

THE Rabbiter

Issue 308 May 2024

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- **FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT**
- **MALE VOICE CHOIR 60TH**
- **BASINGSTOKE MAKERSPACE**

and much more

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THE Rabbitter

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EDITORIAL

Most of us have busy lives – work, children, family etc. take up a lot of our time. There are many opportunities to provide support to organisations outside the home, for example Autism Hampshire and NeighbourCare are looking for volunteers – please see CGHB PPG update on page 5. Updates on local issues can be found on page 8.

Basingstoke Makerspace is an amazing place where hobbyists and makers can come together but their future is in jeopardy. Can you help? See page 10 for details. If your interest is textiles, there are many opportunities to indulge yourself at Whitchurch Silk Mill – see page 17 – and they have a very nice café too!

Dates for your diary include the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association AGM on 5 June and the wonderful Summer Festival on 13 July – further details on page 12.

Another important date is Thursday 2 May - Local Election day. There is one seat up for election in our ward and there are four candidates standing.

- Peter James Bell – Labour Party
- Stacy Anne Hart – Women's Equality Party
- Taylor Michael Parnell – The Conservative Party
- Marion Ruth Wolstencroft – Liberal Democrat

The Polling Station is open from 7am – 10pm. Please remember that you will need to take proof of identity with you when you go to vote. This needs to be photographic identification and accepted documents include your passport, driving licence, older persons bus pass funded by UK Government. Further details regarding documents is available on Basingstoke and Deane website.

There is also an election for the Police and Crime Commissioner. There are four candidates.

- Prad Bains – Liberal Democrat
- Don Jerrard – The Justice and Anti-Corruption Party
- Donna Jones – Conservative Candidate
- Becky Williams – Labour and Co-operative Party

Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 2 May Local Council Elections – don't forget to take identification with you when you go to vote**
- 6 May Early May Bank Holiday**
- 27 May Spring Bank holiday**
- 16 June Father's Day**
- 26 August Summer Bank Holiday**



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care UK

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Lets talk about dementia
Saturday 18th May, 2pm - 4pm and
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CGHB PPG cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com

<https://cghppg.weebly.com>

Patient Participation Group Update PPG Web Site Development

We have continued to develop and add to our web site to help point towards Self Help support services available to all patients. The surgery has been very supportive and encouraging about our efforts and has now directed patients to our site from their own web pages. If you haven't visited the site and you are in need of support or think you may need guidance on a variety of health issues, please take a look, as the services offered are widespread and comprehensive. If you think we have missed something, please bring it to our attention via the email address above and we will be pleased to include it.

Health Focus

High Blood Pressure is a leading cause of premature death. It puts strain on the heart and blood vessels which, in the long term, can lead to life-threatening conditions. The NHS wants more people over 40 to get a blood pressure check, saying there are millions who do not realise they have dangerously high levels. Often, there are no warning symptoms, and it is thought about a third of cases are undiagnosed, that is 4.2 million people in England alone. Take action now and check your blood pressure for free at surgeries or a pharmacy. There is an area to take your own readings in every surgery waiting room and you can submit the readings through DR iQ or hand them on a record slip to the receptionist for a Practitioner to review and add to your medical record. If the Practitioner has concerns you will be contacted to make an appointment. High Blood Pressure is easily treated in most cases.

Calling All Carers

Many Carers will be supporting a loved one and will not think of themselves as being a carer. 1 in 8 adults provide unpaid care for family and friends, whether round-the-clock or for a few hours a week. Caring is important but it can be tough. As a patient group we recognise the vital role that carers have and want to ensure they receive the right level of support they need to continue to care. We have produced a comprehensive summary of support available and have highlighted our Top Tips, amongst which are how to get a Needs Assessment for the carer and the cared for person and who the carer should register with for extra support when they need it. Visit 'Carers Advice' from our Self Help index on the PPG website.

Our Health And Wellbeing Self Help resource now has a Helpline 0808 2787987. Citizens Advice Basingstoke are collaborating with the PPG and have agreed to support access for those who cannot do so in another way.

The following request for volunteers is from a local support group. Can you help or perhaps you were unaware of this resource and would like to find out more?

Volunteer opportunity for Autism Hampshire in Basingstoke

We're looking for friendly volunteers to make a difference at our Serendipity Community Group in Basingstoke. We need organised and passionate individuals who want to support and facilitate the community groups for autistic adults. Our groups are designed to help autistic adults to meet in a welcoming and non-judgemental setting. We need caring volunteers to make this happen.

The Basingstoke group runs once a month on a Monday from 1:30pm - 3:30pm. Full training for the role will be provided with a three-month induction period and then regular quarterly training sessions. More information about the community groups is available on our website here: <https://autismhampshire.org.uk/how-we-can-help/serendipity-social-groups/>

Patient Transport and Gardening Services.

Basingstoke NeighbourCare as well as offering lifts to older people with limited mobility, also offer a local handy person and gardening service. Due to overwhelming demand to tidy up older people's gardens so they can enjoy them more now spring is here, they need an extra gardener. Remuneration is offered. Please call 01256 423857 or email handyperson.gardening.service@neighbourcare.com

May is Coeliac Awareness Month

In the UK, 500,000 people are estimated to be living with undiagnosed coeliac disease. That's far too many people suffering from a range of confusing and diverse symptoms like stomach pain, anaemia, diarrhoea and other gut problems, nausea and vomiting, extreme tiredness, and more. The toll of undiagnosed coeliac disease is more than just physical: it can really affect your mental health. <https://www.coeliac.org.uk/local-groups/north-hampshire/>

Patient Feedback

Whilst acknowledging that the surgery still has some way to go to fulfil everyone's expectations, the general feedback from patients is that things are improving and that the influx of new permanent Doctors and reception staff has made a difference. Further evidence of this are the glowing reports on Google review pages concerning the surgery - cgh partnership - Google Search

CGHB Surgery Update

Get vaccinated against measles

The MMR vaccine can prevent measles. It also protects you from mumps and rubella. The MMR vaccine is offered to all children in the UK. 2 doses can give lifelong protection against measles, mumps, and rubella. If your child has not had their first or second MMR vaccine, please call the surgery to book an appointment. For more information on measles and the MMR vaccine, please visit the NHS website.

