



Badger Farm Oliver's Battery COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring 2023

Sainsbury's pharmacy closure

We are losing our pharmacy. The staff who have served us so well are losing their jobs.

Lloyd's Pharmacy has said that the Sainsbury's and other instore pharmacy concessions are not profitable, and they are apparently withdrawing from all instore pharmacies. There is a message up by the pharmacy saying that it will close in late April and suggesting our alternative is at Tesco. For many, the Sainsbury's pharmacy is a lifeline. The area it serves is almost bafflingly large and it will be a huge loss for our community.

For most of us, consultations with a GP are for when we are in difficulties. The pharmacy is a godsend for getting good advice for smaller problems. Indeed, a new government campaign is encouraging us to do just that. This decision will make that much harder.

Now, like many of us, I have been in the Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm area a very long time. The moment it is suggested that my alternatives involve negotiating either the one-way system or the M3, I start flinching and twitching. I can cope with either of those, but I know so many occasions when one might have needed something from a pharmacy and an accident or incident has made our lovely city impossible to traverse. For those reliant on public transport, the situation is even more difficult.

The next nearest pharmacy will be the Lloyd's by St Paul's Surgery. Parking is extremely limited and difficult there. Within the city, there are possibilities in Weeke, at Boots, Lloyd's and Boots again in the city centre or further out towards Tesco and King's Worthy. If one does not wish to go in or across Winchester (and who would drive Romsey Road if they could avoid it) then the next

choices are in Chandler's Ford, North Baddeley or Romsey.

Some residents have tried the online pharmacies that deliver. There are good and bad reports and I'm sure all of our local WhatsApp groups have had a plea for an inhaler because a prescription had not been delivered. For people with multiple of complex conditions, checking your medication at the counter and making changes immediately can be vital.

The Community Centre's trustees have been in contact with Sainsbury's to discuss the issue and someone has raised the matter with the Regional Manager. After all, long memories will note that there was an independent pharmacy on Oliver's Battery that was killed off by Sainsbury's having one on-site. So far, we have had no response.

If you are so-minded, maybe write, Facebook, email or tweet Sainsbury's and let them know that if you have to go to Tesco or Waitrose to get a chemist, you might just do shopping there as well. In the meantime, we are trying desperately to make sure that this community has the service of a pharmacy without the need for any of us to add extra travel – and to have it soon.

Sainsbury's Store Support Centre
33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HT
020 7695 6000

[sainsburys.co.uk/help](https://www.sainsburys.co.uk/help) > Feedback
[facebook.com/sainsburys](https://www.facebook.com/sainsburys)
[twitter.com/sainsburys](https://www.twitter.com/sainsburys)

Peter Roberts,
BFOBRCA Trustee

News from the Community Centre

BFOBRCA Trustees needed

Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association is a registered charity that oversees the day-to-day running of Badger Farm Community Centre. We are currently looking for new trustees to join our Charity Trustee group.

We are seeking experienced members of the public to join our Board of Trustees. We are particularly keen to recruit members of the local community in Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery who have one or more of the following skills:

- Experience of working in community events or companies.
- Expertise in Marketing, PR or Event Management.

Board meetings are held every month at the Community Centre. The Board is responsible for setting the strategy and policies of the charity and guides and supports the Centre Manager and her staff.

This is a rewarding role that seeks to support the local community with a centre that has a stable and sustainable future. We are seeking a number of trustees and welcome all applications for this voluntary position.

Why become a Trustee?

Trustee, Lesley Nguyen, says to anyone interested in joining our Board of Trustees, 'Go for it! I hope we're a nice bunch to work with, you'll learn all sorts of things you didn't know, you

won't be asked to do anything that you don't want to and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something to keep our community alive.'

Find out more

To find out more about joining the Board, please contact Ali Cochrane by leaving a message on 01962 868630 or emailing bfobrca.manager@gmail.com with your interest and a short line about what you think you could bring in experience to the board. There will be an informal selection process.

Ali Cochrane, Community Centre Manager

Thank you, Lesley and Henry

Not only is Lesley Nguyen one of our Trustees, she's also the Community News proofreader and one of our distributors. Very sadly, she's moving away from Badger Farm. While I'm delighted that she will be continuing in the first two roles, she and her husband Henry will no longer be delivering Community News. **Thank you both for all the support you've given over the years – we're so grateful for everything.**

Can you help with Community News?

We are in need of a volunteer to take over and deliver Community News to Charfield Close, Roydon Close and Ivy Close. If you would like to help out, please get in touch with the Community News Editor, Ann Jury (bfobrca.cnews@gmail.com), the Community Centre Manager, Ali Cochrane (bfobrca.manager@gmail.com) or call 01962 868630.

We'd love to welcome you to our team!

Ann Jury, Community News Editor

Website

bfobrca.org

Social Media

Facebook @BadgerFarmCommunityCentre | Twitter @BFCCWinchester

Email

enquiries@bfobrca.org

Phone

01962 868630

Repair Café Winchester

Ready, Set, Repair!

Repair Café Winchester is ready to launch on Saturday 15 April at Badger Farm Community Centre 10.30am to 12.30pm and Unit 12, Winnall 2pm to 4pm.

Our dry-run volunteer event in February was an amazing success and you can see our happy repairers and clients on Instagram ([instagram.com/repaircafewinchester](https://www.instagram.com/repaircafewinchester)). Great fun was had by all as you can see!

We will be looking to repair small domestic items so reducing landfill waste. We don't charge for repairs, but we may ask you to provide some spare parts your repair needs. Donations are gratefully received.

We will consider items ranging from clothing (clean please) to small electrical, to woodwork and even bikes. Our amazing volunteer repairers bring some specialised skills so are able to tackle a variety of repairs. Last time a wonderful musical instrument repairer was able to come along! All this will depend on their availability for the day so it is vital you book and let us know in advance.



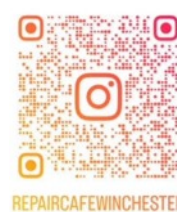
You can now book a repair slot through our website booking form. Just go to repaircafewinchester.org or email us at info@repaircafewinchester.org. Once your booking is processed you can come along and we will see what we can do to get those personal items functioning again.

Everyone is welcome to pop in and enjoy the ambience and our café (cake and coffee available). If I could bottle the volunteers' enthusiasm we could power Winchester!

There will also be lots of information coming up on our website about the impact we make and upcoming events. If you want to join our volunteer teams then again contact us through the website.

We look forward to welcoming you on Saturday the 15 April at Badger Farm Community Centre and Unit 12, Winnall.

Ali Cochrane, Repair Café Winchester



REPAIRCAFEWINCHESTER

ACTIVITIES AT BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Aucott Karate	Thursday 6.45–9.00pm	Phil Aucott philaucott@gmail.com
Body Control Pilates	Every weekday except Tuesday	Jenny Forster 07929 624526
DDMIX Dance Fitness	Friday 9.30–11.15am	Gemma Feeny aucottschoolofdance@gmail.com
Fitsteps	Saturday 9.30–10.30am	Helen Clarke hello @enjoydancefitness.co.uk
Glenda Davis Tai Chi	Tuesday 1.45–2.45pm	Glenda Davis 07504 533771
Legs, Bums & Tums	See advert for details	Catherine Jones 07990 513434
Pilates	Tuesday 3.30–4.30pm	Amanda Hemingway amandahemingway@mail.com
Slimming World	Saturday 8.00–10.00am	Suzi Buccheri suzibuccheri@hotmail.com
Southern Roots Line Dancing	Thursday 1.45–3.45pm Sunday 7.30–9.30pm	Brian Woodford 07511 876149
Weight Watchers	Wednesday 5.15–6.45pm Thursday 9.00–11.00am	Mary Blanchard mary.blanchard@ww.com Lorraine Small lsmall@ww.com
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday, Wednesday 6.30–8.30pm	Lucy Scott info@winchestertkd.co.uk
Wyeth Yoga	Monday 9.30–11.30am	Christine Wyeth wyethchristine@yahoo.co.uk

OLDER ADULTS

Andover Mind Carer Support	3rd Tuesday of the month 2.00–4.00pm	Judy Beaunier judy.beaunier@andovermind.org.uk
Brendoncare Seated Exercise Club	Thursday 3.00pm–5.00pm	01962 857099 clubs@brendoncare.org.uk
Chat-Tea Café	Last Monday of the month 2.00–4.00pm	info@chat-tea.co.uk
HomeInstead Activity Group	Every 4th Friday 10.30am– 12.30pm	hants@homeinstead.co.uk 01962 736681
Lipreading	Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm	sandydawn3064@gmail.com

GENERAL INTEREST

Badger Farm ACOL Club	Friday 7.00–10.00pm	Hugh Gough mariongough@icloud.com
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday 1.30–3.30pm	Sarah Zimmer 20robinspeed@msn.com
Friday Afternoon Bridge	Friday afternoon 2pm–5.15pm	Robin Speed mikes1slinn@btinternet.com
Royal British Legion	1st Thursday of the month 8.00–9.00pm	Chris George chrisgeorge199211@gmail.com
Rock Choir	Tuesday 10.00am–noon	Jan Moll jan@rockchoir.com
Wessex Wargames	Tuesday 7.00–11.00pm	Alan McFarlane 01962 864210
Winchester Chess Club	Wednesday 7.15–10.30pm	John Schonenberger schoneys54@gmail.com

These are some of the regular activities that take place at the Community Centre. For more details see bfobrca.org/activities or contact the group's organiser.

