



Badger Farm ✕ Oliver's Battery COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring 2024

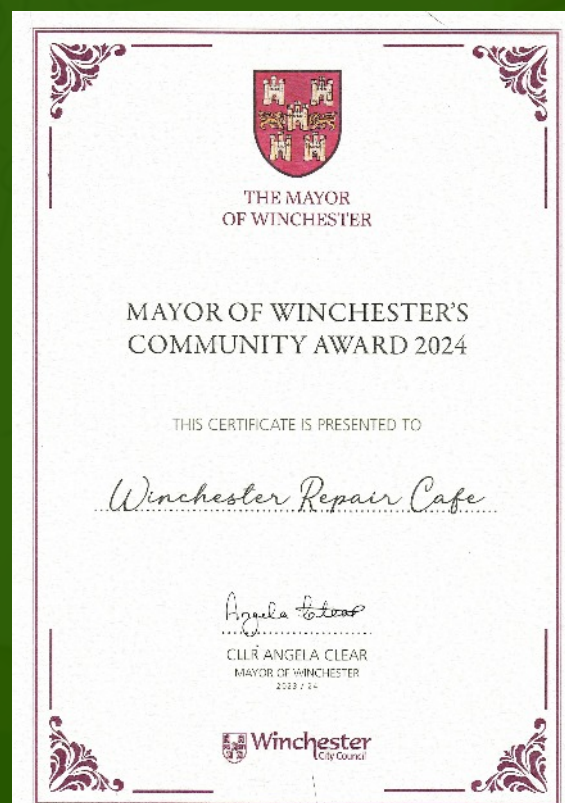
Repair Café Celebrates Happy Birthday and Mayor's Award!

The Repair Café not only celebrates its first anniversary on 13 April but it has also received a Mayor's Community Award for services to the people of Winchester. (I just knew bribery with flapjacks would pay off!) Five of our representatives were invited to attend the award ceremony on 7 March to receive the certificate and all-important lapel badges from Mayor Angela Clear. Angela had formally opened the Café when we fledged last year so it was good to see her again on her turf.

It has taken us 3 years to get to where we are now and a whole load of wonderful volunteers!

The Repair Café was formed to reduce waste, share skills and build our community. Every item repaired and returned to use not only reduces our impact on the environment but also bring joy to our repairers and the item's owner. From a much-loved Paddington of the 1970s to Henry Hoovers, amongst other everyday and usual items; each one gets care and attention while you can enjoy watching, maybe learning the skills being used and enjoy a cuppa and cake.

We are always looking for new volunteers either to be repairers, welcomers, bakers (yum!), social media contributors, administrators and other roles. Come along for a chat or contact us for more infor-



mation about volunteering; we would love to hear from you. We run training and refresher sessions for our repairers if you feel a bit out of practice. You can volunteer for a morning and/or afternoon, for whatever months you wish.

The Repair Café runs on the second Saturday of each month.

Mornings are at Badger Farm Community Centre, 10am–12.30pm. Afternoons are at Winnall Primary School, 2–4.30pm. Our next 3 dates are 13 April, 11 May and 8 June. Come join the fun and even save the planet (just a wee bit)! Please visit our website repaircafewinchester.org to make a booking and find out more about us and the difference we can make together.



The Repair Café couldn't run without the amazing contributions of all our volunteers and supporters, past, present and future! We would like to say a big thank you to you all. The Repair Café Winchester is a charity and we depend on donations to keep us running.

Ali Cochrane, Repair Café Winchester
info@repaircafewinchester.org

Bushfield Update March 2024

▪ We (BFOBRCA), together with the surrounding Parish Councils (Badger Farm, Oliver's Battery, Twyford, Compton & Shawford, and Otterbourne) as well as WinACC, Winchester City Trust and other bodies, residents and individuals, are all working together to ensure that whatever development (if any) is appropriate to the site and its relationship to Winchester and the surrounding areas; also that it accords with Local, County and National Transport, Environmental, Movement and Net Zero Policies and Plans, as well as the concerns of the Public.

▪ The Developer's current application for outline planning permission specifies only the access road. The application leaves all other aspects to be 'reserved'. (Reserved matters are ones which are left open and unrestricted).

▪ Public consultation closed on 7th Dec 2023.

▪ There have been over 800 comments (of which the vast majority are objections) lodged with WCC as part of that statutory consultation process.

▪ Several of the Statutory Consultees have asked for further information and/or time to respond in terms of the legally required consultation process.

▪ Of particular interest are the responses and requests for further information and time by the Statutory Consultees, including National Highways and many others.

▪ The PR company for the Developers has set up another online survey. This does not form part of the statutory consultation process and any responses will be subject to interpretation on behalf of the Developers.



▪ The designation of the site in the current local plan is for employment only. There is, therefore, no option for a hotel, nor for residential development, academic uses or student accommodation.

▪ At this moment we do not know when this Outline Planning Application will be considered by the Council. It has already been confirmed by WCC that it will not be before the election in May. We have been given to understand it is likely to be October/November, but we will update you on that.

Next Steps

▪ A new website will be launching shortly. It will provide updates and information regarding Bushfield and the Application for Planning Permission. We will let you know the details of the website via Badger Farm Community social media, and Petition updates.

▪ We will keep you informed about any developments as they arise.

**Ali Cochrane, Community Centre Manager,
and the BFOBRCA Trustees**

Be election ready

You may remember our article in the Spring 2023 Community News about the new requirement for voters to show photo identification to vote in local elections. Since then, the rules have changed again and voters will have to show photo ID in UK general elections too. As 2024 is almost certainly a general election year (the latest possible date is 28 January 2025) it's important for us all to be aware of these requirements. While the government hasn't confirmed the timing of the election yet, it could be as early as 2 May so it's better to prepare sooner rather than later.

Understanding the rules

Mandatory Photo ID All eligible UK voters must present a valid form of photo identification at polling stations.

Accepted Forms of ID A comprehensive list of acceptable forms of ID, including passports, driving licences and government-issued cards, is available on the Electoral Commission website: electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id.

Free Voter Authority Certificate If you don't have the right photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply online or by post; find out how on electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate. The cut-off for the local elections on 2 May, where ID is also mandatory, is 25 April.

The stakes are high

In the May 2023 local elections, 99 voters in Winchester were initially turned away and 28 were unable to vote at all due to the new ID regulations. Nationwide, about 14,000 people were prevented from voting. This highlights how crucial it is that every eligible voter has the necessary identification to take part in the democratic process.

Alternative voting options

Postal Vote If photo ID is a challenge, consider applying for a postal vote. This allows you to vote from the comfort of your home without needing to show ID at a polling station. You can apply online (no later than 11 working days before the election) on gov.uk/apply-postal-vote, which also has details of applying by post.

Proxy Vote While you don't need ID to vote by post, it's important to note that your proxy will need to show valid photo ID when voting on your behalf. Discuss this requirement with your chosen proxy beforehand to ensure they are prepared.

