



THE Rabbiter

Issue 305 February 2024

All the regular features plus

- **LOCAL NATURE
RECOVERY STRATEGY**
- **BAOS PRESENT EVITA**

and much more

The Community
Newsletter for

**Kempshott Rise,
Hatch Warren,
Beggarwood and
Kempshott Park**

A close-up photograph of several hands holding champagne flutes, clinking them together in a toast. The glasses are filled with a bubbly, golden liquid. The background is blurred, showing other people at a social gathering.

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THE Rabbiter

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Printed by Greenhouse Graphics Ltd
www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk

This publication is freely distributed to
Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren, Beggarwood
Lane and Kempshott Park. Circulation over 4000.

EDITORIAL

Hello Everyone and a belated Happy New Year

There's plenty to look forward to this coming year and dates are already being set for some of the big events in the local calendar including another Lager Festival on 15th June and the annual, free Summer Festival on the 13th July.

If you are visiting Café in the Park you may notice the lovely new natural hurdle fencing installed recently by BDBC working with volunteers including members of the Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group who undertake regular work at the park. Local conservation volunteer Keith Vaughan says:

"Although the laid hedge is in its infancy, I'm hopeful that as the year progresses it'll look even better. It has served to maintain the once overgrown hedge whilst ensuring it remains alive and provides a habitat for birds and animals alike."



There's an opportunity for residents to give their views on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire, further details inside.

Please keep sending in your gorgeous photos for our Pets Corner; they really brighten up the magazine. And our Free Ads column is available for anyone wanting to sell something locally

As always, there are plenty of volunteering opportunities highlighted in the Rabbiter for anyone who would like to give something back, including the Community Association, Conservation Volunteers and also deliverers needed for some rounds for the Rabbiter.

Editor



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care UK

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Patient Participation Group Update

Happy New Year to all, our readers and patients of CGHB. Just a short update this month due to the Christmas celebrations.

PPG Web Site Development

As per our previous note to you we have been working hard on our new Web Site <https://cghppg.weebly.com/>. Feedback has been positive to the new look but we would welcome any further comments, positive or negative as to how we can further improve our web site. Please use the email address above to respond.

PPG Meetings with the Management of the surgeries

Over the last year and since the merger of Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood and Beggarwood (CGHB) into one, we have been meeting with the surgery's Practice Manager and some of her staff on a monthly basis so that we could better familiarise ourselves and help define best practice for our meetings. It has now been decided, that to allow the surgery more time to assess and implement any actions arising after our meetings, the frequency of the meetings be reduced from monthly to 9 per annum. Hence, our feedback directly from the surgery may be a little more spasmodic but please do continue to contact us via our email address with any feedback or concerns you may have and we will bring those to the attention of CGHB.

Change of Ownership - Operose to HCRG Care Group

By the time you read this we will have had our first 2024 meeting with the surgery. We have invited both the Integrated Care Board (ICB), who is responsible for monitoring the NHS England contract awarded to the practice, and also representatives from HCRG to attend this first meeting. We will report more fully in our next newsletter.

Comments, Feedback & Complaints

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.

North and Mid Hampshire Safe Haven

Those struggling with Mental Health issues may wish to visit this site which can offer some support. North and Mid Hampshire Safe Haven - Andover Mind

NATURE NEEDS YOU – HELP INFORM HAMPSHIRE'S LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is working with Hampshire County Council in developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Different from Basingstoke and Deane's emerging Biodiversity Strategy, the LNRS is mandated in the Environment Act 2021 and delivered at a county scale. It will identify the core of our nature recovery networks and strategically important areas for habitat creation and enhancement. The County Council has been appointed by the Government to lead the preparation of the county's strategy, working with all of the county's local councils, as well as the wildlife and farming organisations, national parks and environmental and conservation organisations.

The Councils want residents, community groups and organisations including businesses, parish councils and other interested individuals or groups to take part in a survey asking where they would like to

see improvements for nature recovery, what their views for nature priorities are and what action they may be taking to help nature in their area.

Gathering this information is an important first step in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which aims to ensure Hampshire's natural environment is restored for today's and future generations.

Completing the online survey should take only a few minutes and will provide valuable information.

Working with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the County Council is also arranging a series of community workshops. Details of these will be available in the New Year on the County Council website (Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire), so keep a look out for more information.

People can sign up for regular updates and newsletters on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy here: [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](http://LocalNatureRecoveryStrategy.org.uk) sign up (ondemand.com)



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What is a Non-Traditional Construction?



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You may have heard the term "non-traditional construction" but what does that actually mean? This article will help you understand the definition of a non-traditional construction and why it is essential to consider the construction type when looking to buy a property.

What is the difference between a standard construction and non-traditional construction property?

Standard construction: brick or stone walls with a slate or tiled roof

Non-traditional construction: concrete walls, timber framed, single skinned (including extensions), steel framed, pre-fab or modular; cob walls, glass etc.

Why Does Non-Traditional Construction Matter?

Understanding the type of construction used in a property is crucial because it can impact various aspects of homeownership, including:

1. Maintenance and Repairs: Non-traditional properties may require specialised maintenance and repairs that conventional homes do not, so may be more costly.

2. Insurance: Some insurers may have specific requirements or higher premiums for non-traditionally built homes.

3. Resale Value or marketability: The resale value and marketability of a non-traditional property may be affected, as some buyers may be deterred due to the construction type.

4. Mortgage Lending: Mortgage lenders have stricter criteria and may decline a non-traditional property or offer different mortgage terms.

5. Structural Integrity: Understanding the construction type helps assess the long-term structural integrity of the property.

6. Energy Efficiency: The property may be less energy efficient which may restrict the letting of the property and it could be costly or prove problematic to improve the energy rating of the property due to its construction.

How Can Phillips Law Help?

If you are considering purchasing a property which has a non-traditional construction, it is vital that you arrange for an appropriate survey to be carried out before making a commitment to purchase the property. You should then check with your preferred mortgage lender whether they would be prepared to secure a mortgage against the property.

Understanding non-traditional construction is vital when buying a property, as it can impact various aspects of your homeownership.

Remember, your dream home is within reach, but we want to ensure that you understand the implications and possible pitfalls of purchasing a property which may have a non-traditional construction.

The conveyancing team at Phillips have the knowledge and experience to guide you through the legal requirements specific to non-traditional construction properties. Contact us today.

