

THE Rabbiter



Issue 314
December 2024
– January 2025

The Community Magazine for Hatch Warren and Beggarwood



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- **A LOCAL GHOST STORY**
- **KING'S AWARD FOR CHARITY**

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THE Rabbiter

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IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

EDITORIAL

Big Congratulations to Cooper Hill for his Christmas drawing on the front cover of this edition of The Rabbiter. And well done to Will Hunter (2nd) and Eloise Garnham (3rd). The competition was organised by the After School Club.

There are lots of activities going on during December to celebrate Christmas – see page 16 for some of the great events happening locally.

When the first edition of The Rabbiter was published in summer 1992 to celebrate the opening of the Hatch Warren Community Centre I never thought I would still be editor in 2024. It was started by the Rev Marian Carter and myself to help build a community spirit in the growing estate. (Marian was then the curate at St Mark's Church and involved in the new Ecumenical Church based at the Community Centre). So now after 32 years (except a 5 year break in the late 1990s) the time has come for me to step down and pass the baton to a new editor. I am immensely proud of the Rabbiter. I am grateful for all the help I have received over the years, to the advertisers, deliverers and those people who have let me twist their arms into being interviewed or write articles. But I am not indispensable and I know it will continue to blossom under the new management. What are my favourite memories? One year we ran an April fool story regarding turning the estate into a one way system during rush hours – a very embarrassed councillor phoned the Council to ask why they had not been given prior notice before realising it was an April Fool joke!

The Rabbiter takes a break in January and will be back in February. Send your news, stories and letters to editor@therabbiter.biz by 15 January 2025.

So, thank you and goodbye to all our readers. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Jenny Crawford

Editor 1992-2024 (except for a 5 year break in the late 1990s).



1st. Cooper Hill



2nd. Will Hunter



3rd. Eloise Garnham

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PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP UPDATE

cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com <https://cghppg.weebly.com>

Things have been a little strange at the practice during October and will, possibly, carry forward into November. As you can imagine the PPG has been somewhat underwhelmed by the lack of communication from the CGHB management to its patients and the sudden action involving DriQ and other random communications. However, in trying to bring some clarity to the situation, we offer the following.

As you may know there has been an IT outage within the Practice affecting the functioning of the Dr iQ App and the Practice website and affecting the whole of the Operose company nationwide. This has led to the abrupt withdrawal of the Dr iQ App just as it was becoming a useful and trusted tool. We have asked the Practice for an explanation for patients and this is what they have said:

Dr.iQ patient update

"We want to offer our patients the best digital experience that we can. To help us do this, we will soon be releasing a new and improved Dr.iQ App. The new App will be on a new technology platform using another NHS Approved supplier. You will be able to download the new Dr.iQ App shortly – the practice will tell us when this will be. If you receive text messages from the practice, please keep an eye out for updates.

We would encourage you to download and register with the NHS App in the meantime, if you are not already a user of this. You will be asked to verify your identity; this is to ensure that your data remains secure. You will be able to use your NHS App login details for the new Dr.iQ App. Doing this now will help you to access the Dr.iQ App, quicker, when it is available."

Text messages have been issued to some patients advising that they are in various coloured clinical teams without any explanation of what this means. However, after some "chasing" we are pleased to be able to bring some insight into the situation regarding Teams and an explanation/comment from the practice. See below:

Teams: *"All patients have a 'named responsible GP' at the practice who work within a team. These teams are site based and colours. The reception and administrative team will always try to book you in with your named GP first. Failing this, they will book you in with a GP within your registered team. You are still able to request to see another GP if you would like. The practice is currently reallocating patients within teams due to a full complement of GP staff."*

We hope the above gives you some insight into the current situation but it still leaves a few outstanding questions:

- Why is the Practice website and all the other Operose websites down?
- Why withdraw DriQ without immediately replacing it with the "new and improved" App?
- Can we really trust the new version of DriQ when it is released without understanding why the original was withdrawn with such haste?

We know some of our local elected County Council officials have been in contact with the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) to try to gain an understanding of the situation and we plan to keep you informed if we get any news.

Obviously, because of the above the Practice phone lines have been very busy with waits of over an hour in some circumstances and promised call backs sometimes not happening. We plan to raise this with the Practice during our next meeting in early December. Meanwhile your feedback would be appreciated via email at the above address.

Health Focus

Continence Awareness training sessions for unpaid carers and volunteers working with older adults.

Incontinence can negatively impact people's quality of life hugely, and in Hampshire over quarter (25.6%) of people aged 65 years and over experience urinary incontinence. However, it is not an inevitable part of ageing and there are simple things that can be done to prevent, manage or in some cases even reverse it.

Join Hampshire County Council in a free 2-hour Continence Awareness training session for unpaid carers and volunteers working with older adults. With practical advice and tips, you'll learn how to prevent, manage, and deal with incontinence effectively.

More information and online bookings are found on our Health Events Information Page: www.cghppg.weebly.com/health-events You will also find lots of other upcoming events to support your Health and Well-being on this page. Visit Live Longer Better on our website to find more information about keeping healthy over 60.

Cancer Information.

If something in your body doesn't feel right, don't carry the worry of cancer with you. Tests could put your mind at rest. Until you find out, you can't rule it out. Contact your GP practice. nhs.uk/cancersymptoms. If you need Local Cancer Support or national information please visit our information page: www.cghppg.weebly.com/cancer-support

We are pleased to report that the thousands of patients have received their vaccination at CGH Clinics and we particularly thank the medical and administrative staff for their efforts and giving up their Saturdays last month. The PPG were also present as marshals and used the opportunity to provide information on fall prevention, hydration, dementia, Neighbourcare, Age Concern and Basingstoke District Disability Forum.

We also worked with the practice to provide a further Carers Support Event. These are to become a regular feature and are advertised in the practice, on social media and on our events page.

Comments, Feedback & Complaints

Whilst the CGHB Web site is down you can use the following address for formal complaints: hiowicb-hsi.cghpartnership.complaints@nhs.net

If you are not satisfied 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.