Comments, Feedback & Complaints

The surgery welcomes feedback from patients and strives to learn from us in helping them deliver a first class service. *If you do have reason to complain about a service or anything related to the surgery this matter is completely confidential. It will not impact your relationship with the surgery.* For Beggarwood and CGHB complaints, please visit the CGHB web site to register your dissatisfaction. The web address is :- <https://cghpartnership.co.uk/about-us/comments-and-complaints/>. CGHB employ a full time Patient Experience Manager and so you should get a speedy response and certainly an acknowledgement within 3 working days. If you are not satisfied with the way they have dealt with your complaint, you can contact the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman to review your case on 0345 015 4033 or via their website: www.ombudsman.org.uk.

Phillips Law

Can I take my child on holiday if the other parent objects?



Legal@phillips-law.co.uk
01256 460830

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

If the "Lives With" Order is in your favour then you can take your child abroad for up to 28 days as long as there are no other court orders prohibiting this or setting out a different amount of time you can take them out of the country for.

What if the holiday has been booked and paid for?

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

In practice, the Court will consider what is in the best interest of the child if parents cannot agree and can make an order about whether they can or cannot go on a particular holiday. If

the holiday is soon you would have to seek an urgent hearing and this is not always simple.

If the holiday was originally agreed, prior to booking, and the other side subsequently withdraw their consent, to the child/ren going on the trip, without a legitimate reason, then on applying to the court you could also seek your costs back from the other side if the court allows the children to go on the holiday.

The Court will take into consideration issues such as the wishes and feelings of the child concerned and their educational and emotional needs.

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

We are here to help you

At Phillips, we will listen to your concerns and discuss your options, letting you know what your rights are, as well as those of your former partner.

For more information, please contact our Family Law team by calling 01256 460830 or by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/family

Disclaimer: This article is current at the date of publication set out above and is for reference purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied on as such. Specific legal advice about your specific circumstances should always be sought separately before taking any action.

COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

I had the opportunity to meet the park rangers in Beggarwood woodland park. They are very professional young men who look after our flora, fauna and the trees which are surplus and interfere with other trees. They make sure that the trees grow well and provide us with the environmental demands of our time.

I was very impressed by the work they do. I hope that our community enjoy the park and the green areas of our wards. Our footpaths are well connected for great walks either with dogs or by ourselves. I must congratulate the people who abide by poop scoops to keep our green spaces clean and tidy.

I would urge people to stop bringing shopping trolleys and dumping them in our footpaths and green spaces. They are horrendous to look at and dangerous for the youngsters and children.

Please keep our green spaces and footpaths safe clean and tidy.

Cllr Dan Putty JP

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

1. Camford Close
2. Causton Road
3. Balmoral Way, Eton Close, Pinnell Close and Windsor Gardens



FUND RAISING EVENT FOR BASINGSTOKE BRIDGE CLUB EXTENSION

Saturday 1st June (2pm – 5pm)

At the Chute Pavilion, Sherborne St John



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Anona Edwards: anonape@googlemail.com 07710 802426

Sam Golding: samgolding55@hotmail.com 07747 177743



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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: I attended a meeting of the PPG with the management team of the four surgeries, Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood, at which we discussed the purchase of Operose UK by HCRG Care Group (formerly known as Virgin Care). The key message was that Operose UK continues to operate - it just has a new owner and HCRG is based in the UK rather than the United States. The PPG is planning a meeting with representatives of HCRG to discuss their intentions and bring to their attention any local pressures of which HCRG should be aware.

RAISED DRAIN ON A30: I reported a problem with a raised drain on the A30 approaching the Hounsme Fields roundabout, coming from the M3. Apparently this caused a couple of punctures (at least). The Hampshire County Council highways team has made it safe, but motorists would be advised to keep a look-out for it. I am told that this is not a 'Hampshire' fitment, nor a Scottish and Southern Energy one (even though that is what it says on the cover itself). The Council is attempting to confirm whose responsibility it is.

HOUNSME FIELDS MEETING: I attended a meeting in the Beggarwood Community Centre to discuss issues affecting the new Hounsme Fields development. One of them is the need for a crossing of the A30. The convenience store is built, and people will be looking to cross the road from the Golf Course development to get to it. Added to that, the new primary school on Hounsme Fields is due to open in September next year, and parents will be anxious to have a safe crossing of this very busy road available to use.

MCDONALDS: I have written to the Borough Council objecting to the application to run a McDonalds restaurant from the Hatch Warren Retail Park. My fears are that the opening hours are not defined and could compromise the security Improvement measure of locking the gates at 10.30pm to protect the car park from car meets. The site is close to residential housing, residents fear noise and antisocial behaviour intrusion, traffic management is unaddressed and the activities could impact adversely on Beggarwood Park.

HOW THE TWO-STAGE SYSTEM WORKS: Some people have been confused by the 'two stage' process that planning applications like this go through. The first stage is to address the principle of serving food from the shop unit. That is difficult to oppose, as it could include (say) a shop with a cafe, a 'conventional' restaurant, a bakery or a tea shop, for example. The second stage is for a specific application to be submitted, and that is where it becomes apparent that the application is on behalf of McDonalds.

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS: At a meeting with the Leader of Hampshire County Council, one of the issues I raised was that of School Crossing Patrols. I have also discussed this with the Executive Member responsible. I have suggested that where there are patrols in place, they should be retained (many are vacant). I have also suggested setting up a capital fund to pay for traffic-light controlled crossings where they are needed. I am anxious that children and parents, having been encouraged to park in the

community centre across Woodbury Road, should continue to benefit from a School Crossing Patrol.

SCHOOLS MEETING: I am planning to attend a meeting at HCC to review the performances of the schools in the Borough. This is an extremely useful briefing that identifies the opportunities and risks faced by each of them.

GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY FACILITIES: The planning application for the Community Hub in the Bloor Homes development has been submitted. It proposes a community hall, a nursery, a convenience store and two smaller shops of 50 sq metres each. I am not sure what the demand is for small stores at the moment, and am wondering whether, if they are not taken up, they could be merged and used for (say) a dental surgery. I shall take advice.

MEET THE POLICE TEAM: our local Safer Neighbourhood Team (PC 23164 Geldard & PCSO Page) have been holding 'meet the team' drop-in meetings in the area to give us the opportunity to raise any issues that may be of concern. For more information please contact christian.geldard@hampshire.police.uk

ST MARK'S SCHOOL has reported great success with fundraising. It has raised £258.69 towards Mud House following the Year 3/4 production, £357.70 for Comic Relief, £357.70 for the school council to support playtime activities and £850 for the Friends Of St Mark's (FOSM) Parent/Teacher Association through the recent Easter Egg Hunt. FOSM ploughs the money back into equipment and facilities for all the pupils to enjoy. Well done to all concerned!

THE CAMROSE GILLIES HACKWOOD AND BEGGARWOOD PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP has developed a web site that has been very well received. Recent additions include directions to Self Help support services, available to all patients. The surgery has been very supportive and encouraging of the PPG's efforts and now directs patients to the website. If you haven't visited the site and you are in need of support or think you may need guidance on a variety of health issues, please take a look, as the services offered are widespread and comprehensive. Citizens Advice Basingstoke are collaborating with the PPG and have agreed to support access for those who cannot do so in another way.

MMR VACCINE: The Patient Participation Group is publicising how the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccines can prevent these potentially dangerous diseases. The MMR vaccine is offered to all children in the UK and 2 doses can give lifelong protection. If your child has not had their first or second MMR vaccine, please call the surgery to book an appointment. For more information on measles and the MMR vaccine, please visit the NHS website.

LOCAL ELECTIONS: Borough Council elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections are being held on Thursday 2nd May. Our local Polling Stations will be at the Hatch Warren Community Centre and the Beggarwood Community Centre, and they will be open from 7am to 10pm.

BLOG: I put more information and views about many of these items on my blog 'ReidAboutBasingstoke'.

Stephen Reid

County Councillor: Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

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THE VYNE

Catch the last of the bluebells which flowered early in Morgaston Woods. As the orchard and wild garden offer flurries of blossom, the wisteria in the sunken garden will be coming into its own. Towards the end of the month, you might spot the first sweet peas flowering in the walled garden. From 1 June in the house, see a display on the first floor about the Tomb Chamber's newly conserved 18th-century stained-glass windows. You can also see other 18th-century glass treasures from the collection. Tickets are on sale for summer open-air theatre and cinema on the North Lawn. More information and book at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne>

May Half-term Wildlife Bingo

From 25th May – 2nd June 10-4pm pick up a free wildlife bingo sheet from the Visitors Reception and see how quickly you can spot all the creatures, sights and sounds on it. Booking not needed. Free event (Admission applies).

BASINGSTOKE'S HUB OF CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

In the heart of Basingstoke, there's a special place where the community comes together to create, learn, and collaborate. This unique space is known as the Basingstoke Makerspace, and it's a true gem that deserves to be highlighted.

The Makerspace first came into being in 2016 as an informal group of makers and hobbyists meeting in various community venues around Basingstoke. But in 2017, the group took a big step forward when they were able to secure a home in Maritime House, a building at 65 New Road that was for many years the home of the Royal Naval Association. This allowed the Makerspace to truly flourish, expanding its offerings and drawing in an ever-growing community of members.

Today, the Basingstoke Makerspace is a bustling hive of activity, equipped with an impressive array of tools and equipment that members can access 24/7. From 3D printers and laser cutters to metalworking tools, woodworking equipment, and beyond, the space provides makers of all kinds the resources they need to bring their creative visions to life.

Basingstoke Makerspace is not just a workshop – it's a hub of learning and skill-sharing. Every Tuesday evening, the space opens its doors to the public for 'Open Evenings' from 7pm to 9pm, where anyone can come in, explore the facilities, and get advice and assistance from resident experts. These sessions have become a beloved tradition, sparking all sorts of new ideas and connections.

Unfortunately, the future of the Basingstoke Makerspace is now in

jeopardy. The owners of Maritime House have decided to sell the building, and if the Makerspace can't raise the funds to purchase it, they may be forced to vacate their beloved home. That's why the organisation has launched a bold initiative, an application for government support through the Community Ownership Fund. If granted, this must be matched by a community bond issue that will allow members of the public to invest in the Makerspace's future and earn interest while doing so.

"This is a critical moment for us," Hawtin acknowledges. "But we're confident that the local community will rally behind us. The Basingstoke Makerspace is a truly unique and valuable asset, and we're determined to ensure that it continues to serve makers, learners, and innovators for years to come."

Kevin Roche

BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR – 60 YEARS OLD

2024 sees the 60th anniversary of Basingstoke Male Voice Choir. The choir was the 'brainchild' of Idris 'Taffy' Roberts – a local police traffic cop who managed to recruit a hardcore of singers by fair means and foul! The first rehearsal took place in April 1964 in Coombehurst school which then existed in Basingstoke.

Over the years choir managed to attract more members and at its peak in the mid 80s the choir numbered almost 100 choristers. During the next 60 years the choir performed at various Welsh eisteddfodau, gave numerous concerts,

appeared on TV with Harry Secombe as well as touring Canada, USA and the Netherlands. During that period the choir also raised £000s for local good causes including St Michael's Hospice, the Camrose centre, the Samaritans and Parkinson's society to name but a few.

Sadly our numbers have declined over the years, but the choir is still alive and well and rehearses every Tuesday evening at 7:30PM at the Moose Centre. You're most welcome to come along and listen and, maybe, join us for the next 60 years!

To celebrate our anniversary we shall be staging a celebratory concert at Church Cottage (adjacent to St Michael's Church) in Basingstoke on June 29th 7.30pm. We'd



love to see as many of you as possible – entry will cost £10 and any 'profit' will be donated to local charity.