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HATCH WARREN WI

During December we held a get together at Café in the Park for a coffee and mince pies where the staff at the café made us feel most welcome.

We also had a Christmas lunch at The Restaurant at BCoT where we were able to catch up on all the wonderful things we had done during 2023.

In January we discussed the WI Resolutions for 2024, and we also had a member of the Basingstoke and Deane 'Green Team' talk to us about how we can all help play our part in helping to tackle climate change.

At our next meeting on 1st February we will be having a Fish and Chip Supper plus one of our members will be giving a presentation on her travels around the world.

We have many interesting speakers booked for our meetings in 2024 and if you would like to join us visitors are always welcome. For more information please contact our President Shirley on 07979 217220.

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:

I. Camford Close



MAYORS SPRING CHARITY CONCERT

The Worshipful Mayor and Mayoress would like to invite you to join them at the 'Mayors Spring Charity Concert' taking place Saturday 2nd March 2024.

We are hoping we can make this a grand occasion for the Mayor and a great success as we did with the Basingstoke Variety Show. Everyone had such a great evening of entertainment and we hope you can join the Mayor and Mayoress for another great evening.

The Basingstoke Area Youth Orchestra and Choir returns to The Anvil showcasing some of the best musical talent from across the borough. The wind, strings, percussion, guitar, and vocal ensembles will perform well-known favourites.

The evening will also feature guest choir Hampshire Harmony to celebrate their 60th anniversary, in a programme that will appeal to all.

This 'one night only' concert, is a great opportunity to support your community, whilst raising money for the Mayor's charity appeal, Shopmobility Basingstoke and Citizens Advice Basingstoke and Tadley.

Purchasing tickets in person / by telephone:

- The Box Office is only open Mon-Fri, 10am – 2pm
- The Anvil Box Office telephone number 01256 844244

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

There will be a bucket collection at the end of the evening for the Mayors Charity in which we hope you will support.



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COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

There are some huge issues that will affect the Hatch Warren and Beggarwood area coming to the fore at the moment.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE: The Borough Council's Cabinet has agreed to go out to consultation on the draft of its local plan, to the year 2040. This is a massive document, but the main thrust is that it proposes building homes in the Borough at an average rate of 850 per year, which is not a slowdown in development, and it allocates sites for development accordingly.

SITES PROPOSED FOR DEVELOPMENT: Most of the development in the draft local plan update is proposed for the West of Basingstoke: sites include Manydown North (4,000 homes), Southern Manydown (5,000 homes), Hounsme Fields (750 homes, started), the Golf Course (1,000 homes, started), land known as 'South West Basingstoke' (4,500 homes and potential site for the new hospital), and Popham airfield (3,000 homes). This totals over 18,000 homes and means that development will reach from the A339 Kingsclere Road in the North all the way down to M3 Junction 7 and the A30.

CABINET MEETING: I attended the Borough Council's Cabinet meeting and asked that the Councillors review the draft plan to investigate whether recent announcements from the Government give them scope to reduce the build rate for the Borough. I believe there is such scope, but they declined to do this.

NEW HOSPITAL CONSULTATION: The NHS in Hampshire is consulting on proposals to build a new hospital, invest in Winchester hospital and make changes to acute hospital services in Basingstoke and Winchester. As part of its statutory duties, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board is running the consultation. The preferred site for the new hospital is near M3 Junction 7 and funding has been secured. The web page to join the consultation is at <https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/>. Alternative just type HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER into your search engine: it will take you to the right place.

THIRD APPLICATION FOR WAREHOUSES: A new application has been submitted for warehouses on the Oakdown Farm site, opposite the preferred site for the new hospital. By the time you read this, the consultation period will have closed, and then it will be a case of watching for the application to come before the Development Control committee.

SALE OF OPEROSE: It has been announced that Operose is selling its UK operation to a company called HCRG. This will affect the Camrose, Gilles, Hackwood and Beggarwood surgeries. The surgeries' Patient Participation Group is asking for a dialogue with the local Integrated Care Board, which is responsible for monitoring the NHS England contract awarded to the practice, and representatives from HCRG so that it may understand the implications of this change.

Now, some of the more 'routine' issues:

KEMPSHOTT ROUNDABOUT: Over the holiday period there was considerable flooding on the Kempshott roundabout, which

caused the inside lane to be blocked. The roundabout is drained through soakaways and I was worried that the water table might have risen so high as to stop them working. No, that was not the cause: it was a blocked drain that runs through the centre of the roundabout that was blowing back through a manhole cover. Thames Water attended to clear the problem (and hopefully the blockage).

BRIGHTON HILL ROUNDABOUT: Following the opening of the revised roundabout, I have had some detailed points brought to my attention regarding lane markings and signage. I am looking to broker a meeting to discuss them. Some of the road signs seem to be badly positioned and some lanes could be better marked to advise motorists how best to position their vehicles. In general, however, the roundabout appears to be working well and the extra capacity was sorely needed.

BROADMERE ROAD ADOPTIONS: At the time of writing the outstanding issue barring the way to adoption is the repair and re-siting of some of the streetlights in the Broadmere Road area. This is something that the developers have to carry out. I am assured that all legal documents have been prepared to move quickly to adoption after that. I have some issues that I want to progress after the adoption has gone through.

MEETING ABOUT NEW HOMES: I attended a meeting with residents of two new developments along the A30, who reported problems with build quality and access issues. A residents' association is being formed to help present the problems to the developers.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ SUCCESS: Iain Friar has contacted me to report on the success of the Christmas Quiz he organised in the Cafe in the Park, Beggarwood. 18 teams took part, and the winners were the Modest Mouses. The next quiz is scheduled for Friday 1st March (St. David's Day). Early booking for teams of 4 to 6 is recommended to ensure a space: please call the office on 01256 811262.

CYCLING CONSULTATION: I attended the first consultation event held in the Baptist Church, Gerswin Road. Hampshire County Council is considering how to improve cycling and walking links from the Hatch Warren roundabout, along the Winchester Road and into town. It does not have a favoured solution in mind at the moment, but wants to capture peoples' comments to help produce one. At the Hatch Warren end, I urged them to consider solutions that would not take width off the A30 carriageway. Having just spent £20 million to improve throughput at the Brighton Hill roundabout it would seem counter-productive to reduce capacity on one of the main roads leading to it.

