

# THE Rooksdown Reporter

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Issue 1 May / June 2013

Welcome to your new-look edition of the Rooksdown Reporter.

We are looking for regular contributions from the whole community - reports from local clubs/societies, notices of events, letters to the editor, any budding poets are welcome to submit their work for publication - just about anything that you may feel the Rooksdown community will be interested in reading about. Please send any contributions to [info@rooksdowntreporter.co.uk](mailto:info@rooksdowntreporter.co.uk) - the copy deadline for submission is 28th of the month for the following month's edition. We are also keen to receive adverts from businesses in the area and the same deadlines and contact details apply.

We will also need help in delivering future editions of the Reporter and if you feel you can assist please call Anne on 01256 354282.

We hope that you enjoy this edition and look forward to hearing from you.

Anne & Andy

## NEWS FROM STAGECOACH

Bus services in Basingstoke changed on Sunday 14th April, and services through Rooksdown have changed as part of this.

Service 4 has been renumbered to 4A when travelling towards Winklebury and South Ham, and the route has been changed. Services 4 and 4A will now run via the northern part of Park Prewett Road - via the Community Centre, the Rooksdown Practice (doctors) and the future location of the shops.

Service 4 is extended beyond Chineham centre to the town centre via Lychpit.

The Link has been increased to a half-hourly frequency Monday to Friday daytimes; the extra buses run between Basingstoke and Kingsclere with the service onwards to Newbury remaining hourly. Saturday service remains hourly.

The Link will continue to run via the southern part of Park Prewett Road - past Harness Court and Domitian Gardens.

Jazz 6 from Winklebury has only minor tweaks (including early evening improvements), and now uses bay K at the bus station.

If you're travelling to other parts of Basingstoke, note that some routes no longer serve the railway station so you may need to change at the bus station. Full details of the new routes can be found on the new network map and timetables available on the Stagecoach bus website: <http://www.stagecoachbus.com/localdefault.aspx?Tag=Basingstoke>

Information is also available from the Travel Shop at Basingstoke bus station, open 9:30 to 17:30, Monday to Friday.



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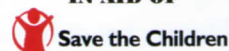
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## PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There is a vacancy for a councillor on Rooksdown Parish Council, which the Council is planning to fill by co-option.

If you think you might like to consider being co-opted, and/or would like to know more about what is involved in being a councillor or any other information, please contact the Parish Clerk, **Ron Darley**, by phone (01256 356701/07791 548838), email ([rooksdownclerk@thedarleys.co.uk](mailto:rooksdownclerk@thedarleys.co.uk)) or in writing to 284 Kempshott Lane Basingstoke RG22 5LT.

## ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Rooksdown Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was held on Monday 22nd April followed by the monthly Parish Council Meeting with a good turnout of residents for the APM plus a member of the press which generated some good debates.

The APM reported on the last 12 months within Rooksdown and what the next 12 months were likely to entail as the estate expands. There were two main areas of interest:

Firstly the recent traffic survey and the publication of the report. A meeting of the interested organisations was held on Wednesday 24th April and a formal statement is issued elsewhere in the Reporter. All I will add is that all parties reacted the same way to the results and there is significant momentum to drive this forward to installing proper solutions as soon as possible.

Secondly the future of Park Prewett Hall was discussed as planned. Unfortunately the pre-approval results have been delayed for the second time out of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council so we were unable to share the plans and the funding details, at the meeting to have a proper debate. A few questions were raised by residents and answers to these will be given at the May Parish Council meeting. The results were due on 2nd May so we hope to present the details on Monday 20th May at 7.45PM.

Rooksdown Parish Council (RPC) continues to be active with the current and future builders. Some of very old actions that had been outstanding with Taylor Wimpey have now being completed. Rooksdown Parish Council undertook a snagging survey of the next adoption area (Peggs Way, Crondal Terrace etc) and have reported back the issues to Hampshire County Council snagging team and Taylor Wimpey.

The pavilions planning permission submission has been delayed but is due to be submitted during May.

The shop build is nearing completion as residents can see but the opening remains still approximately August.

We are progressing with the transfer of the Peggs Way car parks to RPC but this is subject to obtaining planning consent that is still in progress. Taylor Wimpey have completed the works to The Easter Square car park making that fit for transfer.

These are the key highlights but a lot of other issues are dealt with at our monthly meetings including discussions on planning applications. The next meeting will be held at Rooksdown Community Centre on Monday 20th May at 7.45PM. If you are interested in the future of Park Prewett Hall please turn up as this may be the only chance for residents to discuss this prior to the formal planning process commencing.

