

THE Rabbiter



Issue 315
February 2025

The Community Magazine for Hatch Warren and Beggarwood



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FROM THE EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first 'Rabbiter' of 2025. At the end of last year we made some subtle changes to the presentation and layout of this community magazine, added to which, every page is now being printed in colour. This issue has expanded from 24 pages to 28 and we are grateful for the support of our advertisers who make this possible.

There is a wide variety of content for you in this issue.

It seems that major changes are in the offing regarding our local Councils, and these are referred to in the Councillors' reports on pages 6 and 7.

Our clubs and societies are vibrant. Beggarwood Bookworms are starting up daytime meetings and we wish them success in that.

As we approach Valentine's Day, you may be interested in some of the historical traditions that surround it. They are reported in an interesting article on Page 19. And our series on recent local history, as reported in past editions of the Rabbiter, continues on page 22.

I hope you find this edition a good read!

Editor

Message . . . to the ^{previous} editor

Good evening Jenny,

I just wanted to thank you for producing The Rabbiter for all the years you did. My family and I have lived in Hatch Warren for 17 years and I love the fact that we have a community magazine, it does bring real community spirit so you achieved your aim! It's always worth reading and keeps us well informed.

I'm so pleased that somebody else has agreed to take over the reins, you will be a hard act to follow.

I wish you every happiness and success in whatever you choose to do next, and if you choose to do nothing at all who could blame you!

Jacqui Griffiths

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THE Rabbiter

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PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP UPDATE

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

The CGHB PPG Newsletter editor has retired from the role and whilst we seek a replacement we are concentrating on providing online news about Health and Well-being Support and local events for everyone or specific conditions. This can always be found online at www.cghppg.weebly.com/news where you can also register for an emailed copy.

As a patient group we have always compiled an extensive A-Z listing of local Health and Wellbeing support and self referral routes for fast tracking treatments. www.cghppg.weebly.com/self-help Citizens Advice Basingstoke 0808 2 787829 provide phone support to people unable to access this information using the internet.

Most recently we have created key information sheets for

- Help and Support for those living with Dementia,
- Help and Support for Carers
- Ageing Well Keeping well and support available.

These document can be found online at www.cghppg.weebly.com/easy-read-documents

The graphic is a vertical list of colorful arrows pointing to the right, each containing a topic. At the top is a dark blue box with the text 'A - Z OF HELP AND SUPPORT'. Below it are arrows for: Pain Management (orange), Dementia (red), Older People (red), Cancer (teal), Cost of Living (teal), Child Health (dark blue), Mental Health (green), End of Life Care (purple), and Carers Support (purple). At the bottom are two logos: 'NHS Working With The Community' and 'Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood Patient Participation Group'. Below the logos is a dark blue box with the text 'Visit www.cghppg.co.uk Click on 'Self Help' Or Tel Citizens Advice Basingstoke 0808 2787987'.

The Patient Participation Group for Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood has produced some helpful pages on issues faced in our community. They are attracting a lot of attention and praise from within the Health Service. They can be accessed at: <https://cghppg.weebly.com/news>

One of the topics covered is the help available for carers, an increasingly important subject in our community. The following information is taken from a recent release from the Hampshire Carers Support Service.

Do you look after someone?

This could be a family member, a friend or another person who needs help or support to manage daily activities. This may be due to having a physical or mental health condition including dementia, physical or learning disability, long-term medical condition or other illness. If you do, then you are a carer. This service may be of help to you and the person for whom you are caring. It is provided by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Hampshire. It offers information and advice, direct one-to-one support, contingency and emergency planning.

Who can use the service?

- All adult carers over the age of 18 years, whether you are thinking about taking on a caring role or already providing a caring role.
- The carer and the person they are helping must live within the Hampshire County Council geographical boundaries

This service is for unpaid carers. That is, people who alongside their relationship as spouse, partner, son/daughter, parent or other relative, neighbour or friend, are helping someone who due to a long-term physical or mental health condition, including dementia,

other physical or learning disability or illness requires additional everyday help and support. This service is not for paid care workers.

Focus is via the carer, although the service will see people together with the person to whom they are providing care and will where appropriate assist in accessing other support and services for that person.

What the service does

- The service offers countywide, free information and advice, direct one-to-one support, and contingency and emergency planning. All these elements can be accessed by one referral.
- The service can be delivered face-to-face (at the person's home or other location as agreed with the provider), online or via telephone. This will depend on your individual preference.
- Individual support will be tailored to your specific circumstances and agreed with you.

Contingency and emergency planning helps you to plan for times when you may need a break or are not able to provide the help you have been giving. You will be helped to make a plan, to talk with others in your support network and identify other support/ services which will give you peace of mind. There is also a 24/7 support line for help to activate a plan in the case of an emergency.

The service can also help you to access other sources of support, for example Adults' Health and Care, technology enabled care, benefits advice and other health and wellbeing services, as required, according to your needs and wishes.

You can contact the Princess Royal Trust for Carers by Phone: 01264 311680, Email: info@carercentre.com or Website: www.carercentre.com. You can make direct contact yourself or ask someone else to do so on your behalf. You can visit Connect to Support Hampshire for more information.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Stephen Reid

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope the new year has started well for everyone and I wish you a happy 2025.

There was a flurry of meetings in December and January on the subject of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. I attended the specially-called meeting of Hampshire County Council and thought it would be a good idea to bring you up to date with what has been happening. It's a complex subject but it will affect everyone.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S POSITION: Responding to the wishes of the new government, Hampshire has agreed to progress with setting up a Mayoral Strategic Authority with an elected Mayor ('Devolution'), to be followed by a reorganisation of local government. Hampshire has applied to join the government's priority programme. But what does this all mean?

First of all, Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) are separate things.

DEVOLUTION: Devolution would see the setting up of a 'Mayoral Strategic Authority' with an elected Mayor. It would become the highest level of local government, taking over some of the strategic decisions that are currently made by Central Government. These would impact areas such as education, transport, and health services for Hampshire residents, giving people more power to shape the things that are important to them and, given that the Mayor is elected, providing some democratic accountability. The Mayoral Authority would cover the areas of Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, which is why support for the change had to be given by all those Councils.

The Mayor would promote the interests of this wider region to central Government. With a combined population of over two million residents, home to 90,000 businesses and an economy that generates around £80 billion a year, the Mayor would represent a powerhouse of economic activity and a significant asset for the wider UK economy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: Alongside devolution, the County Council has agreed to progress with developing proposals for local government reorganisation in the area. This would change the structure of our local councils by replacing the current two-tier council system, which is in place across most of

the region, with a smaller number of new, unitary (all-purpose) councils. For us, both Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council would cease to exist, to be replaced by a single unitary authority doing the work of both.

The boundaries of the Unitary Authority will have to be agreed. Government guidance is that the smallest number of residents in a unitary authority should be 500,000 and the maximum should be a million. The objective is to simplify the council structure, creating large and financially resilient unitary councils that are more efficient, effective and able to deliver better value for money for taxpayers.

TIMETABLES FOR CHANGE: If the Government agrees to add Hampshire to the fast-track devolution programme, it would then allow the County Council elections, due this May, to be postponed for 12 months. This would enable local areas to focus on laying the groundwork for devolution and reorganisation and allow for a Mayor to be elected in 2026. This would deliver the benefits of devolution as quickly as possible.

Proposals for local government reorganisation would need to be submitted to Government by Autumn 2025, so a period of intense discussions is looming. LGR, once agreed, would be expected to be in place by either April 2027 or April 2028.

CONSULTATIONS: The County Council will engage with key stakeholders such as businesses, the further and higher education sectors, National Parks, police, fire service, the health service and parish and town councils. If the County Council is accepted onto the Devolution Priority Programme, the Government will lead a consultation with residents on the creation of the Mayoral Strategic Authority.