Ensuring your vote counts

Whether it's a general or local election, having the correct ID is essential in ensuring that your voice is heard at the ballot box. Don't risk being turned away at the polls – take the necessary steps to secure your voter ID and participate in shaping the future of our nation. **Be election ready – whoever you vote for, your vote matters!**

Website	Facebook	Twitter	Email	Phone
bfobrca.org	@BadgerFarmCommunityCentre	@BFCCWinchester	bfobrca.manager@gmail.com	01962 868630

ACTIVITIES AT BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Aucott Karate	Thursday 6.45–7.45pm	Phil Aucott philaucott@gmail.com
Body Control Pilates	Every weekday except Tuesday	Jenny Forster 07929 624526
Dance for Parkinsons	Friday 2.00–3.00pm	01962 863061 bryettdanceschool@gmail.com
DDMIX Dance Fitness	Friday 9.30–11.15am	Gemma Feeney hello@piqueschoolofperformingarts.co.uk
Glenda Davis Tai Chi	Tuesday 3.00–4.00pm Beginners	Glenda Davis 07504 533771 taichienquiries@gmail.com
Move with Mel	Tuesday 6.30–7.30pm	Melissa 07708 532210
Legs, Bums & Tums	See advert for details	Catherine Jones 07990 513434
Line Dancing	Thursday 1.45–3.45pm	Brian Woodford 07511 876149 07761 327488
Slimming World	Saturday 8.00–11.00am	Suzi Buccheri suzibuccheri@hotmail.com
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

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).

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	
Hampshire Calligraphers	Saturday 10.00am–4.00pm	Caroline Harris 07549 760079 caroline_harris76@hotmail.com
Repair Café Winchester	2nd Saturday of the month 10.00am–12.00pm	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

Chat-Tea Café	Last Monday of the month 2.00–4.00pm	info@chat-tea.co.uk
Lipreading	Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm	sandydawn3064@gmail.com

CHILDREN

AG Martial Arts	Wednesday 5.00–6.15pm	info@agmartialarts.co.uk
Aucott Karate	Thursday 6.45–7.45pm	Phil Aucott philaucott@gmail.com
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 5.00–6.00pm	01962 808398
Southern Karate	Friday 5.15–7.15pm	southernkarate.org
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



Badger Farm Parish Council

The Parish Council is formulating a questionnaire for residents to give their ideas for future projects and how your precept should be spent. Please look out for links to the online survey, which will also be available in print from the Community Centre.

We are in the process of ordering five more benches for the estate; these will be located at strategic sites on the popular footpaths. The benches are going to be made of recycled plastic and be weatherproof. They will require little or no maintenance. We are hoping to have them installed in the spring or summer of this year.

Many of you will have seen the young Copper Beech tree that has been planted on the grass bank near the junction of Meadow Way and Ridgeway. This tree was planted to commemorate the Coronation of his Majesty King Charles III. There will also be a commemorative stone to mark the date installed in due course.

The Parish Council is looking to plant some disease-resistant Elm trees to replace those lost in the past few years.

Website

badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Social Media

facebook.com/badgerfarmpc
twitter.com/badgerfarmpc

Cllr John Godbold,
Chair, Badger Farm Parish Council

Clerk Email

clerk@badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Clerk Phone

01425 656010
07463 760801



Charity begins at NCT Winchester's Nearly New Sale

Local parents in Winchester can get their hands on top-quality baby essentials and give back to their local community at an upcoming NCT Nearly New Sale in April, kindly sponsored by Dybles Estate Agents, Baby Squids and Liz Knowles Women's Health & Fitness Physio.

NCT Winchester's Nearly New Sale is to be held on Sunday 21 April, 1.00–3.00pm at Badger Farm Community Centre. The sale gives a department store-style shopping experience, which is unique to the NCT. Buyers will find items conveniently organised by type or size, and there will be tills where shopping can be paid for all together. Entry is £1.50 per adult (charity donation) on the door and will be free after 2.30pm (plus, NCT members can enter early at 12.45pm). More information can be found at nct.org.uk/event/46078150.

Nearly New Sales are open to everyone, and offer high-quality secondhand baby and children's clothes, toys and equipment at a fraction of the high street cost. Furthermore, families with baby and children's items they no longer need can recycle them through the sale and stop them ending up in landfill.



We have now identified three sites that could possibly be taken into public ownership to prevent any future in-fill development and hopefully improve the maintenance regime. We will make our final decision once WCC has provided the information required to enable us to gauge future costs.

There has been a lot of damage to trees during the recent stormy weather. If you are aware of any unreported damage, please report it via the 'Your Winchester App', so a reference number can be generated and the jobs can be monitored.

Badger Farm is in the middle of the installation of new fibre-optic cables throughout the entire estate. The contractors seem to have little regard for residents' access, and the reinstatement leaves a lot to be desired. If you are unhappy with the work carried out, please raise it with the contractors or HCC Highways.

The Parish Council holds its monthly meeting on the second Monday of the month at the Community Centre and all are welcome to attend.

Sarah Crisp, Sale Coordinator at NCT Winchester, says: 'Coming to one of our Nearly New Sales is a triple whammy – parents get pre-loved baby bargains, they help to fund the branch's services for other families, and they get to shop sustainably too. This means we can run groups such as our Bumps and Babies sessions, where local parents can connect and support each other.'

NCT is the national charity that supports people as they become parents. The Winchester branch runs much-valued services such as baby first aid courses, a reusable nappy library, breastfeeding support, a variety of meet-ups and baby bundles for local parents in need. Profits from the baby and children's products sold at the Nearly New Sale will go back to the local Winchester branch so it can continue its vital work supporting parents in the area, as well as financing the organisation's national helplines, website, peer support schemes and counselling services. For

more information on local groups, activities and events, visit nct.org.uk/local-activities-meet-ups/winchester-district.

The event is run by a large team of on-the-day helpers, as well as a small committee. Helping on the day provides entry to early access shopping, plus it's a great way to meet other local parents! A range of roles will be available during the day. For more information about the Nearly New Sale or volunteering on the day, please email nns.winchester@nct.org.uk.



Oliver's Battery Parish Council

Conservation land acquired

The land transfer of the Oliver's Battery Wildlife Conservation Area to the PC has been completed. The Wildlife Conservation Area is a plot of land adjoining the Recreation Ground, which was previously leased by the PC from Winchester City Council (WCC). It is managed for the benefit of wildlife and the community by the voluntary efforts of Oliver's Battery Countryside Group (OBCG). The PC supports the OBCG by funding grass cutting, wildflower beds, insurance costs, etc. For more information see oliversbatterycountysidegroup.org.uk/conservation-area.

Oliver's Battery Parish Council Working Groups The PC has three Working Groups, namely Events, Handyperson and Sustainability. The volunteers provide an invaluable service for the local community in so many ways. For example, see separate the article on the Easter Egg Hunt later in this magazine.

Recreation Ground Spring is on the way and, following completion of the Improvements Project, watering of the trees starts soon. This is being arranged by the Handyperson Group. If you are able to help with the watering, particularly in August, please contact me, David Kirkby, and I'll pass your details onto the Group.

Bushfield Camp planning application WCC have acknowledged how concerned local residents are about the traffic and transport implications of the Bushfield planning application and are now committed to



ensuring that National Highways and Hampshire County Council take the time they need as their comments are likely to have a significant impact on the application.

Once those comments have been received, it is anticipated the public will have another opportunity to have their say. As a result, the WCC Planning Committee's consideration of the application is delayed, possibly to the autumn.

Parish Council Vacancy There is a vacancy for a Councillor, which is a part-time volunteer role. What the PC (and Working Groups) can achieve is largely down to the number of volunteers and the time they are willing to contribute for the benefit of the community. If you are interested in being part of the team and would like more information, please feel free to contact Connie Leach (01962 865883 or constance@leach154.plus.com), David Kirkby (see below) or any of the other Councillors.

Date for the diary The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at St Mark's Hall on Tuesday 21 May starting at 7.30pm. The presentation this year will about community (more details to follow).

Finally Enjoy the Spring out in Texas Field and Yew Hill But-
terfly Reserve (both part of the Asset of Community Value) and please pick up your litter and after your dog and put the waste in the bins. Also enjoy the public rights of way, the paths in the countryside beyond and, of course, the Recreation Ground.

