



ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

May 2012 / Issue 1

THE WAITING IS OVER!

Since the beginning of the year we have been holding our monthly Parish Council meetings at the new Rooksdown Community Centre.

If you have anything you wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, or our Borough and County Councillors and the police beat officer who also attend the meetings, please come along on the 4th Monday of the month.

The council is happy to have been able to provide funds to both the Community Association and the Scouts to assist with setting up much needed community facilities in the new centre.

Among the items which are being progressed are work to retain the car parks on Peggs Way, the installation of some form of restriction to Rooksdown Avenue near the junction with Peggs Way (to allow the passage of buses and emergency vehicles only), parking problems throughout the parish, and monitoring the working hours of the developers to reduce the disturbance to residents.

The council (along with the Rooksdown Community Association) are in discussions with David Wilson Homes, the chosen developers of the old golf course site, to provide community input to the planning of the new phase of the development; it is to be hoped that this way we can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

In collaboration with the community association, we are arranging a "party in the park" for Saturday 2nd June as our celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, including a picnic in the afternoon, a disco in the evening and culminating with a short firework display. We hope to see you all there.

Charles Miller

Chair - Rooksdown Parish Council
www.rooksdowntonline.com



“Hello...”

I can't believe the Community Centre has only been truly operational for just over 4 months. It may just be me but it seems a whole lot longer. With the number of regular groups that we have running and the large number of visitors we have had, I feel like I have met nearly all of the people who have contributed to the 9,207 visits the Centre has already had. So do forgive me if I don't always remember your name next time you come in.

To assist with all the events and activities I would also like to thank the growing number of volunteers both in the Centre and the Youth Club. I know it has often been challenging but keep up the good work, it is really appreciated.

Many of you have already used the Centre as the venue for your own special occasion, everything from baby showers to 30th birthday parties, so don't forget our rooms are available for hire at very affordable rates.

New look Rooksdown Reporter, monthly for more regular updates of news and events, if you would like to make a contribution then please get in contact.

Hope to see you in the Centre soon! ”

Simon Bound

Centre Development Manager



OVER 55's COFFEE MORNING

Every Thursday 10am – midday

Would you like to meet other members of the community? If so, why not come and enjoy a drink and a chat? You can always come and talk to us about other activities you would like to see at the Centre.



tel: 01256 869 626

www.rooksdowntonline.com



ROOKSDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

DELIVERING OUTSTANDING EDUCATION TO ROOKSDOWN



PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT ALIVE AND KICKING!

Deferring our application for a primary school was a difficult decision to take in February, and we know many parents were disappointed, but it was definitely the right one. The project team had only been working together for 7 weeks and could not get enough parents of children of the right age to complete the parent questionnaire by the deadline. Now the team have until February 2013 to put together an application that the Department for Education will find very hard to refuse.

The school already has the support of the Parish Council, our Basingstoke and Deane Councillor, Karen Cherrett, our MP, Maria Miller, many Rooksdown residents and businesses as well as residents from neighbouring parishes. However, last month we had a very positive meeting with a representative from the strategic school places team for Hampshire County Council. It was a positive meeting where they confirmed that Rooksdown, Merton Rise and Marnell Park is the school place planning hotspot for Basingstoke. The dialogue continues but HCC is now generally supportive of a new school in Rooksdown.

With this great news there is still much to do. So how can you help?

Everyone can sign the community petition showing support for having a school in Rooksdown. Evidence shows that having an outstanding school in your community increases property prices – so everyone wins!

Also, if you:

- are a parent of a child of primary school age or under – complete our parent questionnaire
- are a teacher – join our working group and help develop our education plan and policies
- work in finance or accounting – join our working group and put together the schools finances
- work in HR, recruitment, web development, education law, are a building surveyor, architect or project manager – help us develop these areas of our application

Help man the school's stall at the Jubilee celebrations and the 'Festival of Games' event this summer. Or if you can give a few hours in June or July, work in pairs to go "door to door" asking people to sign the petition or complete a parent questionnaire.

This is an exciting time for the project now that everyone is behind delivering a school in Rooksdown.

Michelle Biggs - Rooksdown Primary School



WHY NOT BOOK YOUR FAMILY PARTY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Saturday & Sunday

3 hour sessions

Main Hall £45 or Youth Room £30

Saturday Nights

Main Hall

6pm – midnight £100

Call **01256 869626** or email **bookings@rooksdowonline.com** to book or arrange a viewing

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!



We hope that you have enjoyed the new look Rooksdown Reporter.

We aim to deliver to over 1,800 homes in Rooksdown but we desperately need more help from local residents to help deliver them in a timely manner.

Even if you would be so kind as to deliver to the street or block you live in, it would be a huge help to the few volunteers that deliver at the moment.

Please contact the Community Centre and put your name down to help:

01256 869626

or **editor@rooksdowonline.com**

Blossom Day Nursery

Blossom Day Nursery officially opened in January 2012 in the new community centre as Rooksdown's local independent nursery.

We offer something unique in the way we are set up for 0 – 5 year olds. As joint owners and managers, we have worked tirelessly for 5 years to get the right combination between childcare and parent partnership before homing Blossom in Rooksdown.

Blossom promotes an enabling environment where all children have equal opportunities to resources and experiences. The nursery is set up primarily with two areas, 0-2 years and 2-5 years. All children can be brought together when it is song time, feeding time, story time and many more opportunities. As children learn from children, then this merging of the two age groups is unquestionably beneficial. Parents have also been favourable to siblings being able to spend time together.

