

A photograph of a forest path covered in bluebells. The path is a narrow, dirt trail that winds through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in a thick carpet of small, purple-blue flowers (bluebells) with green foliage. The trees are mostly deciduous with green leaves, and the sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the path and flowers. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

THE Rabbiter



Issue 307 April 2024

All the regular features plus

- **YOUNG RACING DRIVER**
- **BOUNTY ANNIVERSARY**
- **NEW OLYMPIC PITCH**

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THE Rabbiter

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EDITORIAL

With Spring and Summer on the way there is always plenty to look forward to in the local area. The wild May blossom will soon be out and St Mark's Meadow will be covered in wildflowers collected and planted by Hatch Warren Nature Group.

Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group will be holding their AGM at Old Down Hall on 11th April. They welcome visitors along to the meeting and are always looking for volunteers for regular work parties. Details are on page 11.

St Kitts Vets are bringing back their very popular dog show to the Summer Festival on 13th July at Hatch Warren Community Centre. The festival promises to be even better than ever this year so it's a good idea to book that date into diaries now. The Community Association is always in need of volunteers for all the amazing events they provide for the local community.

Please let us have your photos for our Pets Corner, and don't forget that we can take your free ads if you have something to sell.

If anyone is looking for a little exercise and has a small amount of free time, we have a couple of delivery rounds for the Rabbiter not currently covered. Details are on page 6.

And if you have any ideas for items you would like to see covered in the local history column, please let us know.

Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

31 March British Summer time starts – clocks go forward

2 May Local Council Elections – dont 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

LocalHeroes

Don't forget, if you know someone who you think deserves to be featured as a 'Local Heroe' please write a short piece and send a photograph. They could be youth leaders, volunteers or just go above and beyond to make Hatch Warren & Beggarwood a better place to live.

Editor



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Patient Participation Group Update **PPG Web Site Development**

This now seems to be a “go to” location for information about local health related services as recently we have seen more than 1000 visits per week! The surgery has welcomed the content in its endeavour to help with the NHS push for patients to think more about “Self Help” enterprises as well as giving helpful news around the PPG and matters concerning the four surgery locations. If you haven’t visited yet, why not give it a look?

Health Focus

There is an extensive network of local and national resources and support groups available to you. Working with the practice the PPG has created and launched the Self Help pages, which are available to you on the PPG website and the Practice will be integrating this resource into their working practices. It will take some time to create a bank of texts for staff to select to guide you to this information and in the meantime you can still carry out your own research directly on the pages.

This month the PPG are providing information on two subjects, Lung Health and Cancer Awareness. Further information is on our Self Help Pages at the address above, simply click Cancer Support or Lung Health.

Some Highlights from the pages:

- This month is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month: Symptoms to look out for are a bloated tummy, tummy pain, needing to wee more and always feeling full. - The charity ‘Target Ovarian Cancer’ has more information and an advice line, or you could ring NHS 111 if you have concerns.
- The local ‘Breath Easy’ support group meets monthly and is for people with Asthma and Lung Conditions.
- 13th March is National No Smoking Day. ‘Smoke Free Hampshire’ offers a free service to help you quit smoking. Why not take control of your lung health and join many others who will quit this month?

Patient Feedback

Last month there was a glitch at the practice around some appointments being booked at the wrong surgery. This was due to human error. Members of staff have undertaken re-training and this should not re-occur.

The PPG has also raised accessibility issues at the Hackwood surgery and the practice is working to have the landlord address these and other issues.

It was noted that the surgery was closed for a half day on Wednesday 28th February as were all surgeries across North Hampshire for a training session dictated by the local NHS ICB. The somewhat obscure closure poster had been provided by the ICB and the Practice Manager took on board the need for the surgery to improve on its visibility for future occasions.

Dr:iQ Training

The PPG and the surgery ran a further training session at the end of February for a group of patients invited by the surgery. The session was regarded as helpful and they were able to solve the problems of all patients who attended. These sessions will be repeated and managed by CGHB and the PPG.

CGHB Surgery Update **Recruitment**

In 2024 there were 20.5 newly salaried GP sessions, replacing some locums. There has been no staff losses in 2024 and a new nurse practitioner has been recruited. A receptionist has moved to the medical reports team to help with the backlog in this area and a replacement recruited, with a further replacement ready in two weeks, together with a new practice nurse. The recruitment situation is currently good with only two receptionist vacancies outstanding within the support team.

Measles

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. Cases of measles are increasing.

The main symptoms of measles are:

a high temperature (fever) and a rash alongside a cough or red, sore, watery eyes; or a runny or blocked nose.

If you think you or your child may have measles, do not attend the surgery, contact your GP practice either via the telephone or Dr:iQ.

Other Items

The surgery has a system where texts are sent out 7 days and 1 day before an appointment as a reminder but asks patients to ensure they have noted the appointment detail when it is made.

The practice clarified that where appointments are not available for on-going pre-planned treatment such as injections, the patient should ask receptionists to escalate their appointment request to the Practice Manager who will be able to arrange this.

It was also noted that Blood tests can still be booked at either the surgery or on-line at the Hospital whichever is more convenient for the patient.

In December there were 21,000 telephone calls received by the practice. Seasonal illnesses caused a rise in requests for consultations, which slowed appointment availability. There is always a need to Triage to ensure that the most urgent cases are seen first.

Comments, Feedback & Complaints

The surgery welcomes feedback from patients and strives to learn from us in helping them deliver a first class service. Please also note that if you do have reason to complain about a service or anything related to the surgery that this matter is kept confidential, will be logged and tracked on a separate system and no record of this is entered on your medical records.

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.

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Case Study:
Savona
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Phillips Law caught up with long term client, Mike Morgan of Savona Foodservice. Mike has been Managing Director of Savona for the past four years and comes from a background in the wholesale food industry.