David Kirkby
Chair, Oliver's Battery Parish Council
07825 642732
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: 2 April, 6 May (**AGM**), 4 June, 2 July

Annual Parish Meeting (APM) 21 May – **Speaker TBC**

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

Wednesday 20 March – **The Great Escaper**

Wednesday 17 April – **And Then Come The Nightjars**

Wednesday 22 May (NB 4th Wednesday) – **TBC**

Wednesday 19 June – **TBC**

For latest information - www.obcfilm.co.uk

Oliver's Battery Social Evenings – 6 - 8.30pm – NB New Locations!

Thursdays 14 March – **The Queen Inn**, Kingsgate Street

Thursdays 11 April – **The Dolphin Hursley**

These two locations are being trialled, watch out for further information in the OB News at the end of April.

If you wish to be added to their emailing list send a request to: oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com

Oliver's Battery Community Events

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday 31 March between 12.30pm and 5pm – Various locations around Oliver's Battery

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

Monday 18 March – **Speaker meeting with Celebrant** – Tracy Spring

Monday 15 April – **OBWI Birthday meeting with entertainment from The Land Girls**

Monday 6 May – **Annual Plant, Cake and Produce Sale**

Monday 20 May – **Annual Meeting**. Election of Officers and new committee

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

Wednesday 13 March – **Natural History Illustration & Art** – Wendy Bramall

Wednesday 10 April – **Tour of the Jungfrau** – Carol Watson

Wednesday 8 May – **Bee Keeping** – Amanda Trigg

Wednesday 12 June – **Repair Café** – Rebecca Hare

Re.vive Community Café – St Mark's

Fridays: 9am – 12pm

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



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





Hampshire County Council

Meals on Wheels

The Hampshire Meals on Wheels service is run by not-for-profit organisation Health & Independent Living Support (HILS). HILS delivers meals across the county 365 days a year. Every visit includes delivery of a hot meal, dessert, and an option for afternoon tea, along with a wellbeing check delivered by DBS-checked team members. You can order meals as a one-off, temporarily or for as long and as often as you would like them. Meals from a menu offering a wide range of choices are delivered hot and ready to eat from 11.15am to 2.15pm. For more information call 0330 2000 103 or visit hils-uk.org.

Nature recovery

The County Council will be asking your views on nature recovery to ensure our natural environment is protected for future generations. You can identify local sites that could be improved or better protected and sign up to be part of the process here: hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/nature-recovery-hampshire/hampshire-strategy.

End to household DIY waste charges

Since 1 January 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are no longer charged for disposing of their DIY waste, in line with Government policy changes. Up to two 50-litre rubble bags, or one bulky item such as a sink or toilet pedestal, will be accepted for free at a maximum frequency of four visits over four weeks.



Winchester City Council

Going Greener Faster

Winchester recognised as a leading local authority on climate action

The council has set challenging targets to become a carbon-neutral council by 2024 and for Winchester district to become carbon neutral by 2030. Progress towards these targets is measured each year, assessing energy use and emissions from our buildings, operations and staff travel.

The vast scale of the climate challenge involves a breadth of measures. For example, the council is spending £43m over seven years to retrofit its social housing through upgrades to home insulation, doors and glazing. Crucially in a cost-of-living crisis, these modernisations will also help residents reduce their energy bills. WCC is also providing support for homeowners and private tenants through the Warmer Homes programme. There's also support for businesses and community organisations seeking to become more sustainable through the Go Greener Faster Grant to support investment to reduce energy consumption, cut transport emissions, or increase renewable energy use.

In the year ahead, the council's budget will include £200,000 per year to reduce carbon emissions from our



waste and recycling vehicles and also £1.4m on the expansion of recycling services to include doorstep food waste collections for the first time. We are also investing £400,000 per year to make the changes needed to collect a wider range of recyclable materials, helping to make it easier for residents to recycle more waste more conveniently.

This commitment isn't just about money but also requires an investment in skills and cultural change. The council is one of only five

local authorities across the UK to be awarded the silver accreditation by the Carbon Literacy Trust. This involved embedding carbon literacy into the culture of the organisation. To be named a Silver-accredited Carbon Literate Organisation, 150 council staff and councillors completed in-house Carbon Literacy Training.

All these measures are paying off – over the past decade, the council has successfully reduced its carbon emissions by 41%, from 5,476 tonnes CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent: a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints) in 2010 to 3,226 tonnes CO₂e in 2021.

The efforts of the city have also been noted by Climate Emergency UK, which assessed all UK councils on their actions on climate change, ranking WCC fifth out of 164 councils. You can see how WCC compares with other councils by searching for Winchester City Council on councilclimatescorecards.uk.

Flooding, storms and drainage

Groundwater levels continue to rise following the wet autumn and winter. The Environment Agency is working closely with Hampshire County Council, the District and affected Parish Councils.

You can report flooding, drainage issues and fallen trees at hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather or use the handy Hampshire County Council app to report any issues.

Making the most of your money

You may have seen publicity about Councils 'going bust' in the last few months. Hampshire County Council is NOT in that position yet, but unusually projects finance several years ahead to balance the budget and deliver the services it must provide. These include social care for older people, those with disabilities, vulnerable children and school transport services.

Our projections show that we will be able to balance our budget for the next two years, but by 2026 there will be an anticipated annual shortfall of £132 million. We are consulting on a range of options and will continue to lobby Government for greater support. We will relentlessly seek out efficiencies that do not affect our services and provide the best value for your money.

You can read more about the consultation at hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation.

CLlr Jan Warwick, Hampshire County Councillor

Tel: 07717 104236 | Email: Jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk

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

As your Member of Parliament, I regularly visit local schools. It's the most rewarding, and often hilarious, part of the job. I was once asked, at a local primary school, the best question so far – 'Mr Brine, are your suits itchy?' Not to date was my answer!

Anyway, as I go around, I find dedicated teaching (and support) staff who love what they do but there's not enough of them and, in particular, they tell me they just cannot recruit the teaching assistants they need to support an increasingly complex picture. I am therefore really pleased to see a **new teaching apprenticeship** that will launch this autumn, revolutionising the way schools recruit teachers while supporting more people to earn while they study for a degree.

The teacher degree apprenticeship will offer a high-quality, alternative route for people to become qualified teachers. This includes people who may not be able to take time out to study full-time for a degree, such as teaching assistants or staff already working in schools, to access this route to a rewarding profession.

Trainees on the new teacher degree apprenticeship will spend around 40% of their time studying for their degree with an accredited teacher training provider, gaining qualified teacher status. All tuition fees are paid for, so trainees won't be saddled with student debt.

I think it will be a game-changing opportunity for schools to nurture and retain talent from the ground up.

Secondly, because we Brits can sometimes be our own worst enemy, there's some really good news on the subject I have written about before – **NHS dentistry**.



Steve Brine and Flick Drummond chatting with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during his recent visit to the city

Last month in February, the long-awaited **Dental Recovery Plan** appeared. Its focus on prevention has to be right, and the rollout of the 'Smile for Life' programme to reduce dental decay in children will see parents-to-be offered advice on baby gums and milk teeth with babies and toddlers in nurseries having tooth brushing as part of the daily routine.

Measures for short-term recovery are also welcome: some 2.5 million additional NHS appointments as well as additional money for NHS dentists to treat adults and

children who have not seen a dentist in over two years and incentivising dentists to work in underserved areas with one-off 'golden hello' payments of up to £20,000. The idea of dental vans to help deliver care in rural and coastal areas is interesting and I will be seeing if we can get a slice of that.

The British Dental Association described my select committee's report on NHS dentistry as 'an instruction manual' to save it, but I am clear: achieving that will require all of this – and more.

