



Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Community News

Your Local Community Newsletter
Autumn 2018

Updates from Local Councillors, your MP and Local
Clubs and Charities



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Dines

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Inside Today**

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Email: enquiries@bfobrca.org

Registered Charity No. 279592

www.bfobrca.org

Editorial deadline for **Winter 2018** issue:

Friday 2nd November

Editor: Berenice Cottrell

berenice756@gmail.com



Make no secret of the fact I can not stand the heat however I have to confess that I have really enjoyed seeing the images that have been sent in of our area. Images, I suspect, we wouldn't get to see in quite such a light if it were darker and cooler (although I would be much happier). So I really hope you enjoy this issue, due to or in spite of the weather.

Exciting news, we have Facebook! If you look up "Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Community News" or @BFAOB.News then you'll stumble across us. It's new so stay with us while we get a handle on how best to run it. If you have any suggestions or feedback, feel free to message me on there, if you prefer. Of course, I am still contactable via e-mail as always.

Enjoy this edition, and stay cool. Looking forward to the next edition!



WE WANT TO REACH THE COMMUNITY ONE CAKE SLICE AT A TIME!

Badger Farm Community Centre is looking to set up a community inspired cake gathering aimed particularly at the over 65's in the community and we need your help! Launching in January 2019 – the Badger Farm Chatty Café scheme will be open from 1-3pm on the 3rd Monday of every month and aims to provide somewhere to go for those that may feel isolated or lonely in the community. A place to find a friendly face and the kettle on and hopefully a slice of delicious cake.

Loneliness and isolation are a daily reality for many over 65's and this regular get together wants to encourage people over 65 to come along and be part of a group in running and attending the Chatty Café. However, we can't set this up and make it a free enterprise for those that need it without your help.

If you think you could spare a couple of hours a month in helping out at the café or baking a cake or organising how it runs or helping to find funds then we would love to hear from you.

We can't really achieve this without you and loneliness in the elderly really is a horrible issue that a small amount of time and effort could make a change, so we would love your involvement to give it a go.

We hope to set up a steering group meeting in the Community Centre on the 22nd October at 1pm to get the ball rolling so if this is something you think you could be part of then please email us at enquiries@bfobrca.org for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

JUST SOME OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm – 4.00pm	Sarah Zimmer snippycards@hotmail.co.uk	£7.50 per session	A friendly drop in art group providing a space to paint in a relaxed setting. All abilities welcome.
Badger Farm ACOL Club	Friday	7.15pm – 10.30pm	Roland Richardson 023 8025 1277	£1 visitors £15 annual	Bridge Club.
Badger Farm Bridge Club	Tuesday	7.15pm – 10.30pm	Fred Hotchen 01794 301185 - 07771 854 347 fred.hotchen@btinternet.com	Enquire Direct	Friendly and relaxed local bridge club. New members and visitors very welcome.
Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup	Monday to Friday	Mon. Tues. Wed. 9.15am – 3.00pm Thurs. Fri. 9.15am – 12.15pm	Denise Tosdevine 07771 798 474	3/4 years £4.50ph 2 years £4.70ph	For children from 3 years to school age. Great OFSTED results. Afternoons also available. Enquiries to Denise.
Badminton	Thursday	8.00pm-9.00pm	Wendy King 01962 861525		Fun and friendly for any age and ability. All welcome.
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10.00am – 11.00am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service All welcome.
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	2 nd Wednesday of the month	7.30pm –10.00pm	Loraine Martin 01962 861182	£4 per meeting	Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Contact Loraine for details.
Legs, Bums & Tums	Monday Tuesday	9.30am-10.30am 6.45pm- 7.45pm	Catherine Jones 07990 513 434	£5 per class	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned. Discounts available for multiple classes.
Healing Trust	2 nd Saturday of every month	10.00am-12.30pm	Doreen Rivett 01962 862285 doreenrivett@talktalk.net	Donation	Come to our group either for healing or to find out more about healing, our group and training courses
Parents & Toddlers	Thursday	1.30pm-3.00pm	Catherine Thomas 07990 037 467	£2 per family per session	All parents, guardians and child minders with children aged new born to 5 years welcome. Just turn up on the day!
Royal British Legion	1 st Thursday monthly	7.30pm-8.30pm	Stanley Judd 01962 841402		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
Senshi Ryu Karate	Thursday	6.30pm-7.30pm	Phil Aucott senshiryukarate@gmail.com	Enquire direct	Become fitter, more flexible, stronger, more disciplined, focused and confident
Shall We Dance	Wednesday	1.45pm-2.45pm	Sergiy Bondarenko shallwedance2018@gmail.com	£5 per session	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned. Discounts available for multiple classes.
Slimming World	Saturday	9.30am-11.00am	Steve Coombes 07788 683 077		A warm welcome awaits you in your local group. New members always welcome.
Southern England Karate Federation	Tuesday	4.30pm-5.30pm Children & Adults	Collin Rudkin 07966 303 585 collinrudkin@btinternet.com	Enquire direct	Friendly and professional Karate Club with high standards set at International level. Affiliated to the English Karate Federation and World Karate Federation.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.30am-10.30am 5.30am-7.30	0845 073 0460	Weekly meeting fee of £6.25	Your lifestyle, your choice. With Weight Watchers you choose the weight loss approach that works best for you.
Wessex Wargames Club	Tuesday	7.00pm-11.00pm	Ian Ackerman 01962 624710	£3 per session (first session is free)	Miniature wargames and role-playing games of all periods and genres played.
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6.30pm-9.00pm	Lucy Scott info@winchestertkd.co.uk	Membership by subscription	6.30-7.45 beginners/intermediates 7.00pm-8.00pm seniors (black belts to 9.00pm)
Yoga	Monday Friday	9.30am-11.00am 1.30pm-3.00pm	Chris Wyeth 01962 868346	£35 per 5 week sessions	Experience the balancing effect of yoga on mind and body. Stretch and relax into a healthier life.
(PSC AHED) Gentle Therapeutic Yoga	Tuesday	1.30pm-3.00pm	Christine Giles www.psc.ac.uk/ahed 01962 886166	Enrol online or call Registry 01962 886166	Become fitter, calmer & more relaxed. Improve mobility, strength & stamina using yoga and correct breathing.

