

# THE Rabbiter



Issue 316 March  
2025

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



All the regular features plus

- **NEW TREES TAKING ROOT**
- **NHS AWARDS**

*and much more*

FROM THE EDITOR

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## EDITORIAL

After a dismal winter, peppered with violent storms and torrential rain, our front cover this month carries the optimistic picture of new shoots rising as Spring approaches.

This issue carries news of changes in local government that will affect us all. 'Thirty Years Ago Today' recalls the setting up of the local Women's Institute branch and the attempts to bring a Post Office to Hatch Warren. And our restaurant review comments on an establishment that I predict the majority of us didn't know existed!

Our 'Local History Snippets' give an insight into the origins of Mothers' Day, which falls on 30th March this year - quite late. (Partners and children - you have been reminded!)

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. It is once again at 28 pages and in colour throughout. Please spare a moment to thank our team of deliverers who drop the Rabbiter through everyone's letter boxes so promptly. If you would like to be part of that team, please contact us.

I feel that a community magazine is one of the ways in which a sense of local identity is encouraged. The Rabbiter exists because of our advertisers, our deliverers and our many contributors. Thank you, everybody.

**Editor**

**Pets  
Corner** 

Send your photos to  
[editor@therabbiter.biz](mailto:editor@therabbiter.biz)



# THE Rabbiter

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## An exceptional lifestyle at Dashwood Manor care home

When residents and relatives are asked what's so remarkable about living at Dashwood Manor care home in Basingstoke, having fun and being kept busy is always top on their list.

Residents who move into Care UK's Dashwood Manor marvel about starting a new chapter in their life and are delighted at being able to revive their faded social lives and discover new friendships.

### The days go quickly when you're having fun

When Peter first moved into Dashwood Manor, he was quite shy but very soon, with the team's nurturement and support, Peter soon came out of his shell.

Other residents took him under their wing and gave him the companionship he needed. Peter began socialising and enjoying many activities, including dance. He's even dressed in a giant, inflatable flamingo costume, to encourage other residents down to Flamingo Bingo. Always willing to help the lifestyle team and getting involved in the daily tasks around the home has given Peter a sense of purpose.

Peter says: "The days go quickly when you're having fun. The lifestyle team here

### Advertisement Feature

have a great sense of humour and are always going the extra mile to make people smile. Knowing I was used to work at Rolls Royce my entire career, they even organised a trip there. I was so touched."

### Live life your way

At Dashwood Manor you can live each day your way. Our dedicated lifestyle team get to know your unique interests and preferences. We'll support you to continue much-loved hobbies and try new activities - making plenty of new friends along the way!

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To find out more about Dashwood Manor, call **01256 588826** or email [leahanne.wilkinson@careuk.com](mailto:leahanne.wilkinson@careuk.com)

**Dashwood Manor care home**  
**Bradley Way, Basingstoke RG23 7GF**  
[careuk.com/dashwood-manor](http://careuk.com/dashwood-manor)

## THOUSANDS OF NEW TREES TAKING ROOT THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH

New trees that will provide food and shelter for native wildlife are now taking root in gardens throughout the borough after more than 1,500 residents collected free saplings in the Tree-mendous Giveaway.

Launched last autumn by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire Forest Partnership, the giveaway offered residents the chance to get up to two free trees to plant in their gardens to help nurture wildlife and absorb carbon to tackle climate change.

In total, more than 3,000 young trees have been collected across three separate events. The last of these took place at the end of January, when council officers were joined by Cabinet Member for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Cllr Chris Tomblin to hand out the last batch of over 800 saplings.

Spindle, guelder rose and blackthorn were among the 11 native species of trees that were up for grabs. Suitable for local soil and weather conditions, these species will help to support the council's biodiversity strategy by creating new habitats in people's gardens as they grow.

Cllr Chris Tomblin said: "As these thousands of newly planted saplings grow in coming years, they'll make a real difference for nature recovery as they create new homes and food sources for native wildlife while also absorbing pollution and capturing carbon to help fight the climate crisis.

"Getting out into the garden and being around plants is also proven to be calming and reduce stress levels, and so these trees

will also help to support our residents' health and wellbeing now and into the future too.

"If you missed our tree giveaway, or if you took part and you're now curious about what else you can do at home to help our native birds, bees and other wildlife to thrive, I invite you to book a free garden wildlife survey with our Green Team to get top tips for how you can turn your outdoor space into a real haven for nature."

The council organised the Tree-mendous Giveaway to help communities get involved in tackling the climate crisis and protecting nature, following unanimous calls by councillors to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and an ecological emergency in 2021.

The free trees were provided by Hampshire Forest Partnership, which was set up in 2022 and aims to see one million trees planted across the county as part of an ambitious programme of work by Hampshire County Council to tackle the climate emergency.

Free surveys giving top tips for encouraging wildlife in the garden can be booked at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/garden-survey](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/garden-survey)

More information about Hampshire Forest Partnership's Million Tree Challenge, including how to get involved, is at [www.hants.gov.uk/LandPlanningAndEnvironment/HampshireForestPartnership/get-involved/tree-tracker](http://www.hants.gov.uk/LandPlanningAndEnvironment/HampshireForestPartnership/get-involved/tree-tracker)

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## COUNCILLOR UPDATES

### Stephen Reid

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

#### APPLICATION FOR NINE FLATS AT PORTSMOUTH ARMS CAR PARK:

I submitted an objection to the proposal to build nine flats in the back half of the Portsmouth Arms car park. I also leafleted the houses in the vicinity, inviting residents to meet me there. I was very grateful to the many people who came out on a very cold day: their comments proved very useful. Residents were concerned about many issues including the parking situation on local roads, the impact on the area when special events take place at the pub, drainage and the overlooking of the play school. I summarised the points we discussed in a second objection.

**MEETING WITH THE APPLICANTS:** I followed up the meeting with residents with another with the applicants on site, where we talked through the concerns that had been raised. At the time of writing I am expecting the applicants to post a response and copy me in.

**COUNCIL TAX:** For a while it looked as if there could be anything up to a 15% increase in Hampshire's Council Tax this year. That would have required government approval, which was not given, so the increase has reverted to the 'default' of just under 5%. It seems that the government judged Hampshire's cash reserves large enough to last for another year, so that is what was decided on 13th February. The financial pressures on Hampshire are caused mainly by ever-mounting demand for adult social care and children's special educational needs services, including Home to School transport.

**DEVOLUTION:** There are some huge changes in the offing for the structure of our local government. Hampshire has been accepted onto the Government's fast-track Devolution Priority Programme (DPP). Hampshire County Council, together with Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight submitted a 'Hampshire and the Solent' devolution bid to central Government which seeks to bring power and money from Westminster and provide greater local control over vital areas such as education, transport, and health services for Hampshire residents – giving people more power to shape the

things that are important to them and provide robust local accountability.

**ELECTED MAYOR:** As part of devolution, a Mayor will be elected, probably in May 2026, to head up a new Strategic Mayoral Authority across the wider region of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Mayor's job will be to promote the interests of our area to government and also work with local council leaders to make decisions about how to allocate regional funding. Greater collaboration across boundaries should be beneficial in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change. In effect, there will be a strategic body, headed by the elected Mayor, sitting 'above' the local Councils.