If you can't find what you are looking for or want to enquire about setting up a new group, please email bfobrca.manager@gmail.com or telephone Ali on 01962 868630 (Mon – Wed only).

CHILDREN

AG Martial Arts	Wednesday 5.00–6.15pm	info@agmartialarts.co.uk
Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup	Mon. Tues. Wed. 9.15am–3.00pm Thurs. Fri. 9.15am–12.15pm	Denise Tosdevine 07771 798 474 deniseinpreschool@hotmail.co.uk
Integr8 Dance	Thursday 5.00pm–6.00pm	01962 808398
Winchester Scouts (7th)	Tuesday 8.00–9.30pm	gsl@7thwinchesterscouts.org.uk
Winchester Junior Chess Club	Sunday 11.00am– 12.30pm	Lukasz Piecha 07711 804361
Winchester Young Embroiderers	Contact organisers for dates	Karen Brooking brooking.karen@gmail.com



Oliver's Battery Parish Council

The future of Bushfield Camp

This site is included in the Winchester City Council's Regulation 18 Local Plan, where it is described as 'High quality flexible business and employment space, an innovation/education hub and creative industries'. The stated intention is that approximately half of the site will contain built development with the other half to be designed and maintained as publicly accessible and biodiverse green space.

Although this site is in Compton and Shawford Parish, any development will impact on our parish: for example, additional vehicles on Badger Farm Road and commuter parking in local roads. Comments are being sought and further details are available at bushfieldcampregeneration.co.uk. The promoters gave a short presentation at the Parish Council meeting on 7 March.



Christmas Tree Event (2023)

Christmas 2023 needs a tree! If you can donate one, please contact the Events Group oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com.

Easter Event

Following a highly successful inaugural event last year, the Events Group are organising the second Easter Egg Hunt (EEH) on Sunday 9 April, 12.30 to 5.30pm, starting and finishing at St Mark's Hall. Watch out for more details, including posters. The EEH will be on several levels, starting with infants. There will be a small entry fee to contribute towards the costs. Entry forms are available from Alexandra Sports, Barlow's and the Post Office, and must be returned by 3 April.

Sustainable Oliver's Battery Sustainable Oliver's Battery



Sustainable Oliver's Battery

OB Sus AIMS in 2023

In 2023 Oliver's Battery Sustainability group decided to focus activity on:

1. Improving home energy efficiency
2. Helping wildlife
3. Reducing stuff

Four people have been trained to use the parish's thermal imaging camera to survey homes to show where heat is leaking out. Wasted energy causes climate change, wastes money and nobody likes living in a cold home. Sources of advice on better insulation etc can be found on energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy_at_home/reducing-home-heat-loss.

We want to make our corner of Winchester nature-friendly. Will you help? In Spring we will share seeds to celebrate the King's Coronation. Red Poppy, blue Cornflower and white Corn Chamomile seeds will be available for collection. Please grow these wildflowers in tubs or borders in your front gardens for people and pollinating insects to enjoy.

Coronation Event

A 'Big Lunch' is proposed on Sunday 7 May. The intention is to bring your own food, drinks, chairs, etc for an informal get-together on the Battery. Further details to follow. If you have any questions, please contact the Events Group via oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com.

PC Community Newsletter

The Oliver's Battery PC Community Newsletter has been in its current format for about a year. The PC sent out a brief survey to find out what residents want. Results of the survey should be available in March.

Recreation Ground

Great work has been done by Cllr de Liberali in setting us off with the crowdfunding project, which is based on the priorities identified in the survey. Thank you to all those who contributed. The project currently focuses on furniture (picnic tables, benches and bins), planting (trees and hedges), equipment (smaller football goals) and simple changes to the perimeter path.

The hedging will comprise planting a significant number of whips (very small tree/hedge plants). The scope of this work will, to a large extent, depend on the number of volunteers who are willing to help in autumn 2023.

The positioning of the goalposts will effectively create a smaller pitch, which will be suitable for junior-school aged players, adult five- or six-a-side and even over-50s walking football.

There is still lots to do in planning and developing proposals.

David Kirkby – Chair
Oliver's Battery Parish Council, cllr.kirkby@oliversbattery.info

With your help, we hope to run a Hedgehog Highway campaign. Hedgehogs are struggling in the UK partly because our gardens are becoming more secure with walls and fences replacing hedges. As hedgehogs travel up to 2km a night looking for food and a mate they need gardens that are linked, with holes in fences and walls. Can we make hedgehogs' lives a little easier by removing barriers and making little hedgehog-size holes in our fences? Better still, replace the fence or wall with a wildlife friendly, native hedge. So, please talk to your neighbours, and connect your gardens so our small friends can pass through safely. We hope to create a map of our 'highways' and put this online if we get help from IT savvy people. Then you will be able to share your hedgehog sightings when they emerge from hibernation. All offers to obsustainability@gmail.com!

Thirdly, the Repair Café will start very soon. Meanwhile OB Sus will hold the next outdoor SWAP on Saturday 29 April.

Clare Shorter





Badger Farm Parish Council

I hope this finds you all well and free from the many bugs that went around over the winter. The first early signs of Spring are starting to appear as I am writing this article.

Firstly, I would like to welcome Catherine Craven to the PC, I am sure she will be a great addition to our team.

We are planning to install some communication boards in the play areas, These are aimed at helping children on the Autistic spectrum but also are very interesting to everyone. They have been installed by some other local councils and have been very well received.

One cloud on our horizon is the proposed development on Bushfield Camp. In our opinion the early signs are that it will be totally overdeveloped and lead to serious access problems and possible additional vehicles parking on the estate. At this stage (early March) it appears that the consultation has been delayed and we will try to keep everybody informed when a definite date is announced.

The PC is in the process of reviewing our website and IT services and would welcome suggestions for inclusion on the new site.

You may not know that all the footpaths on Badger Farm are the responsibility of HCC. We have been asked by our County Councillor to highlight areas that require attention and send

a list to HCC. Can you please tell us of any paths that you have concerns about. This does not include overgrown hedges or trees that are generally the responsibility of Winchester City. Our footpaths are increasingly being used by bicycles and we would ask cyclists to give more consideration to pedestrians by keeping their speed down and giving them as much room as possible.

The unfortunate loss of the pharmacy at Sainsbury's is a major blow to the area especially to those that do not have a car. At the time of writing Sainsbury's are not sure what is going to happen but after talking to a manager in store it seems unlikely to be replaced. Hopefully there will be a satisfactory solution to this as alternate pharmacies are difficult to access, especially for our older residents.

WCC have assured us that the management of the green areas will be better this year than in the last two years. The contractors have new machinery that will collect the long grass and they have already given the kickabout areas the first cut. We will be proactively highlighting any missed cuts to the appropriate management in WCC.

Finally, our photographic competition will be held again later this year and details will be on our website and notice boards in due course.

As usual if you have any questions for the Parish Council please come along to our meetings.



Cllr John Godbold,
Chair, Badger Farm Parish Council

Clerk Email
clerk@badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Clerk Phone
01425 656010
07463 760801

Website

badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Social Media

facebook.com/badgerfarmpc
twitter.com/badgerfarmpc

BADGER FARM ART GROUP

continues to meet up on a Thursday afternoon, 1.30 to 3.30pm.

