lives on after you've gone.

Donations can be as small or as large as you wish, as every gift makes a difference. A gift made to a UK registered charity is also inheritance tax free.

If your estate is large enough to be chargeable to inheritance tax, gifts to charity will reduce not just the overall amount of tax paid by the rest of your estate but also the rate of tax, resulting in your family getting the most of their inheritance.

For help in leaving a charitable legacy or other advice on Wills, please contact our Wills, Trusts and Probate Team on 01256 460830.

More information about the wide range of legal services offered by Phillips Law, can be found at www.phillips-law.co.uk

COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

The Highways Agency is investigating in making our arterial road better. There are massive works at Brighton Hill roundabout which has an impact on the A30. We, from Hatch Warren and Beggarwood have to be patient and allow time to reach our destinations.

We are conscious that there will be some rat running through our roads. Please report to us of any danger caused by the influx of traffic on our roads.

I am encouraged that more people are walking to schools with their children.

I would like to congratulate Brighton Hill School where I am a past governor having achieved brilliant results recently. My sincere congratulations to the children, staff and head. I am proud of them all and well done.

I have a small councillor fund at the council and I would request schools in our area to apply for any worthwhile projects. If they get in touch with the council the officers will guide them.

I would be delighted to help if it meets with the criteria laid down by the council.

Best regards

Cllr Dan Putty JP



NOVEMBER REPORT

This month we were delighted to welcome local Basingstoke author Mike Hollow. Mike has written a successful series of books about the Blitz Detective John Jago who solves murders during the Second World War. Ahead of Mike's visit we read 'The Pimlico Murder', number six in the series. Mike explained that due to lockdown it was impossible to do his normal research in London and so read many books about the area of Pimlico until he was able to visit. During his research he was able to talk to residents who remembered life in the area. A big thank you to Mike for his informative and interesting talk.

Mike was our eighth author to visit Bookworms since our group began and we are looking forward to enjoying another successful year in 2023.

Next month is our Christmas social, we are reading 'The Reading List' by Sara Nisha Adams and hope to compile our own Beggarwood Bookworms essential reading list.

Future titles for next year include 'Lessons in Chemistry' 'The Four Winds' 'Great Circle' and 'The Paper Palace' read along with us and follow us on Facebook or join us in the New Year for coffee, cake and book chat you will be very welcome.



**Does your cat hate
catteries?
If so why not let
them enjoy a
staycation at home?**

**Family run cat sitting service offering
once or twice daily visits to cater for all
your cats needs. Fully insured. CRB
checked. Discrete service (no branded
vehicles!)**

www.pawsathomelimited.co.uk

J Cook Landscapes

Maintenance & Clearance
Decking & Fencing
Patios & Driveways
Garden Design & Build



Call now for a free quote:
01256 412723 / 0771 7214521
e: info@jcooklandscapes.co.uk
www.jcooklandscapes.co.uk

Weller Mackrill

**Chartered Certified Accountants
and Tax Advisers**



Accounts • Tax & VAT Returns • PAYE & CIS • Company formations
IR35 advice • Tax planning • Free initial consultation

For a friendly and sensibly priced service

Please ring **01256 782059**

E-mail: paul@wellermackrill.co.uk james@wellermackrill.co.uk
Weller Mackrill, South Building, Upper Farm, Wootton St Lawrence, Basingstoke. RG23 8PE

Candover Park Solutions

Computer Problems?

Friendly professional IT services for business and home:

Apple iPad setup/training - Mac support - Virus removal - Email
Computer performance issues - Wireless, Internet & Broadband
Hardware & Software Installation - Business solutions/support

Steve Troth - Local IT professional 25+yrs experience
Tel: 01256 807 876 or support@candoverparksolutions.co.uk



SMALL JOBS

Professional & Friendly Service

Any manner of small jobs undertaken

Plumbing, Tiling, Fencing, Decorating,
Flat Pack assembly and many other small jobs

In fact ANY SMALL JOB you need doing
For a free quote please call Glyn on 07737 190179

CARS URGENTLY WANTED TOP PRICES PAID

CASH OR INSTANT BANK TRANSFER

M & K AUTOS • BASINGSTOKE

**Trading in your car or just
need an Instant Cash Sale**

CALL US FIRST

- All cars and vans considered from £50 to £20,000
- For a fast, friendly professional approach please call Keith Lovelock on Basingstoke **(01256) 477838** or **07785 594429**

*Your Local
Buyer*

8 DAHLIA CLOSE • KEMPSHOTT • RG22 5RQ

Jonathan Williams

Independent Funeral Directors

Family owned and run,
independent Funeral Director
with traditional values.

Professional, caring and
sympathetic staff available 24
hours a day 365 days a year.

35 - 41 Essex Road
Basingstoke
RG21 7TB

01256 817603





COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

BROADMERE ROAD ADOPTIONS: it looks as if the issue that has been stalling the adoption of the roads around the Beggarwood shops has been resolved without the need to go to a tribunal. This is good, but also disappointing because the solution arrived at must have been available to both parties many months ago. I have spoken with the County officers on restarting the process of adopting the roads. It is still likely to take some months as defects have to be identified, agreed and rectified by the original developers. Adoption can't come soon enough for local residents who have been subjected to deteriorating roads and street light defects for many years.

VANDALISM: sadly the Café in the Park at Beggarwood has experienced more vandalism, this time directed at the tables outside. I helped to fund these tables from my County Council grant after the old ones were damaged beyond repair. These are facilities for all the community to use, and those who make it their business to damage them are robbing everyone in the area. People like to talk about 'mindless vandalism'. It is nothing of the sort. It is a deliberate act and, to my mind, borne of a contempt for the community.

FIREWORKS: congratulations to our Community Association for putting on another fabulous, and sold-out, fireworks display on 5th November. The fireworks seem to get better every year, and this time had some 'silent but colourful' sections to add variety. The finale was almost overwhelming, with so much happening that it was difficult to take it all in. The weather had looked threatening but largely cleared by the time of the display, with only a light drizzle. The wind was light - enough to carry away the smoke but not enough to interfere with the fireworks themselves. This year the organisers did not ask for fairground rides at the display, a change that I am sure will have been welcomed by many hard-pressed families. Thank you to everyone involved, including the army of volunteers who helped man the gates and barriers.

ROADWORKS: I am pleased to see that the temporary traffic lights at the opposite ends of Beggarwood Lane have been removed. I confess to being exasperated by the disruption and apparent uncaring approach of the contractors doing the work. There were postings on social media of people being unable to get out of Beggarwood because of queues caused by malfunctioning lights.