**Colin Statham** – Chair Rooksdown Parish Council – [cstathamrpc@virginmedia.com](mailto:cstathamrpc@virginmedia.com)



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## **ROOKSDOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the first report from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team. We are PC James Hope (left) and PCSO Rob Nicklin (right) I hope our message finds you well.

In our reports we will be discussing local issues, how we intend to solve them and also how you can work with us to continue making Rooksdawn a safe and happy place to live. We will also be reporting on lots of other work we will be doing within our community. Not only will we be dealing with crime and disorder but interacting and getting involved with our community on a personal level. We wish to gain a good rapport and be easily approachable to all members of our community.



In recent weeks we have visited the youth club, interacted with the children from all classes at Saxonwood School showing them a variety of Police kit and equipment we use as well as showing them round the Police car. We are in the process of organising visits / talks to all Schools and Nurseries in the area so something for your children to look forward to!

Reports of anti social behaviour / nuisance in the Mailing Way / Pumphouse Way area have seen an increase since we have taken over Rooksdawn. We would like to remind all residents to keep an eye on their children, yes we understand that children will play however we would like this to be in an appropriate and respectful manner. Those individuals identified causing alarm, harassment or distress to residents will be dealt with accordingly.

In the same area we have also had reports on numerous occasions of music being played loudly from a number of different addresses. Again we would like to re-iterate about being respectful and neighbourly. We work very closely with environmental health and local housing associations and will not hesitate in taking action on those individuals who continue to cause an un-reasonable disturbance in the community.

On a lighter note, I hope you all enjoy the start of the summer (if it ever arrives) please come and say hello to us when you see us out on patrol whether just for a chat or to talk to us about local issues.

See you around,

*PC James Hope and PCSO Rob Nicklin*

## **DR SEUSS SETS THE LIMELIGHTERS A FRESH CHALLENGE**

It's been said that if parents buy only one book for their children then it should be Dr Seuss's "Horton Hears a Who". It's a book about love, family, friendship, determination, keeping a promise, persevering and recognising the value in everyone, however small and apparently insignificant they may be – all the characteristics parents surely want for their children.

In July the 21 young people of BAOS Limelight, from schools all over the Basingstoke and Winchester areas, are taking Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz and a host of Dr Seuss's other zany and colourful creations onto the stage as they present their first full-scale musical production, Seussical Jr. at the Everest Community Academy, Basingstoke. There will be two performances on SATURDAY 13th JULY at 2.30p.m. and 6.30p.m. and a further matinee performance on SUNDAY 14th JULY at 1p.m.

Tony winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty have not taken the easy option of simply show-casing one well-known story after another but have set out to weave together Dr Seuss's most famous characters and stories into a totally new, fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza! Fans of Dr Seuss and new readers alike will be enchanted by this tale following the changing fortunes of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing invisible 'Whos', including JoJo, a Who child who is always getting into trouble for "thinking too many thinks". Horton befriends him and vows to protect the Who families – no matter how foolish others may think him - but whilst doing so he faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and even a trial. But as loyal Horton says "A person's a person no matter how small!" Throughout the show, audiences are taken on a journey of the imagination from the Jungle of Nool – home of the super-naughty Wickersham Monkeys and a feisty, disbelieving Sour Kangaroo – to the Circus McGurkus, McElligot's Pool and Palm Beach. Other characters include selfish, lazy Mayzie La Bird who takes advantage of Horton's kind heart, and the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz who, throughout it all, loves him and never loses faith in him.

Alex Stores, one of the co-producers, explains: "BAOS Limelight is still growing and developing, it's only been in existence for a year. The youngsters already have two very successful fundraising concerts to their credit but this is the first full-length production they have tackled. It's a big challenge but it's one they are relishing. I just know the performances are going to be amazing."

Tickets priced at £10 for adults and £7.50 for children, are available from [baoslimelight.ticketsource.co.uk](http://baoslimelight.ticketsource.co.uk). Family tickets cost £30 and there is a discount of £1 per ticket for groups of ten and over.

