

THE Rabbiter



Issue 280 May 2021

All the regular features plus

- **BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL**
- **HHCR COMMUNITY RADIO**
- **PURPLE FOR POLIO**

and much more

The Community Newsletter for

**Hatch Warren, Beggarwood
and Kempshott Park**

Looking for a trusted, local business for your next home project?

- ✓ Windows & Doors
- ✓ Conservatories & Orangeries
- ✓ Garage Doors
- ✓ Guaranteed Work
- ✓ Great Prices
- ✓ Finance Available



Call 01256 841522

riptonwindows.co.uk

Why not visit our showroom in Chineham?

We have lots of example conservatories, windows and doors, with free parking and a decent cuppa.

Quote 'RABBITER' for a preferential quote.



THE Rabbiter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 6 HATCH WARREN WI.
- 7 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
BRIGHTON HILL
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- 8 COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE
HHCR COMMUNITY RADIO
- 10 SAINSBURY'S
MADEIRA CAKE RECIPE
- 11 OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD
WILDLIFE GROUP
- 12 PROBUS CLUB
- 14 COMMUNITY CENTRE
- 15 THE WARREN
- 16 CHILDREN'S CORNER
- 17 ROTARY BASINGSTOKE
- 18 CAFÉ IN THE PARK
POLICE UPDATE
- 19 DISABILITY FORUM
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING
- 20 CLASSIFIED ADS
HOWARD PARK BOWLS CLUB
BASINGSTOKE U3A
- 21 FREEADS
CAGE UPDATE
- 22 BOOKWORMS
BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL

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

EDITORIAL

How life seems to have changed in the last month! To start with, the sun is shining which always makes life seem brighter. The pubs are both open and we are now able to see friends and family outside. Shops are open and we can have a haircut!! The Saturday market at the Portsmouth Arms is now welcoming more stalls back. There are always long queues for Indigo Bakes whose bread, cakes and pastries are delicious. Want to try making these cakes yourself? This month there is a recipe for Madeira Cake (see page 10) which is perfect to accompany a morning coffee.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have now given outline Planning permission for the erection of a super warehouse at Junction 7. Work can now commence with demolishing existing buildings on the site. There continues to be considerable objection to the building of this unit – see page 21 for more information. The building work at Hounsoume Fields is moving forward. Work on the access road is progressing and it appears that the show houses are almost completed. The Retirement Homes on the Island Site will soon be welcoming new residents – more details on the advertisement from McCarthy & Stone on page 11.

It is good to see our community slowly getting back to life. The Café in the Park is open for coffee, cakes and their famous bacon butties. Old Down and Beggarwood Wildlife Group are meeting again – see page 11 for details. The Warren is open from Friday 21 May – see page 15. The Community Association is busy planning the return of the popular Lager Festival. Their AGM is scheduled for 9 June via Zoom. If you aren't already a member of the Hatch Warren Community Association, please consider joining now – see page 14 for details.

Thursday 6 May is local Election Day. The election will be for our three Basingstoke & Deane Borough Councillors and one for Hampshire County Council. This is your chance to select the people who will represent the area on key decisions and services. The Rabbiter is your local community magazine so please let us have your news and views. Contact us newsdesk@therabbiter.biz.

The Editor

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



- Heating installations
- Breakdowns
- Boiler changes/upgrades
- Landlord Safety Checks
- Servicing
- Power flushing
- LPG Gas installation/service
- Water softeners

Call Jamie Davenport 24hr - 7 Days a Week
Tel No: 01256 398611 Mobile No: 07876 687422




An established, family run local business with 20 years' experience



All Seasons
Window & Driveway Cleaning

Domestic & Commercial
Window Cleaning Services

Additional services include :

- Driveway Cleaning
- Cladding / Signage Cleaning
- Gutter / Fascia Soffit Cleaning
- Conservatory Roof Cleaning
- Pure Water (NO CHEMICALS)

Please Contact Steve :
01256 353727

info@allseasonswindowcleaning.com



All Seasons
Window & Driveway Cleaning



Conservatory
Deep Cleans



Safe, Efficient
Ladder-Less Cleans



Refreshing, Driveway
& Pathway Cleans



www.allseasonswindowcleaning.com

PLAY TENNIS

ALL DAY, ALL EVENING, ALL WEEK AT THE BEECHDOWN CLUB

Floodlit tennis is just one of the many sports and fitness activities that are included in Beechdown Club membership.

- Box leagues, weekly coaching , social sessions.
- Join a team, if you feel competitive.
- All organised for you. Or organise yourself!
- Pop in and have a look around anytime.

MEMBERSHIPS
CURRENTLY
AVAILABLE



beechdown
health and fitness



Winchester Rd, RG22 4ES



beechdown.co.uk



01256 36 22 22



Spencer & Peyton *Established 1961*
3rd Generation family owned and run
Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons



Our family serving your family for 60 years

380 Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG22 5DZ
01256 323165 The Flower Girl florist on site
 7 London Road, Hook, RG27 9DY
01256 761717

Trading Standards approved
 Pre-paid funeral plans discussed without obligation

24 Hours
 spencerandpeyton@btconnect.com
 www.spencerandpeyton.co.uk

Aaron Ford - Decorating and Home Projects

Painting and decorating. Ceramic tiling
 Bathrooms and kitchens refreshed
 Bath/shower/worktop - silicone seams replaced
 Flatpack assembly and many other small jobs
 Quality workmanship. Fully insured
 Friendly free estimate or advice



2021

01256 350937 - 07771 531069
 aaronaford@hotmail.com

PC Doctor (Hampshire) Ltd
Andy Pearce **01256 841204**



Home & Small Business PC's & printers supplied.
 PC repairs & upgrades, Laptops & Desktops. Wireless networking. Virus & Malware removal. New PC & Tablet setup. Data & Email transfer from old system.

pcdoc.hampshire@btinternet.com

Candover Park Solutions

Computer Problems?

Friendly professional IT services for business and home:

Apple iPad setup/training - Mac support - Virus removal - Email Computer performance issues - Wireless, Internet & Broadband Hardware & Software Installation - Business solutions/support

Steve Troth - Local IT professional 25+yrs experience
 Tel: 01256 807 876 or support@candoverparksolutions.co.uk



SMALL JOBS

Professional & Friendly Service

Any manner of small jobs undertaken

Plumbing, Tiling, Fencing, Decorating,
 Flat Pack assembly and many other small jobs

In fact ANY SMALL JOB you need doing
 For a free quote please call Glyn on 07737 190179

CARS URGENTLY WANTED
TOP PRICES PAID
 CASH OR INSTANT BANK TRANSFER

M & K AUTOS • BASINGSTOKE

Trading in your car or just need an Instant Cash Sale

CALL US FIRST

- All cars and vans considered from £50 to £20,000
- For a fast, friendly professional approach please call Keith Lovelock on Basingstoke **(01256) 477838** or **07785 594429**

Your Local Buyer



8 DAHLIA CLOSE • KEMPSHOTT • RG22 5RQ

Jonathan Williams
 Independent Funeral Directors

Family owned and run,
 independent Funeral Director
 with traditional values.
 Professional, caring and
 sympathetic staff available 24
 hours a day 365 days a year.

35 - 41 Essex Road
 Basingstoke
 RG21 7TB
01256 817603



HATCH WARREN W.I.

Members of Hatch Warren W.I. held their pre Easter Zoom meeting on 1st April. Our speaker for the evening was changed and we welcomed instead David Woolford who spoke about having a very successful lung transplant eleven years ago. David who suffered with asthma and then pneumonia as a child went on to develop emphysema. He was put on the organ transplant list, when he reach the point of having to use a wheelchair and stair lift and oxygen. David was very amusing with his anecdotes of his experiences before his transplant. You have to be very ill to receive a transplant but well enough to survive the operation and make a good recovery. You have twenty minutes notice before the car with flashing blue lights comes for you and you have to have your bag packed ready. David got the call and as they reached the M25 was then told to go home as the lungs were found not to be suitable for him. On 23rd December another call and off they went this time for him to receive his new lungs which were totally successful. After a seven hour op, David was able to breath without help and stayed at Papworth hospital for about a month. He has to be careful of certain foods otherwise his life is back to normal. Many people draw comfort from knowing that their loved one has helped someone else to live.