Tickets can be obtained from www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc.



OLD DOWN & BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

We had our AGM on 11 April. The Group has decided to split ODBWG into two groups: Old Down - and separately - Beggarwood. The reason for this is that the two sites are so very different and serve different communities. The names, logo and contact details are in the process of being decided.

The Group has now run two Sunday workparties on Old Down (third on 28th April). 24th March was well attended and hedge trimming and dogwood removal were the main tasks carried out. Sunday work parties will recommence in the Autumn. If you are interested please email the Group and we will add you to our mailing list. We are still running our weekly Thursday morning work parties throughout the year.

It is quite common to hear and see gulls flying over Old Down. The different gull species are not the easiest to identify. All are white and black/grey. The gull species most likely to be seen over Old

Down are *Herring*, *Lesser Black-Backed* and *Black-Headed*. They are mostly coastal but come inland in the winter. The *Herring Gull* is large and noisy with light grey back, black wing tips, curved yellow bill with red spot and pink legs. The *Lesser Black Backed Gull* is slightly smaller with slate grey upper parts and yellow/orange legs. The *Black Headed Gull* is noticeably smaller with pale upper parts and dark reddish legs and bill. In summer plumage the head is dark brown (not black) but this colouring fades in winter and the head is mostly white with dark smudges above the eyes and a black tip appears on the bill. If the gulls stand in line, it is pretty easy to identify them – but not easy when they are flying overhead!

Work Parties: For Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12noon (but not in the rain!) and for Beggarwood at the café on the first Tuesday of the month 9-12noon. Please do come and join us – we really do need new members and support. Check the website for further information.

<https://sites.google.com/site/olddownbeggarwoodwildlifegroup>
Email: odandbwd@gmail.com



Herring



Lesser Black-Backed



Black-Headed

Café in the Park

PLEASE JOIN US

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY 10am – 2pm

Beggarwood Bookworms – To enquire email office@hatchwarren.org

Community lunch 1st Wednesday every month

Free hot drink with 10 stars collected using our loyalty card
Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft – 10th May
(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
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Broadmere Road,
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We are a registered charity run by volunteers - working to make Hatch Warren and Beggarwood a great place to live!



NOTICE of HWBCA AGM at Beggarwood Community Centre.
Wednesday 5th June @ 7PM - with refreshments.

Members are welcome from 6:30pm

Please book via Ticketsource (no fee)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hwca/t-krmlazp>

Membership costs £10 per year to support HWBCA

There will be a zoom link available too

We are excited to announce that this years AGM will be held at Beggarwood Community centre and via Zoom to enable the whole community to be involved. You are invited to attend a short meeting to support the trustees of Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association. The charity exists to provide, run and manage Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Centres and to provide social and educational facilities to improve the conditions of life for the residents of the community of postcodes RG22 and RG23. An update of our achievements and our plans for the future of HWBCA will be reviewed.

HWBCA are responsible for 2 community facilities and we have a lot of dedicated people who have given up their time, but we still need all of you to continue to support your centre. We need a minimum of 25 HWBCA members to achieve quorum, to vote on the night to keep us going for another year, please don't assume someone else will turn up on the night. We can't survive without YOU! Membership renewal is easy and costs £10 per year per family.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

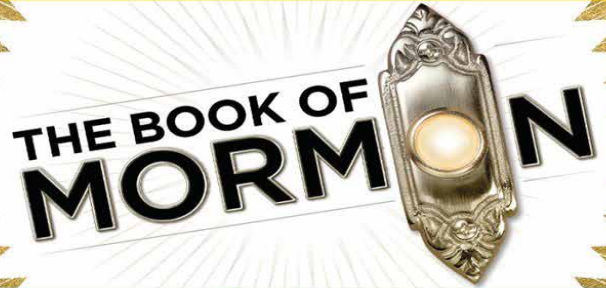
WE ARE A REGISTERED CHARITY,
run by people like you, from your community!

Without the continual support from you, our valuable community services may be at risk



AGM
Annual General Meeting

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
COACH TRIP TO
THE BOOK OF MORMON



Thursday 13th June 2024 at 7.30PM
Prince of Wales Theatre, LONDON
Good Stall seats

Tickets cost £72 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

38 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

Registered Charity Number 1161117
find us on | facebook
Hatch Warren Community Centre
Hatch Warren Community Centre
Long Cross Lane, Hatch Warren
Basingstoke, RG22 4JF
Tel: 01256 811262 Web: www.hatchwarren.org
Email: office@hatchwarren.org Follow us on Twitter @hatchwarren

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Over 100 things to see and enjoy!

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THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR HWBCA CHARITY #1161117

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE
COACH TRIP TO
WICKED



Thursday 5th September at 7.30PM
Apollo Victoria 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

38 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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Find us on Facebook to book a space!

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

THE WARREN

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 8-9:30pm

Email: Warrenshatchwarren.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 (18-30) 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



LOCAL HISTORY SNIPPETS

MAY DAY AND THE MAY TREE

Celebrations for the coming of early summer date back at least to Roman times with the festival of Flora from late April to early May. In Hampshire, May day festivities became popular during the middle ages, although their pagan roots were somewhat frowned on by the church.



Art: John Collier – Queen Guinevere's Maying

Local people may have enjoyed May Day with partying and dancing; chimney sweeps and milkmaids were especially favoured as participants. There might be a maypole to dance around, and a May Queen chosen. Branches of May blossom would be cut and carried as garlands and made into the May Queen's crown, although it was considered unlucky to bring Hawthorn into the home.

As with many other such celebrations, including Christmas, Oliver Cromwell's protectorate did not approve of the merry making and May Day was banned. But the festival returned with the coronation of Charles II.

The May tree used for these celebrations, the Hawthorn, flowers between April and June and is shrouded in myth and folklore. It is said that it should never be cut down as it is sacred to the Fae Folk, and to destroy a hawthorn would bring bad luck. This connection with the other world is so strong in folklore that there are many tales of people falling asleep under a May Tree and waking up to find they have entered the land of Faery.