SCHOOLS REVIEW: I attended a meeting at the County Council that reviewed the performance and status of Basingstoke's schools. I was pleased to receive confirmation that performance is improving across the board. In the secondary schools, Years 7, 8 and 9 are virtually full which indicates not just a bulge in the number of young people but also a reduction in parents wanting to send their children to schools outside the town. Brighton Hill has noticeably gone from being under-subscribed to having every available place taken, and a waiting list.

ST MARK'S SCHOOL was represented by two Year 6 pupils at the Remembrance Service at the war memorial on Sunday 13th November. The school takes this event very seriously, paying tribute to those who have served the country.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK: St Mark's School also played its part in marking Anti-Bullying week from Monday 14th November, starting with an Odd Socks Day. This event emphasised that everyone is unique, and that pupils should be allowed to be themselves, free from bullying.

INQUIRY INTO WAREHOUSE APPLICATION: the inquiry into the refused planning application at Oakdown Farm has been held and we who spoke are now waiting nervously for the Inspector's report. Issues raised 'from the floor' included whether the types of jobs to be provided by warehousing are actually those that Basingstoke needs, especially as there appear to be hundreds of unfilled warehouse vacancies in the area. We also queried whether the road system could cope with the extra heavy traffic, and quoted as evidence Hampshire County Council's new policies to address the difficulties faced by the M3. We also suggested that huge warehouses are the wrong buildings

to have at such an important gateway into Basingstoke and highlighted the impact that the lighting would have throughout the night on the local environment. The pressure group, CAGE, had a constant presence at the inquiry. Maria Miller MP spoke on the last day, emphasising the roads issues and the importance of the new hospital site, which remains the Hospital Trust's preferred location. I have placed the presentation I made on my blog at <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>

ACCESSING GP SURGERIES: the most frequent complaint I hear about the local GP surgeries is that it takes too long to get through on the telephone. Operose are reporting that the average wait at the three CGH surgeries approaches an hour. Beggarwood is quicker. The Patient Participation Group has raised the long waits with Operose. In response, the company has introduced a trial telephone answering system, which will be reviewed daily. To compound this problem, Operose's Dr IQ application looked to be inaccessible on many of its functions as well.

MERGED PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: The first meeting of the Camrose/Gillies/Hackwood and Beggarwood Patient Participation Group has taken place and I am grateful to Thelma Wiseman for allowing me to attend as an observer. In administrative terms, the PPG merger has gone well. I took the opportunity to ask the Practice Manager about the Operose business model and she confirmed that they regard themselves as running one surgery with four outlets. This, clearly, allows them to generate maximum synergy but I see it also as containing inherent risks if they make themselves too dependant on certain key people who leave or fall sick. This is something I predict will be the subject of further debate.

SURGERY COMPLAINTS: if patients of Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood or Beggarwood surgeries experience problems, Operose employ a full-time Complaints Manager. If you feel you have reason to complain about your experiences, you can register your dissatisfaction via the CGH website: www.cghpartnership.co.uk/about-us/comments-and-complaints. You should receive a response and/or an acknowledgement, within 3 working days, plus a formal reply and solution, within 40 working days. If you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to contact the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman on 0345 0154033 or via their website: www.ombudsman.org.uk.

BIODIVERSITY: a small meeting was held at Beggarwood Community Centre on 2nd November to discuss biodiversity issues around the area. We identified some projects that could help to encourage wild flowers and insects, and these will be worked up into proposals to put before the Borough Council next year.

BRIGHTON HILL ROUNDABOUT: work is continuing on the improvements and the boundaries of the new road surfaces and paths can be clearly seen in many areas. Concerns were raised about the safety of crossings at night and extra lighting was put in place.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CONVERSATION: I attended a meeting hosted by Maria Miller MP at the Hatch Warren community centre that discussed women's health issues. One theme that came through from the audience was that gateways into treatment pathways are too often not known, causing women to miss out on help that is available.

CHOOSING A SCHOOL: this is the time of year when parents and carers need to be choosing the schools that will be best for their children who will join Year R in September 2023. There is no better way to make the right decision for your child than to look round the school and talk to the staff. Applications have to be submitted to Hampshire County Council by 15th January, and with the festive season approaching, time is running short!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR: I believe this is the last issue of the Rabbiter before the Christmas break, so I am delighted to wish everyone reading this article the very best for the festive season.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor. Basingstoke South West 07976 310206



THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Treat a loved one to a relaxing beauty treatment or Spa Day experience, with a Beechdown Gift Voucher

Buy online, in person or by phone



beechdown.co.uk



01256 36 22 36



PROBUS HEARS ABOUT THREE VCS AWARDED TO THE HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT IN WW1

The Victoria Cross is the highest and most prestigious gallantry medal awarded to any member of UK armed forces following action "in the presence of the enemy." It is inscribed with the words "For Valour."

As the name indicates the award was created by Queen Victoria to recognise the actions of any service personnel, of any age, length of service or rank. The original recipients in 1857 were veterans of the Crimean War and the story goes that the metal used for all VCs is from Russian cannons seized at Sebastopol. In recent years an alternative opinion has emerged that Chinese cannons were used that were captured during the dubious Opium Wars.

What is known is that only 10 kgs of the original metal exists which is held under guard at the Royal Logistics Corps base at MOD Donnington near Telford. This is reckoned to be sufficient for another 80 or so Victoria Crosses.

This was all outlined by Nick Saunders, the latest speaker at the Probus Club of Basingstoke. He is a part time archivist in the Royal Hampshire Regiment in Winchester as well as WWI battlefields guide while continuing his studies working towards a master's degree in local history from the Open University.



and dashed ahead of some seventy men who were met with heavy machine gun fire which caused severe casualties with the result that he arrived at his objective some five hundred yards on with only a sergeant and four men. Undaunted he bombed a large dug out and took 28 prisoners, 2 machine guns and a light field gun. Gradually more officers and men arrived, to number about sixty. They defended the position under constant fire for 36 hours using enemy rifles and bombs and beat off several counterattacks. By this time his force

was reduced to just ten men. 2nd Lt Moore eventually got away his wounded and withdrew under cover of a thick mist. He was only eighteen years old.

Such courage was soundly appreciated by the members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke who enjoy a variety of talks at their monthly business meetings.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information about this social club for retired professional and business managers.



His particular interest is the award of the Victoria Cross to three members of the Hampshire Regiment during WWI. (The regiment only received its Royal honorific in 1948). They were all Second Lieutenants and were very young.

In 1915 2nd Lt George R D Moor was only eighteen years old during the Gallipoli campaign in the Dardanelles, which today is in modern Turkey.