Green Team	Blue Team	Purple Team	Yellow Team	Orange Team	Pink Team
Dr Dixon	Dr Franklin	Dr S Longley	Dr Scammell	Dr Ambrose	Dr M Longley
Dr Gray	Dr Carnegie	Dr Robertson	Dr Ezeh	Dr Berkelaar	Dr Hubbard
Dr Walker	Dr Webster	Dr Lizinde	Dr Parker	Dr Radhakrishnan	Dr Radha
Dr Glew	Dr Budhathoki	Dr Carney	Dr Wilson		Dr Amin
		Dr Mukadam	Dr Hooshier		Dr Sudhaker

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Stephen Reid

County Councillor: Basingstoke South West
07976 310206 stephen.reid@hants.gov.uk

WAREHOUSES APPLICATION: The most important piece of news this month is that the planning application for warehouses near Junction 7 of the M3 has been approved. I attended the Development Control committee and spoke against the proposals. However, the Borough Councillors voted by 6 to 4 to grant permission, saying that the changes to the landscaping were now sufficient to address the previous reasons for refusal.

MY FEARS ABOUT THE WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENT: We now have housing all the way down to the A30, in the Hounsome Fields development. The warehouses will most certainly be visible from the new homes. The huge buildings are also adjacent to the Dummer conservation area and will impact on it, not least at night when light pollution will be unavoidable. I feel that a better use for the site would have been a science park, given that it is across the road from the entrance of the proposed new hospital. It remains to be seen how the development will impact on our area including road works during the building phase and increased traffic once the warehouses are occupied.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: Another major event this past month has been the non-availability of the Dr IQ application which patients of Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries are encouraged to use. The Patient Participation Group has issued its latest newsletter, and has commented on the outage that has affected service levels at the surgeries. It says that 'things have been a little strange at the practice' and it 'has been somewhat underwhelmed by the lack of communication from the CGHB management to its patients and the sudden action involving Dr: iQ and other random communications.' The management of the practice have said that they will soon be releasing a new and improved Dr: iQ app. It will run on a new technology platform using another NHS approved supplier. Patients will be able to download the new Dr: iQ app shortly. I have suggested questions to the PPG that need to be answered, including who verifies the application as secure. I also attended a meeting with County Councillor Kim Taylor at which we put our shared concerns to the Integrated Care Board.

OLD DOWN MEETING: I attended the Borough Council's consultation meeting about Old Down, and took the opportunity to ask why Old Down still does not have the

protection of being a Local Nature Reserve as does Beggarwood Park on 'our' side of the A30. I received an interesting answer that I had not heard before - Old Down doesn't need to be a Local Nature Reserve as it is already a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC). I am not persuaded by this: there have been many examples of SINCs being built on or eroded, so I think the fight must go on.

BROADMERE ROAD ADOPTIONS: The legal agreement between the County Council and the developers has been updated, along with the adoption drawings. The County is now undertaking final land checks. Assuming all results come back as expected, the next step will be to send out the draft agreement for signing and completion. This issue is heading towards completion but, I have to say, with glacial slowness, which I find very frustrating.

GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT: The Borough Council has granted permission for phase 3 of the Bloor Homes development on the old Golf Course site. This will see 485 new homes built, stretching down from the new Hounsome Fields roundabout to the M3.

TITHE MEADOW: A local resident has kindly confirmed to me that work has been carried out to make good the drain in the brickwork section of the road that had been collapsing. I had requested that this be addressed.

BRIGHTON HILL TRAFFIC LIGHTS: Having been told 'by the end of the year', the changes to the traffic lights on the roundabout were completed very quickly. These now allow the 'green' periods to vary in response to the weight of traffic being observed, which therefore increases the capacity of the roundabout.

ROUNABOUT VERGES: Hampshire's contractors have also been tasked with adding more topsoil and seed to verges at the Brighton Hill roundabout to improve their general condition. They will remove more of the weeds that grow there. These activities will be completed under localised traffic management whilst workers are present.

FLOODING ON KEMPSHOTT ROUNABOUT: During the torrential rain last month, the roundabout flooded badly again, with the inside lane virtually impassable. I think the flood cleared more quickly than it used to, but there is clearly a problem still. I am trying to find out whether the water came from the road or a Thames Water pipe that caused problems here before.

McDONALD'S: I have made multiple checks at the Hatch Warren Retail Park following the opening of the new McDonald's. When I was there I saw no problems in terms of litter

or anti-social behaviour. I have not received any complaints from nearby houses.

PARISH COUNCILS?: Speculation is rife that the government is planning to scrap the 'two-tier' local government structure and some of the smaller unitary authorities. Any move towards larger Councils will increase the disconnect between Members and their constituents, so I return to a discussion point I have raised before - should we be looking to set up Parish Councils in the areas of Basingstoke that currently do not have them? The current situation is that the new Golf Course development, Hounsome Fields and a sliver of Beggarwood are covered by Dummer Parish Council but Hatch Warren and Beggarwood have no such representation. On issues such as planning, Parish Councils can offer an important local voice.

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR: on a lighter note: with family members I attended the Community Association's annual fireworks display on 2nd November. The Association reported that the event was sold out and an announcement on the night stated that over 5,000 people were present, which is a record. With numbers that high, it required the marshalling and organisation to be first class, which they were, helped by many volunteers. The fireworks themselves were very special with a memorable finale.

MERRY CHRISTMAS: as this is the last issue of the Rabbiter this year, I take this opportunity to wish everyone in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Stacy Hart

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Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:
[@wepbasingstoke](https://www.instagram.com/wepbasingstoke)

I can't quite believe we're coming up to another Christmas already! As with most "grown ups", the years flash by quicker as I age, and this year has been busier – and consequently faster – than most. But it's been a good one and I'm very proud of everything we've accomplished in 2024.

As I write, we're coming up on White Ribbon Day. BDBC has done a huge amount of great work since applying for and receiving White Ribbon accreditation to help prevent violence against women and girls, which I campaigned for them to pursue in 2021, and I hope to be involved in the work towards reaccreditation next year. Do have a look at their work online; it's a brilliant organisation whose work benefits everyone.