Nineteen of our members joined the Zoom HCFWI Spring Council meeting where we learnt about Climate Change with Denise Smythe-Wright and Amanda Owen (aka) The Yorkshire Shepherdess and mother of nine children. Amanda is a writer, tv presenter and really inspiring women who runs her own farm rearing a flock of sheep with her husband Clive.

We welcomed a new member Janet to our W.I. and hope that she will enjoy all the current activities that we are involved with. Our coffee morning once a week see members keep in touch and discuss current affairs. Our Genealogy group this month will look into DNA testing and how this can be used for further research into your family tree. Our Craft group got together on Zoom and we are looking forward to having a cheese tasting evening with wine and nibbles and a cheese quiz. Members will be able to join Zoom meetings on Climate Change and a writing competition from the Hampshire Federation. In August we can join a cruise with a Cream Tea around the Solent.

Our next Zoom monthly meeting will be May 6th which is our Annual General Meeting. There will also be a surprise talk and time for us to chat afterwards and catch up with other members.

As we move forward with restrictions being lifted slowly we will be able to meet more of our members outside as long as we all stick to the rules. If you are interested in joining us please contact our President Lynette 07824 535868 who will be happy to talk to you about our W.I.



Prime Improvements
Home & Garden

07841 532 878

Painting & Decorating	Grass & Hedge cutting
Handyman Jobs	Garden Clearance
Tiling	Fencing & Decking
Flooring	Sheds & Cabins

www.primeimprovements.co.uk



FIRST CLASS UPGRADE FOR YOUR LOFT...

We are specialists in installing loft ladders and hatches. We also supply and install loft boarding, lighting and insulation - to take the heat out of packing your bags (and help you get away from all that clutter for good).

Access4Lofts

WWW.ACCESS4LOFTS.CO.UK

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

- You don't have to wait around for us to arrive!
- Lifetime guarantee
- You'll have added peace of mind knowing we are accredited by Which? Trusted Traders
- You could gain up to a third more space
- No mess, no fuss, just safe, easy access to your loft space.

Call to book a FREE survey & quotation

01256 688648

Weller Mackrill Chartered Certified Accountants and Tax Advisers

Accounts
Tax & VAT Returns
PAYE & CIS
Company formations
IR35 advice
Tax planning
Free initial consultation

Weller Mackrill, South Building,
Upper Farm, Wootton St Lawrence, Basingstoke.
RG23 8PE

For a friendly and sensibly priced service
Please ring
01256 782059

E-mail:

paul@wellermackrill.co.uk
james@wellermackrill.co.uk



Mental Health Awareness Week 2021 – 10th to 16th May 2021

Connecting with Nature is positive for our Mental Health

WHY IS NATURE THE THEME FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2021?

The answer is simple: **Connecting with Nature is positive for our Mental Health**

During long months of the pandemic, millions of us turned to nature. Research from the Mental Health Foundation showed going for walks outside was one of our top coping strategies with 45% of people reporting being in green spaces had been vital for our mental health. Websites showing footage from webcams of wildlife saw hits increase by over 2000%. Wider studies also found that during lockdowns, people not only spent more time in nature but were noticing it more. Did you notice the bluer skies, sounds of bird song, and cleaner air quality? I certainly did.

It was as if we were re-discovering at our most fragile point our fundamental human need to connect with nature.

Nature and our mental health

According to the Mental Health Foundation introduction to the Mental Health Awareness Week 2021, nature is so central to our psychological and emotional health, that it's almost impossible to realise good mental health for all without a greater connection to the natural world. For most of human history, we lived as part of nature. It is only in the last five generations that so many of us have lived and worked in a context that is largely separated from nature. And it is only since a 1960s study in the US found that patients who were treated in hospitals with a view of nature recovered faster, that science has started to unpack the extraordinary health benefits.

Nature has a unique ability to not only bring consolation in times of stress, but also increase our creativity, empathy and a sense of wonder. It turns out that it is not just being in nature but how we open ourselves up and interact with nature that counts. Even small contacts with nature can reduce feelings of social isolation and be effective in protecting our mental health, and preventing distress.

Nature is our great untapped resource for a mentally healthy future.

So what can we do to connect with nature?

The answer to this question could be found in a model created by the New Economic Foundation in 2008 – the *Five Ways to Wellbeing – Be Active – Connect – Take Notice – Learn - Give*. The Five Ways to Wellbeing has proven an extremely popular model to help support approaches to positive mental health. Groups as diverse as General Practitioners, mental health commissioners, arts practitioners, church groups, community and voluntary organisations, and civil service departments have all adopted this approach.

So how can this model work to support Mental Health Awareness Week?

I hope that you manage to take time for you during Mental Health Awareness Week? I will be enjoying time outside, taking in nature, and hoping that the sun shines for all of us together.

Matthew Holman
Owner Simpila
Mental Health
www.simpila.com



BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

BHCS—The fastest growing school in the area!

We are excited to report that Brighton Hill Community School is the fastest growing school in Hampshire; it has seen a large uprise in applications in the past 3 years. The school have 255 spaces available each year and for September 2021, 496 applications were sent in. The application number for 2020 was 440, and 2019 had 405 applications. It is the 12th highest number of applications that any school in the country had. In 2016, the application number was 197; this shows the rise in the school's applications. Mr Edwards, our headteacher, said, "We are the fastest growing school in Hampshire by some distance. We are absolutely delighted that the local community are continuing to put their faith in us at Brighton Hill Community

School. We've worked incredibly hard to turn our school around over the last few years and it's fantastic to see that the hard work is paying off. Our students and families are extremely happy with what we are doing and where we are going. We hope this is just the beginning of our journey as a school. Come September, we will have doubled our numbers as a school in just four years, which is an extraordinary team effort. It's great for Basingstoke as a town to, that so many families who historically would have chosen schools outside of the area are now realising that they have even better options on their doorsteps, with a number of other schools in the town making great improvements too."

Two correspondents spoke to a tutor group at Brighton Hill. Here are their responses:

What do you think of being "Hampshire's fastest growing school"?

HB- "Epic. It's just because we are the best school! We are making success inevitable."

RM- "It makes me feel like we are special!"

PW- "It's very surprising!"

CS- "There'll be lots of children, but the more the merrier!"

JW- "How is the school going to extend to have space for that number of children?"

Why do you think we are "Hampshire's fastest growing school"?

HB- "Great headteacher, great teachers, great tutors, great staff, great classes, great resources, great students. And, let's be honest, it's because of the yellow shirts. They're the best bit!"

LF- "It's brilliant because it's in a good location and has a large catchment area."

We are really proud to be part of the ever growing #YellowArmy!

Abi, Student Reporter, Brighton Hill Community School

COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

DENTAL SURGERY: It looks as if major changes are afoot regarding Beggarwood's promised dental surgery on the Island site. Grainger Trust put the site up for auction (see https://auctions.savills.co.uk/index.php?option=com_bidding&view=commission&layout=catalogue&id=73) with a guide price of £200,000 and it sold for a reported £365,000. That's a lot of money and we don't know yet who the new owners are or what they intend regarding the building of a new surgery. It would be a blow to Beggarwood and the new developments currently taking place if this community asset were to be lost.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP: the latest meeting of the Beggarwood Surgery PPG received a positive report. The surgery is receiving encouraging feedback from patients, and the newly-recruited doctors have slotted in smoothly. Vaccine rollout is progressing well through the Hampshire Court Hotel site.

