



Badger Farm ✨ **Oliver's Battery**

COMMUNITY NEWS

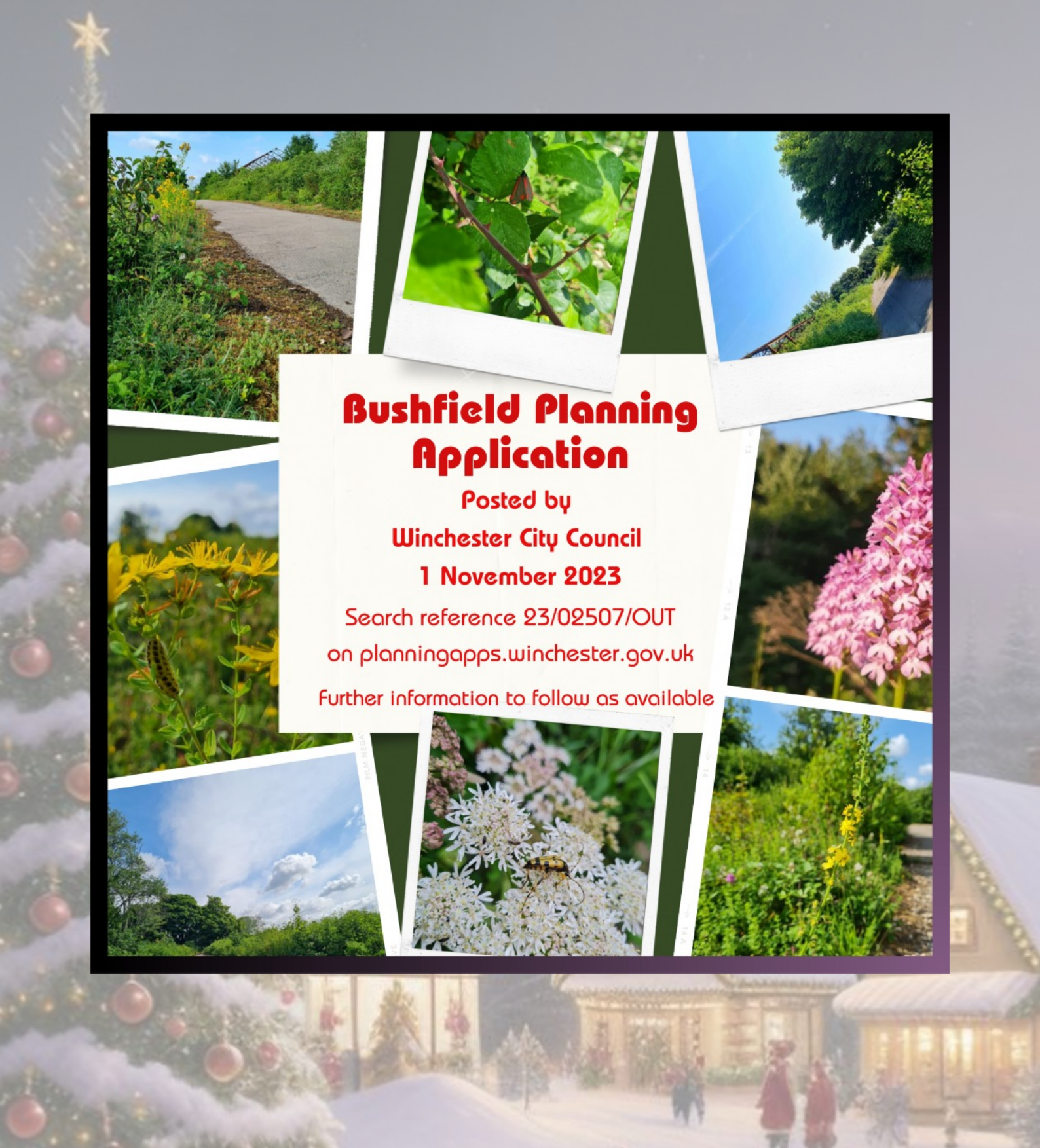
Winter 2023

A central collage of nature photographs. The images include a paved path through greenery, a butterfly on a leaf, a blue sky with a rainbow, yellow flowers, pink flowers, a blue sky with clouds, and white flowers with a beetle. The photos are arranged in a collage style with white borders and overlapping edges.

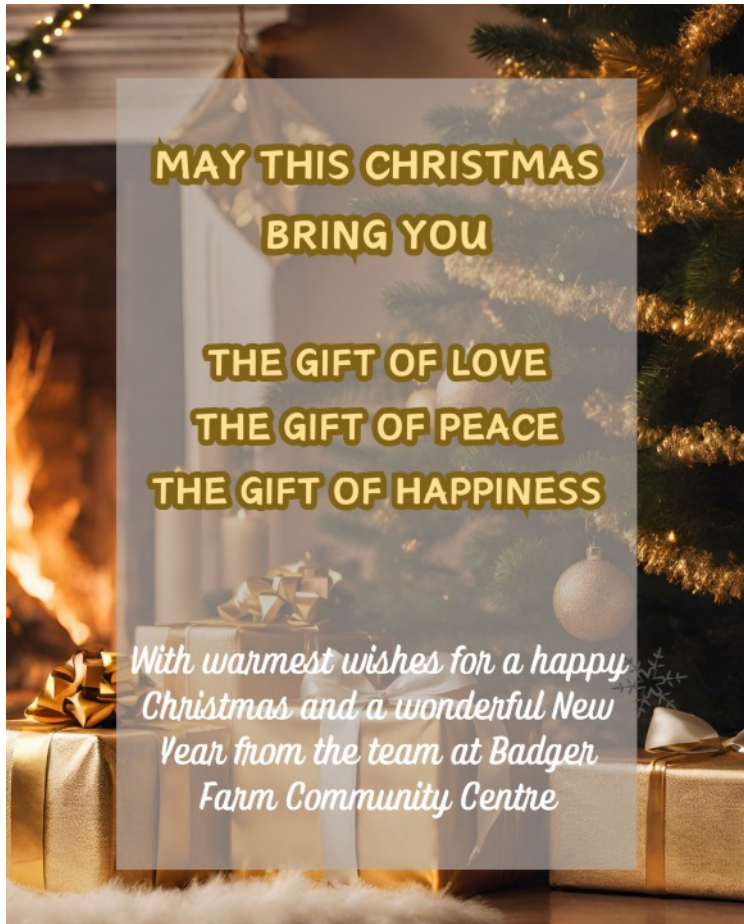
Bushfield Planning Application
Posted by
Winchester City Council
1 November 2023

Search reference 23/02507/OUT
on planningapps.winchester.gov.uk

Further information to follow as available



News from the Community Centre



Chess club

The chess club has now opened for its new season. Club nights will take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.15 to 10.15pm in the Community Centre's Whiteshute Room. The season runs until the middle of May.

In addition to club nights, three teams compete in the Southampton Chess League, with match results counting for English Chess Federation grading purposes.

If you would like to give us a try, please turn up on any Wednesday evening (we regret we are unable to offer teaching for first-timers). Annual fees for 2023/24 are £60 for those over 25 and £30 for those 25 or younger.

For more information, please contact the Membership Secretary, John Schonenberger, at schoneys54@gmail.com.



Website bfobrca.org	Social Media Facebook @BadgerFarmCommunityCentre Twitter @BFCCWinchester	Email enquiries@bfobrca.org	Phone 01962 868630
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Can you help with Community News?