I spoke at Development Control Committee last week against the warehouse development at Oakdown Farm; you can see my speech on the Council's YouTube channel. Unfortunately, the campaigners did not win the day and the committee decided there were no viable planning law reasons to refuse so the warehouses were given permission to go ahead. Something I am passionate about is ensuring that residents are fully aware of the processes and rules that guide planning and other services; so often our frustrations as constituents come from being disconnected from how these work, so decisions seem unfair and arbitrary. If anyone has questions of this sort, please do drop into one of my monthly Ask Me Anything Cllr Surgery sessions to find out more.

Fortunately, much of the rest of this month's calendar was happier and more successful. I visited a Guide group this week to talk about influencing community change and helped out at the always-amazing Hatch Warren firework display for which the team deserve huge applause and thanks. I met with Basingstoke Community Radio to discuss community outreach: they are well worth a listen online. I was also honoured, alongside our Mayor, to unveil a Basingstoke Heritage Society Blue Plaque for our first female Mayor and speak to those present about the power and importance of shattering glass ceilings, then and now.

The CGHB surgery PPG continues to do great work in communicating help available for carers and I was pleased to volunteer at one of their regular surgery drop-ins. If you care for someone I urge you to check out the collated resources online at cghppg.weebly.com which is a brilliant one-stop-shop for all local carer info.

Finally for now, I want to let you know about the Hampshire County Council survey now running on barriers to walking and cycling. Having recently bought a second-hand bike and promised myself I'd start to dust off skills not utilised since I was twelve, I think it's vital as many people as possible respond to assist County in ensuring walking and cycle routes are as accessible and well-maintained as possible – and nobody knows the area like residents do! Walking and cycling are key ways we can all improve our health, conserve the environment and save money at the same time. This is especially important for those who – for example – have mobility issues or use buggies or pushchairs. The survey is open until 22nd December and you can find it on hants.gov.uk.

Have a safe, restful and merry Christmas season, and I wish you all the very best for 2025!



Dan Putty

Borough Councillor and Mayor.
cllr.dan.putty@basingstoke.gov.uk

I was sad to hear that the warehouses application was approved.


I am concerned by the littering of trolleys around Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. This is an unsafe, dangerous and risky practice. I request the culprits, please, to think about our children and animals, and refrain from taking shopping trolleys and abandoning them on our green areas.

This month I have been very busy with my Mayoral duties but I am always available when there are constituent matters.

May I wish everybody a very happy, prosperous and healthy Christmas and a joyful and brilliant New Year 2025.

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

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1. Develop and Maintain Key Employment Policies

Having clear, written policies is essential for compliance and provides a strong defensive position if claims are brought against you as an employer. Key policies that we recommend include:

- **Health and Safety Policy:** Required if you have five or more employees, this policy should outline how you manage health and safety in your business.
- **Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures:** Under the Employment Rights Act 1996, you must provide employees with information about these procedures.
- **Equal Opportunities Policy:** While not legally required, it demonstrates your commitment to preventing discrimination and promoting equality.
- **Data Protection Policy:** Crucial for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), this policy outlines how you handle employees' personal data.
- **Working Time Regulations:** A policy that outlines compliance with the Working Time Regulations 1998, including rules on working hours, rest breaks, and annual leave.
- **Family Friendly Policies:** Understand that employees will have a number of statutory rights in respect of dependant leave, parental, maternity, adoptive, paternity rights and leave.

2. Provide Clear Employment Contracts

Ensure that all employees have a written statement of employment particulars, which includes the legally required key terms and conditions of employment. This is a legal requirement under the Employment Rights Act 1996. Regularly review and update these contracts to reflect any changes in the law or with the employee's roles and responsibilities.

3. Right to Work Checks

Check the identity documents of all new starters and ensure before they start any work that they have both the right to live and work in the UK. Also ensure that you document when, how and who undertook those checks.

4. Implement Effective Training and Communication

- **Employee Handbook:** Develop an employee handbook that includes all relevant company policies and procedures. Ensure that all employees are aware of and have access to the handbook.
- **Training Programs:** Provide thorough induction training for new employees and ongoing training for all staff to ensure they understand company policies and legal requirements.
- **Open Communication:** Foster open communication between management and employees to address any concerns or issues promptly.

5. Monitor and Manage Employee Well-being

- **Sickness and Absence Policy:** A clear policy on how to report sickness and manage absences can help manage expectations and ensure consistency.
- **Support and Well-being Initiatives:** Promote employee well-being through initiatives such as health and wellness programs, flexible working arrangements, and access to occupational health services.
- **Return-to-Work Interviews:** Conduct return-to-work interviews after each period of sickness absence to identify any underlying issues and provide support to the employee.

6. Seek Legal Advice and Stay Informed

Seek regular legal advice to ensure compliance with employment legislation and address any potential issues before they escalate. Phillips Law can be on hand to provide you with as little or as much support as you need to navigate the complex world of employment law with ease.

Stay informed by subscribing to our employment law updates which update your knowledge on employment law and best practices to stay compliant and protect your business.

By following these tips, we believe that small business owners can ensure compliance with employment laws and create a positive and productive working environment.

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PROBUS VISIT TO D-DAY HQ

In the 80th Anniversary year of the D-Day landings an inspiring visit to the war time HQ brought home the realities of the largest amphibious assault in history.

A group of members and families from the Probus Club of Basingstoke had an impressive visit to Southwick House (locally pronounced "Suthick") positioned five miles north of Portsmouth that had a pivotal role in the planning of D-Day.

It was the Supreme Headquarters of the main allied commanders, led by Allied Supreme Commander General Dwight D Eisenhower, Naval Commander-in-Chief Admiral Ramsey, Army Commander-in-Chief General Montgomery, and Commander-in-Chief Allied Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Leigh-Mallory. The grounds became the Main Tactical Base for the 21st Army Group for their forthcoming invasion plans.

Richard Callaghan, the curator, gave an extensive narrative about the map room that still contains the enormous graphic showing the invasion plans. His talk was interwoven with anecdotes about incidents involving the main characters that gave life to this history lesson.

How General Eisenhower became very close to his English driver Kay Summersby and was prevented by the Republican party from taking her back to America, as they declared that they could not accept a divorcee to run for the Presidency. He remained married to Maime and had two terms as President of the United States.

Deception was used to convince the German high command that the invasion would come across the shortest route from Kent to Pas de Calais which caused German divisions to move from the Normandy region.