OPENREACH WORKS: work has been taking place in many locations round Hatch Warren and Beggarwood relating to Openreach, and there have been a lot of complaints about the standards of workmanship. Hampshire County Council officers are aware and have served numerous defect notices. The matter has been discussed with senior Openreach managers. As a result of the dissatisfaction, Hampshire suspended the granting of permits for new works and allowed new ones only for remedial works or where there were safety or safeguarding measures needed. At the end of the day, the County Council reserves the right to prosecute if works remain below the required standards - this was done successfully in 2016. However, Openreach have a legal duty and powers to install and maintain their apparatus, and superfast

broadband is a critical element of the economic recovery.

LITTER AND MESS: the Café in the Park at Beggarwood has posted photographs showing litter and mess left overnight at the outside tables. They were devastated to be greeted by the broken glass and rubbish and have cleared it up as best they can. They are determined to help stamp out this anti-social behaviour and are sharing CCTV footage with the Police.

WAREHOUSE APPLICATION AT JUNCTION 7: the Borough Council's development control committee turned down the outline planning application for four warehouse units but passed the full application for the first of those four. One of the conditions discussed by the Officers is to require the operators not to allow traffic onto the A30 corridor at peak times and this would be important to Hatch Warren and Beggarwood. The local Members of Parliament have written to the Secretary of State asking him to 'call in' the application because they are concerned about the impact the warehouses could have on the proposed new hospital. At the time of writing it is not known whether the Secretary of State will call it in as requested. If he does, there is likely to be an inquiry headed by an independent inspector. The developers have said that the roundabout they will build on the A30 will also serve the proposed new hospital, but without knowing the amount of traffic that the hospital might generate, I don't see how they can be certain on that.

DIGESTATE SPREADING: An important test of the changes made at the Anaerobic Digester passed in mid-April. The operators gave advance warning that the Digestate from their plant would be spread on the adjacent wheat field.

The last time this happened there were reports of odour for many days, but the improvements to the plant should have reduced this impact. It seems that there were some early reports of odour but the problem may not have lingered as badly as last time.

CAFE IN THE PARK has reopened its lunchtime takeaway service. This operates from the park side of the building and they are putting photographs of bacon rolls on their Facebook page to tempt customers back. This is a popular service with dog walkers and other users of the large field.

NEW B&M: Hatch Warren has its new B&M store next door to Sainsbury. On its opening day there was a queue to enter that snaked all the way past the golf store and round the corner. With all our local shop units now occupied, let us hope that they all benefit from increased footfall.

The PORTSMOUTH ARMS OPEN AIR MARKET continues to be very popular on Saturdays with (socially distanced) queues for stalls. It has now been able to welcome back its 'non-essential' stalls and should therefore be back to its full size.

AND FINALLY ... as the lockdown restrictions gradually ease, please continue to be cautious regarding the spread of COVID. Wear the masks, try to stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with (or anyone not in your support bubble), keep washing your hands and let fresh air into your home by opening windows, doors and air vents as much as possible.

Stephen Reid
County Councillor.
Basingstoke South West 07976 310206

TIME TO TUNE IN TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY RADIO STATION, HHCR!

HHCR is your local community radio station playing a whole range of shows and entertainment, something for everyone. HHCR broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from its studio in the heart of Basingstoke.

We're building a station to keep you company, boost local community pride, share local events, help Basingstoke's charities, amplify local artists, celebrate the diverse communities of Basingstoke

on-air & help volunteers find their voice through the power of community radio!

When you tune in, you hear news, weather, coverage of our local sports teams, interviews with Basingstoke's newsmakers and happenings around our town every day, not to mention, some great music.

Why not feature within our What's On Diary, email studio@hhcr.org.uk with the local events that are happening near you and we will showcase these on our website & on the radio FOR FREE!

Have a listen, you can tune into HHCR in lots of ways:

- Online hhcr.org.uk - "LISTEN LIVE" button
- Smart speaker - "Play H H C R"
- Via your Mobile or Tablet - download the FREE Tunein App

Love local, love your local radio HHCR.





Serving Basingstoke for over 36 Years



Many Items in stock for Fast Free Delivery

Showroom

The old Station Andover Rd
 Oakley Basingstoke RG23 7HA
 Tel: (01256) 782070
 OPEN 9am - 5pm MONDAY - FRIDAY CLOSED WEDNESDAY
 SATURDAY 10am - 4pm

**CARPET EDGING SERVICE
 ALSO AVAILABLE
 Rugs Made Your size**

**VINYL, WOOD, CARPETS, LAMINATE,
 FURNITURE FOR THE DINING ROOM, LOUNGE, BEDROOM
 AND STUDY**

www.oakley-furnishing.co.uk



British made Beds Free Delivery Approx 1 week



A truly local company, improving the quality of the water in this area for over 25 years

Call us on: 01256 703346

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
 Where reputation matters



This is a **very hard water area** so you'll know about scaled up kettles, showers & taps. The build up of scale on heat exchangers, boilers & appliances causes costly breakdowns.



Then there's the constant cleaning, money spent on de-scalers & chemicals and dry-skin & **Eczema** aggravated by hard water.

Block Salt Delivery

10 Year Guarantee



Call us to book a site survey - We can show you our softeners, discuss your installation requirements and give you some facts & figures. We do not hard sell & will be happy to give you information.

Rent a softener for £39.96 per month



Eliminate hard water in your home - for good



www.basingstokesofteners.com

Est.1987

Sainsbury's

Our Values Make us Different

To avoid overcrowding
please shop 1 adult
at a time



Covid – 19 Update

Firstly, a huge thank you for your continued patience and cooperation, whilst we learn to adapt to new restrictions at the store.

Our colleagues are passionate about providing a safe place for you to shop during an unprecedented time for all retail workers.

With changes to the way we all shop, occurring on an almost daily basis, please take time to check our website for up to date details and, the notices on display at the store.

Our Online Delivery service from the store now delivers almost 30,000 items every day and reached record levels before Easter, with over 45,000 items and 600 deliveries in just one day.

Online deliveries continue to be prioritised, in the first instance, for those who have

registered as extremely vulnerable via the government website. We've also been able to include elderly customers – where they have a Nectar Card – in releasing delivery slots for them too.

We've increased capacity for our Click and Collect service from the car park; it's almost trebled from levels we usually see.

Social distancing is in place prior to you entering the store and, you will have already noticed our measures to try and extend this within the store as well.

Our Online team of pickers now begin their roles at 2am in the morning, with the aim to be free from the shop floor as soon as they can after we open. However, with the challenge of increasing our delivery capacity, we can't always fulfil this.

Food Donation Partnerships

We've taken the decision to remove any food donation points from the store, at the present time. With restrictions still in place for the items our Food Donation

Partners are requesting, there is little point in encouraging donations, at this time.

We've teamed with Basingstoke Voluntary Action, who are co-ordinating the 19 'Food Donation Hubs' across the Borough and, together with our colleagues at the Depot and our Retail Events Teams, have started to work at supplying food as a bulk delivery.

Sainsbury's continues to work closely with fare Share across the UK, with an initial investment of £3million.

These measures will help in less trips to the store from volunteers looking for items, and allow us to concentrate on bringing availability back to the shelves for our customers.

Finally, may we take this opportunity again to thank you for your patience and cooperation with the many changes you have seen at the store.

**Stay at Home; Protect our NHS;
Save Lives**

MADEIRA CAKE RECIPE

Hello again, Amanda from Indigo Bakes back with a new recipe this month and a little update on our garden too.

I'm currently sat in front of the ovens again, it's still really chilly in the mornings! I don't like being cold, so you'll find me most mornings in front of the ovens warming myself up.

We've started spending more time getting the garden ready. The eggshells are working! An abundance of tulips are now coming through and after I surrounded the stems of these and the hyacinths with crushed eggshells, the slugs and snails have left them well alone. Although I have lost a few flowers due to the frost over the past week.