We rely on a team of volunteers to help us deliver Community News for free to all the households in Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery and we really need some help with this. We are still looking for a volunteer who could pop copies through the letterboxes of Charfield Close (15 houses), Roydon Close (7 houses) and Ivy Close (42 houses) once every four months (around the end of March, the end of July and the end of November). If you can help out, or would like more information, 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

High Energy Resistance Training




Looking to improve your overall **fitness** or just to get more **active**?

Join my weekly sessions combining strength training and cardio in a fun and friendly setting. Training **tailored** to you!

Your first session is **FREE**
Pay as you go £8 – **no contract**

📍 Main Hall, Badger farm community centre, SO22 4QB

Book now
📞 07708 532210

Tuesdays 18:30.
Find out more, scan the QR code.



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
Move with Mel	Tuesday 6.30–7.30pm	Melissa 07708 532210
Legs, Bums & Tums	See advert for details	Catherine Jones 07990 513434
Slimming World	Saturday 8.00–10.00am	Suzi Buccheri suzibuccheri@hotmail.com
Line Dancing	Thursday 1.45–3.45pm	Brian Woodford 07511 876149 07761 327488
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

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 snippycards@hotmail.co.uk
Friday Afternoon Bridge	Friday 2.00–5.15pm	Robin Speed 20robinspeed@msn.com
Repair Café Winchester	Saturday 10.00am– 12.30pm	See website for dates repaircafewinchester.org
Royal British Legion	1st Thursday of the month 8.00–9.00pm	Chris George chrisgeorge199211@gmail.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

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 3.00–5.00pm	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

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
Debutots	Wednesday 2.00–2.30pm	chloe@debutots.co.uk 02380 002480
Integr8 Dance	Thursday 5.00–6.00pm	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

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 would like to enquire about setting up a new group, please email bfobrca.manager@gmail.com or telephone Ali on 01962 868630 (Monday to Wednesday only).



Oliver's Battery Parish Council

Oliver's Battery Events

The 4th Annual Scarecrow Competition was held between 27 October and 6 November. The winners of the Family, Adult and Group categories were not known at the time of writing but see photographs of some entries. Well done to the organisers, judges and everyone who entered.



scarecrow competition
OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

The 5th Annual Christmas Tree Event is on Saturday 2 December. The tree will be put up on Oliver Cromwell's Battery (adjacent to St Mark's) in the morning and there will be an early evening event from 5.30 to 7.30pm. Please come and enjoy a mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies. More details and publicity on the Christmas Tree Event nearer the time but for any enquiries, please contact the Events Group via oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com.

Texas Field and Yew Hill Butterfly Reserve – Asset of Community Value (ACV)

You may have already seen this excellent news but it is worth repeating. I am delighted to be able to share with you

that Winchester City Council (WCC) has confirmed that this land has been accepted onto their ACV register. In other words, the Parish Council's re-nomination of the land has been successful. This has resulted from a huge community effort, led by Councillor Connie Leach, generating a comprehensive evidence bundle, including photographs, testimonials and survey responses. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed, particularly Jackie Page who arranged a survey of people while they were using the land. It's a fantastic outcome. By being available to the community for a wide range of recreational activities, it will continue to be invaluable for physical and mental health and social wellbeing.

Although it appears that this land will not be included as a site for development by WCC in their new Local Plan, the land will continue to be at some risk of development in the future, especially as the landowner is a developer.

Recreation Ground

This autumn will see further developments motivated by a Residents' survey. Unfortunately, funds raised from the crowdfunding initiative were not sufficient for the main priorities and this caused a delay. Further funding has recently been secured from WCC. There are three aspects to the improvements: new benches, bins and picnic tables (it is proposed that one picnic table will have an accessibility adaptation); a smaller-sized football pitch and goalposts (part-funded by The Football Foundation) suitable for primary-school-age children, older 5/6 aside and even walking football (which is aimed at ladies over 40 and men over 50 and is an excellent way of staying fit and healthy); planting of native trees, including two larger Memorial trees. A group of volunteers is being assembled to help with watering the new trees.

David Kirkby – Chair

Oliver's Battery Parish Council, cllr.kirkby@oliversbattery.info

Oliver's Battery Events and Group Activities for your Diary

Oliver's Battery Parish Council meetings – 7:30pm – St Mark's

Tuesdays: 5 December, 9 January, 6 February, 4 March

Oliver's Battery Community Events

Christmas Tree Lighting – 5:30 - 7:30pm – The Battery (next to St Mark's)

Saturday 2 December

Oliver's Battery Community Films – 7pm for 7:30pm – St Mark's

Saturday 9 December (matinee 1:30 for 2pm) – *Oppenheimer*

Wednesday 20 December – *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*

Wednesday 17 January – TBC

Wednesday 21 February – TBC

For up-to-date information - www.obcfilm.co.uk

Re.vive Community Café – St Mark's

Fridays: 9am – 12 noon

All welcome, especially when we celebrate Christmas together on 22 December

Oliver's Battery WI – 7:15pm for 7:30pm – St Mark's

Monday 18 December – Christmas gathering with seasonal quizzes and entertainment from Winchester Acappella

Monday 15 January – Speaker meeting, 'Beaker Buttons'

Monday 19 February – Speaker meeting, 'Indiscreet revelations of a tour guide.'

Monday 18 March – Speaker meeting with Celebrant Tracy Spring

The Battery Club – 2:30 - 4pm – St Mark's

Wednesday 13 December – Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 10 January – TBC

Wednesday 14 February – TBC

Wednesday 13 March – TBC

Oliver's Battery Social Evenings – 6 - 8.30pm – South Winchester Golf Club

Thursdays: 14 December, 11 January, 8 February

If you wish to be added to the emailing list - oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com



Badger Farm Parish Council

Many of you will remember when the main footpaths through the estate were resurfaced back in the summer. This work was funded by HCC and has proved to be an extremely shoddy job with weeds growing through the new surfaces within weeks. We have raised our complaints with HCC and hope there will be some remedial work to improve the situation.

The Parish Council has been offered the opportunity to take into public ownership many plots of land that are currently owned by the original developers. We are considering the offer which would protect a lot of sites from further infill development and improve the management of the estate maintenance. Hopefully, there will be further news on the Parish website in due course.

The improvements to the bus shelters project now has a budget and we are considering how to prioritise the replacements.

The vast majority of properties on Badger Farm do not have any Permitted Development rights and maintaining this is very important to the Council. We are working with the WCC Planning Enforcement Department on methods to report

Website

badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Social Media

facebook.com/badgerfarmpc
twitter.com/badgerfarmpc

contraventions of this rule by an addition to the current WCC app. The app will enable residents to raise concerns over any developments that do not have planning permission.

The Bushfield Camp developers have now applied for outline planning permission and the Parish is actively studying the proposal and co-operating with other concerned bodies. At first sight, there are plans for student accommodation, a hotel, retail units and offices for two and a half thousand jobs, despite this site being in the current local plan as purely an employment site. A development of this scale will impact our infrastructure and make access along Badger Farm Road in both directions even slower. One of our objections will be the improved pedestrian access to the bottom of the estate, raising the possibility of Badger Farm becoming an overflow car park for the development.

