ISSUE 98 SUMMER 2025 WWW.HEDGEEND-TC.GOV.UK

GAZETTE

FREE

HEDGE·END TOWN COUNCIL

Remembering
Jane Welsh
1938 -2025

NEW PLAY PARKS
Designs Unveiled

MEET OUR COMMUNITY WINNERS

Support for Carers in Hedge End

RESCUED & REHOMED
The Dogs and Cats Getting a Second Chance

PADDLING POOL OPEN FOR SUMMER!

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCILLORS

Hedge End Town Council Wards

Berry
Vice-Chair of Council
Chair: R & A*
Leigh Hadaway
07429 097379

Berry
Lucy Jurd
07730 072606

Berry
Rupert Kyrle
02380 407045

Berry
Chair of Council
Ron Nichols
07981 852901

Park
Ian Corben
07561 343858

Park
Dave Kinloch
07875 232557

Park
James Mitchell
0800 316 3435

Park
Chair: P & R*
Derek Pretty
01489 797213

Kings Copse
Chair: H & P*
Paul Carnell
01489 785216

Kings Copse
Tonia Craig
02380 404680

Kings Copse
Chair: Personnel & Strategy Committee
Keith House
07827 986565

Kings Copse
Cliff Morris
07848 946822

Kings Copse
John Shepherd
07879 836282

Village
Margaret Allingham
01489 798646

Village
Helen Corben
01489 692406

Village
Cynthia Garton
01489 797213

Village
John Jupe
01489 780293

P & R* = Policy & Resources Committee **R & A* =** Recreation & Amenities Committee
H & P* = Highways & Planning Committee **(Email: Firstname.Lastname@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk)**

Hello From The Chair

WELCOME to the Summer Gazette and my first column as Chair of Hedge End Town Council. I would like to thank my predecessor Cllr. Jim Mitchell for all he did in the role.

We are pleased to unveil the designs for two new play areas for our younger residents in Hedge End at Nelsons Gardens and Locke Road.

I was proud to present the Serving the Community Award to Margot Bullwinkle for her dedicated volunteering to Girlguiding for 40 years. You can read about her achievements and that of our other worthy winner of the Young Persons Serving the Community Award Alisha Butts on page 7.

Congratulations to one of my fellow councillors Cllr. Dave Kinloch who has raised thousands of pounds for charity running the London Marathon - he's a better man than me!

As we head into Summer, the Paddling Pool is a favourite local amentiy for many families in Hedge End. It's open seven days a week from 10am until 6pm. May I kindly remind users to be considerate to local residents and to park at the former Budgens supermarket car park.

We celebrated the 80th Anniversary for VE Day with a flag raising ceremony as one of my last engagements as Vice-Chair of the Council. Cllr. Helen Corben raised the flag and spoke movingly about her own memories of the time.

I was very interested to read about the Carers Group in Hedge End and how much support they give to each other. (Page 13)

Finally, I must pay tribute to one of our long serving members Jane Welsh, who has sadly passed away. She was an extremely diligent councillor who worked hard for the community and will be very much missed.

I wish you all a very good Summer.

Cllr. Ron Nichols, Chair of Council

The Town Clerk's Desk

IT WAS with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Jane Welsh. As the longest serving councillor, Jane would often 'pop' into the office just to see how we were all doing.

Although I only saw a small part of Jane's commitment to the village having moved here six years ago, it was immediately clear that she was the embodiment of community spirit. Along with the rest of the staff, I will miss her enormously and it was an absolute pleasure to work alongside her.

It feels fitting to reflect on some of the things Jane was so fond of, guided by the knowledge of what her views might have been. The Green Flag inspections at the Albert Road Cemetery took place just days after Jane's funeral, and we hope she would have been proud of the work done; poignantly this will be the first year that she's not in the annual photo.

Our parks and open spaces are in need of rain, and with rainfall expected as we go to print, we hope to soon see the return of lush, green landscapes. The trees planted last November have required extra watering due to the unusually dry Spring.

Following public consultation, two new play areas have now been ordered. We look forward to working with the contractors over the Summer to ensure they are installed to the highest standard.

The paddling pool startup went off without a hitch - remarkable considering the equipment is 25 years old! This allowed us to open early and make the most of the unseasonably warm weather.

At her final meeting in October, despite not being well herself, Jane took the time to write to the fair owner to wish him well, after hearing they were unable to run the Fireworks Fiesta due to ill health. It was a simple but characteristic act of kindness, typical of Jane's thoughtfulness and community spirit.