James Stagg was the meteorologist providing weather forecasts to the senior planning group. As a civilian it was thought he would have difficulty in ensuring his predictions would be taken seriously so he was presented with the uniform of a RAF Group Captain. It was Stagg that convinced General Eisenhower to postpone the assault from the planned day of 5th June to 6th June 1944.

6,000 ships were involved moving from all regions of southern England to the main dispersal area that became known as Piccadilly Circus and then had to pass through corridors cleared through

minefields in the Channel. Due to detailed planning only seven ships were involved in collisions.

Despite the break in the weather there was still a swell, and the floating Sherman tanks were launched too far out from the shore resulting in only four out of thirty-two reaching the beach. It had been necessary to ensure that the beach would support such vehicles by nighttime investigations in the previous weeks that had not been spotted by the land-based Germans.

In the adjacent bar room, the original weather maps were on the wall along with other memorabilia including models of two LCT (Landing Craft Tank) ships that were the subject of a talk some years ago by a Probus Club member. He had trained as a radio operator on such vessels whose role was getting armoured vehicles on to the beaches because their bow dropped on to the shore. Once unloaded they could raise their bow and reverse off the beach ready to return to England for another cargo of armoured vehicles.

The successful completion over several days of *Operation Overlord* on the Normandy beaches was the beginning of the end of WW2.



Probus group in the Map Room



'Operation Overlord' planning meeting



Kay Summersby fixing flag on bonnet of Eisenhower's staff car



James Stagg

FREEMASONS TOP UP THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Basingstoke's 104 years old Elvetham Masonic Lodge provided additional fiscal support to three local good causes this summer.

Peter Foster, their Charity Steward explained "We have access to the Tom Langton Fund, which uses the interest from a bequest to make grant funding up to a certain level for donations. It is very pleasing to present another £1,000 to Basingstoke & District Young Carers and £750 each to artWell and 1st Basingstoke Beavers."

Mark Rhoades-Brown, the recently installed Worshipful Master, added "This local support is in addition to £1 million distributed by freemasons annually in Hampshire and Isle of Wight, while across the country, and including disaster relief, it may surprise most people that it totals £50 million each year."



Peter Foster and Mark Rhoades-Brown

BOOKWORMS NOVEMBER MEETING

Cameras were set up and rolling as our members arrived for our November meeting. A reporter from That's TV was keen to film and make a report about our club and our charitable support of the community centre and cafe. Annie our community ambassador spoke about reaching out to the wider community by offering a range of activities. Hopefully we may see more visitors to the cafe and Bookworms as a result of the news report.

Our book this month was *River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer. Chosen for Black History Month it tells the story of Rachel a slave in the Caribbean searching for the children who were stolen from her. This promoted very lively and interesting discussion with the book scoring 7.2 overall.

We also voted for next year's book choices. Our December meeting is a Christmas social but we start the New Year with a visit from Winchester author Judith Heneghan. Her book *Birdseye* looks back fifty years to the hippy dreams in New York.

See Facebook for all meeting details. Grab your book and read along or join us in the Cafe in the Park for coffee, cake and chat.



OLD DOWN WILDLIFE GROUP

No doubt you are all getting ready for Christmas which is almost upon us.

Old Down Wildlife Group wishes A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR to all its members and to all users of Old Down.

As you know Old Down is now a separate volunteer group from Beggarwood however Old Down Group will still report in The Rabbiter on wildlife subjects and also on issues affecting Old Down which might interest you as we are only just across the road.

Basingstoke Council has recently completed a public consultation on its proposals for some landscaping and new recreational equipment and amenities on Old Down. The Group does not support these proposals. The Group is of the opinion that the two sites – Beggarwood and Old Down – should be different and provide different experiences for the public. Beggarwood is a park providing a selection of recreational facilities as well as natural areas but Old Down is primarily a place for nature with its large area of

wildflower meadow. Old Down should be left as it is. The Group is hoping that most people will agree with this view.

The wonderful autumn colours are now over and the trees are bare of leaves - winter is here. One plus at this time of year is that it is easy to spot birds – they can't hide within the canopy and behind bunches of leaves. Two species that are quite often seen on Beggarwood, but not so often on Old Down, are the *Green Woodpecker* and the *Great Spotted Woodpecker*. Perhaps Old Down is too open for them and they prefer more trees. There are of course other species of woodpecker such as the *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker* (much smaller than the Great Spotted) and the *Wryneck* but these are not common so you won't see these two around here.

Just in case you are interested we have weekly work parties on Thursdays 10-12noon meeting outside Old Down Hall (but not in the rain!). We also run some weekend work parties. The next dates are 17 November and 15 December – meeting outside Old Down Hall at 10 am. You are welcome to join us. Check our website and Facebook for further information and/or contact us by email.

Email: old.down.wildlife@gmail.com



Green Woodpecker



Great Spotted Woodpecker

KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

Taming the invader

We don't usually have any scheduled work parties during the Summer, apart from events such as our Kids' Bug Hunts and seed collecting. This year, however, a start was made on trying to keep the Ragwort under control. This is a naturalised 'invasive' that will take over if not kept in check. There is a lot of this on Down Grange Meadow and we will never remove all of it as it is used as the food plant of the Cinnabar Moth. It is also a useful late season nectar source for all kinds of bees, butterflies, moths, hoverflies, etc. It is important, though, to limit the amount of seed it spreads. It is a biennial, which means we must do this again next year to be effective.

Down Grange Meadow is included in our programme of regular work parties. We'll be there on Sundays 8th December, 12th and 26th January (10 00 – 12 30) and on Thursday, 30th January (14 00 – 16 30). The meeting point is the Meadow's Homesteads Road entrance near St Mark's Church.

For more information about our activities on Down Grange Meadow, please call Marion Wolstencroft on (01256) 470171.

Email: kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk

Café in the Park

PLEASE JOIN US

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10am – 2pm

Beggarwood Bookworms – To enquire email office@hatchwarren.org

Community lunch 1st Wednesday every month

Quiche Wednesday meal deal every Wednesday

Free hot drink with 10 stars collected using our loyalty card
Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft – 13th December
(call Pauline on 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1st Wednesday every month

Lots of regular events – please ask at the café

For party bookings please visit: www.hatchwarren.org

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

Friendship Friday

Café in the Park FRIENDSHIP FRIDAY



Join us for our Friendship Friday's Activities, Chatter and Natter Table, Card and a Cuppa, The Oakley Stitchers, Puzzles, Computer help plus many more activities to be announced. Starting September 2024

We look forward to seeing you!