Things were going badly for 2nd Lt Moor's 2nd battalion of the Hampshire regiment. Of one thousand men they had been reduced to only three hundred and lost five commanding officers in six weeks. A detachment of a battalion on his left, which had lost most of its officers was rapidly retiring before a heavy Turkish attack. Recognising the danger to the rest of the line he dashed some 200 yards and stemmed the retirement, led back the men and recaptured the lost trench. What emerged from the talk was that this young officer shot dead four men which no doubt encouraged a rethink on behalf of the retreating troops. He died of the Spanish flu on November 3rd, 1918, aged just twenty-one. As well as the VC he had also been awarded the MC and Bar.

On 31st July 1917 2nd Lt Denis GW Hewitt was in command of a company at Ypres and after capturing his first objective he advanced but was hit by shrapnel that set alight signal flares in his haversack. He put out the fire by rolling in the deep mud of the battlefield and despite his severe burns he led the company forward under heavy machine gun fire, capturing and consolidated his objective. He was killed by a sniper while inspecting the consolidation and encouraging his men. His body was lost on the battlefield and his name is engraved on the Menin Gate. He had been educated at Winchester College and Sandhurst and was aged just nineteen.

Not being a success at grammar school, 2nd Lt Montague SS Moore had been privately tutored before attending Sandhurst. While at Ypres on 20th September 1917 his actions earned him the Victoria Cross and subsequently the Croix de Guerre. He was in command

NJP Heating Services

Tel: 01256 782202
Mob: 07717 741999

Specialising in:

- Condensing boilers - supplied and installed
- Powermax and Boilermate repairs
- Water softeners supplied and installed
- Power flush heating systems
- Unvented hot water cylinders
- Plumbing

www.njpheating.com

safe
REGISTER
211566

**BUY WITH
CONFIDENCE**

Which?
Trusted trader

Trading Standards Approved Free estimates and no call out charge

- 10 WEEK ART COURSES •
- WINE & PAINT EVENINGS •
- WEEKEND WORKSHOPS •

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

FIND YOUR "ME TIME"

TAUGHT BY A
PROFESSIONAL
LOCAL
ILLUSTRATOR

INFO@AZUREARTACADEMY.CO.UK
WWW.AZUREARTACADEMY.CO.UK



Basingstoke water softeners

over
25 years

INSTALLING

Leading brand Water Softeners

SERVICING

Water Softeners of all brands

WATER FILTERS

and 3-way Taps

SALT

Block Salt delivered to your door



PROBLEMS WITH LIMESCALE?

Try softened water



CONTACT US

📞 01256 703 346

✉️ sales@basingstokesofteners.com



VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

📍 Greenacres, Aldermaston
Road, RG26 3AF

READ OUR REVIEWS

Checkatrade





OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

We are now into winter after an unusually warm autumn. Due to the warm October and November this year some tree species (for example the oak and hazel) dropped their leaves very late. It was strange to see green leaves so late into November.

The effect of climate change is definitely noticeable this year. Some migrating birds started to move later than normal. Some plants started to produce buds and flowers in October and even into November. A

shrub that has had a second blooming this autumn is the honeysuckle. There seems to have been an abundance of acorns this year – and therefore happy squirrels and jays! Both have been seen on Old Down and Beggarwood. They create secret stores for the winter and do forget about some of their stores thus new oak trees sprout. It is sad to take out such a splendid tree as the oak but this has to be done on the tumulus – oak trees have sprouted there but are just not in the right place. It is wild flowers the group is aiming to encourage on the tumulus – not new trees!

Work Parties: For Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!) and for Beggarwood at the café on the first Tuesday of the month 9-12noon. Please do come and join us. Check the website for further information. And please do look at the Group's Facebook page for interest.

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



Café in the Park

WE ARE NOW FULLY OPEN!

PLEASE JOIN US

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10am – 2pm

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

Community lunch 1st Wednesday every month

Free hot drink with 10 stars collected using our loyalty card

Sunday offers from 1.30pm onwards

Midweek deals - coffee and cake only £4

Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft – (call 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1st Wednesday every month

Lots of regular events – please ask at the cafe

For party bookings please visit:
www.hatchwarren.org

Card & Cuppa
Dec 16th



WEEKEND BAPS



TOASTED PANINIS AND SANDWICHES

We look forward to seeing you soon!



FRESH HOMEMADE CAKES



HOT & COLD DRINKS

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY!



Are You:-

- A Good Listener?
- Caring & Understanding?
- A Parent/Grandparent/Carer?
- Do you have 1-2 hours a week you could spare?



We are looking for Volunteers to support families in the Community,
YOU can make a difference to someone's life.

INTERESTED?

Contact us:-

Tel: 01256 325793
Email: info@homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk
Website: www.homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk

Volunteers benefit from 10-25 hours training over 2-4 weeks
starting Friday 20th January 2023 @9:30am-2:30pm

BECAUSE CHILDHOOD CAN'T WAIT!

St. Michael's Hospice
Reindeer Run
Sunday 18th December 2022, 9am
Setting off from Queen Anne's Square,
Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

3K RUN

Join us for a
festive family fun run!

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY:
festival PLACE
BASINGSTOKE

Find out more:
www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk
#ReindeerRun @smhbasingsstoke

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR
Registered Charity no. 1002856

Spencer & Peyton Ltd
Established 1963

3rd Generation family owned and run Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons

24 Hours

Our family serving your family for over 60 years

380 Worthing Road
Basingstoke, RG22 5DZ
01256 323165

7 London Road
Hook, RG27 9DY
01256 761717

Trading Standards approved

Pre-paid funeral plans discussed without obligation.

funerals@spencerandpeyton.co.uk
www.spencerandpeyton.co.uk

ON SITE FLORIST

THE FLOWER GIRL

01256 355556
www.theflowergirlflorist.co.uk

OAKLEY
EST. 1982
CARPETS & FURNITURE

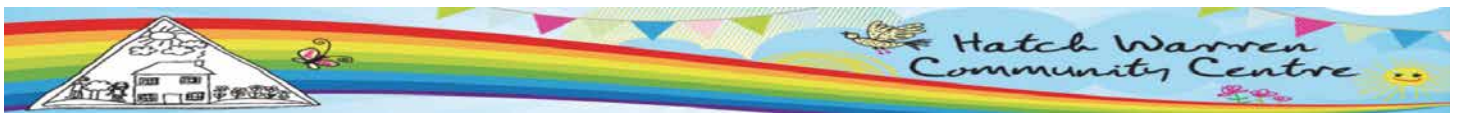
Showroom
The old Station Andover Rd Oakley Basingstoke RG23 7HA
Tel: (01256) 782070
OPEN 9am - 5pm MONDAY - FRIDAY
CLOSED WEDNESDAY SATURDAY 10am - 3pm

SERVING BASINGSTOKE FOR OVER 36 YEARS

CARPETS, VINYL, WOOD, LAMINATE, BEDS, DINING SETS, LOUNGE FURNITURE, BEDROOM FURNITURE, STUDY FURNITURE.