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COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

Men and boys always try to camouflage their problems. They try to be macho without realising how much harm they are doing to themselves. They seem to be ashamed to declare and talk to professionals or to nearest and dearest that they have problems. There would be so much to gain for themselves if they could open up to their doctors, their wives, girlfriends or even their friends. This will reduce them falling into mental health which carry a stigma. Help is by their sides and it would be such a relief for them if they tell someone without making themselves sick with worry.

Please men, youngsters and boys help yourself by bringing your problems to an early end and avoid dropping into the mental illness category. Be brave and talk to relevant people.

All the best!

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:

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- 2. Causton Road



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CARL HUTCHINSON
Today Years Old
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The Haymarket, Basingstoke

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THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN

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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

MCDONALDS: I have written to the Borough Council objecting to the application to open a McDonalds restaurant on the Hatch Warren Retail Park. I don't object to fast food outlets in principle, but this specific proposal has difficulties attaching. I offered the following reasons:

1. The opening hours of the store are not defined. I arranged a few months ago for the gates to the Hatch Warren Retail Park to be locked at 10.30pm to protect the car park from mis-use by car meets, that were occurring there regularly and causing distress to residents across the estate. The nature of the takeaway business would compromise this essential security unless opening hours are severely restricted.
2. The site is too close to housing. I fear odour, noise and light pollution caused by the nature of the business and potential extended opening hours.
3. Local residents fear noise and ASB intrusion. The application is silent about any steps that might be taken to mitigate these fears.
4. No details are given about traffic management. The site has the potential of generating traffic through the Hatch Warren estate rather than on the A30.
5. I fear that the business could impact adversely on the Beggarwood Park area, in terms of ASB and litter.

LOCAL PLAN: I have also written to the Borough Council offering comments on the draft local plan. This is a very important document that will shape the development of the Borough for 10-15 years. In my opinion, the rate of growth being proposed (850 homes per year, on average) is too high and needs to slow down. 18,000 new homes are planned for this side of the town, which I fear will lead to decades of road works and disruption, not to mention the increased traffic, with which the existing road system will have to cope.

SPEEDWATCH: I have so far been contacted by a couple of residents willing to take part in a 'Community Speed Watch' initiative and I am grateful to them. I need more names to make up a large enough team. I am doing this in conjunction with our designated Police Officer, PC Christian Geldard, who has posted that speeding is one of the hot topics of concern in our area. This has been amplified by car meets that have been using our local roads irresponsibly. If you would be interested in volunteering for this, please contact me on sreid17786@aol.com

CAR MEETS: as if on cue, it looks as if we are suffering car meets again. The Police are asking for our help regarding information and witnesses. They were called at 7.42pm on Sunday 18th February to a meet at the ASDA car park. About 60 cars had gathered and some were being used in an antisocial manner. The cars dispersed after officers attended, but it looks as if they simply moved to the Leisure Park and Chineham, where there were reports of dangerous driving. The Police are looking to take action against two drivers, but would appreciate any help people may have with dashcam footage or CCTV cameras.

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL: St Mark's School is reporting that over 600 people signed its petition to save its School Crossing Patrols. It has now been submitted to Hampshire County Council. The school will be presenting to the Council in June when it takes the decisions on funding and I will be supporting them. The irony here is that the school encourages parents to park in the

Community Centre car park and walk the short distance, crossing Woodbury Road in the process. It would seem contradictory then to do away with the crossing patrol. I have made this point in my response to Hampshire's consultation on future service provision.

CAR THEFTS: I have seen a couple of posts on social media from households in the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood area who have had their cars stolen from their drives. In both cases the thieves were using devices on poles, which they held up against the windows, presumably to detect and relay keyless entry information from fobs inside the homes. The Police offer advice to protect your property against these crimes, and some measures - like 'faraday pouches' - are relatively inexpensive.

TRAINING CLOSURE AT LOCAL SURGERIES: I investigated the closures of the GP surgeries on the afternoon of 28th February, and found that they were organised by the Integrated Care Board, that they were for 'team building' training and they extended across the town. Given that this was also one of the days of junior doctor strikes at the hospital, I cannot help but feel that this was poorly planned and something that should be avoided in the future.

DIGESTATE SPREADING: The operators of the Anaerobic Digester were spreading Digestate, their waste product, (very nutritious, very smelly) in the Farleigh Wallop area in March. They published details of the measures they were taking to combat the odour pollution dangers in Beggarwood and Hatch Warren. Even so, there were some adverse comments on social media.

ST MARK'S SCHOOL has had a inspection by Hampshire County Council. The school reports that one comment was: "Pupils' learning behaviours are strong. There is a culture of respect and high regard for one another throughout the school. Children enjoy coming to school and are enthusiastic about their curriculum and can articulate how their learning builds over time." That is very positive.

'SCHOOL RUN' ISSUES: St Mark's reports several complaints regarding poor parking at pick up and drop off times. It is asking that drivers respect local residents and follow the usual parking rules, even if this means parking further away from school.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: Hatch Warren Community Centre has welcomed the relaunch of the After School Club. It can collect children from St Mark's School. The booking system is now open. With over 16 years of childcare experience, Louise, Gill and Narinder look forward to welcoming you back. Contact points are 07415 546491 and study@hampshirelearning.co.uk. Sessions cost £15.

HATCH WARREN RUNNERS celebrated their eleventh anniversary in March. They started with just ten members and now have over three hundred whose distinctive blue and yellow shirts are a regular sight in Basingstoke.

QUIZ NIGHT: The Community Association has reported another successful evening at the Beggarwood Café in the Park, with a quiz organised by Iain Friar. It has raised funds for the community café.