works. One of the key things we have done as a church in the last few months is to identify what our key Vision Statement ought to be for the next 5 years.

After exploring our history, we spent time identifying what our priorities ought to be whilst recognising we can't do everything. A few days later in June the PCC met to distil the *huge* amount of information that everyone had produced into a statement and a strap-line which summarised it all! After identifying the key words and phrases which summed them up, we finally agreed that as a church we should aim to be:

'Here for you, in Christ'

Welcoming & caring for all the community with Christ-centred, flexible worship.

This took time and effort to identify and it will be used as the basis on which we make all our plans and define how we prioritise our decisions. In the light of this new Vision Statement we had the opportunity to apply it straight away as we discussed the question of St Mark's development. After much discussion, about both the current situation and what our Vision Statement meant in this case, the PCC voted unanimously that it should retain responsibility for the development of St Mark's building in order that we

could be more fully 'Here for you, in Christ' in Oliver's Battery. This does not mean St Marks will be left to fall into disrepair, but rather that the church wants to take the lead on developing the building and continue to ensure the church and the community use it for many years to come.

I am looking forward to getting to know the whole parish even better and sharing some of the journey that we are on together. If you see me in the street (or anywhere else!), please do stop me and introduce yourself.

Revd Ed Dines edines1@gmail.com
Mob: 0757 2322 011



Dear Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery,

I thought it was about time I wrote to introduce myself! I am the new 'Priest-in-Charge' (or 'Vicar') of St Luke's and St Mark's and had my licensing service at St Luke's, Stanmore a few months ago in April... so this might seem a bit confusing to some as Revd Mike Gardner, who was the Vicar, is still around and active! Mike and I have come to a unique arrangement, so that we are working together both in this parish and in St Barnabas parish in Weeke. Being 'Priest-in-charge' means I've taken on the role of leading the PCC (Parochial Church Council) and leading on the strategic and planning aspects of the parish, as well as some Sunday services, whilst Revd Mike (as Associate Priest) is doing more of the day to day work, funerals, baptisms, weddings etc. In practise, if you were to catch us together and called us 'Vicar' we would probably *both* answer 'Yes?!'

I've lived in Winchester for just over 3 years now and was in Andover before that. It has been lovely getting to know people in the parish and learning how it



Badger Farm Art Group

The Art Group at Badger Farm has had another wonderfully productive year. We have been drawing still life set ups, working on our figure drawing, and using photos and books as reference material for our own paintings. We have been using watercolours, acrylics and other media. The group remains a very dedicated and friendly group who are interested in each other's work and sharing techniques, along with a cup of tea and a biscuit! We will be updating the photos of the work produced by members of the Art Group on the website soon, so please have a look at what we have been doing. If you are free on Thursday afternoons, between 1.30-4.00 then please come along and meet us. The cost is £7.50 a session, pay as you go, starting back on 6th Sept 2018. Your first session is free.

Winchester City Festival Choir

OPEN EVENINGS: Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th September 2018. Interested? Please contact wcfc_sec@hotmail.com. Also see website: www.wcfchoir.org.