**ELECTIONS POSTPONED:** The Government will carry out a consultation, starting immediately, on its devolution programme and, as that would cut across the election period, it has confirmed that the County Council elections scheduled for May have been postponed for a year. There is a precedent for this: local elections were also postponed during the Covid pandemic.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESHAPE:** A separate initiative is to reorganise local government, with the County Council and the Borough Council disappearing, to be replaced by 'unitary' authorities. Unitary authorities are not new: they exist close to us in Berkshire and the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. We are expected to submit interim proposals by 21st March and firm proposals by 26th September (very tight!) with a view to having the new Unitary Councils in place for May 2028.

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

**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP:** I took part in an on-line meeting that the PPG for the Hackwood, Camrose, Gillies and Beggarwood surgeries held with the Care Quality Commission last month. We discussed many issues regarding the local surgeries, drawing on patient feedback and the concerns of the PPG members themselves. We await the CQC report.

**MEETING WITH INTEGRATED CARE BOARD:** Together with Cllr Kim Taylor

(Labour - yes we do work together!), I attended a separate meeting with the Integrated Care Board to discuss our concerns about the surgeries. We were told that the CGHB practice is decentralising its reception functions, so that each surgery handles its own calls. This was welcome, though we can't help but remember that we urged them not to centralise the function in the first place! We also discussed the patient / GP ratios at the surgeries, which have been improving but may still be a tad worse than the national average. I await the notes of the meeting.

**ANAEROBIC DIGESTER:** I attended an on-line meeting with the operators of the Anaerobic Digester. It seems that odour nuisance is still occurring though less frequently than before. Recently, an odour escape was associated with drawing off digestate (the left-over product), which was then spread on local fields. I raised again the question of the Borough Council's intention to introduce food waste collections. I made it clear that, if some or all of it goes to the local Digester, I won't want to see an increase in HGV traffic along Woodbury Road. The operators said that they don't yet know what role they will have, but they have no intention of seeking an increase in their HGV movements.

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

**WHITE LINING:** over a year ago I raised the issue of fading white lines at junctions in the Magnus Drive / Centurion Way area. Some of the markings were improved last year and I am pleased to see that the rest have recently been completed.

**HATCHWARREN AND BEGGARWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** has introduced a new website with an improved structure and a vibrant look to help visitors navigate to the information they need. The new website has been produced by one of the trustees and its link is [hatchwarren.org](http://hatchwarren.org).

**BLOG:** I post about these and other issues facing Basingstoke on my blog at <https://reidaboutbasingstoke.co.uk>



**Stacy Hart**

Borough Councillor:  
 cllr.stacy.hart@basingstoke.gov.uk  
 Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:  
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 basingstokeequality.org.uk

I am delighted to report that the launch of the new Hatch Warren Repair Café in February was a huge success!

The joint project of Councillor Jenkin from Chineham and I, we were overwhelmed with how many residents came along to volunteer, to bring things for free repair, and to donate resources and tools. It all went so well that we've already outgrown the room at the community centre we initially booked and will be booking the main hall going forward!

Initiatives like this are so important but can only survive with community support. We are looking for volunteers with any kind of handy skill, but also people to help with admin, tea-making, etc. Many hands make light work so if you have an hour or two to spare on the first Saturday of the month, or even if you could do alternate months, for instance, please contact me on the details below or email info@chinehamrepair.org.uk.

In other local volunteer opportunities, I have recently met representatives from the Beggarwood Neighbourhood Watch group which has been on hiatus for a little while but would like to get started up again. We've discussed possibilities for future initiatives and the sort of issues that we'd like to see a wider Neighbourhood Watch network keep an eye on. It would be amazing if we could build up pockets of involved residents in every area of the ward and I'm eager to help facilitate this so, if you have any interest and would like to have a chat about what it might entail or how you can be involved, please do

drop me a line and I can put you in touch. Another project that I have been happy to get involved with is the Baton of Hope Tour 2025, which will be an enormous effort in September that the organisers want as many groups and people as possible to engage with. The first Baton of Hope Tour in 2023 was the UK's largest ever suicide prevention initiative; its aim is a zero-suicide society, and its key messages are that there's always hope and that you are not alone. Thanks to Inclusion Education, Basingstoke will be one of dozens of stops across the UK for the Baton of Hope this autumn and the itinerary for the day reaches from Odiham to The Orchard and takes in music, film, art, youth involvement, tons of speakers and they're still looking for more! Find out details in the 'Baton of Hope Tour25 – Basingstoke' group on Facebook or, again, give me a shout.

Some of my favourite work this month has involved visits to residents who have been kind enough to invite me to their homes to discuss their issues over a cuppa. Please do remember that if you prefer to make such an appointment rather than coming to my surgeries, either to ensure a more convenient time or for personal health or mobility reasons, I'm more than happy to set something up to suit you. I also made visits to the Island View Retirement Home complex to discuss casework with residents, and to a Networking breakfast held at Dashwood Manor Care Home for those involved in all aspects of care to come together and make useful connections. Dashwood Manor often hold incredibly useful events on topics like coping with a dementia diagnosis or caring for a loved one with dementia as well as their regular singing sessions, friendship cafés, and so on; these are free and for anyone in the community to attend. You can find out more on their web and Facebook pages.

Equally enjoyable were visits to Brighton Hill school, where the Head Teacher Chris Edwards was kind enough to spare time chatting about current educational challenges and achievements, and a happy half day spent riding along with the Council's Hatch Warren and Beggarwood Street Cleansing Team, who do an amazing job of keeping the ward clean and green. As one of your representatives who is tasked with making in-committee decisions about Council's work, I find it really useful to see first-hand what various teams are doing at the grassroots, and I'm very grateful to our two operatives who were happy to show me a day in their working life and answer my many questions!

As I write it's half-term and I'm prepping for volunteer shrubbery cutting and the big community litter pick this week organised between the Beggarwood Café, Hatch Warren Nature Group and Beggarwood Wildlife Group. These are excellent holiday activities to bring your children along to and there will hopefully be future ones arranged so keep an eye out on their socials feeds and the café noticeboard, and come along to help our environment and grab a delicious cake afterwards for your efforts!

My next 'Ask Me Anything' Councillor Surgery will be on Monday 10th March from 7-9pm at the Portsmouth Arms. Bring your questions, issues or thoughts about the ward along and thank you to everyone who attended in February!

Very best wishes to you and your families



## WAR TIME COMMEMORATIVE SIGN TO A "KIWI AIRMAN" NEEDED INVESTIGATING

Probuss Club of Basingstoke member Chris Perkins MVO was on a relaxing walk when he came across an unusual memorial to a crashed Spitfire pilot. The memorial was on a grass verge near to the church in the hamlet of Weston Patrick just south of Basingstoke.

What caused the plane to crash on 15th August 1942? Was it due to enemy action? Who was the aviator, a member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force? Was he another New Zealander who, like so many, had answered the call and had come to support the mother country in its hour of need?

Chris Perkins MVO retired from the RAF with the rank of Squadron Leader and always had a great interest in historical aspects of the RAF and had gained great experience in searching out information about matters that piqued his interest.

And, so it was, when he spotted this memorial.