Sarah Jelley, Town Clerk

COUNCIL NEWS

Jane Welsh 1938 – 2025

FEW people are as closely linked with Hedge End as Jane Welsh. Loyal and compassionate, Jane was Hedge End Town Council's longest serving councillor having been elected to the then parish council in 1983.

Throughout her 42 years of dedicated service, Jane served as Chair of Council three times and her commitment to the community was unwavering.

Hedge End Town Council in 2013

Cllr. Keith House said "Jane's passing is a massive loss to us all: her family, her friends, the community in Hedge End and across the Borough. I always joked that Jane was the youngest member of our team, well into her mid-80s! Nothing was too much effort, be it for residents with casework or as part of the team."

Jane dedicated many years as Chair of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, with a deep passion for the allotments, green spaces and the Albert Road Cemetery. She took great pride in the Council's achievement of earning the Green Flag Award for the Cemetery and the War Memorial for 15 consecutive years. She was also instrumental in establishing a memorial at the Cemetery for stillborn babies.

Having spent her childhood in the Orkney Islands, Jane moved to Hedge End as a teenager and fully embraced local life. She set up the Young Mothers' Club, played a key role on the Carnival Committee and held countless coffee mornings, barn dances and other charity events.

Jane served as Mayor of Eastleigh Borough Council twice, first from 1999-2000 and again in 2015-16, and was awarded the title of Hononary Alderman of the Borough of Eastleigh in 2014. She left a lasting legacy through her incredible fundraising efforts, having raised a record £67,000 for the Mayor's Charity, to the benefit of many projects in Hedge End and the Hamble Lifeboat charity, inspired by her role at Barclays Bank in Hamble for 35 years - the bank's longest serving staff member.

Clockwise L-R Jane Welsh's official Town Council photo; Jane when first elected in 1983; at the Christmas Lights Switch On; Jane as Mayor of Eastleigh; the opening of the Bandstand in 2018.

Her father was tragically killed during the Second World War and, in his memory, Jane dedicated 50 years to fundraising for the Poppy Appeal and was a steadfast attendee of the Remembrance Sunday Service.

Jane with the Green Flag Award and celebrating the centenary of the allotments with Cllr. Cliff Morris

Jane was devoted to her late husband Len and they had three children - Christopher, Elizabeth who tragically died at six weeks old, and Frances. She also leaves four grandchildren.

All at Hedge End Town Council extend our heartfelt sympathy to Jane's family. Cllr. Keith House said "Jane was truly unique. I miss her immensely already, as we all do."

Local Government Reform in Hedge End

THE GOVERNMENT has proposed significant reform to local government in England, with two main initiatives: **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**.
So, what does this mean for Hedge End residents?

What is Devolution?

Devolution is where power and funding is transferred from national Government to local areas.

How does that affect me in Hedge End?

With devolution, the country will be divided into new Strategic Authorities, each serving a population of approximately 1.5 million people, led by an elected Mayor. Residents of Hedge End will be included in the new **Hampshire and The Solent Strategic Authority**. This authority will encompass areas currently governed by Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Isle of Wight Council.

The Solent Strategic Authority, along with the Mayor, will oversee strategic planning, housing numbers, transport policy, and other essential services in this region, funded by the government.

So, what is Local Government Reorganisation?

Alongside devolution, the current two-tier county council and district/borough council system will be changed to new, unitary local authorities that cover populations of 500,000 on average.

At the moment, residents in Hedge End receive some services such as bin collections from Eastleigh Borough Council plus other services such as social care, education and highways from Hampshire County Council. Under the new structure, these councils will **no longer exist** and residents will receive these services from **one new unitary authority**. Existing councils have been asked to look at how they might combine to form new councils of the appropriate size to sit within the overarching Strategic Authority.

How does that affect Hedge End Town Council?

The Town Council will remain unchanged, along with most town and parish councils, but may take on some extra assets i.e. play areas or corridors of land currently owned by Eastleigh Borough Council.

When will these changes come into effect?

Councils making up the proposed Hampshire and Solent Strategic Authority have successfully asked to join the fast track programme, so their final proposal for the new authority will be submitted to the Government by September 2025. A mayoral election is expected to take place in Hampshire and The Solent in May 2026. And new unitary council arrangements are likely to take effect by 2027/2028.

Botley Bypass

AS WORK resumes on the Botley Bypass, the A334/A3051 junction near Pinkmead Farm Equestrian Centre is set to be converted into a temporary mini roundabout by late summer or early autumn.