ST MARK'S SCHOOL is running a petition to save its school crossing patrols and is inviting everyone to sign it. Details are on its Facebook page.

BLOG: You can find more details on many of these subjects on my blog: <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>

Stephen Reid

County Councillor: Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

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PROBUS LEARN THINGS ABOUT CRICKET

The fact it was a bitterly cold day encouraged the members of the Probust Club of Basingstoke to think about summer days and hearing the strike of willow on leather as their guest speaker, Mike Brook, reminisced about his interest in that most English of games, cricket. Hampshire is home to the Hambledon Cricket Club, founded in 1750, known as the cradle of cricket, where many of the laws of the game were formulated.



Most people learn something new every day and this occasion was no different. Because this was Mike Brook's 222 speaking engagement, the cricket aficionados understood that this could be termed a double Nelson. Apparently, a Nelson in cricket is when the score is on 111 runs and considered unlucky. It was named after Admiral Lord Nelson who, history incorrectly recorded, had one eye, one arm and one leg, which is not strictly true as he lost his sight but not his eye and had two legs when he died. And when



the three wickets are viewed without the bails look like 111. Tradition has it that on this score the batters and umpires raise a leg to salute the Admiral.

But many question what it is about cricket that keeps many middle-aged men interested and playing the game long after much younger men have retired from other field team sports. It certainly is not an easy game and because the fear of physical injury is very common in recent years much protective equipment is worn by the two batters at the crease, the wicket keeper and those fielders positioned close to the batter. These days it is not correct to call them batsmen as more ladies take up the game. It is said to be character building although each match score book clearly show the failures. The greatest number of wickets being lost is when the score is at zero, so there is real pressure on the opening pair of batters. Pre-game nerves are only sated when the game is won. However, batters would prefer a good personal run total in a losing game than a poor score in a winning team.

The radio programme Test Match Special has changed over the years. One of the greatest commentators was Basingstoke's own John Arlott who was born at the



lodge house at the old cemetery on Kingsclere Road. He was broadcasting the first time a streaker ran across the pitch and called her a freaker. Something that women find fascinating with many copying this act over the years.

During wartime a cricket match was abandoned due to fog, but the commentators continued to broadcast this now fictitious game so as not to let the Germans know about the weather.

Mike Brook finished off by considering the closeness of cricket to golf by recalling the story of the radio programme with Eric Sykes coming home frustrated at his performance on the golf course and threw his bag of clubs into the corner. Hattie Jacques questioned why continue playing if it gets him into a bad mood, with the reply coming, "because it's the only pleasure I get".

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

Pets Corner

Send your photos to
editor@therabbit.biz



Brothers Pumbaa and Mango – Alice

NEWS FLASH FROM COMMUNITY CENTRE...

EXCITING NEWS

We are pleased to announce the relaunch of Hatch Warren After School Club. We will be open from Monday 19th February and can collect children from St Mark's School only. The booking system is now open for bookings: iPAL: Booking, payment and management system.

Louise, Gill and Narinder look forward to welcoming you back.



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 07415 546491
Email: study@hampshirelearning.co.uk



OLD DOWN & BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

The end of December and early January was not a great time for getting out. An awful lot of rain and so windy. One wonders how wildlife copes, especially the birds. But as we got into January there were some beautiful days of blue sky and sun – but very cold!

Nothing much to report concerning the 2 sites and work parties have not met up much due to Christmas/New Year and poor weather. So this report is not about anything that is particularly local but just something that you might find interesting: Moths

Moths – liked by some, avoided by some and feared by many! Did you know that moths are better pollinators than bees. There are around 2,500 species in the UK, of varying sizes, colour and pattern. They play a key role in pollinating plants and flowers at night. Most moths fly at night but a few species fly in the day. One that you might see in your garden during the day is the *Humming-bird Hawk Moth*. This is a visitor (not a resident) between April and October.

Moths are around all year – there is the *December Moth* and the *Winter Moth*. The former is a deep brown, fluffy-looking moth with a thick body and a coat of long hair-like scales which help keep it warm in low temperatures. The adults do not feed – just search for a mate and lay eggs under the bark of oak, birch and hawthorn. The latter is not hairy but delicate with fine wings and it is only the male that flies. The largest resident moth found in the UK is the *Privet Hawk moth* – fills the palm of your hand.

Just reminding you that the group is looking to set up a monthly Saturday work party on Old Down. Perhaps a work party on a Saturday would be of interest to you – if so please email the group and we will reply.

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

www.facebook.com/odandbwd



Humming-bird Hawk moth



Winter moth



Privet Hawk moth

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

Sunday offers from 1.30pm onwards

Midweek deals - coffee and cake only £4

Card & A Cuppa with Pauline @ I Create Craft – 9th February

(call 07884 303557 for info)

Health Walk – 1st Wednesday every month

Lots of regular events – please ask at the cafe

For party bookings please visit:
www.hatchwarren.org

WEEKEND BAPS



Beggarwood
Community Centre,
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Tel: 01256 811262

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AND SANDWICHES

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FREE ENTRY

10-13 year olds

THE WARREN


EVERY FRIDAY

6-7:45PM

We are proud to be the only youth facility in the area offering a wide range of activities every week. Young people can enjoy socialising with their friends, tuck shop, games, sports and crafts.

Find us on Facebook to book a space!

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



THE WARREN

Late mates

Free entry

Pool - Music - Xbox - Table Tennis

Hot Food

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

Email: Warren@Hatchwarren.org Hatch Warren Community Centre
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Charity number: 1161117



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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 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.

- **LINK2 AIMS to:**
- Maintain and develop our access to work programme
- Develop confidence for independent travel
- Provide experiences to promote Resilience and self esteem
- General Life skills and finding their full potential as an independent adult
-



For further information please go to <https://www.hatchwarren.org/link2>

Can your company support our fundraising activities? Please email office@hatchwarren.org



WINDMILLS AT DUMMER

It seems hard to picture now, but in the 18th and Nineteenth centuries there were two windmills close to us in Hatch Warren and Beggarwood, both at Dummer. Two windmills in close proximity to each other demonstrates the agricultural nature of the area and the amount of grain being produced by local famers which then needed to be processed prior to transportation by local turnpike and canal.