Finally, as I know many of you will have seen, I was at the centre of another very high-profile national story recently as I published a long-awaited report on **assisted suicide / assisted dying**. It follows a 14-month inquiry my select committee undertook, which remains one of the largest in parliamentary history. We aimed to produce, and I hope we have done so, a comprehensive report to inform MPs as/when/if we are asked to formally consider any proposals to change the law. You can read all about it at stevebrine.com/ASAD.

You can find more on these subjects, and my wider work as our MP, at fb.com/SteveBrineMP and stevebrine.com.

Steve Brine, MP

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

Winchester Gardening Club

Spring will soon be giving way to Summer. Our gardens will be demanding more of our time but our efforts will be rewarded with a wealth of colour in the borders, joyful hanging baskets and containers, healthy growth in the vegetable patch and fewer weeds in the lawn. There is a lot to look forward to. However, sometimes we like to down tools and learn about aspects of gardening that we may be able to improve on by attending our monthly meetings and listening to stimulating and informative talks by expert speakers. Our programme for the next few months offers the following opportunities:

10 April THE KITCHEN GARDEN A talk by Stephanie Bradfield, Head Kitchen Gardener at Lainston House Hotel, who will reveal how she succeeds in growing great vegetables.

8 May ALSTROEMERIA Ben Cross, owner of Crosslands Flower Nursery, has a passion for growing this popular flower and also for promoting the UK cut flower industry.

12 June THE LAWN Here is a chance to learn how to improve our lawns. Wilf Simcox will tell us how to go about it.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at St. Mark's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery Road South, Winchester, SO22 4EU, starting at 7.30pm. New members and visitors (£4) are always welcome. You'll find further information about us on wingardenclub.weebly.com.

10 July A BOTANICAL TOUR THROUGH JAPAN It's holiday time and Martyn Denney will take us on an, albeit virtual, tour through a country he knows well.

In addition, we will be holding our **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** on **Saturday 11 May, 9am–5pm** in the centre of Winchester as part of the city's regular Saturday market. This will be a chance for you to stock up on quality flower and vegetable plants grown by our members.

Happy gardening!



OFSTED inspected in Dec 2023 with very pleasing results

For children from 2 years to school age.

OPENING TIMES (flexible)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday ~ 9.15 – 3.00

Thursday – Friday ~ 9.15 – 12.15

Spaces are now available!

All Government Funding options available.

Ideally situated in Badger Farm Community Centre next to Sainsbury's

Our staff are highly experienced and qualified. 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.

"The friendly and nurturing staff build positive relationships with children and attend swiftly to their needs. This helps children to feel safe and secure. Children treat their friends with kindness and respect. Staff support children to develop their language and communication skills. Children are confident communicators" Ofsted 2023

The playgroup operates an open door policy so please feel free to call in at any time and see us or call the playgroup manager Mrs Denise Tosdevine on 07771 798 474 to arrange a visit. You can also see us in action and get more information on our website badgerfarmpreschool.co.uk and follow us on our Facebook page



Badger Farm Pre-school Playgroup

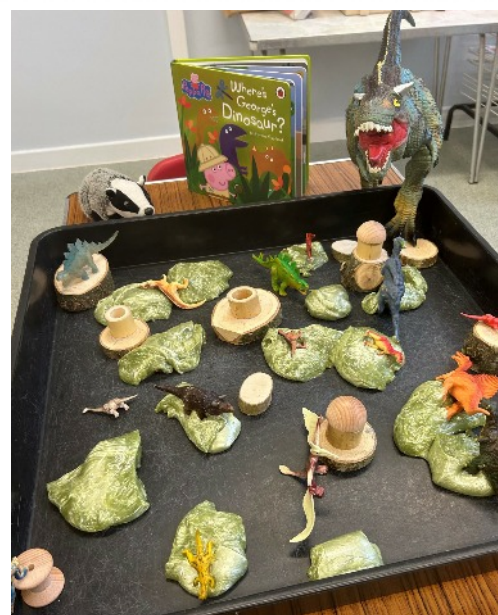
The autumn term finished with our Christmas celebrations. Our Nativity, which saw all the children participating, was a huge success and supported by our parents and families. Our fundraising raffle raised enough money to ensure we can heavily subsidise our summer outing. Huge thanks to everyone!

In the midst of the celebrations we received notification from Ofsted and our inspection took place. We are very pleased with the results. The full report can now be viewed online.

Spring term brings with it the thought of lighter evenings, better weather, and the feeling that the long, dark winter is behind us. Activities and topics will reflect this. Mr Badger is now awakening and will again be involved in the activities as can be seen in the photo.

For further information on spaces available for September please contact us via our website (badgerfarmpreschool.co.uk), visit our Facebook page ([Badger Farm Pre-school](https://www.facebook.com/Badger-Farm-Pre-school)) or phone 07771 798474.

Denise Tosdevine, Pre-school Manager



Simon Lever

On the bright side

Snow-covered ground brightens scenes. Glistening in sunshine; millions of crystals reflecting a desire for brighter, longer days.

Snow keeps snowdrops from freezing and as temperatures rise, so do these welcoming blooms, their faces smiling prompting smiles.

Strolling along a pathway, these delightful gifts of Nature have seemingly risen overnight, accompanied by their friends the crocuses.

On witnessing these pre-Spring treasures, they bring happiness to an onlooker where optimism and positivity join together creating harmony and celebration of the re-birth of Nature.
Springtime.

Winchester Local Volunteers of the Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust



We welcome you all to our talks programme at Badger Farm Community Centre and our countryside guided walks. Your support makes a difference in helping to protect and restore wildlife. It is essential to book in advance, especially our walks as numbers will be limited. For further information or to reserve your place please see hiwwt.org.uk/events, email Winchesterhiwwt@gmail.com or call 07804 764604. **Anne Ardill**, Winchester Local Volunteers HIWWT

Saturday 23 March, 10am–2pm

Titchfield Haven in early spring Join John Clark for a bird walk around beautiful Titchfield Haven, at Hill Head near Fareham. It is a nationally renowned wetland nature reserve, home to an abundance of wildlife. Booking is essential.

Thursday 25 April, 7.30pm–9.30pm

St Catherine's Hill and the management of chalk downland for butterflies Discover from Bea Walecki, the reserve officer for St Catherine's Hill, Winchester, exactly what is involved in 'all in a day's work'. St Catherine's Hill has been managed by the Trust for nearly 30 years and is an important designated area for the flora and fauna found in this vulnerable habitat. Bea will talk about the Trust's management work carried out not only on the hill but on sites around Winchester as well so that the beautiful butterflies associated with chalk downland can thrive and in the future continue to be enjoyed by us all.

Thursday 16 May, 7.30pm–9.30pm

Marine conservation and restoration in a WILDER Solent Discover from Tim Ferrero and Ellie Parker, the Trust's marine biologists, how the Trust is working hard to restore and

protect the amazing marine wildlife off our shores in The Solent. Under the surface are internationally important seagrass meadows vital for supporting a huge array of marine life and storing 'blue carbon'. However over 90% has been lost in the last 100 years. Learn not only how the seagrass meadows are being restored but how the Trust is working with many others to create a WILDER Solent seascape.

Friday 14 June, 10am–12.30pm

The watermeadows in summer Join Sam Martin, the reserve officer for Winnall Moors Nature Reserve, on a guided walk around the wild-flower-rich watermeadows on the northern part of the reserve, a wildlife haven at the heart of Winchester. Booking essential.

June/July – date and time to be confirmed

A visit to the Leckford Estate To see regenerative farming practices benefitting wildlife. Booking essential.

