



# The Harrow Way

The Viables Community Centre Magazine



Enjoy reading our magazine? Please help us reach the whole community by helping us deliver! We are in need of some more people who like to get a bit of fresh air as well as get their steps in. We only need your help 4 times a year and it mostly takes about an hour of your time. If you are able to help, please let us know by popping in, calling or emailing. Details below. 01256 473634—office@viables.org.uk




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**Viablies Community Centre**  
Thursdays @ 13.00-14.00

Charity no. 1177363



## BARN TOTS

Tuesdays term-time  
9.45am - 11.30am

0-5 years

Just £3.00 for an adult and child  
(£1per person thereafter)





Barn Tots is run by volunteers. If you would like to help please contact us at [office@viablies.org.uk](mailto:office@viablies.org.uk)

Charity no. 1177363

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# Message from the Manager

*Hello everyone!*

I have **SO** much news to tell you all!

As of December 2nd, Viables Community Association have three community centres to manage. The Rucstall Community Centre in Black Dam is in our area of benefit and the previous association and the council asked us to take it on with the hope that it can thrive, providing a community hub for local residents.

It is a big change for us, moving from two buildings to three, so we really hope that we can count on your continued support to help the Eastrop and Grove ward community provision, Our aims are to increase the number and variety of hirers so that we can offer a range of activities, as well as creating our own sessions and events for the community to attend. If you use social media then please follow our pages below to keep up to date with all the things we are planning for. One of our first projects will be to refurbish what used to be the social club so that we can make it a fully functioning community space benefitting from more storage, a kitchenette and refurbished toilets that will include disabled access. To this end, we are also employing a new member of staff as an assistant at the centre.

Our lovely Helene has decided to step down from Memory Club, whilst still retaining some involvement, and we have appointed a new Memory Club Coordinator. We will introduce all new team members in our next edition.

We held our 10th Memory Club anniversary celebration in November, remembering and recognising 204 members who have joined us over that time. It was a huge honour to be able to celebrate each and every one of them with our Sunflower arch situated in the main entrance of Viables Community Centre.

Following the refurbishment works of the Osborne Room, its popularity is growing and is a great space to hire, along with the rest of our halls, rooms and venues. It has been a hive of activity for which we are truly thankful. Running a small charity for the benefit of the community can come with its challenges so all your support is truly appreciated.

We would love to see you all at our Christmas Celebration again this year. As well as our traditional carols, some more lively family songs have also been added. So please come along and join us for our festive event with mince pies, mulled wine and biscuits.

I personally feel very excited to tell you that one of our regular hirers led her youth choir to both Britain's Got Talent and to New York this year! What a wonderful achievement and great experience that has been, and very special for me as my daughter was one of those who took part. You can read more later in the magazine.

As always, if you have any questions, would like to volunteer, book a space or simply find out more about what we do, then please either email us at [office@viables.org.uk](mailto:office@viables.org.uk) or call us on 01256 473634.