MY VIEW: I supported the changes when Hampshire debated the subject on 9th January. The chronic underfunding of local government in its current form has persuaded me that change is necessary. I said in the debate: "We can't carry on as we are ... we are not here to preserve the life of Hampshire County Council. We are here to preserve the lives of the vulnerable adults who need help, the children who need help, the many people in our society whom we were elected to represent and to help, and if the only way that we can continue to provide them with the essential services they need is to change the structure, then we have to change the structure. In return we have to make the point that if we give the government what they want, then in return we expect them to start funding local government properly."

The debate can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bnJBAtjzWU&t=10183s>, and my contribution is 1 hour and 43 minutes in.

And now some specific local issues ...

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: I took part in an on-line meeting between the PPG and the Care Quality Commission, which is looking into the operation of the Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood doctors' surgeries. The PPG raised many points of concern, many based on patients' feedback. Not least of these was the lack of communications when Dr IQ was taken down and replaced some weeks later with the new Evergreen application. I was concerned about who, within the practice, is responsible for holding Operose to account in the event of difficulties. At the time of writing we await the CQC's report.

HATCH WARREN INFANT SCHOOL: I have been informed that funding for hall ventilation improvements is being included in Hampshire's Capital Report for 2025. The details of the project will be worked out with the school, and the ambition is that the work will be carried out in the financial year 2025/26.

ST MARK'S SCHOOL has posted its thanks to everyone who helped with their Christmas events. They raised over £5,700, which is a remarkable achievement.

HOUNSOME FIELDS SCHOOL: I am pleased to see that the new school has progressed quickly to the point where the roof can start to go on. It is scheduled to open in September. In preparation, the Academy Trust that will run it held two meetings for parents of prospective pupils. The feedback I have seen is that the ethos of the school matches the new developments and our area very well. Interested parents can apply now for Year R (reception) places in September 2025.

REPAIR CAFE: The Community Association is advertising a new Repair cafe that will meet on the first Saturday of each month. It is launching on the back of a similar venture at Chineham, where volunteers have successfully mended many items. They are interested in recruiting more volunteers. Details are on the Community Association Facebook page.

BLOG: You can see more about these, and other issues on my blog at <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>



Stacy Hart

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cllr:stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk
basingstoke@womensequality.org.uk
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:
@wepbasingstoke

A very happy 2025 to you all! I want to start the year by once again thanking the outgoing Editor of The Rabbiter, Jenny Crawford, who steered this magazine for decades before handing it over at the end of December for a well-deserved change of scenery, and without whom you would likely not be holding this in your hands and reading it. Thank you, Jenny, for your years of service to this vital asset to the local community. And thank you also to County Councillor Stephen Reid who will be editing The Rabbiter going forward.

The end of 2024 was jam-packed with – among other things – visits to local charities and community groups like Link2, NeighbourCare and the WI, helping out at festive lunches and attending sessions for info on the new Hounsme Fields School and to teach Guides about Parliament Week. But I was also excited to be planning for two new projects that I want to tell you about.

I'm delighted to announce the launch of the new Hatch Warren Repair Café which I have co-founded alongside my Borough Council colleague Jonathan Jenkin! The Repair Cafe starts on 1st February and will run at Hatch Warren Community Centre on the first Saturday of every month from 10:30am to 1pm.

If you have stuff that needs fixing – whether tools, clothes, computers, furniture, jewellery, electronic equipment or anything else – bring it along and our multi-talented volunteers will do their best to mend it for you. In this way we all save money and help the environment by avoiding huge amounts of fixable stuff going to landfill. The Café works on a first-come, first-served basis and for basic fixes, you can make a small donation towards running costs if you're able or have

it done free if you can't (if the fix involves having to source a part there may be a cost to this). There's tea, coffee and cake on offer, and we will also be running a small book swap corner so you can bring along any books you're done with and pick up something new to read while you wait. We'll also have some children's books available so you can bring your little ones along without fear of boredom complaints!

Initiatives like this are so important to halt the consumption and waste habits that are spoiling our planet, and they need attendees and volunteers to run. So do dig out that old radio or your bracelet with a broken clasp and bring them along. And maybe you have a talent for making stuff work, patching things, or are even just happy to help out with admin or cake once a month?! If so, get in touch with me on the details below or email info@chinehamrepair.org.uk.

The next new thing I will be starting this year is school run patrols. In response to the spike in complaints about anti-social car driving and parking during school runs, I have met with a representative from the Community Safety Patrol Officer team to observe this and we have agreed to conduct random checks at least once per month to discourage unsafe and nuisance behaviour. These will vary between mornings and afternoons, and will cover areas around Hatch Warren Infant and Junior Schools and St Mark's School.

All three schools are on board and will be sending communications to parents to inform them that these patrols are starting, and that the CSPO team will be utilising their legal powers in the event that we encounter anything illegal or dangerous. Our hope is that this initiative will give drivers pause for thought at school run time. Whilst I do understand what a busy and stressful time of day it is, I'm sure that all people agree that we just want to get our kids to school safely. If you have any ideas on further action we could take on this issue, do get in touch via the email below.

Lastly, I know many of you will be aware of the potential changes coming due to new Government plans on devolution and local Government reorganisation. We'll have information coming on this soon via my resident mailing list, which you can sign up for below, and our video channel.

Thanks to the residents who came for a chat at my first 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery of the year – the next will be on Monday 10th February from 7-9pm at the Holly Blue. All are welcome to come and see me with any questions, issues or thoughts!

Stay warm and safe, and very best wishes

Dan Putty

I would like to pay my gratitude and thanks to the Mauritian community who have given enormous service in the psychiatric and mental health fields and Park Prewett hospital. They have innovated the community nursing and have played such an important role in this borough.

There were many who lived in Hatch Warren and elsewhere in the borough. I feel they deserve recognition.

I have also been championing for a Memory group to be set up in the cafe in the park for people suffering from Alzheimer and memory loss. It is such a great organisation which gives entertainment and sing songs which most people remember. Viables and the Milestone have similar groups set up and from time to time I have participated with them with great enthusiasm fun and enjoyment.

I hope that a similar group can be set up in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood to cater for people already here at Churchill homes, Dashwood Manor and in our wards.

I would urge people to support this initiative. THANK YOU ALL.



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MAN SENTENCED FOR ‘DISGUSTING’ FLY-TIP

A man who fly-tipped enough waste to block a road in a rural area of Basingstoke and Deane has been given a suspended prison sentence plus rehabilitation activity days and unpaid work.

Mark Henry Bates of Mansell Close, Windsor, appeared at Basingstoke Magistrates’ Court for sentencing on Friday 10 January, having pleaded guilty to the fly-tipping offence at an earlier hearing held in September last year.

During this hearing, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, who brought the prosecution, told the court that Mr Bates had been employed by a Kempshott resident to remove and dispose of waste following a renovation project.

The waste was later found dumped four miles away, in Well Close, Wootton St Lawrence, on Sunday 26 February 2023. The waste blocked Well Close and prevented a resident from leaving their property.

Sentencing Mr Bates to eight months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, 10 rehabilitation activity days and 80 hours of unpaid work, the district judge described the offence as “disgusting behaviour”. He also ordered Mr. Bates to pay clean-up costs of £634 and a contribution to the costs of the prosecution of £600.



Cabinet Member for Housing and Residents’ Services Cllr Laura James said: “Fly-tipping of this nature is inexcusable. We are prepared to take tough action on fly-tipping where it is appropriate and this sentence proves the courts support this approach.

“This fly-tip blocked an entire access road. This not only prevented residents from getting to and from their homes but also could have prevented access for the emergency services, which could have had devastating consequences.

“It is extremely costly to clear fly-tipping but the cost is not just financial, it impacts our environment, our wildlife and our communities.”