July – date and time to be confirmed

Downland Butterflies and Wild Flowers A guided walk around St Catherine's Hill nature reserve with Hampshire and IOW reserve officer Bea Walecki. Booking essential.

CAP Money Advice

Money can significantly affect the way we feel, especially when there isn't enough of it. It can make us feel stressed, defeated, anxious and fearful. Understanding the power that money has over our mood is the first step to reclaiming control. Read on for five ways to change your mindset on money so that you can enjoy a more positive 2024.

Build a budget

We all have so many things to pay for in our everyday lives. With a mix of bills, food, treats, subscriptions and unexpected costs, managing money can feel overwhelming at times. Building a budget can help you see your financial situation more clearly, meaning you'll be able to make decisions about where to cut costs and feel more in control. There are lots of free budgeting resources and tips available online, including at capuk.org/budgeting.

Talk to others

Struggling with money can be an extremely isolating experience. This can become a vicious cycle, as we're less likely to seek help and support when we feel alone. By sharing our worries and experiences with another person, we start to take back control and lessen the burden that we've been carrying alone. You might also find that others are facing similar challenges, meaning you can both share your experiences and tools for managing the situation. If you'd rather speak to someone impartial, you might find it useful to contact an organisation such as Samaritans (call 116123) or SHOUT (text 85258).

Set goals

Having a goal to work towards can make us feel more positive. Even a small amount of progress, bit-by-bit, gives us something to celebrate and feel proud of. Choose an aim that's realistic, such as saving up to go out for a meal or buying a new pair of shoes, and remember to set a new goal once you've smashed it!

Have fun for free

There are tons of free and cheap activities and days out available in communities across the UK. Find out what events are going on at your local church, and keep an eye on capuk.org/blog where you can find useful tips and tricks throughout the year.

Get support

Everyone needs help at times. It's nothing to be embarrassed or ashamed about. If you're struggling with your finances, support is available for free from a range of charities and organisations including Christians Against Poverty (CAP). CAP provides expert debt advice, guidance on finding work and money education, all delivered face-to-face so you'll receive an effective combination of practical and emotional support. To find out more, see capuk.org/help.

CAP's money coaching workshops were recently reviewed by Which? which.co.uk/news/article/can-money-coaching-save-your-finances-a4yPe0L1XZnW. Dates for the next course in Winchester are under consideration but if you're currently struggling, get in touch with Babs Isaac, Debt Centre Manager, based at Hope Church in Middle Brook Street. Call 01962 830801 or email babsisaac@capuk.org.



Stanmore Primary

For many adults, reading is a simple pleasure that offers a world of information, escape and enjoyment. For young children, who are just starting out on this journey, reading can feel like an uphill struggle. This is the reason why, at Stanmore Primary School, we do not leave reading for pleasure to chance. From the start, we are committed to ensuring that children enjoy the benefits of reading in a way that is structured and accessible to all. For our youngest children, reading starts with the enjoyment of familiar stories as well as our successful structured phonics teaching. From this point, progress can be rapid and children experience a diverse range of texts that steadily build vocabulary. As confidence builds and reading habits form, our focus switches to developing fluency and comprehension skills. This needs regular practice so we have invested in 'Reading Buddies,' an engaging digital reading experience from Oxford University Press. With the Hampshire School Library Service, we have selected our Stanmore Top 30 books – a selection of books, linked to our school BEST values and all available on SORA, the online library app. Children are so motivated by these e-books and audiobooks, a format that taps into their world. Practice has become more consistent, creating habits that will open up that world of information, escape and pleasure.



To bring the pleasure of reading to life, we believe that all children should experience a live theatre performance. Our annual visit from the Young Shakespeare Company is an event that all children from Year 2 to Year 6 look forward to. This year, the play was 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and the quality of the production was superb. The children don't just watch the play – they are part of the action. Whether they were chosen to act a part, or were part of the sound effects, the actors brought the story to life for them.

World Book Day, with our chosen nautical theme, is the final chapter in our reading journey this term. The theme links to a local innovative arts project. We are delighted to be part of the spectacular art trail taking place in Southampton and Cowes – Light the South. Forty 2.4-metre-tall lighthouses will pop up over the summer months, alongside forty smaller installations made by community groups and schools, including Stanmore Primary, and together they'll provide a burst of joy and creativity. Through fundraising events, donations and the end-of-trail Grand Auction, the trail will raise funds for Southampton Children's Hospital. We hope that you will enjoy seeing our work, or perhaps, you'll just read all about it.

Sharon Taylor,
Headteacher, Stanmore Primary
School
stanmore.hants.sch.uk

Oliver's Battery Easter Egg Hunt

Oliver's Battery Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 31st March
Staggered start times between 12.30 & 17.00
Trophies presentation 17.15
Start and Finish St Marks Church
Entry Forms can be found in Alexandra Sports, Barlow's,
OB PO and via the QR code
www.oliversbattery.info/events

The 3rd Oliver's Battery Easter Egg Hunt will be held this Easter Sunday, 31 March, between 12.30pm and 5pm. There is no mass start – you can start when you and your family are ready. This allows families to participate in more than one event if they wish.

All the routes are new for 2024! There are courses that are friendly for toddler, infant, junior and all other age groups. Between them, they cover the urban and rural parts of Oliver's Battery Civil Parish with various levels of challenge. The Start and Finish is at St Mark's Hall.

There are three free courses: Toddler, Junior Maze (which is appropriate for all ages groups Junior and upwards) and a Phone App Taster. All other courses: £1 Entry Fee for Infant and Junior courses; £2 Entry Fee for urban, rural and Phone App courses.

Full details of the various courses plus a printable Application Form can be found on oliversbattery.info/events.

Paper Application Forms can be returned via Alexandra Sports, New Forest Butchers and the Post Office. Cash or card Entry Fee payments will be taken on the day; please do not send any monies with the entry form. You can also apply online via bit.ly/OBEEH3 or by scanning the QR code. For more information, please email oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com.

Please Note: There is a cut off date of Monday 25 March for Application Forms to allow for provision of appropriate resources.

Trophies will be presented at 5.15pm at the end of the event. All fee-paying course entrants will receive an Easter Egg on completion!



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



select
DECORATORS

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



WALKIES

DOG SITTING IN YOUR HOME
HOME VISITS FOR CATS & DOGS



DBS CHECKED

FULLY INSURED

SNORTSANDTAILS@GMAIL.COM

SNORTSANDTAILS.CO.UK

07736905302



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

Oliver's Battery Primary and Nursery School

The children returned to school in January after a busy but enjoyable autumn term. The last week of term saw our Nursery and Year R children perform their Nativity play which was enjoyed by their very proud parents and grandparents. We held an outside carol service for our Years 1–6 which was well supported by our parents. It was a very cold afternoon but the children performed their readings and singing without any fuss.



class is off to the Science Centre to learn about rocketships. They will also have the opportunity to watch a show in the Planetarium. They are also visiting Hilliers in Romsey in April to learn all about plants.

In the summer term, the children will be taking part in their Sports Days which is always a very enjoyable day – we always pray for good weather! We also say goodbye to our Year 6 children in this term who will be off to secondary school and new adventures.

On the Thursday before we broke up for the Christmas holidays, the whole school headed out to the Pantomime at the Theatre Royal where we were treated to a performance of Cinderella. The children really enjoyed the show as well as being excited at the prospect of catching the bus into town!

Early in January, our Year 6 attended Calshot Activity Centre for their residential trip. Although it was a very cold week, they really enjoyed taking part in all the activities including archery, climbing and skiing.

After Easter, our new Headteacher, who was appointed in January, will be joining us. She is currently Headteacher at Ropley Primary School and we look forward to welcoming her into our school community.