Prospective new members are invited to join in September rehearsals at 7.45pm, usually at Littleton Hall SO22 6QL to learn four pieces for a Baroque themed "January" concert:

- Monteverdi *Beatus Vir*
- Carissimi *Jepthe*
- Handel *Chandos Anthem O Praise the Lord*
- Bach *Lobet den Herren Barenreitter*



Texas Drive Field

Following the refusal of Winchester City Council (WCC) to accept the nomination of the Texas Drive field as an asset of community value (ACV), as detailed in my last report, a new nomination was submitted in May 2018. Initial indications from WCC were that the PC would be notified of their decision on the application by 12 July 2018. Subsequently, the owners of the field requested an extension until 26 July 2018. At the time of writing (early August 2018) WCC had still not notified the PC of their decision.

Anti Social Behaviour

In early July, residents of Priors Way/Plovers Down experienced some nights of anti social behaviour including joy riding at high speed in the early hours, thefts and break-ins involving cars. The police were informed but no arrests were made. Because the car park at the recreation ground can be an attractive place for youths to congregate at night, the PC have agreed that the gate to the car park should be locked overnight on a more regular basis than has been the case in the past.

Any future incidents of anti social behaviour should be reported to the police on 101 and to WCC via their Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services page on their website or contact the Neighbourhood Services Officer – Anti Social Behaviour on 01962 840222.



Oliver's Battery Plan

In July, Steve Brine MP invited a group 10 people, representing the core team responsible for the preparation and publication of the Oliver's Battery Plan, and Councillor Jan Warwick, to tea on the terrace of the House of Commons. Steve praised the Plan and thanked the team for all their hard work. Issues discussed included safety improvements at the road junction, improved

public transport links and the need to protect open space and the countryside around Oliver's Battery. Steve and Jan agreed to support some key priorities in the Plan.

Interpretation Board

On 25 July 2018, the Right Worshipful Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Frank Pearson, visited Oliver's Battery to unveil the new interpretation board on Oliver Cromwell's Battery. The board sets out the history of the site, highlights some of the important archaeological artefacts found there and clarifies the site's connection with Oliver Cromwell. Apart from the Mayor and parish councillors, members of the Battery Club were also present for the unveiling.



Benches


The PC has received some comments from residents concerning the condition of some of the benches around the parish. The process of finding a suitable contractor to undertake the work of sanding, staining and repairing our benches is currently underway.

M3 Junction 9 and Smart Motorway Upgrade

The PC is working closely with WCC and HCC councillors to assess the impact on Oliver's Battery of the proposed work on changes to Junction 9 of the M3 and the upgrade of the M3 to a Smart Motorway from Junction 11. In particular, the possible increase in traffic on Badger Farm Road is a concern.

Brian Mitchener - Chair Oliver's Battery Parish Council

cllr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info - 01962 623585



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Badger Farm Toddlers

Thursdays 13:30 - 15:00
Badger Farm Community Centre

Come and join Esther and Catherine at this friendly
drop-in group!
All welcome, run by qualified pre-school teachers!

Bikes, puzzles, Play-dough, books and much more for
toddlers!
And for new mums and babies a well stocked and
comfortable baby mat area. (We also provide baby scales
and a baby changing area in the room!)

We offer a cuppa and a chat for you, fun and a snack
for the little ones!

Open term time only!
Info: Catherine 07990037467
or Esther etsouramanis@icloud.com

Could you spare a couple of hours a week to help at Badger Farm Toddlers? They are looking for volunteers to assist in the kitchen making refreshments, washing up and clearing away at the end of the session. It's an ideal opportunity to make new friends and spend a couple of enjoyable hours. Please telephone or email Esther or Catherine or contact Jan at the Community Centre - 01962 868630.

Folk Singing

English and American folks songs beautifully arranged in 3 and 4 part harmony, voices only. No experience necessary; all welcome, from shower singers to seasoned choir goers! There's no need to read music as all songs are taught by ear.

St Mark's Church, Oliver's Battery. Tuesdays in term time, 1pm-2.15pm, FREE first session, no obligation. £4/£5.

To find out more, email Jac on jac@folkssinging.com, check the website www.folkssinging.com, or text/phone on 07941 246685.



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**BADGER
FARM**
PARISH COUNCIL

The glorious hot, sunny weather we have enjoyed from May onwards seems to have heralded the start of the 'silly season' at Badger Farm. We have suffered a spate of vandalism, with our brand new toddler play equipment at Central Kickabout being amongst the casualties.

Other local amenities targeted include the lovely painted subway tunnel, bus stops and park benches.