Cllr James added: “This case highlights why it is so important for people who are arranging for waste to be removed from their property need to check the waste removal company is licensed and can provide the correct paperwork.”

More information on reporting fly-tipping and disposing of waste correctly is available at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping and www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytip-campaign

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PROBUS HEARS ABOUT THE MAN BEHIND Q

There can't be many people in this country who have not seen at least one Bond film featuring that smooth spy and womaniser, James Bond, who survives many tricky situations using a piece of equipment made by the in-house boffin known as Q.

Bond author Ian Fleming had been deputy head of Naval Intelligence during WW2 and knew they really did have such people in the background whose job was a Supply Officer, or Quartermaster; hence the use of the initial Q, to provide solutions for field operators facing life or death scenarios.

Speaker Guy Caplin had a lengthy career as a TV producer and director creating many top-rated programmes for Britain's ITV network. Following retirement, he has investigated long forgotten and unknown war heroes. One such was Charles Fraser-Smith who was in MI 6 who invented the self-heating can of soup. He realised that British agents dropped into occupied France needed to blend in with the locals which included smelling like a native, so he invented garlic flavoured chocolate.



Probuss President Stephen Thair & Speaker Guy Caplin

Another was Clayton Hutton (known as 'Clutty') who had been a pilot in WWI and in 1939 was the manager of a jam making factory. He sent thirteen telegrams to the War Ministry offering his services and was eventually placed in MI 9 to act as Q to help the military either avoid capture or aid their escape. This suited his outlook because as a young man he had met the great escapologist Houdini and remained fascinated by all similar matters.

His many successful developments included printing maps on silk which was only made possible by his knowledge of jam making where pectin was used to stabilise the product and it stabilised the printing ink so that it did not run into the fabric. He made compass needles as shirt collar stiffeners and miniature compasses that screwed



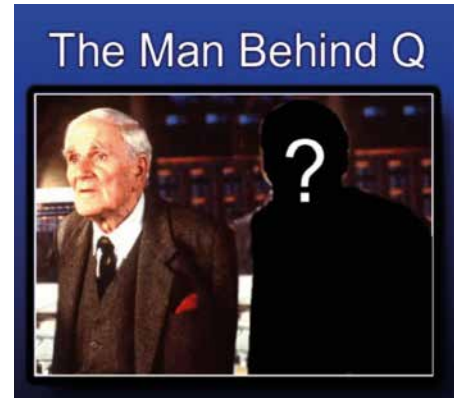
Magnetic shirt collar stiffeners



WW2 Razor Blade compass

into the back of uniform buttons with a left-hand thread to thwart German guards. Some razor blades were magnetised so that when placed on the surface of water they would point north.

The chewed wooden end of pencils provided cover for miniature compasses and boxes of fifty Players cigarettes became emergency food and survival kits for the RAF. Bomber command was losing one in five planes and Clutty realised that the large fur lined flying boots would be an obvious giveaway for escaping air crew, so he redesigned them. The foot section was made to look like a real shoe with the heel containing a map and compass, the laces were a Gigli saw that would cut through steel bars and padlocks and the cut off legs when turned inside out became a waistcoat.



things like 'Little Nellie' the autogyro seen in the 1967 Bond film 'You Only Live Twice' or cars with revolving number plates and machine guns had yet to be invented. But who's to say that there are no other Q sections busily at work today just in case their efforts might be needed in the future.



Little Nellie Autogyro

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

Red Cross parcels sent to the PoW camps were full of escape provisions. Civilian clothing was a must, and uniform jackets could have the lining removed and turned inside out to become a jacket that would look domestic. The fabric used for mess uniforms was the same colour as those of their guards, Officers caps could have the fabric taken off the peak to reveal a shiny black peak as used on civilian head gear.

Vinyl records that had music one side had a map and German currency secreted on the reverse, books had silk maps hidden in their covers and green edged handkerchiefs could have a map displayed after being soaked in water in which a yellow Rowntree's Smartie has been dissolved.

While miniature radios and transmitters were fitted to packets of twenty cigarettes

RABBITER DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

We need helpers to distribute the Rabbitier. 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:

1. Causton Road
2. Longwood Copse Lane
3. Aurora Drive



Old Down Wildlife Group

OLD DOWN WILDLIFE GROUP

Our monthly report has to be written a few weeks before publication meaning that this is being written in the month of rain and more rain, snow, cold and wind – just hope that by the time you read this the weather will be kinder. January certainly wasn't conducive to walking on Old Down!

The Group is still waiting to hear from Basingstoke Council regarding the proposed landscaping works on Old Down. A further consultation is promised so please look out for it and make your views known. As you know the Group is hoping that there will be minimal works – perhaps just some path improvements. It is a site that should be preserved as it is; a place for the enjoyment and appreciation

of nature especially as there are so few such sites around now.

These are three of the highlights we have on the site – Bee Orchid (we don't have many); Red Kite (often seen overhead); Small Blue (the best site in Hampshire):

Not an Old Down issue, but a matter that affects our local green open spaces. Look out for details about Basingstoke Council's proposal to move Basingstoke Golf Centre from the leisure park to Down Grange and have your say. Down Grange is not within the Group's remit however it is not happy with the proposal. It is the principle that is concerning, yet more green open space to be lost to development. All the more reason to look after and support Old Down.

Work Parties: We meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!). We now run some monthly weekend work parties but the dates for 2025 have not been decided yet. Please do come and join the Group – we really do need new members and support. Check our website and Facebook for further information and/or contact us by email.

Email: old.down.wildlife@gmail.com
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Café in the Park

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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 – 14th February (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 Stitches, Puzzles, Computer help plus many more activities to be announced. Starting September 2024

Quiche Wednesday meal deals

Café in the Park Quiche Wednesday



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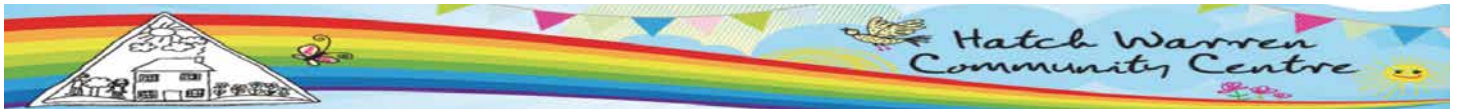
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Café in the Park
 Beggarwood Community Centre
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WITH DJ NICK
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**SATURDAY 17TH MAY
 7-11PM**

This event is supported
 by

Tickets £6
 www.hatchwarren.org
 £3 for members
 with a valid membership
 01256 811262

This event is being held as a fundraising event for HWBCA Charity #1161117
 Tickets non-refundable

We are excited to announce, we are working in Partnership with
Scott Morland Estate Agents throughout 2025

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
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 TO**

**THE STORY OF HOW MUSIC UNITED THE WORLD
 JUST FOR ONE DAY**
 THE LIVE AID MUSICAL
 FROM MAY 2025 | SHAFTESBURY THEATRE

**Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 7.30PM
 SHAFTESESBUY 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

This event is supported
 by

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

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
 COACH TRIP**

**Disney
 HERCULES**
 THE HEROIC NEW MUSICAL

**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

This event is supported
 by

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

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
 Charity number: 1161117 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

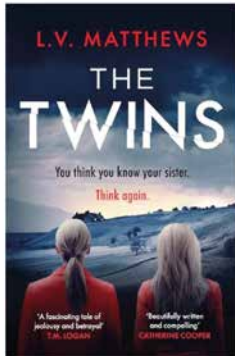


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BEGGARWOOD BOOKWORMS

The new year sets out to be an exciting one for Beggarwood Bookworms. We are very pleased to announce we have another author following hot on the heels of Judith Heneghan who joined us in January to talk about her amazing novel Birdeye.

Meet the Author – L. V Matthews



WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2025 7.45PM

For over ten years L.V. Matthews worked both in domestic and international sales for major UK publishing houses, before leaving to pursue a career in writing. She writes psychological thrillers and suspense novels.