<https://www.facebook.com/Viables>

<https://www.facebook.com/RMCEastrop>

<https://www.facebook.com/RucstallCC>

*Luan Squire*

# Activities at Viables

Monday	
<b>Messy/Sensory Play</b>	13.00 - 14.00
<b>Phoenix Martial Arts - Kickboxing</b> Email Tom Hayward pma_kickboxing@hotmail.com	17.45- 21:15
<b>Ukulele Classes—beginners and intermediate</b>	17.45 and 19.00 starts
<b>Art classes in blocks of 10 weeks—contact Carrie on 07780 714656 for information or booking</b>	Am and PM sessions
Tuesday	
<b>Gardening Club</b> March - Nov 01256 473634	9:00 - 12:00
<b>Barn Tots</b> - friendly, informal term time play for under 5's 01256 473634	9.45 - 11.30
<b>Dress Making classes</b> Contact Sewfistication on 07880 716593	10:00 - 12:00
<b>Move it or Lose it</b> - Change the way you age, for over 60's Amanda 07399 618947	12:30 - 13:30
<b>Meraki Dance</b> —from Contemporary to Acro and conditioning	4.30 + additional times
Wednesday	
<b>Pilates</b> Elaine 07808 895279	10:00 - 11:00
<b>Hatha Yoga</b> Elaine 07808 895279	11:15 - 12:15
<b>Dress Making classes</b> Contact Sewfistication on 07880 716593	10:00 - 12:00
<b>The Harrow Way over 55's group</b> - fortnightly friendly meetings for mature members.	13:30 -15:30
<b>Basingstoke WI</b> - first Wed of the month	13.45 -11.45
<b>Slimming World</b> - Natalie	16.30, 18.00 & 19.30
<b>The Bastion Gaming Club</b> Jason 07763 521027	17:00 - 23:00
Thursday	
<b>Baby Ballet for under 5s—Baby Ballet Alton</b>	9.00 - 11.30
<b>Barn Tots SEND</b> - friendly, informal play for under 5's with special educational needs and/or disabilities 01256 473634	10:00 - 11:30
<b>Bounce and Play</b> -0-5 ears	13.00-14.15
<b>Hampton Trust support group—booked through Hampton Trust only</b>	17:00 - 21.00
<b>VoxFresh choir</b> —minis, juniors and teens	16.00-18.30
<b>Pilates</b> Janice 07789 711294	18.45 - 20:00
Friday	
<b>Slimming World</b> - Natalie	8.00, 9.30 & 11.00
<b>Little seedlings Music</b> —Osborne Room—Book in advance using Trybooking office@viables.org.uk 01256 473634 Returns after Christmas	10.00—10.45
<b>Memory Club</b> - Activities for those with dementia Helene O'Connor helene@viables.org.uk	10:30 - 12:30 13:00 - 15:00
<b>Cribbage</b> —first Friday of each month	19.30– 21.30
<b>Doggie Dawdles Dog Training with Tracey</b> 07500 701038 doggiedawdles@outlook.com	19.15-20.15
<b>Ukulele Jam—1 x monthly—please ask for dates</b>	19.00-21.00
Saturday	
<b>Baby Ballet</b> contact Baby ballet Alton for details	9.30- 12.45
<b>Indoor boot sale</b> —1 x monthly—please enquire for dates	13.30—15.30
Sunday	
<b>Healing Springs Church</b> Ben 07984 544982 And 18.00-20.00 2 x monthly)	10:00 - 13:00

# The Roger Morris Community Centre, Eastrop

Monday	
Tiny Town—role play village—childminder discounts available	09.30 –10.30
Mencap—Dance exercise	11.30-12.30
Indian Dance	17.00-18.00
Carers' Support Café (last Mon of the month)	13.30– 3pm monthly
Tough Enough to Care	19.30– 21.30
Tuesday	
Mencap Bingo	10.00-11.00
Sight Loss Coffee Morning—A site for sore eyes!	10.00-11.30 fortnightly
Yoga with Ri	17.45-18.45
Sound baths with Rhiannon—fortnightly	19.30-20.30
U3A Science and Technology—1st Tuesday of the month—MEMBERS ONLY	14.00
Wednesday	
Weigh and Play	9.30– 11.00
Mencap—Life skills	11.00 -12.00
Mencap—Sports/social club	12.00.-14.30
Meditation with Ri	18.15-19.15
Genealogical Society—1 x monthly	19.30-21.30
Thursday	
Park Tots	9.45-11.30
Mencap—Crafty Thursday	11.00-12.00
Boxcamp	18.45-19.45
Friday	
Yoga with Ri	17.30—19.30
Saturday	
Doggie Dawdles Dog Training with Tracey 07500 701038 doggiedawdles@outlook.com	10.00
Sunday	
Indian Dance/singing	9.00-13.00



If you are looking to promote your business, an event or an activity, please contact us at [luan@viables.org.uk](mailto:luan@viables.org.uk) for advertising costs or information.

# Community News



## News from Cranbourne

It's hard to believe we are already on the countdown to Christmas, and this year we were delighted to once again support the Rotary Club's Shoebox Appeal. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our incredible Cranbourne Community – we received so many donations, we didn't have enough shoeboxes! The Rotary Club collected a fantastic 41 boxes from us but all the additional donations received are estimated to fill at least another 20!

This half term, we were pleased to welcome back the Year 11 students who left Cranbourne this summer for their GCSE Graduation Evening and in early December we celebrated the successes and achievements of our students at Autumn Rewards' Evening.

Members of our Student Leadership Team Hayden and Jess paid their respects by laying a poppy wreath on behalf of the Cranbourne Community at the Remembrance Day service held at the War Memorial on Sunday 10 November.