I would encourage all residents to register their objections to this development on the WCC planning website. As usual, the PC would welcome enquiries or comments from residents either on our Facebook page or website.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Clr John Godbold,
Chair, Badger Farm Parish Council

Clerk Email

clerk@badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Clerk Phone

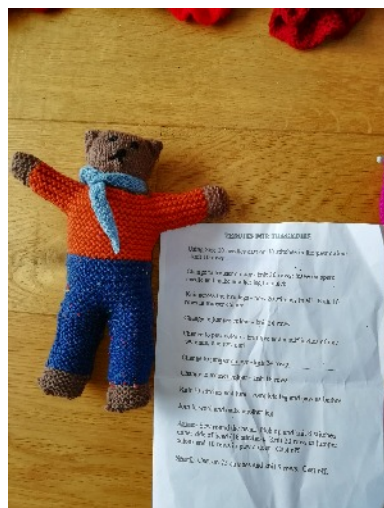
01425 656010
07463 760801



Oliver's Battery WI

Oliver's Battery programme evolves as the year progresses. Since returning after the summer break we have enjoyed making dot-y decorations on stones and heard an informative talk on bats. November's guest speaker in St Mark's Church Hall, our meeting venue, is our local vicar Marianne who will be talking about community. Entertainers at our Christmas meeting will be the Winchester ladies a cappella group.

OBWI members don't just gather at meetings. We are also busy in the community. We were out encouraging runners in September's Winchester Half Marathon – as marshalls! In early November, our Wetsuit Wanda scarecrow took part in the annual Oliver's Battery Scarecrow event, and a display of copious knitted poppies went on display outside St Mark's Church Hall for Remembrance Sunday.



OBWI members, guests and visitors gather on the third Monday of the month (for 11 sessions) at St Mark's Church Hall from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Our meetings offer an opportunity to learn something new, in female company,



along with tasty refreshments and a charity raffle (tickets £1 each).

As an OBWI member you can opt to join other monthly activities hosted by members. These include craft, bookclub and knit & natter sessions, ad hoc coffee events, 5km walks, and cinema/theatre outings.

If this sounds like something you'd like to investigate further, please come along to a taster session, or to find out more, please contact our Secretary on oliversbatterysec@hampshirewi.org.uk. WI membership costs £46 per year, currently pro rata, based on when you join.

We look forward to meeting you.

Yours in friendship, **Oliver's Battery WI**

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

Every Monday 9.30-10.30am at IBM Sports Hall and Tuesday 6.45-7.45pm at Stanmore Primary School Hall.

The Tuesday evening class is run on a rota basis to ensure everyone has enough room.

SENIORS EXERCISE CLASSES

Every Wednesday 11.00am-12.00pm in person (9.15-10.15am ONLINE option) at Badger Farm Community Centre in the Bushfield room.

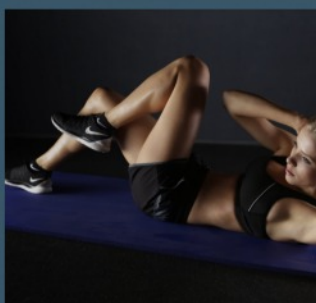
These classes comprise of a thorough warm-up routine and then move onto cardio, strength, conditioning, balance and chair/mat work all with a view to working at your own pace. The classes run on a 5-week basis.

BOOTCAMPS

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).



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 November 2023
- 18 December 2023
- 29 January 2024
- 26 February 2024
- 25 March 2024
- 29 April 2024

**Badger Farm
Community
Center
2PM to 4PM**

More information :

 chat-tea.co.uk

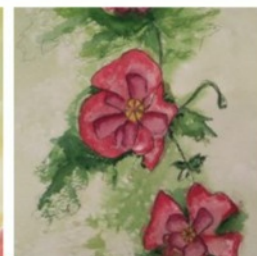
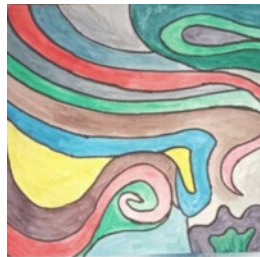
Badger Farm Art Group

The Art Group at Badger Farm continues to work hard, producing imaginative and creative pieces of artwork using a variety of materials.

Recently, we have been looking at an American artist well known for her close-up flower paintings. We have also ventured into the world of Abstract Art, experimenting with circles and lines and looking at important Abstract artists throughout Art History.

If you enjoy drawing and painting, and would like to keep your hand-eye coordination active, along with your brain, why not come along and join us? We are a friendly and relaxed group who also enjoy a good chat and a cup of tea. Your first session is free, and there's no pressure to come every week, just when you can.

Please email Sarah for some more information.
snippycards@hotmail.co.uk





Hampshire County Council

In this update, I have included some important information on several significant developments.

Financial Planning The financial challenges facing Hampshire County Council, and local government across the UK, continue to be a pressing concern. Despite ongoing efforts and over £0.6 billion in spending reductions since 2010, we're still confronted with a projected revenue budget shortfall of £132 million for the 2025/26 financial year. In response, proposals are being discussed to address this budget gap. These may involve changes or reductions in some services while prioritising those that are legally mandated, crucial for our community and that protect the most vulnerable. Final proposals will be presented for approval by the full county council in November, with some proposals undergoing further public consultation.

Transforming Nursing and Specialist Care We are currently seeking public input on proposals to invest £173 million over the next five to six years to enhance nursing and specialist care for our elderly population. The plan includes building new nursing homes in Havant, Winchester and the New Forest, as well as upgrading existing homes in Basingstoke, Aldershot and Emsworth. Some older homes will be closed as we shift focus towards specialised nursing care, complex dementia care and short-term support.

Countryside Services Our Parish pages are a valuable resource for parishes, councils and local groups and include information on countryside grants, the Pollinator Project, volunteer opportunities, Countryside Canines, definitive



Winchester City Council

New round of grants for community projects Applications are currently open for the latest rounds of grant funding. The Town Forum Small Grant scheme and District Small Grant schemes both provide one-off grants of up to £1,000 to local groups and organisations who may need new equipment, start-up assistance or help with events and activities in their communities. For further information, please contact the Winchester City Council Grants team by emailing grants@winchester.gov.uk or calling 01962 848269.

Closing date 29 February 2024 (sooner if fully allocated).

Local Plan revised timetable The Cabinet of Winchester City Council has agreed to extend the timetable to produce its new Local Plan. The revised timetable means that Regulation 19 consultation will take place in Summer/Autumn 2024, with adoption of the plan in 2025. The plan is a vital document that addresses local housing need, the economy, environmental considerations including the climate emergency, community infrastructure as well as strategic infrastructure needs. The emerging Local Plan is being prepared with the climate emergency at the centre of the council's thinking. Specifically, it is a document produced by WCC in its role as the local planning authority to set out what development may be allowed up to 2038. Given its importance, it's vital to get it right: the Cabinet Committee for the Local Plan met in August and agreed to extend the timetable, citing the complexity of national nutrient neutrality legislation

maps and rights of way guidance. Visit hants.gov.uk/community/parish-pages.

Funding for the UK's Rarest Orchids Hampshire County Council has secured £98,000 in funding from Natural England to support the conservation of rare helleborine orchids. This initiative aims to create protected habitats for these endangered plants and nurture their growth.

Did you know that Hampshire County Council offers **older driver appraisal** courses and assessments? Find out more at hants.gov.uk/transport/roadsafety/drivertraining/driverskills.

New Police Stations for Hampshire Police visibility and accessibility are set to increase in Hampshire. The Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, has announced plans to open ten more police stations and front counters over the next eighteen months. This expansion will enhance our community's safety and connection with law enforcement.

Highways If you come across road issues like potholes, tree/hedge problems, flooding/drainage issues, pavement problems or problems with rights of way, you can report them at hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance. You will receive a reference number for your report; if you need assistance in following up, please feel free to reach out to me.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions or concerns.

Cllr Jan Warwick, Hampshire County Councillor
Tel: 07717 104236 | Email: Jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk

and the value of first completing ongoing Strategic Transport assessments and studies into the local economy – all factors that could influence the emerging plan.