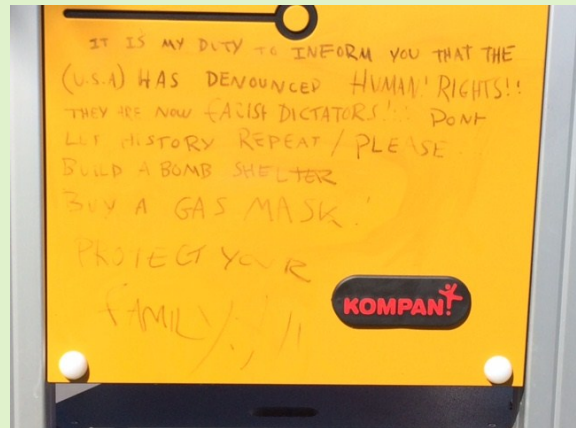


All the incidents have been reported to the police and crime reference numbers obtained. Badger Farm Parish Council would appreciate residents notifying the Parish Clerk of any instances of vandalism on 07463 760801 or clerk@badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk. We can then notify the Police and obtain the crime numbers needed for insurance purposes. If you happen to have any photographs of the damage they will also be gratefully received. Councillor Julie Lacey represents Badger Farm Parish Council on the Police and Community Together (PACT) forum. No doubt she will keep us up to date with developments across the district.

A local resident has also reported anti-social behaviour taking place at Central Kick About during the small hours. The resident went out and asked those concerned to keep the noise down and was met with verbal abuse. If you do have any issues with anti-social behaviour (rowdy behaviour, riding mini motor bikes, fireworks misuse etc.) **please** phone 101 and report the incident or 999 if a crime is actually taking place. Badger Farm Parish Council contacted our local Police Community Support Officer for advice on tackling the problem. Our local PCSO is Rob Window (14496) of the Winchester Neighbourhood Policing Team. Rob Window advises against chal-

lenging people directly, but rather report incidents via the 101 phone number. He goes on to say, "If there are any particular days/times please let me know and I will ensure that our team is aware so that we can try and carry out patrols during those times." You can also contact Rob by email on rob-ert.window@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

As ever, all residents are encouraged to contact BFPC with comments and suggestions. We meet on the second Monday of each month (except August) at 7.30 pm in the Bushfield Room at the Community Centre.



Annual Bridge Tea

Thursday 18th October 2018 2pm – 5pm



Littleton Millennium Hall, Littleton SO22 6QL.

Come and join us for a friendly competition and a gorgeous homemade tea.

To book a table (£60 per table), or to make a donation, please contact:

Marjorie Huntley, 11 Grange Road, Winchester SO23 9RT.
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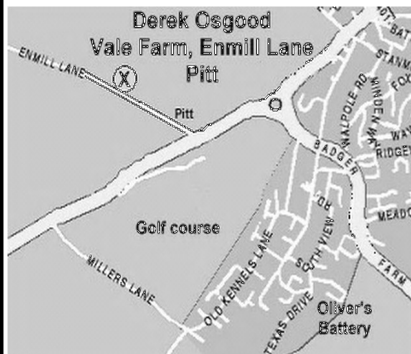
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OLIVER'S BATTERY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Registered Charity Number 1173149)

Since my article in the Summer edition, OBCC Ltd has received devastating news regarding its aim to replace the aging St Mark's church and hall with a modern community centre. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke and St Mark, under the new chairmanship of the Reverend E Dines, has withdrawn its support for the project and has cancelled the Heads of Terms agreement that we had with it. This means that we no longer have the land on which to build our new facility. Oliver's Battery will remain the only parish in the area that does not have its own community centre.

Although the PCC will have its reasons for this withdrawal, and it is for the Reverend Dines to explain these and not for me, the opportunity to provide suitable community, social and health facilities in the parish may well be lost forever. OBCC Ltd has received firm interest in its proposals from the NHS locally and the Winchester Live at Home Scheme for their Outreach programmes. NHS England is progressing its plans for more services to be made available to residents close to

home rather than their attending appointments in a hospital.

With our fund-raising events to-date, we have already demonstrated the need for larger premises, in which to hold social activities. Interestingly, none of these have caused parking problems in the vicinity as had been anticipated by some.

Over the next few months, the Management Team of OBCC Ltd will be looking at the options for the future of the charity.

Ian Millar

Chairman

On behalf of the directors of OBCC Ltd

Email: obccltd2016@gmail.com

[Website: www.obccentre.org](http://www.obccentre.org)

OBCC Ltd is a company limited by guarantee (company number 09882906)

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Community Centre News

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AGM 2018

The Centre had a fairly good year with key improvements continuing. This year we managed to refurbish the toilets which was a major undertaking and we hope everybody is happy with the outcome. We are awaiting the insurance claim from PHS so that the damage they caused will be repaired.

This year we are hoping to replace the heating boiler which is another major cost for the centre. The system is 30 plus years old and we need to do this before it finally gives up. This hopefully will result in a more reliable and efficient system that should reduce our running costs again.

This year we also updated the office furniture with new cupboards replacing the 30 year old ones with new lockable ones.

Next year's project will be the refurbishment of the kitchen which is another major undertaking so if hirers would like to see any changes please let us know.