As well as being beautiful and steeped in tradition, the Hawthorn is a vital native hedgerow tree and provides food for hundreds of species including a wide variety of moths, bees and other pollinators, many different types of birds and small mammals.

Terri Reid MA FRSA

Terrielizabethreid.com

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HATCH WARREN WI



The speaker at our April meeting was Heather Wylde who is an artist and illustrator. She ran an Art Workshop for us called 'Anyone can draw a Tiger'. We were each provided with a pencil and a copy of one of Heather's drawings of a tiger's head.

We were instructed as we went along and even though many of us said that we couldn't draw a thing, the results were surprisingly good. Then Heather showed us how to add eyes, ears, a nose and whiskers.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd May when it's our AGM.

As well as our monthly meetings at Hatch Warren Community Centre we have regular craft, genealogy and walking groups as well as a monthly get together for coffee and cake at the Café in the Park.

If you would like to join us visitors are always welcome and for more information please contact our President Shirley on 07979 217220.

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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

After a lovely Easter break we are now back for the final full term at Hatch Warren Under Fives. In the lead up to the holidays we enjoyed lots of Easter activities with arts and crafts, Easter egg trails and an Easter raffle too.

Our children love mini beasts so we are currently creating a mini beasts' shed for the garden. We have put our Easter fundraising money towards magnifying glasses, binoculars, clip boards, pencils, mini beast identification posters and other resources to make our mini beast shed a really fun area for the children to engage and learn in.

Now that the weather is getting better we will be spending lots more time in the garden looking for mini beasts and we will start to look to link this in with our life cycles topic.

We have recently heard the very exciting news of which schools our older children will be going to in September, so now our "school readiness" begins! We will begin to introduce lots of activities to prepare our bigger children for school, for example, can the children change into their PE kit by themselves? Can they independently wash their hands and open the food in their lunchbox? We'll also start to focus much more on numbers, health and self-care and communication and language.

School readiness is described in the foundation stage as "Children reaching a good level of development in the prime areas and literacy and mathematics".

Some of the expected characteristics that should be displayed by a child to show school readiness;

- Independent in toileting
- Able to dress themselves
- Understands expected levels of behaviour
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Can take turns and share
- Can sit still for a short period
- Can separate from parents/carers

- Communication and language skills needed to communicate needs and listen to others
- Can actively learn and creatively and critically think

Some of these characteristics may of course be difficult for all children to achieve and this shouldn't leave parents or practitioners concerned that a child isn't school ready.

We have a few spaces remaining for our next academic year in September 2024. Why not book a visit to look around and meet the team? If you'd like to learn more, please contact us on 01256 322788, or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

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

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

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

In April the preschool buzzed with excitement as children marvelled at stick insects, caterpillars, tadpoles and newly hatched chicks who made their way into the classroom. These animal visitors not only brought joy but also offered invaluable learning experiences for our young minds.



Integrating animals into the preschool curriculum enhances many aspects of development; from language skills as

children describe their observations to cognitive development as they make connections between different animal species. Welcoming a variety of animals into our setting has provided children with hands-on learning opportunities, allowing them to observe, touch and inquire about different species, fostering a deeper understanding of the natural world. Caring for animals instills a sense of responsibility and teaches respect for living beings, promoting empathy and compassion among the children. Our animal visitors cultivated a sense of wonder and appreciation for the natural world which we hope will last a lifetime!

Last month we also hosted our annual Easter egg hunt and preschool bake sale. A big thank you to all those who helped organise the events and those of you who participated. Great fun was had by all and we raised much appreciated funds for the preschool which allows us to continue to offer new and exciting learning opportunities to our children.

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 are currently available for Autumn 2025.

Tel: 01256-389008

www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/

DANDELIONS

We have had a lovely 2nd half of the term and there have been so many special events.

We were invited to join in with the Dashwood Manor cake swap. Nicola and the children baked brownies and crispy cakes then some of the residents came in with cakes to share. The children had so much fun playing with our visitors and sharing songs with them.



Continued on page 17

One of the residents will be turning 102 so to make her day even more special the children made her a card.

Our Relax Kids sessions have been going really well and the children have shown wonderful listening skills and followed instructions for relaxing and breathing techniques.

The children all enjoyed our Easter Egg Hunt where we searched for pictures around the setting and ticked them off our search cards as we went. Everyone got to take an Easter treat home with them.

We have been collaging easter chicks with feathers, using potato mashers with paint to look like easter eggs and making chocolate nests.

We had a Shared Conversation take place with a member of the advising team from Hampshire County Council. The process includes discussions with the staff team, a Learning Walk, self-evaluation discussion and the joint identification of strengths and areas for action on a specific Local Authority which, in this academic year centres on Reducing the inequalities Gap.

The observations taken from the Learning walk were:-

Adults interacted thoughtfully with children, reading stories, encouraging children to write in the role play area and in the craft area. The children enjoyed playful interactions they receive from adults.

Staff understand children's zones of regulation and are equipped to support children to reflect on their own emotions and feelings.

Children have access to a range of learning material both indoors and outside. These resources are played with carefully and purposefully.

The setting has developed a curriculum focussed on resilience, independence, confidence and regulating emotions.

Our waiting lists for 2025/2026 are now open. 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

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Another jam packed month it's been for the children! We can't believe that Easter is over and we're now looking ahead to the summer term. We had a hilarious visit to preschool from the Easter Bunny, who was spotted in the playground by the children – and met with lots of giggles and laughter. Then she delivered eggs to the children which they took home, along with some lovely easter chocolate crispy cakes they made themselves. The cakes were decorated beautifully.

The children also made a wonderful range of Easter crafts and did lots of Easter drawings/paintings to proudly take home to show off. They have also continued to learn about different shapes, and are encouraged to use the shapes they've learnt in their craft work.

We've also been outside on the playground lots more this month, riding the bikes and scooters, drawing with big colourful pavement chalks and having great fun digging in the free-standing sandpit. We just need the mud to dry up, and we'll be able to get out onto the Meadow for more fun in the coming weeks!