If you want FURNITURE and you want it FAST call in and see it, feel it and take it away today or use our FREE local delivery service

**CARPET EDGING SERVICE CARRIED OUT IN OUR STORE
ORDER RUGS ANY SIZE TO SUIT YOUR ROOM**
www.oakley-furnishing.co.uk



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



Just 2 hours is all it takes to make a difference

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

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

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

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

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



**RS
VP**



Looking for that perfect party venue?

Our main hall is suitable for children's parties and is bookable Saturday and Sunday from 2.30-5.30pm. Use of our kitchen facilities and hire of tables and chairs included. Smaller bouncy castles/soft play can be accommodated.

We also offer a catering package for your party consisting of sandwiches, pom bears, capri sun and a cupcake. We will try to accommodate themes and colours where possible.

Our hall can also be used for business meetings and various catering options are available.

To discuss your requirements and to arrange a visit to view our facilities give us a call on T: 811262



Beggarwood Community Centre
Broadmere Road, Basingstoke,
RG22 4AQ

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



THE ONLY PROVIDER OF A FRESHLY HOME COOKED MEAL



PASSIONATE, DEDICATED & LONG STANDING TEAM



ARTS/CRAFTS AND GAMES



FRIENDLY, SAFE, MODERN ENVIRONMENT

In the heart of your community!



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



Established 2013
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Price per session £11.60

Flexible bookings & extra sessions can be accommodated

Contact us:

odette@hatchwarren.org
01256 811262
www.hatchwarren.org

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

Registered Charity Number 1161117

find us on | facebook

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Tel: 01256 811262

Email: office@hatchwarren.org

Web: www.hatchwarren.org

Following us on Twitter @hatchwarren



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

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

Qualified Staff / Extensive Free Holiday Programmes /Tel: 842111 / Email: emily@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, years 6, 7 & 8

Friday 2 nd December	Bingo, Christmas card making and Cheeseburgers
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Quiz, Christmas decoration making and biscuit decorating.
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Party!! Closing until the New Year
Friday 6 th January	Goals for 2023 well-being session, Loom bands and fruit kebabs.
Friday 13 th January	Football, hair chalks and hotdogs.
Friday 20 th January	Basketball, Nail painting and donuts.
Friday 27 th January	Human hungry hippos, make your own photo frame and loaded nachos.

What have we been up to! Another month of fully booked sessions and lots of excited young people. There has been human hungry hippos, dodgeball and sumo suits. In the craft corner we have had sand art, slime, mosaic tiles and firework art.

A HUGE thank you to everyone that came to see us at Fireworks night and purchased glow toys, food and drink. All the proceeds have gone back into the Warren which is a massive help to us.

Another massive thank you to our Councillor Stephen Reid who funded us the money to buy the young people a new air hockey table. The young people have been thoroughly enjoying playing with it and we are so grateful.

We want to wish all our parents, carers and young people a very Happy Christmas. We have had a very successful year at the Warren and thank you for all your support.



We have successfully found work for some of our young members, which is amazing news and we couldn't be happier for them. For some of our other members, we have been working with Green fingers to find voluntary work at their allotment.

On 2nd November, we started our kitchen confidence course at BCOT. It was an excellent course and the group not only enjoyed it but gained a great deal from it as well.

Our computer and money management course continues to run well at The Café in the Park. This is a lovely place to hold our groups and we have members of the club supporting other members in the learning process.

Halloween was a brilliant evening at Hatch Warren and the costumes were as always spectacular.

Dates for December and January

5th Dec - Christmas disco at West Side Community Centre

16th Dec - visit to The Anvil for the Pantomime

9th Jan - Hatch Warren

16th Jan - Bowling and a trip to McDonalds

23rd Jan - Hatch Warren

30th Jan - visit to the Sprouse Goose



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, X-Box or just want somewhere to hang out come on down. The older session also receive FREE food and hot drinks.

The Youth Workers are always happy to chat about any issues you may have. We can also offer you free confidential advice on a range of issues including contraception, pregnancy testing, drugs and alcohol.

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





HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We are now in our magical term of glitter and sparkle at Hatch Warren Under Fives Preschool where we are having fun with all things Christmas.

We have decorated trees, made lots of Christmas craft and sung lots of Christmas songs. Plans are underway to finish the year with a lovely Christmas party for the children where we'll have a special visitor popping in to our Christmas grotto. The children will also be performing "Twas the Night Before Christmas" for our families.

We have spent lots of time on outdoor walks in the woods looking at the seasonal changes, listening to the sounds of crunching leaves and wind in the trees and collecting lovely natural resources to use in preschool.

There has been lots of fun and colour this term – including fireworks and Diwali. The children made clay Diwali tea light holders and we used lots of colour and textures to create some wonderful firework pictures.

The children made beautiful poppy prints and they learnt all about the meaning of Remembrance Day and real life heroes, they also joined in with a minute's silence and did an incredible job.

We joined in with Children in Need in November, we did lots of Pudsey inspired activities with the children and we also invited everyone to dress up their favourite fun clothes and the staff came to preschool dressed up too.

We took part in world nursery rhyme week, which celebrates the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development; we had a fantastic visit from a fire engine and the firemen told the children all about the special clothes

they wear and how important their job is.

We are continuing with our "Book of the Week". The children vote for a book each week and we have activities based



around the book – so far we have read Stickman and Goldilocks. The children created their own amazing stick families with sticks and twigs from their outdoor walks and they loved tasting porridge and trying different size chairs!

We are continuing with our small group work each week with Write Dance, a super fun session and a fantastic way to build motor skills and introduce writing skills; we are still having fun with our science experiments and makaton signing. And next week on the baking table we will be making some yummy Christmas goodies.

You can see weekly updates from Hatch Warren Under Fives on our Facebook page "Hatch Warren under Fives", where you will see lots of photos from our week.

Don't forget - applications are now open for Year R spaces for September 2023. You must apply to Hampshire County Council and the deadline for all applications is 15th January 2023. For more information, or to apply, visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

Wishing you all a happy and fun festive season!

We still have a few spaces remaining, to enquire about a preschool place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact Pam Jones, Manager, on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

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

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVPI!

The little ones have had great fun celebrating Bonfire Night, creating firework pictures with chalk, junk models with paint and glitter and a sensory tray experience including flour, glitter, pipe cleaners and tools to mark make and explore with their senses. The little ones have also made their own fireworks with breadsticks and sprinkles to eat at snack time.