We encourage festivals and celebrations from all over the world. Where English is an additional language we have plenty of resources to assist and support different languages.

We invite parents to come along and see for themselves what Blossom has to offer their children.

We accept childcare vouchers towards children's fees. We also have the 15 hours free government funding available for parents to use the term after their child's third birthday.

For further information please call

Tay on: **07739329518**

or Mel on: **07876751662**

Or email us: **nursery@blossomdaynursery.com**

We look forward to welcoming you to Blossom in the near future.



COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Monday

Children's Centre	10.00am
Zumba	6.30pm
RDYC - Youth Club	7.00pm
Parish Council (monthly)	7.30pm
Yoga	7.30pm
Craft Group (monthly)	8.00pm

Tuesday

Pilates	6.30pm
Yoga	7.30pm

Wednesday

Parent & Toddler	10am - midday
Baby Clinic (monthly)	9.30am
Children's Centre	1.00pm
Beavers	6.30pm
RDYC - Youth Club	7.00pm

Thursday

Over 55's Coffee Morning	10am - midday
Children's Centre	10.00am
Yoga	6.30pm
Weight Watchers	7.00pm

Friday

Sing-along & Smile	10.00am
Cheerleading	6.30pm
Cubs	6.30pm
Zumba	8.00pm

Saturday

Dance Pro	9.00am
BE Flabuloss	9.30am
Kick Boxing	11am & midday

Sunday

Basingstoke Eagles Church	10.00am
Messy Church (monthly)	3.00pm

Check the Community Centre diary at
www.rooksdowonline.com
for the dates of monthly activities or call
01256 869626

Check out our "Rooksdow Community Centre"
Group Page on Facebook

GET INVOLVED!

If you have an idea for a project that could get your neighbourhood working together (anything from a kids' summer holiday club to new activities for older people) contact Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's community development officer covering your area who is:



Lucy
Mackmin

07775413251
Lucy.mackmin@basingstoke.gov.uk

Or the community development
team via:

01256 844844

ROOKSDOWN SOCIAL NIGHTS

With the growing number of requests that I hear for a pub in Rooksdow the Association are looking to programme in a series of social nights. With everything being considered from a regular 'pop up' pub, curry & quiz night, theatre nights to most importantly a New Year's Eve party.

We are looking for a small group of volunteers to work together to organise such events. If you are interested in volunteering and have a little time on your hands then why not email me or drop in and see me at the Community Centre.

Simon



My name is Kelly and I'm a qualified Exercise to Music instructor working in Basingstoke.

Since having my children I put on a lot of weight and my confidence has been knocked quite badly. I am a size 22ish (give or take a few pounds although inside my head I am still a size 14).

I don't have any mirrors in my house, not ones you can see below the face in any way (actually thinking about it I have one but I never look in it because I don't like what I see).

In the past I have attended aerobics classes but due to being self-conscious I didn't stay long. Without offending anybody I just didn't like being the only one with wobbly bits, to me everyone seemed to have a perfect tan, full make-up and no sweat.

It has come to the point in my life where I not only want to help myself but help others. I am a caring and friendly person and want to make people smile and feel happy about themselves. I put a notice on a Facebook group that sells clothes for size 16+ ladies (and larger men) asking that if I set up an aerobics class specifically for people with fuller figures would anyone be interested in coming? The response was overwhelming. I could not believe how many people out there feel the same as me. Not only will I be helping these people but in return they will be helping me build up my confidence again.

It was then that BE Flabuloss was born!

To find out more details on Be Flabuloss please email me on
kelly@beflabuloss.co.uk

Kelly x

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 21st May
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM, 7.30PM

Saturday 3rd June
QUEENS JUBILEE PARTY

Saturday 16th June
BASINGSTOKE EAGLES' GOSPEL CONCERT

Sunday 22nd July
FESTIVAL OF GAMES - SUMMER FAIR, 2PM



Rooksdown Youth Club (RDYC) has now been open for 3 months and successfully carried out activities including the table football competition where the young people ran the competition with supervision from the youth workers. The disco was a real success, where music was chosen by the young people.

RDYC has seen many young people attend the drop in sessions where young people between the ages of 11 -18 can enjoy a game of pool, table top football or table tennis with their friends or a game on the Xbox plus a variety of other activities to join in with while having music. *RDYC is open on a Monday and Wednesday from 7pm. There is a charge of 50p entrance and there is a tuck shop where you can buy snacks and drinks.*

We have a team of dedicated volunteers who give up their evenings to help run the sessions. We are always looking to expand this team and would be more than happy to talk to anyone who may be interested in helping out.

If you would like to find out more about the youth club please do not hesitate to contact Richard who is one of the youth workers running RDYC at the Community Centre on 01256 869626



9,207 VISITS DURING JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH.

Over 700 a week on average making Rooksdown's Centre one of Basingstokes busiest Community Centres in its first 3 months.

CONTACTS
Community Centre:
01256 869 626
bookings@rooksdowndownline.com



Rooksdown's own Queen's Jubilee Party

Saturday 2nd June

FREE Picnic in the Park 3pm - 6pm
Bring your own picnic, face painting, exotic animal display, bouncy castle & licensed bar

Children's Disco 6pm - 7.30pm
Tickets **£3** (or £4 on the door)

Disco 7.30pm - 11.30pm
Tickets **£5** (or £6 on the door)

Licensed bar & fireworks at 10pm

Tickets from the Community Centre Office



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The RCA or RPC do not necessarily endorse the service and goods advertised in the Reporter.

All information was correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change.