Her newest book is TO LOVE A LIAR, out in September 2025 with Viking. Also available are SILENT WATERS, THE TWINS, and THE PRANK.

Café in the Park

email community@beggarwood.org

Tickets £3.00
via Ticketsource



Meeting the Author always brings the book to life and is a fascinating insight into the writing process, so an evening not to miss. New members always welcome.

Due to the amazing popularity of The Beggarwood Bookworms we are launching a daytime Bookworms as part of Café in the Park's Friendship Friday Sessions. We hope this serves all the book lovers that would love to come but cannot make the evening meetings. The first being 24th Jan at 11.30 straight after the Chatty Café. These will run monthly. Future dates t.b.c Follow our social media channels or keep an eye on the posters in The Café in the Park or email community@beggarwood.org

HATCH WARREN WI

In January each year Hatch Warren WI discusses and votes for the resolution they wish to put forward from the choices given by National WI. We discussed the 4 different resolutions in small groups and then each member voted for the one they would like to support.

The resolution that received the most votes from our ladies was 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' which wants to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to help improve access to defibrillators.

Our WI also holds regular coffee mornings at the Café in the Park and has walking, craft and genealogy groups which all members are welcome to join.

At our next monthly meeting we will be enjoying a fish and chip supper followed by a slide show from one of our members about her travels around the world. The meeting will be on Thursday 6th February at Hatch Warren Community Centre and if you are interested in joining us please contact our president Shirley on 07979 217220.

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Welcome to King's Church
Basingstoke

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
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FEBRUARY HALF- TERM FUN AT BASINGSTOKE LEISURE PARK

Basingstoke Leisure Park is the perfect destination for family fun this February half-term with ample free parking. At Milestones Museum, you can step back in time and enjoy a whole host of games. Play giant board games, test your skills at traditional fairground games and even try your hand at some classic pub games like skittles.

For water-based thrills, head to Basingstoke Aquadrome. With its lagoon pool, exciting flumes and thrilling rapids, it's the perfect place to splash around.

Thrill-seekers will love the adrenaline rush at iFLY Indoor Skydiving, an unforgettable experience for all ages. Catch a blockbuster at Odeon cinema or challenge your friends and family to a game of bowling at Hollywood Bowl.

And after all that excitement, refuel with a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants on-site including McDonald's, KFC, Costa and The Spruce Goose.

Visit www.basingstokeleisurepark.co.uk to plan your visit today!

MAYOR'S CHARITY CONCERT

His Worshipful Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane invites you to attend the Mayor's Charity Concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal on 1st March 2025 at the Anvil concert hall, Basingstoke Hants.

This year's event will celebrate the key anniversaries of the 250th year of Jane Austen within the Borough and in nearby Steventon, as well as commemorate VE Day 80th Anniversary. These themes reflect the Mayor's principle of fostering community cohesion by bringing people together to enhance the wellbeing of all.

The concert will showcase the huge variety and diversity of music making opportunities. A taster of who will be showing are, Basingstoke Festival of Choirs, Basingstoke Gospel Choir, Hatch Warren Infant School and Heritage Light Orchestra. All Compered by David Allard.

Music includes: 'Africa!', 'J'ai Ho' (from Slumdog Millionaire), 'When You Believe' (from The Prince of Egypt), The Dambusters' March, and the theme from 'Pride and Prejudice'.

Supporting the Mayor's Charity Appeal, focusing this year on the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.

Tickets: £20. Over 65s and f/t students £16, under 16s £13 (includes £3 booking fee)

Parking is available at the NCP Car park very close to the venue. Please note there will be a fee to pay. The venue is fully accessible. Should you wish for a wheelchair position please ensure you ask at the booking office upon booking.

www.anvilarts.org.uk



LAST CHANCE TO SEE BASINGSTOKE GANG SHOW. BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



It's your last chance to book tickets for the Basingstoke Gang Show, returning to The Haymarket for its 29th variety show! Performances start on **Thursday 13th** and run until **Saturday 22nd February** 2025, excluding Sunday 16th. Matinee performances are also on Saturday 15th and 22nd February.

The gang has been working hard since early September with each of the 70 cast members attending over 200 hours of rehearsals, a total of 14,000 hours across the cast.

With a production of classic to contemporary performances showcasing the very best in local talent in the Scout & Guide associations, you can expect to be delighted by a show lasting 2.5 hours. Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the best-selling and longest running 'family variety show' in the South of England.

Tickets are on sale via www.anvilarts.org.uk

Ticket prices: Adults £23, Children £16 and last night (Saturday 22nd) all seats £24. Ticket prices include £3 booking fee via Anvil Arts.

www.basingstokegangshow.com





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A SEA SYMPHONY

Toward the Unknown Region
RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes
BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Basingstoke Choral Society
Croydon Philharmonic Choir

Conductor
David Gibson



Sunday March 30th 2025 at 7.30pm
The Anvil Basingstoke RG21 QR
 Tickets: The Anvil Box Office: 01256 844244
 or www.anvilarts.co.uk

Our programme this spring is inspired by the beauty and grandeur of the sea and showcases two major British composers.

Vaughan Williams was deeply inspired by the poetry of American writer, Walt Whitman, whose verses from 'Leaves of Grass' form the text of both 'A Sea Symphony' and the shorter choral work, 'Toward the Unknown Region'. Whitman's expansive and humanistic vision of the sea, a metaphor for both the natural world and the spiritual journey of mankind, appealed strongly to Vaughan Williams. The symphony captures the grandeur, mystery, and awe of the ocean, while at the same time representing human experience and exploration. It is remarkable as one of the earliest major choral symphonies in the English repertoire. Composed between 1903 and 1909, it premièred at the Leeds Festival in 1910, with Vaughan Williams himself conducting. Each of the two works is a powerful testament to Vaughan Williams' ability to blend poetry and music into a unified, stirring experience.

Benjamin Britten's 'Four Sea Interludes' extracted from his 1945 opera 'Peter Grimes', are some of the most evocative orchestral music in the 20th-century classical repertoire. In the opera, the interludes serve as atmospheric transitions between each scene, but are frequently performed, as in our concert, as a stand-alone suite. The Suite remains one of Britten's most popular orchestral works and is a powerful example of his ability to fuse musical drama and atmospheric depiction. All three works in the concert regularly captivate audiences with their rich imagery and emotional depth, inviting listeners to travel on a profound and majestic journey across the seas of the world and the human soul.

We are delighted to be joined once again by our friends from Croydon Philharmonic Choir, as well as a professional orchestra and soloists, making this a concert not to be missed.

www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk     

BCS is a registered CIO no. 1202484



Basingstoke Lions Club
proudly presents
Motown and Soul Night



Lou Taylor
at
The Royal British Legion, Crown Lane, Old Basing RG24 7DN

Saturday 8th March 2025
19:30 for a 20:00 start

Ticket Price £12.50

Available from our website
www.basingstokelions.org.uk

or from
Tony Bamberger, tel: 01256 850254
Email: tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk

Registered charity no. 274337

ACTION FRAUD – TICKET FRAUD

Stay safe from ticket fraud.

According to new data, £6.7 million was lost to ticket fraud in 2023 in the UK alone. Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a new ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events.

How to protect yourself from ticket fraud:

Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known ticketing website.

Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.

The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords, and enable 2-step verification (2SV).

Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.

Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards, and you can take advantage of an independent dispute resolution service. For more information visit star.org.uk/buy_safe.