Traffic will be redirected to the left-hand side of the A334 to facilitate construction on the right-hand lane adjacent to the field. This roundabout is expected to improve traffic flow prior to a new permanent roundabout being in place in 2027.

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportschemes/botleybypass

Hedge End Railway Station Path

THE PATH connecting Bubb Lane to Hedge End Station is currently being upgraded by Eastleigh Borough Council to a shared-use foot and cycle path.

Due to its close proximity to major gas lines, trial holes were made to confirm the pipeline's location. Progress has been made on the section between Bubb Lane and Nelsons Gardens including some vegetation clearance. The exit from the station that leads to Cheltenham Gardens Pond will be excavated with edging kerbs due to be installed, followed by tarmac laying soon after.

IT'S PLAYTIME!

WE'RE EXCITED to unveil the designs for two new play areas in Hedge End. Both the Locke Road and Nelsons Gardens play areas will be transformed, with new layouts and equipment. The costs will be covered by a grant from Eastleigh Borough Council.

The new Locke Road play area will cater for toddlers and children aged up to 12 years.

In the public consultation, residents told us they would prefer the equipment to be brightly coloured, and particularly wanted more seating.

The play area will remain in its current spot, with fencing only enclosing the play equipment, leaving a green space for other park activities like dog walking or informal ball games.

The new Nelsons Gardens play area will feature more natural colours, following feedback from residents.

It is designed to appeal to mainly to younger children, ensuring families won't need to cross Maunsell Way to access other play areas in Hedge End.

The play area will be relocated slightly as reinstating it in his current location was not feasible due to the presence of a high-pressure pipeline and associated easement restrictions.

Councillors awarded the tenders to play area specialists Kompan. The existing play areas at Nelsons Gardens and Locke Road needed upgrading as the timber play equipment had become outdated and worn.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY Awards

WE ARE thrilled to announce the winners of our Serving the Community Award and Young Person's Serving the Community Award. Both our worthy winners **Margot Bullwinkle** and **Alisha Butts** play an important role in shaping the lives of young people.

MARGOT BULLWINKLE has been a dedicated volunteer with Girlguiding in Hedge End (now known as the Itchen Valley Division) for almost 40 years.

Throughout that time she has held various roles within the division and currently manages two Rainbow Units.

Nominating her for the Serving the Community Award, Megan Adams said "Margot's unwavering commitment to the young girls of Hedge End means she has guided hundreds, if not thousands, of girls through their Girlguiding experience, helping them develop friendships, communication skills, listening abilities, team collaboration and much more."

Additionally, Margot served as the Itchen Valley Division Commissioner for five years, supervising all Itchen Valley Girlguiding groups (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers) and their leaders. She has also played an important role in supporting new leaders.

Serving the Community Award Winner Margot Bullwinkle receiving her award from the then Vice-Chair of the Council Cllr. Ron Nichols.

Margot said "I feel very honoured to have been nominated for the Serving the Community Award, as I am just one of the many great Girlguiding volunteers in our area who provide girls with amazing opportunities and adventures. I am proud to accept this award having been a Girlguiding leader in Hedge End for nearly 40 years."

Alisha being presented with the Young Person's Serving the Community Award and £50 gift voucher at the Annual Parish Assembly by the then Chair of the Council Cllr. James Mitchell.

ALISHA BUTTS is an invaluable member of the Friday Night Project, a local youth group dedicated to assisting young individuals with mild to moderate physical or learning difficulties, autistic presentations and confidence issues.

In addition to her full-time job and studies, Alisha volunteers with the Town Council group every Friday evening and participates in community activities and residential trips. The young people she supports come from diverse backgrounds and face a variety of challenges. She has built positive relationships with the young people, supporting them with quite often complex issues and behaviours.

Alisha said "I feel honoured and proud to represent the young people, serving the community through my work at the youth club. I support and empower vulnerable individuals and take pleasure in being someone they can trust and confide in while enjoying fun activities like quizzes, baking, and karaoke."

Youth Support leader Chrissie Aindow said "Alisha is an invaluable member of our community, who I can rely on to provide valuable and much needed support to our autistic young people. She has grown in confidence and ability and has recently secured a position as Children's Home Support Worker with Hampshire County Council building on the excellent experience that's she has gained and given to the group."

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day

HEDGE End Town Council marked the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a flag raising ceremony to honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought for our freedom.

Vice-Chair Cllr. Ron Nichols said it was important to remember those who lost their lives or were injured and reflected that many were left traumatised by what they had witnessed. He then read the VE Day 80 Proclamation.