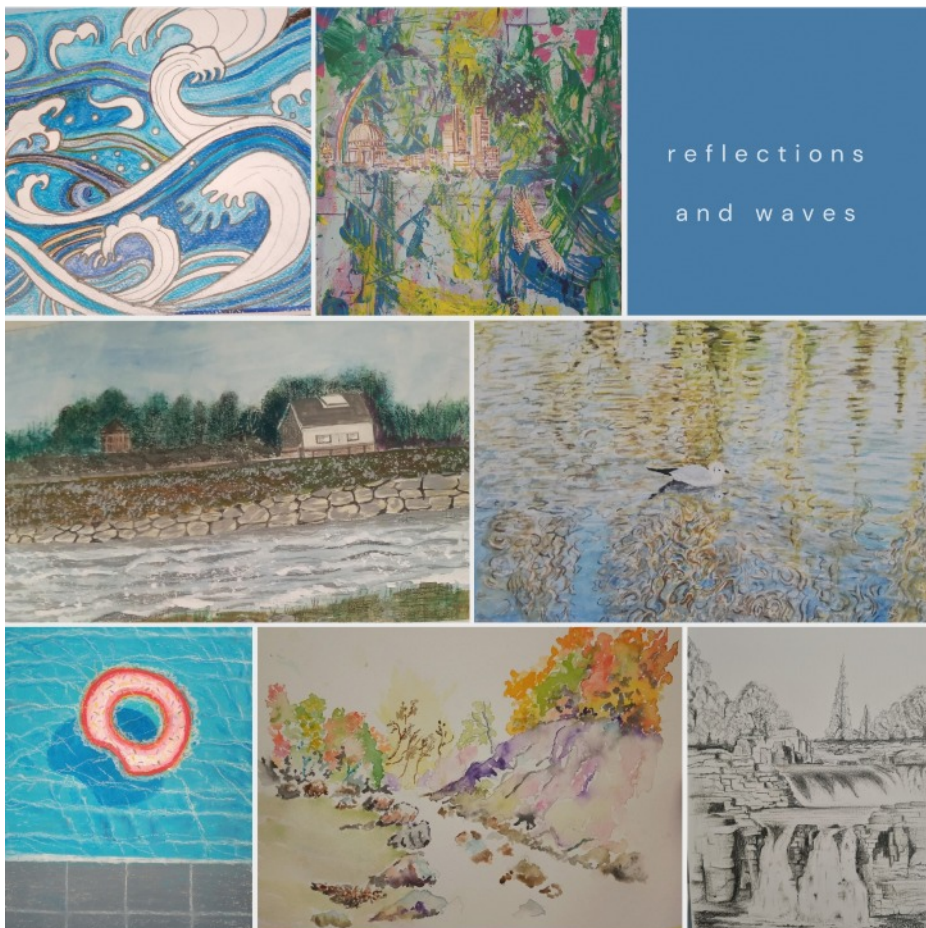
We have been working on the theme of water this year, looking at reflections, white water in flowing rivers, Japanese paintings of waves and David Hockney's swimming pool paintings.

We use a variety of materials and we experiment with a variety of skills and techniques. We sometimes look at artists' work, both contemporary and historical, and occasionally look at art from around the world.

The group can choose to work on their own personal themes or on the ideas which are planned. We have a chat, a cup of tea, and work in a friendly, relaxed and encouraging atmosphere.

We would love some new members to come and join us, so if you are interested, or know someone that might be, please get in touch. The first session is free, and after that you can pay as you go, so no need to commit to a whole course in advance.

Contact Sarah at snippycards@hotmail.co.uk.



VHN DECORATING

Female Decorator

Interior / Exterior
Painting & Decorating
Services

Free no obligation quotes
Competitive prices
Domestic & commercial
OAP discount
Fully insured
Large and small jobs considered



Vicky Nash
07966 919 965

vhndecorating@hotmail.co.uk

Oliver's Battery
Winchester



Look and Feel Beautiful,
Book an Appointment Today!



theresa harrison

Facials
Wellness Therapies
Massages
Intense Pulsed Light
Waxing
Manicure & Pedicure
Eyes & Ears
And More...

thBeauty Therapy

3 Treble Close, Olivers Battery,
Winchester, SO22 4JN

07940 850713

theresa@thbeautytherapy.com

www.thbeautytherapy.com



MEDITATION WINCHESTER

Find Your
INNER SANCTUARY
OF STILLNESS



With Charlotte

Introduction Courses
Retreat Days
Shamanic Drum Baths
Cacao Ceremonies
One to One
Family
Workplace

Qualified Meditation Teacher
DIPBSoM

07736905302
letitgomeditation.co.uk
letitgouk@gmail.com



Alexander GARDEN SERVICES Winchester



- Local professional specialising in -
Landscaping - Fencing - Artificial Grass
Driveways - Decking - Paths & Patios
Water Features - Garden Design

- Fully Insured - Established 2008 -

If you are looking for someone to take on those larger garden jobs such as replacing fences, laying paths and patios, give the garden a makeover or a full re-design, then look no further... we offer a range of services designed to take the strain out of gardening so you can fully enjoy your garden all year round.

Call today and expect that little extra...

01962 717735 • 07971 529217

www.alexandergardenservices.co.uk



Hampshire County Council

Spending programme for 2023/24 Hampshire County Council's spending plans for 2023/24 include the £2.6bn annual budget and cover all the services delivered by the council for 1.4 million residents, including supporting our most vulnerable children and adults. Capital budget projects totaling £645.3m over the next three years include:

- £175m investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire, delivering a further 4,393 school places and giving a total of 18,874 new school places by September 2025.
- £142m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.
- £103m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £58m of schemes focused on walking and cycling improvements.
- An additional £0.3m funding towards the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme as part of our response to the challenge of climate change.

20mph review A review of the criteria for 20mph speed limits on roads within Hampshire has been prepared following last year's public consultation. A report has been produced for the County Council's Cabinet recommending a series of changes which will make it easier for communities who want reduced speed limits to promote speed reduction schemes and seek the introduction of lower limits.



Winchester City Council

Large Scale Renewable Energy benefits district's zoo

Because of a partnership between the zoo and the neighbourhood council, the animals and tourists at Marwell Zoo are benefiting from renewable, clean energy. As part of its goal to going greener more quickly, Winchester City Council has invested in a sizable solar energy project in the Winchester neighbourhood. In 2021, the council installed 250 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels onto the rooftops of Marwell Zoo's buildings, with the generated power sold to the zoo at a discounted rate per kilowatt hour. The panels will last 20 years and generated 86,680 kWh per year in the first year of operation, reducing the annual carbon emissions by over 17 tonnes of CO₂e per year, or 350 tonnes CO₂e over the lifetime of the project.

New roadmap underpins council's commitment to be greener faster

A new roadmap commissioned by the council provides the evidence base and ranges of measures needed for the Winchester district to be carbon neutral by 2030. Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, the city council has positioned the climate emergency as its overarching priority, ensuring that the climate emergency sits at the heart of its decisions and strategies. The Roadmap modelled 16 interventions covering: domestic, commercial, industrial, trans-

Roads Bad weather in January provided some challenges for Hampshire Highways, especially from blocked drains, flooding and potholes. Even with improving weather and falling water tables, overnight freezing temperatures have exacerbated potholes with many appearing, particularly in rural areas. With demand high work is prioritised so that the highest risk issues are repaired first. This includes the use of temporary 'infill' repairs to major potholes, with these addressed on a longer-lasting basis later. One of the priorities now is to clear ditches to help alleviate surface water flooding. Please do continue to report highways issues online. In an emergency call 0300 555 1388 (8.30am to 5.00pm) Monday to Friday, or 101 outside office hours.

Drain cover thefts Road users across Hampshire are being urged to be vigilant after a recent spate of drain cover thefts – leaving deep openings in the road surface which could cause a potential hazard to drivers, pedestrians and cyclists and also result in significant expense to council tax payers. To report a missing cover, please call the number given above or report it to the police online at www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime.

Increased police numbers announced The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has presented her budget plan for 2023–24. She is on track to increase police numbers by an additional 600 officers by the end of March. Her new budget has added 50 more officers, funded by the police precept of council tax.

Cllr Jan Warwick, Hampshire County and Winchester City Councillor | jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk | 07712 695431

port, land use and waste. Critical to the success of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 will be the contributions made not only by the council, but the County Council, the district's businesses and its residents – there is a role for everyone.

Voter Identification Requirements

The Elections Act 2022 was granted Royal Assent and passed into law on 28 April 2022. The new legislation includes changes to absent voting rules, EU citizens' voting rights, accessibility, voter identification and 'votes for life' for overseas electors. You can find out more about the Elections Act 2022 on www.gov.uk and on the Electoral Commission website electoralcommission.org.uk.

You are now required to show photographic identification at polling stations before you can be given a ballot paper. This will affect all voters across the district of Winchester who vote in person or by proxy at the next local election on Thursday 4 May 2023. If you choose to vote by proxy, then the person who you have trusted to vote on your behalf will have to take their own photographic identification to be issued a ballot paper. Postal voters will not be affected and will be issued with their postal ballot papers as usual.

Voters must bring a suitable form of photographic ID to their polling station. No suitable ID? You will need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. It is free of charge to any eligible elector who applies for one. The deadline is **5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023**. gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

Cllr Jan Warwick

jwarwick@winchester.gov.uk | 07712 695431

Cllr Hannah Williams

hwilliams@winchester.gov.uk | 07776 138405

Cllr Brian Laming

blaming@winchester.gov.uk | 07973 265028

From your MP

We hear so much talk right now about the NHS – and strikes – and ‘under-funding’. Truth is, the NHS in England has never had higher funding than it does right now yet still we see north of seven million people on the waiting list (many of them courtesy of the Covid backlog), cancer outcomes lagging behind our competitors and GP surgeries, not to mention hospitals, literally creaking under the strain. I will also support our local NHS – and deplore attempts to talk down the RHCH for partisan gain – but we’re serving no-one if we don’t face the pressures on the system and take the long view of their origins and solution.