In April, our Year 5 are off to Ferny Crofts for their residential trip which they are all very excited about. In May, our Year 1

will be welcoming our new Year R children who are joining us in September for their taster days.

Please look out for the date of our Summer Fayre; this is always the highlight of our summer term where parents, staff, children and members of the wider community can all come together.

Our Nursery School has become very popular but will have some spaces available for two- and three-year-olds from September.

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 or email admin@oliversb.com.



Oliver's Battery Brownies

This term, the girls have made foam pictures, made pancake friends, made our own rainbow jewellery and learnt some cool Zumba moves! The rest of the term will fly by with Easter just around the corner. Look out for us on our Easter treasure hunt...

The daffodils by St Mark's have started to flower and we will be taking our turn in the tree watering rota for Oli B park next term. There should be plenty of chances to get out and about for some adventures. If you have some good ideas for what this might look like then feel free to message us.

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.

We're thinking about adding a Rainbow Unit to the local area too and welcome any interest in this. Rainbows is for girls aged 5-7 years old.

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

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



Pancake friends

Pancakes, fruit and a little imagination



Citizens Advice

Ally Chatterley, Operations Manager at Citizens Advice Winchester District, gives some top tips on council tax reductions.

Q. My council tax bill is coming out soon and I am dreading opening it as it always goes up. My income has stayed the same but everything else is more expensive and I have hardly anything left over – how will I cope if my payments keep going up?

Many of us are feeling overwhelmed as we see our basic bills and essential costs go up. You're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

First off, council tax discounts are available to some people depending on your circumstances. For instance, if you're the only adult in your home, you should get a 25% discount on your council tax bill.

When working out how many people live in a property, some people aren't counted – they're called 'disregarded people' and include under-18s, a student nurse or someone on an apprenticeship scheme and many more. If everyone who lives in the property is disregarded, you will still receive a council tax bill, but it will have a 50% discount. However, if everyone in your home is a student or severely mentally impaired, you won't pay any council tax.

Additionally, if someone has moved out, tell the council as this might change your eligibility. If you are entitled to a discount as a result, it will be valid from the date when the person moved out, even if you told the council after the event, and the reduction may be backdated.

You mention that your income hasn't increased. If you are on a low income, you might also be able to get your council tax reduced. Your local council will ask you for details about your income and your circumstances, so they can work out if you're entitled to a council tax reduction. They will then calculate your new bill and tell you how much council tax you need to pay.

You may also be eligible for additional support if you've reached State Pension age, though the 'working age rule' will still apply if you or your partner receive certain benefits including:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support

Even if none of the reduction criteria applies to you, your local council can still reduce your council tax bill or cancel it altogether; this is called 'discretionary reduction'. They'll normally only do this if you can show that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax.

We know that times are incredibly tough and council tax is a priority bill so it's important to keep in contact with your council if you can't keep up payments.

Citizens Advice Winchester District is here to help you with advice and guidance if needed. Call us on 0808 278 7861 or visit our website for other ways to contact us citizensadvicewinchester.org.uk

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.

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

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

Book now
☎ 07708 532210



Water supply disruptions

Winchester residents have faced several water supply disruptions in recent months, causing inconvenience and frustration. However, here's a valuable tip: did you know that you can get updates about future disruptions sent straight to your phone with free text alerts? Southern Water offers this service to named account holders, allowing them to receive notifications about any supply issues. Don't be caught off guard – sign up on southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/works-or-issues-in-my-area/receive-text-alerts-for-future-supply-interruptions and ensure you're always in the know!

Winchester Good Neighbours

Winchester Good Neighbours is looking for volunteers to assist local people in getting to their medical appointments.

If you're looking for an opportunity to help the community in a flexible volunteer role, get in touch with on 0800 6126 480 or email winchestergoodneighbours@outlook.com.





Oliver's Battery WI

Oliver's Battery Women's Institute (OBWI) is a local branch of a national charity which is non-sectarian, non-party political that is run by its members for its members. It is open to all women and offers varied opportunities for them to learn (and expand) new skills and take part in a range of activities, including campaigns on issues that matter to them and their communities.

OBWI meets as a group at St Mark's Church Hall, from 7.15pm on the third Monday of every month, excluding August. Our varied evening programme for these meetings includes speakers, craft and entertainment. In March we welcome a Celebrant and in April we celebrate our birthday with musical entertainment, guests and cake with candles! May's Annual Meeting will include the selection of the new Committee and President. We're also already preparing things for our May Bank Holiday Plant & Produce Sale on the morning of Monday 6 May at St Mark's Church Hall. Look out for the posters!

No two meetings are the same, but all include a chance to meet and catch up with other members and visitors, refreshments and homemade treats, with a raffle supporting local charities. Bookclub, Craft, monthly walks and Knit and Natter sessions are also regular dates on the OBWI calendar, hosted for members by members.

Nail it every time: DIY hacks

As spring and summer approach many of you will be contemplating dusting off the tool box and attending to those household jobs that have mounted up over the long winter. Here are some handy hacks that may help you.

We've all come across a dreaded stripped screw (where a screw head is damaged so much that it is impossible to remove with a screwdriver). A simple way to remove one is to use a rubber band. Lay the band over the screw and insert the screwdriver on top. The rubber acts as a grip and fills the damaged void.

Tackling a weekend DIY job? If you're not a pro, using your hand to steady nails can lead to hammer injuries. Keep your fingers safe by holding the nail in place with a wooden peg. That way your fingers can remain well clear and the nail stays in place.



If you want to find out more, please contact our secretary on Oliversbatterysec@outlook.com. You are welcome to attend a couple of meetings before deciding whether to join. OBWI membership fees for 2024-25 are £38, payable in April. (NB may be higher at other groups.)

We look forward to meeting you sometime soon.

Yours in friendship, *Oliver's Battery WI*



Have you got a few light scratches on wooden furniture? Take the natural approach and erase them with walnuts. Rub the raw nut over the affected area and let the nut oil absorb into the wood. Buff with a soft clean cloth and the scratches will be sealed and gone.

Solid wood furniture is so appealing but over time, warping and wear and tear can take its toll and make drawers hard to open. There is, however, an easy solution to get them running smoothly again. Pull out the drawer and using a clean

cloth apply a thin layer of wax to the glide tracks. You can buy specially formulated furniture wax or, for a quick-fix, candle wax will do.

I really hope this has been helpful. Wishing you a rewarding DIY summer 2024.

Tim Newcombe | TALLTIM Property Services
talltims.co.uk | 07880 600080

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.talltims.co.uk | talltim81@gmail.com

St Peter's Catholic Primary

Growing leaders of the future at St Peter's School

We are really pleased that our recent Ofsted report recognised 'Passionate and inspiring senior leadership underpins the shared ambition and high standards achieved. As they progress through the school, pupils respond to teachers' high expectations and immerse themselves into all that the school offers.' (Ofsted 2023)

For us, one of the things our pupils really immerse themselves into is taking on various leadership roles within the school community. Not only do we want to nurture our children into becoming strong and kind leaders of the future, but also the children fulfilling such roles makes a real difference to life at St Peter's.

In Year 6, we believe that learning and leadership go hand in hand – we have to learn to lead in order to become leaders. As part of St Peter's life, our Year 6's embrace this side of school as never before by taking on roles which help keep our school, our playtimes and lunchtimes and other children happy and safe.

These roles are all equally valuable and crucial to enjoying our learning and getting the most out of our wider school environment. These include: Little Fish and Reception Busy Bodies, who welcome our younger children to school every morning; Librarians, who are responsible for maintaining our school library; Music Monitors, who help set up for assemblies, church events and instrumental lessons; and



Playshed monitors, who make sure that our equipment to play with is in order and ready for use. Year 6 also enjoy roles such as Tech Monitors, ensuring that our laptops and tablets are fully charged and in good working condition during lesson times and Litter Pickers, who are tasked with the highly important and dutiful job of cleaning up every break and lunchtime so that we can have a clean environment.