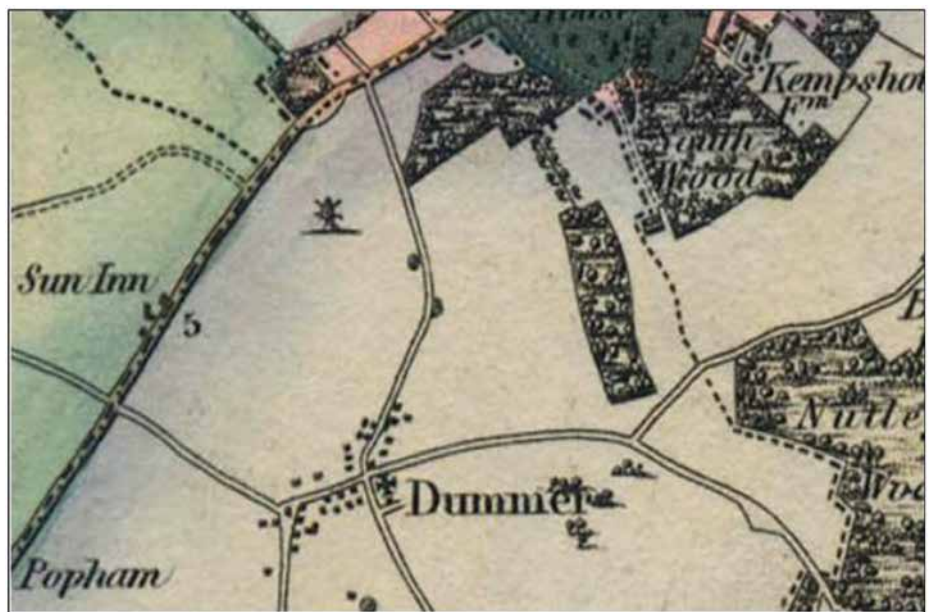
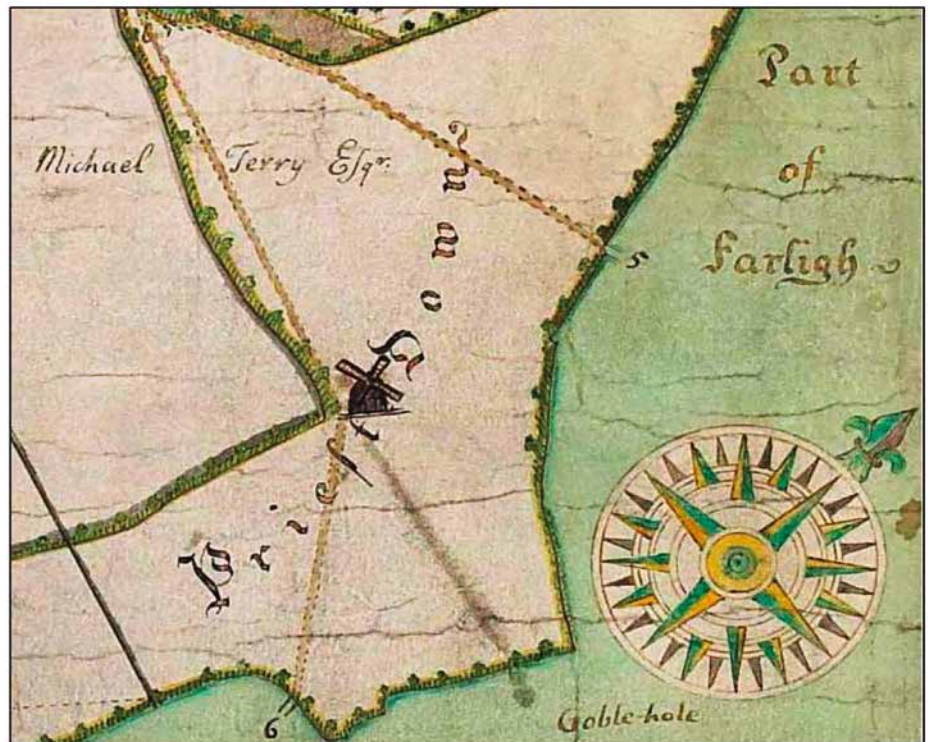
One windmill, first mentioned in the mid 1700s, was situated at the highest point in Dummer at Priest Down, the other was at Little Manor Farm. In 1818, grinding two sacks of barley at Little Manor cost four shillings.

In 1833 Little Manor Mill was hit by fire which could be seen from the turnpike road which led up Kempshott Hill. Although mill fires were frequent as flour dust is highly flammable, the mill had not been worked for three weeks and perhaps as the swing riots were still a close memory, arson was suspected, especially as there had been another arson attack in Dummer quite recently. Following the fire the mill was not rebuilt.

Source: https://www.history.ac.uk/sites/default/files/file-uploads/2019-11/Dummer_ECONOMIC_HISTORY_17.pdf

Terri Reid MA FRSA

Terrielizabethreid.com



Contemporary maps showing windmills at Priest Down and Little Manor from document

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LODDON VALE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

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New year for us all. Start the new year with an exciting sport for all. Meet lots of new friends, enjoy the game of indoor bowls at Loddon Vale indoor bowling club. We have a special New Years membership rate to encourage you to join.

Lovely bar, skittles alley and darts to add to our facilities. These facilities are for hire too by non members. Special rates to hire the function room for members, to celebrate any event you want, too.

We are a friendly club and encourage friendship, social bowls, as well as competitive bowls if you still have that competitive spirit in you.

Lots of free parking, the club is open from 9.00 am to 10.00pm seven days a week in the winter.

For more info call 01256 356507 or check out our website for lots more information on our club.

Jim and Andy are normally about just after 11.55 am on a Tuesday and Thursday morning to show you around. Any other time just turn up and have a look and pick up membership details from reception.



HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

It's been a wonderful start to 2024 at Hatch Warren Under Fives. The children have enjoyed getting back into the preschool routine and we have welcomed new children who have settled in brilliantly.

We started the year by reintroducing the story of the Colour Monster at group times. It's a fantastic book that helps the children to recognise and talk about how they are feeling. The children have helped us update our display boards by making some lovely new artwork and we have also been focusing on "All About Me" to help get to know the interests of the children so we can plan our activities moving forward. Our book of the week is currently The Smartest Giant in Town, the story teaches us about kindness and generosity and the children have loved joining in with the rhyming words. We have been playing the listening game of sound bingo so we can focus on the children's recognition of sounds, and we have also been busy with number recognition work using locks and keys.