The children have been developing their fine motor skills to mould clay to create divas to celebrate Diwali and make their own little animals looking for somewhere to hibernate this Autumn! The little ones have also had a great interest in ponies and unicorns over the last few weeks, so



we have been researching information and using our imaginations during role play.

We have been reading A Squash and a Squeeze and some related activities include exploring the sizes small, medium and large, how many animals we can fit into a house just like the little old lady's and identifying different animals and the names of their babies.

For the next few weeks, we will be focussing on encouraging the little ones to make marks with meaning. We use many experiences at pre-school not just paper and pencils including chalk, paint, sand, playdough, flour, clay, gloop, sticks and mud, transient art and sensory trays. This is a very important step to develop before moving on to pre-writing skills. Access to practise these skills by having resources available daily along with adults modelling mark making is very helpful.

The children have been exploring the stories 'Superworm' and 'Room on the Broom' during the forest sessions by making clay models, wands from sticks they found and decorated with ribbon and wool, role playing the stories together and making a special potion with natural resources they found in the woods. What fun at 'The Hornbeam Hideout' Forest School too, exploring, drinking hot chocolate, eating marshmallows and getting to know some animals.

Hope to see you soon!

Lisa Collisson

Pre-School Head

Tel: 01256-389008

Email: cvpadmin@btconnect.com

www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/

DANDELIONS

We are almost at the end of another term and what fun we have had!



Firstly we would like to thank all of our families for getting involved in our Autumn Treasure hunt. The children have enjoyed exploring the different textures of the rustling leaves and conkers that were found and we are delighted to say that we raised over £200.00 which has already been used to enhance our resources for the setting.

Nursery Rhyme week was a great success. Singing rhymes is crucial to developing children's language and communication skills. It has also provided further opportunities for us to cover all areas of our curriculum.

We have recently designed our own curriculum here at Dandelions. It is designed to be inclusive for all of our children allowing for adaptability to suit each individual child's needs. It's an ambitious and broad curriculum enabling each child to acquire new skills and knowledge in preparation for their journey to school.

Each year we take part in supporting Children In Need and the children dressed up in something spotty or their pyjamas.

The children have shared their adventures with us from Bonfire night which led to an activity exploring how we can create new colours by mixing powder paints and mark making.

Using musical instruments we recreated the noises of the fireworks.

We have made a Remembrance day display and have been exploring different objects we could use to create poppies. Forks and apples were a definite favourite.

Christmas is always a magical time in Pre-School and we have lots of fun filled activities planned for the children to enjoy and our parents will be joining us for Christmas Craft activities before we break up and enjoy the festivities with our families and friends.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a wonderful Christmas and to thank you all for your kindness and generosity throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you and our new starters in the 2023.

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

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School.

With the change of season upon us, we have been exploring Autumn as our latest theme. And what better way to introduce the season than with welly walks around the meadow! Our adventures led us to discuss the various changes that Autumn brings and the different textures and colours of the falling leaves. We collected the leaves to make leaf laminated numbers and enjoyed using them to practice our counting skills.

We have been putting our cutting and sticking skills to good use with lots of craft activities, including some lovely scarecrows made from different shapes. We also looked at the fascinating journey of how acorns grow into oak trees, and then created our own little acorns to add to our wall tree.

Of course, Autumn wouldn't be complete without vibrant bonfire artwork from our little ones. Plus the opportunity to enjoy delicious breadstick sparklers that we topped with colourful sprinkles!

Christmas raffle

We are delighted to be holding a Christmas raffle this year and we're seeking donations of biscuits, sweets, wine or preserves to add to our festive hampers. If you would like to provide a donation or know of a business that might be able to help with match funding, we would love to hear from you. We hope you all have a wonderful festive break!

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.

ANVIL ARTS

CINDERELLA

Starring Debbie McGee and Chris Pizzey

Fri 9 Dec 2022 – Mon 2 Jan 2023

The Anvil

Tickets: Various prices, bands, concessions etc plus relaxed and signed performances.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Fri 9 – Sun 11 Dec

The Haymarket

Tickets: £16.50. Under 16s £14.50 (includes £4 booking fee). Schools and groups rates, plus a relaxed performance.

Suitable for: ages 3-9

50 minutes, no interval

CARA DILLON Upon A Winter's Night

Tue 13 Dec, 7.30pm

The Haymarket

Tickets: £25 (includes £4 booking fee)

Ballet Theatre UK presents

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Thu 15 Dec, 7.30pm

The Haymarket

Tickets: £24. Under 25s and f/t students £21. Under 12s £18 (includes £4 booking fee)

SETH LAKEMAN

Accompanied by Alex Hart

Sun 18 Dec, 7.30pm

The Haymarket

Tickets: £24 (includes £4 booking fee)

THE ALBION BAND CHRISTMAS SHOW

Tue 20 Dec, 7.30pm

The Haymarket

Tickets: £25 (includes £4 booking fee)

01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk

RAISING MONEY FOR SEBASTIAN'S ACTION TRUST

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

BASINGSTOKE CREMATORIUM

STOCKBRIDGE ROAD
BASINGSTOKE
RG25 2BA

01256 398783

THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2022
7:00 PM

BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

ROTARY CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX THANK YOU

A huge thanks to all who contributed shoeboxes for our annual appeal, 670 shoeboxes full of toys and warm gloves & hats etc. are on the way to under privileged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Albania. We couldn't do this without the generosity of our local community who help spread a little happiness to children who have little. We were donated a huge amount of beautiful hand knitted clothes and toys, too many to go in in the shoeboxes but we were able to fill 9 packing cases with these knitted items, they will be delivered into the hands of Rotarians in those countries to distribute those in need. Through our Rotary channels a number of shoeboxes and some warm knitted items are also on their way to children in Ukraine. Our Wessex District Rotary sent 18,000 Christmas shoeboxes in 2021 from Hampshire.

ST MICHAELS HOSPICE REINDEER RUN

Sunday 18th December 2022

Festival Place, Queen Anne's Square, Outside Iceland.