During the year we have also had our problems with the heating system going down for a few days because of the flue needing to be replaced. We appreciated everyone's cooperation during these few days.

Bookings were good this year with Hampshire Sinfonia, On Fire Fitness, Integr8 Dance and Winchester Tigers (part of Tae Kwon-Do) joining as new regulars. Unfortunately, we have lost Whiteshute Bridge after many years. There have also been a number of bookings from Muslim communities. There was also a very unusual booking in that we were asked to accommodate 80 students over two nights from Friday 27 through to Sunday 29 October for a Christian Charity – UCCF – who were holding their Southern Regional Conference in Winchester. They were looking for basic accommodation for some students and after discussion we decided to help them. They used the Battery Hall as a "dormitory" and were very well behaved.

During the year we have experienced one or two problems with the social club alcohol license. We have now offered to assist with a change to the arrangement. We are now awaiting the response to this offer. Hopefully it will enable the

club to have a more flexible system and assist the community centre to get more joint bookings

Berenice Cottrell is continuing as Editor of Community News and has made quite a few positive changes to the former layout. Our thanks to all the volunteers who distribute the publication for us in all weathers. It would not be possible without these kind and generous people.

Merv celebrated his 70th birthday this year quietly with no fuss at his request. He received many gifts and cards from hirers and the Trustees alike.

Stan Judd one of our Trustees is stepping down this year and not standing for re-election and I am sure everyone would like to thank him for his contribution over the last few years. Thanks go to all the Trustees for giving up their time to ensure the continued successful running of the Centre.

The future is looking very bright and positive for the Community Centre and I would like to thank everybody who has used us during this past year. We hope to go from strength to strength. Thanks also go finally to Jan who mans the office daily and is always on hand to provide help and support.



Oliver's Battery WI

We are pleased to announce a newly elected OBWI Committee following elections in May and as ever huge thanks

to outgoing members who have tirelessly served us with their time and energy providing assorted entertainment and hospitality during the year. Selected speakers regale us monthly with their interesting talks such as Hats off to 'Millinery' by Sophie Fryer in June, then a guided tour of Winchester in July and in September taking to the waters with a Kennet Canal talk. We have a full programme of monthly talks organised up to June 2019 and along the way outings (this year to Wisely), fund raising events.....most recently £176.00 was raised in aid of Breast Cancer at a Strawberry Afternoon Tea, attended by 21 members who 'carried on re-

gardless' of the adverse weather conditions experienced on that **one** Sunday in July! Various regular monthly events like Book Club, Knit and Natter, Craft Workshop and Coffee Morning are open to all members.

We meet 3rd Monday of the month from 19.45-22.00 (11 meetings a year), no meeting in August, at St Peter's Primary School Hall, Oliver Battery Road North, Winchester, SO22 4JB (ample parking). Visitors are very welcome to visit OB meetings free of charge for the first two.

Come and join us to make new friends and have fun learning new skills, become involved with community events and have your say in National WI campaigns. **Interested?** For more information contact: oliversbattery@hampshirewi.org.uk

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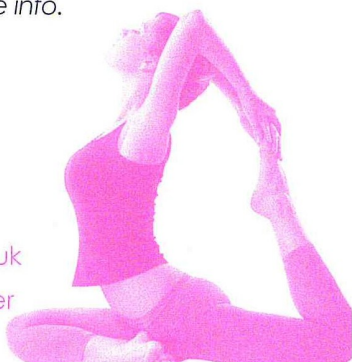
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From your MP - Steve Brine

Many constituents will know that Parliament's annual Summer recess means only one thing locally – **Steve's Summer Tour!**

Last year we kicked off a series of constituency events in Badger Farm and this year it was the turn of Oliver's Battery as we spent a morning chatting with residents on the lower Battery alongside City and County Councillor, Jan Warwick. You can see full details of Summer Tour 2018 at

www.stevebrine.com/summertour which also included street surgeries and even a supermarket surgery at Tesco in Winnall this year.



Many of the issues we discussed on Summer Tour of course were not new and had in fact been raised through the recent **Parish Plan** exercise for OB. I was hugely impressed with the work that went into the Plan and invited the core group, led by Constance Leach, to the House of Commons recently to talk

through their priorities and to thank them all over a cup of tea.

As you know, the plan represents three year's hard work to reflect the vision of local residents and includes a comprehensive and detailed plan for the community over the next decade. Issues outlined in the plan range from residents' number one priority, which is of course to see safety improvements at the junction of Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm Road, to improved public transport links and the need to protect open space and the landscape setting of Oliver's Battery.

Having attended the start of the Parish Plan exercise myself, at the school back in April 2015, it has been great to see it finished and to give thoughtful consideration to some of the key priorities and to identify where I can help. We will move forward together and I look forward to working with the team, especially on the junction where I know Cllr Warwick is making a strong (and continued) case to HCC on our behalf.