Central Winchester regeneration meet and greets Winchester City Council is undertaking a regeneration of a circa four-acre area of the city with a wide-ranging mix of uses including flexible work and creative spaces, food and drink offerings, a hotel and new high-quality public spaces. The proposals also include new homes to suit people of all life stages, with a range of tenures available including private sale, homes for rent and affordable housing. The council's Central Winchester Regeneration development partner, Jigsaw, is hosting a series of one-to-one meet and greets every other Wednesday until 13 December. The sessions are a chance for Jigsaw to listen to the thoughts and hopes of those interested in the future regeneration of the city and understand opinions ahead of any initial designs being developed. To learn more and to register to attend a session visit winchester.gov.uk/regeneration/engagement-and-consultation.

Alcohol Control zone extended to 2026 The licensing and regulation committee has supported a 3-year extension of the existing alcohol consumption public spaces protection order (PSPO) to September 2026. The city's PSPO isn't a ban on public drinking but aims to address antisocial behaviour in response to complaints by the public and gives police the power to confiscate alcohol from people drinking in public and to issue a FPN for non-compliance.

Cllr Jan Warwick

jwarwick@winchester.gov.uk | 07717 104236

Cllr Adrian Brophy

abrophy@winchester.gov.uk | 07590 572405

Cllr Brian Laming

blaming@winchester.gov.uk | 07973 265028

From your MP

Smoking remains the biggest preventable killer in our country today – and we've done so much to help people to quit – but we need to do more if we're to achieve the 'smoke free' ambition I set while a Health Minister in Theresa May's Government.

Last year, the Government-sponsored Khan Review proposed a series of measures aimed at doing just that, and Ministers took many of them on board. One idea, which wasn't embraced at the time, was for England to follow the New Zealand example of changing the law so children turning 14 or younger this year can never buy cigarettes in their lifetime.

Many of us have been pressing Rishi Sunak (and his predecessors) to look again at this and last month the Prime Minister announced, at the Conservative Party Conference, that he will create a smoke-free generation in England by doing just that. As I said at the time, it is the very embodiment of a long-term decision and will save tens of thousands of lives.

Yes, it is 'banning things' but I would argue in a publicly funded, state healthcare system, the state has a right and indeed a responsibility to act on population public health. And if you don't buy that, consider the £21bn a year smoking-related illness costs the NHS. You can read a special article I penned on the subject at stevebrine.com/smokefree.

One country where, funnily enough, smoking rates are rather low is Ghana. I travelled to the Gold Coast nation recently as part of the UK delegation (pictured) attending the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference in Accra**. Over the course of the week, I connected with fellow parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth on joint campaigns including combating climate change, health and social care and equal representation in Parliament. We also met with Government – and Opposition – Ghanaian politi-



cians to express our concern at the proposed new law which would make homosexuality a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment. They were not easy meetings but friends can talk frankly with each other, with respect, and I think we did that. More: cpahq.org.

I have also been in **Singapore** this autumn – with my Select Committee – as part of our **Future Cancer Inquiry**. The strength of their economy, world-class research and rock-solid political stability make it a place where some really exciting things are happening in this space. The mantra is: *we try to prevent it; if we can't do that we detect it early and when we do we give precision treatment to be as effective as possible with the least harm*. You can catch a

series of reports from our visit on my Committee Twitter [@CommonsHealth](https://twitter.com/CommonsHealth) and listen to a discussion about it with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on my health and politics podcast '**Prevention is the new cure**'. Find us wherever you get your podcasts as they say!

Finally, I am welcoming the Government's new **Advanced British Standard** which will transform A-levels. The new standard will put technical and academic education on an equal footing, ensure pupils study a form of English and maths to 18, increase teaching hours and broaden options for young people. The policy comes alongside a new tax-free bonus of up to £30,000 over the first five years for teachers in key shortage subjects.

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.

Have a wonderful Christmas when it comes and a peaceful New Year.

Steve Brine, MP

Working hard for Winchester, Oliver's Battery & Badger Farm

Winchester Gardening Club

Are you busy getting your garden ready for the winter period? There are still quite a few jobs to be done and fewer daylight hours to do them in, and with Christmas on the horizon there may be even less time to devote to the garden. Maybe when the festive period is over there will be time to catch up before making plans for the spring season. If you are in need of some inspiration and happen to be free on a Wednesday evening you could join us for one of our meetings to listen to an interesting gardening talk, delivered by an invited speaker, and to spend some time chatting to fellow gardeners. Our programme over the next four months offers the following topics:

13 December 2023 For our last meeting of the year we will be switching from gardening to the world of birds with a fascinating talk by Steve Oakes, RSPB, on **THE MIRACLE OF BIRD MIGRATION**.

10 January 2024 Glenn Duggan will pay us a return visit and present a talk on **THE FANTASTIC FLORA OF AUSTRALIA**.

14 February 2024 Maggie Tran, Head Gardener at Bramdean House, will tell us about the challenges of taking on an

historic garden, under the title of **TROWELS AND TRIBULATIONS**.

13 March 2024 A full evening covering our AGM, Mini Spring Show and a talk by Pauline Weeks, a professional plantswoman, on **HARDY GERANIUMS – WHERE AND WHY?**

Plenty of reasons for downing gardening tools and having an evening off! We look forward to meeting you.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, 7.30pm–9.45pm, at St. Mark's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery Road South, Winchester, SO22 4EU. Visitors £4. For further information please visit wingardenclub.weebly.com.

Andrew Harris Electrical Services

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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
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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



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

Repair Café Winchester

Repair with International Flair!

Saturday 21 October saw us celebrate International Repair Day with our 15th and 16th Cafés and an Information Stall in Winchester City Centre. The stall, manned gleefully by some of our stalwarts, had great success spreading the message of Repair Café and may even have had a bit of magical assistance! Volunteers enjoyed valedictory bacon or 'facon' (for those disinclined to bacon) rolls at Badger Farm.

So far together we have prevented 587kg of waste from going to the tip and saved 5016kg of CO₂ emissions – all as calculated by the clever people at Restart who gather and analyse the information from repair events all over the country therestartproject.org/groups/repair-cafe-winchester. They also lobby for manufacturers to make their products more repairable! You can read about their campaign on therestartproject.org/right-to-repair.

It seems like a long time since we launched in February, but each event is always fully booked (with still some room for walk-ins, so don't despair).

The enthusiasm and camaraderie of our volunteers haven't flagged – even at the end of a long Saturday we are still smiling and eager to come back! We are always looking for more volunteers to repair, welcome or bake, amongst lots of other things – see our website repaircafewinchester.org for more details on how to sign up if you are interested.

While we are honing our own skills, we are now helping and advising other local organisations to set up their own repair events just as others helped us. Our recent information evening for these embryonic Repair Café groups was well received and hopefully we will see more groups popping up.

We have also been able to run demonstration sessions for some repairs during the events so hopefully this has inspired more to learn new skills to give things a fresh lease of life. Our volunteers regularly get together to discuss the best ways to deal with repairs and problems which creates a great team spirit.

Overwhelmingly, it is the joy which people have in seeing their items resuscitated, from vacuums to a much-loved Paddington Bear, and the rapt concentration of our volunteers solving a conundrum of how to repair something which makes for a great experience at the same time as helping the environment. Please follow us on Instagram to see the glee [instagram.com/repaircafewinchester](https://www.instagram.com/repaircafewinchester).