Laura Reed

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Committee Member

NEWS FROM WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

Did You See the Mill on ITV News in March?

ITV News came to the Mill to film for a feature on ribbon-making, showing some of the techniques involved in this endangered craft, and including interviews with Weaver/Tackler Shannon Bye and Mill Director Sue Tapliss. The six-minute feature was broadcast on 11 March, and it's already evident that the Mill's profile has been raised as a result. The full clip can be found on ITVX. We hope that seeing the working inside the Mill will encourage more café users to cross the threshold into the Mill building and see our fascinating historic machinery and many information panels.

National Mills Weekend 2024, 11–12 May 10.30–5pm

In celebration of the engineers and millwrights who built and now restore and maintain Whitchurch Silk Mill, Nigel Spender of G & H Spender Engineering, a historic Basingstoke company specialising in industrial heritage conservation and restoration, will be here to talk to visitors about the many crafts used during his company's recent conservation of the Mill's Grade Two listed Georgian waterwheel, and the historic craft of millwrighting. Included with admission fee or annual pass.

10,000 Years of Textiles, 15 May, 7–8.30pm

In this illustrated talk, Angela Pawlyn, a member of the Oxford and Kennet Valley Guilds of Weavers Spinners and Dyers, will show examples of preserved textiles. Weaving spindles and loom weights can survive for thousands of years, but it's rare for textiles to last that long. Most of what we know about ancient weaving is in the form of pictorial evidence. Angela will explain how ancient equipment evolved into the looms seen today at the Mill. Tickets £15. Doors open at 6.30pm and tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

Weftival Textiles Festival, 5–6 July

Join us for our second Weftival event at which you can meet a community of textile and weaving professionals and learn about diverse types of weaving and textiles. There will be talks, demonstrations, production tours, a weaving exhibition and pre-bookable workshops.

The programme features the following:

Friday 5th

- a talk by Janet Philips, handweaver, fabric designer and author
- a chance to meet and talk to the production skills manager from Coldharbour Mill, one of the oldest woollen mills in the country
- 'All Things Rafia' workshop

Saturday 6th

- a 'small craft' fair, showcasing the work of small crafts makers, with a chance to talk to them about their methods and purchase their wares
- children's craft area for those 10 and under
- workshops by Tabby and Tweed and Elka Textiles

Both days

- workshops and demonstrations by Silkewoman, our own weavers, and the Kennet Valley Guild
- a production tour of the weaving floor (must be booked in advance)
- a weaving exhibition

Tickets for the workshops, and further details, are available on our website. Please note that annual passes cannot be used for this event.

RABBITER CONTACTS:

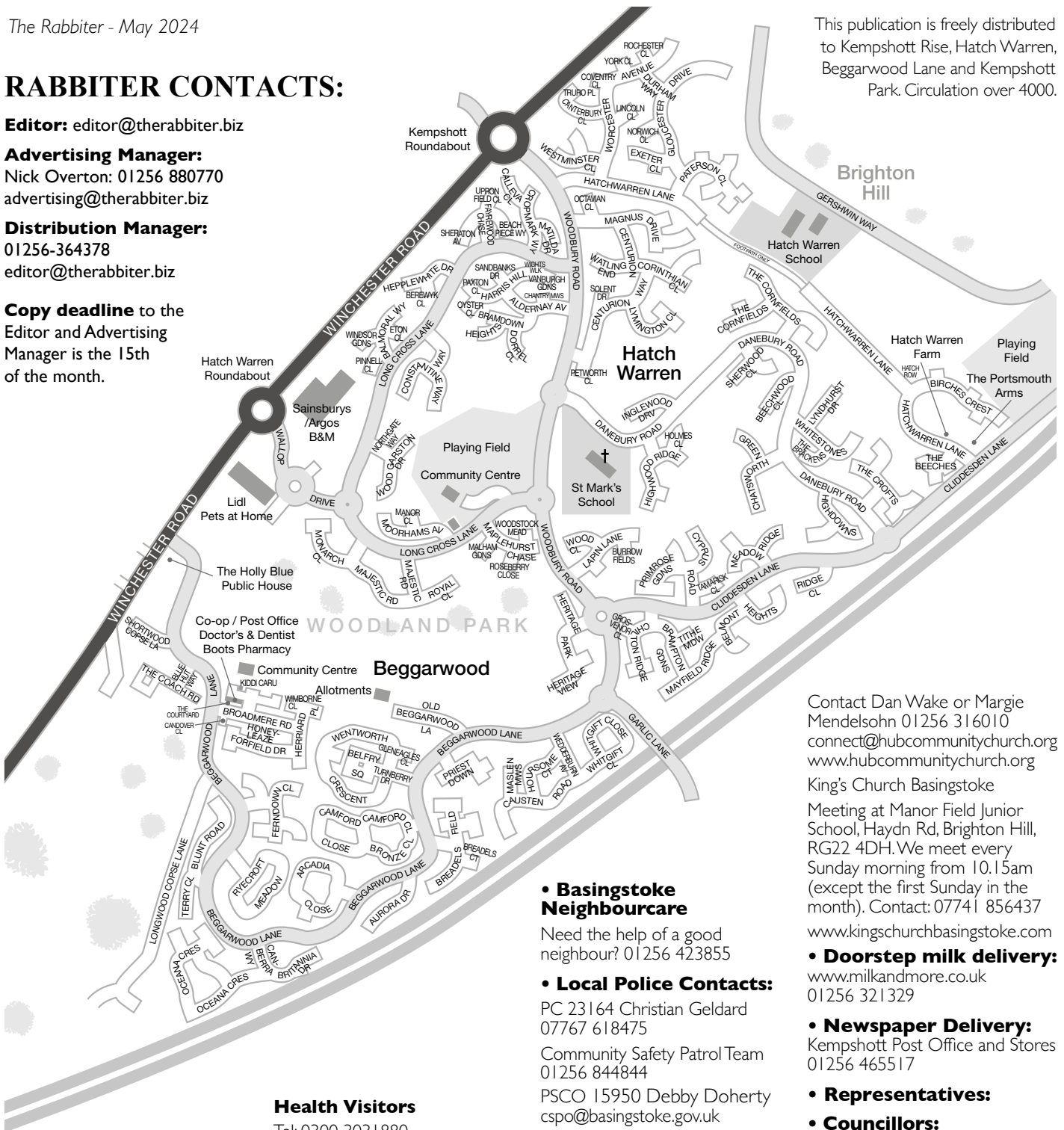
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Need the help of a good neighbour? 01256 423855