Cllr. Helen Corben, who was 11 years old on VE Day and lost her father in the war when the Cunliffe-Owen Aircraft Factory in Southampton was bombed, spoke of her memories of the end of the war in Europe. Sadly, 52 workers were killed in the daylight bombing attack on September 11th 1940, including Cllr. Corben's father Fred Burnett. Just two weeks later the Supermarine factories in Woolston were attacked.

Cllr. Helen Corben proudly raised the specially-commissioned flag outside the 2000 Centre, the home of Hedge End Town Council.

Above: L-R Town Clerk Sarah Jelley, resident Michael Robinson who was 8 years old on VE Day, Communications Officer Elizabeth, Cllr. Paul Carnell, the then Vice-Chair Cllr. Ron Nichols, Cllr. Helen Corben and Operations Manager Brett Athow.

Right: Vice-Chair Cllr. Ron Nichols reads the VE Day 80 Proclamation, Cllr. Helen Corben raising the flag.

Congratulations on Charity Run

PROUDLY displaying his medal, Hedge End Town Councillor Dave Kinloch completed the London Marathon, raising more than £3,800 for Wessex Cancer Support.

Running in memory of his friend Jon, Dave said "It was the one of the best and, at the same time, one of the hardest things I have ever done. It was so hot and I struggled in the 23 degrees Celsius heat. The support from the crowd was amazing and I'm not sure I would have got round if not for them. I am so pleased to have raised so much for Wessex Cancer Support. The money will help so many local people suffering from cancer."

Summer Of Fun!

AN EXCITING array of activities awaits children aged five to 16 during the summer break as part of the Eastleigh Active Summer Programme.

Sessions run from Monday 28th July until Friday 22nd August across the Eastleigh borough, with registration or booking in advance. The events are budget friendly and some are free.

The full programme and activities will be announced soon, so please keep an eye on the website www.eastleigh.gov.uk/eastleighactive It will also be possible to sign up for updates.

Hope for Butterfly as Elms Return

By Paul Harfield, member of the charity Butterfly Conservation

The White-letter Hairstreak Butterfly
Photo: Iain Leach/Butterfly Conservation

THERE'S NEW hope for a rare British butterfly following the Town Council's initiative to plant disease-resistant elm trees in Hedge End.

The White-letter Hairstreak relies exclusively upon the elm tree for its lifecycle. The loss of large numbers of mature elms to Dutch elm disease in the 1970s had a massive impact on this species in the UK. It was feared that the butterfly would struggle to survive and possibly become extinct.

As elms were lost across Hedge End, the butterfly was last recorded in the town in 2019, although it is still present in West End and Curdridge. However, last Autumn the Town Council planted a number of the new disease-resistant elm trees across the town.

The White-letter Hairstreak, derives its unusual name from the thin white line on its underside which resembles a letter 'W'. It's officially classified in the UK as vulnerable and is a priority species on the British Biodiversity Action Plan.

The new planting is encouraging news for this scarce British butterfly. Its only requirement is that the elm has reached flowering maturity, whether that be in a countryside hedgerow, a park, an urban garden or beside a busy road in a large city. I have seen the butterfly in all of these environments. It would be fantastic to see this butterfly return to Hedge End in the future.

A Helping Hand

EVERY year Hedge End Town Council awards Community Grants to local groups. Some of last year's successful recipients have shared how they used the money.

Community Speedwatch

COMMUNITY Speedwatch is run by local volunteers, in partnership with Hampshire Police, aiming to enhance road safety by reminding drivers of the speed limits.

The £350 from the Community Grant have been used to purchase a new speed radar gun. It can be used in conjunction with their Speed Indicator Device (SID), allowing them to monitor both sides of the road at the same time. Those breaking the speed limits are sent advisory letters from Hampshire Police, but not fined.

Stuart Pretty, Chair of the Hedge End Group, said "Our focus is not on enforcement - it's about education. We aim to raise awareness and draw attention to the speeds at which people are driving."

Barnfield Way remains a problem area for speeding, but Maunsell Way has seen significant improvement since the group began focusing there. Anyone interested in volunteering should email: speedwatch@hampshire.police.uk

FISHES - Freegrounds Infant School Helpers and Extra Support

FISHES representative Carly writes "The PTA is dedicated to putting the money we raise towards substantial, long-lasting projects at the school, ensuring that the children can benefit from these improvements for years to come. One of our exciting projects this year is to complete the development of our wonderful pond area.

We are going to be putting the £450 grant towards benches and tables for this area so that the children can use these during their outdoor learning.