For more information, please follow us on [www.facebook.com/seussical.jr.baos.limelight](https://www.facebook.com/seussical.jr.baos.limelight) or @BAOSLimelight on Twitter. For group bookings please contact [baoslimelight@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:baoslimelight@yahoo.co.uk)



## **RESULTS OF ROOKSDOWN TRAFFIC SURVEY AND NEXT STEPS**

This statement is issued by Rooksdown Parish Council (RPC) with the agreement of Taylor Wimpey West London and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). These three organisations are working with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) to seek a way forward on traffic management across Limes Park and the wider area.

As most residents and users of Rooksdown roads know, over the week of Saturday 9th February 2012 and Monday 18th February 2012 a detailed traffic survey was undertaken using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology and manual and automatic traffic counts. The surveys, by Peter Brett Associates (PBA), recorded vehicle movements through the estate and past various locations to identify traffic flows and trip destinations. The aim being to assess if a bus gate in Park Prewett Road is required and identify other traffic control measures which may be needed to deter displacement of traffic as a result of a bus gate.

The need to undertake fresh traffic surveys was agreed in late 2012 to resolve long outstanding issues in construction of the planned bus gate at the location near Peggs Way on Park Prewett Road. The method and scope of survey work required was agreed by HCC's Highways Department, Taylor Wimpey, David Wilson Homes, HCA, BDBC's Planning Department, RPC and PBA (Taylor Wimpey's highways consultants involved in the original masterplanning of Park Village).

Following completion of the surveys in February, the same parties meet this week along with Hampshire County Councillor Stephen Reid, to review the results and discuss the next steps.

The survey work identified that on a typical weekday, 33% of traffic movements along Park Prewett Road (through the bus gate location) is non-resident traffic travelling to the hospital, 20% is through traffic i.e. non-residents entering from the A340 or A339 and leaving the estate within 15 minutes, and 3% is non-residents going to the Priestley Road employment zone. The balance is made up of 'residential trips' i.e. those commencing in and leaving the estate, those entering the estate and staying in the residential area, journeys completed solely within the residential zone or residents trips to/from the hospital and employment areas.

The situation on Saturdays indicates a significant reduction in hospital traffic that was replaced by more residential traffic (44%) passing through the proposed bus gate area.

It was clear from the surveys that a significant number of estate residents travel through the bus gate into an out of the estate. However the percentage of non-residents travelling through the bus gate to and from the hospital, employment area or as through traffic amounts to 56% of all movements along Park Prewett Road. This leads to a significant volume of trips which were never intended to use the estate roads.

### **The conclusions of the meeting were:**

- Non-resident movements along Park Prewett Road is the key problem - doing nothing is not an option
- A single bus gate on the current authorised location may not stop traffic to and from the hospital or prevent through traffic. A single bus gate could simply displace these journeys to the northern section of Park Prewett Road, and in isolation would hinder legitimate estate residents movements.
- An exit for residents must be maintained to the A340.
- The A339 roundabout is approaching capacity when future flows from the development of the Park Prewett Northern Area are taken into account. Therefore reducing the non-residential flows (to/from A339) will significantly improve matters.
- A solution that incorporates a number of traffic control measures is required. A traffic management solution which addresses non-resident journeys to/from the hospital and deterring through traffic is required.

All the parties agreed that over the next few weeks PBA and HCC would investigate an area wide traffic management solution which responds to the above conclusions. The survey data would allow modelling of the proposed solutions and a further meeting has been arranged for early June once proposals have been tested and reviewed by the parties.

A public consultation process will be undertaken after that meeting on the proposed solution(s). This would present all the supporting data from the survey and modelling exercise and the recent review into the Bus Gate.

*This work is being funded by Taylor Wimpey Homes Ltd.*

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## COMMUNITY CENTRE

### WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Check the Community Centre diary at [www.rooksdowndownonline.com](http://www.rooksdowndownonline.com) for the dates of monthly activities or call 01256 869626

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

#### Monday

Bokwa Fitness 6.30pm  
RDYC – Youth Club 7.00pm  
Parish Council (monthly) 7.45pm

#### Tuesday

Pilates 6.30pm  
Yoga 7.30pm

#### Wednesday

Baby Clinic (monthly) 9.30am  
Beavers 6.30pm  
RDYC – Youth Club 7.00pm  
Freedom-2-Dance (beginners) 7.45pm  
Freedom-2-Dance (advanced) 8.45pm

#### Thursday

Over 55's Coffee Morning 10am – mid-day  
Kids Karate 6.30pm  
Weight Watchers 7.00pm  
Ladies Self Defence 7.30pm  
Adults Martial Arts 8.30pm