• 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
www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com

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cldr.samir.kotecha@basingstoke.gov.uk

Dan Putty, 1 Gloucester Drive, RG22 4PH 356650
cldr.dan.putty@basingstoke.gov.uk

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

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



There were 48 members at the meeting held on 3rd April and they were welcomed by the Chairman, David Cowling, who gave apologies received and also congratulated those with birthdays this month. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave a reminder of the forthcoming trip to Arundel Castle on 18th April, the visit to Savill gardens on 23rd May and the afternoon tea at BCoT on 20th June. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, said that she had been in touch with members who were not well and the Chairman thanked her for all the hard work that she did.

Our speaker this month was Daniel Cowling who is Headteacher at Oak Wood School in Hillingdon and had previously visited us to tell us about the challenges faced in turning round a failing school. This time he spoke about not only the challenges facing leaders in education, but in any environment where priorities and expectations were constantly being changed due to political pressures, or changing due to other factors. He told us about those that had inspired him and gave examples of the ideals that they, and him, had aspired to in trying to be a good leader. Above all he emphasised the need to do the best possible in any given situation and to listen and learn, while being compassionate at all times when dealing with other people whatever the circumstances.

Our next meeting is on 1st May when our guest speaker will be a representative from Thrive, The Gardening for Health Charity, to talk about their work.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about the meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com or 07715 640171.

David Cowling

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Parish Office- 01256 840502
find us on Facebook!



••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• Changes... •

• How do you feel about change? Do you embrace it and feel
 • invigorated by it? Or are you resistant and want our fast-paced
 • changing world to slow down a bit? While composing this
 • article, I have had David Bowie's song "Changes" going through
 • my head! I was reflecting that I like change and exploring
 • different ideas and perspectives, but it can be a bit unsettling.
 • And it keeps you on your toes! This is the time of year when
 • we see so many changes with new growth in our gardens and
 • in the countryside. I love seeing our garden change and come
 • back to life as nature embraces the warmer temperatures, and
 • we start having longer days.

• So much of life is about continual change. Nothing stays the
 • same and of course, it shouldn't. The Greek Philosopher,
 • Heraclitus, who lived about 500 years before Christ said, "There
 • is nothing permanent except change".

• This is a season of change in the church. At the end of March on
 • Easter Sunday St Mark's church was full of people celebrating
 • the joy of Easter. And if you are wondering why I am still talking
 • about Easter for this article, the season actually lasts right into
 • May which is when this article will hopefully pop through your
 • letter box.

• Easter is all about change and transformation. What had looked
 • like pain, rejection, and death became life, new hope, and joy.
 • Jesus had died but he rose again. He appeared to his followers,
 • had conversations, ate fish, and cooked supper on a beach.
 • Over five hundred people were witnesses to his return. This
 • was change and transformation on a huge scale.

• The effects of this change didn't stop there. Jesus' followers,
 • a mostly uneducated group began to share life together and
 • couldn't keep quiet about what happened despite vehement
 • opposition. They keep telling the story of Jesus to everyone
 • they meet.

• They could also heal in Jesus' name, and cared for those in
 • desperate circumstances making sure they had what they
 • needed. The followers of Jesus took his message of salvation far
 • and wide. His disciples were so changed themselves that they
 • continued his work despite the challenges and persecution they
 • were faced with.

• The ripples of this change, this moment of transformation
 • are still being felt today. The church grew from this original
 • community coming together. Many have found that faith offers
 • us a fresh start, an opportunity to change, to get to know who
 • Jesus is and who we really are.

• Like the early followers of Jesus, we meet during the week and
 • on Sundays to learn more about being a Christian and living a
 • life of faith in this fast-paced ever-changing world. It's here that I
 • learn more about God's love for me and the rest of the world.
 • Do try and join us one Sunday if you can. Sunday Mornings
 • – Immanuel Church 9am and St Mark's Church Kempshott
 • 10.30am. More details of weekday activities and services are
 • found on <https://www.parihofbasingstokedown.org.uk/>

• **Kim Robins – Curate**

• Parish of Basingstoke Down



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CHECKING IF SOMETHING MIGHT BE A SCAM

citizens advice Basingstoke

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Start the online tool: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/decision-trees/scams/>

It might be a scam if:

- It seems too good to be true – for example, a holiday that's much cheaper than you'd expect,
- Someone you don't know contacts you unexpectedly,
- You suspect you're not dealing with a real company – for example, if there's no postal address,
- You've been asked to transfer money quickly,
- You've been asked to pay in an unusual way – for example, by iTunes, vouchers or through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union,
- You've been asked to give away personal information like passwords or PINs,
- You haven't had written confirmation of what's been agreed.



For more information on scams, please go to: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/

If you have an enquiry please call our free Adviceline on 0808 278 7829, we are here to help.

Basingstoke Blues Club

BBC3 www.facebook.com/groups/BasingstokeBluesClub/

in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club
Station Approach, Basingstoke RG21 5NB
presents

Saturday 18th May

Thomas Heppell Band

Thomas Heppell is taking the UK (and soon to be European) blues scene by storm, having already played iconic venues such as Ronnie Scott's & sharing the limelight with acts such as Alice Armstrong, Connor Selby, Brive Rival and The Cinelli Brothers. Thomas has captivated audiences with his blend of Blues, Jazz, and Rock & Roll, both as a solo artist and with his dynamic 3-piece band. His music is a foot-tapping homage to classic tunes peppered with his own innovative compositions, promising an unforgettable live performance that resonates with the heart of blues tradition.