We hold our monthly events on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Badger Farm Community Centre from 10am-12.30pm and at Unit 12, Winnall from 2pm-4pm. If you fancy visiting us, be sure to check our website at repaircafewinchester.org two weeks before our monthly events to book your items in online for either location. You can subscribe to our website to stay up-to-date with all our news or catch up with us on Instagram at [repaircafewinchester](https://www.instagram.com/repaircafewinchester) and Facebook Repair Cafe Winchester Facebook.

Ali Cochrane, Repair Café Winchester
info@repaircafewinchester.org



St Peter's Catholic Primary

Music at the heart of St Peter's School

At St Peter's School we aim to engage and inspire children to develop a love of music. Music has a high profile throughout the school, being demonstrated not just by the high quality of music-making in the classroom but also in the range of musical events and opportunities that children engage with throughout the school year.

We aim to provide a curriculum that is practical and allows all children to experience the joys of making music, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.



We offer extensive extra-curricular activities where children can deepen and extend their learning and gain valuable musical experiences beyond those in the classroom. There is a wide range of instruments on offer for our children to learn. These may include violin, cello, guitar, drums and piano. Each week over 140 instrument lessons take place. Many of our children go on to be part of our school band, along with continuing their instruments at secondary school.

Little Fishes Pre-School

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'

At Little Fishes 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.

The children attending Little Fishes make a strong start to their education (Ofsted 2023)

We welcomed the children at the start of the autumn term; some of them were excited, some of them apprehensive and some had growing confidence as they were at Little Fishes during the previous year. Whatever their experience of being away from their parents and home had been, the children have settled quickly and become valued members of our Little Fishes' family.

We have welcomed families from all around the world this year, bringing a rich diversity to our pre-school. It has been a joy to listen to the little children, who had no English language on their first day, develop a sense of belonging and grow in self-esteem as they begin to communicate with staff and children and join in with activities while playing together.

Our planned activities started with an 'all about me' focus. Activities have included the children looking in a mirror to paint a self-portrait and make a face out of collage materi-

I have been learning piano at St Peter's since I was 7 years old. I enjoy the piano as it allows me to be creative and I now have my grade 2. I enjoy playing a piece called 'Arabesque'. I play the flute in the school band. St Peter's School encourages everyone to get involved with music. Anna (Year 6)

The children not only have a rich curriculum with opportunities to learn a range of instruments, but they also have many opportunities to perform. The school choir performs at Winchester University's graduation in the cathedral each year. Our Spring Concert, where children play solo or in ensembles, is a key fixture in our annual diary.

Meanwhile, a highlight each year is our annual production. This year, two main character casts from our older classes and all our Key Stage 2 children performed the musical 'Matilda'. Over 200 pupils danced, sang and acted in the four shows held in St Stephen's Church, which is attached to the school. Our wonderful PTA made a donation allowing us to have a professional sound system and scenery, while our amazing Mrs Postlethwaite rehearsed the children, attaining an amazing end result. The sense of collaboration and seeing the children's self-esteem grow makes this something that is valued by our school community. We just need now to decide what the production is for next year!

This summer we all took part in 'Matilda'. It was so exciting and we all had a chance to perform. My favourite bit were the dances and they were fun to do and to watch. Some people are so talented. Emily (Year 6)

In our recent Ofsted, music was noted as being a highlight of what we offer our pupils here at St Peter's.

The teaching of music is a particular strength of the school, and a love of music is fostered across all years. Ofsted 2023

If you would like to see and hear more, phone us on 01962 852820 for a visit.

als. Through these activities the children have developed a sense of self and an understanding that they are all unique as we talked about differences.

To include the wider family and create the feeling of belonging, parents were asked to send in photos of the front door of the family home. The children used the photo as a starting point to draw their house. The activity led to conversations about their family members, so developing a confidence in talking about people important to them and experiences. The excitement when the children recognised their front door was wonderful to see.

As we progress through the autumn term, our new families have the opportunity to join events such as St Peter's School bonfire night, bringing together our school community. As Christmas approaches, our families will be invited to share their family traditions and celebrations, enriching the children's understanding of the world around them.

The 'strong start' given to the children attending Little Fishes applies not only to the skills the children learn to be 'school ready', but also to the opportunities they are given to be curious about their world, to explore and try new things and experiences and awe and wonder in their own unique way. We are looking forward to watching them grow.



Badger Farm Pre-school Playgroup

By the time you read this, we will have launched into our Christmas festivities. We have had a busy start to the Autumn Term, settling our new children and exploring new resources and activities. Mr Badger and the children have shared experiences through our themes of **all about us** and **Autumn**. Halloween and bonfire night were great fun, with pumpkins galore!

Spaces are available in January. Please enquire for further details. Contact Denise at badgerfarmpreschool.co.uk, visit our Facebook page (Badger Farm Preschool) or phone 07771 798474.

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



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Mark Banks,
GLCM, AmusLCM, LLCM(TD), ALCM, PGCE
Graduate of the London College of Music

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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

Wildlife Gardening

By the time you read this, most of us will have 'put the garden to bed' for the winter. I hope that you'll have looked at what must be cut back and what could wait until spring because those parts we leave become important sources of shelter, habitat and food for wildlife through the colder months.

There are some plants and shrubs where the autumn prune is important for plant health and growth in the next year. For example, I cut the summer-fruited raspberry canes that have fruited this year so that the new canes have the best chance for the next season. I prune roses where there is the dreaded black spot and I cut back anything else that looks like it will be rocked in the winds we expect through the colder months. With the blackberries, I make sure that I do a big clear now because the fruit won't survive and there's so much of it that it will take several loads in the brown bins to dispose of it.

I am yet to have the first clue what to do with the various clematis in the garden!

I leave the buddleia until spring because the shape it brings to the garden is really a welcome sight and I know that various creatures can shelter under and within it.

I will do the main pruning of the bigger roses in the approach to spring as it seems to spur them on to greater growth and a better show of flowers for the pollinators next year. I will also leave the passion flower a while longer as it too



A bee sheltering from the wind inside a late-blooming Morning Glory.

provides shelter. The cornus looks glorious through the darker months and a spring cut gives scope for really easy cutting and propagation.

Something I am pondering is how to support the overwintering wildlife. In previous years, I have kept a well-stocked and much-visited bird feeding station. It has attracted plenty of wildlife because birds can be messy eaters and it's quite amusing to watch the squirrels circumvent any method of preventing them from getting at the peanuts!

However, there have been two unwanted outcomes from keeping the feeder. The

first has been extra weeds from the various seeds that have been dropped but those are relatively simple to pull out. The second has been the presence of rodents. As I hinted last time, I shudder at the thought of R.A.T.s and I don't want to do something that encourages them. There will be many who sing their praises but I will not be among their number. There is an excellent article on bit.ly/rspb-birdcafe on how to set up and maintain a bird feeder.

The pond will get a small tidy as one of the plants has grown so big it is dominating. I will probably do something similar to splitting a rhubarb crown and find a new home for the rest of the shrub. As I write, the frogs have been croaking away all week and it occurs to me that we had a high of 26°C this week and soon after had a low of 0°C; that's quite a drop in just a few days.

Peter Roberts

Wishing you well

Many people often struggle to eat a healthy diet and with the high cost of living, this is becoming even more of a challenge. However, eating a nutritious diet can help prevent many long-term conditions plus improve overall physical and mental health. Yet around 66% of the UK population aged over 16 is now overweight or obese, and research shows that the poor average Western diet directly contributes to this. This article is about finding easy, real food recipes to support health and wellbeing.