Year 8 students Aubrey, Olivia, and Alyesha took home the crown at Cranbourne Has Talent 2024 with a fantastic rendition of 'A Thousand Years'. We were blown away by the level of talent on display this year and the bravery shown by all who auditioned.

Our annual Cultural Diversity Evening was a fantastic celebration of inclusion, diversity and cultural heritage. President of the Rotary Club Tunde Adelaku opened the festivities by delivering an inspirational speech on identity and we were honoured to be joined by special guests from Czech Republic and Zimbabwe.

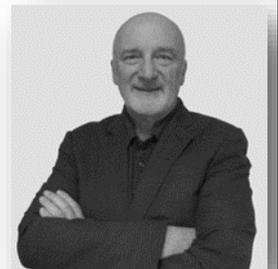
Students gave some excellent musical performances and poetry readings in their home languages – did you know we speak an impressive 48 languages amongst our students and staff? Amongst the performances, we had a number of stalls selling crocheted items, jewellery, delicious food, face painting, henna and a lucky dip. Money raised will be donated to local charities.



## Heroes— More than a tin of Christmas sweets!

I don't know about you but I have a few heroes in my life.

One of them is a man called Paul Schneider. He was a pastor in Berlin, and he dared to preach against Hitler. One night at three in the morning the Gestapo came and bundled him into a lorry. He went off smiling. He was taken to Buchenwald concentration camp and was strung him up by his thumbs and whipped him. Over time they deliberately starved him to death. They put him in a coffin and sent him back to his wife and young son saying that he died of pneumonia. You can read the letters today that he sent to his wife in a book called the Pastor of Buchenwald. They are full of 2 words, joy & gratitude, for the life he was given and able to live. What a hero.



My own parents are big heroes of mine too. My Dad is a fine example of how to be a good husband and Dad. My Mum is a shining light on how to suffer pain and come through it smiling. I am eternally grateful to them both.

I was considering what makes someone a hero and I think it has much to do with sacrifice (*to give up something for the sake of other considerations*). If you consider the heroes of the great wars they were men and women who sacrificed, often everything, for the good of their friends and their country.

I think that is why Jesus is such a hero to me. He was born and gave up everything for my good, for my rescue, for my redemption. Redemption simply means to pay the price for someone. I am so glad he made that decision to pay for all my mistakes. He creates new chapters in lives, lays new foundations.

As I pondered these things it made me consider how can I be more sacrificial in the things I say and the things I do? How can I be a hero to my kids and my grandkids. Quite a challenge, but not impossible.

You are welcome to join us at Kings Church at any time to see for yourself.

[www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com](http://www.kingschurchbasingstoke.com)

Dave

Warmest regards,  
Dave Rebbettes, Pastor



King's  
Church

## Kings Award for Voluntary Service 2024

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane (formerly Home-Start Northwest Hampshire) receives The King's Award for Voluntary Service



Home-Start Basingstoke and Deane, a volunteer led charity, have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2024. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

The local charity, who are also celebrating their 20-year anniversary, was nominated for the services they provide to families with young children across the borough. Their trained volunteers spend time with families in the family home and community to provide practical and emotional support to help reduce isolation and empower the family to give their children the best start.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane is one of 281 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Majesty The late Queen's Golden Jubilee and, was continued following the accession of His Majesty The King. 2024 marks these second year of The King's Award for Voluntary Service.

Recipients are announced annually on 14<sup>th</sup> November, The King's Birthday, Award winners this year are wonderfully diverse and include volunteer groups from across the UK, such as a mental health and wellbeing support network for veterans and their families in Yorkshire; a group preserving a historic 12<sup>th</sup> century castle in South Wales; 6 volunteers providing English lessons for refugees in Stirling and an organisation providing opportunities to engage in the arts for people with learning disabilities in County Fermanagh.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane will receive the award crystal and certificate from Nigel Atkinson Esq, Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire later this year. In addition, two volunteers from Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May and June 2025, along with other recipients of this year's Award.

Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane's Director of Operations, Jools Anderson, said: "We are delighted and honoured to have been nominated and so pleased to be able to accept The Kings award for the difference our volunteers make in the community. This recognition is for all our volunteers, past, present and future, to remind them that they are appreciated for all the care and time they give to others."



## *Basingstoke & Deane Over 55's Forum*



supported by  
**Basingstoke  
and Deane**

The Basingstoke and Deane Over 55,s Forum have the following vacancy.