An award-nominated artist, Thomas has been recognised for his exceptional talent with nominations for Young Blues Artist, Emerging Blues Artist, and Acoustic Blues Artist in the UK Blues Awards. His Debut album was released at the end of last year, selling out at its launch gig and receiving much airplay from Planet Rock & BBC. Don't miss this opportunity to catch Thomas on his way to the top!

All welcome - 8pm till late. £10 cash on the door. Licensed bar and low prices. Profits to Brain Tumour Research – Charity number 1153487.

Future dates: -
Sign up to our newsletter to be kept informed of future gigs, follow the Basingstoke Blues Club BBC3 Facebook page or full details at www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk
21st September - 'Rexfest', a musical tribute to Rex Everett.
19th October, 16th November, 7th December – bands to be announced soon.

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PROBUS HEARS ABOUT WW2 S.O.E. TRAINING AT BEAULIEU

Visitors to the national Car Museum at Beaulieu, in the New Forest, may have spotted a building close to Palace House which is a museum about the training that took place in WW2 for the S.O.E. Inside is an exhibition about the Secret Army.



The Special Operations Executive was the subject of the latest talk at the Probust Club of Basingstoke by speaker Nick Saunders who is a part time archivist at the Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum in Winchester.

The S.O.E. was set up in 1940 on instructions of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, to "Set Europe ablaze" by conducting espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in German occupied Europe and to aid local resistance movements.

It was not an easy formation as sections of the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) refused to share facilities in signals training and other sections of the Military top brass also denied the use of their training places. While the S.O.E. had its headquarters in Baker Street, London, opposite the fictional address of Sherlock Holmes, all training took place around the country.

The organisation generated different unofficial names, *The Baker Street Irregulars*, *Churchill's Secret Army*, *Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* with the most apt, *Stately Homes of England*, as many country houses and private estates were requisitioned. Several such large properties existed around the Beaulieu estate and served as training bases specialising in the dark arts of guerrilla activities.



For security reasons nationalities were kept apart during their time in the S.O.E. to ensure that if captured they would not be able to disclose any knowledge of comparative secret operations in other countries. So effective was this compartmentalising of nationalities that in 1942 five governments in exile, who suggested setting up some form of training for agents to be dropped into occupied countries, were surprised to learn that the S.O.E. had been in operation for two years.



Silent killing, parachute skills, radios, morse code and weapons training were the main courses. Burglary skills were taught as agents would need to access occupied buildings with tests being given of breaking into Palace House and stealing a bank cheque but without leaving any signs of entry.

It was imperative that their agents had a good knowledge of a particular country and that their language skills were sufficient to pass as a native. Although 13,000 agents underwent training, which included 3,000 at the Beaulieu Finishing School, there were many women who undertook the same training and had volunteered to assume roles in German occupied countries.

The Germans knew about what was happening at Beaulieu and named it *The Gangster School*. Among the 175 staff at Beaulieu were Guy Burgess and Kim Philby, who later, unearthed as Soviet spies, absconded to Russia. They taught mind games on how to undermine German morale.

The agents dropped into occupied countries should not be compared to the fictional BBC TV series 'Allo 'Allo! which was a wartime sitcom about the French Resistance with the farcical events set around a café, as many agents were captured, tortured and executed.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information.

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

FESTIVAL STREET KITCHEN

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This was different! The brave new world of Festival Place Kitchen with their move from outside to inside. Apart from a postman, our dear reader is probably like me in having little clue to the "street"

names in Festival Place, so my simplest description is that the Festival Street Kitchen is just along from Iceland having taken over the corner premises previously occupied by hairdressers, Toni & Guy.

They opened here immediately before this Easter. They had gutted the place and completely redecorated, mainly in black with bright graffiti type lettering over the bar counter, and interesting overhead lighting using different coloured wooden crates to act as light shades. With everything involved in making this substantial move their web site has yet to be updated.

With pleasant, helpful staff, it had a young person's feel about the place with seating on picnic benches or on highchairs surrounding tall barrels although there were a few booths for a little privacy.

The menu, shown on a series of blackboards, was mainly Tex-Mex with a smattering of Italian and Jamaican offerings. Madam had a double beef burger with some hand cut freshly cooked chips. Delicious, she declared, possibly because the burgers were proudly advertised as being supplied by Newlyn's Farm Shop.

I had a pulled pork burrito which came with spicy rice and a few other things just to add flavour. In her infinite wisdom Madam ordered the large one for me and it proved difficult to finish. Again, very flavoursome. Everything is delivered to table in take away type containers and the use of wooden cutlery.



A bottle of fruit juicy water for Madam and a can of diet Coke for me was sufficient for our lunch with the bill coming to £26.50.

Opening times during the week are 12.00 noon – 8.00 pm and at the weekends 12.00 noon until 11.00 pm.

Madam was clear in her opinion that she would definitely come again.



PINEAPPLE FRUIT CAKE

This recipe is from my grandmother's note book and all the ingredients are in imperial weights. It is easy, delicious and very moist.

5oz margarine or butter

4.5oz soft brown sugar

7oz self raising flour

2 large eggs

2oz glacé cherries, chopped

12oz mixed dried fruit

8oz tin pineapple, crushed and drained

Line a cake tin with baking paper and set oven at 325 degrees.

Cream the fat and sugar together till soft and fluffy. Beat in eggs. Sieve flour and fold into mixture. Add chopped glacé cherries, dried fruit and crushed pineapple. If the mixture is a little dry, add a little drained pineapple juice or milk.

Put mixture into cake tin and bake for 1-1.5 hours. Test cake with a skewer to check when done.

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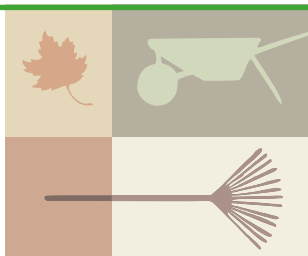
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