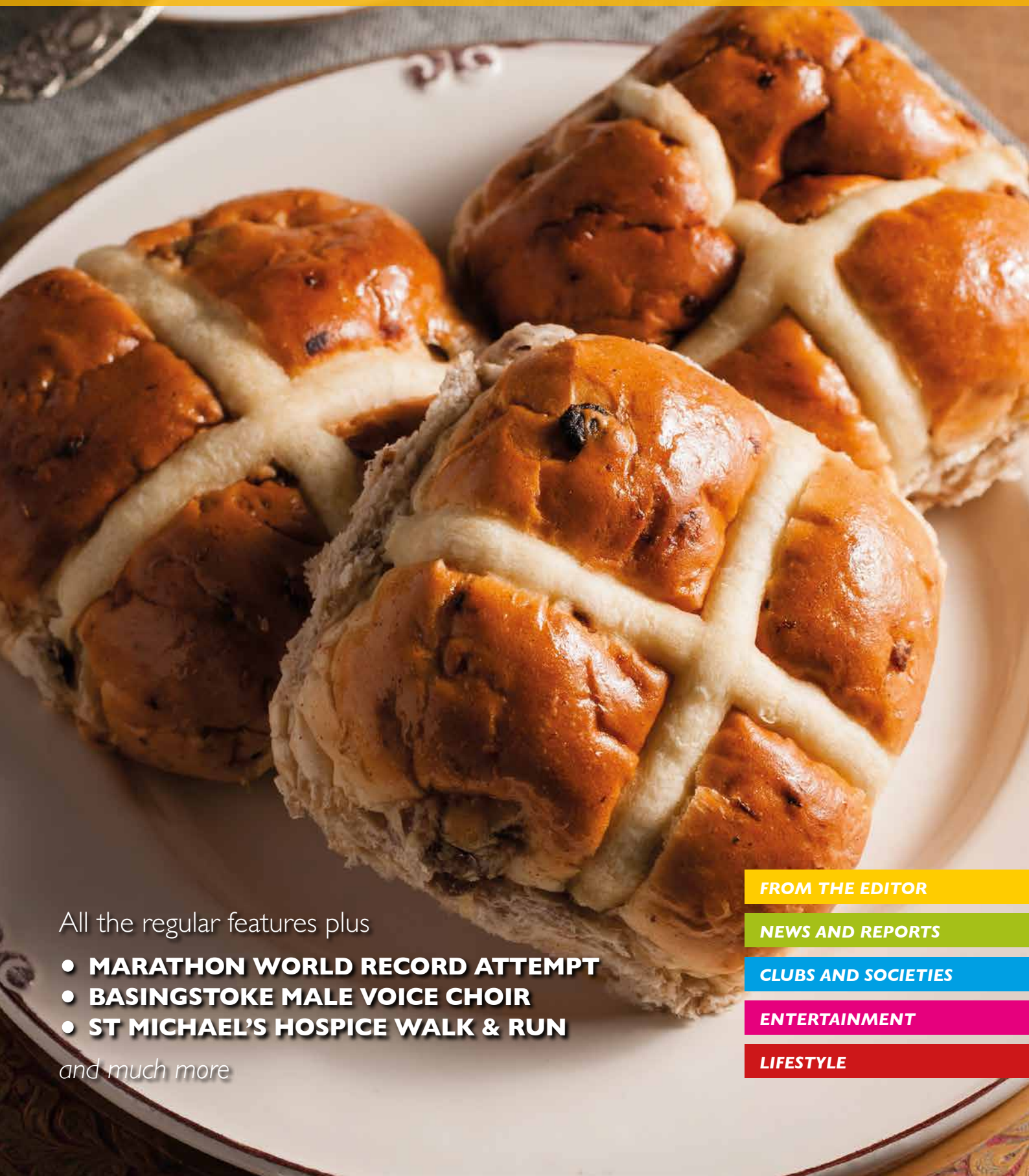


THE Rabbiter



Issue 317
April 2025

The Community Magazine for Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren, Beggarwood and Kempshott Park



All the regular features plus

- **MARATHON WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT**
- **BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR**
- **ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE WALK & RUN**

and much more

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EDITORIAL

At a time when there are so many difficulties in the world, I was struck as we put together this issue of the Rabbiter, by how much positive news there is in our area. We are lucky to live in this part of Basingstoke, where so many people pull together to enrich our community and to do extraordinary things.

In this issue we report on a world record being attempted which, if successful, will be a story of triumph over adversity. If you have an inspiring story to share, I would be delighted to hear from you.

There are also positive articles on the important work of our wildlife groups and our vibrant Community Association. Our Women's Institute is flourishing, and Beggarwood Bookworms is expanding. Our entertainments pages are bulging and the Lifestyle section has a collection of interesting historical articles about Easter and local events that happened within living memory.

The reports from our Councillors detail important changes that are happening in local government, and the work they are doing to address issues that affect us all. I hope that you will find this issue of the Rabbiter a positive read. With the weather improving too, I wish everyone an enjoyable Easter break.

Editor



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Lee Ash beat Stephen Wynne 9-7 in the Fitzhugh Memorial Pool Championship

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THE Rabbiter

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HATCH WARREN RUNNER AIMS FOR WORLD MARATHON RECORD



On 27th April, Hatch Warren Runners will be well represented by a large contingent at the London Marathon, many of who are raising money for charities in the process. One of these is Rebecca Reid who is raising money for Cardiac Risk in the Young, who work to reduce the frequency of Young Sudden Cardiac Death (YSCD).

CRY supports young people diagnosed with potentially life-threatening heart conditions and offers bereavement support

to families affected by YSCD. It promotes and develops heart screening programmes and funds medical research.

Rebecca's reason for running for them is a very personal one: "I am beyond honoured, overwhelmed and excited to be fundraising for the incredible Cardiac Risk in the Young Charity at the London Marathon 2025. Whilst this will be my 9th official marathon, this one is very special as it will be my first one in three years - just over twelve months after having heart surgery myself and receiving a subcutaneous implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (S-ICD).

"So whilst it's not my first marathon - far from it - this one means more. After suffering from two idiopathic Ventricular Tachycardia episodes (a life-threatening heart arrhythmia where my heart rate reached 280 bpm!) whilst running in 2023, there was a huge question mark over whether I'd ever run again, let alone attempt another marathon. This was heartbreaking on an entire other level to what was actually happening with my heart.

After an eight-hour procedure followed by the fitting of the defibrillator, and now on the right medication, I will be taking on the best race in the world as my return to running. I am so lucky to have received amazing treatment from the Royal Brompton Hospital, but I know others aren't so lucky to get treated. And that is where CRY comes in and why I am running for them.

What's more, I am aiming to set a Guinness World Record for Fastest Marathon with a S-ICD (female) as the first recorded woman to run a marathon with this device."

To find out more about Rebecca's journey and her fundraising for CRY, please visit her Instagram page @rebeccaelizabreid

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COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Stephen Reid

County Councillor: Basingstoke
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SCRUTINY OF GP SERVICES: I have been troubled for some time by what I observe to be inconsistent performances across our GP surgeries. I therefore was pleased to support a proposal from Cllr Kim Taylor at Hampshire's Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee to launch a study to scrutinise the provision of GP services in the Basingstoke area. The study will consider whether all residents are able to access GP services equally and effectively including access methods, appointment times, capacity and demand. It aims to understand how commissioning practices and contract management support meet residents' needs, and to review best practices in facilitating access, capacity planning and opportunities for improvement. One question I would like to see answered is 'how might new residents to the area choose which surgery is best for them?' In my opinion they should have access to information such as the ratio of GPs and support staff to patients.