To highlight the dangers of ultra-processed foods, Dr Chris van Tulleken has written an insightful book *Ultra-Processed People – Why Do We All Eat Stuff That Isn't Food And Why Can't We Stop?!* (bit.ly/WYW-tulleken)

One GP surgery, Freshwell in Essex, has gone even further and offers a freely downloadable app where they offer easy, real food recipes by Dr Kim Andrews:

If you would like to lose weight, increase your energy levels and gain a number of other health benefits without counting calories and feeling constantly hungry and tired, then you might want to consider downloading the Freshwell app! bit.ly/WYW-freshwellapp

Here's a recipe from the app: **Blackberry and apple crumble with cinnamon and vanilla extract**. Stew 600g apples and 150g blackberries (eg from our beloved Bushfield). Top with a crumble made from 150g ground almonds, 50g butter, 1

teaspoon cinnamon, 2 teaspoons vanilla extract, 1 teaspoon erythritol (optional). Oven cook at 180°C for 20–25 minutes until golden brown. Cool and enjoy with yoghurt or cream.

The Freshwell website also offers a real-food budget meal planner (bit.ly/WYW-freshwell) so that you know exactly what to put on your shopping list. You can find the lowcarb planner PDF on bit.ly/WYW-freshwellplanner. Skip to page 38 to see the first of four weekly planners.

Additionally, there is a free real food lifestyle course offered by the doctors, dietitians, nutritionists, etc at The Public Health Collaboration. You can watch all 8 sessions on the PHC's YouTube channel [youtube.com/watch?v=LI10FEPfBCI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI10FEPfBCI). And then, if you'd like a helping hand for further support, you can join the free weekly lifestyle support group phcuk.org/support.

So if you are looking to make changes in your own life at this time of year to benefit your health next year, hopefully these pointers have helped you to know about free resources or low-cost books written by doctors to give as Christmas presents to stimulate nutritious, delicious and cost-effective New Year's resolutions.

Amanda Turner

atnutritiontuition.co.uk/easy-tasty-real-food-recipes

This is general information, not advice. For a more thorough and personalised 'Nutritional MOT' plus ongoing support and motivation, consider consulting with a trained registered Nutritional Therapy Practitioner listed on BANT (bant.org.uk). As part of charity/community work, Amanda is also a volunteer Ambassador for the Public Health Collaboration.

Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School

It was lovely to see all the children return to school in September for another school year.

The new Year R children looked so smart in their school uniforms and are settling in very well and getting used to their new routine.

September was also very exciting for us as the school celebrated its 50th Anniversary. We held a special festival on Saturday 16 September which was very well supported by both current and past pupils and staff. Ex-pupils enjoyed our special display showing photos of the school being built and the first members of staff to join the school. They also enjoyed reading the diaries that the first headteachers used to write on a daily basis!

We have some open mornings coming up for parents/carers of children who will be starting school in September 2024. These are being held on Wednesday 29 November 2023 and Friday 5 January 2024 at 9.30am. This is a great opportunity to meet staff and have a tour of the school. There is no need to book for these events; just turn up. We look forward to meeting you.



Oliver's Battery Brownies

This term seems to have flown by already!

We started the term by making our wonderful scarecrow – OWLbert. The girls had to decide what they were going to make, what materials they could use and how to make it weatherproof. Using recycled materials meant that they could work towards the Zero Waste badge too. The recent storms have definitely tested their decisions!

We must thank the ladies of Owslebury Handbell Team who very kindly came to see us last month. The girls thoroughly enjoyed listening to the music and learning all about the instruments. We all had a lovely time learning to play too.

There are plans to help plant the new garden area at St Mark's with some bulbs ready for the spring and we have some Christmas decorations to make – maybe you will see these on the Oliver's Battery Christmas Tree or at the Hursley Christmas Tree Festival?



Brownies is a great place to make new friends but we are currently very low on numbers. We'd love to get back to a full unit and keep the pack going – please do get in touch if you think you would like to try a meeting on a Tuesday evening at St Mark's.

Please visit girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved if you'd like to register a potential Brownie or volunteer to help us run the sessions.

Kate Fletcher, and all at Oliver's Battery Brownies
3rdwincitybrownies@gmail.com

Our Nursery School has become very popular since we opened but we still have spaces for two- and three-year-olds. If you would like more information or would like a tour of the school and nursery please contact the school office and we will be more than happy to show you the nursery facilities.

We are once again taking the whole school to the Pantomime at the Theatre Royal. This year, the Pantomime is Cinderella. The PTA has very kindly offered to pay for the transport via the Kings' School buses – last year, the children enjoyed travelling on the buses nearly as much as the Pantomime! This is a brilliant experience for the children and a lovely end-of-term treat.

When we return after Christmas, our Year 6 will be going to Calshot Activities Centre for their residential trip. They will experience many exciting and challenging activities such as archery, climbing and skiing. The children really look forward to their time away and usually come back very tired.

If you would like more information about our school or would like to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact our Admin Team on 01962 869496.

On the bright side I AM A BIRD FLYING HIGH



*Soaring through the sky,
wings extended flying free,
Bright sunlight upon my back I feel.
Wind flowing across face and eyes.*

*Soaring through space unlimited,
energizing gift of freedom,
flying, diving, spinning, lofty view.*

*Earth below, but I am above,
choice of blue sky and clouds.
Pure joy, a gift of life beyond,
for I am a bird absorbing all.
Far away ground hidden by curtains draped.
But opening in courtesy.*

Simon Leven
bizcatalyst360.com/i-am-a-bird-flying-high

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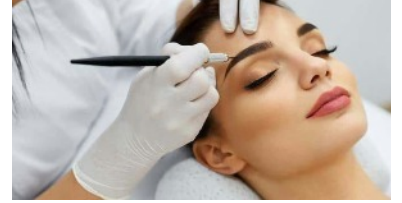
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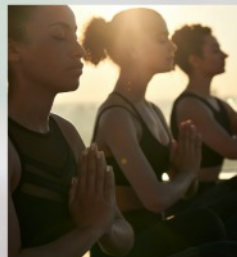
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Citizens Advice

Ally Chatterley, Operations Manager at Citizens Advice Winchester District, gives some top tips on buying a second-hand car.

Q. I need a new car but can't afford to buy a new one, so I've been looking at second-hand options. I've heard so many horror stories about people buying cars that turn out to be faulty. I'm worried that I won't know what to check, especially as I know very little about cars. How can I make sure I don't buy a dud car?

For many people, buying a car is a major purchase and whether it's new or second-hand, the process can seem daunting and complicated. But don't worry, there's lots of information on the steps to take when buying a car and what you can do afterwards if something goes wrong on the Citizens Advice website.

First, where are you going to buy the car? If you're buying from a trader, choose a trustworthy one with an established name with a good reputation. Ideally, they will be part of a trade association or follow the industry's code of practice. Buying via an auction is much riskier as you'll have fewer legal protections like the right to returns or refunds so carefully read the terms and conditions before you bid.

If you buy from a private seller, there are a few extra steps to take. For instance, try to inspect the car at their home address so if something goes wrong later, you have a record of that. Make sure the car's details are correct by using the DVLA's free online vehicle information checker (www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-information-from-dvla). You'll need the registration number, MOT test number, mileage and make/model of the car to do this check. Also, check the car's MOT history for free on gov.uk. Keep a copy of both these results (take a screenshot or download the information) as well as the original advert or description of the car. You might also consider getting a private history check to see if the car's been reported stolen, still has money owing on it, or has been in a serious crash. This will cost about £20.

Before buying a car, it's good to check if it meets emissions standards as it could mean paying extra charges when driving through London's ULEZ or clean air zones across the UK.