CAMROSE CENTRE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Rotarians will again be cooking and serving Christmas lunch to the Camrose Centre clients and volunteers.

www.rcbd.org.uk

KEMPSHOTT PANTOMIME GROUP
presents

SLEEPING BEAUTY

A Pantomime by Limelight Scripts
at
Oakley Village Hall
Andover Road Oakley Basingstoke RG23 7HA

Wednesday 11 January – 7.30pm
Friday 13 January - 7.30pm
Saturday 14 January – 2.00pm (matinee)
Saturday 14 January – 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £10.00 Under 16 £7.00

For tickets email: kempshott pantomime group@gmail.com
or call: Margaret on 07834 068580

Tickets will also be available at:
The Sunday Market, Kempshott Village Hall
on Sunday 11 December 2022

Christmas 2022

Thurs 8th & 15th Dec- Jazz & Jingle at the 'Holly Blue'- 5-7pm

Sun 11th Dec- Nativity for all ages St Mark's Church- 10.30am

Sat 17th Dec- Blue Christmas reflective service- Immanuel Church- 5.30pm

Sun 18th Dec- Carol Service St Mark's Church- 6pm

Mon 19th Dec- Carols at 'The Kestrel'- 7pm

Sat 24th Dec- Christmas Eve Crib service- Immanuel- 3pm Christingle service- St Mark's Church- 4pm Midnight communion- St Mark's Church- 11.30pm

Christmas Day- all-age celebration- St Mark's Church- 9.30am

Find out more at
www.parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



The penultimate meeting of the year was held on 2 November at the Brookvale Village Hall. The Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed the members present and informed us that bookings for the Christmas meal at BCOT was full but that the trip to the garden centre on 17 November was now cancelled due to lack of numbers. He also advised us that the programme for next year's speakers and trips was now available and that the actual date of each monthly outing would be advised nearer the time. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then updated us on the progress of members not present due to various circumstances.

Our speaker this month was Ruth Walne from the charity Mercy Ships with a talk titled Medical Care to the Under Served. She explained the purpose of the hospital ship, how the charity was funded and how it was staffed. All the staff on board are volunteers except the Gurkhas who are employed as security officers. The ship will spend 10 months of the year docked in the port of a West African Country with the other 2 months spent having an overhaul and any repairs being carried out. The aim of the charity is to eradicate the diseases of poverty and much of the medical care is given to children. The medical staff on the ship mainly deal with conditions concerning eyes, facial, orthopaedic and dental problems with the most common being cataracts, cleft palate, bowed legs and knock knees. This makes a huge difference to people as 93% of people in sub-saharan Africa have no access to good health care. They also aim to leave a lasting legacy by training local staff. If you would like further information please go to www.mercyships.org.uk.

The group's last outing of the year is to BCOT for Christmas lunch on 15 December and there are no outings planned for either January or February 2023.

The next meeting is on 7 December when Paul Whittle will give a talk titled 'Train to the Arctic Circle' and there will be the usual Christmas buffet and bumper raffle. For the first meeting of 2023, on 4 January, Pam Durroch will be giving a talk on behalf of the Basingstoke Food Bank.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com.

Margaret Atkinson

Your local parish church in Hatch Warren & Beggarwood



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

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

Everyone very welcome

Immanuel Church

St. Mark's School, Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, RG22 4US
Churchwardens Tel: 01256 351862

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

••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• **Ah, that old chestnut.**

• You're probably expecting that a column from the Church
• at this time of year is going to bang on about the "true
• meaning of Christmas", how Christmas is not about
• presents, consumption and partying but about celebrating
• the arrival of Jesus.

• You're probably expecting severe chastisement of those
• who see joy in telling everybody else how much they're
• spending on Christmas, how many presents each of their
• children is getting and what a jolly good time everybody is
• going to have.

• You're probably expecting this column to go heavy on how
• wrong all of that is and how we should all think of nothing
• else but God and Jesus throughout the holiday season.

• However for many people even if they wanted to spend
• obscene amounts of money on lavish dining and drinking,
• most will not be able to afford to this year. So I wonder
• whether it is possible that this enforced abstinence will
• actually help us to focus more on the love that Jesus offers
• and the priceless gift of faith.

• I also wanted to highlight that as bad as things appear to
• be, across the globe things may be better than we think.
• I recently came across a book called "Factfulness" by Hans
• Rosling – subtitled "10 reasons we're wrong about the world
• and why things are better than you think". With our tendency
• to accept as truth the doom and gloom spewing from the
• media, it is not surprising that many of us fear that the world
• is on the cusp of implosion and humanity is doomed.

• The facts in this book give us great hope that overall things
• are moving in the right direction towards a safer, healthier
• life for more people. For example, in the last 20 years, the
• proportion of the world's population living in extreme
• poverty has almost halved; the average global life expectancy
• for those born in 2016 is 72.48 years, up by nearly ten years
• compared to 30 years ago; the number of deaths per year
• from natural disasters is less than half what it was 100 years
• ago; of the world's 1 year old children, over 80% have been
• vaccinated against some disease; in 1996 tigers, giant pandas
• and black rhinos were all listed as endangered- today none
• of them are.

• I hope that these facts help us to realise that although we
• may have some problems, if we take a step back and look
• at the big picture, things might not be as bad as they appear
• to be. We have extraordinary freedom; we have democracy;
• we have good healthcare and we have a level of respect and
• trust for each other that is at its highest ever. So yes perhaps
• Christmas won't be quite as lavish this year but I hope we
• can nonetheless reflect that whilst there is some way to go
• to a perfect world, we are already blessed by God and that
• must be a cause for the best possible celebration!

• **Laurence Besemer**

• Congregation Member at The Parish of Basingstoke Down





CLASSIFIED ADS

ONE TO ONE PIANO TUITION.

Remotely and Face to Face Beginners welcome from 6yrs. Local, experienced 'ISM approved' teacher. 01256 333241 / 07774 631802 / jancleaver33@hotmail.com www.lto1musicutors.co.uk

FAY CURTIS-FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Professional Footcare in the comfort of your home. Call 07780 664410

TRADITIONAL PLASTERER

All aspects of plastering. Small works welcome. Call 07958 670774 – 01256 364991 (Dave)

GCSE MATHS TUTOR - Ingrid Berry (PGCE, QTS, DBS).

References available. Contact Ingrid.e.berry@gmail.com.