We have started planting out our vegetable plugs; with carrots, brussle sprouts, turnips, peas and beans, mange-tout, potatoes and pumpkins! It's the first time we have planted so many and most of them will be grown in containers as we have a small garden and also are in competition with the squirrels! So any tips on keeping these pesky pests off of my turnips would be gratefully received. This month I am sharing our Madeira cake recipe with you.

This is a really versatile cake mix and you can add any additional flavours you like. I've given you a few ideas at the end of this recipe, but have a go at adding your own twist and please let us know how you've got on with it. Also, if you have any cake batter left over you can use it for cupcakes.

220g unsalted butter
200g caster sugar
3 large eggs
200g Self Raising Flour
tbsp Milk
Tsp vanilla extract
Pinch of salt

Grease a 900g loaf tin and set your fan oven to 160C.

Beat the sugar and butter together until very light and very fluffy.

Add each egg separately waiting for the one before to fully incorporate into the butter and sugar.

Slowly fold in the sifted flour with the pinch of salt.

**if adding additional ingredients, add them when the flour is almost all folded into the mix.*

Mix the milk with the vanilla extract and add. If you feel that the mixture is too thick then add an additional tbsp of milk.

Pour into your greased loaf tin and smooth out the top of the cake batter.

Pop into the middle shelf of your oven and bake for 45mins, checking at 40mins with a skewer into the deepest part of your cake. You may need an additional 5-10mins depending on your oven and flour. Every oven is different, every flour bakes differently.



If you wanted to add additional flavours, you can add the zest of a lemon, or chocolate chips. Glacé cherries work really well too.

Have fun baking this one! Remember we can deliver free range eggs and flour in your home delivery box. Check our website for all of the types of flour we can supply.

Take care and we will either see you at The Portsmouth Arms Saturday Market or back here next month.

Amanda

www.indigobakes.co.uk

Brand New Retirement Apartments in Basingstoke!

Buy or Rent!



McCarthy & Stone



- 1 & 2 bedroom apartments
- Exclusively for the over-60s
- Beautiful landscaped garden
- Communal lounge
- On-site House Manager
- Private car parking[^]
- Rental options available
- Part exchange on your current property available
- Guest suite[^]
- Local amenities within walking distance
- Free moving service available*

Register your interest to be kept up-to-date ahead of the Sales Release

Call 0800 882 1385 or visit mccarthyandstone.co.uk/basingstoke to register your interest

Development Address: Island Site, Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke, RG23 7NL

*Additional charges apply. *Visit mccarthyandstone.co.uk/smoothmove for more details

SC008608



OLD DOWN AND BEGGARWOOD WILDLIFE GROUP

Despite the terrible past year Spring has sprung (that's the wonder of nature and our world) and on both sites the butterflies and bees are emerging. Some of the early butterflies are the *Brimstone*, *Peacock* and *Small Tortoiseshell*. The early bees are usually the queen *Bumble* bees and these can be seen flying about looking for a suitable nesting site. Also around are various species of the *Mining* bee. These are smaller than bumble bees. As the name suggests they dig out a hole in the ground for their nests.

Old Down is a good site for many species of butterflies and for some years has been recognised by Butterfly Conservation as the Hampshire stronghold of the Small Blue. There were several transect counts of over 100 during 2020 including a staggering count of 296 on 27 May last year. The total number of Small Blues seen in 2020 was 919 – which is very impressive.

This is the time of year when the wildflowers start to show on the Old Down meadow and the wildflower areas within Beggarwood. Sadly, it is likely

that the displays will not be as good as previous years, especially on Old Down, as a consequence of the heavy footfall. The Council did not carry out its usual mowing regime on the meadow last year and thus the footpaths are not so defined and this is resulting in people wandering all over and thus trampling the vegetation.

Good news - work parties have re-started on both sites. On Old Down we have planted some wildflower plugs and some dog rose. We have also started to tackle the invasive dogwood which has really spread because we have been unable to keep it in check during the last 12 months.

Work Parties: At last! – we have started meeting up again. For Old Down we meet outside Old Down Hall every Thursday 10-12 noon and for Beggarwood 10-12 noon on the first Tuesday of the month. Please come along. Check our website for up-dates.

www.olddownandbeggarwood.org.uk
Email: odandbwd@gmail.com



Bumble bee



Mining bee





PROBUS HEARS OF THREE PYRENEAN ADVENTURES

Probus Club member, retired RAF Squadron Leader, Chris Perkins MVO, talked about his recollections of three backpacking expeditions to the French and Spanish Pyrenees some four decades ago. They were "home spun" adventures involving experienced members of the Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue Service, although the last trip was with those with little or no mountaineering experience providing a trekking experience second to none.

As a boy, in the immediate post war suburbia of south Birmingham, he always held an interest in the great outdoors. Birthday, Christmas and pocket money was spent sourcing items of ex-military maps, rucksacks and compasses. Only after embarking on his RAF Service in the 1960s could he afford to purchase up to date clothing and equipment and eventually joined the RAF Mountain Rescue Service.



A decade later, he was persuaded to put together a 'trekking adventure' to the French/Spanish Pyrenees. Being a military sponsored expedition, permissions had to be obtained and diplomatic clearance achieved for them to operate in the border area. They were challenged on the first two expeditions by the French National Gendarmerie as Basque separatists were active in the area. This worked to their advantage for the third trip as a liaison had



been established with the Gendarmerie unit based at their start point in Bagnères de Luchon: an ideal location to securely leave valuables, a change of clothing, camp overnight and 'clean up' prior to the long rail journey back to base.

None had experienced travelling in the area during July. The scarce information that could be gleaned, described fantastic rocky ridges and peaks, permanent glaciers and high valleys holding year-round snow and ice. On the first expedition, they kitted themselves out with normal RAF Mountain Rescue winter mountaineering clothing and equipment as if tackling a winter trip to the Scottish Cairngorms or Glencoe. Combined with the heavy tentage of the time, all rucksack loads exceeded 60lbs with tinned food for a couple of weeks.

The plan was to set up a base camp just inside the National Park boundary and each day make exploratory excursions, some with overnight bivouacs to look at various glaciers, mountain huts and suitable routes to gain the frontier peaks. They looked very strange 'apparitions' toiling up the steep, but well-defined lower tracks loaded up and perspiring profusely. In temperatures well over 30 degrees, they were overtaken by folk trekking in their shorts, 'T' shirts and walking trainers, all carrying lightweight overnight sacs and plenty of water. They were bound for French Alpine Club mountain huts below the snowline where accommodation and food could be provided - at a cost. Utilising these 'facilities' and locating camps nearby, the RAF team were able to access the upper snowfield couloirs, peaks and frontier ridge thus saving the gruelling descent and climb each day.

Much was learnt from that first excursion into the area. Looking across into Spain more incredible mountain ridges were seen, and above the snowline, only a few experienced climbers and the alpinists of the Gendarmerie were encountered. Some access valleys and rocky passes in the area had been utilised by the Resistance during WW2 taking Allied Evaders into Spain. This knowledge set the scene for a return next year to expand the trip into a 'lightweight trekking expedition' taking ten days crossing into Spain, climbing the highest peak in the Pyrenees, Pic de Aneto and returning via a steep and rocky pass over the frontier.



Each trip they travelled by train from London, with the Hovercraft used to cross the Channel from Dover. Also, instead of sitting upright in crowded, bench seated carriages, couchette compartments were utilised. However, on the return journey some French passengers allocated overnight beds in a couple of their compartments, were unimpressed with odours radiating from two weeks of backpacking kit.

They had gained access to a remote and completely unspoilt, beautiful area of the Pyrenees for these expeditions. Unforgettable adventures for all and extremely gratifying. It is hoped that with the passage of decades, climate change causing glacier melt, mass holidays for all and the advent of motor vehicle incursion into those mountains, that the area has not changed for ever!