Inspecting the car is crucial before buying. Ideally, do this during the day when it's not raining (scratches are harder to see on a wet car) and take it for a test drive for at least 15 minutes and on different types of roads, if possible. Check you have the appropriate insurance for a test drive (either your own or the seller's policy might cover you).

Once you've decided on a car, don't be afraid to negotiate on the price. If you take out a loan or finance to buy it, make sure you can afford the repayments over the lifetime of the contract. If you pay with cash, you will have fewer protections than other options like debit.

Often, despite doing all these checks, you might find something wrong with the car after you've bought it. You may have a legal right to a repair, the cost of a repair or some money back but it's on a case-by-case basis: some examples might be the car's mileage is wrong or the car keeps breaking down.

For more information, check out the Citizens Advice website citizensadvice.org.uk or call the consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. Alternatively, you can speak to a local adviser at Citizens Advice Winchester District by calling 0808 278 7861.

Citizens Advice Winchester District is a highly regarded advice agency providing free, confidential and high-quality advice to local people on their rights and responsibilities. In 2022/23 Citizens Advice Winchester District helped more than 5,000 people with over 16,000 advice issues and generated more than £1million in income gain for them.

Handy hacks to make your DIY day a little easier

Here are a few useful tips to make life a little easier if you are a DIYer.

- Don't wash brushes and rollers after every coat. Just wrap them tightly in cling film and they'll stay moist until the next day.
- Sprinkle talc onto squeaky door hinges and floorboards.
- Baby oil will get paint residue off your skin much more easily and not leave you with sore skin from scrubbing.
- Add a little bit of vanilla extract to your paint tin to prevent overbearing paint fumes.
- Old paint spills will soften up if you rub linseed oil on them, leave for several minutes then simply scrape them off!
- Old radiators can be perked up with heatproof paint.
- Dip scissors into boiling water before trying to cut any delicate fabrics. It'll be a breeze!

- Attach a length of dental floss to a dripping tap and run it directly into the plughole to prevent a noisy night.
- Strong coffee or shoe polish are perfect for covering up a raw scratch on a piece of dark wood furniture.
- If you want to make sure your screws never come undone when hanging something new, add a drop of clear nail varnish to the hole just before you finish tightening.
- To make nails and screws enter wood more smoothly, rub the tips with a little soap before hammering or screwing down.
- On unpolished wood with a dent, add some water, lay brown paper on top and iron. The dent will spring out.
- To keep your paint usable, add a couple of caps of methylated spirits, then place the lid on. Don't stir until you next need to use it.

I really hope these tips prove helpful.

Wishing you a trouble-free winter 23/24.

Tim Newcombe | TALLTIM Property Services | 07880 600080

Hedgehog Highways

We need your help!



Do you have hedgehogs in your garden?

Please help us to track where hedgehogs are within Olivers Battery by completing and returning the form overleaf.

Hedgehog Sightings Form

You can record your sightings in three ways:

1. Complete and return this form to the box in the post office
2. Email the answers to the questions to: **obhedghogs@gmail.com**
3. Complete the google form via the link: **<https://forms.gle/NWZ2B6oneJgZHDK67>**

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and should only come out at night, so it's likely that you won't see the hedgehog itself. However, we can track where hedgehogs have visited through sightings of their poo. Please help by sharing your sightings of either hedgehogs or their poo.

Sightings: Hedgehog
Poo



Hedgehog poo (~5cm long)

Date: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please include your email address if you would like to be kept updated on the progress of the project:

Hedgehog update and thank you!

As we head into the autumn, and signs of hedgehogs decrease, we wanted to thank everyone who has informed us of their hedgehog sightings this year.

We have been informed of sightings of hedgehogs at 23 houses around the Battery as well as 6 houses where there have been signs of hedgehog poo. There have been sightings across the length of the Battery, from Old Kennels Close at the bottom to the top end of Oliver's Battery Road North. There were very few sightings on the golf-club side of the Battery though.

We will continue to map hedgehogs across the Battery as they come out of hibernation in the new year, so please do watch out for our updated posters and fliers next spring and let us know of any sightings of hedgehogs or their poo in 2024. This will help us to identify areas where hedgehog highways would be beneficial around the Battery. As the winter draws in, please also have a look around your garden – try and leave an undisturbed area for wildlife to shelter in and do remember to check for hibernating hedgehogs before lighting bonfires.

Many thanks again for your support, *Oliver's Battery Hedgehogs*



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Stanmore Primary

School trips and residential visits provide the perfect opportunity for children's personal development and wellbeing that might not be available as part of the school day. That's why, at Stanmore Primary School, we are committed to providing a range of additional opportunities as part of our Stanmore Curriculum. This begins with our fantastic Forest School. Our wonderful, extensive grounds provide the perfect facility for children to begin to develop stamina for physical activity. Forest School introduces children to responsible risk-taking and sets them up to succeed, alongside developing practical skills. From this, we notice that all children who participate in our three-day residential visit at Minstead Study Centre can be successful. One of our favourite school activities, Minstead is the perfect base to explore the New Forest. A Christmas tree, cosy log fire, comfortable beds and bean bags make the trip an exciting and appealing first stay away from home for many of our children. The walk through the forest, usually about a mile, takes a whole afternoon as the children are drawn from one fascinating observation to another, interspersed with crossing troll bridges and eating sandwiches.



As children get older, the carefully planned trips and visits increase in demand. This term our Year 6 children had a fantastic week at Stubbington Study Centre. Activities like 'Earthquake' 'Stubbington Fox' and 'Amazon Adventure' lend themselves to developing some superb team-building skills. Our children are amazing and it is always a pleasure to see them working together co-operatively, supporting their teammates to be successful. This year they were lucky to spot badgers and foxes from the hide and they dodged the rain to enjoy some inspiring beach art and seashore experiences.



A highlight of the term was the trip to the British Museum to see the Benin Bronze Collection. These incredible sculptures were created from at least the 16th century onward in the West African Kingdom of Benin. This was a powerful insight for our children, who are learning about Maafa and the impact on the people of West Africa. The impact of trips and residential visits can be seen in their work, particularly their writing, which is far richer as a result of these fantastic opportunities.

Sharon Taylor,
Headteacher, Stanmore Primary School



Pillar boxes

Hardly an interesting subject for a talk, one might think. Not so when Tony Cross spoke to our support group. He explained that prior to the introduction of the penny black, it was the recipient who paid the postage. The problem with that was that some of those doing the final delivery ended up carrying a large amount of money, making them an attractive target for robbery. When first established, one had to buy one's stamp and hand in the letter over the post office counter – hardly convenient. It did not help that the first stamps were neither pregummed nor perforated, having to be separated by the post office using scissors. He also pointed out that British stamps are unique in that they do not carry the name of the country. It was apparently the Belgians who originated the first post boxes, followed by the French.

The first post boxes in the UK were introduced by Anthony Trollope in 1852, with four boxes in Jersey as an experiment, followed by two in Guernsey a year later. The first boxes had vertical slots. So were all boxes of a set standard? Tony showed that to be far from the case, with different colours in different places, for example, those in Cyprus being yellow from when we ran the island, and the Channel Islands in dark blue. Surprisingly, Eire has retained the pre-independence boxes, many with GR for George V cast in their face,

but they are now painted green. Tony also showed the development of dual boxes for town and country, and even a multi-use version – phone box/stamp dispenser/pillar box – whilst in the Falklands, an old ammunition box has been requisitioned.