The pond area is a fantastic resource for the school, providing a serene and engaging environment where children can explore nature and learn in an outdoor setting. The addition of benches and tables will enhance this space, making it more accessible and comfortable for the children during their lessons and activities. Our thanks to Hedge End Town Council."

The Arts in Hedge End

VISUAL ART is all around us - in galleries, on walls, in adverts and on street corners, used as a way of communicating ideas, emotions, and stories through images. It includes things like painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and more. As part of our series on the Arts in Hedge End, we look at some talented visual artists and their work.

Sparkle Sisters

CSTAR Design is sister duo Cathy and Lisa who have a passion for glass, creating together and individually since 2005. Specialising in glass fusion, they craft everything from artistic pieces and functional wares to exquisite lampwork jewellery. As professional glass artists they design and hand make all of their glass from original ideas and all of their work is based on the vibrancy of colour and glass combined.

The duo began with a workshop and showroom in Botley but now, alongside selling their work, they focus on teaching their skills through workshops.

Cathy said “As the years have moved on and the gallery closed, our direction changed, we now teach and try to spread the joy of fused glass and vibrancy of colour to everybody as we believe everybody has a creative spark within.”

“The workshops are about playing with glass and enjoying the process of trying a different or unusual medium. The thing we love most about teaching is, at the end of the class, seeing the variety of work created by different people.”

Cathy (left) and Lisa with some of their work.

Cstar Design will be holding workshops at The Dart Centre in Hedge End on 14th June - Meadow Mini Window Curve and 5th July - Three Fish Hanging. Please book directly with The Dart. www.thedart.co.uk www.cstardesign.co.uk

Creative Crafting

VICKI North runs North Family Arts, a small creative business based in Hedge End.

Working from a small studio at home, Vicki creates gifts, keepsakes and garden items in ceramic plus needle felted pieces. She hand builds and forms all her own ceramic pieces and is very inspired by nature and flowers.

Vicki said “You might recognise me from running the Hedge End & Botley Craft Crawls or maybe you have seen me at a local craft market. I sell my makes at local events, via social media and in a couple of local shops. I can make bespoke items suitable for weddings or as birthday gifts, I even create flowers to go at the grave side that deer won't eat. It is really lovely to create things which can mean so much to people.”

She also runs workshops in needle felting, clay and painting ceramics at people’s homes or groups. Contact Vicki on Facebook or instagram: @NorthFamilyArts or email: northfamilyarts@gmail.com

HEDGE End is fortunate to have **The Dart Centre**, a creative space where people can learn and explore art in a hands-on way. It offers classes and courses in everything from painting and drawing to ceramics and sculpture as well as a cafe and small shop that sells locally made artwork and ceramics. See their June/July events at www.thedart.co.uk or scan the QR code for the Autumn brochure.

The Dart Autumn brochure

Capturing the Local Landscape

Steve Foulkes, a barn owl and a snowy scene at Manor Farm.

Coltsfoot Pond in the Wildern Local Nature Reserve in Hedge End at sunset (left) and frogs on the pond (above).

WILDLIFE and landscapes come alive through the captivating lens of photographer Steve Foulkes. He first started taking photos over twenty years ago whilst helping out yachting photographer and family friend Jonathan Eastland where he picked up numerous valuable tips. However, it was only when he got his first digital camera and photography become more accessible and affordable that he really took up the hobby which has since led to him taking part in local exhibitions.

He said “I really enjoy capturing images of wildlife and landscapes while immersing myself in nature. It's incredibly relaxing to be outdoors. I love sharing my photos with others.”

Every Autumn Steve, who works as a stainless steel welder/fabricator, produces a calendar of the Hamble Valley which has raised money for Cancer Research and the Hamble Lifeboat. You can buy a copy of the calendar and see more of his stunning work on his Facebook page ‘Steve Foulkes’.

Happy 100th Birthday!

CONGRATULATIONS to Audrey Clewer on her 100th birthday!

Audrey and her late husband Fred moved to Hedge End in 1986. After working in care, she trained as a nurse and retired from the medical team at the Ford factory in Eastleigh. An avid gardener and dancer, she actively participated in ballroom and Latin competitions and continued to dance at local clubs until her 80s.

At her celebration at the Norman Rodaway Pavilion, Audrey was joined by her three children and their partners, seven grandchildren and her 11 great-grandchildren. Granddaughter Madeleine said “It was absolutely brilliant. The venue was so perfect and the sun was shining on our special day!”

RAISE
EDUCATION TRUST

Are you passionate about education and committed to making a positive impact in your community?