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

We are continuing with our small group work each week with Write Dance, a super fun session and a fantastic way to build motor skills and introduce writing skills; we are still having fun with our science experiments, dough gym, cooking and makaton signing.

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

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

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

The dawn of a new year brings an exciting start at Candover Valley Preschool, where I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new headteacher.



The team at CVP is dedicated to cultivating a nurturing environment that encourages exploration, growth, and creativity in our young learners. We believe in fostering a love for discovery while providing a safe and inclusive space for each child to thrive. I am honoured to lead this passionate team of educators and collaborate with the families in our community.

The children have returned to preschool with a post-Christmas buzz; excited to share their festive experiences with their friends and teachers. Our preschoolers are embracing the magic of winter. We have been experimenting with ice and have even enjoyed the first flurry of snow!

I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to the adventures we will share in the coming year.

Best wishes for a happy new year;

Milly Pearson

Pre-School Head, Tel: 01256-389008
www.candovervalleypreschool.co.uk/



DANDELIONS

What a busy and fun half term we have had so far and there are still so many things to look forward to.



This week we had Boogie Mites returning to us. The children thoroughly enjoyed their last session with Lizzie and have loved seeing her again. We have purchased the "School Ready Programme from Boogie Mites and our team will be learning to lead music activities and transform children's listening and speaking skills going forward. The children love the provocations set up by the staff. These are set up following the

children's interests or with their next steps of learning and development in mind.

Our spider provocation provided numerous areas of learning; from counting the spots, to placing the correct number of legs to each, therefore promoting fine motor skills. The children used great communication skills talking about where spiders live and what they might eat showing their understanding of the world around them.

Pancake day is always one of our favourite days!! We will be talking about how pancakes are made, our favourite toppings and who can toss the highest pancakes.

Every year we celebrate those special to us on Mother's Day. Our special someone will be invited in and the children will be telling us why they are so important to them. There will also be a treat in store.

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

Happy New Year from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School!

A truly magical Christmas celebration was had at the preschool. On the last day of term, Father Christmas arrived



on his horse-drawn carriage (practicing for his Christmas Eve sleigh ride, of course) with gifts for all of the children. They watched excitedly from the playground as he arrived, before meeting him in person indoors. Our parents got to see him too!



After a very crafty end to the year (making Christmas gongs was one activity which you can see above), we are continuing that trend into 2024! Mrs Harman made a wonderful batch of glittery, sparkly, frosty playdough, which the children could shape



and mould in their hands. They've also made some red robins with very colourful bodies and goggle eyes!

As a whole group, the children also made a big polar bear. They cut out lots of little white squares of paper, to practice their scissor skills and learn more about cold-climate animals. He looked very happy and smiley as the children helped glue down his fur. A lovely team-building activity that they all enjoyed.

Finally, even though it's chilly out there - the children get wrapped up warm and have lots of fun playing outside - popping bubbles from the bubble machine, throwing and catching balls, being creative with their chalks and playing games like 'what's the time Mr Wolf'. Fingers crossed all this new year rain will subside into a sunny springtime for us all!

Laura Reed

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School
Committee Member

WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY

Happy 2024 to you all

It's hard to believe but I have now been writing these columns for two years. It's been a real privilege to reach out to so many in the community this way, and I'd like to give huge thanks to the entire team behind The Rabbit, from the editor and the printer to the contributors and those who deliver it every month. A good local magazine is an invaluable resource for residents and wouldn't run without dedicated work and volunteering from many people. We're very lucky to have you all!

Volunteering is often the lifeblood of a community. It can provide a safety net for those who've hit hard times or been failed by support structures; can match people with resources up with people with expertise; it can be a social lifeline and purpose for those that want occupation. I would like to help facilitate and matchmake more of this sort of activity for the benefit of the area.

To that end, my friends over at the Chineham Repair Café want to expand their network and are looking to run a monthly café here! The Repair Café provide a brilliant service: helping people to change mindsets in a culture that's often buy-and-

dispose focused, saving people money, passing on valuable skills that die out as we forget how to use them and - best of all - helping to save the planet by conserving raw materials and energy. And you get a cuppa to boot! If you'd like to be involved in running or providing a space for a local version, or might want to volunteer in an admin or treasury role, let me know or email info@chinehamrepair.org.uk. You can find out more at chinehamrepair.org.uk.

Please do remember that both the consultation on the new hospital we might get, and the window to comment on the latest application for the Junction 7 warehouses, are currently open for feedback and it's vital that as many people take part as possible. The warehouse deadline is up first, on 22nd January - if anyone is unsure how to access these spaces or has questions about either proposal please do get in touch and we're happy to talk through it all.

As ever, you can sign up for my monthly Hatch Warren and Beggarwood newsletter on the QR code below or see what we're up to on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages @wepbasingstoke. Stay warm and best wishes!

Stacy Hart

Women's Equality Party
Basingstoke Leader



FROM THE DESK OF OUR MP

As residents know, plans for our new hospital are well underway. A huge amount of work has already happened and last year we achieved two key milestones:

1. £900 million was ring fenced by the Government to fund the new hospital and improvements to Winchester hospital, making this the largest infrastructure project in our town's history
2. The New Hospital Public Consultation was launched on the 11th of December and will run until the 17th of March

Reaching the position at which a public consultation can be launched demonstrates the advanced stage of these plans. The consultation is open now and residents can have their say, including to give their thoughts on where the hospital should be located.

The consultation document which is mercifully short and easy to understand, outlines the available options and

justifies the hospital Trust's preferred option on clinical grounds, putting safety and the health of our community first.

These plans represent a once in a generation opportunity. They will enable the latest technologies to be available, modernising the way healthcare is carried out, whilst allowing us to adapt to the changing needs of Basingstoke's rapidly ageing population.

The new hospital is not only for us using it today, but for all who come after us for the next 50 years. For these reasons, it is essential that as many people as possible have their say so we can help ensure our new hospital delivers what we need.