**POP IN FOR A
CLUB TOUR
ANYTIME**



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Enjoy unrivalled fitness facilities with expert guidance and motivation

- 📍 Extensive well-ventilated Gym
- 📍 Floodlit Open-Air Gym
- 📍 Outdoor Spin Classes
- 📍 50+ Outdoor Exercise Classes
- 📍 Floodlit Football
- 📍 Floodlit Tennis

Membership to Basingstoke's premier health club is not all about physical exercise, you'll also enjoy unlimited access to luxurious pools, spa, private bar and restaurant with spacious terraces.



Visit our website
beechdown.co.uk

Call us on
01256 36 22 22

Find us at
**Winchester Rd
RG22 4ES**

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

**We are gradually welcoming groups back as restrictions are being lifted.
Check out our website for details.**



THE ONLY PROVIDER OF A FRESHLY HOME COOKED MEAL

PASSIONATE, DEDICATED & LONG STANDING TEAM

ARTS/CRAFTS AND GAMES

FRIENDLY, SAFE, MODERN ENVIRONMENT

In the heart of your community!

HEALTHY WALKING BUS FROM SCHOOL

EASY ACCESS TO AN OUTDOOR AREA INCLUDING LARGE FIELD, ENCLOSED PATIO AND SPORTS COURTS

FULLY QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED DBS CHECKED STAFF

HATCH WARREN ASC
Established 2013
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Price per session £11.60
Flexible bookings & extra sessions can be accommodated

Contact us:
odette@hatchwarren.org
01256 811262
www.hatchwarren.org

Hatch Warren Community Centre,
Long Cross Lane, Basingstoke, RG22 4XF
OFSTED EY 491834
Registered Charity Number: 1161117

NOTICE of AGM Meeting via ZOOM

7:30pm Wednesday 9th June 2021

We are exciting to announce that this years AGM will be held via **Zoom** to enable the whole community to be involved in these difficult times. **You are invited to attend a short meeting** to support the trustees of Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association. The charity (1161117) exists to provide, run and manage Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Centres and to provide social and educational facilities to improve the conditions of life for the residents of the community of postcodes RG22 and RG23. An update of our achievements and our plans for the future of HWBCA will be reviewed. **We need a minimum of 25 HWBCA members** to achieve quorum, to vote on the night to keep us going for another year, don't assume someone else will turn up on the night. **We can't survive without YOU!** Membership renewal is easy and costs £10 per year per family.

Please register in advance for this meeting.

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

Hatch Warren Community Centre

LAGER Festival



Prosecco, Wine, Ale & Cider too!!

Hot Food by Global Kitchen Catering

Live music from **Johnny Marvel's BLUES GROOVE**

Saturday 17th July 7-11pm
ADULTS ONLY

Tickets £6
£3 members (on production of valid card and limited to 2 per family)

To book tickets see our website

www.hatchwarren.org / 01256 811262

This event is being held as a fundraising event for Hatch Warren & Beggarwood Community Association
Charity No 1161117. Tickets non-refundable

Registered Charity Number 1161117

find us on **facebook**

Hatch Warren Community Centre

Tel: 01256 811262
Email: office@hatchwarren.org
Web: www.hatchwarren.org
Following us on Twitter @hatchwarren



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 /Tel: 842111 / Email: vicky@hatchwarren.org

Follow Us on Facebook @The Warren and Instagram @thewarrenyouthclub

The Warren is back! We are happy to confirm that in line with the easing of Government restrictions we can reopen from Friday May 21st 2021.

Younger sessions

Our sessions for those in school years 6-8, will be running Fridays from 6pm-7.45pm. Every week we will have the Pool Table, Air Hockey and Games Consoles, as well as activities such as craft and quizzes plus we will be selling our delicious hot food and drinks.

To ensure we can have fun safely, masks will be required by anyone whilst inside the building (unless a parent or guardian has informed us of an exemption) and social distancing will be in place at all times and regular hand washing and disinfecting of all equipment. As spaces will be limited we will again be implementing our booking system for these sessions. Activities Schedule: Fridays 6pm -7.45 pm, school years 6, 7 and 8

21 st May	Man Hunt and Donuts
28 th May	Football and Hot Dogs
4 th June	Laser Tag and Toasties
11 th June	Slime and Milkshakes
18 th June	Scavenger Hunt and Nachos
25 th June	Nerf War and Ice Cream Sundaes

Older Sessions

We will be open Fridays 8pm-9.30pm for ages 13 and over. If you want to play pool, air hockey or just want somewhere to hang out -come on down. No need to book, just ensure you bring your details to enable us to track and trace and don't forget your face masks!

We can also offer you free confidential advice on a range of issues including contraception, pregnancy testing, drugs and alcohol.

For the latest info please keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages or Email our Youth Manager Vicky: vicky@hatchwarren.org

Summer Holidays

We are pleased to announce we have secured funding to enable us to open an extra night a week throughout the summer holidays! More details coming soon!



had its second meeting at the Warren on 12th April. It was great to enjoy the lighter evening, a little cold but still sunny. For the members it was so good to meet up with their friends. Next week we are hoping that more of our group will join us as we come out of lockdown and more members are vaccinated. We are so very grateful to Hatch Warren for giving us a permanent home.

For support please call Dilys on 07939532667



Thank you!

Have you seen our handsome new gazebo? You may remember our previous one was destroyed by Storm Ciara. Our gazebo is essential to us being able to deliver sessions outdoors so we are incredibly grateful to:

Four Lanes Trust

Cllr Stephen Reid

Basingstoke Rotary Club

for their generous donations which enabled us to build our wonderful replacement.





Hatch Warren
Under Fives Preschool

HATCH WARREN UNDER FIVES

We had such a wonderful end to the spring term at Hatch Warren Under Fives; it's hard to believe we're now into our final term!



Spring term was all about springtime – the children learnt all about the season of spring and all about baby farm animals too. In the lead up to the holidays we enjoyed lots of Easter activities, we made Easter bonnets and wreaths, painted eggs, made Easter nest cakes, found lots of eggs hidden around the garden and we even had a visit from the Easter bunny who arrived with a basket full of chocolate eggs for everyone.

We have created lots of different role play areas in our home corner over the last few weeks, but the children's favourite has definitely been the farm shop. The children went shopping for carrots, onions and potatoes at the farm shop and then chopped them up to make a vegetable stew. The children have also been busy planting their own vegetables in the garden and growing spring flowers too.

Our older children had some very exciting news over the Easter holidays – they found out which schools they will be going to in September! It's been lovely to hear all about the "big" schools and who is going where. So this term is when our "school readiness" begins. We will begin to introduce lots of activities to prepare our bigger children, for example, can the children change into their PE kit by

themselves? Can they independently wash their hands and open the food in their lunchbox? We'll also start to focus much more on numbers, health and self-care and communication and language.

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

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

- Independent in toileting
- Able to dress themselves
- Understands expected levels of behaviour
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Can take turns and share
- Can sit still for a short period
- Can separate from parents/carers
- Communication and language skills needed to communicate needs and listen to others
- Can actively learn and creatively and critically think

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

WE ARE ENROLLING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 – to enquire about a space at Hatch Warren Under Fives, please contact our Manager, Angela, on 01256 322788 or email preschoolmail@aol.com.

You can see weekly updates from Hatch Warren Under Fives on our Facebook page "Hatch Warren Under 5s Preschool", where you will see lots of photos and learn our Makaton signs of the week. You can also take a virtual tour of our preschool in the video section.

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

www.hatchwarrenunderfives.co.uk

DANDELIONS PRE-SCHOOL

We have had a lovely term with all of the children here at the setting. The children have shown continued resilience in these ever changing times.



We have been busy focusing on the children's fine and gross motor skills. Practising their threading skills, cutting and using tweezers to encourage the pincer movement. We have touched on our behaviour and being kind to one another by sharing and being helpful. By introducing the "Kindness Jar" the children are keen to fill it with a cotton wool balls each time they try that little bit extra which is working really well.