Make a difference: Contribute to the development and success of one of our schools or the Trust.

Professional Development: Gain valuable experience in governance and leadership.

Networking: Connect with a range of individuals and professionals.

Community impact: Play a valuable role in shaping the future of young minds.

We would welcome you joining one of our dedicated governance teams.

We have a range of governance vacancies within the Trust and its three schools; Deer Park School in Botley, Wildern School in Hedge End and Boorley Park School in Boorley Green, all a short drive of each other.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact the Trust's Governance Professional, Annette Towgood, at a.towgood@raiseeducationtrust.org

https://www.raiseeducationtrust.org/

Finding Fur-ever Homes

WHEN Kerrie Collimore started fostering Florence the French Bulldog at her Hedge End home she had no idea how it would change both their lives.

Parting from rescue Florence quickly became unthinkable, leading Kerrie to adopt her permanently. And she was so impressed by the animal charity Pheonix Rehoming she chose to volunteer as one of their four trustees and carry on fostering.

Kerrie, who works as a dog trainer and walker, said "It makes me so emotional - there are so many animals who need a good home. Once you've seen some of the trauma and neglect, it breaks your heart, but through Pheonix Rehoming we know we can help them."

Kerrie with Florence (far left)

The charity is run totally by volunteers and rehomes dogs and cats across the South. It was started by Carla Kilgallon in Hampshire nine years ago when she rescued her Spaniel Diesel. Since then the charity has won numerous awards including Animal Rescue (Non-Profit Organisation) of the Year in 2024 and 2025 and Most Dedicated Pet Rehoming Service 2024. The charity prides itself on its after-care, as anyone adopting from Pheonix receives on-going support and training.

Unwanted pets is such a huge issue, the charity receives 10 to 15 calls a day. There are numerous reasons animals come under their care. Some have been abandoned or abused, while others are much-loved but surrendered due to circumstances like allergies, veterinary costs, job changes or relationship breakdowns.

Kerrie said "If you're considering getting a pet, please, please do your research. Ask yourself - 'am I the right person for this dog', instead of 'is this dog right for me?' Be realistic - do you have enough time for this dog, even just to give it the walks and training it needs."

Pheonix Rehoming is supported by foster carers who look after the animals in their own homes. It is a non-profit organisation which relies totally on donations and fundraising. The charity is hoping to purchase land within Hampshire to build a rehabilitation and training centre. For more details on the charity or fostering or adopting please see www.phoenixrehoming.co.uk

Happy New Home!

PICKLES and Pumpkin found a new home with Steve and Bethanie Collimore after their previous owners had to part with them.

Steve said "Pheonix Rehoming are brilliant. We have four other cats and two dogs so they helped us with introducing these two and now they all get on so well."

KATE Owen and her family from Hedge End adopted Maddie 18 months ago from Phoenix Rehoming. The greyhound-labrador cross was born on Halloween as part of a litter of ten puppies, whose pregnant mother was rescued and placed into foster care after suffering abuse.

Kate said "She has absolutely 100 per cent changed everything for us. I'm now one of those dog mums who carries a bag a sausages everywhere and is always covered in mud! She's wonderful. It's hard work, we walk her for up to two hours a day, but I wouldn't change it for a second."

The family are full of praise for Pheonix Rehoming who have provided them with plenty of support during and since the adoption.

BASIL the whippet was scarred and abandoned when he was fostered by Sarah Zamorski. However, she and her family quickly fell in love with him and decided to keep him.

Sarah said "My family are animal lovers and we believe every animal deserves a chance. With the charity's help we've put in a lot of time and training but Basil is a delight."

Caring for Carers

WHAT started as a simple idea around a kitchen table, born from one couple's experience of caring for their son, has grown into a vital lifeline for carers in the Hedge End community.

Hedge End Carers Group was established three years ago, offering support and understanding for anyone caring for a loved one facing mental or physical health challenges.

The group was founded by Jane Ingram (*pictured right*) and her husband Michael who had been caring for their adult son since his health deteriorated suddenly in 2016. Navigating the NHS mental health system, they encountered a world of doctors, crisis teams, hospitals, medications, and care services - but there was no dedicated support for carers themselves in the immediate area.

With help from local services including the Community Mental Health Team, Southern Health's Triangle of Care, and Care Navigators, the couple started the monthly carers group aiming to create a safe, welcoming space where carers could talk openly, share experiences and find strength in each other's stories.

"People here understand where you are coming from, they just get it."

"This really is a safe space to talk to people who really want to listen. Caring can feel very frustrating but I have picked up tips on how others have coped."