Quiche Wednesday meal deals

Café in the Park Quiche Wednesday



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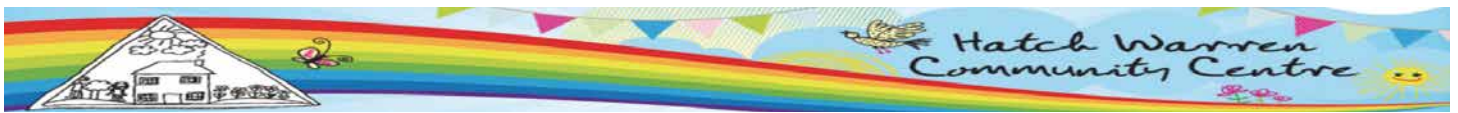
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hire of tables and chairs are included.

We accept bouncy castles/soft plays
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To discuss your party further, please email
office@hatchwarren.org



Beggarwood Community Centre
Broadmere Road, Basingstoke,
RG22 4AQ



**HATCH WARREN
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**LAGER
FESTIVAL**

SAVE THE DATE


SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025

Cheers!



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

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
COACH TRIP
TO**



**Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 7.30PM
SHAFTESBURY THEATRE, LONDON
Good Stall Seats**


**Tickets cost £85 per person
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)**

Coach will depart at 4pm from our car park

**This trip is open to all members of the public
Tickets are non refundable**

**To book your place email OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG
or call 01256 811262**

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
COACH TRIP**



**Friday 7th November 2025 at 7.30PM
DRURY LANE THEATRE, LONDON
Good Stall Seats**

**Tickets cost £75 per person
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)**

Coach will depart at 4pm from our car park

**This trip is open to all members of the public
Tickets are non refundable**

**To book your place email OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG
or call 01256 811262**

40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead
This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity No 1161117

40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead
This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity No 1161117



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

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the Warren

FREE ENTRY

10-13 year olds

THE WARREN

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6-7:45PM

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Find us on Facebook to book a space!

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
 LONG CROSS LN, BASINGSTOKE RG22 4XF
 CHARITY NUMBER: 1161117
 email: Warrenhatchwarren.org

the Warren

THE WARREN

Late mates

Free entry

Pool - Music - Xbox - Table Tennis

Hot Food

Fridays
 Year groups 8-11
 8-9:30pm

Email: Warrenhatchwarren.org
 Hatch Warren Community Centre
 Long Cross Ln, Basingstoke RG22 4XF

Monday night is Link2 Club Night

6pm-8.15pm



WE HAVE SUCH FUN!

Manager - Dilys Buchan 07939532667

LINK2, supported by Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association, is a family orientated group for young adults (16-30) who may need a little support. LINK2 is run by experienced staff who aim to develop a relationship with all members with learning disabilities and their families to get the best outcomes for their future. We support them on a path to growing independence, as they move into adult life.

Improve general Life skills and finding their full potential through sports opportunities

Provide experiences to promote Resilience and self esteem

Boost confidence and support for independent travel

Maintain and develop our access to work programme



Supported by Hampshire County Council

KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2024

Home-Start Basingstoke and Deane, a volunteer led charity, have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2024. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

The local charity, who are also celebrating their 20 year anniversary, was nominated for the services they provide to families with young children across the borough. Their trained volunteers spend time with families in the family home and community to provide practical and emotional support to help reduce isolation and empower the family to give their children the best start.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane is one of 281 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane will receive the award crystal and certificate from Nigel Atkinson Esq, Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire later this year. In addition, two volunteers from Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May and June 2025, along with other recipients of this year's Award.

01256 325793 info@hsbd.org.uk
www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk



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HATCH WARREN WI



There was magic in the air at our November meeting as our speaker Robin Maddy gave us a talk and slide show entitled 'Magicians and Music Halls'

Robin, a member of the Magic Circle, entertained us with some magic tricks, and his slide show informed us about the history of great magicians of the past, and the type of tricks they would perform. Of course he couldn't divulge how any of these tricks are actually carried out as that is one of the rules of being part of the Magic Circle!

In December our members will be enjoying a Christmas coffee morning at Café in the Park Beggarwood and a Christmas lunch at Basingstoke College of Technology.

We have plenty planned for 2025 and visitors are always welcome to join us at our meetings, which are held at Hatch Warren Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. For more information please contact our President Shirley on 07979 217220.

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You are invited to join us at 10:15 when we start with Tea and Coffee and the warmest of welcomes.

Every Sunday Morning (except the first Sunday of the month)

A church that is:

- Faithful to God
- Caring for each other
- Committed to those around us

10:15am in the main hall at Manor Field Junior School Haydn Road, Brighton Hill

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(Tickets include £4 booking fee)

THE OWL WHO CAME FOR CHRISTMAS

Based on the book by John Hay and Garry Parsons
Tuesday 3 – Sunday 8 December, 1.30pm & 10.30am Wed-Sun
The Haymarket. Tickets: £19. Under 16s £17

Ballet Theatre UK presents

THE NUTCRACKER

Tuesday 10 December, 7.30pm
The Haymarket. Tickets: £24. Under 25s and f/t students £22
Martin Dodd for UK Productions and Anvil Arts proudly present

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Thursday 12 December 2024 – Sunday 5 January 2025
The Anvil. Tickets: £34.50, £33.50, £28.50. Various concessions
and family tickets.

THE ALBION CHRISTMAS BAND - 25th Anniversary Tour

Thursday 12 December, 7.30pm
The Haymarket. Tickets: £27

PHILHARMONIA BRASS AT CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 17 December, 7.30pm
The Haymarket. Tickets: £31. Under 25s and f/t students £12

MADDY PRIOR & THE CARNIVAL BAND

Carols & Capers – The Fortieth Anniversary & Farewell Tour
Wednesday 18 December, 7.30pm
The Haymarket. Tickets: £29.50

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE

If you're looking for ways to keep the whole family entertained this season then we've got you all wrapped up!