The NHS is planning to open the brand-new hospital's doors in 2032, but I am doing all I can to make the case that this date ought to be earlier. Demonstrating strong public support for the plans is an important element. Unlike other places in the country, our Hospital Trust, Borough Council and County Council are in complete support of the

project. I have been reiterating this to the Government and will continue to do so, arguing that this broad support and the maintenance costs at the current Basingstoke Hospital warrants us moving forward more quickly.

You can take part in the consultation and read the proposals by visiting the "Hampshire Together" website <https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/>. The new Hospital will change NHS healthcare in Basingstoke and I hope that you are able to have your say in the consultation. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email my office.

Dame Maria Miller



RABBITER CONTACTS:

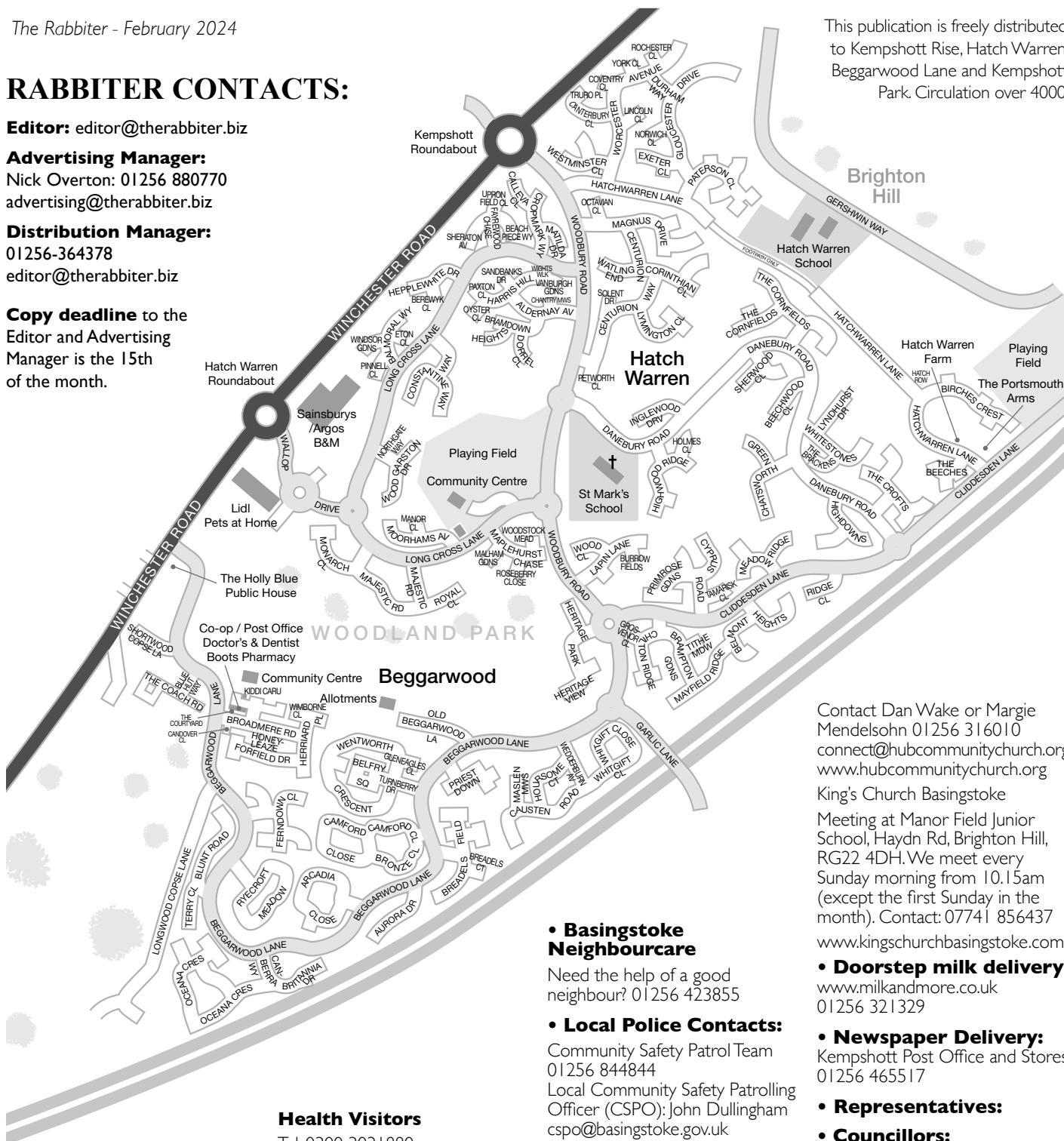
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Copy deadline to the
Editor and Advertising
Manager is the 15th
of the month.

This publication is freely distributed
to Kempshott Rise, Hatch Warren,
Beggarwood Lane and Kempshott
Park. Circulation over 4000.



• Basingstoke Neighbourcare

Need the help of a good neighbour? 01256 423855

• Local Police Contacts:

Community Safety Patrol Team
01256 844844
Local Community Safety Patrolling
Officer (CSPO): John Dullingham
cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk
Hampshire Constabulary 101
Crimestoppers 0800 555111

• Churches:

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

Health Visitors

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

Dentist

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• Library:

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

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• Health:

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CGH Partnership
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Mon-Fri 0800-1830

Broadmere Road Surgery
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(answermesssage when closed)

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

King's Church Basingstoke

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School, Haydn Rd, Brighton Hill,
RG22 4DH. We meet every
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(except the first Sunday in the
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www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com

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Stephen Reid, 34 Centurion
Way RG22 4TJ 320860
Stephen.Reid@hants.gov.uk

Borough Council:

Rebecca Bean, 12 Arcadia
Close, RG22 4AJ 07506 570926
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



The Group did not hold a meeting in January as it would have been so close to the Christmas and New Year celebrations. That means that the first meeting of 2024 will be on Wednesday 7th February when we have a talk on Beekeeping from Fred Swift. Then at our March meeting we will have our AGM with a presentation by Peter Robinson from Basingstoke Neighbourcare followed, as usual, by lunch at the Conservative Club.

Meetings for the rest of the year include talks and presentations on a wide range of subjects including 'Should we follow the leader?', Gardening for the disabled, The Willis Museum, Naomi House, Henry VIII, The Sex lives of Kings, Sweeney Todd, and Secrets of our Bodies.