STUBBINGTON OUTDOOR CENTRE: many children from Hatch Warren and Beggarwood have been lucky enough to attend the Stubbington Outdoor Centre when they were at junior school (mine included!) There was therefore understandable concern in March when the future of the centre was called into doubt, to make way for a secure children's home. I attended the scrutiny committee that discussed this issue and I questioned the officers about the proposal. They confirmed that, had it not been for the need for a new secure children's home, the future of Stubbington would not have been in doubt. I voted to retain Stubbington and recommend that Cabinet look at the proposals again. From my point of view, if asked to choose either a children's home or Stubbington, I want both!

DEVOLUTION: The devolution proposals, establishing a 'Combined Authority' headed by an elected Mayor for the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, are progressing at pace. Indeed, some of the candidates for the role are already declaring themselves!

A government consultation about the changes is under way and the Mayoral elections are expected in May 2026.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION: as I reported last time, a separate initiative is to reshape local government, with the County Council and the Borough Council disappearing, to be replaced by 'unitary' authorities. This item is due to be discussed at an extra County Council meeting scheduled for 20th March, following which interim proposals will be submitted to the Government with a view to the changes being implemented in May 2028. Ironically, one of the proposals emerging for this area is a Unitary Council based on Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor - a suggestion that was made back in 1993 when this was last discussed!

WEBSITE: if you would like more information there is a definitive website set up by Hampshire County Council at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/governmentinhampshire/devolution#devolution>

TREE PLANTING: I am delighted to see that new trees have been planted along Beggarwood Lane. Nothing is better at softening an urban landscape than trees. They also offer homes for wildlife and help to clean the atmosphere. I have had one email complaining about the planting and the costs, but I respectfully disagree with that. County Officers have confirmed to me that the trees are chosen carefully to be suitable for planting next to a road and footway. I look forward to seeing them maturing and enriching our area.

BROADMERE ROAD ADOPTIONS: I am assured that the end is in sight for this long drawn-out exercise, but there is a final obstacle that needs to be unlocked. Hampshire requires what is called an 'easement' over land owned by one of the organisations with properties in the area. This is an agreement that will give permission for the County Council to access a soakaway for maintenance purposes. When the Deed Of Easement is signed, I am hoping that we will progress to completion of the adoptions.

FIRE AT BEGGARWOOD SURGERY: There was a small electrical fire in Beggarwood surgery that caused it to close on Wednesday 19th February. The fire affected power to a number of critical systems. No one was harmed in the incident. The closure lasted for longer than

I expected, during which the three other practices remained open. Appointments originally scheduled for Beggarwood were transferred to the other sites. The first floor of the surgery suffered the most, and thankfully, the dental surgery on the ground floor continued to operate. I was concerned with the communications to patients and will expect to discuss this at the next Patient Participation Group meeting.

CALL WAIT TIMES have lengthened recently at the CGHB surgeries, due to staff sickness in the main. This was discussed by the Patient Participation Group who were told that the surgeries are working actively to address the problem, with extra staff brought in.

ON LINE BOOKING OF APPOINTMENTS: one of the subjects discussed at the last meeting was the availability of the on-line application. The PPG had compiled statistics for a month and felt that availability of the on-line application was poor. The practice acknowledged the concern and reported that it was also addressing call wait times, which it reported as improving.

CAR ACCIDENT AT PET SHOP: I went to look at the damage caused by a car hitting the far wall at Pets at Home in the Hatch Warren Retail Park. One pillar was damaged and there was some loose brickwork, but the store was able to operate as normal.

DIGESTATE SPREADING: residents may have noticed a considerable pong hanging over Hatch Warren and Beggarwood in the middle of February. I believe it was caused by digestate spreading from the Anaerobic Digester. The land being treated was a winter oilseed rape field across the road from the AD plant. The operators said that they would be checking the wind direction and weather conditions, but it seems that their best endeavours couldn't prevent the odour escaping. Given how smelly it is, I can only hope that it will work wonders for the fertility of the land!

ROAD SAFETY: I attended a briefing in March about road safety for school pupils. I asked about the growing use of electric scooters. At the moment, use of such devices is illegal except on private land. This is an area that needs more attention.

LITTER PICK: the Community Association reported a good turnout for the community litter pick at the end of February. It was organised in conjunction

with Beggarwood Wildlife Group and Hatch Warren Nature Group and the volunteers collected many sacksful of rubbish.

TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM ROBINS: St Mark's School has posted a heartfelt tribute to Graham Robins who has sadly passed away. Graham was one of the early parent governors when the school opened and chairman of the governors for many years. Graham was one of our area's stalwarts. St Mark's is considering ways in which his many years of voluntary service might be celebrated and honoured.

BLOG: I report in greater detail on these and other issues on my blog at <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>



Stacy Hart

Borough Councillor.

cllr.stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk

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At this time of year we would normally be looking at upcoming elections for the May period but as you're likely aware, these have been postponed for 2026 due to the Government's devolution programme. If you would like further information on this or want to know how it will impact us locally, I'm happily on hand to explain, and we will have more info coming soon via my resident mailout which you can sign up for below. However, elections being off the table has not decreased any activity this end: it's been a frenetic month of activity and things don't look to slow up soon!

The school parking patrols which I started with the CSPO team have been good so far; we have liaised with parents at school run time to give advice on where best to park and anti-social activity has been – I hope – discouraged somewhat by our presence. At my last 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery one of the visitors also came to discuss new and very interesting ideas on how to prevent altercations so there will hopefully be more we can look to do if the issue continues. Do remember that as residents, you are the often the best placed to understand what action can be taken to solve issues and I'm

always eager to hear your thoughts! On these lines, I was also pleased to be able to resolve an ongoing issue this month that was troubling both some local residents and a local school by organising a bit of proactive volunteer action; it's amazing what can be achieved when the whole community is willing to pitch in!

Our second Repair Café went very well and we're starting to solidify our volunteer team to ensure we can continue to run monthly into the future. If you fancy helping us out with social media posting, fundraising or a bit of admin, or if you have any small handy skill or would like to learn, do get in touch or pop along to the next one at Hatch Warren Community Centre on Saturday 5th April from 10:30am – 1pm to say hi and have a chat.

I was able to accompany one of the Council's Licensing Officers on a visit to a local pub to observe how we regulate licensed venues and keep customers and residents safe. Seeing things from the ground up is a really important part of my work, as it often leads to ideas on what more can be done to ensure everyone's safety and comfort.

I also made a visit for International Women's Day to Inclusion School, the local independent specialist day school for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs. I gave a talk on why it's so vital that everyone of all backgrounds is involved in all levels of Government and decision making, and was rewarded with some of the most engaged faces and questions I've encountered. It was lovely to see so many young people, many of whom have often had challenging life experiences, light up as we discussed why they have the potential to be the leaders of the future!

I'm delighted that work is beginning on the play area upgrade in Roseberry Close and residents around Watling End, off Centurion Way, should have received notification of a consultation ahead of their own play area being redesigned. If you use this facility and have not come across this but would like to have any input, do get in touch with your thoughts.

One of the things I've wanted to look at is easier reporting of certain local issues, which often puts the onus onto the

resident to find out all details and chase services around. An example I've taken action on recently is graffitied substations and cabinets, which bothers many people but requires contacting the utility companies directly with all the necessary identification numbers to report and rectify. When I came across this issue, I was surprised to learn that there is no local central list or database containing these details to assist in easy and swift action. But with the help of an engaged and proactive resident, who I want to send huge thanks to, I have started to build a database of all such items so that residents need not do this work and any defacing can be reported swiftly and easily, which will hopefully ensure that the area is better maintained from that standpoint going forward. You may have noticed that we've seen off a couple of the large Garfield murals this month! Similarly, I've been noting and contacting local estate agents directly on misplaced signage as well as notifying the Council team who take action on these, in the hope that companies will start to be more aware of sales signage placement and stick to the regulations going forward. If you have thoughts on any similar issues that you've come across in the past or small pieces of action that would help deal with them, let me know!