With the run up to Easter we have enjoyed lots of fun activities with a surprise Easter egg hunt and Easter bonnet parade

We would like to send a huge thank you to Spotlight who have kindly donated Easter eggs for all of the children together with a hand knitted teddy created by a member of the Community.

We have limited spaces available therefore if your child was born between

1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 please do contact us for a registration form on

01256 818857 or alternatively e-mail info@dandelions-preschool.org.uk

CANDOVER VALLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Hello from CVP!

During this month we have been reading What the Ladybird Heard. Linking this to





activities including cotton wool sheep and our sensory tray of foam for the children to explore the textures, role play the story and lots of communication for the little ones to talk about the animals they could find.

Our Covid friendly Easter Egg hunt was a huge hit! The parents and children were welcomed to our forest site to socially distance, while taking part in our quiz, answering the questions, collecting letters from the Easter Bunnies they could find and discovering the surprise word to collect an easter chocolate treat prize. What a fun activity to take part in during the holidays.

About CVP:

We are situated in the beautiful village of Preston Candover, only 5 miles from Basingstoke and Alresford. We are a long-term Ofsted OUTSTANDING setting providing a child-centred approach with exceptional care and learning.

If you are interested in coming to view the Pre-School, please contact us for a Socially Distanced Show Around. We are still also offering our usual Settling-In sessions for parents to meet their child's Key Person, ensuring children feel confident and happy when they start with us. We also offer 15 and 30 hour funded places. You can find lots of photos and information via our website or our Google listing online.

We are looking for Bank Staff Members, so please contact us if you are interested.

We look forward to welcoming you very soon!

01256-389008 cvpadmin@btconnect.com

Lisa Collison

CUCKOO MEADOW PRESCHOOL

Hello from Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School! First and foremost we would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets for our Easter hamper this year – we raised a staggering £369 which will make such a difference and will help buy a new water table for the children to enjoy, just in time for summer.

This Easter holiday has been a lovely time to reflect on all that our Pre-School has achieved in the last few months but also has given us time to plan. There are spaces for 2021 and 2022 so do apply now for your local, Ofsted Outstanding setting – all are welcome!!

The end of the last term was full of fun – from making Easter artworks and baking – to all the children enjoying a music class on the meadow with Caterpillar Music. As for next term, we're hoping to have Rugby Tots visit our children on a weekly basis which will be hugely exciting as we all run around in the great outdoors. We have never felt more lucky to have such a vast expanse of green on our doorstep, not forgetting the playground of course. For the latest news do visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cuckoomeadowpreschool.

Talking of luck, we also invite you to take part in the Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School lottery. This lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children. It's a fantastic way to bring parents, carers, teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our Pre-School, and at the same time give something back. Visit www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk and search for: Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School.

Lastly, may we please ask again that you continue to support us – and thanks so much to the parents (past and present) and community members who have been in touch. Please do consider us on www.smile.amazon.co.uk and www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Allocating 'Cuckoo Meadow Pre-School' as your nominated charity on either of these platforms will mean that shops such as John Lewis, Argos and many more donate a % of your purchase price directly to our Pre-School – and at no extra admin for you!

To find out more please contact Jo or Fiona on 01256 398172. www.cuckoomeadow.org

SEA OF PURPLE HAS A SPECIAL MEANING

Purple 4 Polio

Earlier in the spring you may have noticed masses of purple crocus on banks and open spaces around our local towns and villages. These crocuses have been planted to draw attention to Rotary's Purple 4 Polio campaign. Locally some of the crocus corms were supplied by Rotary and planted by local organisations as part of local projects. Basingstoke Deane Rotary distributed 3000 corms last autumn which were planted around the borough and were in full flower this spring.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal to rid the world of this disease is closer than ever. But why Purple 4 Polio? In the early days of administering the vaccine it was given on a sugar cube. The younger children in places such as India thought it was a sweet and would join the queue again for a second sweet. To identify the children who had been vaccinated their little finger was painted with a purple dye. Hence Purple 4 Polio. It is now administered orally by dropping the required dose directly into the mouth using a dispenser.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year. Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion to polio eradication since it launched the PolioPlus programme in 1985, and it's committed to raising \$50 million each year for polio eradication activities.

Because of a 2-to-1 matching agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, that means that, each year, \$150 million goes toward fulfilling Rotary's promise to the children of the world: No child will ever again suffer the devastating, paralyzing and crippling effects of polio. Proof of how effective vaccination can be.

www.rcbd.org.uk

Facebook: [@RotaryBasingstokeDeane](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryBasingstokeDeane)

Twitter: [@RBstokeDeane](https://twitter.com/RBstokeDeane)

Café in the Park

Beggarwood Community Centre, Broadmere Road,
Basingstoke, Hants. RG22 4AQ
Hall bookings: (01256) 811262

OPENING HOURS

Friday-Sunday from 10am-2pm

Our Take away only service menu will include:

Delicious Home-made Cakes, Hot & Cold Drinks, Breakfast
Rolls, Sandwiches & Ice Creams (doggy treats too)



For the safety of our customers and staff, we will be serving from the Park side only, whilst the centre remains closed to the public. Thank you for your patience and we look forward to seeing you very soon

April 2021



POLICE UPDATE

Action Fraud Alert: Money Mules

Money mule recruiters are targeting those looking for work or to earn easy money by posting fake adverts on jobs websites and social media. Criminals may ask them to receive money into their bank account and transfer it to another account, keeping some of the cash for themselves. If they let this happen, they are a money mule and are involved in money laundering, which is a crime.

Find out more on the Action Fraud website and at www.moneymules.co.uk

Report sexual harassment at railway stations and on trains

If you've been the victim of any form of unwanted sexual behaviour on the railway, please do report it to British Transport Police (BTP).

You can save the 61016 text number to your phone and contact BTP if you have any concerns whilst travelling or in stations.

Register your CCTV & doorbell cameras to help us fight crime

Your CCTV security cameras (including

video doorbells) can help deter and rapidly solve crime. Register them on the N.I.C.E Investigate system to streamline information exchange and help us with sending the evidence needed to catch criminals faster.

- Your information is kept safe and secure - never made public
- Only other police forces can see your security camera locations
- This service is provided free of charge
- Your participation always remains 100% voluntary

Register by emailing
NICEDEMSSUPPORT@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Ticket Fraud

As a result of the high demand for tickets, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) are warning buyers to take extra care when buying tickets online. Action Fraud are urging people to be wary of fraudsters selling fake or non-existent tickets to events.

Spot the signs of ticket fraud and protect yourself:

Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known and reputable ticket site.

Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal offer greater protection against fraud.

Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information: www.star.org.uk/buy_safe

Ofcom Warning: Text Scam

There have been reports to Ofcom of people receiving text messages claiming to be from Royal Mail, asking for payment to deliver a parcel. **This is a scam.** If you receive a text like this **do not tap on the link.** Instead, forward the text to 7726 to report it to your provider.

BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT DISABILITY FORUM (BDDF)

Why volunteer?

Do you have a couple of hours to spare a month, maybe you have more free time than usual as you are commuting less or want a new challenge or a way to make new friends whilst giving back to your local community?

BDDF are actively seeking volunteers to support our services such as the buddy scheme and to help on the Scarecrow event.

BDDF would like to expand our Trustee Board. As a Trustee you can help set the strategy for the charity. We have 2 positions available one focusing on Diversity & Inclusion and the second a Treasurer/Financial position.

Why volunteer?! Volunteering offers vital help to people in need but there are many benefits for you, the volunteer. Aside from the obvious feel-good factor from giving your time to a worthy cause, volunteering has several key benefits which make it well worth considering...