BLOG: I put more details of some of the current issues on my blog, [reidaboutbasingstoke](http://reidaboutbasingstoke.com).

Stephen Reid

County Councillor, Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

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Send your photos to editor@therabbiter.biz
Thank you for all your photos this month.



Carlos is 12 and a burmilla – Stephen



Milo, loves sleeping in the sink! – Helen & Giles



Some of our previous pet stars

CLEAN AIR GREEN ENVIRONMENT

STOP THE WAREHOUSES

C A G E BAD PLANS cleanairgreenenvironment.org

TRAFFIC ALERT FOR BASINGSTOKE!

CAGE wants all residents in the Basingstoke area to know that there is a third Planning Application (PA) (23/03120/FUL) in process for an 8-warehouse site on 100 acres of open farmland next to junction 7 of the M3. The site is known as Oakdown Farm. Should this PA get approval it will mean 2.5 vehicles, (including cars, HGVs, vans etc.) will enter the warehouse site every 1 minute. Given the traffic problems in the area from existing and future housing developments including Many Down South, the traffic on M3 as well as the road system in and around Basingstoke will increase considerably.

There are no plans to improve junction 7 nor will there be any new roads on the west of Basingstoke to improve traffic flows.

(See Cllr. Stephen Reid's blog, Reidaboutbasingstoke to get his view of the problem).

Thank you for reading this – please pass this information on.

See CAGE's Facebook page, or cleanairgreenenvironment.org.

email: cleanairgreenuk@gmail.com , or call: 07768 812882

HATCH WARREN WI

The speaker at our meeting in March was Rob Heard from the Older Drivers Forum who told us all about his life and his time with Hampshire Constabulary.



He has a passion for road safety and was part of the VIP Motorcyclist Escort Team for Hampshire Constabulary helping to escort Royalty and foreign heads of state when they visited the UK.

He also impressed upon us the importance of drivers having their eyes checked regularly as they get older.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 4th April when our speaker will be Heather Wylde with her talk entitled 'Anyone Can Draw a Tiger'.

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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OLD DOWN & BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

AGM. Our AGM will be on 11 April (7:30 pm) at Old Down Hall. Please do come along to show your support for Old Down and for Beggarwood. There will be a short wildlife presentation, an update on the group's work and refreshments – tea/coffee and homemade cake.

The group ran its first Sunday workparty on Old Down on 25 February. Sadly not many local people turned up but there were enough from other groups to get some tasks done – mainly removal of dogwood (it gets everywhere, especially where not wanted!) and removal of some old dead bramble. We worked for almost 3 hours (rain held off) with a short break for tea/coffee and cake. The next Sunday work parties will be on 24th March and 28th April. If you are interested please email the group and we will add you to our mailing list or you can just turn up on the day. We are still running our Thursday morning work parties.

Although bird numbers and species on Old Down are diminishing one can always rely on seeing a good number of members of the tit family – *Blue Tit*, *Great Tit*, *Coal Tit* and *Long Tailed Tit*. In the past there has been seen the odd *Marsh Tit* – but not in recent years. The *Long Tailed Tit* is a very sweet looking bird, small and rather fluffy looking, usually moving about in a small flock and having a high pitched call. They make a very intricate small dome-topped nest with side entrance made with lichen, moss and tiny feathers woven together with cobwebs..

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



Great Tit



Long Tailed Tit



Marsh Tit

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 – 12th April

(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

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WEEKEND BAPS

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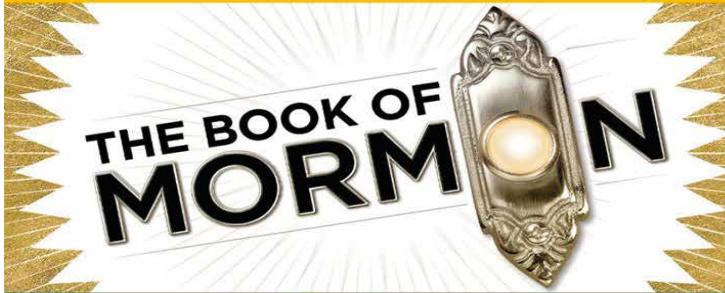

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The Dog Show is back at this year's Hatch Warren Summer Festival!
Saturday 13th July 2024
Bring the whole family, and the dog(s) and join the fun!

Payment plans are available for our coach trips, email office@hatchwarren.org for more information.

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

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP TO FAWLTY TOWERS - THE PLAY



Thursday 27th June 2024 at 7.30PM
Apollo Theatre, LONDON
Good Stall seats

Tickets cost £78 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

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



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

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

Qualified Staff / Extensive Free Holiday Programmes/ Email: warren@hatchwarren.org Follow Us on Facebook @The Warren and Instagram @thewarrenyouthclub

Knife Crime awareness interactive session on 19th April delivered by The Willow Team

the Warren

FREE ENTRY

10-13 year olds

THE WARREN

EVERY FRIDAY

6-7:45PM

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

the Warren

THE WARREN

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Free entry

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Fridays
 14-17 year olds
 8-9:30pm

Email: WarrensHatchwarren.org
 Charity number: 1161117

Hatch Warren Community Centre
 Long Cross Ln, Basingstoke RG22 4XF

What is Resilience? Exam pressures..... on 26th April delivered by Mental Health UK

Monday night is Link2 Club Night

6pm-8.15pm

WE HAVE SUCH FUN!

Link2 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





BEGGARWOOD

A reader has suggested that we look at the history of Beggarwood. For centuries the main use of the land was farming, but here's some information from the BDBC management plan for Beggarwood Park:

Much of the site lies below a high ridge which is likely to have had an historic importance to the local area. There are a number of archaeological settlements on this ridge, as well as Bronze Age burial mounds, individual Bronze Age burials and a roman cremation cemetery (see figure 3). The survival of the Bronze Age burial mounds at Old Down until the last century implies that this was downland pasture through the prehistoric, Roman and medieval period.