If you've been affected by a crime please contact HampshireVictim Care Hub for free, confidential support: hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk or phone **0808 178 1641**

If you realise you've been scammed and wish to report a fraud that has already happened, please report it to Action Fraud either phone **0300 123 2040** or online at: Action Fraud



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ANVIL ARTS 01256 844244 anvilarts.org.uk
(Tickets include £4 booking fee)

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Saturday 1 February, 7.30pm, The Anvil
Tickets: £45, £40, £34, £25, £17. Under 25s and f/t students £12
The programme includes Weber's Overture: Der Freischütz, Beethoven's dramatic Piano Concerto no. 3 and Dvořák's powerful Symphony no. 7.

CIRQUE ENCHANTMENT

Sunday 2 February, 5pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £34. Under 12s £24
This magical production features superb choreography, breathtaking live vocals, and mesmerising circus performers.

JON CULSHAW - Imposter Syndrome

Friday 7 February, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £31
Suitable for: ages 16 and over
Join Jon Culshaw the star of BBC Radio 4's Dead Ringers, BBC One's The Impressions Show, and Channel 4's Partygate.

BOYZLIFE - featuring Keith Duffy & Brian McFadden

Sunday 9 February, 7.30pm, The Anvil
Tickets: £46, £41, £34. VIP upgrade £154
There are few acts that accomplished the level of success that Boyzone and Westlife respectively achieved as two of the defining groups of 90s and 00s boy band era. Now, Boyzlife, comprised of Boyzone's Keith Duffy and Westlife's Brian McFadden, are celebrating their defining hits.

LA BOHÈME

featuring the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv
Wednesday 12 February, 7.30pm The Anvil
Tickets: £49, £45, £41, £37. Under 25s and f/t students half price, over 65s £2 off
La bohème is one of the most romantic operas ever written. It tells the tragic tale of the doomed, consumptive Mimi, and her love for a penniless writer.

PRAGUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Thursday 13 February, 7.30pm, The Anvil
Tickets: £45, £40, £34, £25, £17. Under 25s and f/t students £12
The programme includes Dvořák's spine-chilling poem The Noonday Witch, Prokofiev's dynamic Piano Concerto no. 3 and Shostakovich's emotional Symphony no. 5. The concert is conducted by Tomáš Brauner and pianist Gabriela Montero joins the orchestra.

PETER ANDRE IN THE BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS

Saturday 15 February, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £49
Starring Peter Andre – The Best of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons is a spectacular celebration of music from one of the biggest selling groups of all time.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Wednesday 19 February, 7.30pm, The Anvil
Tickets: £45, £40, £34, £25, £17. Under 25s and f/t students £12
The programme includes Prokofiev's beautiful Violin Concerto no. 2 and Rachmaninov's full-blooded Symphony no. 2. Tugan Sokhiev conducts with violinist Daniel Lozakovich.

CHRIS DE BURGH

Tuesday 25 February, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £64, £54
Chris de Burgh celebrates a remarkable and rare career milestone during 2024; half a century as a recording artist. To celebrate, Chris will be embarking on a solo tour throughout Europe and beyond.

BOROUGH SUCCESS AT TOURISM AWARDS

Basingstoke's free summer outdoor arts festival has won an award from Tourism South East against tough competition.

Basingstoke Festival, a free family-friendly programme of summer events, won bronze in the Tourism Event/Festival of the Year Award at the Beautiful South Award ceremony this week.

Run by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in partnership with local and national artists and organisations, Basingstoke Festival has been running for 13 years and encourages residents and visitors to explore arts and culture through music, dance, visual art and street theatre performances.

The Beautiful South Awards celebrate the best of tourism and hospitality across south east England, with the festival facing competition from events held in Chichester, Romsey, Ardingly and Newport on the Isle of Wight.

The Tourism Event/Festival of the Year Award recognises organisers of memorable and immersive tourism events and festivals that contribute to the visitor economy.

Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Culture Cllr Kerry Morrow said: "Every year Basingstoke Festival showcases the best local and national artists and champions work created specifically for new audiences. I'm delighted that the efforts of the team and volunteers, who work so hard to make it a success, have been recognised with this award.

"The festival provides a great opportunity for residents and visitors to explore something new, with music, dance, visual art and street theatre performances. Our vibrant arts and culture offer is part of what makes Basingstoke and Deane a great place to live, work and visit and we are already busy planning a fantastic festival for everyone to enjoy in 2025."

Organisations from elsewhere in the borough were also celebrating multiple wins at the awards. Whitchurch Silk Mill won gold in their category for Café/tea room of the Year and a bronze award for Small Attraction. Oakley Hall won gold for Wedding Venue of the Year and a bronze for Large Hotel of the Year and their Glasshouse restaurant scooped bronze for Restaurant of the Year.

Cllr Morrow continued: "Congratulations to Whitchurch Silk Mill and Oakley Hall for their successes at the awards. It shows that our local business owners and attractions take pride in what they do and offer an excellent experience to visitors."

Basingstoke Festival will return in summer 2025 with more original performances across dance, music, street theatre and visual arts. Find out more by visiting www.BasingstokeFestival.co.uk

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

Mr Flaherty's Private Theatricals is delighted to present its production of The Vicar of Dibley, based on the hilarious BBC sitcom. From Thursday 3rd April to Saturday 5th April, the Central Studio, Basingstoke will come alive with laughter; with a show that features some of the best episodes of the series. Performances begin at 7.30pm each night and include a 3pm matinee on Saturday 5th April. Tickets are £15 and can be looked via <https://privatetheatricals.ticket-office.co.uk>

Pets Corner

Send your photos to editor@therabbiter.biz



4 year-old British Blue Bella – Fran



10 year-old Mitzy – Mark



Misty and Coco – Chris



VALENTINE'S DAY TRADITIONS

The Victorian age may have been the heyday of the Valentine Card, but customs and traditions around Valentine's Day have a very long history.

“There is a rural tradition, that on this day birds choose their mates; whence probably arose the custom of choosing Valentines, which affords an innocent exercise for the fancies of young people in various parts of Europe.” *From the Hampshire Chronicle 21st February 1791*

Drawing lots to choose a Valentine was a popular pastime from the Tudor age through to the Eighteenth Century. Names would be collected and then drawn out, creating Valentine's couples. They might wear each other's names on their sleeves, exchange gifts and poems, and remain a Valentine pairing until Easter.

Another way of creating a Valentine pair was through the belief that the first young



man an unwed girl saw on the day should be her valentine and possibly her future husband.

There were plentiful superstitions associated with the day, mostly around predicting a future husband. A young woman with several suitors could write their names on scraps of paper, wrap the papers in clay and then drop the clay balls into water. The clay ball that floated to the surface contained the name of her future husband. To dream of a future lover, hard boil an egg and then eat the egg at bedtime. Another way to see a future husband was to run around a church twelve times at midnight on Valentine's Day, his apparition would then appear. Perhaps easier was the custom of placing a small piece of wedding cake under the pillow before bedtime, this was said to induce dreams of future loves.

Sources: *British Newspaper Archive*
British Library
Oxford Brookes University

Terri Reid MA FRSA
Terrielizabethreid.com

BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY



Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club changing lives with loans

Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club is celebrating a landmark charitable achievement. As one of hundreds of Rotary clubs across the country who have contributed over £1 million to Lendwithcare, a microfinance charity which enables people in the UK to make small loans to entrepreneurs from poor communities around the world.

The project started in October 2011, with Basingstoke Deane Rotary being involved since early 2020.

More than £1 million has now been lent by Rotary to farmers, tailors, market stallholders and food producers to name just a few of the types of businesses Rotary have helped in 11 countries across Africa, Asia, and South America.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club has raised and lent a total of £11,366, contributing towards the national £1 million landmark, with the club loaning to 9 groups / entrepreneurs in Malawi, Philippines, and Rwanda.