Here's what some of our Year 6 leaders have to say

'I really like connecting with the younger children and seeing what they are learning about and I like helping them when they need help with this.' Martha (Friend)

'I like playing with the younger ones because they're energetic and happy to see you!' Lily (Busy Body)

'I like seeing the children queueing and using their manners when taking out equipment – it puts a smile on my face!' Raphael (Playshed)

'The school is like our small world and we can keep it safe – we need to pick up the litter so that younger children can be safe and hygienic.' Liv (Litter Picker)

'Bookworms is fun because you get to bond with other children over your love of reading.' Anna (Bookworms)

Staff care deeply about pupils' well-being. Pupils are supported to broaden their interests. Pupils' behaviour is typically impressive. Pupils show empathy and respect for each other and to different members of their community. (Ofsted 2023)

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

Little Fishes Pre-School

As we returned to school after the Christmas holiday, the Little Fishes children were set the challenge of creating the centrepiece for a display at Sainsbury's superstore at Badger Farm. The title of the display was to be 'Hopes and Dreams for 2024'. We thought there was no better way of depicting this title than in the form of a 'Rainbow'. The children set to work using their fingertips to create a beautiful rainbow in all its colours. Whilst we painted, we chatted about our hopes and dreams; these varied from being a good friend, learning to ride a bike, having a happy family, to remembering to be kind and feeling safe. The children's thoughts proved both humbling and thought-provoking.

'Hopes and Dreams' supported our focus at circle time which was 'New Beginnings'. As we travelled through the cold month of January we looked at a little bulb. We noticed

a tiny shoot had appeared, and this tiny shoot reminded us that spring and new life were just around the corner.

Despite the cold and dark days, we had much to celebrate and be joyful about at Little Fishes. We embraced traditions and festivals celebrated by our children and staff members too. Epiphany, Australia Day and Chinese New Year all contributed to developing a deeper knowledge and understanding of the world around us and an appreciation and respect for others.

In the next few weeks we will be turning our attention to Spring Time and Easter. The children will be looking forward to welcoming their parents to our Easter 'Stay and Play' sessions where they can join together in Easter crafts, singing and play. Parents will be able to gain an insight to their child's day and experience some of the blessings the staff witness every day.



Wildlife Gardening

I think we're into the fifth or maybe even sixth year of trying to make this small patch of garden work with the environment so that what we do supports the natural world and gives us produce. This time, before getting all excited and rushing to spend as much as I possibly can at Hillier's (other garden centres are available and nearby), it's been important to stand back and to think about what has and what has not worked. One can spend quite a lot of money on something that would be great for the garden or wonderful to eat and find that it just gives up, but gardening in all its forms is a process of experimenting and learning. What works here, right at the bottom of Badger Farm, may be a disaster further up the hill.

What has worked well are the things I write about fairly often. The pond is a wildlife haven, teeming with frogs a couple of weeks ago and now crammed with spawn. So far, we have avoided the heavy frosts of this time last year and so I am hopeful for lots of tadpoles and froglets later in the year. This works in the system here because I like to encourage the natural predators of garden pests. It means fewer chemicals introduced when I don't know what the side effects are; it feeds the ecosystem and I get more crops.

Something else that supports this is the planting for pollinators. I have just got to the stage where there is a pollen source almost all the year round. That means that each new pollinator arriving has food and, in turn, pollinates the next flowers and crops. I have seen a significant

increase in the yield from the garden because pollinators are attracted here.

I am still working on the dilemma of how to feed and encourage bird life. I want the benefits of a thriving bird population, but there is a rodent that I just can't abide. I know there are those who will disagree and talk about them in terms of their impact, but I can't get past the disease and 'vermin' aspects and, as many of my neighbours have children, I feel a responsibility not to encourage vermin.

Now, something that might be of interest and probably more use than me repeating my ramblings would be to get ideas and experiences from others. Whether you would like to contribute an article, be interviewed, send pictures and notes for me to draft a piece or offer suggestions, we would love to hear from you (bfobrca.cnews@gmail.com).

One of the joys of gardening is the sharing of thoughts and expertise so please would you consider what you might be able to offer?

Peter Roberts



Wishing you well

Your Guide to a Healthier You: Free Resources for Dietary Change

Making positive changes to your diet can feel daunting, but it doesn't have to be expensive or complicated. Luckily, there are a wealth of free resources available to help you create delicious, nutritious, and budget-friendly meals that benefit your health.

Start Your Journey with the **Public Health Collaboration (PHC)**, a non-profit organisation started by NHS GP Dr David Unwin and colleagues. The PHC is a fantastic resource for anyone looking to improve their diet. Their website, phcuk.org, offers a treasure trove of free information, including:

Free Recipes or watch free videos of chefs and cooks showing you how to easily make healthy and delicious recipes on PHC's free YouTube channel. From quick weeknight dinners (which you could batch-cook and then pop in the freezer) to decadent desserts, you'll find something to tantalise your taste buds.

Infographics Easily digestible visuals explain complex health topics and nutritional information in a clear and engaging way.



Educational Videos Deepen your understanding with informative videos featuring doctors, nutritionists and dietitians. Another excellent option is their **Real Food Lifestyle Course** available for free on YouTube (youtube.com/watch?v=L110FEPfBCI). This 8-session course delves into the fundamentals of healthy eating, providing practical tips and guidance.

Join the Supportive Community Feeling lost or need some extra motivation? PHC offers a free weekly lifestyle support group. Connect with others on a similar journey, share experiences, and

gain encouragement in this supportive online community. Find out more at phcuk.org/support.

Additional Resources Remember, PHC is just one of many resources available. Many doctors publish free guides and information on their websites, and libraries often have books and materials on healthy eating. Don't hesitate to explore different options to find what resonates with you.

Amanda Turner | atnutritiontuition.co.uk

This is general educational information only, 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 Turner Bsc (Hons) is a volunteer Ambassador for the Public Health Collaboration. Amanda also has the MSc in Nutritional Medicine from Surrey University which is an AfN registered degree (Association for Nutrition).

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

- 25 March
- 29 April
- 20 May
- 24 June
- 29 July
- No August Café

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

More information :

 chat-tea.co.uk

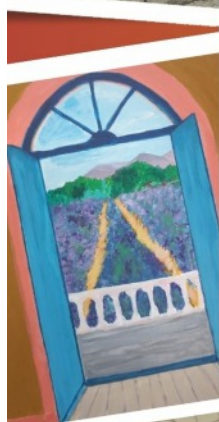


Badger Farm Art Group

The group continues to thrive and grow with a wonderful mix of familiar faces and new budding artists. We have been working on the theme of architecture recently, looking at windows and arches, postboxes, and chimney pots. We have also been working on some self-portrait contributions to the Grayson Perry exhibition, which is coming to Winchester Arc from the middle of March to the middle of June.

I plan themes and suggestions for the group to follow each session, but you are free to come along with your own ideas and independent work. We meet Thursday afternoons, 1.30-3.30pm to draw and paint together, to have a chat and a cup of tea. The group is very friendly, relaxed and welcoming. The cost is £9.00 per session, either cash or BACS, but your first one is free. Contact me on snippycards@hotmail.co.uk or just turn up!

Sarah



ARCHITECTURE

windows and arches,
postboxes and
chimney pots



Tech Talk

I'm old enough to remember the browser wars of the 1990s when Microsoft and Netscape clashed for dominance with Internet Explorer and Navigator. Microsoft ultimately triumphed, largely by bundling IE for free with every Windows PC. Fast forward to 2024 and AI is the new battlefield. Will history repeat itself with Microsoft's AI assistant, Copilot?