RAF Lasham, these days the UK's largest gliding society, was created as a wartime airfield only a mile away so was this Spitfire heading there? Not so, Chris discovered as his research took him through the history of this unfortunate accident,

Bernard Bryn Goodall, born near Auckland in New Zealand was descended from a family who had emigrated from Staffordshire in the 1860s. He had been educated at Putaruru High School where he had enjoyed rugby, cricket, tennis and swimming. At the time of applying for war service and joining the Royal New Zealand Air Force in January 1940 he was employed as a 'Dryerman' at the Whakatane Paper Mills that had only started manufacturing cardboard in 1939 and continues up to the present day.

In March 1941 he enlisted for aircrew training at the Initial Training Wing and then to No 3 Elementary Flying Training School. July 1941 saw him embark for Canada for advanced training under the Empire Training Scheme. In November 1941 he was awarded his 'Wings' and promoted to sergeant at No 6 Service Flying Training School, Dunnville, Ontario. A week later he proceeded to No 1 "Y" Depot, Halifax Nova Scotia to await embarkation for the United Kingdom.

Sgt Goodall NZ/411981 RNZAF, arrived at No 3 Personnel Reception Centre, Bournemouth, on 19th December 1941. On

10th February 1942 he was posted to No 58 Operational Training Unit, Grangemouth near Edinburgh, where he completed his training on Supermarine Spitfire aircraft.

On 21st April 1942 he was posted to No 41 Squadron at Herston in Sussex then on to Martlesham Heath in Suffolk, Hawkinge in Kent, Debden in Essex and in August 1942 to Longtown in Cumberland where 41 Squadron carried out 'offensive sweep patrols' moving shortly to Llanbedr in Wales to carry out patrols over the Irish sea.

Spitfire Mk Vb, serial number P8607, Code sign EB-C, had been built at the Castle Bromwich Aircraft Factory near Birmingham. They built 3,003 Mk Vb Spitfires between 1941 and 1943 out of a total of 3,991. Delivered to 9 Maintenance Unit on 11th June 1941, it was then deployed to three operational squadrons before arriving at No 41 Squadron on 25th July 1942 and into the hands of Sgt Goodall. But what caused this Spitfire, at 17.45 hrs on Saturday 15th August 1942, to dive into farmland and kill the pilot outright?

The Board of Inquiry established that Sgt Goodall had been detailed to deliver this Spitfire from RAF Station Debden in Essex to RAF Station Tangmere near Chichester in Sussex. His squadron was being repositioned there in readiness for the forthcoming ill-fated 'Operation Jubilee' raid on Dieppe that took place on 19th August 1942.

Presumably due to instrument failure, Sgt Goodall found himself flying in the wrong direction, a little to the northwest of where he needed to be. While there were no enemy aircraft in the vicinity neither was there any radar cover in that period of the war but on that eventful day the southern half of England had a low cloud base of only 1,000 feet.

It is assumed that he was descending through the low clouds to achieve sight of the ground and with little room to manoeuvre the Spitfire crashed into a field at Blouance Farm in Weston Patrick, partly burying itself and catching fire immediately. Sgt Goodall was killed instantly.

He was interred with full service honours at Brookwood Military Cemetery near Woking in Surrey, in grave reference Plot 2 Row 1, 1. This is an area of 37 acres making it the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the United Kingdom. Sgt Goodall's headstone follows the standard design of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Sgt Bernard Bryn Goodall had flown 312 hours as a pilot. He had taken part in 41

operational flights, most being offensive patrols, including 12 convoy patrols and 2 sector reconnaissance flights. He also took part in two low level attacks on enemy positions in France, a shipping reconnaissance and an air sea rescue search.

Like many citizens of countries in the British Empire, Bernard Bryn Goodall made the ultimate sacrifice in supporting this country's war effort. He was 23 years old.

See [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) for more information about this social club for retired professional and business managers.



Brookwood Military Cemetery



Supermarine Spitfire EB-C as flown by Sgt Goodall. Armed with two Hispano 20 mm cannons and four Browning.303 machine guns it could also carry two 250 lb or one 500 lb bombs. Powered by a Rolls Royce 45 series V12 engine that developed 1,440 HP





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**BEGGARWOOD BOOKWORMS**


Thank you so much to Clare at Living Paintings who visited us to tell us all about the wonderful charity *Living Paintings* who produce tactile and audio books for blind and visually impaired children. They transform books into a 3D experience. Each tactile page is based on a wood carving and then painted by volunteers. The books are then sent out of the library to blind and visually impaired children but can be enjoyed by the whole family.

A wonderful charity that we were so grateful to hear more about and see the amazing books. For more info [www.livingpaintings.org](http://www.livingpaintings.org)





**Join our friendly group and chat about this month's book with us**

**Wednesday 19th March  
Author Visit**




L.V. Matthews Author of the Thrillers *The Prank*, *Silent Waters* and *The Twins* joins us to talk about *The Twins*



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**Café in the Park**





## OLD DOWN WILDLIFE GROUP

March - the time to be looking out for the hares on the Manydown fields.

Sometimes they are running and bouncing about and so are easy to spot but mostly they are hunkered down into the green fields and quite hard to see.

The weather at the start of 2025 was not great for walking on Old Down but February did give us a few sunny days. Perhaps it is due to weather conditions or may be due to so much nearby development, but there have been no reports of winter bird visitors on Old Down this winter. In previous years we have seen *Fieldfare*, *Redwing* and even one year a *Hawfinch*. A *Hawfinch* was spotted (and photographed) in 2018 and it is believed that is the only time on Old Down.

Bad weather in January meant work parties were cancelled and unfortunately in February more cancellations due to neither of our work party leaders being available. Hopefully by now we have started regular work parties again.

The Group's 2025 AGM is to be held on 24th April 2025. As usual the venue is Old Down Hall starting at 7:30pm. Please come along – there will be refreshments and a presentation of wildlife photos. You are welcome to bring along your school age children – the official bit is very short and the photo presentation and discussions about wildlife are interesting.

You may remember that quite some time ago the Council proposed to give Old Down LNR (Local Nature Reserve) status

but strangely nothing has happened and the Group has not received any up-date from the Council. LNR status protects an open natural area from development and provides that the area is maintained as a place for wildlife and people. Beggarwood has LNR status – so why not Old Down.

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



Email: [old.down.wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:old.down.wildlife@gmail.com)  
 Website: Old Down Wildlife Group  
 Facebook: Old Down Wildlife Group

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

# Café Park

We look forward to  
 seeing you!

**Café  Park**  
**What's on March**

Weekly

<b>Wednesday</b> Quiche Wednesday Community Meal Deal 12-2pm	<b>Thursday</b> Beggarwood Bumps to Babies group 11.30-12.30	<b>Friday</b> Friendship Friday Chatty cafe 10.30-11.30
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- **Wednesday 5th - Community Lunch 12-1.15** - Join the community for lunch. Amazing value meal deals
- **Friday 7th - The Oakley Stitchers 10-12** - Open Craft Group - Make clock creations No need to book.
- **Friday 14th - Card & Cuppa craft group** - Come along and make a Homemade Card with Pauline from I create Craft
- **Cafe In the Park Fundraising Quiz 7.30pm** - Join quizmaster Iain for our amazing fundraising Quiz
- **Wednesday 19th - Beggarwood Bookworms Author Event 7.30pm** - Come and meet L.V Matthews author of The Twins, Silent Waters and To love a Liar
- **Friday 21st - The Oakley Stitchers 10-12** - Clock creations
- **Friday 28th - Beggarwood Bookworms Day Time 11.30-12.30** - Daytime Bookgroup. Come along and discuss the Book of the month.