Lendwithcare's own details tell us that Basingstoke Deane Rotary has helped 78 entrepreneurs, and 298 family members, and assisted in the creation of 43 jobs.

www.rcbd.org.uk

RESTAURANT REVIEW

WHEATSHEAF HOTEL

Winchester Road (A30), North Waltham RG25 2BB
Tel: 01256 398282

This was a surprise invitation for Sunday lunch by a visiting son and daughter in law who were traversing from the south of Hampshire back to their home in Lincolnshire. They thought that it would only be polite to meet up with aged parents and booked a table at this well-known Chef & Brewer hostelry.

Food is readily available which in the past has been to varying standards. What would it be like on a Sunday in January? But there was no need to worry as an extensive choice was on offer with traditional roasts very much to the fore making a change from many previous visits attending funeral wakes with the usual sandwiches and savouries.

Madam had a creamy vegetable soup, son and wife each had creamy garlic mushrooms on toasted sourdough, while I had chicken strips which came with a BBQ dip. Mains were sea bass for Madam, son had roast beef rump, wife had woodland mushroom Bourguignon, and I had roast pork loin. The two meat platters came with a Yorkshire pudding as well as duck fat roast potatoes and four vegetables and their own small jug of gravy. Everyone was very happy with their choice and my pork was melt in the mouth tender and son echoed that opinion about the beef.

Desserts were three different types of mini pud that came with a coffee of choice while I had Bramley apple pie and custard. Drinks had been diet tonic with ice & a slice for Madam while son had a pint of zero Guinness and daughter in law and I each had a bottle of zero Perroni lager.

This was a very pleasant lunch time with excellent food, a good atmosphere and attentive young staff, well worth £136.58 plus tip. Dad, of course, paid the bill.

**CELEBRATE JANE AUSTEN'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY IN BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE**

A year-long programme of events to celebrate the life and works of one of literature's most beloved authors who was born and raised in Basingstoke and Deane is set to be launched this month.

To mark the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, Basingstoke and Deane will host a diverse programme of events, exhibitions and activities for residents and visitors to enjoy which are being arranged by a group of organisations in the area where Jane spent her formative years.

Connected by their shared admiration for Jane Austen, organisations across the borough have worked together as the Basingstoke and Deane Jane Austen 250 group. Organisations involved include Love Basingstoke, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Overton Jane Austen Trails, The Willis Museum, Hidden Britain Tours, Destination Basingstoke, Steventon Jane Austen 250. They have created a programme of events and exhibitions to give people the chance to explore Jane's history in the communities where she spent her first 25 years.

The Overton Jane Austen Trails group has developed three new trails that can be explored on foot or by cycle.

Whitchurch Silk Mill will be celebrating Jane Austen's love of fashion as part of a special exhibition, starting in March, showcasing the history of silk weaving, a craft that was prevalent during Austen's time. The Vyne, a historic country house a few miles north of Basingstoke, will host a series of Regency-themed events throughout 2025, including costumed tours and workshops. The village of Steventon, which is where Jane Austen was born, will also host a literary-themed country fair in July.

The year-long celebration will delve into the author's life and literary legacy, culminating in a special event on Tuesday 16 December 2025 at St Nicholas' Church in Steventon, marking the exact 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. This event will be a fitting tribute to the author's enduring legacy and the rich cultural heritage of Basingstoke and Deane.

Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Culture Cllr Kerry Morrow said: "Jane Austen was born in the borough and spent more than half her life here while drafting some of her greatest works and we are proud of her strong connection to Basingstoke and Deane.

"Together with other organisations across the borough, we have been working hard to create a fantastic programme of projects to celebrate Jane's legacy. We are excited to showcase everything on offer as part of a dedicated Jane Austen 250 page on the Love Basingstoke website.

"From exhibitions to a country fair, self-guided walking tours to regency dancing, residents and visitors can immerse themselves in Jane Austen's world throughout 2025, as we mark 250 years since her birth."

Anna Thame on behalf of Overton Jane Austen Trails said: "As a group of volunteers who have created the Overton Jane Austen Trails, we are delighted to be involved in the Basingstoke and Deane Jane Austen 250 group. It's been great to meet and share ideas to help shape an exciting programme of events and projects."

For more information and a full calendar of events, please visit: www.LoveBasingstoke.co.uk/celebrating-250-years-of-jane-austen



WELCOME!

Ha Laser Studio is an independent clinic in Basingstoke, founded by Hayley, who has 20 years of experience in the industry. She began her career with a renowned company, gaining expertise at Harley Street alongside top industry professionals. The clinic specialises in a range of advanced laser treatments, including laser hair removal, skin resurfacing, tattoo removal, vascular treatments, and photo facials for conditions like pigmentation, rosacea, and acne. With a focus on expert knowledge and using the best global technology, Cynosure, Quanta & Lynton.

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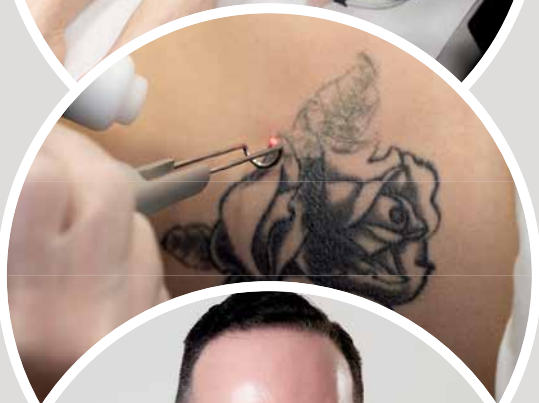
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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

I'll say it. Valentine's Day gets on my wick. Shops awash with terrifyingly ghastly cards ("You are my fluffy-wuffy bunnykins") enormous cuddly toys and grotesquely over priced flowers. No thanks!

However, the fact is that love itself (supposedly the reason for celebrating Valentine's Day) is an incredible thing. Love binds and holds people and families together. It inspires and leads us to look out and care for each other often in the hardest circumstances. Said with meaning, backed up with action and the words "I love you" never lose their extraordinary power.

So behind all the sappy stuff is a celebration of something amazing

Now what, you may ask, has this got to do with a Spiritually Speaking column? Well, there is no doubt that the Church as an institution is disliked by many people and in many instances, I fully understand why people feel like this. There have been scandals that the Church has handled wrongly and people have been horribly hurt as a result. The stances that certain sections of the Church take on particular issues leave it open to charges of being out of date at best and at worst being prejudiced and antagonistic towards certain sections of society.

I look at Valentine's Day and think "Not for me, Chief" and on a far more serious note, many people think exactly the same thing about the church.

However, from my experience I believe that, just like Valentine's Day, at the heart of the church is a message of the God of Love.

I believe the Parish of Basingstoke Down to be a caring and loving community, People reach out into the community to care homes, primary schools, to new families offering care and support. Church Members are involved in organisations such as Foodbank and Street Pastors. And we also demonstrate love and care for one another in practical ways

The purpose of the church is to show God's love in action. The Bible states "For God so loved the world that he sent his only son Jesus Christ". Jesus was born, lived on earth, died and rose from the dead to show us how much God loves us. The Church was established to carry on what Jesus started, to show people how much God loves them.

I absolutely appreciate that the faults and the wrongdoings of some people in the church are much harder to ignore than the teddy bears and the over-priced roses. Whilst the church is an institution comprised of human beings and humans make mistakes, the hurt that these cause is unacceptable.

However, I firmly believe that these are nothing to do with Jesus and his good news. The Jesus that works through his church when they put him first, he hurts when we hurt, celebrates with us and loves us so much.

Hearing someone we love say "I love you" is an extraordinary thing. The remarkable thing about the Christian faith is that these are the words that Jesus says to us.

Rob Marsh

Parish of Basingstoke Down



IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

For its fourth issue, in February 1993, the 'Rabbiter' adopted a format that many residents may remember: a four-page newsletter (sometimes more) printed on paper that was a distinctive shade of green. This format served the area well for over ten years, when the Rabbiter became a magazine similar to the one you are reading now.