Turning to something completely different and my work as Public Minister continues at pace as we seek to address some of the long-term health challenges facing our society. Since my last column I have published the long awaited **Chapter Two of our Childhood Obesity Plan** which has been widely welcomed.

Over one in three children are now overweight or obese by the time they

leave primary school. This is a problem because overweight children are more likely to become overweight adults. Obesity is the leading risk factor for serious conditions such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and fatty liver disease, as well as several different types of cancer. Costing the NHS and UK taxpayers £6.1bn annually.

My new childhood obesity plan is all about tackling this issue - we recently set out how we will meet an ambitious new target to halve childhood obesity by 2030. The plan will make it easier for people to make informed choices about their diet and lifestyle, and free parents from the 'pester power' that makes it hard to say no. You can find out more and read the plan at

www.stevebrine.com/childhoodobesity

You can see more of my work, in Winchester and in Westminster, at www.stevebrine.com and stay bang up-to-date at [www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP)

Steve Brine
MP for Winchester



A Beacon of Positivity

A positive outlook can solve more of life's challenges.

I recently had the honour and privilege of meeting for the second time, a truly amazing 100+ year old former teacher of English and music. She is noted for her incredibly positive attitude.

The conversation generated further questions that evolved and expanded in a multiple spiral of forever deeper and complex issues. Orientated around human relationships, cultures, languages and especially being positive, she questioned my answers in a most thorough manner! A truly amazing experience! I listened and learned so much.

A positive attitude is more than a 'glass half full'. It is a state of mind. Not always easy, but when engaging with an individual, understanding who the person really is; the positive persona can shine through and be built upon by pursuing a gentle conversation about their positive experiences.

We have all journeyed through life carrying with us many different memories. Listening to someone's positive recollection can brighten their day with a smile. See their eyes light up with the joy of describing a special memory.

That can make the world of difference. And keeps the glass half full!

A smile can brighten the day for someone!

Simon Lever



The two consultation sessions on the proposed Bushfield Camp site, one in Shawford and one in Badger Farm, were very well attended and gave everyone the chance to look at what may be considered for the development of the site. It raises many questions about not only the camp site itself but the surrounding part of the Church Commissioners' land. One major consideration was the proposed widening of Badger Farm Road and the creation of bus stops for the site. There is also the ecology of the area to consider as at present it is a haven for a multitude of wildlife as well as the wild flowers and trees. The scheme seemed to show that they propose to make more of the views to the south and east but this may

require cutting some of the trees around the boundary. This would make the site more visible from the

South Downs Park who may well object. The most important point is that everyone is kept informed of what is happening.

The Hampshire CC Strategic Transport Survey is due to be published shortly and our major concern is the junction of Oliver's Battery Road and Badger Farm Road. This is becoming more important as proposed work on the M3 smart motorway upgrade followed by work to Junction 9 will undoubtedly cause far more traffic on Badger Farm Road. We have already made representations to the Hampshire CC Portfolio holder to urgently look at what can be done. As yet there are no proposals from them on this very important issue.

Add to this Hampshire CC cutting bus subsidies which we suspect will try to

reduce services or stop ones like the No 63. This would have a devastating impact on Oliver's Battery. The service would be viable if StageCoach ran a proper service throughout the day. Before the last change back to StageCoach, the service was good and passenger numbers increased. We need to get back to this. The City Council keeps saying we need to get out of our cars and use the buses. How can you when there is no service?

You will notice that work is about to start on the access to Whiteshute Ridge to make the ground around the gates better able to take the winter conditions and hopefully not let them get so muddy. Whilst last winter was unusual in the heavy amount of rain, the prepared ground should be able to cope with it.

**Councillor Eleanor Bell and
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Badger Farm Social Club





Genealogy was transformed by the internet. Information that once took cross-country trips to record offices or churches to find can now be accessed with a few clicks. It's probably why genealogy is now one of the most popular online activities. If you want to give it a go, where can you start?

Many genealogy sites encourage you to build your family tree directly on their site. While it makes finding new connections easy, there are privacy issues doing this as you may not want to make details of living relatives available online. Instead, try Chronoplex's free "My Family Tree" (chronoplexsoftware.com/myfamilytree) which offers many of the capabilities of paid software.

If later you find you want to either share your tree or have extra functionality, you can export your tree from this to an online or a paid package (tinyurl.com/wct-genealogysoftwarereviews).

Start building your tree by talking to family and recording their information. Once you've got the bare bones, you'll want to fact-check and add to it. I suggest starting with familysearch.org. While some of its finds are locked behind the paywall of its sister site

findmypast.com, its collection is comprehensive and transcriptions of many records can be viewed for free. Then there's ancestry.co.uk; from 1970s phone books to Tudor probate records, you'll find something about your ancestors here. For details that are behind the paywall, take advantage of the occasional times they offer free access or login for free at the library (tinyurl.com/wct-ancestrylibrary).