- **Gain confidence** by giving you the opportunity to try something new and build a real sense of achievement.
- **Make a difference** Your actions will have a real and valuable positive affect on people, communities and society in general.
- **Meet people** from across the community, make new friends.
- **Be part of a community** Be part of a cause wider than your current network.
- **Learn new skills** Gain practical experience, help your CV stand out and learn skills which make you more desirable for prospective employers.
- **Challenge yourself** to try something different, achieve personal goals, practice using your skills and discover hidden talents.
- **Have fun!** Most volunteers have a great time, regardless of why they do it.

Food for thought? Want to know more about volunteering with Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF), your local disability charity, please contact sarah@bddf.org.uk or telephone 01256 423869. or by visiting our website www.bddf.org.uk.

J Cook Landscapes

Maintenance & Clearance
Decking & Fencing
Patios & Driveways
Garden Design & Build



Call now for a free quote:
01256 412723 / 0771 7214521
e: info@jcooklandscapes.co.uk
www.jcooklandscapes.co.uk

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Be still

As the next steps of coming out of lockdown happen, we hear people saying, 'I want to go back to normal'. But what is normal after the year that we have faced. Perhaps we need to be thinking about what a new normal looks like, what real matters to us going forward.

As I stood and took in the view on a recent dog walk, it reminded me that God is not only the creator of this amazing world but also the sustainer of our lives. I wonder how often we really stop to look at and acknowledge God's creation. The vibrant colours of the seasons and, if we are lucky, the bright blue skies and the beautiful spring flowers basking in the warmth of the sun. I wonder how and when we find time to be with God and how does God sustain us in our faith. A verse from Psalm 46:10 keeps coming into my mind, "Be still and know that I am God". I wonder, when do you make time to be still with God? It can be difficult to find a day that we can devote to spending time with God. However, you could spend a few hours in the garden, going for a walk or prayerfully doing something that is creative to have a special time with him.

When Jesus called his first disciples to come and follow him in Matthew's gospel we read, "Immediately they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 3:20) Our response to following Jesus may not be quite so decisive, it may happen over time. So much has happened since I responded to Jesus' call to follow him. That call on my life has taken me on a journey that I never thought would be possible. Our lives can be transformed in ways that we could never imagine when we know the love of God, when we take time to be still with him. We are all on a life long journey with so much more still to learn.

At Immanuel Church we are holding communion services on Sundays at 10am in St Mark's school hall, you are very welcome to join us. As a church we continue to pray for the local community and the school. If there is anything you would like prayer for please let me know. May I encourage you to take some time this month to reflect on God and how He sustains you in your life. As you are out and about take some time to enjoy the richness and beauty of God's creation. I pray that you will encounter God in new and surprising ways.

Blessings,

Rev May
07922 516761
revmay@immanuelhwb.co.uk
www.immanuelhwb.co.uk

Your local church in Hatch Warren



Lively worship every
Sunday at 10.00am.
Weekday activities.

Immanuel Church
Church Centre, St Mark's School, Danebury Road, Hatch Warren
All Enquiries to: 07922 516761
www.immanuelhwb.co.uk

CLASSIFIED ADS

ONE TO ONE PIANO TUITION.

Remotely and Face to Face Beginners welcome from 6yrs. Local, experienced 'ISM approved' teacher. 01256 333241 / 07774 631802 / jancleaver33@hotmail.com www.1to1musictutors.co.uk

BRIDGES ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Fully Qualified, Insured and Registered Electrician. All Work Certified. Call 01256 471853 or 07879 298008. All Electrical Work Undertaken.

FAY CURTIS-FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Professional Footcare in the comfort of your home. Call 07780 664410

TRADITIONAL PLASTERER

All aspects of plastering. Small works welcome. Call 07958 670774 – 01256 364991 (Dave)

HOWARD PARK BOWLS CLUB

The club is now up and running, the green is in good condition and the first woods have already been bowled. This is now an opportunity to enjoy healthy outdoor exercise, meet new people and make new friends.

The club is mindful that there is a reticence to meeting people at close quarters in view of the pandemic but the club has been set out to mitigate any such worries. We have purchased a marquee that will allow changing, virtually outdoors, rather than using the small changing rooms.

So why not come along to our Tuesday club night from 6pm. Alternatively, you can pop along any Wednesday mornings from 10 till mid-day when the maintenance crew are working.

Please contact Alan Tait Tel No 01256 329493 or mobile 07932 064252.

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 rounds need a deliverer:

1. Priest Down and Old Beggarwood Lane
2. Camford Close
3. Wentworth Crescent



THE BLUEBELLS HAVE ARRIVED AND WE'RE BREAKING OUT TOO

Join us as we move into the parks, woods and pathways around Basingstoke

It hasn't taken our groups long to get going again. Our walking photographers are out, probably making the most of the bluebells. Members are playing croquet, walking and cycling, keeping carefully to current rules and regulations. The photograph shows our croquet players enjoying their first game, with only six players per session. We're excited about three new outdoor activities we are planning - walking rounders, netball and football. New members will be very welcome, so let us know if you're interested.

And there's plenty going on indoors too

Technology has enabled us to do far more indoors during Lockdown, especially in our creative and learning groups, such as arts, crafts, bridge, science & technology, languages, literature and history.

You don't need to be online to take part in the fun

Basingstoke u3a will continue to plan to include us all, probably continuing with a mix of online and face-to-face activities, as Lockdown rules ease.

Have a look at the full range of activities on our website and if you're interested in joining us, let us know or ring for further details. You can join in with as many groups as you want - one membership fee of £15 will give you lots to do with us, through to August, indoors and outdoors. You'll be made very welcome by everyone.

email: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com 07787 520 281

www.basingstokeu3a.org facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a




MIKE'S GARDEN SERVICES

- General garden maintenance • Landscaping and planting • Garden clearances • Tree / hedge work
- Fence & shed work / treatments • Lawn mowing
- Turf laying • No job too small • Fully insured
- Logs, Kindling and De-icer deliveries
- Free estimates • Competitive rates

Tel: 01256 325015
 mnm.chapman@talktalk.net
 www.gardenerbasingstoke.com

AFFORDABLE CARE & SUPPORT FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN NEEDS



INTERIOR EXTERIOR

Painter's Pride



EXPERIENCED HOUSEHOLD
PAINTER & DECORATOR

NO JOB TOO SMALL, LOCAL TO HATCH WARREN.
TEL: 01256 355356 or 07876 495657

Free ads

Sponsored by Looking Good Property

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC

- PAINTING & DECORATING
- FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED



CONTACT TREVOR 07982 060091
www.lookinggoodproperty.co.uk

Online booking of all adverts:
www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

Free ads can also be sent to editor@therabbitr.biz

WICKER OTTOMAN 83CM LONG, 43CM WIDE, 43CM HIGH, £10. CALL 01256 391975

KENWOOD BM450 BREAD MAKER WITH INSTRUCTIONS AND RECIPE BOOK. NOT PERFECT, HENCE £20. CALL 01256 391975

PINE WARDROBE WITH DRAWER AND INTERNAL LOW SHELF 177CM HIGH, 110CM WIDE, 53CM DEEP. £30 CALL 01256 391975

SIX HAMPSHIRE MPS, CAGE AND DUMMER PARISH COUNCIL REQUEST A 'CALL-IN' ON WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENT ON J7M3.

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee of Basingstoke Council, councillors voted to REFUSE the outline plan for 4 warehouses but GRANTED PERMISSION for the building of a single gigantic warehouse. The developers, Newlands, are acting as spokesmen for Amazon with whom they are working in anticipation of a completed financial deal.

Maria Miller MP, Kit Malthouse MP, and four other local MPs have jointly requested that the Secretary of State grants their request to launch a public enquiry which would make the final decision on these applications. The future of a new hospital in Basingstoke could be threatened by the possible warehouse development, as the existing infrastructure would not support traffic from both the hospital and warehouses on junction 7.