Our first trip for 2024 is on Thursday 18th April when we are going to Arundel Castle in West Sussex the ancestral home of the Duke of Norfolk. Built in 1068 it has had a long and colourful history including extensive damage during the civil war. Modern restoration was completed in 1900 with many up-to-date features being incorporated into the building and the gardens have recently received significant improvements. Prices and timings will be issued nearer the time.

Other outings throughout the year include Savill Gardens, Wisley Gardens, a River trip, and a Mystery Trip around Historic Hampshire as well as our Afternoon Tea and a Christmas Lunch.

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

David Cowling




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THE PARISH OF
BASINGSTOKE DOWN

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Why do I have so little faith?

I write this article at a time of seemingly unparalleled uncertainty and gloom. Societal and world events have hitherto headed in unprecedented directions, with many of us feeling like onlookers or pedestrians with no sense of control. The implications of the AI genie being let loose, extreme weather patterns, cost of living crises and the current post office IT scandal all contribute to a growing sense of unease. The suffering from conflicts between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine only exacerbate our worst fears, with some commentators suggesting a much larger war erupting across the Middle East and perhaps beyond.

It will therefore come as little surprise that Reuters have reported a sharp decline in followers of mainstream news with as much as 40% of individuals no longer having a strong interest in following regular events. What perhaps is more interesting is another related finding, that less access to news and more interaction with friends, family and community significantly increases our sense of well-being. We may not have the power to change or even influence any of the above directly, but we can make a significant difference at a personal and local level.

At a personal level, I am ashamed to admit that I have held a grudge against someone for many years. Someone who wrongfully dishonoured our immediate and wider family. So much so that even visiting a once much-loved place in Somerset where this person lives, caused me considerable heartache. Yet, introducing this lovely market city of Wells to someone else in our family this Christmas completely transformed my thinking, and with fresh eyes recognised the importance of forgiveness, yes even letting go of the past. I also began to question again my own lack of faith to enact change, something Jesus encountered repeatedly among his disciples.

One occasion recorded in Matthew's Gospel (17:1-20) begins with a very select group of disciples Peter, James and John returning from a literal mountain top experience, where Jesus "... was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus."

Yet, just a few verses later with their fellow disciples they are rebuked for not healing a demon possessed boy. To their credit, albeit in private, they came to Jesus and asked, why couldn't they drive out the demon to which he stunningly replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Jesus often talked in parables to illustrate a moral or spiritual truth. Even contrasting one of the tiniest seeds to figuratively moving a mountain. Sometimes that mountain is purely and simply our own mindset as I experienced and was for so long unwilling to change.

Personal Reflection from Hilary Nickell Parish



THE PARISH OF
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Sat 3 Feb, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Basingstoke, Tickets: £33.50, £29.50

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY

With the Academy Of St Martin In The Fields

Sat 10 Feb, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Basingstoke

STRASBOURG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Wed 14 Feb, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets: £44, £38, £33, £24, £16. Under 25s and f/t students £12

COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS

Thu 15 Feb 2024, 2pm, The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £16. Under 16s £14, Suitable for: ages 6 to 400!

CERY'S HAFANA

Sat 17 Feb, 8.15pm, The Forge, Basingstoke

Tickets: £18. Under 25s and f/t students £16

THERE'S A MONSTER IN YOUR SHOW

Based on the Best-Selling Picture Book by Tom Fletcher and illustrated by Greg Abbott

Sat 17 – Sun 18 Feb, The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £19. Under 16s £17, Suitable for: ages 2 and over

MORGAN & WEST'S MASSIVE

MAGIC SHOW FOR KIDS

Relentlessly Funny and Bursting with Magic for Ages 5 To 105!

Sun 25 Feb, 2pm, The Haymarket, Basingstoke

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JULIUS CAESAR

By William Shakespeare

Tue 27 – Thu 29 Feb, The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £26. Under 25s and f/t students £16

Basingstoke Blues Club
BBC3 www.facebook.com/groups/BasingstokeBluesClub/

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

Saturday 16th March

Connor Selby Band

Voted the young artist of the year for three consecutive years (2020 – 22) in the UK Blues Awards, the young bandleader and guitarist draws on influences such as Clapton, BB King, Ray Charles and Free, creating a soulful blend of hard-hitting Blues with emotional, introspective song writing with a modern take. Signed with Provogue Records he joins some of the most prominent Blues artists of the 21st century.

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

Saturday 13th April – Brent Hutchinson Band; Saturday 18th May – Thomas Heppell Band.

BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

A MURDER MYSTERY

Supporting Hampshire Hospitals Charity

7.30 pm Saturday 17 February at Test Valley Golf Club. RG25 3DS

The NHS charity supporting patients, staff and volunteers at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust across Basingstoke, Winchester, Andover and Alton hospitals.

Media movers and shakers are attending

THE GALA DINNER LAUNCH

of Max and Molly Burdock's new TV channel MBC

And you are invited to join them!

But as well as a two-course meal with coffee & mints there may also be a murder to contend with - which you can help solve.

£35.00 including 2 course meal including coffee

(choice of menu with vegetarian option)

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<https://events.bookitbee.com/rotary-club-of-basingstoke-deane/themed-dinner-a-murder-mystery-2/>

Book and join in this great fundraising event

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Sunday 19th May 2024


The Memorial Park will again be full of Vehicle displays, stalls and other attractions for this big event

It's a great day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you.

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www.rcbd.org.uk

Fb: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane Tw: @RBstokeDeane

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS
 **THE LIONS CLUB OF BASINGSTOKE**
Registered Charity No: 274337
www.basingstokelions.org.uk
PRESS RELEASE

IT'S BACK! FINALLY!

The Basingstoke Lions Club's ever popular

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, 17th February 2024 – 7pm for 7.30pm
Old Basing Royal British Legion
Crown Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7DN

Our brain-teasing but oh-such-fun quiz nights have taken place twice a year since 1992 but Covid and the resulting aftermath did its dastardly deeds and caused a hiatus in the continued history – we did manage a few by Zoom but 'the real thing' was sorely missed.

So, as above: it's back!

However, the format will be different from previous in that it's a straight 'general knowledge' quiz of 100 questions, with a couple of picture rounds thrown in for variety.

There is only one significant rule: our answer is correct!

And, on the serious side, we are delighted to say that to date these fun evenings have raised in excess of £26,000 for local good causes - as ever, the fundamental aim of fund-raising by the Basingstoke Lions Club.