By 1993, a large part of Hatch Warren had been built (Bovis Homes round Centurion Way sold their last property in 1992, for example) but there was still a long way to go. New residents welcomed the green newsletter popping through their doors on a near-monthly basis.

The main story in February 1993 was that plans were in train to make school places available to rising 5s, and local schools were preparing schemes to support this aim. In addition, an offer to build a new primary school had been submitted and was being considered by the Department of Education and Science. This went on to become St Mark's School in Danebury Road.

Local residents were concerned to see works taking place just off the motorway. Was this the start of a local Motorway Service Station? No, it was landscaping for the Kennel Farm area and nothing to do with Hatch Warren.

Plans for extending Sainsbury's had been approved and it was reported that they would include some non-food retail units. However, discussions on four stores on the other side of Wallop Drive were taking longer, and a decision was still awaited on what would become the Hatch Warren Retail Park.

The Gardening Club was advertising a talk by the owner of the Manor House in Upton Grey, about how she resurrected the Gertrude Jekyll Garden there. Gertrude Jekyll was a British horticulturist and garden designer who designed hundreds of gardens and became a leading authority on the subject. Today, the garden still opens to the public in the summer, and is well worth a visit.

The Community Centre was now very active. The Citizens Advice Bureau was providing an outreach service to the area on a trial basis on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, one day per month. The managers were negotiating with the Post Office in the hope of getting a service there for two or three mornings a week. There was interest in starting an over-55's group.

A Charity Cricket Match was being planned. The only problem was that Hatch Warren did not have a cricket team! A call for volunteers resulted.

These were all examples of a new community starting to find its feet. Some of the new ideas would work, and some would not.

Stephen Reid



Find a warm welcome at your local parish church...

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part of the Parish of Basingstoke Down

for info on services and events...

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Parish Office- 01256 840502
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SILENT HUNTERS

The barn owl, with its ghostly white feathers and heart-shaped face, is one of the most iconic birds of prey in the UK. Known for its silent flight and stealthy hunting techniques, this magnificent bird is a true countryside symbol. Its haunting appearance has earned it the old country name 'hushwing,' which aptly describes its ability to glide noiselessly through the night in search of prey.

A remarkable combination of features allows the barn owl to be such an effective hunter. The trailing edges of its wings are lined with soft, serrated feathers that reduce noise, enabling the bird to fly almost silently. Barn owls also have excellent night vision, perfectly adapted for hunting in low light. Their long legs, talons, and highly sensitive ears, aided by their distinctive facial discs, help them locate prey even in tall grass or underbrush. The facial discs act as a sound funnel, directing noises into the owl's keen ears, allowing it to detect even the slightest movement on the ground below.

In Hampshire, barn owls are an increasingly familiar sight, especially in the winter months when they extend their hunting hours to find enough food to survive the colder conditions. This time of year can be an excellent opportunity to spot these silent hunters as they venture out during daylight hours to hunt for voles, mice, and other small mammals. The best times to see them are at dawn or dusk, when their hunting is most active.

Several nature reserves managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust offer great opportunities to observe barn owls in their natural habitat. Hockley Meadows Nature Reserve in Winchester is a known hotspot for these beautiful birds, where visitors can watch them glide over the meadows and hunt in the

early morning or late afternoon. On the Isle of Wight, Arreton Down is another fantastic location, offering a mix of farmland and open grassland that provides their perfect environment. Meanwhile, Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve near Portsmouth is a must-visit for birdwatchers, with the reserve attracting not only barn owls but also short-eared owls, making it a great destination for raptor enthusiasts.

While watching barn owls, it's important to be respectful of their environment. Always maintain a safe distance, avoid disturbing wildlife, and keep dogs on leads. With their captivating beauty and incredible hunting skills, barn owls are a testament to the wonders of the natural world.

For more barn owl information, visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/birds-prey/barn-owl



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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

The children at Hatch Warren Under Fives have enjoyed getting back into the preschool routine after the Christmas break and we have welcomed new children who have settled in brilliantly. The first week was all about getting back into routine and playing with friends.

There has been lots of excitement with the weather so we have been wrapping up warm and getting outside to play. The children have been playing with ice that we have made by filling up our trays with water; it makes a great ice rink for our toy animals the next day. We have also been lucky enough to get a little dusting of snow to play in. The snow inspired the children to create their own snowmen on the craft tables, they made beautiful snowman pictures and some very fluffy cotton wool snowman models. The colder weather is also the perfect time to encourage the children's growing independence. They have practised putting on their own scarves, hats, gloves and wellies before going outside.

February will be a busy month for us with lots of fun to look forward to. We have Valentine's Day, Lunar New Year and Pancake Day coming up.

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, dough gym, cooking and makaton signing.

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

Within the EYFS we look at how children develop their imagination. At Hatch Warren Under Fives we love observing children in the role-play areas and seeing how they use their imaginations throughout the day. Here are some examples of typical behaviour we might expect to see:

- Notices what adults do, imitating what is observed and then doing it spontaneously when the adult is not there.

- Engages in imaginative role-play based on own first-hand experiences.
- Builds stories around toys, e.g. farm animals needing rescue from an armchair 'cliff'.
- Uses available resources to create props to support role-play.
- Captures experiences and responds with a range of media, such as music, dance and paint and other materials or words.

We are now enrolling for September 2025. Hatch Warren Under Fives offers two rooms for our children; we have a smaller room dedicated to our two-year-olds and a large room for our older children. To enquire about a preschool place at Hatch Warren Under Fives, or to have a look around, please contact Siobhan 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

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

What a fantastic Christmas the children had! After making yummy gingerbread men and tree decorations, they played some festive football courtesy of Luke at Y Plus Coaching. Then it was on to the biggest event of the year – the nativity play! The children were all brilliant and sang beautifully.



Jo Harman and Fiona Cotterell would like to say a huge 'thank you' for the wonderful surprise gifts they received at the quiz night at The Fox to celebrate their 30 years at Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School. They can't believe how quickly those three decades have gone by.

They would like to thank parents past and present and the Village Trust, without whom Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School would not be the warm and nurturing environment that it is.

They would also like to thank the wonderful staff team and committee; without whose support they would not be able to provide such a happy place to work.

Another big 'thank you' to The Fox for hosting the quiz and providing the winners' prizes along with Budgens Old Barn Stores and Basingstoke Garden Centre for providing us with raffle prizes.

Georgia Hawken

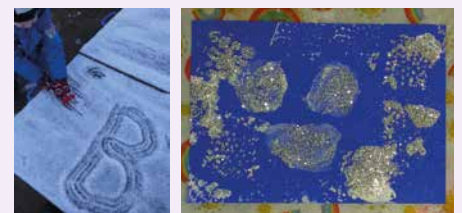
Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

The chill of Winter has brought with it exciting opportunities for exploration and discovery. At CVP, we are embracing the season, turning the frosty days into memorable learning experiences for our little ones.

We have been focusing on the wonders of ice, snow and the uniqueness of the cold season. Through hands-on activities, our children have been exploring the science behind freezing and melting, creating icy art projects and observing the changes in nature during Winter. These experiences are designed to spark curiosity.



Classroom discussions and stories have centred around Winter; helping children learn more about animals that hibernate, the importance of staying warm, winter weather patterns and even more about our solar system and the Earth's tilted axis creating the seasons. Through these activities, our children are developing a deeper understanding of their world.

Candover Valley Preschool is a vibrant and nurturing learning environment. Please contact us if you would like to enquire about a place for your child.

Places currently available for Autumn 2025.

01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

DANDELIONS

On the 10th January we celebrated 20 wonderful years of welcoming children through our doors.



It was wonderful to commemorate this occasion by holding a party for the children. A huge thank you to "Silly Scott" who provided the entertainment for us. We had party games and a disco with a little bit of magic thrown in and balloon modelling. The children and the staff all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We were delighted that the Manager who opened Dandelions was able to come and join us as well as the Head and Deputy Head from St Mark's School.