Please visit the CAGE website for more information.

cleanairgreenenvironment.org



ASHBY AND AUSTIN PROPERTY SERVICES LTD

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS AGENCY.
EST. 2007 COVERING BASINGSTOKE, HOOK AND LOCAL AREAS.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- PRIVATE ROAD MANAGEMENT
- BLOCK MANAGEMENT OF APARTMENTS

FIRST TWO MONTHS MANAGEMENT F.O.C FOR NEW LANDLORDS !

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

JACKIE BIGNELL

TEL: 01256 762906 MOBILE: 07726 902787

EMAIL : jackie@ashbyandaustin.co.uk W:www.ashbyandaustin.co.uk

Welcome and Bienvenue to Creature Comfort

Dog walking and Animal Care Services



We are based in
Basingstoke and provide:

- Dog walking
- Cat visits
- Care for small caged animals (Rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters)
- Pet Taxi
- Hutch and cage cleaning
- Pop in & visit services

For mutual peace of mind, you can rest easy in the knowledge that we are:

- Fully Insured
- Criminal record checked
- First aid trained
- Certified and registered with the National Association of Registered Pet Sitters – NARPS

e: Sophie@creature-comfort.co.uk

t: 07375 339 770



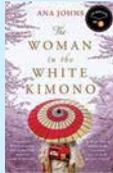
"We understand the importance of your pets in your life, which is why we promise to care for them and love them as if they were our own."

www.creature-comfort.co.uk



BOOKWORMS MARCH MEETING

Our book discussion for this month was centred on 'The Woman in the White Kimono' by Ana Johns. It is a story based on truth and tells the tale of two women. One woman living in 1957 Japan torn between her culture and her heart and the other in modern day America trying to solve the mysteries of her father's past.



Despite being a difficult and sad read the Bookworms voted it straight to the top of our chart with a score of 8.6 from 18 votes. Everyone agreed it was a slow start to the story but suddenly you were hooked in and couldn't put it down. We felt the book was beautifully written with wonderful descriptions of the Japanese culture and way of life. Several members had visited Japan and this novel brought back fond memories for them which they were keen to share.



Our next book choice takes us to Mexico and we follow the journey of Lydia and her son fleeing for their lives to the safety of the north. 'American Dirt'

by Jeanine Cummins is a rollercoaster ride of a read. Read along with us and see what you think! Beggardwood Bookworms are on Facebook.

Basingstoke Festival

**Save the date for
Basingstoke Festival
Friday 25 June to
Sunday 11 July 2021**

**Discover art in unusual places
in unusual times!**

There's fun for all the family at this year's Basingstoke Festival. The annual arts festival, in its ninth year, will showcase the best of the arts locally, nationally and internationally - from music to dance, visual art to theatre, you will 'discover art in unusual places in unusual times'.

Across Basingstoke and the surrounding areas you will find acts such as Urban Astronaut from Highly Sprung Theatre Company that combines storytelling with stunning design and an aerial performance, using a unique travelling flying machine that suspends the performer 20 feet in the air. Mimbire Acrobats will return to the festival with their quirky show Lifted, a breathtaking and highly-skilled acrobatic piece of performance art, and children and their families will also be invited to look through the windows and doors of My House, a circus theatre experience from Apocalyptic Circus.

Local artists and organisations including Proteus, Scratchbuilt Productions, Pumpkin Pantos and Junk Jodie Arts and Crafts will be featured in the programme highlighting the best of arts and culture Basingstoke has to offer.



The packed programme also features a series of outdoor cinema screenings showing popular movies in a brand-new picturesque location. Film titles will include Frozen 2, Back to the Future and The Greatest Showman plus many more!

Keep an eye on the website for up to date information www.basingstokefestival.co.uk.

To ensure Basingstoke Festival is COVID-secure and to keep audiences and performers safe, events may be ticketed. These will be available via the website.

Notes: Basingstoke Festival is a partner in Without Walls, working with festivals and artists and bringing fantastic outdoor arts to people in towns and cities across the UK. More here: www.withoutwalls.org.uk

Basingstoke Festival is subsidised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Goslings Garden & Fencing Services Ltd
With over 20 years experience in all gardening areas.
T: 01256 762327 / 07973 523246
Email: gozlisha@aol.com

Garden Maintenance (one-off / regular) • Mowing •
Strimming • Hedge-cutting • Stump grinding • Fencing •
Pruning • Patio's • Turfing ... and more

NJP Heating Services Tel: 01256 782202
Mob: 07717 741999

Specialising in:

- Condensing boilers - supplied and installed
- Powermax and Boilermate repairs
- Water softeners supplied and installed
- Power flush heating systems
- Unvented hot water cylinders
- Plumbing

www.njpheating.com

Trading Standards Approved

Free estimates and no call out charge

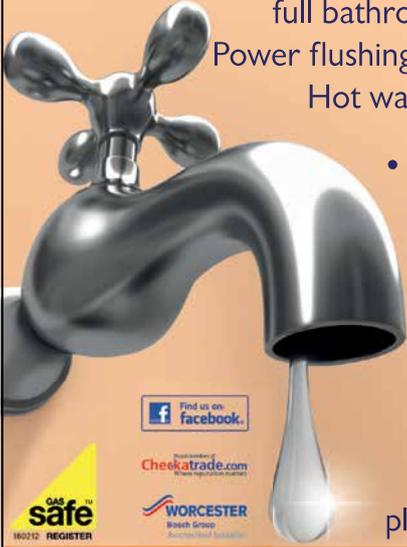
FOR MORE THAN JUST A LEAKY TAP



Niall Catlin PLUMBING & HEATING

EST 1991

Leaky taps to
full bathroom installation
Power flushing | Water softeners
Hot water cylinders



- Boiler breakdowns, repair and servicing
- Boiler replacement
- All allied trades
- All aspects of plumbing and heating



Checkatrade.com



www.niallcatlin.co.uk

01256 818086
07774 741021

TWO GUYS

KITCHENS / BATHROOMS / APPLIANCES

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF BASINGSTOKE & NORTH HAMPSHIRE SINCE 1968



FINANCE
NOW
AVAILABLE

Please ask
for details



DESIGN,
SALES & FULL
INSTALLATION
SERVICE

01256 363123 | twoguys.co.uk

ARMSTRONG ROAD, DANESHILL EAST, BASINGSTOKE, HANTS RG24 8NU



Call The Professionals

Quality build, on time, on budget.

With over 10 successful years providing quality services to our customers, we possess a wide range of building professionalism to help you achieve the home of your dreams.

New Builds, Extensions, Alterations
Kitchens, Plastering & Joinery.

mobile: 07921 756438

office: 01256 636203

website: www.ctpbuilder.org.uk

email: info@ctpbuilder.co.uk

 CTP Builders Limited

LIFE IS A JOURNEY THAT STARTS
AND ENDS WITH FAMILY



At Clarke & Son our expert teams will guide you through all your important matters:

CLARKE
& SON
SOLICITORS

T: 01256 320555

E: mail@clarkeandson.co.uk



RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTY



FAMILY LAW



WILLS & ESTATE
PLANNING

Clarke & Son Solicitors LLP
Manor House, 8 Winchester Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 8UG
www.clarkeandson.co.uk

**29 Years
serving the local
community**

**RAINBOW
DOUBLE GLAZING LIMITED**



1992-2021

Your truly local double glazing company

29 successful years



Energy Window	
A	A
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
Energy Index (Uw) (W/m ² /K)	0
Thermal Transmittance (U _t) (W/m ² /K)	1.6 W/m ² /K
Solar Factor (g _w)	0.89
Window Air Leakage (L/m ³ /h/m ²)	2.00 L/m ³ /h/m ²
The climate zone is:	UK

**Windows • Doors • Roofline
Conservatories • Orangeries
Entrance Porch • Garage Conversions
Rainbow Warm Roof Conversions**

- No deposit**
- No hassle**
- Energy 'A' Rated**
- 10 year Guarantee**
- Payment on completion**



For a free no-obligation quotation please call FREEPHONE:

0800 026 46 42 or 0118 970 1770

www.rainbowdoubleglazing.co.uk