The challenges are, of course, complex and long-standing but I have welcomed recovery plans for clearing waiting lists, urgent and emergency care and primary care. They deserve serious scrutiny and that’s my job but they won’t be enough on their own.

What’s plain to see from the hard facts before us is that demand is outstripping supply in the NHS by a significant margin. We can go on increasing the budget – pushing up taxes to ensure NHS spending keeps rising faster than GDP – and filling those many vacancies across the service but that’s not sustainable by simple logic.

I don’t pretend the Health & Social Select Committee (which I chair) has the answers, but I do hope we’re onto something with our major new inquiry looking comprehensively at the prevention of ill-health as a path towards a healthier nation and a sustainable NHS that’s there for another 75 years.

For the first stage of this inquiry, we want to hear from researchers, organisations and individuals interested in or working in preventative healthcare. This is your opportunity



Steve at Southern Water’s water supply works at Otterbourne

to get involved and suggest what specific issues we should be exploring. We’ve had so many suggestions around ‘upstream prevention’ including genomic sequencing, obesity and physical activity, smoking and alcohol use but also a pitch to look at the increasing evidence around how poor air quality can drive heart disease, respiratory illness and even cancer.

I am also keen that we look at the untapped potential that still exists around vaccination – and there’s so much coming online in that regard –

and wider non-NHS issues such as how poor quality housing is a driver of illness. It’s going to be a major workstream and we hope we can really move the dial with our work. You can get involved by going to stevebrine.com/prioritynhs.

Finally, on a not unrelated subject given the public health angle, constituents don’t need reminding that we’ve had a bad run in this area with Southern Water and their water supply works at Otterbourne. Big gaps in water supply before Christmas – unacceptably repeated of course during February half-term – left many of us fuming. At the first opportunity I combined with neighbouring MPs to haul the bosses of Southern Water to Westminster to explain themselves and set out exactly what happened and how they’re going to invest OUR MONEY to drastically reduce the likelihood of a repeat. And I visited Otterbourne to better inform myself on the subject. I will, as ever, do my best to update constituents via my website (stevebrine.com) and local media but do get in touch if you wish to engage.

There’s so much more on my work across Westminster and the constituency on a wide range of issues, on my website but also on my socials which are a great way to stay in touch fb.com/SteveBrineMP.

Steve Brine, MP, Working hard for Winchester



Badger Farm Pre-school Playgroup

We returned, after an exciting end to our Autumn Term with celebrations and Christmas, to a busy Spring Term.

We welcomed some new friends who are settling well and getting to know Mr Badger. This term we are looking at our communication and language skills and celebrating food from around the world reflecting in our multicultural cohort of children. We have enjoyed some new tastes and smells with the food and children have helped to prepare it using recipes from parents.

We are now looking forward to the Spring and warmer weather. We have our seeds and plants ready to sow to watch them grow and produce fruit and vegetables for us.

Spaces are available for the Summer Term and also for September. Please contact us or drop in to see us!

Denise Fosdevine,
Pre-school Manager
badgerfarmpreschool.co.uk





**Badger Farm
Parish Council**

Hangin**g** basket COMPETITION

Residents of Badger Farm are invited to produce the Best Hanging Basket or Planted Pot

PRIZES
First £100, Second £50, Third £25, 16 years & under £30.

The competition closes on 30th June 2023 with judging by a member of the Winchester Gardening Club on the first weekend of July.

FOR APPLICATION FORMS SEE
badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk




Do you have muscular pain? Would you like to move better and feel better??

Yew Hill Therapy, based in Oliver's Battery, offers the following treatments to help with muscular and neuro-muscular pain:

Soft Tissue Therapy
Bowen Therapy
Hot Stone Sports Massage

Don't suffer in silence. Contact Angela to see if she can help!

E: angela@yewhilltherapy.co.uk

Web: www.yewhilltherapy.co.uk

M: 07789 790703

You can also find me on Instagram and Facebook @yewhilltherapy



Little Fishes Pre-School

Based at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Oliver's Battery
Road North, Winchester, SO22 4JB
www.stpetershants.co.uk

"At Little Fishes we have fun every day as we explore and discover through our play. We always remember to have sharing hands, speak with kind words and use our listening ears"

For 20 years, Little Fishes has offered a warm, secure and welcoming environment for pre-school children to learn and explore.

We are based in a large and sunny purpose-built room and have an extensive outside play area, which we share with the school Reception classes and which we use every day whatever the weather. The Little Fishes team works alongside the school's Early Years teachers to provide the EYFS curriculum.

Open Monday to Friday during term time, with a variety of sessions available between 08.45 & 15.45, for children aged between 2 years 9 months and 5 years.



No registration fee
£5.50 per hour for non-funded sessions, inclusive of snacks and consumables
Universal and Extended EYE funding available for 3 & 4 year olds



If you would like to arrange a visit or find out more information, email admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk or call 01962 852820

Ready, Set, VOTE!

We are avowedly apolitical in the Community Centre and magazine but there is a change coming in this year that will affect all of us who are eligible to vote and, as we host the Polling Station, it seems right to make sure you are fully informed.

Rules for in-person and proxy votes

For the first time, **you will need to provide photo identification in order to vote in person or by proxy.** Your Poll Card will not be sufficient and the Polling Clerks will not be allowed to give you a ballot paper. It is relatively simple for those of us who drive and/or travel as a photocard Driving Licence or a passport are fine as forms of identification. For those that don't, here is the list from the Government's website (gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need) of all the accepted photo ID:

- a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional)
- a driving licence issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands
- a UK passport
- a passport issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country
- a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- a Blue Badge
- a biometric residence permit (BRP)
- a Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90)
- a national identity card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- a Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card
- a Voter Authority Certificate
- an Anonymous Elector's Document

You can also use one of the following travel passes as photo ID when you vote:

- an older person's bus pass
- a disabled person's bus pass
- an Oyster 60+ card
- a Freedom Pass

If you can tick-off at least one item from this list, then take it to the Polling Station as your proof of identity. You can use your ID even if it has expired as long as the photo on it still looks like you.

Now, the important part. It is entirely possible that you or someone you know does not have something from the list. If that's the case, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate from gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate. You will need a recent, digital photo of yourself and your National Insurance number. You can still apply if you do not have a National Insurance number but you'll need to provide other documents to prove your identity, for example a birth certificate, bank statement and utility bill. If you apply as soon as you read this article, you should have your certificate in good time. The application deadline is **5pm on Tuesday 25 April.**

Rules for postal votes

The rules for postal votes have not changed: **you do not need to provide ID to apply for, or to complete, a postal vote** as there are other identification checks, including verification of your signature and date of birth. You don't have to have a reason to apply for a postal vote: you can choose to vote by post simply because it would be more convenient for you. If you are already registered to vote by post, you don't need to register again. To apply to vote by post you need to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form from electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post. The deadline for applications is **5pm on Tuesday 18 April.**

If there is something we in the Community Centre can do to help, please get in contact.

Peter Roberts, BFOBRCA Trustee

Catherine Pybus

We are sad to report the death of a member of our community. She was someone that many of us knew from teaching our children (or grandchildren – as she would remind us) and a person who served the Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm communities for thirty-nine years.

Catherine Pybus – or 'Miss Pybus' to most who would have known her – was a dedicated and committed teacher. She began her career a few years before coming to Oliver's Battery Primary School and served there until she retired.

Children taught by her would talk about knowing how much she cared, her recognition of their talents and needs and, as we were reminded at her funeral, before each holiday, reading a story so exciting and gripping that children would want to come back to hear what happened next. She remembered names and details that mattered to the children and went out of



her way to ask about that hamster or the kitten or the poorly granny, knowing that it made children feel more secure in the school environment.

Her colleagues remember a passionate and dedicated educator. She knew what she believed to be right and would help less-experienced colleagues to gain skill in their craft. She weathered many storms in the fashions that beset the teaching profession and ensured that under her teaching,

children flourished and under her leadership of English, children had access to the very best books, resources and teaching available.

Catherine retired some years ago now and so is unlikely to be known at the school, but we who worked with her or were taught by her just wanted to take a moment in your reading to remember someone who served our community for many, many years.

To Catherine

Easter Egg Hunt

Following the enjoyment by over 150 participants last year, there will be another Easter Egg Hunt event this Easter Sunday, 9th April between 12.30 and 5.00pm, starting and finishing at St Mark's Hall.