"We have a lot of fun here too."

"I wish I'd been able to come to a group like this when my children were small. I kept it all to myself. I felt like I needed to hide the fact they had mental health issues. This group has changed everything."

Quotes from Carer Group members

Jane said "Caring for someone can be so isolating. We are just so pleased that people are benefitting from the group and want to keep coming."

While the group originally focused on those caring for someone with mental illness, it now welcomes anyone in a caring role. Guest speakers occasionally join the meetings, such as pharmacists discussing medication and local charities highlighting available help and resources.

Caring for someone can be a full-time, 24/7 responsibility, often unpaid and emotionally demanding. Members say the Hedge End Carers Group offers a welcome opportunity to get together over a cup of tea with people who truly understand.

New members are very welcome. The Carers Group meets at 7 until 8.30pm, the third Wednesday of the month at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall, 3 Freegrounds Road. Please contact Jane on 07761 039330 beforehand.

Are You Up For A Challenge?

Story Garden

CAN YOU spare a few hours this Summer? Do you love hearing enthusiastic children talking about books and are you over 14 years old?

Hedge End Library is looking for volunteers for the annual Summer Reading Challenge 'Story Garden' which takes place over the school holidays in July and August, aimed at children aged four to 11 years old.

Children can discover new books, join free activities at the library and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors. If you think you can help out, please pop into the library on Upper Northam Road or message them on Facebook.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bring Your Babies To The Berry

ENJOY a morning of laughter with some of the best comedians in the UK - without needing childcare!

The Berry Theatre is hosting a Bring Your Own Baby Comedy morning on Tuesday 1st July. Each show features two comedians plus a compere and lasts approximately 75 minutes, including an interval.

*Please note there is a 15-month upper age limit.

The Berry Theatre

The Berry Theatre offers a diverse array of theatre and entertainment, ranging from comedy to family shows.

BOX OFFICE OPENING HOURS
Monday - Saturday: 10am to 3pm
023 8065 2333

The Berry Theatre Bar opens one hour before each performance and during intervals.

Located on the grounds of Wildern School, there is parking on site.

For a full list of What's On please see their website: https://thepointeastleigh.co.uk

HALLS FOR HIRE

Spotlight on the 2000 Centre

FEEDBACK FROM HIRERS

"An excellent venue as always!"

"The venue was ideal and all went very well."

"The hall was perfect and the caretaker was great."

"Thank you – it was all so easy and straightforward!"

THE LARGE Hall at the 2000 Centre is one of our most popular venues and can accommodate a wide range of activities.

Regular bookings include martial arts, many different community groups, Girlguiding, table tennis, exercise clubs and plenty more. It seats 150 people and has a fully equipped kitchen.

We currently have vacancies for regular hire on Monday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings and Friday evenings. Why not host your group, club or activity here?

Please email commsofficer@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk or see our website www.hedgeend-tc.gov.uk for more details on the 2000 Centre and our other halls in Hedge End.

WHAT'S ON

Please use the contact details to make sure the group is taking new members.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Calligraphy
Beginners welcome
Wednesdays 1.15-3.15pm
2000 Centre
mary.noble@btinternet.com

Arts & Craft Club
Tuesdays 1 - 3pm
Hedge End Village Hall
Call Vicki 07494 595133 or
Jo 023 8046 4170

Southampton Quilters
First Thursday of the month.
Underhill Centre 7-9pm
Call Dee 07502 620521 or
dee.oneill@ntlworld.com

Arts and Crafts
Full programme of activities.
Adults & children.
The Dart Centre
www.thedart.co.uk

MUSIC & DANCE

New Music Makers
SATB Choir
Thursdays 7pm
Hedge End Methodist Church
Call 023 8049 0450

Wildern Community Choir
Thurs 5.30-7pm
The Dart Centre
01489 779471
community@thedart.co.uk

Swing Jive
Beginners. Thursdays
Drummond Community Centre
Call 08708 611544
www.jiveboogie.co.uk

Sing Now Choir
Thurs 7-9pm
Hedge End Village Hall.
www.singnowchoir.com

Sally Johnson Dance Academy
Ballet, Tap, Modern
Saturdays 9am-12pm
Drummond Centre
Call 023 8025 5415

Steppin' UP
Street, hip hop dance.
Wednesdays.
Salvation Army Church.
Call 07833 515839
www.steppinup.co.uk

SPORT & EXERCISE

Yoga-based Pilates
Mon 10am, Fri 10am
Village Hall. All ages/abilities
Call Elaine 07967 631739