As we move through spring and into summer there are some brilliant Council events and activities coming up; do remember that you can learn about these and about the ongoing work the Council does by signing up for the e-newsletter at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/signup. It's a really good way to stay informed and to know when opportunities to have your say are presenting themselves.

Monday 7th April from 7-9pm at the Holly Blue will see me back for my next 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery. All resident questions, issues, discussions or ideas welcome!

All the springtime best wishes to you and yours – Stacy

CRIME PREVENTION UPDATE

www.hampshire.police.uk

Investment Scam Awareness

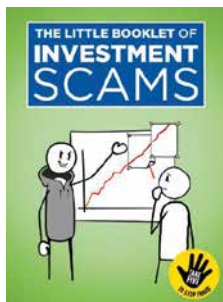
The Force's Economic Crime Unit has seen an increase in occurrences of Investment scams recently where people have fallen victim to investment adverts online, or been called after searching for investment opportunities online.

Victims have been convinced to open crypto wallets in their names, hand over control of those wallets to the scammers, who promise to help them make high returns on their investments.

The victim can see the money increasing rapidly in the crypto wallets and believe they are going to receive a good return, when in fact the money being received is money from other victims of similar scams and is laundered through their accounts.

Following this, victims are usually targeted again by scammers offering to help get their original investment back, or they are used by the scammers to launder further fraudulent funds unwittingly.

Further information and advice can be found in the Little Booklet of Investment Scams.



Holiday Fraud Campaign

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a holiday fraud campaign, urging the public who are searching for their next holiday deals online to look out for suspiciously enticing offers, including those on social media.

Before clicking that 'book' button, Action Fraud is encouraging everyone to not only look for the usual logos, like ABTA, ABTOT and ATOL, but do some extra research to make sure the holiday deal is genuine.

They also recommend you avoid using bank transfers where possible, as this can be a sign of a fraudulent deal, and ideally pay using a credit card to benefit from the additional consumer protection this provides. Visit www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/holiday_fraud for further advice.



Photo: Tom Marshall

TURNING OVER STONES: ONE TURNSTONE AT A TIME

Turnstones are fascinating shorebirds which are easily recognisable due to their distinctive behaviour and striking plumage. The scientific name of the bird, *Arenaria Interpres*, refers to its unique habit of 'turning' over stones and debris in search of food, so is, of course, where the name 'turnstone' originates.

During the winter months, these medium-sized waders are a common sight along the shores of Hampshire, particularly in places like Langstone Harbour, the Solent, and along the Isle of Wight's coast.

Despite weighing only around 100g, the turnstone is a remarkable migrant, travelling incredible distances during its

seasonal migration. Originating from breeding grounds in northern regions such as Lapland, Greenland, and even as far as Canada, these waders make long, arduous journeys - sometimes covering up to 1,700 miles - to reach their wintering sites.

The UK serves as a crucial stopover on their migratory route, a pit stop to rest and refuel before continuing their journey further south to Africa. These passage migrants rely on the UK's coastal habitats to sustain them during this critical phase of their migration. Although a migrant to the UK, it can also be seen all year-round as different populations arrive throughout the seasons.

Helen Skelton-Smith

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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PROBUS HEARS THE HISTORY OF JAGUAR CARS

This presentation was aimed at the male members of the Probuss Club of Basingstoke, especially those interested in British cars and Jaguar in particular.

Speaker Nigel Thorley possesses extensive knowledge about Jaguar cars, having owned over 70 of them, including sixteen Mk 2s. He has been the editor of the Jaguar Enthusiasts monthly magazine for over forty years.

The company originated in Blackpool in 1920, initially refurbishing motorcycles before evolving into manufacturing side cars. Bill Lyons and his partner Bill Walmsley each borrowed £200 from their fathers to form the Swallow Side Car Company. In 1924, they exhibited at the motorcycle show in London and received numerous orders including those from George Brough the manufacturer of the world-famous motorcycles.

A customer requested them to repair his crashed Austin Seven car using their fabrication skills. After examining the bodywork, Bill Lyons decided to improve it and created a new style of two-seater sports car. Although Austin refused to supply chassis directly, Lyons managed to secure an agreement with the largest distributor of Austin cars, allowing Swallow to manufacture both a four-seater saloon and under their Swallow name, the two-seater sports car.

The company relocated to Coventry to be closer to motor industry manufacturers and began producing bodies for the Standard 16. Despite sharing running gear, the vehicle design created an impression it would go faster. In 1934, Bill Walmsley departed to build caravans, prompting Lyons to rebrand the company as SS Cars, reflecting their transition to car body production. The SS Jaguar 100 luxury sports car featured a Wilmot Breeden chassis and a six-cylinder engine from the Standard Car Company. Before World War II, the company sold these 100 miles per hour cars priced from £360.

During hostilities, the Swallow Side Car Company supplied 10,000 side cars to the military, ceasing car manufacturing and repurposing factories to refurbish aircraft. Post-war, Lyons renamed the company Jaguar Cars, distancing themselves from the negative association with Nazi Germany's Waffen-SS.

Admirer of Alfa Romeo and Maserati engines, Lyons developed for Jaguar their own straight 6-cylinder engine, designed to reach 120 miles per hour. The Jaguar XK120 sports car debuted at the 1948 London motor show, receiving critical acclaim and substantial interest from American distributors.

Jaguar achieved considerable success at the Le Mans 24 hours races, between 1954 – 57 featuring the C type and then the D type body but using the latest XK engine. The MK 7 saloon launched during the 1950s used the same engine.

The company moved to Browns Lane factory in Coventry, which later burned down and was retooled to become Britain's second-longest assembly line. Engine production transferred to Birmingham. In 1962, the MK 2 saloon was introduced at £1,530, becoming popular among bank robbers. Police adopted the same model to pursue



offenders. The XK150 engine powered the 1961 introduction of the Jaguar E Type, capable of reaching 150 miles per hour. Enzo Ferrari described the Jaguar E Type as the most beautiful car in the world.

Following the introduction of the Jaguar MK10 large saloon, Jaguar Cars acquired Daimler in 1962. Daimler specialized in cars for royalty and bus chassis, holding the royal warrant. Lyons produced a Daimler version of the Jaguar MK 2 saloon with a 2.5 litre V8-cylinder engine, featuring premium enhancements and much walnut veneer making this a success in a different market sector.

Jaguar Cars merged into British Motor Corporation (BMC) in 1966, later part of British Leyland, consisting of 194 companies. Jaguar was eventually privatized, leading to Bill Lyons' retirement.

In 1980, Jaguar returned to saloon car racing and competed in the 1992 Le Mans with the Jaguar 220, capable of reaching 220 miles per hour. Jaguar raced in Formula 1 Grand Prix before selling the team to Red Bull.

Subsequently, Ford acquired Jaguar, incorporating a modified Mondeo floor pan in the small Jaguar X Type saloon and estate car. Despite criticism from purists, Jaguar's production reached unprecedented levels by 1998.

Ford sold Jaguar Cars to the Indian conglomerate TATA, forming Jaguar Land Rover. After launching the Jaguar F Type sports car and I-Pace crossover saloon, Jaguar acknowledged the pressure to produce electric vehicles, halting production in 2024 for a complete relaunch in 2026. Future Jaguar models will include four-door saloons, crossovers and sports cars.