Get into the festive spirit with a trip to a Christmas market or fayre including the majestic Tudor Barn at Basing House and countryside location, Silchester Farm.

Find out where to meet Santa, from a magical north pole adventure at Four Kingdoms to Santa's grotto in Festival Place.

Head to www.LoveBasingstoke.co.uk to keep up-to-date throughout the festive period, into 'twixmas' and the New Year.

Jingle all the way to Basingstoke Leisure Park this Christmas!

We've got something for everyone, from little ones who believe in magic to grown-ups who just want to escape the winter chill.

Santa's little helpers needed

Calling all junior detectives! Can you help Santa find his missing presents? Those cheeky elves have been hiding them all over the park! Grab a trail map and embark on a free festive adventure. Enter the prize draw to be in with a chance of winning a present for yourself!

Need to escape the winter chill?

Step into the period streets of Milestones Museum, adorned with festive decorations and a giant Christmas tree. Create memories to cherish by booking a visit to Father Christmas in his magical grotto! Capture the magic with family photos and unwrap your special Christmas gift from Father Christmas together.

Ample free parking means you can focus on the fun, not the stress. Head over to www.basingstokeleisurepark.co.uk and plan your perfect festive adventure!



Retro Inferno Disco!
 Request your fave song! **The Basingstoke Lions Club** in association with award-winning **Basingstoke Community Radio** invite you to **boogie on down!** Raffle!
 Relive your youth to the sounds of yesteryear, featuring classic and retro hits of the 50s, 60s, 70s and....!
PLUS....."Guess The Intro!"
Sat. 18th January 2025 - 7 for 7.30pm
 Old Basing British Legion Club
 Crown Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7DN
 Tickets: £12 from www.basingstokelions.org.uk or
 Annie: av@mypostoffice.co.uk / 07808 574809
 Registered Charity No: 274337


Basingstoke Concert Band
 invites you to their
Annual Christmas Concert at
Christ Church, Chineham RG24 8LT on
Sunday 8 December 2024 starting at **3.00pm**
 Tickets £10 (U16 free) available from:
 band members, at the door, or visit
<https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/28274#/>
 Join us for a concert of festive songs, carols old and new and, of course, traditional favourites for you to join in with!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir will be celebrating the festive season with a concert at St Michael's Church Cottage on December 14th at 7:30pm (doors open 7pm). Tickets £10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc/t-Ingneq supporting Parkinson's UK

The concert will comprise a varied mix of numbers from our repertoire plus some seasonal favourites. There will be opportunity for you to join in and there will be 'Pies and Punch' at the interval to help you get in the spirit!

We are still keen for new members to join us. Why not come along to a rehearsal and experience the atmosphere at first hand! We rehearse every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm at the Moose Centre. If you're a tenor you'll be made even more welcome.

ALICE ARMSTRONG
 Winner of the UK Blues Challenge & Contemporary Blues Artist of the year
SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER **8PM - LATE**
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Pets Corner

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Coco 'Hurry up, I've got squirrels to chase!' – Noel



Luna (6) – Jen



Kingsley (4) – Jen



Pumpkin the bulldog – James



I have an old exercise book where I have been writing down recipes that I have enjoyed for the last 50 years. They have been given to me by friends and family, found in magazines or ones I have invented. There are a lot of cookery books on my bookshelf (about 300!) and many more I would like to own. This year I am hoping to find a copy of the Hebridean Baker: The Scottish Cookbook under the Christmas tree. On my bedside table is a copy of The Christmas Chronicles by Nigel Slater which I read every year starting in early November; as well as great writing there are some good recipes including Apples, potatoes and bacon, which makes a delicious lunch. This year's favourite new purchases have been The Irish Bakery that includes a great

recipe for potato bread, The Farm Table by Julius Roberts includes lots of recipes I can't wait to try (the sausage casseroles have become firm favourites) and Vegetables by Mark Diacono (the hominy pie made with cauliflower and potatoes in a caraway seed pastry is yummy). My collection started with the Good Housekeeping book that my mother gave me when I was 17 years old. I then discovered Elizabeth David starting with Italian Food – her ragu recipe is the best. I progressed onto French Provincial Cookery which I remember reading from cover to cover. The Cordon Bleu Cookery Course ran from about 1969-71 and is now very dog eared but still regularly referred to. What is your favourite cook book? Thoughts and suggestions would be welcome. Christmas is a season of good food, both cooking and sharing. Enjoy – happy Christmas and merry New Year from my kitchen.

BASINGSTOKE VETERANS HUB

We meet every Monday except bank holidays from 10:30 to 12:30 at Oakridge West Community Association, Upton Crescent, Basingstoke, RG21 5SN in a relaxed manner for coffee, cake, biscuits etc, we have experts visit offering advice as required.

We have a monthly breakfast meet at Spruce Goose Basingstoke

Contact 07767542336 for further information or visit Facebook: Basingstoke Veterans Hub

GANG SHOW – MEET YOUR LOCAL CAST!

Basingstoke Gang Show returns to The Haymarket Theatre for its 29th stunning variety show extravaganza! Sensational songs, comical choreography, super sketches, and more.

Audiences will be entertained as the cast of 70 local Scouts & Guides take to the stage.

Tickets are on sale now via www.anvilarts.org.uk. Dates are Thursday 13th to Saturday 22nd February 2025, excluding Sunday 16th. Matinee performances Saturday 15th and 22nd February. Adults £23, Children £16 and last night (Saturday 22nd) all seats £24.

Recognise any of the cast living in your area pictured here?



RESTAURANT REVIEW

CHARLIE'S CAFÉ

Unit 6, Roentgen Court, Roentgen Road, Basingstoke RG24 8NT 07511 197590 Monday – Saturday 7am – 2 pm

I endeavour to show all manner of eating establishments in my restaurant review to suit a variety of tastes and costs. It was following a recommendation that this is probably the best value breakfast to be had in Basingstoke that we visited Charlie's Café and although we arrived after 12.30 pm the three versions of breakfast were still available to order.