It would also appear that the northern boundary (Lower Belt) is of great age and historic importance. It is probably medieval in origin, but may well represent some much earlier landscape division between the lower farmed landscape and a higher pasture landscape with woods on the highest clay capped ground.

Evidence of domestic and farm buildings and enclosures dating back to the Iron Age (750 BC to 43 AD) have been found at the west end of the Park. At the east end, are a Bronze Age (2000 BC to 750 BC) ring ditch - the remains of a burial mound, and further linear features thought to be enclosures.

Evidence of patchy settlement in the area has also been found in the form of graves close to Beggarwood Lane discovered when the estate was being constructed from 2001 onwards. (I included some details of this in a previous article a few months ago).

Coming forward in time, the Roman Road linking Silchester and Winchester became the main thoroughfare in the area, and the Basingstoke and Stockbridge Trust turnpiked it in the late 1700s. This required a tollgate for payments, and in 1801 the trust moved the tollgate to the junction between Beggarwood Lane and Kempshott Hill, with milestones erected.

Kempshott House, discussed in a previous Rabbiter, had extensive grounds and the boundary of the great estate reached down to the Beggarwood area. A document from the Institute of Historical Research states:

In the north of the parish there were two carriage drives approaching Kempshott House through the parkland from the Basingstoke to Winchester road. One skirted the edge of Peak Copse and the other joined Beggarwood Lane, passing through the Coachroad Belt woodland. In 2020 the lane was preserved as a cul-de-sac, Old Beggarwood Lane, with the earlier line of the road preserved as a footpath linking it to the A30.

Terri Reid MA FRSA

Terrielizabethreid.com

References: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/3997.pdf>
https://www.history.ac.uk/sites/default/files/file-uploads/2022-05/001_Landscape_Settlement_Buildings_DRAFT.pdf



Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Community Association

LOCAL ELECTION HUSTINGS HATCH WARREN & BEGGARWOOD

A Q&A SESSION FOR RESIDENTS WITH THEIR LOCAL
ELECTION CANDIDATES

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 15:30-17:00
CAFE IN THE PARK - BEGGARWOOD

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HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

Spring term at Hatch Warren Under Fives has kept us very busy; there has been World Book 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 had a visit from Mary Poppins, a beautiful butterfly, a dinosaur, a giant shark and many more amazing characters. We also adapted our what's in the box game to what's in Mary Poppins bag for world book day. We have been doing lots of reading this term and inviting the children to bring their favourite books from home to read. We've 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 watched a short programme on cbeebies to help the children understand Ramadan, we learnt all about fasting and made some lovely craft lanterns. We also celebrated Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colour. We had a fun week using our brightest paints, doing lots of messy splatting and making colourful pictures.

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 will soon be planting spring flowers and vegetables in our planters.

In the lead up to Easter the children are enjoying lots of arts and crafts, an Easter egg trail in the garden and of course a little bit of chocolate too.

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.

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!

March was a month full of celebrations at Candover Valley preschool as we celebrated World Book Day, Mother's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter!

In March we celebrated World Book Day! The children dressed up as a character from their favourite book and we shared our favourites with one another. The children joined in lots of book themed activities, engaging with story stacks, story boards and creating their own puppets to re-enact familiar stories. We also explored the differences between fiction and non-fiction books, which has led to a fascination with the solar system! The children are currently creating their own representation of the solar system through papier mache planets, as we learn more about our universe.

With another special celebration day last month, the children were busy creating cards and clay trinket pots for someone special in their lives. We also held a Mother's Day Tea, inviting the special people in our children's lives into preschool for afternoon tea treats!

To celebrate St David's day and St Patrick's day, the children learnt about the cultural meaning behind each celebration. We learnt more about the countries Wales and Ireland and their national emblems.

The preschool also held our annual Easter egg hunt fundraising event. The children let loose in our wonderful woodland space as they hunted for hidden treats!

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/

CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

Happy Springtime from Cuckoo Meadow!

And what a busy month we have had! The children have been learning lots about letters and shapes over the last few weeks. They made shapes using their bodies and hands, turned shapes into people on paper and did some lovely colourful shape-printing with paint. Each week, Show and Tell encompasses the 'letter of the week'; U was particularly brilliant this month, with UFO, ukulele, Union Jack and Upsy-Daisy brought in from home for the children to present to the class.



We also took part in a very exciting science experiment – we made a volcano! It erupted and the children gasped as the right red lava flowed down the volcano in the middle of the room! World Book Day was also lots of fun this month, and we even made our own 'Room on the Broom' scene after reading the book together.

We're looking forward to lots more outdoor adventures as Easter approaches, as we do love to make use of the lovely green space we have on the meadow. Perhaps even the Easter bunny might make an appearance?!

Wishing you all a wonderful month ahead,

Laura Reed

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Committee Member

DANDELIONS

With the weather being a little milder we have made the most of our outside area. The children have shown a keen interest in playing with bubbles so to support this



Continued on page 17

further they collected sticks and made them into their very own bubble wands. The children were fascinated by the different shapes they were making and who could blow the biggest bubbles! The children celebrated World Book Day this month for a whole week so that everybody had the chance to come in dressed up and enjoy sharing their love of books. We even created our own story by reading one sentence from each book which the children and adults found very funny. We have enjoyed seeing the children come in in their wonderful costumes.

As we love to celebrate Mother's Day with the children we invited someone who is special to them to come along and share a tasty treat. The children love to have the opportunity to spend time with their loved one in the setting playing and sharing stories. They created cards, flowers and a keyring to show just how much they really do appreciate them.