The December 2024 publicity launch unveiled blue and pink sports saloon concepts identified as Jaguar Type 00 cars with updated branding of the name style which sparked controversy but gained significant exposure. The automotive community eagerly anticipates the release of these electric models in 2026 keen to see if Jaguar continues to set standards in style and performance.

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





Old Down Wildlife Group

OLD DOWN WILDLIFE GROUP

Don't forget that the Group's 2025 AGM is being held on 24th April 2025. The venue is Old Down Hall starting at 7:30pm. Please come along – there will be refreshments and a presentation of wildlife photos. You are welcome to bring along your school age children – the official bit is very short and the photo presentation, displays and discussions about wildlife are interesting. No doubt you are now getting into your gardens doing a tidy up and removing weeds that are starting to show; don't view or treat dandelions as weeds; don't dig them out or treat with weed killer. Dandelions are very beautiful blooms and such a fantastic deep vibrant yellow. They flower as early as March and thus for the early emerging insects they are an important source of nectar and pollen as there are very few other flowers around so early in the year. They flower right through to October providing nectar and pollen to many of our pollinating insects



such as bees and butterflies. The deep roots of dandelions penetrate deep into the ground releasing nutrients and help aerate compact soil thus improving soil health and fertility. The dandelion is part of the daisy family – Asteraceae. The name derives from the French 'dent de lion' which means 'lion's tooth' referring to the jagged edges of the leaves.

So please keep (and enjoy) some dandelions in your garden. The pollinating insects (especially the early ones like the Brimstone butterfly and the queen bumblebee) will be attracted to your garden and so will help pollinate the plants in your garden. RHS actually lists the dandelion as a plant for pollinators to be encouraged in your garden.

Work Parties: We meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!). At the moment we have no plans to restart weekend work parties as there has been little interest but we will give the idea further thought come the spring. We really do need new members and support – this is the way to keep Old Down as a beautiful green space for wildlife and people. Check our website and Facebook for further information and/or contact us by email.

Email: old.down.wildlife@gmail.com
 Website: Old Down Wildlife Group
 Facebook: Old Down Wildlife Group

HAFBC (HAMPSHIRE ARMED FORCES BREAKFAST CLUB)

We meet on the 1st Saturday of each month for Breakfast & banter at 9.30-11am at Basingstoke Golf Club. RG25 2AD (Formerly Dummer Golf Club)

The next meeting is Saturday 5th April

All ex-service Personnel (and partners if they wish) are welcome.

We have a Facebook page where you can see pictures of previous meetings and tick the going box if you wish to attend. Just type in HAFBC and our page will come up.

In previous months we have had the privilege of a 99-year-old veteran who landed on Golden Beach in World War 2 in attendance and a Chelsea pensioner.

It is £10 for a large breakfast (and it is large) or £8.00 for a smaller one. Tea & Coffee included.

It is very informal so if you wish to attend contact John McClean 07767 610735 and ask to join our group then tick the GOING box on our Facebook page. (this helps with the catering)

We would love to see more veterans attend.

We are open from
 Wednesday to Sunday
 10am-2pm

Café in the Park

We look forward to seeing you!



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Quiche Wednesday Community Meal Deal 12-2pm	Beggarwood Bumps to Babies 11.30-12.30	Friendship Friday Chatty cafe 10.30-11.30

- Wednesday 2nd - Community Lunch 12-1.15 - Join the community for lunch. Amazing value meal deals
- Wednesday 2nd - BVA Wellbeing walk. 11.am. Set off from Outside The Cafe in the park for a guided group walk.
- Friday 4th - The Oakley Stitches 10-12- Open Craft Group - Join the activity of making Easter Cards or bring along your own craft. No need to book.
- Friday 11th - Card & Cuppa craft group - Come along and make a Homemade Card with Pauline from I create Craft
- Wednesday 23rd - Beggarwood Bookworms 7.30-9pm - The Bookworms discuss The Women by Kristin Hannah
- Friday 25th - Beggarwood Bookworms Day Time 11.30-12.30 - Daytime Bookgroup. Come along and discuss The Twins LV Matthews
- Wednesday 30th - All day The Green Team Roadshow. Help you save money on your household bills and encourage wildlife into the garden.

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!
beggarwood.org
 email community@beggarwood.org
[beggarwood](https://www.facebook.com/beggarwood)
[beggarwood](https://www.facebook.com/beggarwood)

Closed on Easter Sunday



LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT PARTY VENUE?
 LOOK NO FURTHER, AS
 HATCH WARREN
 OR
 BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE
 ARE HERE TO HELP!

Our halls are suitable for children's parties and we offer morning and afternoon slots on Saturday and Sundays.

Use of our kitchen facilities and hire of tables and chairs are included.

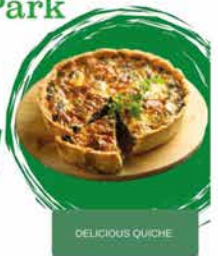
We accept bouncy castles/soft plays and discos in our halls.

To discuss your party further, please email office@hatchwarren.org

Hatch Warren Community Centre
 Café in the Park
 Beggarwood Community Centre
 Broadmead Road, Basingstoke,
 RG22 4AQ

Café in the Park

Quiche Wednesday



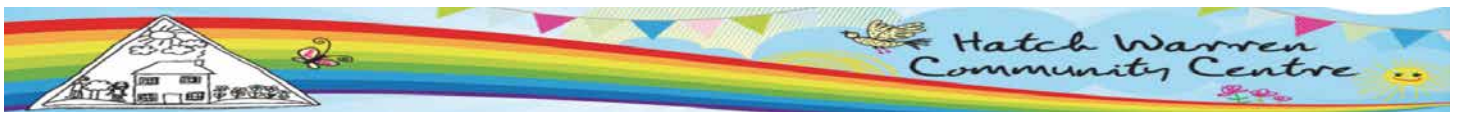
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We are a registered charity run by volunteers - working to make Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live!

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
COACH TRIP**

SIX
THE MUSICAL

Thursday 1st MAY 2025 at 8PM
VAUDEVILLE THEATRE, LONDON
Dress Circle Seats
Tickets cost £78 per person
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)

Coach will depart at 4:30pm 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

This event is supported by

Prosecco, Wine, Ale & Cider too!

Hot Food by Bartletts

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
LAGER FESTIVAL**

WITH DJ NICK & COMEDY ACT

SATURDAY 17th MAY 7-11PM

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

This event is supported by

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

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!

hatchwarren.org

**FREE ENTRY FAMILY FUN DAY
SUMMER FESTIVAL**

10th ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY 21st JUNE

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
PLAYING FIELDS 12-4pm

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WWW.HATCHWARREN.ORG
THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR HWBCA CHARITY #1161117

**HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
COACH TRIP**

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



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FREE ENTRY

10-13 year olds

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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



Supported by Hampshire County Council

HATCH WARREN WI

Robert Smith from the charity SERV came to speak to us at our meeting in March. SERV are more commonly known as the 'The Blood Runners' and operate 365 days of the year delivering blood products and urgent samples between hospitals in the Hampshire, South Wiltshire and Dorset area.

We were lucky that Robert came to our meeting on one of the charity's own motor bikes and he took us outside to show us the features of their specially adapted bike.



Photo © Spencer Mulholland Photography

Their riders, drivers and volunteers all donate their own time and fuel to provide this service, they also run a service to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance to replenish the blood and plasma carried on their helicopters.