This establishment is tucked away and clearly set up to cater for local employees of the surrounding industrial estate. But it is clean and tidy and can seat up to thirty and like us there were several retired people also enjoying their lunches.

Madam had a cheese omelette with fries while I had chilli con carne with rice and fries. A mug of good coffee completed our needs for a cost of £17.00. Afterwards Madam thanked the two ladies who cook most things to order; that the omelette was the best she had eaten out of the house. My chilli was fine, too.

Along with the three alternative breakfasts there was a wide array of what might be termed, fast food, with nine types of burgers and alternative fillings for baked potatoes, paninis, baguettes or toasties and children's selection, but no desserts.

Did it meet our expectations for quality and value – you bet it did.



A LOCAL GHOST STORY FOR CHRISTMAS



Many places lay claim to the legend of the Mistletoe Bough including Minster Lovell near Oxford, but Bramshill House near Hook has more claim than most, and numbers the ghost of the Mistletoe bough amongst its 14 or so spectres.

One of these is the white lady who has been seen many times around the house, and who brings with her the strong fragrance of flowers – many say lily of the valley. She is said to be the ghost of a young bride married on Christmas Eve who died during her wedding party. The guests took part in a game of hide and seek around the house, and she hid herself in a heavy chest. Once in, she could not lift the lid to get out, and no-one found her. When found, 50 years later, she was clutching a sprig of mistletoe in her hand.

A variation on this claims that the white lady is in fact the ghost of Genevra Orsini, a 15 year old Italian bride, and that when the chest was imported from Italy to Bramshill her ghost came with it.

The sad tale was immortalised in a Victorian song and many stories. Even the Romanian royal family are reported to have been troubled by the presence of this particular ghost. Apparently while staying there after WWII, King Michael asked for a different bedroom for his children who were being disturbed by the white lady who walked through their rooms each night.

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THE PARISH OF BASINGSTOKE DOWN

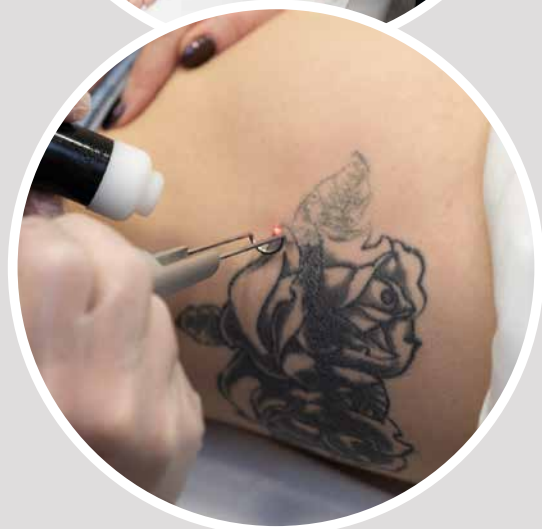
Find a warm welcome with us...

- Sun 15th Dec** - Carol Service, 7pm - St Mark's
- Sun 22nd Dec** - Blue Christmas - a service for those who find the season tough, 5pm - Immanuel
- Tues 24th Dec** - Christingle, 4pm - St Mark's and Midnight Communion, 11.30pm - Immanuel
- Wed 25th Dec** - Christmas Day, 10am, St Mark's

see us out and about at our local schools and carol singing too!

www.parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk

St Marks - Homesteads Rd RG22 5LQ Immanuel - Danebury Rd RG22 4US



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- Medical Weigh Loss
- Advanced Aesthetic Medicine
- Private Referrals

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Let's communicate

Consultations are free of charge with our laser practitioner. There is a £50 charge consultation fee to see Dr. Xavier. Contact us at the clinic via email at halaserstudio@outlook.com or call us on **01256211445** to book an appointment.

Quote the **"Rabbitter"** and get 10% off your first laser treatment.

T&C'S apply.



HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

The countdown to Christmas is now on at Hatch Warren Under Fives. Preschool is full of glitter, sparkles and singing and we are busy planning our Christmas party where we will have fun and games before we go to visit Santa in his magical grotto.

It's been a busy half term and we have been celebrating some special occasions including fireworks, Diwali and Remembrance Day. The children made clay Diwali tea light holders, they danced like fireworks with colourful streamers and listened to the story of 5th November. We used lots of colour and textures to create wonderful firework pictures and we made lovely poppy craft for Remembrance Day.

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

We have been tracing letters and practicing writing names with our older children and are continuing with our small group work each week including Write Dance, a super fun session and a fantastic way to build motor skills and introduce writing skills, science experiments and makaton signing. We have also been making yummy Christmas goodies to eat!

Hatch Warren Under Fives and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

When we look at the curriculum for our little ones we refer to the EYFS and this sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. One of the activities that we encourage and observe at preschool is to join in with dancing games, sing a few familiar songs and tap out repeated rhythms. At this time of year you will hear us singing Jingle Bells... perhaps using bells or Tap Sticks and maybe even dancing around preschool too.

Don't forget - applications are now open for Year R spaces for September 2025. You must apply to Hampshire County Council and the deadline for all applications is 15th January 2025.

Wishing you all a happy and fun festive season!

To enquire about a preschool place please contact us on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

This month the Children have fully embraced the end of Autumn and have been busy with firework pictures and making sparklers. Fortunately, with some drier spells of weather, the Children have been out on the meadow playing in the leaves and collecting many different coloured leaves which have been transformed into foxes!

We have embraced poppy day at Pre-school and made glittery poppies for remembrance day and observed the two minute silence watching poppies, a beautiful remembrance film.

Turning toward December, the children are looking forward to embracing Winter and the long awaited visit from Father Christmas on our last day of term!

To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172.

Ruth Moate

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Chair

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

The festive season offers endless opportunities for learning, especially for our young preschoolers. Each festive activity is a chance to explore new ideas, practice essential skills and spark creativity in ways that feel joyful and exciting.

Crafting decorations strengthens fine motor skills, while baking together introduces early maths concepts like measuring and counting. Singing festive songs builds language and memory, and sharing stories about different traditions nurtures cultural awareness and empathy. Every moment becomes a stepping stone in their educational journey.

This season is also a time to instill the values of generosity, kindness and teamwork. Whether collaborating on a classroom project or participating in acts of giving, the children learn and grow not just academically, but emotionally and socially as well. We have enjoyed many wonderful festive experiences this term and continue to enjoy celebrating with friends, family and our community.

We wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Candover Valley Preschool is a vibrant and nurturing learning environment. Places are currently available for Autumn 2025.

01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

DANDELIONS

As the last half term before Christmas gets underway we started off by celebrating Bon Fire Night by creating our own firework patterns with powder paint. We are so proud of the children for how well they took part in our minute silence for Remembrance Day.

We are delighted with our new Reading Den which provides a quiet sensory area for the children to sit quietly and enjoy stories. We were able to add this to our garden area from fund raising events so a huge thank you to all of our families for helping to make this happen.

Nursey Rhyme week was a lot of fun and the children were singing and doing lots of activities based around the rhymes. The children role-played various nursery rhymes and we even cooked our own currant buns in the bakers shop and made hand prints for inky wincy spider.

This week Drama Tots attended and continued our theme with Nursery Rhymes. It was such a lot of fun going through various nursery rhymes and acting out the rhymes as we went.

We are delighted that Relax Kids will be joining us again and teaching the children mindfulness and relaxation techniques. They can help children to recognise, explore and manage their emotions.

With Christmas just around the corner we are busy getting ready with our crafts and will soon be practising Christmas Carols ready for our Christmas craft sessions and our visit to Dashwood Manor for a festive Sing-a-long.

We are looking forward to our parents coming in for our Christmas Craft Sessions where we will be making hot chocolate cones, reindeer food and decorations for the children to take home. Father Christmas will be making a special visit to our grotto.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and thank you all for your support throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025

If you are considering Dandelions for your child's early years, please do contact us for a registration form or to arrange a visit Tel 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk



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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

“Love come down” at Christmas

Does it sometimes feel that we are in a hurry to reach the next season?

You may have been surprised, as I was to see in early September, Christmas bits and pieces, including mince pies on sale in the supermarket.

And immediately after Halloween it was full of Christmas, with goodies, presents, wrapping paper and advent calendars. Now before I go any further this isn't a bah-humbug post!

It's all too easy to get caught up in the busyness of the season and not have any space to think about what we are celebrating and preparing for. I'm actually writing this article on Remembrance Sunday and well before Advent starts. Advent is a four-week period where we wait expectantly and prepare ourselves for the Christ child to come among us again (and also look for the return of Christ).

One of our traditions at St Mark's church is that we decorate the church with our theme for Christmas – this year its “Love come down” and St Mark's will be decorated with Danish hearts (julehjerter). Do have a look at them online. I love the way that the two colours of the hearts fit together, making me think about Jesus being both God and divine but coming down in human form as Jesus. Immanuel Church will once again have their stained-glass nativity panels. Do look out for them as you go past!

Jesus showed us how to love people no matter who they are. This is both the shock and surprise of the Christian faith. No one is excluded and all are welcomed into God's family. Jesus lived, loved and saved people even if they betrayed and killed him.

The nativity story is full of shocks and surprises; a young woman says yes to God knowing that she may be deserted by her family and fiancé. A man was willing to take on a child that's not his own. Shepherds were surprised by Angels on a hillside and wise foreigners searched for a king, not born in a palace but somewhere much humbler.

Loving people that we don't like or agree with is really hard. And if we think organising who is going to spend time with whom over the Christmas period, we can appreciate how difficult it can be reconcile countries or be an arbiter of peace.

Over the last few years, we have seen how disconnected and alienated countries, communities and families have become. But Christmas gives us a reason to reflect and think about how we can love like Jesus loved; unconditionally and sacrificially. All of us can work on being generous and kind, taking an extra step to help others.

If you would like to know more about Love coming down at Christmas, please do join us for one of our Christmas services this year – our Christmas leaflet is in this issue.

We pray that you know the incarnational love of Jesus this Christmas!

God bless.

Rev'd Kim Robins

Associate Minister – Parish of Basingstoke Down.



IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

By the third issue of 'the Rabbiter' in December 1992, many of the characteristics of our area were settling down or being planned. The major news reported in Issue 3 was that more shops were in the offing, to go on the west side of Wallop Drive. Planning permission had been given for four units (non-food) in what we now know as the Hatch Warren Retail Park.

The non-food condition was recently lifted for the unit that has been occupied by McDonald's. There would be parking for 260 cars – a space that was mis-used by car meets in recent years, which necessitated the locking of the security gates.

In 1992, many people hoped that Hatch Warren would get a Post Office. This never happened, of course, but eventually one was provided in the Co-op store that opened many years later in Beggarwood.

At the same time, Sainsbury's were seeking planning permission to extend their complex. This would result in extra retail units being constructed on the Pinnell Close side of the building – and, if I remember correctly, they were destined to provoke a major row about what should go in them.

The newly-opened Community Centre was getting into its stride, and one of the suggestions for future activities was a beer festival. The Rabbiter carried a call for volunteers to organise it. This idea proved to be very popular, and the beer / lager festival has become a regular feature of our local calendar.

The youth clubs at the Community Centre were now operating, with a call for volunteers to come and help, and Immanuel with St Mark's church was meeting there each Sunday. This was before St Mark's school was built, with facilities to host church services there.

And to demonstrate that some things never change ... the third issue of 'the Rabbiter' reported concerns about vehicles speeding on Woodbury Road and Long Cross Lane. Not only that, parking on these 30mph roads was ill-disciplined and causing accidents. Subsequently, when Beggarwood was being planned, the love-them-or-hate-them 'build-outs' were installed to slow traffic and deter rat-running.

Other activities advertised were a Christmas Bazaar, a Craft Fayre and a Pantomime put on by the Proteus Theatre Company (which is still operating, based in the Fairfield Arts Centre). The bazaar has grown into a major event each Christmas, and the Craft Fayre has moved to a different time of year, but sadly, the Pantos have faded away. My recollection is that they were great fun.

Stephen Reid

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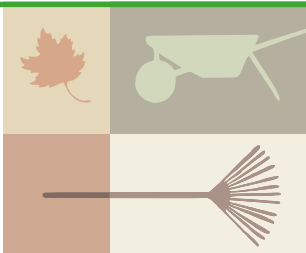
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