Please visit our new website [Hatchwarren.org](http://Hatchwarren.org)

email [community@beggarwood.org](mailto:community@beggarwood.org)





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

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

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

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

To discuss your party further, please email [office@hatchwarren.org](mailto:office@hatchwarren.org)



**Hatchwarren Community Centre**  
**Café  Park**  
 Beggarwood Community Centre  
 Broadmore Road, Basingstoke,  
 RG22 4AQ

**Café  Park**

**Quiche Wednesday**



DELICIOUS QUICHE

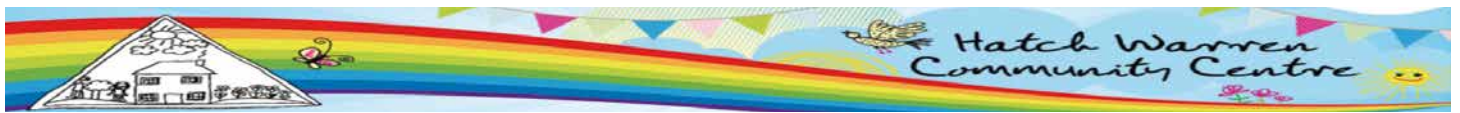
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Prosecco, Wine, Ale & Cider too!

Hot Food by Bartletts

# HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE LAGER FESTIVAL

WITH DJ NICK & COMEDY ACT

**SATURDAY 17TH MAY 7-11PM**

This event is supported by

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

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

FREE ENTRY FAMILY FUN DAY

# SUMMER FESTIVAL 2025

HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE PLAYING FIELDS 12-4pm

**SATURDAY 21st June 2025**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

With over 100 things to see & enjoy -  
It's going to be our Biggest and Best Festival yet!

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

**WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!**

[hatchwarren.org](http://hatchwarren.org)

## HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP

**SIX THE MUSICAL**

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

Coach will depart at 4:30pm from our car park  
This trip is open to all members of the public  
Tickets are non refundable  
To book your place email [OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG)  
or call 01256 811262

\*40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead\*

This event is supported by

This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association Charity No 1161117

## HATCH WARREN COMMUNITY CENTRE COACH TRIP

**CLUELESS A New Musical**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE at 7.30PM  
TRAFALGAR THEATRE, LONDON  
Good Stall Seats  
Tickets cost £75 per person  
(INCLUDES RETURN COACH)

Coach will depart at 4pm from our car park  
This trip is open to all members of the public  
Tickets are non refundable  
To book your place email [OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@HATCHWARREN.ORG)  
or call 01256 811262

\*40 seats must be sold for trip to go ahead\*

This event is supported by

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

**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: Warrenhatchwarren.org

THE WARREN

# Late mates

**Free entry**

Pool - Music - Xbox - Table Tennis

**Hot Food**

Fridays  
 Year groups 8-11  
 8-9:30pm

Email: Warrenhatchwarren.org Hatch Warren Community Centre  
 Charity number: 1161117 Long Cross Ln, Basingstoke RG22 4XF

## Monday night is Link2 Club Night

6pm-8.15pm



**WE HAVE SUCH FUN!**  
 Manager - Dilys Buchan 07939532667

LINK2, supported by Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association, is a family orientated group for young adults (16-30) who may need a little support. LINK2 is run by experienced staff who aim to develop a relationship with all members with learning disabilities and their families to get the best outcomes for their future. We support them on a path to growing independence, as they move into adult life.

Improve general Life skills and finding their full potential through sports opportunities

Provide experiences to promote Resilience and self esteem

Boost confidence and support for independent travel

Maintain and develop our access to work programme



Supported by Hampshire County Council

## HATCH WARREN WI

At our February meeting one of our members, Liz Janes, was kind enough to share her beautiful photographs and talk to us about her trip to Myanmar, formerly Burma.

We learnt that Myanmar is one of the world's largest producers of sesame and she saw the crop being thrashed and the seeds being gathered. She also had a trip to a centre where silk was woven into intricately patterned fabrics and she purchased a bag which now accompanies her on her travels abroad.

In February our WI was lucky enough to be invited to visit the Mayor's Office at the Civic Offices in Basingstoke. We met the Mayor, Dan Putty, and sat down to tea and cake in the Mayor's Parlour; what a treat!





Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 6th March at Hatch Warren Community Centre where our speaker will be Robert Smith with his talk entitled "The Blood Runners". They are a charity that delivers blood products, urgent samples and medication from Hospital Pharmacies. The service supports Hampshire, South Wiltshire and Dorset.

If you are interested in joining us for the evening please get in touch with our president Shirley on 07979 217220.



## BECOME A VOLUNTEER


At Basingstoke Mencap, we help people with learning disabilities lead better lives. Our Greenfingers horticultural therapy group needs friendly volunteers who:

-  Enjoy meeting people and working as part of a team
-  Have an interest in gardening and growing plants
-  Want to make a real difference in people's lives
-  Can recognise and support people with learning disabilities

Join us weekdays between 10am-3pm at Elizabeth Road allotment. Choose hours that suit you – no expert gardening knowledge needed.

 Elizabeth Road Allotments, South Ham, Basingstoke RG23 6AX

 noelia@basingstokemencap.org.uk

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**Welcome to King's Church  
Basingstoke**

You are invited to join us at 10:15 when we start with Tea and Coffee and the warmest of welcomes.

Every Sunday Morning  
(except the first Sunday of the month)

**A church that is:**

- Faithful to God
- Caring for each other
- Committed to those around us

10:15am in the main hall at  
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www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com Tel: 07741 856437

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## MARIE CURIE CARE DAFFODIL DAY COLLECTIONS

Marie Curie Care provides nursing for seriously ill people in their home (they are unable to provide nurses in the Basingstoke area at this time, but do have nurses in other parts of Hampshire). Additionally, the money is used to pay for research into Palliative Care.

Tesco at Chineham Shopping Centre have again kindly invited Marie Curie Care to collect on 22 March, 12 & 13 April, while Morrisons have kindly offered 1, 3, 6, 7 & 8 March.

If you have an hour or more to spare throughout these dates in March or April please go to

<https://collect.mariecurie.org.uk/>

and enter Basingstoke in the search.

Alternatively, please contact the collections team on 0800 716 146

## BASINGSTOKE - OLD BASING U3A - REDUCED MEMBERSHIP FEE



Basingstoke – Old Basing u3a is offering a reduced membership fee of £20 covering March to end of September. If you are retired or semi-retired and are looking for something interesting to fill some of your time and occupy your brain, then the local u3a group is for you.

The u3a is a thriving, lively group of over 1000 members doing all sorts of activities in over 80 different interest groups. Some of these groups are energetic and sporty, while others are more sedate, doing things like tabletop games, talks and quizzes. Members can learn a new skill or perhaps revisit an interest you had years ago. The group is run by members for its members and if you have a passion for something not on offer, then you can start your own inspiring group. It is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people.

In April, the u3a is starting a brand-new Health & Wellbeing Group. This will bring informative presentations from healthcare professionals and charity groups to help members proactively manage their health.

More information about the u3a can be found on their website [basingstokeu3a.org](http://basingstokeu3a.org) or Google Basingstoke Old Basing u3a.