We also hold monthly craft, walking and genealogy groups as well as getting together for lunch and coffee mornings.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 3rd April at Hatch Warren Community Centre when our speaker will be Lynsey Nowik with her talk entitled 'Life in the Danelaw'.

If you are interested in coming along to one of our evening meetings to see what Hatch Warren WI is all about, please get in touch our president Shirley on 07979 217220.

theWI
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BEGGARWOOD BOOKWORMS

It has been a busy month for the Beggarwood Bookworms. We have launched our Friday morning monthly bookgroup. Our evening book group has had some review copies of *Read Yourself Happy* by Daisy Buchanan to read and review plus welcoming author of *The Twins* LV Matthews to our meeting.

We have just had our successful second meeting in the Cafe in the Park. We began with some general book chat finding out about our favourite genres, authors and characters.

Our book of the month was *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* by Satoshi Yagisawa. It resulted in mixed reviews with some members finding it interesting to read about a different culture and way of life. This book is translated from Japanese and was written with the Japanese market in mind.

Next month's book is *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn. It is a true, inspiring story recounting the journey Raynor and Moth made following their eviction and the devastating news that Moth had been diagnosed with a life limiting condition. The movie of this book will be coming to the cinema in April so it is a timely choice.

Read along with us and join us in the Cafe in the Park for coffee and book chat.

23rd April Evening Group – Discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

25th April Daytime Group 11.30 – Discuss *The Twins* by LV Matthews

Café in the Park **FRIENDSHIP
FRIDAY**



**Friday 25th April 2025
11.30-12.30**



Do you love to read?

Join our new friendly Daytime Beggarwood Bookworms group.

**Read/ listen / kindle/borrow box on any format you enjoy.
Come along to the group discuss your thoughts about the
book with other book lovers**

*Bookgroups are a great way to try new books you might not
have previously discovered*

**Come and join us after the Chatty Cafe
For more information email Annie
Community@beggarwood.org or follow The Beggarwood
Bookworms on social media**

Interested in playing Bowls?

Come to our Open Day to find out more

Saturday 26th April 2025



- Bowls Taster Session 2pm to 6pm
- No Experience Needed
- All Equipment Provided
(just wear a flat pair of shoes)
- Free Entry and Free Parking
- Refreshments Available

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BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR AT BRIGHTON HILL...

Our spring concert will prove an interesting departure for the choir as we return to school! The concert on Saturday, May 10th will take place at Brighton Hill Community School and we shall be raising funds in support of a charity suggested by the school. The Children's Choir are from a school in Uganda with whom Brighton Hill have links. The group is made up of, and represents, children that are cared for at King's Kid Home School in Mityana in Uganda).

The concert will be our first of 2025, having celebrated our 60th anniversary in 2024, and will feature new songs that we've been busily rehearsing, along with some old favourites. Tickets are now available from TicketSource and can be purchased online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc/t-krmxnvr>.

Tickets are priced at £10 for adults and a child (U-18) option for £5. The concert will start at 7:30 PM – with doors open from 7PM.

...and also

The choir will be singing in support of the 'Friends of St Lawrence church' in Wooton St Lawrence, along with Oooh Mama. This concert is being held to raise funds for the 'St Lawrence for Our Time' improvement project - to provide a water supply, toilet, kitchen and meeting area in our beautiful church. The concert is on Tuesday, May 13th and will begin at

7:30PM at St Lawrence Church, Wooton. Tickets (price £15) are available from <https://musiceveningstlawrence2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

...finally

If you like singing and think you would like to join us then please drop in at one of our Tuesday rehearsals which take place in the Moose Centre, Basingstoke at 7:30 pm. You'd be made most welcome!



Are you thinking of a 2025 move? Reach out to me to discuss how I can help you!
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ANVIL ARTS 01256 844244 anvilarts.org.uk
(Tickets include £4 booking fee)

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Friday 4 April, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £40, £37, £30, £24

Tina Turner fans will have the time of their lives as *What's Love Got to Do with It?* celebrates the music and 60-year career of this incredible rock and soul star. Enjoy a night of high energy and feel-good rock 'n' roll, performed by an all-live band. This joyous show features all the hits including *Proud Mary*, *River Deep*, *Simply the Best*, *Private Dancer*, and many more.

RICH HALL - Chin Music

Saturday 5 April, 8pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £22
Suitable for: strictly ages 14 and over (Adult content).

'Chin Music' has two meanings. One is idle talk. The other is a brushback throw in baseball or cricket to intimidate the batter. Both describe Rich Hall's comedy. Idle but intimidating. Sharp, quick, splenetic, and sublimely improvisational.

THE BOOTLEG BEATLES IN CONCERT

Celebrating the Music of The Fab Four on Film
Saturday 5 April, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £43.50, £40.50, £37.50

Celebrate the songs from the soundtracks from *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*, together with songs from *Magical Mystery Tour*, *Yellow Submarine*, and *Let It Be*, as The Bootleg Beatles and their orchestra take you on a whistle stop trip through the celluloid career of the Fab Four in their brand-new, spectacular multi-media stage show. It's all there – the costumes, the hairstyles, the banter, and the gear. It's not the Beatles... but you simply won't believe it!

THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN

Tuesday 8 April, 2pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £18.50. Under 16s £16.50

Louis Pearl has been thrilling audiences for over 30 years with the art, magic, science, and fun of bubbles. He explores the breathtaking dynamics of bubbles, combining comedy and artistry with audience participation, and enough spellbinding bubble tricks to keep everyone mesmerised. From square bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles, fog-filled bubbles, giant bubbles, bubble volcanoes, to people inside bubbles,



PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Wednesday 9 April, 7.30pm, The Anvil,
Tickets: £45, £40, £34, £25, £17. Under 25s and f/t students £12

Violinist Nemanja Radulović joins conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali for a concert which includes Prokofiev's lively Classical Symphony, Shostakovich's fine twentieth century Violin Concerto no 1 and his dazzling First Symphony.



KAREN HAUER & GORKA MARQUEZ - Speakeasy

Thursday 10 April, 7.30pm, The Anvil,
Tickets: £59, £52, £42

Strictly Come Dancing professionals Karen Hauer and Gorka Marquez bring their all-new show to The Anvil. From the clandestine New York Speakeasy to the sultry Havana dance floors, the

Burlesque Cabaret Clubs of the mid-1900s to the glittering mirror balls of Studio 54, *Speakeasy* will be a delicious dance experience. An electrifying cast of world-class dancers, vocalists, and musicians.

Based on the best-selling book by Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter and illustrated by Garry Parsons

THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED

Saturday 12 April, 12.30pm & 3.30pm, The Haymarket,
Tickets: £20.50. Under 16s £19.50 Suitable for: all the family!

When Danny and Dino's favourite rock band are playing their last ever concert, they go on a quest to get the last two tickets. But with a villainous band manager lurking, nothing goes to plan. Will the band perform? Will Danny rock out? Or will Dino's rumbling tummy save the day? Adapted from the number one best-selling books by McFly's Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter.

Enchanted Entertainment present

THE WIZARD OF OZ: EASTER PANTO

Tuesday 15 April, 2pm & 6pm, The Anvil,
Tickets: £28. Over 65s, under 16s, f/t students £26

Enchanted Entertainment present an all-new Easter pantomime version of *The Wizard of Oz* at The Anvil. Join Kansas farm-girl Dorothy and her pet dog Toto as they are picked up by a tornado and carried off to the magical Land of Oz, where they meet the Munchkins, a Scarecrow who needs a brain, a Tin Man who wants a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who desperately needs courage.