This is an **ON FOOT FUN** event to walk around Oliver's Battery, log some clues and gain an Easter Egg at the end. For those with a more athletic pace there are also trophies for the fastest completions.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on several levels: Infants on OB Green (shape & colour recognition, school year up to Y2, accompanied); a Junior (school years Y3-Y6, accompanied) challenge in the areas surrounding OB Green; 3k Urban and 5k Urban/Rural Easter Egg Hunts. New for this year, there will be two 5k routes – one a fun run, the other a timed 45-minute score orienteering version using the MapRun6 Phone App*. All the course routes are new for 2023.

There is no mass start and families can participate in more than one of these 'on foot' events if they wish.

Entry Forms and more details are available from Alexandra Sports, Barlows and the Post Office or downloadable from the BFOBRCA website (bfobrca.org) or the Oliver's Battery Community & Parish Council website, oliversbattery.info. There is an entry fee of £1 for infants and Juniors and £2 for the 3k & 5k courses. The Entry Forms need to be returned by April 3rd (to allow for appropriate resource provisioning).

We are very grateful to the local residents who have 'volunteered' their gardens and also to support given by

Let's TIDY BADGER FARM!

We're the Tidy Badger Farm group of friendly volunteers on a mission to make Badger Farm (and Oliver's Battery) a litter-free zone! And we welcome anyone who would like to join us – children and adults alike.

We traditionally meet on the second Sunday of each month (weather permitting) at the Davis Kickabout (the play area below Lark Hill Rise) for 1–1.5 hours. And we have been known to end up in the garden of the Bell Pub on a nice summer's afternoon after our litter-picking sessions. In the winter and spring, our meeting time is 2.30pm, but it's a bit later in hot weather to avoid the heat.

Set up by James Miller in December 2019 it is now run by James along with Jo Martynka and Mike Davies. You can find us on Facebook as Tidy Badger Farm group, or join us on WhatsApp: Tidy BF Pals.

Over the years, we have rooted out rubbish of all shapes and sizes, from sweet wrappers to used paint buckets. No session is ever the same, as you never know what you're going to find! Indeed, we nev-



A walk on the bright side



Smiling daffodils. Mother Nature's gift heralding Springtime; brightening the day of all who witness their friendly countenances.

SIMON LEVER

OBWI, OB Community Films, OBPC & SOC to make this event happen.

*If you are new to the MapRun6 Phone App (and curious!) it's free to download, intuitive and there is an existing local Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery route you can try out and play with before the event if you wish :)

OB Events Group
oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com



er cease to be surprised by what people choose to leave behind, sadly. On occasions, we have had to report the big items to the Winchester City Council (like fly-tipped mattresses, or building materials, or even a full-blown adult toy found near the Ridge!)

The group is growing steadily and we now have six to ten volunteers who join the litter-picking sessions regularly. Most of us have our own litter-picking equipment (bin bags, pickers and/or bag rings), but we do have some spare pickers as well. These are lent on a first-come-first-served basis (please request before a session). We would love to be able to supply more pickers (including heavy duty ones) and we really need a telescopic picker, for which we will be appealing to our Parish Council.

New volunteers are always welcome and we'd like to expand our group to include Oliver's Battery as well – if anyone would like to step up to the task. Please help us grow and get in touch with Jo, Mike or James via Facebook or WhatsApp!

Let's keep Badger Farm (and Oli B) tidy, and a lovely place for everyone to enjoy!

Jo Martynka, Mike Davies and James Miller

Andrew Harris Electrical Services

ALL DOMESTIC WORK UNDERTAKEN INCLUDING:

- REWIRING
- FUSEBOARD REPLACEMENT
- ADDITIONAL LIGHTS AND SOCKETS
- WIRING FOR TELEPHONE AND COMMS SOCKETS
- INSTALLATION OF LIGHT FITTINGS
- GARDEN LIGHTING AND POWER

ALL ASPECTS OF TESTING INCLUDING:

- ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION CONDITION REPORTS
- P.A.T. TESTING OF APPLIANCES

COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS

RETAIL INSTALLATIONS

ALL WORK UNDERTAKEN IN A CLEAN, TIDY
AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER

FREE ESTIMATES AND ADVICE

63 May Tree Close, Badger Farm, Winchester, SO22 4JF

Telephone: 01962 856805 ~ Mobile: 07956 934 195

Email: andy@adhelectrical.com



Computer, Mac or Tablet Problems?



Home Visits
PC, Laptop, Pads, iPhones
Systems / Software / Tools
Fix Windows 7/8/10, Mac OS
Virus cleans, Security
Tune Ups, Health Checks
Broadband & Data / Printer
Sharing
Upgrades & Hardware
Cracked Screens
Data Recovery
Impartial Advice

Laptops, PCs, Macs, iPads Phones

C&S Computers

Call Colin Nicholson :

01962 713890

Mob:

07727 481220

Qualified engineer



10% discount on labour with Magazine if over ½ hour

OFSTED inspected in March 2018 with very pleasing results



For children from 2 years to school age.
Limited spaces available for 2 – 3 years.

OPENING TIMES (flexible)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday ~ 9.15 – 3.00

Thursday – Friday ~ 9.15 – 12.15

Spaces are now available!

All children are funded from the term after their 3rd Birthday.

Funding available for 2 year olds if applicable.

Ideally situated in the Community Centre next to Sainsbury's with a sports hall for physical play and an all-weather outside area with a variety of play equipment.

Our staff are highly experienced and qualified and we ensure a high ratio of 1:6 for 3 and 4 year olds and 1:4 for under 3 year olds enabling plenty of individual time and attention.

"Staff are qualified, experienced and knowledgeable about how children learn. They provide children with a good range of activities to engage and motivate them. Children are kind and caring towards one another and behave well. Staff are positive role models and this helps to create a relaxed and homely environment where children settle happily. Ofsted 2018"

The playgroup operates an open door policy so please feel free to call in at any time and see us in action or call the playgroup supervisor Mrs Denise Tosdevine on 07771 798 474 out of playgroup hours. You can also see us in action and get more information on our website badgerfarmpreschool.co.uk

Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School

Building work We are really excited to look start looking at plans for our building project in the summer. We are changing an office space next to the Nursery Class and Year R class into Early Years toilets. This will support us with our development of a free flow environment and ensure that the facilities are right. I am looking forward to choosing colours!

Training Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School has been asked to run training sessions for other schools in the Winchester area recently. Myself and our Forest School Leader were able to lead a session on the benefits of outdoor learning and the different activities and opportunities that can provide. We were able to set up different activities in our Forest Schools and share some of the gardening we do. The teachers left inspired to bring some of the elements into their curriculums and full from the campfire donuts! It is so wonderful to show off what we do here and how lucky we are to have such unique grounds.

Luna New Year Our school community enjoyed a fantastic celebration for Luna New Year. It was great to welcome all our families into school to share the different traditions that the children had been learning about and show a whole-school dance everyone had learnt. All the children loved learning about their peers' cultures and traditions and trying the different foods!

Sporting achievement It has been a great term for the different sports teams and clubs at Oliver's Battery. Our girls and boys football teams have entered two different tournaments and played exceptionally well in both. They narrowly missed going through to the next rounds. But most importantly the teams both received high praise for their sports-

manship and how they supported other teams. We were very proud! Both football teams are also enjoying a season of competitive matches with local schools.

Our cross country team entered a Kings' tournament and had great fun running around a very muddy course. We are now training our Netball team up for their next tournament.

On top of our sports teams we have had lots of different coaches in this year to support with our PE teaching and ensure that we are giving all our children the best opportunities. Children have had a term of Lacrosse sessions from St Swithuns, Cricket Coaching from Hampshire Cricket (the teachers are also having a session with them) and Hockey from Winchester Hockey Club. We have been so lucky to have these people in school and the opportunity to identify some very talented sportsman who are now involved in different external clubs.

Holiday camps We are joining up with Active Me 360 to offer families in our community childcare provision in the holidays. We are starting on Tuesday 11 April and will run that week. Ask the school for further information if you are interested.

Nursery Class We are starting to look for spaces for September! If you are interested, please email admin@oliversb.com and organise a tour.

For details of all the latest happenings at school, visit oliversbatteryprimary.com. If you would like to visit, please call 01962 869496 to make an appointment. Our Head teacher, Mrs Redfern, would be delighted to show you around.

Oliver's Battery Brownies

Since we last wrote, Oliver's Battery Brownies successfully managed to provide two hampers of food, clothing and activity supplies to Northbrook Ward at the RHCH and received a lovely thank you card in return. Thanks to the generous parents for helping out with this worthy cause.

We have 'been to the circus' and tried our hand at some different circus skills from the box of resources lent to us from County. It turns out the Brownies are all rather good at spinning plates! Diablo proved to be a bit trickier.

This term we have been exploring different types of New Year's Resolution. We have moved our bodies to exercise, looked at healthy eating and made smoothies and had a pyjama party to try out bedtime routines.