## KEMPSHOTT CONSERVATION GROUP

**Teeing off in 2025.** Just before Christmas we found out that the Council planned to relocate the "pitch and putt" course, currently on the edge of the Leisure Park, to somewhere in the Down Grange sports complex. Further investigation established that the preferred option was to use the green space in front of the Miller & Carter restaurant in what we call the "Home Park" of the old Down Grange House. This would not directly affect Down Grange Meadow but we would be very close neighbours. The Council also want to relocate the driving range, but here there are a number of location options to be considered. Our worry is any driving range would be floodlit and, if located close to the Meadow, could be disruptive to wildlife.

The lead Councillor for this project was a involved in setting up Friends of Wigmore Heath conservation group a few years back, so he has some knowledge of wildlife and biodiversity issues. At the January Cabinet meeting he outlined the current plans and was quizzed by Paul Beevers on a number of green space issues. The Councillor is also very keen to ensure that the impact on our Meadow is minimized as well as the effects on other users of the Home Park, such as dog walkers. We will report on developments as they arise.

**It's time for a cleanup!** If you haven't already done so, a reminder to clean out your nest boxes. Traditionally, these and any new boxes should be in place by Valentine's Day, 14th February. This gives birds time to become acquainted with any new boxes as they scout out suitable nest sites.

**Tree planting underway.** At the end of last year the Council's Rangers started planting trees in the corner of Down Grange Meadow close to the BMX track. They intend to add more species in early spring. In time, this will become a new plantation which we look forward to seeing grow.

**Why not come and join us?** Down Grange Meadow is included in our programme of regular Work Parties. We'll be there on Sundays 9th and 23rd March (10 00 – 12 30) and on Thursday, 27th March (14 00 – 16 30). These dates mark the conclusion of the season's Work Parties in the Meadow. We plan to restart in the Autumn.

The meeting point is the Meadow's Homesteads Road entrance near St Mark's Church. Please do come and help us. You will be most welcome. All equipment is provided.

For more information about our activities on Down Grange Meadow, please call Marion Wolstencroft on (01256) 470171.

Alternatively, send an email to [kempshott-serve@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kempshott-serve@tiscali.co.uk) or visit us at [www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk](http://www.kempshottconservationgroup.org.uk)

*Are you concerned about your child or grandchild's future career prospects?*

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Visit [www.Careerliftoff.co.uk](http://www.Careerliftoff.co.uk) to learn more

Or for an introductory chat contact Michael, careers professional on 07425 141739

## BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

### SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

People ask us 'What does Rotary do?' We're about helping and supporting communities. As Rotarians, we do some fantastic work each year, whilst having fun and raising money at events like the concert at The Anvil and The Festival of Transport, that enable us to donate to more than 20 local charities, such as:-

Mencap Basingstoke, Young Carers, and the Camrose Centre for homeless people, and a few international causes such as Christmas Shoeboxes, Shelterboxes and the End Polio campaign.

We also have fun helping charities 'hands on' at their own fundraising events. This may often involve marshalling and car parking. We regularly support St Michael's Hospice with all their fundraising events including providing refreshments for Moonlight Walk.

### 2025 FOCUS for FUNDRAISING

We are working with Hampshire Hospitals Charity with a £40,000 target to fund Thoracoscopy equipment which falls outside NHS funding. This will avoid the need for patients to travel to other hospitals for many lung and respiratory related procedures such as biopsies. This will also be the focus of our Festival of Transport fundraising.

### BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

We had wonderful weather and a great day in the Memorial Park last May, with hundreds of vehicles and thousands of happy people enjoying the sunshine. It's a great day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 11th May 2025 at this FREE family event (£5 charge to Park on the Common).

Last year we were grateful for the support of some 100 amazing volunteers to make this event a great success. It can be a just a couple of hours or all day. To be part of the team and joining in the fun contact Paul.

See our website if you wish to register to exhibit your classic vehicle.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to [www.rcbd.org.uk](http://www.rcbd.org.uk) to see what we have coming up, or contact Alf, [alf.mccarthy@btinternet.com](mailto:alf.mccarthy@btinternet.com) or Paul [tempaul45@gmail.com](mailto:tempaul45@gmail.com) to find out more.

We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

**Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane X: @RBstokeDeane**





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**PECO**



# Basingstoke Model Railway Show

8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Sat 10:00-17:00, Sun 10:00-16:00

Blue Coat School  
(formerly Aldworth)  
Western Way  
Basingstoke  
RG22 6HQ

Admission £10  
Accompanied  
children FREE

[www.basingstokemrs.org](http://www.basingstokemrs.org)

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**ANVIL ARTS** 01256 844244 [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk)  
(Tickets include £4 booking fee)

**JASON DONOVAN - Doin' Fine 25**

Wednesday 5 March, 7.30pm The Anvil  
Tickets: £51, £42, £36. VIP upgrade £154

Jason Donovan has amassed a rich catalogue of hits, and Doin' Fine 25 is culmination of his achievements to date. The show features a musical feast of unforgettable tunes, with songs from Joseph, Priscilla, Rocky Horror, and Grease, nods to his TV work Neighbours and Strictly, and his biggest pop hits Especially For You, Too Many Broken Hearts, Any Dream Will Do, and Sealed with a Kiss.



**VIENNA TONKÜNSTLER ORCHESTRA**

Wednesday 12 March, 7.30pm The Anvil

Tickets: £45, £40, £34, £25, £17. Under 25s and f/t students £12  
The programme includes Sibelius' Symphony no. 7, Mozart's well-known Piano Concerto no. 21, and Brahms' dramatic Symphony no. 1. Yutaka Sado conducts, joined by pianist Yeol Eum Son.

**TAP FACTORY - 10th Anniversary Tour**

Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm The Anvil, Tickets: £31.50

Eight male performers deliver a sensational blend of dance, acrobatics, music, and comedy, creating a show that appeals to audiences of all ages. Brace yourself for an electrifying display of high-energy dance, explosive percussion, and jaw-dropping acrobatics, seamlessly woven together with live music and mesmerising choreography.

**NIKITA KUZMIN - Midnight Dancer**

Saturday 15 March, 7.30pm The Anvil

Tickets: £53.50, £43.50, £33.50. VIP upgrade £124

Rising star of Strictly Come Dancing and Celebrity Big Brother, Nikita Kuzmin brings his brand-new show, Midnight Dancer, to The Anvil. Nikita is joined by a sharp and chic cast of talented dancers and vocalists in a production jam-packed with hits we all know and love in an evening bursting with happiness, euphoria, and of course, world-class dance.



London Classic Theatre present

**JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES**

by Alan Ayckbourn, Tue 25 – Sat 29 March The Haymarket  
Tickets: £22 (matinee), Tue – Thu £25, Fri – Sat £29. Over 65s £2 off, under 25s and f/t students £12. Suitable for: ages 14 and over  
Five birthdays. Two unhappy marriages. One possessive mother. In perhaps his most emotionally charged play, Alan Ayckbourn masterfully evokes a world of hidden tensions and suppressed hostility. He skilfully navigates the tightrope between comedy and tragedy, guiding us towards a hilarious, yet chilling finale.