We are contuing to develop our relationships with Dashwood Manor and will be joining in a cake swap on the 20th March. One of the residents is turning "102" so we are busy creating an extra special Birthday Card from all of us at Dandelions.

We are now taking registrations for 2025/2026. If you are considering Dandelions for your child's early years, please do contact us as soon as possible. Tel No: 01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk

THE BOUNTY SQUASH & RACKETBALL CLUB @ MAYS BOUNTY 2024 a 50th Anniversary year

As a long standing member of the Bounty Squash & Racketball Club, an experience that has given me a great deal of pleasure over the years, through the great circle of friends I have made and the wonderful atmosphere that has always been a feature within the Club. I'm delighted now to be reporting that on the 7th October this year we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. The Squash Club was formed as a section of the Basingstoke & North Hants Cricket Club when the game of squash was becoming very popular and growing quickly. It was also at a time when the Cricket Club were looking for opportunities to introduce other sports to the Club to make better use of their Clubhouse facilities and to generate extra income.

After making an investment of £16,000, a substantial amount of money in the early 1970s, for the building of 2 squash courts, the Cricket Club can now look back with a great deal of satisfaction on a decision taken 50 years ago that has proved so successful. The Club now offers a range of sports which includes:- Rugby, Football, Pool, Squash/Racketball and of course Cricket, under the title " Basingstoke Sports & Social Club" at May's Bounty.

During our celebratory year we are planning a number of social activities with all our squash and raquetball members, both past and present, which culminates in a special event on the 50th Anniversary this October 2024.

However, although getting in touch with our existing members is not a problem making contact with members from years ago presents something of a challenge without up to date contact details.

So if any past member notes these details and wishes to get in touch, to find out what's going on during the year, you can contact me: Bill Ray - Mobile No.07444433421 or for other details refer to the Club's website

basingstokesportsandsocialclub.com

BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

ROTARIANS JOIN IN TO TIDY UP THE CHILDRENS CEMETARY

Sadly, over many years, the children's cemetery at Rooksdown had become neglected and overgrown. The call came and we were glad to be able to join a group of volunteers, many of whom were connected to children who had been laid to rest there, to cut back some of the overgrowth and restore some order to this peaceful space. The brush that was cut back was stacked in a corner to provide areas to encourage wildlife. We left it a work in progress with restoration events planned in the future and also to plant more bulbs especially in the snowdrop garden. It is a quiet reflective space, close to nature and full of birdsong, it's good to see it looking more cared for



Look out for further events and come and join the work party, you'll be made very welcome.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX DELIVERIES

We are very pleased to report that Wessex Rotary's 18,779 Christmas Shoeboxes, including those from the Basingstoke area, were safely delivered by Rotarians to under-privileged children in Ukraine, Moldova, Montenegro, and Romania. Thank you for your shoebox contributions and look out in September for information about the Christmas Shoebox appeal 2024



BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 19th May 2024

The Memorial Park will again be full of Vehicle displays, stalls and other attractions for this big event. A great family day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you. www.bstokefot.co.uk

BE A VOLUNTEER

Become a Friend of Rotary

Have fun volunteering with us and help our local community.

To be one of the team of almost 100 that help at the Festival of Transport - just for a couple of hours, half a day or all day - get in touch with Paul Temple.

Helen Ricketts:- helen@highpathway.co.uk or

Paul Temple:- tempaul45@gmail.com

www.rcbd.org.uk



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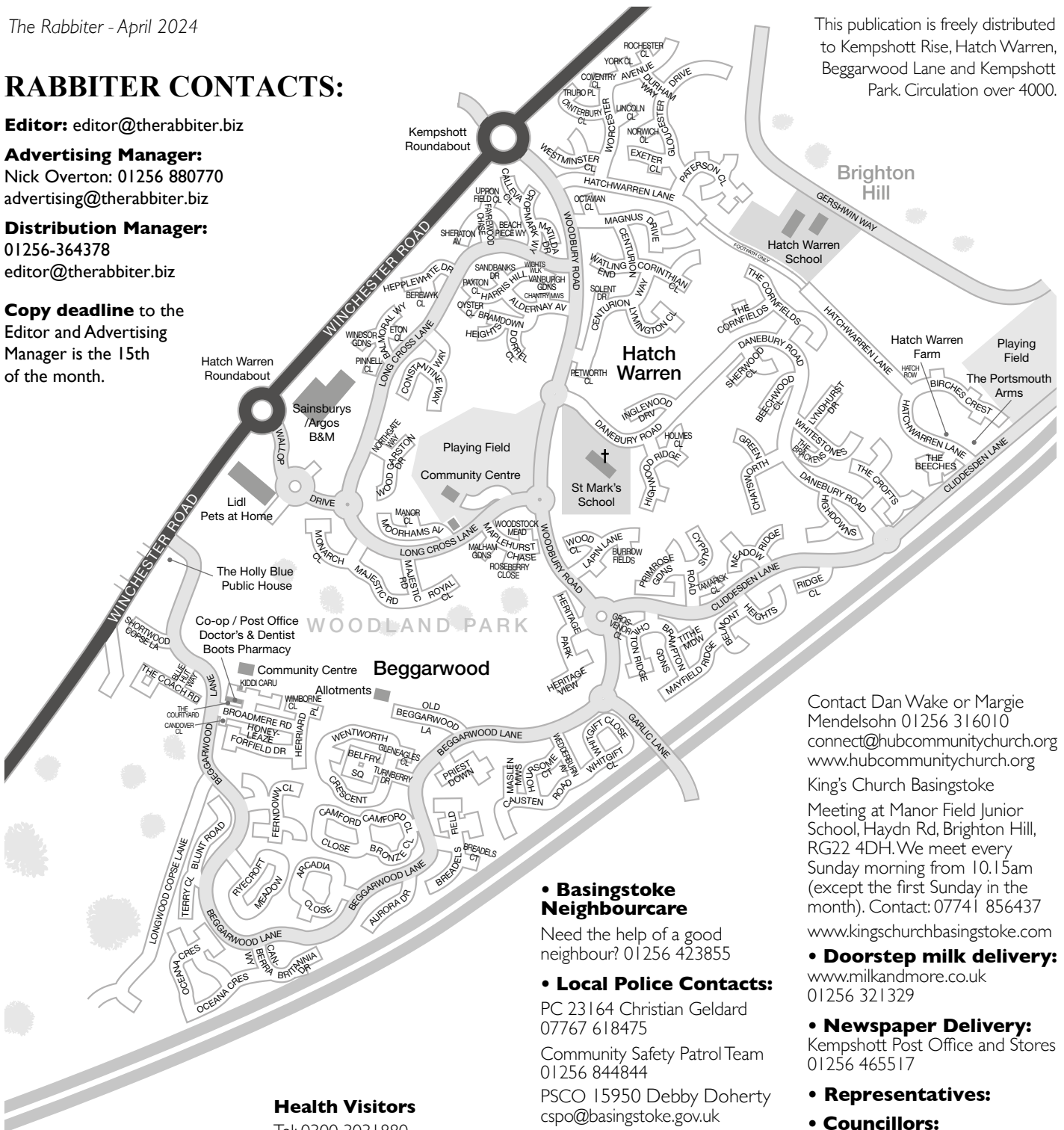
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• Health: Doctors' Surgeries
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Mon-Fri 0830-1800
(answermessage when closed)