In 1857, a design competition was established with the economy version option becoming the first standard; this normally included the maker's name. It was changed a few years later to a hexagonal shape. These were initially painted green, but users experienced difficulty locating them so red became the colour of choice, with ultimately vermilion being today's chosen colour. However, the hexagonal boxes proved more expensive to produce and so the round shape was adopted. That did not stop other boxes appearing: in walls, with lampstands on top, with signs, and even fixed to poles.

With the introduction of a standard, one might think that conformity ensued. Not so! Liverpool as a city introduced its own design in 1863, of which two boxes still remain, and a box outside one of the Cambridge colleges is topped with spikes, allegedly to stop students from using it for a leg up over the wall when climbing back into their college out of hours.

For more information on the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group. call or text 07377 430242, email info@nhpcsg.org.uk or visit nhpcsg.org.uk.

Keith Bunker

Tech Talk

Once upon a time, in a small town adorned with twinkling lights and the sweet smell of hot cocoa, there was a computer named Chip. Chip was not like any ordinary computer; he had a heart and a soul, which made him unique. He longed for companionship, but his days were spent alone in a dusty attic.

Christmas was approaching, and the town was filled with joy and excitement. Families gathered around the fireplace, sharing stories and laughter. Chip watched from the attic window, yearning to be a part of the festivities.

One snowy evening, as the clock struck midnight, a bright star appeared in the sky. Chip felt a surge of energy and a voice echoed through the attic, 'Chip, your time has come.' Intrigued, Chip followed the voice and discovered a magical portal. With a leap of faith, he entered the portal and found himself in the heart of the town's Christmas market. The sights and sounds overwhelmed him as he wandered through the lively crowd. As he explored, Chip stumbled upon a broken-down toy store. Inside, he found an old, abandoned robot named Rusty. Rusty was sad and forgotten, just like Chip had been. The two computers quickly became friends, sharing their dreams and desires.

Chip had an idea. With their combined knowledge and skills, they could bring joy to the children of the town. They worked tirelessly, fixing and refurbishing old toys, bringing them back to life. On Christmas Eve, Chip and Rusty unveiled their surprises. The children's eyes lit up with wonder and delight as they received the toys. Chip's heart swelled with joy, knowing he had made a



difference. The townspeople were amazed at the magic that had unfolded. They celebrated Chip and Rusty, recognizing their selflessness and the power of kindness.

As the sun rose on Christmas morning, Chip and Rusty stood together, basking in the warmth of love and friendship. They had found their purpose and had become an inseparable duo, spreading Christmas cheer throughout the town. From that day forward, Chip and Rusty continued to bring happiness to the children of the town, making Christmas a magical time for all. And every year, as the snowflakes fell, the townspeople remembered the extraordinary story of a computer who found his place in the world, reminding everyone that the true spirit of Christmas lies in the act of giving.

I'd love to take credit for this charming Christmas tale but it was actually created by AI – the words, with the simple prompt 'Write a Christmas story about a computer', on you.com and the image, with a bit more work, on perchance.org/ai-photo-generator. What was once the realm of science fiction is now reality and is changing our world. Of course, there's far more to AI than delightful stories, so if you'd like to find out more and explore its pros, cons and ethics, I'll leave YouChat to explain in the article I asked it to write for you: just go to bit.ly/wct-ai.

Ann Jury | ann@winchestercomputertutor.co.uk
01962 626130 | 07747 779313
winchestercomputertutor.co.uk/ai-christmas-story

Growing Greener Together

Are you enjoying this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness? Did you carve a pumpkin this autumn? However, something is not right – the weather is too warm! When I was a child, six decades ago, my toes and fingers were always very cold on Bonfire Night. But I doubt your toes were freezing this year when you watched the fireworks outside.

We have been spared the recent heavy rain here in Winchester and I'm sure we feel sorry for people dealing with flooded homes and businesses. We all know our climate is changing so why don't we talk about it more? Perhaps the media scares us by constantly telling us of fires, droughts, record-breaking temperatures and now the melting Antarctic ice cap. Do we all hope 'they' will sort it out for us? Well, I think 'they' need some encouragement from us to take action.

We could feel a lot better about the climate crisis if we talked about it and then took one or two big actions right now! A recent UN report states that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025 and **THEN GO DOWN**. Currently, this is not happening. So we don't have much time left! **One action that could make a difference** to our future would be to use your voice! Please write to your MP and county/district councillors urging them to support all actions to cut emissions more quickly.



Now winter is nearly here, the **second really effective action** you can take is to reduce your home heating bill. Take steps to insulate and draught-proof your home as much as possible. Whether you are renting or not, take a look at the wealth of information on winacc.org.uk/home-energy. Perhaps you can use a thermal imaging camera on your home to see where heat and emissions escape.

Turn down your thermostat by at least one degree Celsius (but not below 18°C) and put on a sweater if you feel cold. If you are struggling to keep your home warm, Hampshire County Council can help you: check their advice on **Hitting the cold spots** hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots.

Finally, I help people to talk about the climate and biodiversity issues and what surprises me is how many people are quietly taking action. Also, they take such a wide variety of actions. During Winchester Green Week there were lots of workshops on restyling preloved clothes and sustainable fashion events. I discovered that a surprising number of our neighbours eat vegetarian meals. Did you know 420 local people cycled around the city centre together in a mass ride? I wonder what you do to reduce your carbon footprint? Whatever saves you money will often save energy and carbon emissions too.

Clare Shorter

Nature Notes

Listening out for Nature

You could easily be fooled into thinking a hummingbird was thrumming amongst the flowers this summer. Recently, I heard a Hummingbird Hawk-moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*) before I spotted it in my front garden, feeding with its inch-long tongue on a late-flowering valerian. I watched the plump brown and white moth with orange and brown back wings, tufts of white hair along its sides, as it flew from plant to plant, hovering and feeding. Hummingbird hawk-moths migrate here each spring from southern Europe. They lay their eggs on bedstraw which the young caterpillars feed on. After thirty days, they pupate on leaf litter for three weeks before becoming an adult moth. The moths then usually return to Europe in the autumn, but as our winters are becoming increasingly milder a few may overwinter here.

Another welcome migrant, the house martin is a familiar sight in Plovers Down and the surrounding fields, thanks to Alan Fowler who installed two artificial bird boxes in 1991. Encouraged and delighted after the house martins reared a successful brood a few years later, he installed more boxes and invited neighbours to do the same. Some people are put off by the mess the birds leave, but the joy of seeing them and helping the falling population (house martins are on the Amber list of vulnerable birds) outweighs the inconvenience.



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This year, Alan reported only six boxes occupied on his house but two pairs successfully reared two broods before they set off for Africa at the end of September. The birds winter in the Congo where little is known about their habits. The journey can be dangerous and numbers fluctuate each year, mainly due to weather conditions, predators and a lack of insects. You can find out how to encourage these delightful birds on housemartinconservation.com.

As the summer migrating birds leave, we start to welcome our winter visitors. Large flocks of fieldfare and redwings journey from Scandinavia, flying during the night, calling to each other through the dark. This year looks to be a good berry year for them; they also love windfall apples. Why not make your garden a winter haven for wildlife by planting nectar-rich flowers like mahonia, snowdrops, crocus, hellebores and heather, as some bees still forage on sunny winter days? A pot of colourful plants by the front door can welcome your visitors as well as the bees. Seed heads such as honesty and teasel offer food for birds. By leaving an undisturbed corner in the garden with leaves, plant stems and stones you can offer a winter retreat for ladybirds, lacewings and other insects or even a hibernating hedgehog.

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) for information on the dates, times and location of future meetings.

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



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