Helen came to talk to us about a charity in India she supports. 'AshaIndia works to transform lives in the slums of Delhi ... regardless of their background, caste or religious beliefs.' We talked about their Bal Mandal groups and similarities with Girlguiding UK. She kindly brought clothing, currency and

food to illustrate her talk. The girls will be writing letters to send as unfortunately the time difference doesn't lend itself to a productive online meeting with India. If you'd like more information about Asha please visit asha-india.org.

We have recently made pancakes together and learnt about Thinking Day. Soon we will be having some Easter fun - no doubt chocolate will make an appearance!

Next term we will be out and about a bit more so look out for us on your travels. Natalie from The Priory Hair Lounge will also be visiting to give us some tips on hair care and hopefully the girls will get the chance to work on some styles of their own. We'll be sure to take some pictures to show you!

We currently have girls attending six different schools so it's a great place to make new friends. There are spaces available as we have just said goodbye to Phoebe, Hope, Elsa and Beth after three years with us.

Please visit girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved if you'd like to register a potential Brownie or volunteer to help us run the sessions. We must say welcome to Karen who has recently joined the leadership team as a result of seeing an article about us. Thank you for being brave enough!

Kate Fletcher, Brown Owl, 3rd Winchester City Brownies 3rdwincitybrownies@gmail.com



St. Peter's Catholic Primary

Learning Away From The Classroom

St Peter's School is a place where children learn and grow in a happy, secure and nurturing environment with Christ at its centre. Through our broad and balanced curriculum, we strive for children to be excited by learning, developing curiosity and learning respect for the world around them, for others and themselves.

Rich learning opportunities, both within the classroom and in the locality beyond it, ensure our curriculum focuses on developing the whole being so that children are prepared for their life ahead.

Our children enjoy an educational visit or a special curriculum day every term. Places that enriched our learning in the spring term included Winchester Cathedral, The Science Centre and the River Itchen from source to end. We also had a visit from the Mini Professors, along with days celebrating Italian and Australian culture.

Meanwhile our Year 6 children went off for their annual residential trip to Osmington Bay. The weather was glorious – blue sky every day and the children really threw themselves into all the challenges that such a week brings; from making their beds and trying new food to abseiling down steep walls!

Here's what some of our children said:

Little Fishes Pre-School



This term at Little Fishes we have been focusing on kindness, respect and valuing one another. During the day we encourage thoughtfulness as we play together, to offer help if someone feels sad and celebrate our achievements and special events.

The residential was really fun and amazing as we did lots of great activities - my favourite activity was the giant swing. Daniel

I liked the residential because I got to do some new things that I might not do again - once in a lifetime.

Chase

The food was really nice and there were always lots of options to pick from. Ava

It was nice to try new things and get pushed a bit further to challenge ourselves and achieve new things. Matilda

The thing that I really liked about residential is that we weren't forced but we were encouraged to try. Nicholas

The staff were really kind to us and helped to make our experience more fun. Iris

Jesus comes to give life, and life in abundance John 10:10
Louise Buxton, Headteacher

We have an 'I am proud of...' board. When a child has discovered something for the first time or developed a new skill, we take a photo and display it on the board for all to celebrate. It is wonderful to see the look on the child's face when they see their photo and feel a sense of achievement and pride.

To feel a sense of belonging and to be accepted is vital to a child's emotional well-being. During the term we have experienced activities which support the children in developing a knowledge that they are unique, as are their friends. Together we form our Little Fishes community. Our Little Fishes families have been sending in photos of special occasions, events and festivals which we put in our 'family celebration album'. The children can browse through the album during the day, gaining confidence in talking to their friends about their experiences and feeling special about who they are.

In the words of our mission statement we aim to 'share God's love to the children and nurture a sense of kindness, love and respect, enabling them to flourish in life.'



So tall he doesn't need a ladder

Tall Tim
HANDYMAN SERVICES



No job too small.

Available for all your handyman needs. To find out more, book a service or get a quote, please call 07880 600080

Tim Newcombe | 6ft 5"
www.talltim81.com | talltim81@gmail.com

Legs, Bums and Tums

Legs, Bums & Tums

runs every Monday 9.30–10.30am at IBM Sports Hall and Tuesday 6.45–7.45pm at Stanmore Primary School Hall. Both of these classes will return to Badger Farm Community Centre when we are able to use the Battery again. The Tuesday evening class is run on a rota basis to ensure everyone has enough room.

Seniors Exercise Classes

run every Wednesday 11am–12pm in person (9.15–10.15am ONLINE option) at Badger Farm Community Centre in the Bushfield room. These classes comprise of a thorough warm up routine and then move onto cardio, strength, conditioning, balance and chair/mat work all with a view to working at your own pace. The classes run on a 5 week basis.

Bootcamps

are also running every Sunday 9.30–10.30am (online), Wednesday 6.30–7.30pm (online) and Friday morning 9.30–10.30am (in person). These are run on a half termly basis.

Please contact Catherine Jones at cathjones@talktalk.net or call 07990 513434 for further information on any of the classes.

Catherine is a fully certified Exercise to Music Instructor/Older Adults Instructor/Bootcamp Instructor (member of CIMSPA).

Avoid those big household bills

I started TALLTIM Property Service several years ago. In that time, I've undertaken well over 1,000 jobs on residents' homes in my local community. It's always struck me that if early preventative action was taken for certain jobs then damage could have been avoided, saving time, money and homeowners' stress. I would like to share just a few of the most common things that every homeowner can be aware of to avoid bigger costs further down the line.

1. Failing to have effective silicon sealant around baths, shower trays, sinks, kitchen work tops leads to damp patches on the ceilings of rooms below bathrooms, collapsed sections of ceilings or ruined worktops.
2. Missing or loose mortar between external bricks (pointing) allows damp to get into internal walls, resulting in damp patches and collapsing plaster.
3. Missing or loose grouting between tiles in showers is a major cause of tiles coming away from the shower wall and damp on ceilings in the rooms below.
4. Leaking gutters or overspill from gutters – usually the result of debris in gutters or blocked downpipes causing excessive rain water to run down walls – can cause black mould on exterior walls to build up. This is unsightly and increases the risk of water working its way through walls giving damp patches on interior walls.

Chat-Tea Café



Chat-Tea Café is a free café welcoming the elderly in the Winchester community who might benefit from some company and cake.

We are at Badger Farm Community Centre on the last Monday of the month and offer a warm welcome to anyone who would like to drop in.



Upcoming dates

- 27 March
- 24 April
- 22 May
- 26 June
- 31 July

Badger Farm
Community
Center
2PM to 4PM

More information :

 chat-tea.co.uk

5. Failure to repair one or two leaning or snapped fence posts may result in the whole fence collapsing in even mild windy weather. Repairing one or two posts can cost ten times less than a new fence. It's unlikely that your household insurance policy will cover damage to fences caused by adverse weather.

6. Failing to regularly paint or stain fences, decking and sheds. Regular maintenance can add years to the life of any external wooden structure provided it's done properly.

6. No surprise with this one and currently very topical. Make sure you have adequate insulation in lofts, including on the loft door itself. This is an easy fix and will save huge amounts on your utility bills.

There are reputable tradespeople in your area who can assist and advise you with all these things to help save you money in the longer run. Do ensure you take references and don't accept any cold callers at your door offering property services. Unless you know the tradesperson well or they've been recommended by people you trust, think hard before paying any up-front deposits. If you have any doubts about a tradesperson just don't use them as it's better to be safe than sorry.

I really hope this has been helpful and I am always here to help should you require it.

Wishing you a trouble-free 2023.

Tim Newcombe

TALLTIM Property Services | 07880 600080

Oliver's Battery WI

Oliver's Battery WI is a vibrant and growing group of women who meet regularly, not only for monthly meetings but also for the various social activities. Our WI was founded more than 20 years ago and offers a wide range of opportunities for women to find education and friendship. The elected committee and members share responsibility for hosting the events, most of which include home-baked refreshments, suitable for varying dietary requirements!

Outside We're delighted to be one of the sponsors for the 2023 Oliver's Battery Community Easter Egg Hunts, which are suitable for all ages and run on **Easter Sunday, 9 April**.

Our annual WI plant sale, our main annual fundraiser, runs on **Monday 8 May** from 10.00am to 12.00pm at St Mark's Church Hall. Come and buy homegrown flower and vegetable



Post-Christmas Christmas meal

plants, cakes, preserves and refreshments.

Inside 17 April: 'Cook' puddings tasting, for our birthday meeting; **15 May:** Annual Meeting and election of new committee; **19 June:** speaker meeting; **17 July:** Member-only garden outing.