#### Friday

Yoga 6.30pm  
Cubs & Scouts 6.30pm  
Zumba 8.00pm

#### Saturday

Freedom-2-Dance 9.00am  
Bokwa Fitness 9.00am

#### Sunday

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

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### LOCAL SURGERY

The Rooksdowndown Practice  
Park Prewett Medical Centre  
Park Prewett Road  
Basingstoke  
RG24 9RG  
01256 399710

### WATER LEAK ALERT LINE

0800 028 3299

### FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

<http://lightsoninhampshire.co.uk/Public/Report-Faults.aspx>

### COMMUNITY POLICING

Police (In emergency please dial 999)  
Police General Enquiries 0845 045 45 45  
PCSO 01256 845700  
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

### BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Karen Cherrett 01256 331761 or 07917 466904  
[cllr.karen.cherrett@basingsstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.karen.cherrett@basingsstoke.gov.uk)

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Stephen Reid 01256 320860  
[stephen.reid@hants.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.reid@hants.gov.uk)

### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Maria Miller Tel 01256 322207

### ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

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Email: [theeditor@rooksdowndownreporter.co.uk](mailto:theeditor@rooksdowndownreporter.co.uk)

## DENTAL CARE FOR ROOKSDOWN RESIDENTS

Regrettably, the walk-in dental service at the Hospital has been closed without warning.

The following are dentists within 2 miles of Rooksdowndown.

The Parish Council will press for the reinstatement of a dental practice within Rooksdowndown.

DENTAL PRACTICE	ADDRESS	TEL No
ADP Popley	Shakespeare House, Shakespeare Road, Popley	328662
Aspire Dental Care Ltd	St Andrews Centre, Western Way, RG22 6ER	323777
Chequers Dental Surgery	3 Chequers Road, RG21 7PU	321589
Claremont Surgery	39 Worting Road, RG21 8TZ	321249
Marshall	32 Cliddesden Road, RG21 3ET	461888
Stratfield Road Dental Practice	102 Stratfield Road, RG21 5SA	326690
Winchester Rd Dental Practice	33 Winchester Road, RG21 8UL	322922





## **SHAM REDUNDANCIES - ARE YOU A VICTIM?**



There are not many families that have avoided that dreaded word "redundancy". It is hard enough for employees to come to terms with their employment being terminated when there is a genuine redundancy situation. It becomes impossible when their employer uses it as an excuse to dismiss without genuine cause.

An employer can only lawfully dismiss an employee for a potentially fair reason under English law, e.g. capability, misconduct, because of a statutory restriction, redundancy or for some other substantial reason. However, employers will often look to avoid dismissing employees for capability or misconduct due to the time-consuming procedures in place which they would be expected to follow.

Sometimes employers wish to dismiss for discriminatory reasons (e.g. because of the employee's age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership or religion or belief) but are not permitted to do so. They may wish to dismiss for what would be an automatically unfair reasons (e.g. because of jury service or because the employee has complained about issues relating to health and safety, working time, minimum wage, flexible working or perhaps because an employee has whistle-blown or joined a trade union) and so the employer dismisses under the guise of redundancy.

For a redundancy dismissal to be fair, there must be a genuine redundancy situation, the employee must have been fairly selected for redundancy and the employer must have followed a fair procedure. When determining the fairness of a redundancy dismissal Employment Tribunals are not normally entitled to investigate the reasons behind the redundancy situation. There is no requirement for employers to demonstrate that they were forced into making redundancies because of economic reasons, a sound and objectively justified commercial reason will suffice. This does not mean to say that they will always take the employer's reason at face value, especially where an employee establishes facts which suggest that their selection was discriminatory and the redundancy situation was a sham.

It is important to know that there are very short time limits that apply to Employment Tribunal claims, e.g. three months (less one day) from the date of dismissal or the date of the discriminatory act, so if you think you may have been treated in this way, don't delay in seeking advice as you could be prevented from bringing a claim if your time limit has expired.



If you think that your employer has dismissed you, or is trying to dismiss you, for an unfair or discriminatory reason but they are labelling it 'redundancy', why not call one of our qualified employment lawyers as soon as possible for advice.