**CARA DILLON - Coming Home**

Sun 30 Mar, 7.30pm The Haymarket Tickets: £31.50

Cara Dillon brings her Coming Home show to life. Born from a collection of personal poems, and an album and book that followed, this live performance sees Cara skilfully interweave this emotive new material with a carefully curated selection of her beloved songs. The result is a tapestry that seamlessly blends storytelling, poetry, and music. She'll be accompanied by a band led by Sam Lakeman.



NEW VENUE: CENTRAL STUDIO @ QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE

**ALEX VOYSEY TRIO**

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**Basingstoke Blues Club**

SATURDAY 22ND MAR '25  
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Doors 8pm Tickets £10  
Full info & tickets: [basingstokeblues.co.uk](http://basingstokeblues.co.uk)

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presents a  
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'Landmarks: a Musical Celebration and  
80th Commemoration of WW2"  
Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall (RG27 0EZ)  
Saturday 26 April 2025 – 7.30-9.30pm

Tickets £10 (U16 free)  
Tickets can be purchased from band members,  
on the door or visit <http://www.bcband.org.uk>

Programme includes:  
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Indulge in pamper sessions and beauty routines at our new salon.

Relax with luxurious bath time experiences in our new spa bathroom.

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Serving residents' favourite dishes in sociable dining rooms.

Call 01256 236 380 to arrange a visit.

**We hope you'll love the changes as much as we do.**



Scan me

Carter Drive, off Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9US

For more information, visit: [www.barchester.com/Marnel1](http://www.barchester.com/Marnel1)

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

**HARTLETTS CAFÉ**

Ravenscroft, Hook, RG27 9NN 01256 541821  
 www.hartlettscafe.co.uk Open times: Mon-Fri 8.00 – 4.30  
 Sat 8.00 – 4.00 Sun 9.00 – 3.00

On the basis that we try to find somewhere new to report in each edition of the Rabbiter magazine led us to try something a little out of the ordinary.

It had been recommended that we try the Hartletts Café which is based in the Community Centre in Hook. It is surprising positioned through a private housing development at the end of a road called Ravenscroft which is the first road on the right on Griffin Way, just down from the Sainsbury's roundabout.

A large carpark is opposite and there are three blue badge spots close to the building.

While it is not the largest of establishments, with inside seating only 24, it does have an extensive menu offering full breakfasts and lunches with a wide array of coffees, and other delights. Everything is freshly cooked using as much local produce as possible.

I had a bacon sandwich which had plenty of filling and came nicely presented with some slaw and rocket. Madam had scrambled egg on toast about which she was very complimentary. A flat white coffee for her while mine was an Americano with a side of hot milk.

This was good value for a total of £17, all helped that their staff were very friendly. Well worth a visit if you are out that way.

**NHS AWARDS**

I'm delighted to share that our Hampshire Hospitals People Awards are returning this summer, and nominations are now open!

These awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the remarkable individuals and teams at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust who go above and beyond every day to provide outstanding care to our patients and ensure our hospitals run smoothly.

We're proud to open the People Awards to the public once again this year, enabling patients, families and members of the community to nominate a member of Hampshire Hospitals who has made a significant difference to the care they or their loved ones received.

We will celebrate all nominees with special tea parties, culminating in a prestigious awards ceremony this summer.

Nominations are open until 14 March 2025. To nominate a staff member or team, visit [hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/peopleawards](http://hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/peopleawards).

**Award categories**

- **ICARE Award** – This award represents our trust values (Inclusive, Compassionate, Accountable, Respectful and Encouraging). This could be an individual or team who shows extraordinary kindness and embodies what it means to be part of Hampshire Hospitals – making a difference to colleagues and/ or patients. There is one award for each division – Medical, Surgical, Family and Clinical Support and Corporate.
- **Inclusivity Award** – Celebrating a team or individual who is there for others – creating a sense of belonging and empowering people to be their whole selves.
- **Innovation Award** – Shouting out a team or individual who has led the way in bringing a new idea to life – having a positive impact on patient care, staff experience, productivity or sustainability at Hampshire Hospitals. Creating an environment where learning and excellence thrives.
- **Collaboration Award** – This award is for those working across boundaries to make the best use of resources – championing collaboration to provide the best care for our population. This could be an individual or team winner.
- **Patient Care and Experience Award** – This award recognises outstanding contribution to patient care – a team or individual who has made a big difference to patient experience, whether on the wards or behind the scenes.
- **Leadership Award** - This award is for an individual who demonstrates excellent leadership skills that inspire and motivate others.
- **Lifetime Contribution** – This is for an individual who has dedicated a significant proportion of their career to Hampshire Hospitals and made a long-lasting impact to colleagues or patients.
- **Rising Star** – Shining a spotlight on an individual who has been at Hampshire Hospitals less than five years but is already making an enormous difference to staff and/or patients.

The Hampshire Hospitals People Awards are funded by Hampshire Hospitals Charity, who support patients, staff and volunteers. To find out more please visit [hampshirehospitalscharity.org](http://hampshirehospitalscharity.org) or contact [HH.Charity@hhft.nhs.uk](mailto:HH.Charity@hhft.nhs.uk).

Best wishes,

**Alex Whitfield**

Chief Executive, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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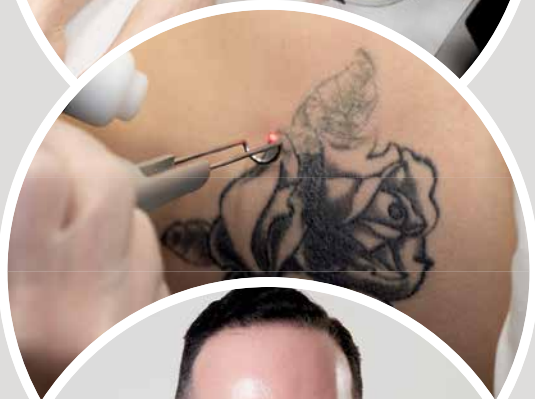
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## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

### What does it mean to find strength in vulnerability?

In a society that often values bravado over sensitivity and power over service, is it possible for vulnerability to be viewed as a strength? While vulnerability is often seen as exposing weakness, the Christian faith offers a different perspective—one where human fragility becomes a source of strength through our relationships with each other and with God.

Christian theology teaches that God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. Yet, throughout the Bible, we see examples of vulnerability, both from God and humans. Part of what makes us human is our need for relationships, which inherently involve openness and exposure to both joy and pain.

God's ultimate demonstration of vulnerability is in Jesus Christ. Though fully divine, He chose to live as fully human. The concept of 'kenosis'—meaning emptying—describes how Jesus willingly took on human limitations. He felt hunger, fatigue, sorrow, and despair. When Lazarus died, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35), showing His willingness to embrace emotional pain. The crucifixion is the most striking example of God's vulnerability, as He endured immense suffering and even cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). This was not weakness but an act of love. The resurrection, following the crucifixion, demonstrates that God's vulnerability was not a defeat but rather the method through which He triumphed over sin, death, and evil.

A human life without connection can feel incredibly lonely. When we choose to be in relationship, it's risky—a willingness to open oneself to another, even at the cost of pain or rejection. Surely, this vulnerability shows strength through risk taking. God opens Himself to the possibility of rejection and misunderstanding (and ultimately death). This is not weakness; rather, it is a radical act of love, self-giving, and grace.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." This reveals that God's strength is most evident in human weakness. Rather than seeing vulnerability as a flaw, Christians are called to embrace it, allowing God's grace to work powerfully through them. Acknowledging dependence on God and others opens the door for wisdom, strength, and transformation.