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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

• Post Office
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Sun-Sat 0700-2200
Kempshott Post Office and Stores
01256 465517 Mon-Fri 0800-17.30
Sat 0900-1500

• Basingstoke Neighbourcare

Need the help of a good neighbour? 01256 423855

• Local Police Contacts:

PC 23164 Christian Geldard
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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Stephen.Reid@hants.gov.uk

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cldr.Rebecca.Bean@basingstoke.gov.uk

Samir Kotecha, 18 Hollins Walk RG21 7JT 07971 470208
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



At the meeting held on 6th March the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed 51 members to the meeting at which the AGM was held. Following apologies, reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer, a resolution was proposed that the present committee would remain in post until the end of August and then the Group would close. This was because the Chairman did not seek re-election and there were no nominations to take his place. Also, other committee members were sought but no names were put forward. The resolution was carried by a majority vote. The AGM closed with an acknowledgement of all the work done at the monthly meetings by all those not on the committee.

The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave a reminder of the lunch at the Conservative Club following the meeting and gave details of the Arundel Castle trip on 18th April and the visit to Savill Gardens on 23rd May which still had spaces available. He also thanked Tesco for donating a large number of Easter eggs for the raffle.

Our speaker this month was Peter Robson from Basingstoke NeighbourCare. This is a charity which was set up in 1997 to provide transport for older people who need to attend hospital and other medical appointments, go shopping or attend local clubs and other activities. In return the charity asks for a donation towards the drivers' costs. The cars are provided by volunteers who pick people up, wait and return them home. They have approximately 50 volunteer drivers at present who are all DBS checked and more are always welcome.

The charity also has a befriending service, a handy person service which can undertake small jobs in the home and three cafes for people to visit for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. Further details can be obtained from:- www.neighbourcare.com

Our next meeting is on 3rd April when our guest speaker will be Daniel Cowling with a talk titled 'Should we follow the Leader? - Leadership in Challenging Times' and then on 1st May there is a representative from Thrive 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.

Margaret Atkinson

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

Immanuel Church

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www.parihofbasingstokedown.org.uk
Parish Office- 01256 840502
find us on Facebook!

THE PARISH OF BASINGSTOKE DOWN

••••• SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING •••••

• Fully embracing our true selves •

• As the year continues on through April, we continue to celebrate the Easter season and Spring is well and truly upon us.

• What are you finding particularly hard at the moment? Is the economic climate hitting you hard? Is loneliness a struggle? Has your mental or physical health taken more of a dip this winter? Do you have family struggles? Are you out of work?

• Recently I've been reflecting on while taking photos of daffodils. Initially I was trying to ensure I framed just the flowers and then noticed that taking a photo with a backdrop of a block of flats highlighted the colours even more. While I may not usually have noticed the tower block or may have been annoyed at its presence, fully accepting it and embracing it, enhanced the beauty of the daffodils.

• As a late diagnosed autistic individual, to find where I belong. Sometimes I've asked for adjustments, but I've come across barriers. Having come to terms with my differences and embraced them, as I did with the daffodils, I can now see how diversity can be an advantage. I recognise that God has always fully accepted me just as I am. I now advocate for the needs of others, for example, in the workplace, diversity isn't just a social responsibility; it is a strategic advantage that enhances creativity, decision-making, employee engagement, and overall organisational performance.

• Are there things that could help with your struggles at the moment? While there may be things out of your control, for example we can't do anything about the economic climate, we can ask for support with budgeting or look for ways to cut bills. It may be a combination of accepting the things we're not in control of but making brave decisions about the things we can change.

• When we're struggling, we may become very inward looking, the dark cloud may feel very difficult to shift as everything we do may shrouded by the stress. Making the effort to take a different perspective may be hard but it could make all the difference. Perhaps a change in direction is due? Maybe asking for help is something you don't usually do but now is the time?

• The world is an incredibly diverse place. We may prefer to surround ourselves with people who agree with us or to stay in our comfort zone. However, true beauty is when we embrace difference, we listen to the stories of other people, and we wonder if change is possible. As a Christian, God teaches us to love our neighbour. While we're busy worrying about our own struggles, it may be hard to embrace this teaching as well. However, I believe working together as a community, we'll be more likely to relieve each other's stresses and strains.