THE STEVE HEWLETT SHOW - Eyes & Teeth Live

Sunday 27 April, 3pm, The Haymarket,
Tickets: £17. Over 65s £14. Suitable for: ages 8 and over

Steve Hewlett started his career in Basingstoke at age 12 and has since worked worldwide as a ventriloquist. During the 2020 lockdowns, Steve produced and hosted his own podcast, *Eyes & Teeth*. Live on stage, this extravaganza will feature a combination of comedy ventriloquism, live music, and celebrity guests, including Graham Cole OBE, Triple Cream, and co-host Arthur Lager, to celebrate Steve turning 50.

AN AUDIENCE WITH LUCY WORSLEY ON JANE AUSTEN

Wednesday 30 April, 7.30pm, The Anvil,
Tickets: £39. Suitable for: ages 14 and over

Historian Lucy Worsley leads us into the life of one of English literature's most cherished figures, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the author's birth. For these live, beautifully illustrated talks, Lucy invites audiences to step into the world of Jane Austen. Through the houses, places, and possessions which mattered to her, Lucy takes a fascinating look at what home meant to Jane, and to the women like her who populate her novels.

BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND

You are welcome to our

SPRING CONCERT at

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON VILLAGE HALL on

Saturday 26 April at 7.30pm

The theme is a Musical Celebration of British Landmarks including the 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Tickets costing £10 (Under 16 free) can be purchased from members, at the door or <https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/30361#>

LOCAL HISTORY SNIPPETS



A Victorian Greetings Card

EASTER TRADITIONS

Some of our most commonly recognised symbols for Easter and spring, including hares, rabbits and eggs, have a pagan origin. Like so many of our Christianised celebrations, the Church authorities incorporated earlier pre-Christian traditions into their festivals. Even the name Easter can be traced back to the Germanic pagan Goddess of spring, Eostre.

The very early Anglo-Saxon church even had a debate about the date and name of Easter as, for much of the rest of Christian

Europe, the name reflected the relation of Easter to the Jewish festival of Passover ie Pascha.

Throughout medieval times, the end of the long period of abstinence during Lent was widely celebrated with food. For the poor, meat may still not have been an option, but eggs were more readily available and therefore became an integral part of the Easter table.

Decorated eggs for those with money became popular – Henry VIII received a beautifully decorated silver case containing an egg as a gift, but during the Commonwealth following the English civil war of the 1640s, the celebration of Easter, like Christmas, was banned.

As with Christmas, many of the traditions we associate with Easter in this country really took hold during Victorian times. Easter egg hunts were introduced by the Hanoverians but firmly popularised by Queen Victoria and her family. Decorating eggs by hand became a widely enjoyed pastime.

The first chocolate eggs appeared for sale in the 1870s. The production of greeting cards for Easter took off with the introduction of the penny post in the 1840s and cheaper methods of colour printing.

Hot cross buns were certainly around from the 1700s, and there was a belief that any bread or cake baked on Good Friday would have magical powers and never go mouldy. There are stories of buns being hung from the ceiling, with pieces being broken off, soaked and eaten many months later, or kept hanging for a year to bring good luck.

Terri Reid MA FRSA

Terrielizabethreid.com

GETTING REPAIRS DONE IF YOU'RE RENTING PRIVATELY

This advice will usually apply to you if you rent from a private landlord and you don't live with them, the council or a housing association.

Your landlord is responsible for most major repairs in your home. Write to them as soon as you notice a problem, as you could be held responsible if it gets worse. It's best to put it in writing and send to your landlord, keeping a copy yourself.

If a letting agent manages the property for your landlord, write to them and they should talk to your landlord. The letting agent will be responsible for making sure your landlord does the repairs.

If your landlord is responsible for the repairs, they should do them in a 'reasonable' amount of time. What counts as reasonable depends on the problem. For example, a broken boiler should be fixed sooner than a leaky tap.

You should get evidence of the problem, for example:

- photos of the damage, particularly if the problem gets worse over time
- any letters, texts, emails or notes of any conversations between you and your landlord or letting agent
- receipts if you've had to replace damaged items
- letters from your GP if the problem has made you ill
- a copy of your tenancy agreement

Keep any evidence you've got - you might need it later if you have to take further action to get repairs done.



Unless it's an emergency, your landlord should give you at least 24 hours' written notice if they want to visit your home to see the damage or do repairs. If your landlord won't do the repairs, keep paying your rent. If you don't, you'll get into rent arrears and your landlord might then try to evict you. More information is available on the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/repairs-and-housing

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice, whatever the enquiry involves. To speak to an adviser please call Adviceline on 0808 278 7829, Monday to Friday, 9-4pm.

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

SHERFIELD ON LODDON CAFÉ

Capital Gardens, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield on Loddon
RG27 0HL 01256 882239 capitalgardens.co.uk

We met some friends at 10.00am here at what used to be called the Sherfield Garden Centre, then part of the Wyevale group, before it was taken over by Capital Gardens which itself is a group of garden centres. Like most garden centres a café is part of the standard offering, and it has always been the case here.

Recently receiving the top grade 5 in the statutory food inspection system is comforting to know but the real pleasure here is the quality of the food served and the way the staff interact with customers.

We are not usually breakfast eaters, so Madam had scrambled egg on toast which proved too much; not surprising because four eggs were used, while I had a toasted bacon sandwich which possibly contained the contents of a retail packet of back bacon.

A flat white coffee for Madam and I had an Americano with hot milk on the side and all for a cost of £19.50. Good value for the quality and quantity provided.

This cafe is a very popular meeting place as there were several groups obviously gathering by arrangement, perhaps committees finding it convenient to conduct their business. Dogs are allowed and there were several families with young children in highchairs.

We did not need a lunch that day. We shall return.



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IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

Issue 6 of the Rabbiter appeared in June 1993 on its regular green paper, and the front page carried details of a major argument that had erupted over new shops. The Sainsbury's complex was being extended to left and to right, and on the Pinnell Close side a possible tenant was Blockbusters Video.

Pinnell Close residents were concerned about late night opening, noise and the danger of the location becoming a 'congregation point' which could potentially lead to antisocial behaviour. Thirty years later we saw similar arguments being ranged against the possible 24 hour opening of McDonald's in the Hatch Warren Retail Park, exacerbated by today's problems with car meets.

Back then, I remember meeting with the Pinnell Close homeowners and agreeing to make representations on their behalf.

The matter was resolved when the Borough Council's Planning Committee refused permission for Blockbuster Video to operate from the site. The store ended up going across the road into the Hatch Warren Retail Park when that was completed. Today, of course, the home videotape market is virtually extinct – a technology that was born and died within a single generation.

Sainsbury's agreed to consult with the residents of Hatch Warren about shops that would be welcomed. Eventually, the main store went to Children's World, a retail chain that had been established by Boots. They sold it to Storehouse in 1996 and it was rebranded as Mothercare. There were many families in Hatch Warren at that time with young children, and the store was much loved.

The shops on the Pinnell Close side of the complex are still there. B&M is now one of the main tenants.

Another issue attracting concern in June 1993 was speeding on Hatch Warren's roads. People felt that the estate roads were being used as rat-runs by drivers trying to avoid the Brighton Hill roundabout (a classic example of history repeating itself!) An open meeting was being organised at the Community Centre to discuss the problem.

The Community Association, having held its first Annual General Meeting, was advertising a host of events. These included a Family Disco and Barbecue, a 'Unique' car show, a Beer festival and Women's self-defence.

The first meeting of Hatch Warren WI had been held on 3rd June, when it received a talk about Denman College, an educational establishment that was owned and run by the WI. It operated until 2020, when it was closed for financial reasons.