Pilates - Move With Mollie
Classes Monday - Friday.
Various times and locations
MoveWithMollie
info@movewithmollie.co.uk

Rebecca May Yoga
Tues 6.35pm & 7.35pm
Old School House
Call Rebecca 07912 139151
info@rebeccamayyoga.co.uk

Hatha Yoga
Mon and Weds evenings
Turnpike Pavilion
Call Laura 07866 459208

Lauren Gray Yoga
Mondays 6.15pm & 7.30pm
2000 Centre
Call Lauren 07495 446379

Rachel Lovegrove Yoga
Weds and Saturdays
Old School House
07725 120043
www.orangetreeyoga.com

Over 50s Flexercise
Weds 10am to 11.00am
Hedge End Village Hall
Call Carol 07936 788531

Seniors Table Tennis
Thursdays 2.30-4.30pm
2000 Centre
Call Penny 01489 788237

Hedge End Indoor Bowls
All abilities. Weds 2-4pm/ Sundays 7-9pm.
Hedge End Village Hall
Call Paul 07914 987581

Hedge End Bowling Club
Beginners welcome.
Alex Ross 07933 997299
www.hebc.uk

Zumba Kids with Janine
Saturdays
10.30-11.30am
4-11 year olds
Norman Rodaway Pavilion
Call Janine 07808 843779

Dragon Choi Kwang Do
Tues 6-7pm/Thurs 6-8pm
2000 Centre
Call Martyn 07926 564884

Junior Park Run
Sundays 9am
Dowd's Farm
Register in advance.
www.parkrun.org.uk/dowdsfarm-juniors/

COMMUNITY CLUBS

Hedge End Horticultural Society
3rd Monday monthly
2000 Centre
Call 023 8047 1906.

Over 60s Club
New members welcome.
Mondays 1pm-3.30pm
2000 Centre
Call 01489 311333

Good Companions
Tuesdays 1-3pm
2000 Centre
Call David 07712 836696

Hedge End Town Council Junior Youth Club
School Years 5-6
Fridays, The Hub at Wildern
Places limited. Email:
YouthTeam@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

Hedge End Town Council Friday Night Project
For young people with additional needs. By Referral.
13 to 24 years. Email:
YouthTeam@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

Over 60s Lunch Club
Thursdays, 2000 Centre
New members welcome
Call Sarah 07899 717755

Hedge End Rotary
Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month. Call 07887 369039 for information.

31st Itchen North Scout Group
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts
Norman Rodaway Pavilion
amazonseascouts.org.uk

Girlguiding Itchen Valley
Rainbows / Brownies:
2000 Centre
www.girlguiding.org.uk

Women's Institute
4th Tues monthly, 6.30pm
2000 Centre
Call Jill 023 8061 6712

Botley, Hedge End & District u3a
For retired & semi retired people. 1.30pm, monthly.
Email:
bhedistrict.u3a@gmail.com

Crochet Club
Free.
Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm
The Dart Centre
www.thedart.co.uk

If you'd like to see your club advertised in the Gazette, please email: marketing@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

CONTACTS AND COMMITTEES

Hedge End Town Council
2000 Centre
St John's Road
Hedge End
SO30 4AF

Town Clerk: townclerk@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk
General: commsofficer@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk
Gazette: marketing@hedgeend-tc.gov.uk

01489 780440

Office hours:
Mon - Thurs **8.30am - 5pm**
Fridays **8.30am - 4.30pm**
Weekends & Bank Holidays: **Closed**

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All committee meetings are held at the Town Council Office.
All meetings are formal, yet friendly and members of the public are encouraged to attend.
All meetings begin at 7pm, except Highways & Planning on the third Wednesday,
which starts at 6.45pm ahead of Full Council which starts at 7.30pm.

COMMITTEE		JUNE	JULY	AUG**	SEPT
Policy & Resources	First Tuesday monthly	3rd	1st	-	2nd
Recreation & Amenities	Second Weds monthly	11th	9th	-	10th
Highways & Planning	First & Third Weds* monthly	4th,18th	2nd,16th	-	3rd,17th
Full Council	Third Weds monthly	18th	16th	-	17th

*The Highways and Planning Committee meeting held on the third Wednesday will determine planning applications **only**.
Very occasionally it may be necessary to cancel a meeting - please check our website beforehand.
** There are no council meetings in August .

KEEP UP TO DATE

with the latest council and community news via our social media channels:

HedgeEndTC
@HedgeEndTown
HedgeEndTownCouncil
HedgeEndTC

www.hedgeend-tc.gov.uk