• The Bible teaches us, no matter what you're struggling with, God loves you, just the way you are. God made each one of us unique, beautifully diverse, with purpose and intension.

• So, I encourage you to ask these questions of yourself: What is my purpose? What unique attribute could God be asking me to embrace in myself that could benefit others?

• **Frances Coleman-Williams – Parish of Basingstoke Down**



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BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND

Vacancy for a Tuba Player

Basingstoke Concert Band is a friendly, progressive wind band, which has a vacancy for a quality tuba player(s). The standard of performance required is minimum Grade 6, with interested players being strong readers, showing a high level of commitment. The band rehearse in the Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall RG27 0EZ every Wednesday evening from 7.30- 9.30pm.

Further information on the Band can be seen at bcband.org.uk
If you play Tuba, and are interested in joining a quality wind band, please contact info@bcband.org.uk

NEW OLYMPIC STANDARD PLAYING PITCH FOR DOWN GRANGE

Hockey and football players of all ages in the borough can now benefit from a new world-class playing surface at Down Grange Sports Complex in Kempshott, Basingstoke.

Having reached the end of its life, the artificial pitch next to the athletics track has been replaced with a brand-new surface that is the first of its kind in the country.

The Poligras Paris GT zero pitch has been funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as part of its commitment to support sport and being active in the borough. This same make of pitch will also be used for hockey at the Paris Olympics this year. Work started in January to replace the council-owned pitch and now it is finished users of the facility, which include Basingstoke Hockey Club, can't wait to start playing on the new surface.

Claire Brockbank, Chair of Basingstoke Hockey Club which boasts nearly 500 members and 22 teams including a national league ladies first team, said: "Our wonderful club is so excited to be the first in the UK to have this Olympic level playing surface, it will provide our members and the local Basingstoke and Deane community with the ultimate sports facility and we are so grateful to the council for supporting the club's continued development. If there are any members of the community interested in taking up the sport or getting back on a pitch please get in touch through the hockey club's website or social pages."

Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Culture Cllr Kerry Morrow said: "We are committed to supporting or, where appropriate, investing in sports facilities in the borough to enable people of all ages and abilities to have the best opportunities to be active and experience the other wellbeing benefits of sport."

"The playing surface at Down Grange is used by hockey and football teams and had reached the end of its life. I am delighted we have been able to secure this world-class playing pitch for the borough, it looks fantastic and I know there are many people who can't wait to get playing on it. This investment will support the many hundreds of players of all ages who use this facility to develop their game, while aiming to give our area top quality sporting facilities."

For more information on how to book the council's sports pitches and facilities visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/hire-sports-facilities

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Listening to good music has the same effect
as reading a good story

PROBUS HEAR ABOUT THE WIT AND SATIRE OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN

The speaker, Dr Stephen Goss, immersed the members of the Probuss Club in his subject as he delved into the background of some of the famous and amusing operettas created by Gilbert and Sullivan in the nineteenth century.

Although one member, as a schoolboy, had taken part in a performance many members had not seen such performances on stage. And yet, most of these works are well known and it came easy to hear renditions of several of the popular songs.



was a band master and as a child Arthur was a chorister in the Chapel Royal. He attended the Royal Academy of Music and following three years at the Leipzig Conservatory, he initially struggled to make a living as a conductor, organist, teacher and choir master. He wrote serious music including for royal occasions and became well known as England's most promising composer.

William Schwenck Gilbert had a variety of jobs most of which needed a good level of expertise in the English language. He had been a civil servant, a barrister, a comic journalist and became a captain in the militia. He drew on the experiences from these occupations writing four plays a year for ten years.

It was interesting to discover the witty commentary on contemporary society, with a look at the stories behind some of most famous pieces of music. WS Gilbert developed the 'topsy-turvy' words that become so familiar, and Arthur Sullivan was able to compose music that suited each situation.

They wrote fourteen comic operas between 1871 – 1896 with the

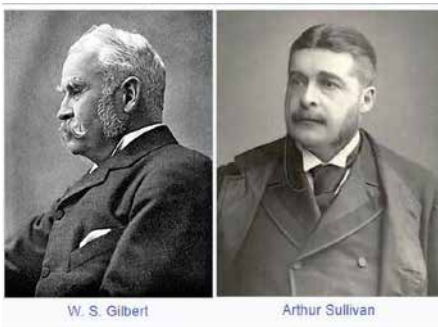
most popular being HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado. They were hugely successful with HMS Pinafore having an initial run of 571 performances and within a year was on the stage in USA and across the world.

The thinly veiled satire of some of the plots was uncovered to the enjoyment of the audience, along with the unmasking of characters which were deliberate parodies of specific Victorian politicians and notables. Gilbert's political satire often provoked fun at the wealthy and powerful whom Sullivan sought out for friendship and patronage.

Richard D'Oyly Carte brought Gilbert and Sullivan together and nurtured their collaboration. He built the Savoy Theatre in 1881 to present their joint works which became known as the Savoy Operas and was the first public building in the world to be lit by electricity. The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company was formed just to promote these operettas and performed over 35,000 Gilbert and Sullivan's creations, only closing in 1982.

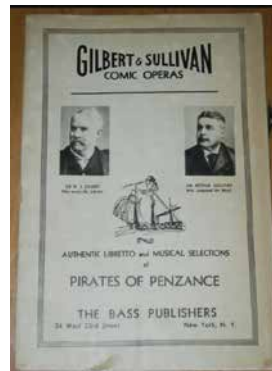
Gilbert and Sullivan had the attention of Victorian society with the wit and satire appealing to popular audiences but was forecast to be transitory. Today, 140 years later they are still enjoyed throughout the English speaking world.