We're familiar with AI assistants like Siri and Alexa helping us with everyday tasks – answering questions, setting alarms and playing music. But a new breed of AI called 'generative AI' is emerging. Trained on massive amounts of data, these 'Large Language Models' can tackle diverse tasks: **Creative writing** They'll craft poems, scripts, or rewrite text in different styles, with proofreading included. **Informative answers** Don't struggle through dense articles; get the gist in seconds. **Search revolutionised** No more wading through mountains of links; key information is presented in concise summaries. **Idea generation** SMART goals, topics for your blog or recipes for supper – they're never short of a suggestion. **Image generation** Let your imagination run wild!

OpenAI's ChatGPT paved the way for this revolution last year. Its success spurred others to join the race. Each has its strengths and weaknesses so it's worth experimenting. Find your favourite on bit.ly/WCT-techcoAI while bit.ly/WCT-LIAI and bit.ly/WCT-TRAIart will help you create great text and image

Chasing rainbows

It is fascinating to see your home displayed in glorious rainbow colours by a thermal imaging camera. 'Why are some windows blue and what is that red area below the bay windows?' I thought as I looked at the screen. It takes a little bit of careful interpretation to find out what the 'camera' is telling you. After all, it is not really a camera but a heat sensor showing different temperatures as different colours.

On a cold, dry night when the fabric of the home has heated up for at least 8 hours, red shows higher temperatures where heat may be leaking out. Using less electricity and gas to power and heat our buildings not only makes them more comfortable but also helps make them greener. So, my husband later fixed heat-reflective foil behind the radiator which is attached to the wall under the bay window, to retain more heat in that room.

The windows appeared blue, which means cold, as they are glass and reflect the cold night sky. I was pleased to see the roof was cool too. The thin red line around one small window showed where I had forgotten to close it. However, the red patches on walls need further investigation. Has the wall insulation (little white



AI image of the author, created by Copilot

prompts. I mostly use you.com, perplexity.ai and gemini.google.com. And for images – because it's free and easy – yes, I use Copilot (copilot.microsoft.com). Which brings me full circle.

As in the browser wars, Microsoft is pulling out all the stops to establish Copilot's dominance. Notice the new icon on your Windows 11 taskbar?



That's the gateway to the Copilot sidebar which offers all the features of competitor AIs in one easy interface. But Microsoft doesn't stop there. In January, they announced that 'a new Copilot [keyboard] key will ship on a variety of new PCs and laptops' (bit.ly/WCT-AIKey). Microsoft's ambitions for Copilot go beyond a standalone assistant. 'Microsoft wants Copilot to be at the heart of your Windows experience.' It 'will be able to communicate across all of Microsoft's applications, tapping into your files, Microsoft 365 activity and your phone's text conversations.' (bit.ly/WCT-TGCopilot). Privacy concerns, naturally, abound.

Microsoft still fights the browser wars: surprise, surprise, all links in the Copilot sidebar open in Microsoft Edge, not in your default browser. Only time will tell if history repeats itself in the AI wars, but one thing's for sure: the battle for AI supremacy is heating up and Microsoft is going all out to win that too.

Ann Jury | ann@winchestercomputertutor.co.uk | 07747 779313
winchestercomputertutor.co.uk/copilot

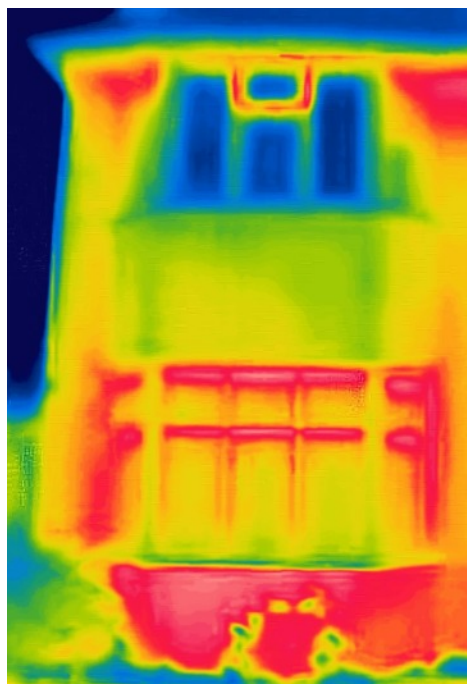
balls) slumped? Perhaps it is simply hot air rising in the room and coming out of ventilation grills?

The 'camera' works indoors and can detect cold spots that may not have been noticed. We found a cold wall only one brick thick. My husband recently fixed a large sheet of insulation on the garage side to make the room warmer. He also fitted a small sheet of insulation on the back of the loft hatch and checked the draught strip so now we have a warmer bathroom. He bought these materials from building

suppliers on the far side of town; they are easy to get and not expensive. You can find more information on cse.org.uk/resource/home-energy-fact-sheets.

Ideally every building, old or new, should aim for the smallest carbon footprint possible. The thermal images are helping us to make a start on reducing the carbon footprint of our home. There is still more we can do, such as laying the recommended depth of loft insulation of 27cm (nearly 1 foot) over all the loft. As my architect friend says, 'put a woolly hat on your house and wrap an overcoat around it too, to keep comfy at home and save energy.' Perhaps spring is the best time to do this work, although I do not guarantee to get my hands dirty!

Clare Shorter



Nature Notes

Between seasons

It is February and the days are becoming longer, brighter and hopefully warmer. After the wet, sometimes stormy, winter months it is a pleasure to potter about in the garden and appreciate the early flowering crocuses, daffodils, hellebores and primroses. At the bus stop on the junction of Badger Farm Road and Oliver's Battery, the Cherry Plum trees are putting on a delicate show of snowy white blossom. Also known as the Myrobalan Plum, it has been cultivated in England since the 16th century. The fruits which appear in July are tasty, either yellow or red. Something to munch on as you wait for the number 5 bus?

Many insects will have been hibernating over the winter in last season's flower stems and seed heads. It is a good idea, after cutting them back, to leave them in a quiet corner for a few days so the inhabitants can crawl out and find a new home. If you have a shed or garage there may be Tortoiseshell or Peacock butterflies hibernating. A warm day will entice them out into the sunshine to feed on the nectar-rich flowers. Now is a good time to put up nest boxes as birds are on the look out for new homes. To find suitable boxes, look



© Wendy Bramall

on the RSPB web site rspb.org.uk. You can encourage them by leaving nesting materials such as sheep's wool, horse hair or dog hair stuffed into a tree crevice or bunched together and tied to a branch. Horses start to lose their woolly winter coats at this time of year, and it can come away in drifts. One of my memories is seeing two magpies plucking the soft hair from a horse's back. They looked very comical as they flew away with white moustaches.

During the month of January, the familiar sound of the male grey squirrel 'churring' could be heard. If they weren't ransacking your bird feeder, they were chasing the females up, down and around the trunks and branches of trees. By the end of February, there will be up to four kits nestled in a spherical, messy nest composed of twigs and leaves, high up in the fork of a tree. They will stay with their mother for around ten weeks before becoming independent.

There is a lot to look forward to in the coming months. For myself, I am hoping that the skylarks return to breed and sing in the nearby fields.

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.



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 bfobrca.manager@gmail.com 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 5 July 2024

Editor: Ann Jury

Editorial email: bfobrca.cnews@gmail.com



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

Email ~ bfobrca.manager@gmail.com ~ Tel. 01962 868630 ~ www.bfobrca.org

Registered Charity No. 279592