Loving others requires selflessness and openness. Instead of hiding struggles, Christians are invited to share them, trusting that God redeems brokenness for His purposes. The Bible emphasizes community support: Hebrews 10:24-25 urges believers to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds... encouraging one another." Galatians 6:2 instructs, "Carry each other's burdens." The church is designed to be a space where believers trust, be humble, and let go of fear of judgment. To receive comfort and encouragement, we must allow ourselves to be seen and known.

Embracing flaws allows Christians to experience God's power at work. God's vulnerability does not negate His sovereignty but reflects a paradox of faith—that true strength often comes through apparent weakness. Trusting in God's power in moments of fragility leads to deeper relationships, demonstrating that vulnerability is a path to transformation.



## IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

The fifth issue of the 'Rabbit' came out in April 1993, and was the biggest yet, at eight pages.

'Batman' was set to visit Hatch Warren - a representative of English Nature concerned with the conservation of our natural heritage. There was believed to be a bat colony roosting in the area. People who were interested in finding out more were invited to contact Sam Weller, one of our early stalwarts. I exchanged emails with Sam recently. People who remember him will be pleased to know that he is well.

A meeting had taken place between Councillors and the Highways department to look at speed limits, particularly on Woodbury Road and Long Cross Lane. The limits were set to stay at 30mph. Eventually, when Beggarwood was built, traffic calming was introduced, in the form of the build-outs that still exist to this day (less one that was removed due to being put in a dangerous position).

The school run was already causing problems around the Hatch Warren Infants and Junior Schools. The Governors were working together to try to find a solution and a survey was being planned. Thirty years later the problem is still with us and has, if anything, worsened. Local people continue to search for solutions.

The Community Centre had a beer festival planned and a half-term trip to Chessington Zoo. The beer festivals have proven to be a great success and are still being run regularly. Nowadays coach trips are a major feature of the Association's activities and have evolved, mainly to visiting major shows in London.

A Post Office in the Community Centre had been given the green light with a three-month trial of three hours per week being planned. The Rabbit urged residents to use it or lose it. In the event, it did not last long and now, thirty years later, it is even proving difficult to keep a Post Office in the town centre.

Destined to last longer was the formation of a local branch of the WI. An inaugural meeting was being planned for 27th April 1993, at 8pm. The WI here is still going strong. It is interesting to observe that, back then, 8pm was a regular time for evening meetings. Nowadays that is considered rather late, with people hoping to get home earlier than they used to.

The Rabbit was attracting advertisements and the largest was for the Community Association's first Annual General Meeting. The Association had started strongly. Apart from one dip when the committee had to be relaunched, it has been an important part of our lives for well over thirty years and now manages the Beggarwood Community Centre as well.

**Stephen Reid**

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## Notes from the kitchen

### What are your kitchen essentials?

I've been giving the fridge and cupboard an early spring clean. I was surprised to find a couple of small jars lurking at the back of the fridge – the remains of a jar of cranberry sauce and some brandy butter both left over from Christmas were definitely past their use by date.

The exercise got me thinking about what things do I actually need to keep available. Things that form the basis of many meals – onions, carrots, celery, butter, cheese (cheddar and parmesan), garlic, bacon, eggs, Dijon mustard, olive oil, wine vinegar, flour (plain, self-raising and bread flour), dried yeast, sugar and stock cubes are all essentials. There is a shelf devoted to pulses (those wonderful jars of beans and lots of lentils), rice and pasta, tinned tomatoes and tomato puree. There are bunches of dried herbs – bay leaves from the tree on my allotment, thyme and rosemary cut from the garden; pots of fresh parsley and basil decorate the windowsill. There are jars of spices for flavouring curries etc. With these ingredients I have the basis of many meals – vegetable soups, add some minced meat and I have a ragu sauce to go with pasta or add a tin of red beans for a warming chilli to serve with rice. Lentils are cheap and are the key ingredient to a dahl.

My next task is to follow my own advice and make sure my stock of essentials is ok. And then I shall move on to the freezer. Last time I looked there was a very good supply of broad beans and stewed apple waiting to be used up. If all else fails there are about 20 jars of this year's marmalade waiting to be spread liberally on toast!



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## HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We recently celebrated Chinese New Year at Hatch Warren Under Fives. It is the year of the snake, so the children made colourful snakes on the craft table and played some snake games. We gave the children chop sticks so they could practice picking up noodles and filling little bowls, great for using our fine motor skills and we had some Chinese treats on the snack table. At the end of the day the children all chose fortune cookies to take home with them.

We have introduced lots of sensory play this term. The children are enjoying everything from messy trays to chasing bubbles each day. We are also enjoying lots of story time this term and have focused on Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Three Little Pigs, Elmer and Stickman. We plan lots of activities around each book using arts and crafts, role play and learning about shapes and numbers.

The children made some lovely cards for Valentine's day and we also practiced our number recognition with a Valentine theme by using playing cards and looking at the numbers on the hearts cards.

Coming up next month is World Book Day. We love sharing books with the children and are planning a wonderful week celebrating our favourite books with opportunities for the children to get involved with lots of fabulous stories throughout the week. We will also be celebrating Pancake Day, St David's Day and St Patrick's Day, and of course we will be making some special treats for Mother's Day.

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, science experiments, dough gym, yoga and makaton signing.

Hatch Warren Under Fives offers two rooms for our children; we have a smaller room dedicated to our two-year-olds and a large room for our older children.

We are now enrolling for September 2025. To enquire about a preschool place,

or to have a look around, please contact Siobhan on 01256 322788, or email [preschoolmail@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk)

## CUCKOO MEADOW PRE-SCHOOL

It has felt like a jam-packed term already at Cuckoo Meadow!

The children got stuck into the Big Garden Birdwatch and made some bird feeders along with binoculars to watch the birds dig in! We then celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year by creating a beautiful snake and trying some noodles with chopsticks.



Artistic flairs were then shown off with the most flattering portraits of the children and their teachers! The month was rounded up by learning about healthy eating and teeth cleaning.

Easter will be here before we know it and we are holding a raffle to win luxury hampers – please contact us to buy tickets and good luck!

**Georgia Hawken**

Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School Secretary

## CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

With the term in full swing, the children have been ever busy at CVP. In recent weeks the children have celebrated both Chinese New Year and St Valentine's Day.

Celebrating Chinese New Year was an opportunity to foster cultural awareness, appreciation and curiosity. Learning about



different traditions helps children to develop a deeper understanding of the diverse world around them.

At preschool we bring the celebrations to life by immersing children in sights, sounds and traditions. We introduce them to symbols of each celebration, helping them understand the meaning of each one.

St. Valentine's Day celebrations offered opportunities to express feelings, learning to communicate our emotions. We discussed the importance of building strong, caring relationships and talked all about the people we love. By joining in with celebrations, we are not only having fun, but also learning important lessons about respect, diversity and friendship.

We are thrilled to announce that CVP has been awarded a Food Hygiene rating of 5. The preschool take great pride in our "very good" hygiene practices.

Places currently available for Autumn 2025.

01256-389008 [cvpadmin@btconnect.com](mailto:cvpadmin@btconnect.com)



## DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

We have had such a great start to the year and its hard to believe that we are already at half term!!