The OBWI group meets 11 times a year (not August) on the third Monday of the month, in St Mark's Church Hall. Doors open 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. To find out more, or to attend up to two meetings as a visitor, please contact oliversbatterysec@hampshirewi.org.uk. WI annual subs (from April) are £46. Members can attend monthly Knit & Natter, Craft or Book Club groups or a member-led walk and join a further programme of educational activities offered by County and National WI Federations. We look forward to meeting you.

Yours in friendship,

Oliver's Battery WI



Mini Cinderella panto



Stanmore Primary

At Stanmore Primary School, we are delighted with our new, bright and modern entrance area. This new build has transformed the face of our school. It comprises of a lobby, office, medical area and waiting room. Our visitor management system prioritises safeguarding and our office team have a pleasant and spacious working environment. First impressions of our school have been transformed and the visitor experience enhanced.

The children, staff and families at Stanmore Primary School are rightly proud of our school. In our recent inspection Inspectors noted that: *'Pupils are nurtured to develop genuine respect and empathy for each other and others in the wider community. This helps them to be prepared for their next steps in education.'*

Having an entrance that reflects our ambition and values – Belonging, Excellence, Support and Trust – is important to us. From the outset, visitors are welcomed as valued members of our school community, experiencing that sense of belonging. Our drive for continuing improvement and excellence is evident, not only in the photos on our welcome board that give a snapshot of our Stanmore

Curriculum, but in the fabric of the new build. Our friendly staff team offer visitors a warm, supportive welcome and you can trust us to look after you while you are at our school.

Visitors to the school are welcome. People visiting the school for the first time always comment on the spacious classrooms and extensive grounds. Within the grounds, we are proud to have a Forest School which is an asset to our curriculum. We are fortunate to have a qualified leader who is able to deliver on a long-held ambition for our Stanmore children. All of our children in the Early Years Class and many pupils throughout the school are experiencing the benefit of this fantastic resource. If you would like to find out more about our school, have a look at our website stanmore.hants.sch.uk or arrange to come and see for yourself.

Sharon Taylor, Headteacher, Stanmore Primary School



Wildlife Gardening

I think the frogs have finished – at least, there's less noise from the pond; I got buzzed by a very early bee and the sounds coming from the copse on Whiteshute Ridge are gloriously deafening. If you have the time to sit, listen and watch, the signs of the end of Winter are bombarding us and by the time you read this – it will be Spring.

For me, it's a planning time. You may have gathered that I am no expert and that what I have done has been a process of trial and error. The one thing I have learned and apply all the time is that if I plan for attracting wildlife and supporting it then wildlife comes. The pond was key to the plan.

I started on the pond in 2018 with a sunken half-barrel that I got from a local DIY shop. In the height of the Summer, I dug a hole in the sunniest part of the garden (I can't remember why I chose that spot – probably no fruit bushes right there!) and sunk the barrel. I filled the bottom with pebbles, made sure there was a slope up and out for frogs and any stray hedgehogs that fell in, obtained some oxygenating plants from Southern WaterScapes in Romsey and then filled it with water. Within days we had at least one frog. I will never have a clue where it came from as I don't know of any other ponds or water sources nearby.

The following February, this frog started his (yes, it is male frogs that over-winter in the ponds) mating call and the rest

is best left unsaid. Whilst 2020 was a terrible year for all of us, it was different for frog spawn and we were inundated. This year is the same. We built it, they came. I've written before about the reduction in slugs and snails in the garden; the frogs predate the pests.

I plan around the pond. For instance, I have investigated pollinator friendly plants to put in around the pond, particularly ones that will provide some shade when it's most needed. I am an enthusiastic advocate of 'No Mow May' but I continue that until I am sure there are no froglets still harbouring in the lawn. This year, I am using the late prunings from buddleia and other shrubs to create log piles around the perimeter of the garden; these will provide over-wintering shelter for female frogs as well as other creatures I want to encourage. It will be a triumph when I know the garden is home to at least one stag beetle.

I'm actually planning towards next Spring now. I am taking photographs of all the places in the garden where I think a crocus or daffodil is necessary, where a hellebore will provide for an early pollinator, where the feeders for the birds should go. In the meantime, I am off to read what the RHS and BBC Gardeners' World are saying about cottage gardens and ear-marking the flowers that grow well in chalk. Let's hope my trowel survives – oh yes, I broke two last year....

Peter Roberts



Wishing You Well

Grow your own garlic – not just to keep cheeky vampires away!

The special plant properties of polyphenols have been highlighted previously in blackberries around our beloved Bushfield, and these special zesty compounds are also found in your tasty, fresh, real, whole fruit and vegetables, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices.

In the face of rising prices, the need to grow our own has never been greater. As many of us don't have an allotment or large gardens though, vibrant herbs still seem easy to grow in pots outside or on sunny windowsills inside. This means that we can easily add these **lively, delicious, nutritious**, health- and nature-friendly **little powerhouses** to our meals, smoothies, soups, sauces and stews at very low cost. I also like to make concentrated pesto out of fresh spare leaves – just chop up finely and add to extra virgin olive oil, mix in your favourite peppery spices, garlic or balsamic vinegar and add to salads, wholegrain crispbreads, baked sweet potatoes, etc.

These energetic easy-grow herbs are nature-friendly too as pointed out by The Soil Association (soilassociation.org) as bees love bronze fennel, chives, garlic, basil, camomile, lemon balm and mint. If you are wondering how to grow your own, see the Soil Association's article on the **Top 5 Best Bee-friendly flowers & herbs** (bit.ly/3Jb3YT6) which can be grown in borders, pots or on sunny windowsills or simply buy them ready-potted, and ideally organic, from supermarkets or plant centres.

For even greater no/low costs, there's also a really clear video on How to grow herbs from cuttings (bit.ly/3KRMtsg) with rosemary. I've got a lovely lavender grown from a cutting kindly given to me by a green-fingered neighbour.

Finally to cheeky garlic, a key, pulsating vegetable in many healthy ways and one of the easiest to grow at home too. With love, sun and good soil in the garden or in a pot, each clove of garlic will normally grow into a head of garlic to harvest a few months later. Find out everything you need to know on How To Grow Garlic from BBC Gardeners' World (gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/how-to-grow-garlic); the instructions can be summed up as: plant cloves about 5cm deep in the autumn/winter, let them get cold over the winter (low temperatures are required to trigger growth), keep them moist in the spring/summer in a sunny position, keenly watch them grow and harvest in July/August. As Gardeners' World say 'It's easy to think of garlic as a Mediterranean plant and therefore a tender crop that needs lots of warmth to grow well. However, if you choose a good variety and give it the right conditions, you can produce a decent crop no matter where you live in the UK.'

Amanda Turner AT nutritiontuition.co.uk

This is general information. For a thorough and personalised 'Nutritional MOT' plus ongoing support and motivation, consult with a trained registered Nutritional Therapy Practitioner listed on British Association for Nutrition and Lifestyle Medicine - BANT (bant.org.uk). Amanda Turner MSc is a registered Nutritional Therapy Practitioner mBANT regCNHC, Certified Practitioner at the Institute of Functional Medicine ifm.org, and a volunteer Ambassador for the Public Health Collaboration in her spare time.

A Cat's Tale

As I was working on some paperwork in my French house that I was in the process of selling, I became aware of the small grey cat drinking at the outside water bowl with my dog watching, absolutely fascinated, a few metres away. Normally he would chase strays away so I assumed it was a neighbour's cat. Cat became a regular daytime visitor, wary of me but not my dog, Bren, both even sun-bathing together on the terrace.

As I was due to leave France soon, having sold the house to return to UK, I tried to find Cat's owner via Facebook, neighbours and the Post lady, to no avail. So a trip to the vet was planned to check for the necessary microchip ID.

A very upset, snarling Cat was caught and manhandled into the borrowed basket, under a blanket. At the end of the 4km drive to the vet's, she promptly went berserk, broke out of the basket and took off across the roads and fields. Gone! The vet patched up my scratches and bites and told me I had done my best. I arrived back to a dog with a puzzled look: 'Where's Cat?'

Fast forward 10 days. From the terrace is a miaou and there is a slim Cat back at the window! 4km from the vet – an area of about 50 sq km of farmland, roads, woods, a railway line and a motorway – but she had found her way back to Bren and Bren's soft owner.



© Wendy Bramall

After a few days, it's back to the vet, this time with the dog crate in the car for a successful visit. Vet's report: no microchip ID or tattoo, but she had been neutered, was healthy and about 4 years old, probable breed European/Siamese.

What next? The vet tells me, 'You can adopt her or take her to the Pound where she can be available to be adopted. But after three weeks, it's curtains I'm afraid!' To adopt and get the necessary microchip and vaccinations for French Pet Passport will take 21 days. I am returning permanently to the UK in 22 days! So, Cat gets chipped, vaccinated and moves into the house with a welcoming dog to settle in for 21 days and wait for her EU French Pet Passport.