There are also sites where genealogy is done for passion not profit. Run by volunteers, they focus either on making records available free or on amalgamating information to move you forward in your research. A few to check out:

freeukgenealogy.org.uk has millions of free records from the Birth, Marriage & Death registers, 19th-century census data and entries from parish registers dating back to 1530. Coverage is patchy, but for some records you can download a scan of the original document, which is a bonus.

If you're looking for the bigger picture about your ancestors' lives, you may

stumble across a gem on genuki.org.uk, a "virtual reference library" of genealogical information. ukbmd.org.uk fills in some of the gaps in genuki.

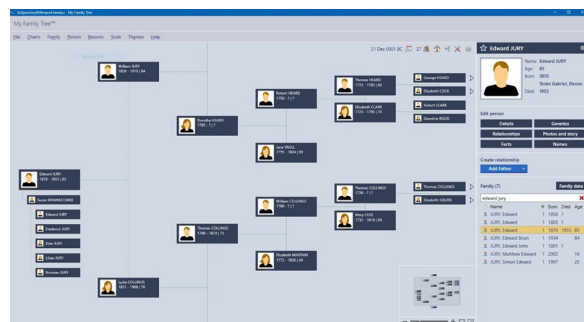
[WorldConnect \(wc.rootsweb.com\)](http://WorldConnect(wc.rootsweb.com)) has a staggering number of family trees you may match with. A caveat: do check that the information is correct before adding it to your tree.

The ultimate resource is the award-winning cyndislist.com with over 336,000 links to worldwide genealogical sources.

"Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking."

Ann

Ann is the founder of Winchester Computer Tutor (winchestercomputertutor.co.uk), offer-



WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Growing conditions so far this year have been rather challenging. After a wet and cold Spring and a hot Summer with very little rain, what will Autumn bring us? If you have been watering your vegetables you should be rewarded with some sort of harvest, even if it turns out to be smaller than in previous years. Some of the flowers have managed to keep going and will continue to brighten up our gardens during the Autumn months. The weeds, of course, always survive and now that the ground is not so hard, they are much easier to get rid

of. Sometimes even keen gardeners welcome a break from the practical work and if it happens to be the second Wednesday of the month, we head for one of our regular monthly meetings to hear an interesting horticultural talk and to socialise with like-minded people.

This is what our programme has to offer during the next three months:

Wednesday, 12th September - Kevin Hobbs, Director of Hilliers Nurseries, will offer us his advice on what to plant to achieve stunning colour in the Autumn.

Wednesday, 10th October - Tim Woodland, after years of working with and marketing a wide variety of plant bulbs will share some

of his experiences with us.

Wednesday, 14th November - The well-known wildlife photographer Brian Pettit will delight us with some of his wonderful images of wildlife in the New Forest.

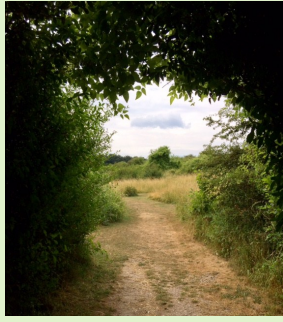
Why don't you come and join us for one or all of these enjoyable events?

Our monthly meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester SO23 7AB, starting at 7.30pm. Visitors £3.

For more information visit www.winhortsoc.weebly.com

A Walk around Whiteshute

Ridge



Whiteshute Ridge affords such special scenery all year round.

The spectacular display of autumnal colours as the

leaves gradually turn a myriad gold, yellow and red and all shades between is awe inspiring. Autumn offers more colour than could be imagined.

Also, not just the spectacular visual impact but the unique scent of the season, and the sound of birds. Late autumn, the leaves having fallen to the ground, open up wider views as if a theatre curtain had been drawn aside revealing a set that continues on to infinity, unhindered by foliage, and revealing nature in all its glory.

Walking along the pristine grass

pathways with tall wild grass on either side, never fails to prompt the praise of passers by. Visitors mention the natural and spontaneous friendliness of those who live in the areas of Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery.



Colin who keeps the grass pathways trimmed to perfection, always greets folk with a

broad smile, and his infectious enthusiasm! Passing the time of day, enjoying the peace and scenic beauty of our treasured locality. Blackberry pickers are making the most of the early ripening, waiting for the apples to join them in creating a classic English pie.

Leaving Whiteshute Ridge, taking a stroll down an almost magical avenue of trees and then across the bridge towards Oliver's Battery and Compton Down is a pure joy.