Quality home maintenance services including:

- Painting & decorating
- Bathroom maintenance & refurbishment
- Furniture assembly & refurbishment
- Light fitting replacement
- Hedge cutting & garden maintenance
- Patio cleaning & re-pointing
- Block paving cleaning & sealing
- Fence repairs

For a no-obligation quote contact Jon on 07887 427227 or email jtlhomemaintenance@gmail.com

Share the Joy of Christmas

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Basingstoke
foodbank



Make a Christmas Hamper or donate Christmas treats for a local individual or family in need

• Box mince pies	No alcohol please	• Cooking sauce
• Box of chocolates		• Dried stuffing
• Box or nice packet of biscuits		• Tinned fruit
• Pudding		• Custard
• Cake, ideally Christmas cake/yule log		• Jam
• Hot drink – tea, coffee, hot chocolate		• Toiletries
• Tinned meat/fish (no pies, please)		• Christmas Crackers

Please bring your hamper or food items to Festival Place (Upper Floor near Next) between 9am and 6pm on Monday to Saturday from 1st to 21st December. We also need helpers to assemble hampers! Contact details for Basingstoke Foodbank Christmas hampers are:
Email: Abigail@comptonburnett.com
Telephone: 07747-111336
Website: <https://www.thebesominbasingstoke.org/hampers>

WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY

To mark November's dual campaigns on ending violence against women and girls, White Ribbon Day and the 16 Days Of Action, we are organising a training session run by Paragon for male allies to become domestic violence champions in Basingstoke. I want to make the sessions a regular event for men and women so if you would be interested in participating in a future training group, please get in touch. They're free, a great way of stamping out the scourge that is domestic violence for the benefit of everyone in society, and all are welcome.

As ever, you can check our socials @wepbasingstoke or sign up to my Hatch Warren & Beggarwood newsletter on the QR code below for more information.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

HWB Newsletter QR Code:



Stacy Hart

Women's Equality Party Basingstoke Leader





CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH

Supported by Sainsbury's



12.30 PM - 15.30 PM	DEC 25TH	BEGGARWOOD CAFE RG22 4AQ
---------------------	----------	-----------------------------

WOULD YOU LIKE COMPANY AND COMMUNITY AROUND YOU ON CHRISTMAS DAY? WE OFFER 3-COURSE MEAL, DRINK, MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT AND A SMALL GIFT FOR EACH CHILD

Tickets sourced via www.HatchWarren.org

INTERIOR EXTERIOR

Painter's Pride



EXPERIENCED HOUSEHOLD PAINTER & DECORATOR

NO JOB TOO SMALL, LOCAL TO HATCH WARREN.

TEL: 01256 355356 or 07876 495657



Tel: 01256 325015
mnm.chapman@talktalk.net
www.gardenerbasingstoke.com

AFFORDABLE CARE & SUPPORT FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN NEEDS






SCHOOLREADERS NEEDED TO SPREAD THE JOY OF READING IN HAMPSHIRE SCHOOLS

Children's literacy charity Schoolreaders is looking for more volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in Hampshire primary schools – especially around Basingstoke.



Schoolreaders
improving literacy • increasing life chances

A recent survey¹ of young people by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) revealed that reading enjoyment had reached a 15 year low, rallying slightly in the pandemic before declining again by 2022, especially amongst those from disadvantaged backgrounds and amongst boys.

Furthermore, the Annual Literacy survey found that fewer than 1 in 2 children aged 8 to 18 enjoyed reading with only 28% reading daily.

Schoolreaders is looking for volunteers of all ages – from students to retirees - who can listen to children read in a local primary school, especially at those schools where children require support the most.

Worryingly, 1 in 4 children leave primary school every summer unable to read to the expected standard² and the Schoolreaders scheme is now more in demand than ever, particularly to help those children most disadvantaged following the education disruption caused by Covid lockdowns.

Schoolreaders volunteers act as trusted role models in the classroom alongside the class teachers, not only helping children improve their reading but also by being a positive influence.

Schoolreaders volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week during term time and to commit to an academic year. By applying now new volunteers will be matched as quickly as possible to a partner school and be ready to start once they have completed a mandatory DBS check and virtual safeguarding training.

Jane Whitbread, founder of Schoolreaders, adds, "Children who leave primary school unable to read well can't access their secondary schooling fully which will disadvantage them for life. One in seven adults have poor literacy and cannot read instructions on a medicine label or a bus timetable or fill in a job application form. Working together we can change this.

"There is no substitute for face-to-face interaction and support when it comes to reading. Our volunteers provide a crucial supplement to classroom teaching and are welcomed by schools - and the children. 95% of children in our scheme improved their reading performance and over 90% their reading enjoyment after time with a Schoolreaders volunteer which is so valuable³. If more children gain pleasure from reading from an early age and their reading fluency and confidence improves too, communities and Society will reap the benefits."

To find out more or to apply today to be a Schoolreaders volunteer in primary schools with the greatest need in Hampshire, visit Schoolreaders.org

1. National Literacy Trust Annual Literacy Survey based on 70,403 responses from children 5-18 conducted in 2022.

2. UK Government Statistics at Key Stage 2 2021.

3. Schoolreaders State of Primary School Reading Survey 2019 in partnership with the Institute of Research in Education at the University of Bedfordshire.

KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

Now is the time when hedgehogs are bedding down for the winter. As you tidy-up the garden, just be aware that you may accidentally uncover one. This year has played havoc with the weather and breeding cycles have got out of sync. The warmer than usual conditions may have delayed hedgehogs going into winter torpor, leaving them more active than usual. Well done if you feed them. If you have seen any in Kempshott, particularly in or around Down Grange Meadow, please let us know.

In early November, a volunteer tidying up a garden found one slumbering at the base of an ivy covered wall, snuggled deep in the roots. It was a good size and heavy enough to survive the rigours of winter. It is always the last brood of hedgehogs that may be underweight and at the most risk of dying. They will put on weight before going to sleep, as the heavier they are the better their chances of surviving a hard winter. Any hedgehog that is less than 600 grams is at risk of not making it through to the spring.

There is a common belief that hedgehogs hibernate over winter. This is not strictly accurate as the only British animal that truly hibernates is the Hazel Dormouse. Hedgehogs will start to go into torpor in early November, or even December if the weather has been particularly mild, as this year. They will drop their body temperature to near that of their environment, which saves energy. In mild spells in late winter/early spring, they may wake up and go foraging for food.



This is a very risky strategy, so if you have fed them in the past or you see them around, please leave out some food, as every little helps. If you find one sleeping, don't worry if during the winter it disappears. They will often move at least once during this period.

This is unlike the Hazel Dormouse, which can sleep for Britain. They typically hibernate for at least six months, but sometimes this can be as much as nine months.

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

Basingstoke Concert Band

is delighted to present their **Annual Christmas Concert**

at **St Michael's Church Basingstoke**

on **Sunday 18 December 2022** starting at **3.00pm**

There's something for everyone, from Christmas carols to traditional and modern festive arrangements and so much more

Tickets £10 (U16 free) are available from:

band members, at the door, or visit

<https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/14134#/>

Enjoy a complimentary mince pie and drink during the interval.

Hope to see you there

RESTAURANT REVIEW

DUMMER DOWN HONESTY CAFÉ

RG25 2AR www.honestygroup.co.uk 01256 398100 8am – 4pm

It was a pleasant autumn day, dry for a change, and while not wanting a large lunch something was still needed. Turning south off the A30 near to the Wheatsheaf pub/restaurant Dummer Down farm is where the cricket school is based. Today some new buildings have been added to the original farm constructions making up quite a lively industrial complex which hides this busy little café. We had not visited since before Covid but was aware that new owners had taken over some time ago, so it was time to renew our acquaintance.