Martin Brower kindly provided drinks, fruit and doughnuts for the children and our Chair of the Committee created an amazing cake which we all enjoyed.

It has been so lovely to reflect on the last 20 years and we look forward to welcoming children and their families going forward.

This term we have lots more to look forward to with Hampshire Healthy Heroes coming in to see us, National Lego Day, Pizza Day, Teddy Bear Day and so much more!!!

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 No: 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk

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Notes from the kitchen



As the chilly wintery days continue I am turning to cooking meals that wraps us in a warm hug – soups, casseroles and hot puddings. A chunky vegetable soup with a hunk of bread does take some beating and uses up all those veg lurking at the bottom of the fridge - add a can of pulses (broad beans or cannellini beans are my favourites) and sprinkle with some grated cheese. What vegetables are good to use? I chop up an onion, carrot, leek, potato, some crushed garlic and whatever else needs to be used – swede, celery, cauliflower are all good and a scoop of frozen peas added towards the end of cooking. If I don't have any homemade stock a good quality stock cube works well and I usually add a can of chopped tomatoes. Cheap and nourishing. And for pudding, rice pudding made with gold topped milk and topped with a dollop of home made jam.

One of my new year resolutions has been to try and buy food that has not travelled far. The Street Croft Farm Shop at Herriard sells local food – meat and eggs from the farm, local cheese, milk and veg as well as bread from the Bakeshop in Old Basing. The chopped stewing beef makes a good casserole and the sausages are very good.

There is also a coffee shop selling delicious cakes and paninis. The shop is on the Alton road just past the saw mills (RG25 2PQ) and opens on Saturdays from 9am – 4pm. Take the children with you and they might see donkeys and calves sheltering in the barn. The Street Croft Farm Shop on facebook.

It is marmalade making time and you might just be in time to buy some Seville oranges which are only available in our shops during January. If you have missed buying yours, there are lots of recipes for using other citrus fruits – lemon and grapefruit marmalade or you can buy tins of ready to use Seville oranges. If you are looking for a good book on making your own The Book of Preserves by Pam the Jam takes some beating.

I think I have mentioned before that I have an awful lot of cook books and Santa did bring me another – The Scottish Cookbook by the Hebridean Baker. It is full of lovely recipes for cakes and cookies which are delicious but not very good for my expending waistline! More news on these recipes next month.

Happy cooking everyone.

RABBITER CONTACTS:

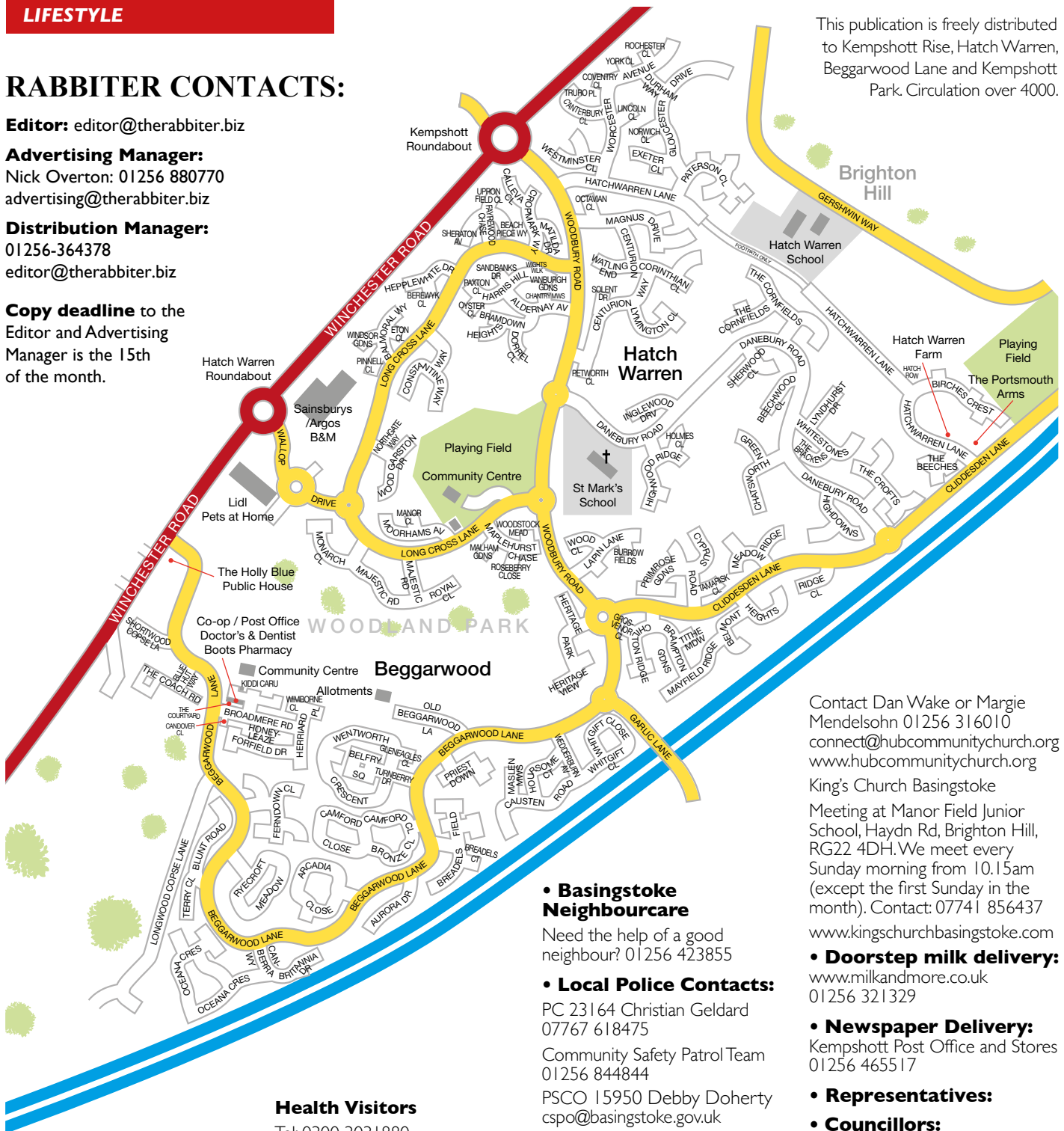
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• Basingstoke Neighbourcare

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• Local Police Contacts:

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07767 618475
Community Safety Patrol Team
01256 844844

PSCO 15950 Debby Doherty
cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk
Hampshire Constabulary 101
Crimestoppers 0800 555111

• Churches:

Immanuel Church - Holy Communion - 9am every Sunday at St Mark's School, Danebury Road.
St Mark's Church - Sunday Service with children's groups - 10.30am every Sunday at St Mark's, Homesteads Road, Kempshott. For more details contact - The Parish of Basingstoke Down (01256) 840502 or office@parishofbasingstokedown.org.uk
Hub Community Church Every Sunday at The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU at 4pm

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

King's Church Basingstoke
Meeting at Manor Field Junior School, Haydn Rd, Brighton Hill, RG22 4DH. We meet every Sunday morning from 10.15am (except the first Sunday in the month). Contact: 07741 856437
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cllrstacyhart@basingstoke.gov.uk

Samir Kotecha, 18 Hollins Walk RG21 7JT 07971 470208
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Dan Putty, 1 Gloucester Drive, RG22 4PH 356650
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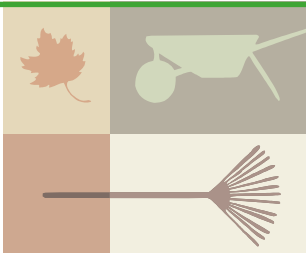
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	A
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Solar Factor (g _v) (%)	8.85
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