### IT Co-Ordinator.

We are looking for a person with Web skills to update, amend and maintain our website.

To co-ordinate and assist committee members with technical issues.

To assist with the setting up any technical equipment and/or technical documentation as required.

To have knowledge of and report on IT legislation and information security matters

The person will be expected to attend:

Monthly committee meetings, bi-monthly Open Forum meetings, and our yearly Variety Show.

This is a voluntary role and you will be part of the committee, where you will bring your expert advice on all IT matters.

So come and join us. We are a small band who work very happily together as a team.

Contact vice chair on 07876655986 [daviesue@btinternet.com](mailto:daviesue@btinternet.com)

Viabes Community Association is a registered charity - 1177363

# Viabes Memory Club



## What we offer:

A variety of activities including reminiscence tasks, music, using photographs, games, art, physical movement, conversations, Tovertafel and quizzes!

Every Friday

Morning sessions - 10.30 - 12.30

Lunch 12.30 - 13.00

Afternoon sessions: 13.00 - 15.00

Cost per session: £8pp  
plus £5.00 for lunch option



01256 473634

office@viabes.org.uk

D E M E N T I A

JOIN US FOR OUR  
CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATION  
MULLED WINE, MINCE  
PIES, BISCUITS, CAROLS,  
FAMILY CHEER!  
FRIDAY 20TH DEC  
7.30PM

MERRY

Christmas



## Youth Pop Choir Lights Up New York City with song!

During October, the rising stars of pop singing group, VoxFresh, filled New York City with music as they performed at some of the city's most iconic locations. The choir brought their fresh harmonies and high-energy performances to Grand Central Station, Washington Square Park, the Empire State Building, and even aboard the Intrepid WWII Aircraft Carrier.

With each performance, the talented group drew captivated crowds, creating unforgettable moments in each unique setting. The group also participated in an exclusive Broadway workshop with members of the cast of Hamilton. This rare opportunity allowed the young singers to work closely with Broadway professionals, gaining valuable insights into stage presence, vocal technique, and the artistry of live performance. The workshop was an inspiring experience for the group, encouraging them to take their vocal talents to new heights.

Audience member at the performance in Washington Square Park, Kevin, contacted VoxFresh with appreciative comments, 'Such beautiful voices...It was one of the best things I saw and enjoyed doing while I was in New York'.

Experiences such as these give the VoxFresh singers a chance to develop socially as well as musically. 'This trip was amazing for all involved' said VoxFresh Director, Kat Penn. 'We had singers from our groups in Newbury, Basingstoke and Derby all singing and bonding together, creating amazing memories and outstanding performances'.

VoxFresh is a dynamic youth singing group that learns pop hits to create performances that are both inspiring and entertaining. Known for their fresh sound and energetic shows, the group has quickly gained recognition in the UK and now across the pond too! Open to singers aged 4-18, come and give it a try at [www.voxfresh.com](http://www.voxfresh.com)!

Contact:

Kat Penn

Director of VoxFresh

[info@voxfresh.com](mailto:info@voxfresh.com)

[www.voxfresh.com](http://www.voxfresh.com)



## Local Kids Singing Group Shines at Britain's Got Talent Judges Auditions

The talented voices of VoxFresh, a local kids singing group, have recently wowed the judges at the Britain's Got Talent auditions. This dynamic group of young performers, ranging in age from 6 to 18, delivered a spellbinding performance that left both the audience and judges in awe.

VoxFresh performed an inspirational pop hit, 'Top of the World' by Shawn Mendes (featured in the film Lyle Lyle Crocodile) showcasing their impressive vocal harmonies, choreography, and stage presence. Their dedication and hard work were evident as they seamlessly blended their voices to create a memorable and captivating performance.

The group, under the direction of Kat Penn, rehearsed diligently for months in preparation for the opportunity. "We are incredibly proud of our kids. They have shown immense commitment and passion for music, and it all came together for this fantastic and fun opportunity." said Kat.

The audition was a significant milestone for VoxFresh, marking their first appearance on a national stage at the London Palladium Theatre back in January. The judges - Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and Bruno Tonioli - praised the group's energy, talent, and potential. Simon Cowell described them as 'bottled happiness' with Amanda commenting 'the love and the friendship on that stage was just fantastic'.

The group got four emphatic yes votes from the judges but unfortunately did not progress to the live semifinals beyond this.