Three weeks later the house is clear and the roof rack, trailer and car packed with Bren and Cat in the dog crate (with litter tray!) for the 676 mile non-stop (apart from comfort and fuel breaks) drive, via the Tunnel, to arrive in Oliver's Battery at 4am. I unloaded Bren and then the dog crate with Cat still inside into the house.

I let Cat out of the dog crate, she walks around the lounge and promptly jumps up and settles in what was my late wife's, Sheila's, favourite chair!

Now the spooky bit. Why call a cat Cat? Because Sheila's middle name was Catherine of course!

Now the spooky bit. Why call a cat Cat? Because Sheila's middle name was Catherine of course!

CHANCE, CO-INCIDENCE OR ...

Stuart Dyos

Natural spaces

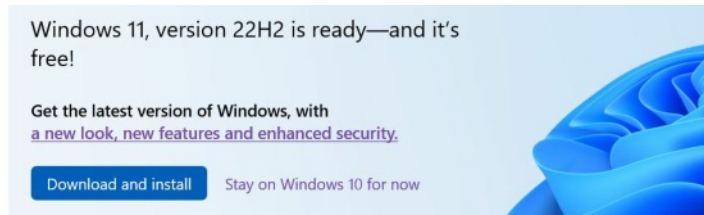
Choices. We expect to choose what we like, but sometimes this can have unexpected consequences, perhaps the opposite of what we really want.

Take front gardens, for example. Which photograph appeals to you? The tidy parking area or the abundant flowers?



Tech Talk

Having been nagged by my PC for almost a year, I've finally updated to Windows 11. The process was simple: I clicked the Download and Install button and then followed the on-screen instructions.



If you don't get that prompt, go to Settings then Update & Security and you may see a Windows 11 update option. If you don't, it's likely that your computer can't run Windows 11 due to the strict hardware requirements. The good news is that Microsoft will support Windows 10 until October 2025 which gives you plenty of time to buy new hardware.

Windows 11 has a subtle new look and feel. Windows have rounded edges, icons are simpler, colours are gentler and sounds are softer. Some areas, though, still have the legacy look which is a little jarring.

The most obvious difference between Windows 10 and 11 is that the Start menu and taskbar are now in the centre. I find the redesigned Start menu much more useful. It's divided into two areas: Pinned apps – which can now be grouped, as in Android, so I can access them more quickly and no longer have to cram them into my taskbar – and Recommended which shows recently accessed documents. The distracting Live Tiles have been removed from Start, replaced by a separate new Widgets icon.

Winchester Gardening Club

The garden has gradually been coming back to life but now Spring is really here, even if the proverbially fickle April weather occasionally lives up to its reputation. It is a joy to see new growth everywhere. Sadly, not all plants and shrubs have survived the very low winter temperatures and will need to be dug up and replaced. There will be plenty of other jobs to be done as well, from planting out the chitted potatoes to sowing seeds out of doors. The garden shed could do with some tidying up, and what about washing all those plant pots that will be needed soon? No wonder that used to be the junior garden boys' job in the 'olden days'. However, once a month, on the second Wednesday, we down tools and attend one of our meetings which are always interesting and enjoyable, with a knowledgeable guest speaker, a couple of friendly competitions and some lively chat with fellow gardeners. Our programme for the coming months offers the following:

12 April Alan Horgan has a whole working life's experience in **Pest and Disease Control** and will be sure to pass on some very useful tips and treatments.

10 May Many of us like using and growing herbs. Paul Patten's talk on **Wonderful Healthy Herbs** will tell us how to grow them even more successfully.

14 June We will be able to enjoy a talk by Gillian Taylor on her favourite flower, entitled **For the Love of Roses**.

12 July Martyn Cox's talk on the **Secret History of Vegetables** will reveal that there is more to know about humble vegetables than meets the eye.

Our monthly meetings are held at St. Mark's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery Road South, Winchester, SO22 4EU, starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome, £4. For more information check our website: wingardenclub.weebly.com

There are new ways to manage the layout of your windows. Snap Layouts, accessed by hovering over the Maximise button at the top of any window, make it easy to arrange two or more open apps neatly on your desktop. If that's not enough, you can have multiple desktops that create different virtual spaces to separate your work and personal areas.

Windows Settings have been updated: the dashboard has gone, replaced by a list view. There are new options to play with but if you were happy with your Windows 10 settings you'll find you won't need to change much, if anything. The File Explorer has had a cosmetic makeover and also now supports tabs. I gather (per bit.ly/3SqSsX2) that it's getting a big update with more new features later in the year.

I've often said that Windows and Android 'play nicely together'. Windows 11 takes this further by running Android apps on your desktop. It's a bit tricky to set up (there's an easy-to-follow guide on bit.ly/3KrQSC0) and only supports apps from Amazon, which has far less choice than Google Play. It has potential but it's not something I see myself using much.

If the changes I've described leave you feeling a bit unconvinced about upgrading, you might consider the improvements to performance and security it brings, detailed in PCMag's Windows 11: Biggest Changes and New Features (bit.ly/3SjhPtz). All-in-all, while there are differences with Windows 10, I would concur with PCMag that 'Most of the work on Windows 11 went toward redesigning the interface rather than building wholly new features, so the OS is more familiar than you may expect' (bit.ly/3SIKaQ7).

Ann Jury | ann@winchestercomputertutor.co.uk
01962 626130 | 07747 779313
winchestercomputertutor.co.uk

Advance Notice

We will be holding our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, 10 May, 9am to 5pm. as part of the general Saturday Market. Do come and visit our stall in the pedestrianised area of Middle Brook Street. We will be selling many flowering and vegetable plants lovingly grown by our members.

Winchester Good Neighbours



0800 6126 480

Volunteer Drivers needed to provide transport to and from medical appointments

Nature Notes

Amulets and Ravens

Several years ago I was handed a small dome-shaped 'rock' with a flat bottom and an attractive five-pointed star radiating out from the top. It had been discovered in Texas Field after the farmer had been ploughing. The 'stone' turned out to be a fossilized sea urchin which would have lived millions of years ago in the Cretaceous period, when much of the south of England was covered by warm tropical seas. The fossils are also known as Thunder Stones. They were used as an amulet to ward off evil and superstitions grew up around them. One was that Thor the God of Thunder threw the 'stones' to earth which led to some people believing that by placing them on the window sill or by the door, the house would be protected from lightning strikes and any evil and malevolent spirits. Another superstition was to keep them in the dairy to stop the milk from going sour and another for bakers to place them near the oven to help the bread rise.



© Wendy Bramall

Maybe this is how they came to be known as Fairy Loaves by children. They were also reported to be highly prized by witches and ancient graves have been found with them scattered alongside bones.

It's good to see the Rooks returning to repair their nests after the long winter. A sign that Spring is on its way with lighter days and hopefully warmer weather. My Winter Honeysuckle has been in flower for many weeks now and on sunny days



© Wendy Bramall

is alive with Honey and the occasional Bumble Bee. A wonderful sight at this time of year are the many drifts of Snowdrops along Port Lane from Oliver's Battery to Hursley. I wonder if they were originally planted by someone and have now spread naturally?

After years of persecution, the largest member of the Corvid family the Raven *Corvus corax*, is making a comeback into the countryside and has been spotted on Morn Hill, Silkstead and Hursley. A gentleman I was talking to recently came across one near Hursley, feeding off the fresh carcass of a Fallow Deer. It was a very large black bird he said, as big as a Buzzard with shaggy throat feathers, heavy bill and diamond-shaped tail.

Wendy Bramall

Instagram @wendybeez60 | Facebook Wendy Bramall Illustration
wendy.bramall@btinternet.com | wendybramall.co.uk

Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Parish Council Meetings

Our parish councils meet monthly and members of the public are welcome to attend.



Badger Farm Parish Council

meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) at Badger Farm Community Centre. For more information, please check the council website (badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk) or contact the clerk, Christine Howe clerk@badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk.

Oliver's Battery Parish Council

Please see the Parish Council website (oliversbattery.info) and Facebook page (@[OliversBatteryParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/OliversBatteryParishCouncil)) for information on the dates, times and location of future meetings.

Contact the clerk, Brendan Gibbs clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com.



Community News

BECOME A SPONSOR

Our sponsors help us keep our local community informed.

Join them!

In return see:

- Your advert in Community News distributed to all households in Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery
- Your advert included on our website and social media (annual sponsors only)

To find out more, contact enquiries@bfobrca.org or call 01962 868630

If you have a community contribution or would like to advertise with us, please get in touch.

Editorial deadline for our next issue:

Friday 7 July 2023

Editor: Ann Jury

Editorial email: bfobrca.cnews@gmail.com



Published by Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association

Email ~ enquiries@bfobrca.org ~ Tel. 01962 868630 ~ www.bfobrca.org

Registered Charity No. 279592