The Rabbiter had been published every two months for its first year, but a 'Stop Press' announcement said: 'the Editors are pleased to announce that from August we will become a monthly newspaper!' A year after it was launched, the Rabbiter was coming of age.

Stephen Reid



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.

Dr. Xavier Goodarzian

(Honours),MRCGP,Dip Clin Derm(London),PG Cert (Cos Med.) MBCAM.

Dr.Xavier is a respected figure in the field of cosmetic medicine with over 20 years specialising in dermatology and aesthetic treatments.

He runs a monthly clinic at Ha Laser offering:

- Mole Mapping/Removal**
- Bio-Identical Hormone Therapy**
- Medical Weight Loss**
- Advanced Aesthetic Medicine**
- Private Referrals**

His emphasis is always on promoting best practices, excellent client care, and optimum treatment results.

Let's communicate

Consultations are free of charge with our laser practitioner.

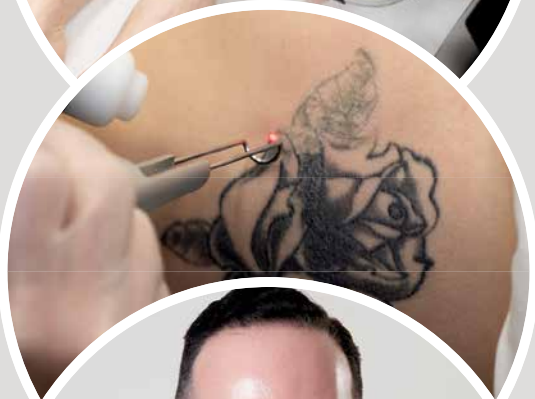
There is a £50 consultation fee to see Dr. Xavier.

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halaserstudio@outlook.com or call us on **01256211445** to book an appointment.

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

What makes rugby different from football?

The shape of the balls yes, number of players per side yes, scoring systems yes – all clear differences but also culture.

I have an 11 year old daughter who plays football and a 12 year old daughter who plays rugby and every weekend I notice the difference in the mindset on the pitch and the conversations on the touchline.

“Rugby Values Are What Make Us Who We Are” appears across the front door of the Basingstoke Rugby clubhouse. This says loudly that rugby has a culture and a code of conduct that is well understood and which drives behaviours on and off the pitch. Respect for authority, respect for your teammates, commitment to work hard, losing well and winning well. Rugby players, coaches and fans are proud of their sport’s culture, ethos and philosophy.

What about football then? I don’t think I know what football’s culture is. It doesn’t seem to have embraced anything in particular and although there are worthy and important campaigns against racism, it doesn’t seem to have anything as definitive or clear cut as rugby.

And the touchline chatter is different. At football, I often hear Competitive Dad, offering embarrassing levels of “encouragement” to their child. This is usually accompanied by some form of bribery “£5 plus McDonald’s later son, if you get a hat trick”. I never seem to hear similar comments from rugby parents. Plenty of support for the team and applause for good individual play of course but no arrogance, no boastfulness, no passive / aggressive conversations and certainly never, ever, any arguing with the ref.

Yet at heart they’re both team sports, usually played outside on grass with a ball and involve winning by scoring / defending points / goals, so the fundamentals are the same despite some differences.

I hope this isn’t a pivot too far but I’d like to suggest that there are parallels with the Christian Churches here. There are several different types of Christian Church too but at heart they each exist to provide the same support for their community, to show God’s love in action and to offer the same opportunity to worship the same God who has infinite and unconditional love for every human being. Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal, Evangelical, Charismatic etc etc - all subtly different types of Christian Church but all united in love for and faith in Jesus.

Whichever Church style works for you, I think we each have a responsibility to work on our faith. If you’ve been given Christian faith, you’ll know what a wonderful gift it is. What faith gives back to you is amazing – a sense of eternal comfort, a warm bath feeling of relaxed certainty whereby you know, not hope, not fingers crossed, not assume on the balance of probabilities, you know it’s going to be OK - whatever it is, it’s going to be OK.

If only I could feel so confident about results on the pitch!

Laurence Besemer

The Parish of Basingstoke Down



Pets Corner



My lovely Sky – Brittany

Send your photos to editor@therabbiter.biz



Notes from the kitchen



Easter Tradition

When I was a kid living in south London the shops would not be open on Good Friday except for the fish shop and the bakers run by a Jewish family. They opened about 9am and were closed by lunchtime – definitely a case of the early bird catches the worm if you wanted a good piece of fish and some hot cross buns. My mother would go to the fishmongers where the fish was all laid out on a big marble slab surrounded by ice and bunches of parsley which would then be added to our parcel of fish. My Job was to rush to the bakers and join the long queue for half a dozen fresh, warm and spicy buns. There would be about 20 people in the queue in front of me and I would be worried that there would be no buns left by the time I reached the counter. Nothing smelt as good as the aroma of those buns wafting out the door of that small bakers shop.

Nowadays you can buy hot cross buns from Christmas, if not earlier. The big bakers start baking them in the early autumn to ensure that they are available for us all. Spiced buns originated in Tudor times. They were made with a spiced and butter enriched dough and there was a decree in 1592 limiting their sale except for burials or on the Friday before Easter or at Christmas. However as time went on this became impossible to enforce and by the late seventeenth century the buns appeared at Easter marked with a cross as a sign of the festival. So when you bite into your warm spiced bun on Good Friday remember you are partaking in an historic English tradition.

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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We have enjoyed our spring term at Hatch Warren Under Fives. Amongst our usual activities, there has been World Book Day, pancake day, Mother's Day, Red Nose Day, Ramadan, St Patrick's Day, Holi and all of our Easter activities too

During World Book Day week the children came into preschool dressed as their favourite characters. We shared some great stories, including super worm, funny bones and the selfish crocodile. The children were very creative and designed their own book covers for our favourite books.

We celebrate Holi Hindi each year at preschool, a colourful ancient Hindu festival to welcome the arrival of spring and celebrate the end of winter. This is our most colourful week at preschool and we use lots of bright colours, splat paint and make colourful pictures.

The children created lovely cards for Mother's Day and we are now in the lead up to Easter and have lots of special creations underway; we will of course have a little bit of chocolate too!

At this time of year we get busy in the garden and we start to spend more time outdoors, looking for signs of spring. We have been enjoying the sunshine and the children have been busy with water play and obstacle courses.

Our older children will be learning which primary school they are going to over the Easter holidays, so we are eagerly awaiting to hear the big news when we get back to preschool after the holidays. Next term we begin our preparations for the transition to big school. We will start by giving the children lots of mark making opportunities and activities that strengthen little hands for handwriting.

Hatch Warren Under Fives and the EYFS

Here at Hatch Warren Under Fives we love to make marks. This can be using pens, paper, paintbrushes, chalks, pens or

even using our fingers to make marks in soil, jam or flour.

Why is Mark Making Important? Mark Making gives children the opportunity to explore imaginatively, physically and creatively, to test their ideas and extend their play. Writing begins long before a child can physically hold and control a pencil or crayon effectively: the journey to becoming a confident writer begins at birth and Mark Making is the foundation that underpins a child's ability to write. Remember children learn that marks have meaning by watching adults writing. Encourage your child to 'write' with you e.g. shopping lists, phone messages, memos and greeting cards.

The EYFS states that we can expect to see a child sometimes giving meaning to marks as they draw and paint and ascribe meanings to marks that they see in different places. Let your little one enjoy lots of Mark Making opportunities to build on their writing skills!

We are now enrolling for our next academic year in September 2025. Why not book a visit to look around and meet the team? If you'd like to learn more, 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

Cuckoo Meadow are all about spreading the love, and Valentine's Day was a perfect reason to celebrate!