You can read a longer version of this article at [www.phillips-law.co.uk/news/latest-news](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk/news/latest-news)

Karen Bristow is a lawyer specialising in employment law at Phillips Solicitors. For more information please call Karen on 01264 854670 or email at: [kbristow@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:kbristow@phillips-law.co.uk) and visit our website at [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

## **BASINGSTOKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SUMMER CONCERT 2013 ANVIL BASINGSTOKE SAT 15th JUNE 7:30pm**

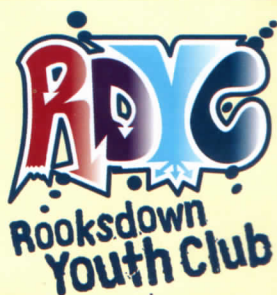
Final rehearsals are taking place for Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra's Summer Concert which promises to be a rare treat for lovers of orchestral music. The concert will open with the world première of *En Vacances*, written by the Orchestra's conductor, Stephen Scotchmer. This short, sunny piece evokes memories of Stephen's relaxing summer holidays in Marseillan in Southern France and makes an ideal opening piece for a June concert.

Following her sparkling performance of the Ravel Concerto with the Orchestra in February, pianist Ivana Gavric returns to play Schumann's beautiful Piano Concerto in A minor. Ivana was awarded Newcomer of the Year 2011 by BBC Music Magazine following her Wigmore Hall début and highly acclaimed first recording in the mists for Champs Hill Records both in 2010. The Orchestra is very much looking forward to working with her for a second time this year.

The final work in the programme is Mahler's massive First Symphony, requiring an orchestra of Wagnerian Ring proportions - 4 flutes, 2 piccolos, 4 oboes, English horn, 4 clarinets, e flat clarinet, bass clarinet, 3 bassoons, contrabassoon, 7 horns, 5 trumpets, 4 trombones, tuba, timpani, bass drum, gong, cymbals, triangle, harp and augmented string choir - a real musical feast for lovers huge orchestral forces and an experience not to be missed.

*Tickets are available from the Anvil Box Office (01256 844244) and are priced from £10 - £19 with concessions for over 65s, children and full time students. Group discounts are also available.*





Rooksdown Youth Club (RDYC) has been open for over 16 months. It has been a very successful first year for the youth club, and we are looking to build on this positive start over the coming months and years. RDYC is open on Monday and Wednesdays from 1900-2130. It is open to 11-18 year olds, and charges 50p entry fee. Each young person, and their parent/guardian, when attending regularly is asked to sign a contract and fill in an emergency contact information form. RDYC runs a tuck shop, and provides a range of activities on any given night, including Xbox, pool, table tennis, laptop, nail and beauty, health awareness workshops, disco and card/board games. If you know a young person who may be interested in joining RDYC, or are an interested young person yourself, please contact us (details at the bottom) for more information

or come along and try one of our sessions.

In its first year RDYC had many successes as well as things to learn from. One of the highlights for the young people was a trip to Thorpe Park in October. The young people helped raise money for the trip through their monthly fundraising car wash as well as selling tuck and candyfloss at community events. The young people are continuing to run their car washes to raise money for the next RDYC trip. These car washes take place at the community centre on a Sunday afternoon between 1-4pm. It costs £5 per car. The upcoming dates for these are:

- *Sunday 30th June*
- *Sunday 28th July*

Please come along and support your local youth club at these events.

During the summer holidays RDYC took part in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough council's summer streetz programme. This involves opening for 4 nights a week over the 5 week period. There were many different activities on offer, free of charge, for the young people, including DJ and beat boxing workshops, kickboxing, sports coaching and beauty sessions. RDYC will be taking part in the summer streetz programme for 2013 during the summer holidays where there will be another wide variety of activities on offer.

During 2013 RDYC is looking at taking the young people to an activity centre for a weekend. This will be a good opportunity for the young people to experience different and new activities as well as to build relationships with other young people and the youth workers.

RDYC is run by a 3 youth workers and a dedicated group of volunteers. We are always looking to expand this group, so if you know anyone who may be interested in volunteering at the youth club, or are interested in this yourself please contact us:

RDYC Email: [yc@rooksdowndownline.com](mailto:yc@rooksdowndownline.com)

RDYC phone number: 07435 591538

Rooksdown Community Association, Rooksdown Community Centre, Park Prewett Road,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire. RG24 9XA

### Family event with a host of activities

Attractions include: children's games, food stands, demonstrations, arena displays, craft stalls, military & emergency services, bouncy castle, animal exhibits, beer tent and afternoon tea



**Sunday, July 14 @ 2pm**

# Rooksdown Summer Fayre

Fun for all the family, young and old

**Visit [rooksdowndownline.com](http://rooksdowndownline.com) for more details**