Our sessions with Sporty Minis have started and the children have really enjoyed playing the different games whilst practising their skills on bouncing the ball to different coloured spots and catching it, playing tag, balancing bean bags and throwing them into hoops. This has encouraged good listening and enabled the children to practice their skills and display good hand-eye coordination.

We focused on Children's Mental Health Week talking about our own characteristics or what we like to do and how we can be kind to a friend. To encourage and support this the children made a "mini me" and decorated them to show how they





see themselves. We talked about our feelings and what makes us feel proud, recognising those feelings we get in our tummies. This led nicely into our Show and Tell session where the children had the opportunity to talk to us about a hobby or something they enjoy doing at home. It was lovely to see them proudly sharing these with the rest of the group and some even gave a little demonstration.

We have introduced the children to safe hands which involves using exercises where the children clasp their hands together and place them on their chests. Children are then encouraged to do some deep breathing to the count of 10. We will be practising this in group time to encourage the children to use exercises independently to help support their emotional regulation and find a calm place.

Hampshire Healthy Heroes visited us and we talked about the importance of brushing our teeth and what we should be eating to stay healthy. The children really enjoyed the interactive activities.

It was National Pizza Day on the 10th February and we had great fun making our own pizzas. We used wraps for the base with a cheese, ham and tomato topping.

We have so much to look forward to after the half term break. We will be having a visit from the Police and our local Lollipop Lady as well as celebrating Mother's Day and also World Book Day where we will be inviting the children to come in dressed up and bringing in their favourite books.

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](mailto:info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk)



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

The tradition of Mothering Sunday can be traced back to the Middle Ages. It was the custom on the middle Sunday of Lent for people to return to their "Mother Church", the church in which they were baptised, to attend Sunday service.

Later the tradition developed into a day on which young people working away, especially in service, were able to return to their homes for that Sunday, and bring presents for their families. A favourite gift was the simnel cake, a boiled fruit cake layered with marzipan. This return home enabled family members to bring food gifts which could supplement otherwise meagre diets, especially during Lent.

The more modern celebration of the day owes much to Constance Adelaide

Smith (1878-1938). She was inspired by the establishment in America in 1914 of a nationally recognised Mother's Day, and she published a book in 1921 "*The Revival of Mothering Sunday*" urging the same for the UK. She wanted the day, however, to mark Motherhood more widely to include "*The Church – Our Mother; Mothers of Earthly Homes; The Mother of Jesus; and Gifts of Mother Earth.*" She somehow wanted to capture the spirit of the medieval origins of the day, although it may not have been as peaceful as she imagined; there are stories of fights breaking out as church goers and attendants jostled to take first place in the processions.

In the USA, Anna Jervis, who had been the main proponent of the introduction of Mother's Day, came to regret her campaign. She detested the commercialisation of the day by florists and greetings cards manufacturers to the point that she began a petition to rescind the celebration. When she died penniless leaving debts behind her, her bills were paid by the florists and card manufacturers she so hated.

Sources: British Library, the BBC, Oxford University Press

**Terri Reid MA FRSA**  
[Terrielizabethreid.com](http://Terrielizabethreid.com)

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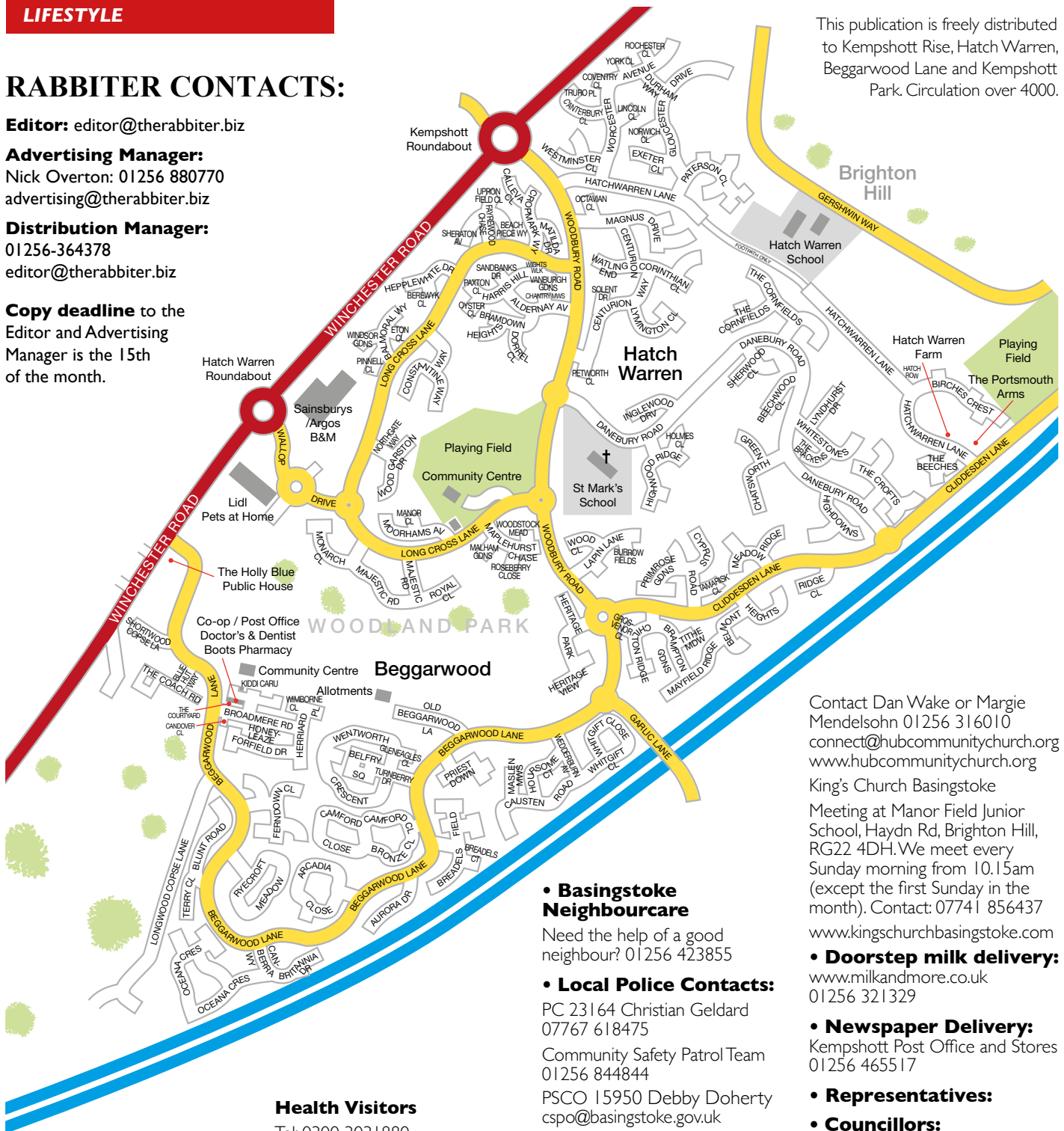
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**Copy deadline** to the Editor and Advertising Manager is the 15th of the month.

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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  
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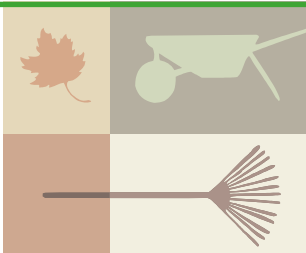
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