The Honesty group now has several similar cafes in the locality with the closest one being at the Dummer Garden centre just down the road. The ethos of the group is the ethical production of bread and cakes made from traditional flours. They claim that additives of any sort are not used.

It was a busy lunchtime, and we found the only unoccupied table inside ignoring the rear veranda outside with half a dozen tables. When we came out two tables at the front were being used in the afternoon sun.

The offering is quite simplistic with sandwiches, paninis and some vegetarian dishes. There is a specials board that offered soup of the day, specialist sandwiches and vegetarian offerings. The drinks board had a wide selection – not being a coffee aficionado I was surprised to see that eight versions were available and five different types of milk.

Sticking to the standard menu Madam had a panini containing avocado, mozzarella and tomato that she described as “delicious.” I had a tuna panini that I requested to have the spring onions replaced with cheese and both plates came with crisps and a salad garnish. The fillings could be considered as generous, and the paninis tasted wonderful.

A cup each of flat white coffee saw us replete and so we were not tempted with any of the cake offerings. At a total cost of £21.70 this was a fair price to pay for excellent food.

In addition to the café there is a side room selling artisan type grocery and stationery items. Several craft type days/evenings are also held throughout the year.



HATCH WARREN WI

The Greywell Ringers entertained us at our November WI meeting as we listened in awe as the ladies played a variety of tunes including Happy Birthday, Singing in the Rain and of course several Christmas themed songs. We were even expected to sing along with some of the tunes – there were no excuses for not joining in as there was a song sheet provided for everyone.

After the formal ‘entertainment’, we were invited to have a go... twelve of us jumped up and rushed to the front to try our hands at bell ringing. It required a lot of concentration, to make sure we that each rang our own bell at the right time. It was great fun and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting at Hatch Warren Community Centre will be on Thursday 5th January 2023 at 7.30pm. If you are interested in joining us for the evening please contact Shirley our President on 07979 217220.



Come and join us on Saturday mornings.
Fun and engaging classes for children starting age 3. Class venue Aldworth School.

Contact Jenni on 07768 716 096
or email office@staffordballet.co.uk

WE'RE MORE THAN JUST A LEAKY TAP



Boilers Installations Servicing Breakdowns		Bathrooms Cloakrooms En-suites Shower rooms		Plumbing Taps Toilets All plumbing jobs
--	--	---	---	---

Contact us for a FREE estimate

info@catlinph.co.uk • 07774 741021

Home Maintenance Services

Family Business • Fully Insured • Free Quotations
References by Request • 25 Years' Experience

Jobs Undertaken
Fencing • Drylining/Studwalls • Painting/Decorating
Laminate Flooring • 2nd Fix Carpentry • Plumbing • Tiling
Fitting/Designing of Kitchens and Bathrooms

Marcus Underdown
Property Maintenance Expert

01256 479327 • 07878 078135
mtunderdown@virginmedia.com

“We do anything from changing a tap to refurbishing your bathroom”

Free ads

advertising@therabbiter.biz
or send to editor@therabbiter.biz

ADVERTISE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS FOR FREE TO OVER 4100 LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS

Goslings Garden & Fencing Services Ltd

With over 20 years experience in all gardening areas.

T: 01256 762327 / 07973 523246
Email: gozlisha@aol.com

Garden Maintenance (one-off / regular) • Mowing • Strimming • Hedge-cutting • Stump grinding • Fencing • Pruning • Patio's • Turfing ... and more

L TITCOMBE & FAMILY

Independent Funeral Directors



Personal, respectful and attentive service

It is usual for people to be unsure of what to do in the immediate aftermath of a bereavement. We will help guide you through the initial steps and provide advice on other matters of importance you may need to think about when someone you know dies.

We are here when you need us most

24 hours a day

All aspects of Funeral Arrangements undertaken

8 Swan Street
Kingsclere
Newbury RG20 5PJ
Tel: 01635 299900

4 Elmwood Parade
Basingstoke
RG23 8LL
Tel: 01256 476366

www.tmfunerals.co.uk



ASHBY AND AUSTIN PROPERTY SERVICES LTD

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS AGENCY.
EST. 2007 COVERING BASINGSTOKE, HOOK AND LOCAL AREAS.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- PRIVATE ROAD MANAGEMENT
- BLOCK MANAGEMENT OF APARTMENTS

FIRST TWO MONTHS MANAGEMENT F.O.C FOR NEW LANDLORDS !

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

JACKIE BIGNELL

TEL: 01256 762906 MOBILE: 07726 902787

EMAIL : jackie@ashbyandaustin.co.uk W:www.ashbyandaustin.co.uk



Call The Professionals

Quality build, on time, on budget.

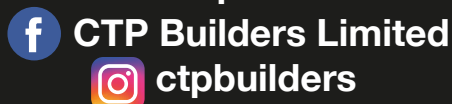
With over 10 successful years providing quality services to our customers, we possess a wide range of building professionalism to help you achieve the home of your dreams.

**New Builds, Extensions, Alterations
Kitchens, Plastering & Joinery.**

mobile: 07921 756438

website: www.ctp-builders.co.uk

email: info@ctpbuilder.co.uk



CLARKE
& SON
SOLICITORS

DO YOU HAVE A WILL IN PLACE?

A Will is quite possibly one of the most important documents you will ever sign.

Call now to book a free Will healthcheck or to start the process of making your Will.

Clarke & Son Solicitors
Manor House 8 Winchester Road Basingstoke Hampshire
RG21 8UG
T: 01256 320555
www.clarkeandson.co.uk

**30 Years
serving the local
community**



**RAINBOW
DOUBLE GLAZING LIMITED**

1992-2022

Your truly local double glazing company

30 successful years



Energy Window	
	A
Energy Index (U _g W/m ² /K)	0
The climate zone is:	UK
Thermal Transmittance (U _t)	1.6 W/m ² /K
Solar Factor (g _g)	0.89
Effective Air Leakage (q _l)	2.00 W/m ³ /K

**Windows • Doors • Roofline
Conservatories • Orangeries
Entrance Porch • Garage Conversions
Rainbow Warm Roof Conversions**

- No deposit**
- No hassle**
- Energy 'A' Rated**
- 10 year Guarantee**
- Payment on completion**



For a free no-obligation quotation please call FREEPHONE:

0800 026 46 42 or 0118 970 1770

www.rainbowdoubleglazing.co.uk