VoxFresh consists of 150 members in Basingstoke and Newbury, each bringing their unique talents and personalities to the group. The Basingstoke group was launched in 2021 and has been quick to offer their singers as many memorable and fun opportunities as possible, from local performances to parents, at Milestones Museum, and even travelling to perform at Disneyland Paris! They focus on singing pop songs in a relaxed format making the group accessible to all young people.

Thirteen-year old singer, Floss, choreographed the routine for the performance and also joined Kat on stage to be interviewed by the judges. "BGT was one of the best experiences of my life" says Floss, "I'm incredibly proud of VoxFresh's achievement and can't wait to see where our journey goes next. The experience gave me so much more confidence in my singing and in life."

"Now the competition has fully ended we are able to talk about our experience" said Kat. "As such a major show we have to make sure information isn't leaked before the finals are over and the kids did really well at keeping it secret. But now it is time for us to shout about their success to the local community!"

As the academic year draws to a close, VoxFresh are already planning their adventures for next year. At the heart of everything they do is empowering young people to find and use their voices, to support their health and wellbeing, and proving that with hard work, dedication, passion, dreams can come true.

For more information about VoxFresh's upcoming performances, their journey on Britain's Got Talent, and how to get your young person involved please visit [www.voxfresh.com](http://www.voxfresh.com) or our social media pages.



*Merry Christmas*





## Basingstoke Gang Show – Meet your local cast!

Basingstoke Gang Show returns to The Haymarket Theatre for its 29th stunning variety show extravaganza! Get down with the Gang as they showcase a series of sensational songs, comical choreography, super sketches, and a whole lot more.

Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the **best-selling** and **longest running 'family variety show'** in the South of England and showcases an extremely talented cast – **recognise any of the cast living in your area pictured here?**

Audiences will be entertained as the cast of 70 local Scouts & Guides take to the stage to perform the 45th anniversary show across 11 performances, many over half term in February 2025.

**Interested?** Tickets are on sale **now** via [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) book early so you, your friends and family experience this feel-good show at The Haymarket.

Dates are **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**, excluding Sunday 16th. Matinee performances are also on Saturday 15th and 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Ticket prices: Adults £23, Children £16 and last night (Saturday 22nd) all seats £24. Ticket prices include £3 booking fee via Anvil Arts.

**Group booking discount** of £1.00 off each ticket for every 10 purchased before 31st January 2025. Discounts not available with online bookings.

Local businesses can apply to be a sponsor of Basingstoke Gang Show with packages from as little as £100 up to £2,000. To find out more go to [www.basingstokegangshow.com/sponsorship](http://www.basingstokegangshow.com/sponsorship)



**Basingstoke Gang Show:**  
 Winners of "Basingstoke Place to be Proud of Awards, Arts & Entertainment" 2023  
 Winners of "Accolade of Excellence for Variety Show" 2023  
 Winners of "National Operatic and Dramatic Association (Southern Region)" 2021  
 Winners of "Basingstoke Place to be Proud of Awards, Basingstoke Ambassador" 2012  
 "Accolade of Excellence for Youth Theatre" 2002

**Charity Number: 1042738**  
 "Accolade of Excellence for Seasonal Entertainment" 2000  
 "Accolade of Excellence for Runner Up Souvenir Programme" 2000  
 "Accolade of Excellence for Best Souvenir Programme" 1998  
 "Accolade of Excellence for Youth Theatre" 1996

## Celebrate Christmas in Basingstoke and Deane

It's the most wonderful time of the year for festive fun and seasonal magic in Basingstoke and Deane.

If you're looking for ways to keep the whole family, friends or colleagues entertained this season then we've got you all wrapped up!

Get into the festive spirit with a trip to a Christmas market or fayre including the majestic Tudor Barn at Basing House, the decorated period streets at Milestones Museum and countryside location, Silchester Farm.

Find out where to meet Santa, from a magical north pole adventure at Four Kingdoms to Santa's grotto in Festival Place.

Whether you're looking for things to do such as Christmas shows and festive events or seasonal treats and inspiration for winter walks, you'll find lots of events in Basingstoke and Deane to make some fantastic festive memories.

Head to [www.LoveBasingstoke.co.uk](http://www.LoveBasingstoke.co.uk) to keep up to date throughout the festive period, into 'twixmas' and the New Year.



### HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