The children decorated heart-shaped biscuits, made cards for their loved ones,



painted heart shapes, threaded beads and sewed more hearts.

We also explored colour mixing and investigated making water droplets with pipettes. We learned about the symbols of love (hearts and kisses) and made these shapes with our bodies – very fun!

It was then time for a well-deserved half-term break for everyone and we've come back to some lovely Spring weather, feeling recharged and raring to go!!

Georgia Hawken

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

Louise Hatton, our wonderful preschool deputy is completing the Three Peaks



Challenge, trekking up Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon all in 24 hours, as a fundraiser for CVP! Candover Valley Preschool is a not-for-profit, charity organisation that provides a safe, nurturing, and high-quality early education for children aged 2-5 years. As friends of CVP we would appreciate support from the local community and those affiliated with the preschool. Please consider donating and sharing this message with others who may wish to help, as your generosity will help us reach our goal and motivate Louise through her challenge.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/louise-hatton-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL
Thank you for your kindness and support.

The start of Spring brings with it new learning experiences. The warmer weather has offered more opportunity to enjoy and explore the outdoors. We have been venturing into the community, exploring both seasonal changes and discovering more about our local environment. The preschool children have also been enthused to meet our new caterpillar friends. Observing the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly enhances a sense of wonder for nature. It provides a hands-on, engaging way to learn about life cycles, fostering curiosity and scientific thinking. The children have been learning new vocabulary, such as metamorphosis and chrysalis, as they develop an understanding of the process we will follow.



01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

We started off this half term learning all about the planets. We had a visit from Y+Youth Services who took us into outer space in our rockets and we landed on the moon. We all did a moon walk and jumped up high and pretended that the bean bags were "moon cheese" and threw them up in the air and caught them. The children then made aliens using cones and practised knocking them down with bean bags. All of the children made a planet earth by rolling ping-pong balls in green and blue paint. We talked about the colours and the children related the green and blue to the land and sea.

Pancake day was such fun and everyone enjoyed having a game of "toss the pancakes" – it was lovely to see everyone having a go and then we all got to eat one afterwards with bananas and strawberries which was a real treat!!



We have been enhancing our home corner by bringing in fresh vegetables. This enabled the children to use their senses of touch, sight and smell which helps support communication and language skills. We all tried a bowl of vegetable soup for snack and talked about the types of vegetables that we eat.

We celebrated World Book Day for the week so that all of the children had the opportunity to come in dressed up and bring in their favourite books fostering our love of literacy.

We covered a different story every day by setting up a tuff tray which allowed the children to reenact the story and carry out role play.

With the sun coming out to see us we have been making the most of our lovely garden. We set up a water tray and used pipettes to move water into jugs to fill and pour out using our fine motor skills. We opened up the mud kitchen and built a fairy garden.

We are looking forward to planting season where we will be growing our own vegetables, plants and flowers.

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 Our waiting lists for 2026/2027 are now open



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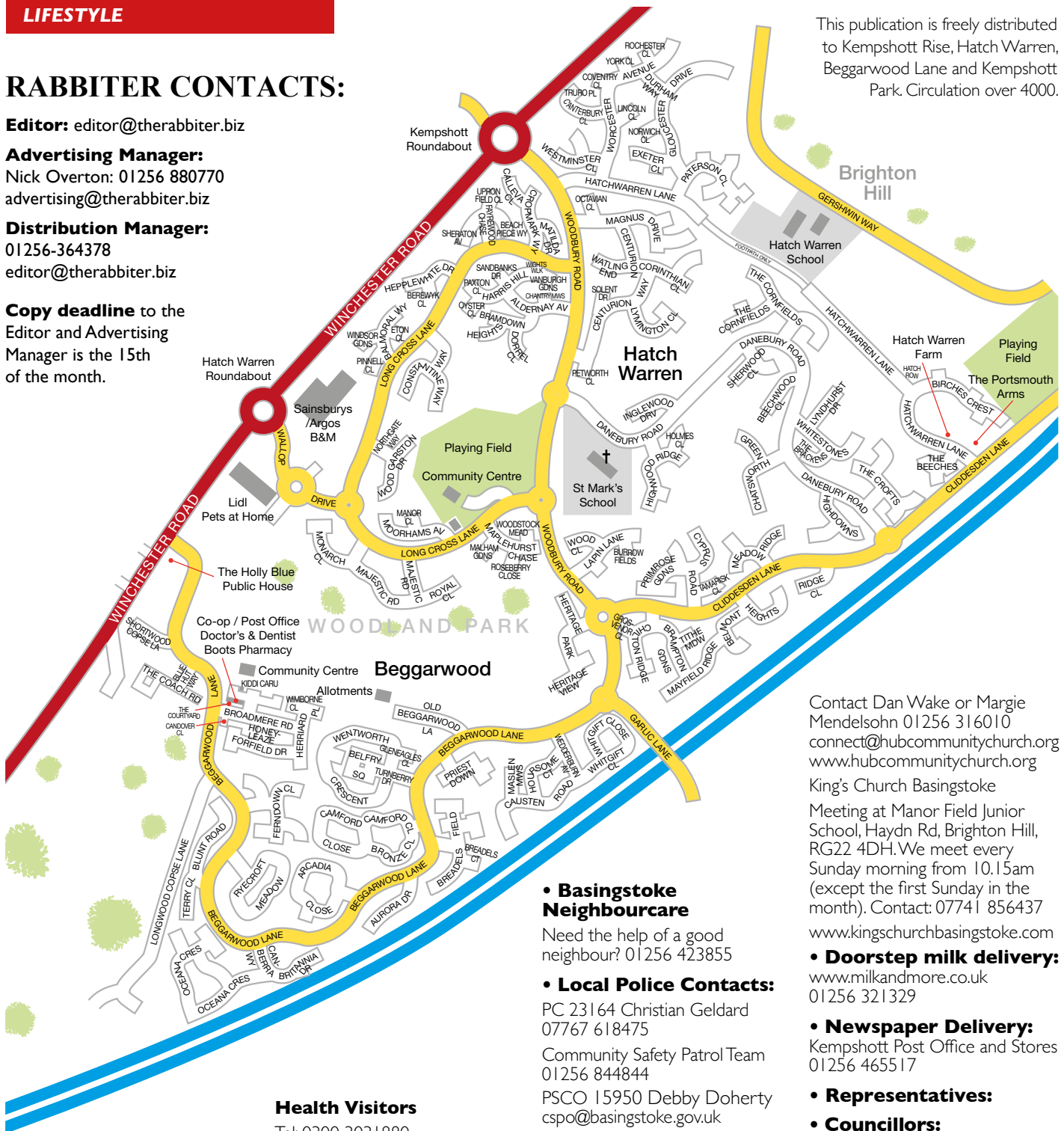
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connect@hubcommunitychurch.org
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King's Church Basingstoke
Meeting at Manor Field Junior School, Haydn Rd, Brighton Hill, RG22 4DH. We meet every Sunday morning from 10.15am (except the first Sunday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

Health Visitors

Tel: 0300 3031880
CHAT Health (text advice line):
07520 615720
Email: basingstokehvteams@southernhealth.nhs.uk

Dentist

Broadmere Road – Tel: 391391

• **Library:**

South Ham Community Library at Westside Community Centre open Tuesday and Thursday 10am until 2pm. Phone 01256 464571

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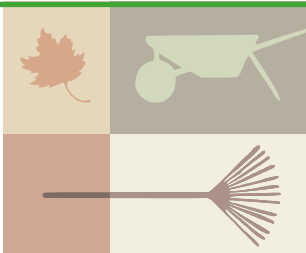
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