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



Seeing the words on a large screen brought home the skill of the librettist. The audiences of the day were drawn towards the clever writing rather than the accompanying music of the more famous composer, Arthur Sullivan, that made the credits change to Gilbert and Sullivan.

Arthur Seymour Sullivan had been brought up in a musical household where his father



ALRESFORD BASED YOUNG RACING DRIVER REVS UP FOR GLORY, ANNOUNCING NEW EXCITING PARTNERSHIP

Fourteen-year-old up and coming Karting superstar, Frank Ward is delighted to announce a new partnership with local business Anscombe and Sons for the upcoming season.

Local family business and Period and Country Home specialists, Anscombe and Sons has joined Frank to help him to achieve his goal of winning races on a national level.

Perins School student Frank is taking to tracks all over the UK in 2024, racing for glory against the best drivers in the country in the National Kart Cup. Karts race millimetres apart at speeds of up to 70 miles per hour in extremely close racing. Frank, who has had a strong start to

the season in testing, is hoping to build on the foundations of last year and be a real championship contender.

Jason Harris, Managing Director for Anscombe and Sons, said of the partnership: "Anscombe and sons is delighted to give back to the community by helping local people achieve their dreams. It's a real pleasure to see a young person from our local area striving towards their goal and everyone at Anscombe and Sons is excited to watch Frank's progress this year."

Frank Ward added: "I'm so excited that Anscombe and Sons is supporting me, as this will push me towards my dreams of working in motorsport. Having lived in this area all my life, I am so pleased to have a local business

championing me this year. This support will make a huge difference to my karting, enabling me to race at the highest level. Racing is my passion and karting is expensive and I could not do this without Anscombe and Sons' support. Their incredible generosity and faith has really shown how fabulous our community can be to its young people."



RESTAURANT REVIEW

HAMPSHIRE DELI & FARM SHOP

Wolverton Park, Ramsdell Road, Tadley

RG26 5RU 07990 556090 www.Hampshire-Deli.co.uk/

What an interesting place this is. It is well off the beaten track and don't let your satnav just use the postcode as mine sent me off the main A339 Newbury Road into Crabs Hill instead of immediately before into Ramsdell Road, where it is signposted. This place is much more Wolverton Common than Tadley.

Then through what appear to be gates to a private estate, with a long driveway that leads into the farmyard. The deli is on the left, next to a butcher's shop.

Outside seating leads into a bit of a Tardis, and the simple entrance with three tables already occupied takes visitors into the deli with an extensive range of English cheeses and blackboards highlighting the daily specials. There were more tables around a corner.

There were three of us on this visit and it was late lunchtime, and we hardly scratched the surface of what a selection of food was available. We settled for paninis- all different. Our friend had bacon, brie and cranberry, Madam had ham and cheese and I had a tuna and cheese melt. They came with a salad garnish and were excellent.

A tea, coffee and a diet Pepsi were our beverages, and the total bill was £29.

A board advertised BBQ lessons on several upcoming Sundays and some nice little gifts are there to tempt an impulse purchase. Apparently, cooked breakfasts here are a speciality. They close at 3.00 pm so this is not a place for a late afternoon tea.

Would we go again? Without a doubt.



SPICED PORK SAUTE

This recipe was given to me by a friend back in the mid 1970s. It very much a dish of that time. However I still cook it and everyone loves it.

500-600gm of pork fillet

1 large onion

1 green pepper

2 tablespoon oil

Can of sliced peaches

1 level teaspoon French mustard

¼ level teaspoon ground ginger

¼ level teaspoon ground cinnamon

Salt and pepper

1 tablespoon lemon juice

Trim pork into ¾" cubes. Slice onion and cut pepper into cubes.

Heat oil in frying pan and add vegetables. Cook for 5 minutes till soft. Remove from pan and place on plate. Add meat to pan and cook gently for 10 minutes, turning occasionally.

Return vegetables to pan. Pour in juice from can of peaches.

Add mustard and spices. Simmer for 5 minutes. Stir in peaches and lemon juice. Heat through and add salt and pepper as necessary. Serve with boiled rice.

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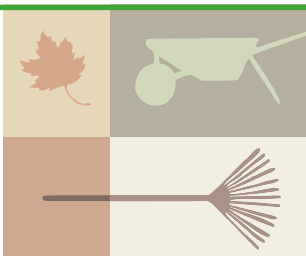
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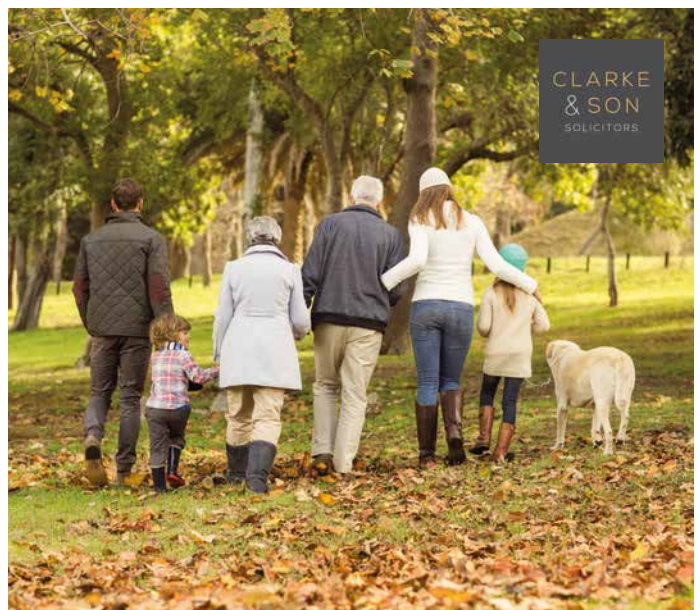
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