NOTE: Book your entry early – we have had a loyal following over the years and those 'regulars' will be very pleased 'it's back'!

Cost : £5 per person for teams of up to 6 people

Contact: Tony Bamberger
Tel: 01256 850254
Email: tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk
See: www.basingstokelions.org.uk

Ordinary people – amazing things!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Café IN THE PARK will be six years old on 10th February. It was built as a Community Centre for the Beggarwood area, though the building turned out to be smaller than had been originally hoped. The Hatch Warren Community Association agreed to take over the running of it, and they made some momentous and very good decisions.

The first departure from 'normal' was to position the Community Centre as a café. Father Michael from the local church was a champion of this idea, and it enabled the centre to cater for the natural market of dog walkers who regularly use Beggarwood Park. The Association invested in, and acquired grants for, outdoor seating and table facilities for that purpose.

That led to them branding the building as 'Café in the Park', a name that has proved effective and which positions its activities extremely well.

The Association has had to build up a more varied programme than many community centres. It wasn't allowed to use the building for a play school, given that there was already such a business next door. This removed the possibility of a major source of revenue that other centres enjoy.

As a result, the Café in the Park today hosts a myriad of events including Community Lunches, Ramblers Wellbeing walks, Card and a Cuppa sessions, Beggarwood Bookworms, a 'Next Steps' bereavement group and quarterly fund-raising quizzes.

They also use or hire the room out for one-off events: many people have enjoyed singing Christmas Carols there, and there have been community meetings such as discussions on the local surgery and 'Community Chats' with the local Member of Parliament.

The finances suffered during the COVID-19 shutdowns and the committee is still working hard to recover fully. It is a great children's party venue and community space.

At six years old, the Café in the Park is now an integral and important part of our community. Many Happy Returns!

COUNCILLOR DAN PUTTY

Vaping has become the trend with people. I am concerned that it is being encouraged by big tobacco companies. I am more concerned about youngsters trying it and as they have nicotine they are getting hooked on it.

Walking around I see them blowing big puff of smoke in the air. It is like the dense smoke which disappears in a short time but the smell lingers and passers by inhale them. I believe it is like secondary smoking.

I would urge parents to dissuade their youngsters to take on this craze. They get addicted to them and is very bad for their health.

It would be nice if the youngsters do not get addicted to this craze.

Please take care.

Best regards

Cllr Dan Putty JP

BAOS PRESENT EVITA

EVITA is a celebrated musical portraying the life of Eva Perón, Argentina's influential First Lady. The production traces her journey from poverty to political prominence alongside her husband, Juan Perón. With captivating music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, the musical showcases Eva's rise to power, her advocacy for the working class, and the controversies surrounding her rapid ascent.

Through its iconic songs and compelling narrative, EVITA explores themes of ambition, love, and the complexities of fame while depicting the impact of Eva Perón on Argentina's history and society.

BAOS, a one hundred year old theatre society in Basingstoke, are performing the show in March at the Haymarket Theatre. Dates are the 13th - 16th March and tickets are available at <https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/event/baos-evita>



RESTAURANT REVIEW

PUREFOY ARMS IN SHOCK CLOSURE

The Preston Candover gastropub run by chef patron Gordon Stott made the shock announcement it would be closing its doors on January 27, 2024. Despite his reputation as one of the top chefs in this part of the country, winning many awards and accolades for his cookery skills, and with the Purefoy Arms rated in position 67 of gastropubs in the country, unexpected happenings prompted this announcement.

This time last year this column reviewed the Purefoy Arms and at the time while the food was to a great standard the ambience left something to be desired. If the high quality on the plate is reflected in the price paid, normally the surroundings also need to have an upmarket feel to the place.

Even at that juncture, and in common throughout the hospitality industry, presumably there was a financial problem as he attempted the unusual tactic of trying to sell the remaining years on his lease. The Covid lockdowns coupled with increasing costs of food and fuel meant that the premises were only open from Wednesday to Saturday.

Although there has been outpouring of regret at this news on social media the Purefoy Arms needed more regular custom rather than it was the go-to place just for some special occasion.

In recent times the freehold of the Purefoy Arms has been sold, but Gordon Stott has decided not to proceed with a new lease

and has yet to announce his plans in the catering industry. No doubt there will be many devotees who will be interested to see what the future holds as many followed him five years ago when he moved from the Rising Sun on the A30 at Dummer. Hopefully he will remain in our locality.



ROAST VEGETABLES

What to do with those veg left at the bottom of your fridge. My usual ingredients are onions, sweet potatoes, squash, carrots, peppers, tomatoes, aubergines – sometimes there might be a fennel bulb. If there aren't any tomatoes, I use a tin of chopped tomatoes. Add garlic if you have some. Prepare the veg and cut into cubes. Place in a roasting tray and cover with about 10 tablespoons balsamic vinegar and 8 tablespoons of olive oil. Mix well. Add freshly ground pepper and some herbs – perhaps a couple of bay leaves or some oregano. Cover with tin foil and roast in a slow oven (150 degrees) for about an hour and a half or until cooked. Stir a couple of times.

The roast veg can be used to make lasagne, serve with pasta or jacket spuds. Perhaps stir in some spinach or kale before serving. Or – blitz the roasted veg to make a sauce and freeze to be used with pasta for a quick and easy future supper. Enjoy!

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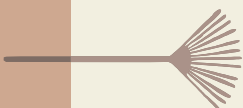
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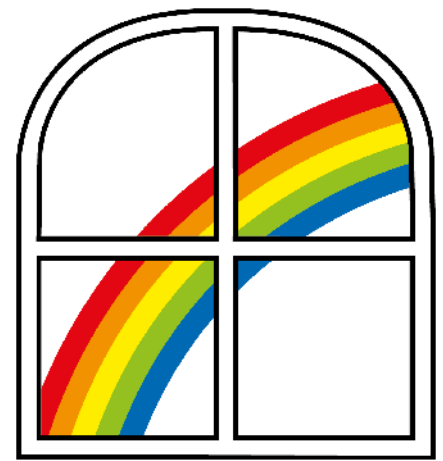
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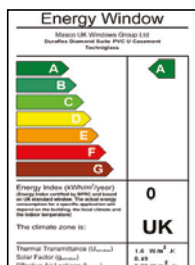
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