To think we are so close to the most

beautiful natural surroundings, walking distance (or a short bus ride) to Winchester centre and the glorious Cathedral, is reassuring and rather special to say the least. The enjoyable walk encompassing so many of nature's delights stay in the mind; memories being prompted by sight, scent and sounds.

Oliver's Battery itself stands proud as an historic location. A cup of rather tasty fresh ground coffee at a thriving local café s called for to provide the energy for the gentle stroll home to Badger Farm. We are fortunate in our community to live in such an environment. Something I personally never take for granted.

A smile can brighten the day for someone!

Simon Lever



Oliver's Battery

Countryside Group

Over the spring we met on a

Saturday morning for a series of work parties to cut back and coppice hazel and field maples allowing in more light for the wildflowers. We also cleared many brambles that were overtaking the paths through the wild life area and cut back many overgrown shrubs by the far gate. One session was spent raking and clearing the meadow to let the spring growth of flowers thrive. We had a delightful show of cowslips and primroses early on and now there is a rich and varied mix of flowers and grasses.

'Phase 2' of our wild flower project on the

Battery is well under way. We extended the two areas either side of the Olivers Battery sign and a good variety of flowers have grown with pink Ragged Robin the first to flower. However with the long drought the flowering time has been short lived and we plan to cut and rake this area by the end of August to collect seed heads for next year and to allow different plants to emerge. We also arranged for the ditch and areas around the trees to be left uncut until September to create further 'wild areas' for flowers, insects and small mammals. Our aim is to establish more wildflower verges in the Parish over the coming years if residents would like this.

One of the highlights this spring was a visit by the Vicar of St. Mark's and St. Luke's, Mr Jolly the donkey and the parishioners who

processed from St. Mark's to the Wildlife Area on Palm Sunday. Around 40 people took part in an outdoor service.

Many of us have enjoyed the sky larks over Texas Field (next to our wild life area) this summer and were delighted that the field was not cut early (unlike last year) allowing the skylarks to fledge safely and the bees and butterflies to profit from the grasses and wild flowers.

If you are interested in wild life and enjoy fresh air and gentle exercise then you might be interested in joining our group. For more details, please contact Alison Hull on 07747547729 or go to the link on the Oliver's Battery Parish website.



BADGER FARM

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

On Friday 20 July 2018 Badger Farm Pre-School said a very warm-hearted farewell to the children who have been in their care and who are now moving on to "big school" in September. This is always a very bitter-sweet day for the staff who are immensely fond and proud of all the children and are totally dedicated, caring, professional and considerate in all aspects of the day to day running of the group. Badger Farm Pre-School had an excellent report following a recent OFSTED inspection in March 2018. If you would like

to know more about this lively, friendly and very popular Pre-School, visit their page on our website www.bfobrc.org or contact Denise Tosdevine the Supervisor on 07771 798 474. Pictured are the staff looking really glamorous preparing for the big day but with tissues at the ready!



Norma's Nature Notes

The weeks without rain seem like months, but today, 29th June it is raining, really raining, and forecasted to rain all day. What joy! Were you brave enough to leap out of bed and, without dressing go to dance on the withered lawn to soak up and praise this essential element for all life on Earth?

We have been saving every drop of kitchen water for the garden and are shocked by how much we usually waste down the plughole. Remember the summer of 1976? We had months of drought starting the previous winter and continuing through the spring into summer. There was a hosepipe ban, many areas had long periods without water with the provision of standpipes in the streets and in August the Government passed The Drought Act. A slogan "Save water, bath with a friend" was seen in many places and to make matters worse a prolonged heat wave began around Midsummer Day. Temperatures were unbearable with a recording in Southampton

of 35.9C on 28th June. We were living in a house in Chandler's Ford and used gravity to syphon bath water into wheelbarrows to water the garden. We can't do that in our bungalow.

When the present heat wave began we were in Northumberland and grateful for temperatures of 21C. This is a great place for walking, white sandy beaches and opportunities to see wildlife, in particular the Farne Islands during the seabird breeding season. This group of islands, a few miles off shore are teeming with thousands of nesting birds and their young. To be surrounded by a mixture of calls and masses of birds flying in all directions is an experience not to be missed. We landed on the main island, Inner Farne, wearing hats to protect our heads from Arctic Terns who will attack with a nasty stab of their beak if they feel their young are in danger. They are beautiful birds with white grey and black plumage and blood red legs and bill. Known as swallows of the sea due to their graceful flight and tail feathers they make the longest journey of any other bird between the

Arctic and Antarctic, a double journey each year.

While at Alnwick Garden we spotted a white chaffinch flying among trees and landing on the ground to feed. The bird was white all over apart from its distinctive wing bars. At first glance it could have been mistaken for a snow bunting but that bird is larger and heavier and would have been out of place here. Many birds have some white feathers where they shouldn't be, a condition known as leucism in which there is partial loss of pigmentation.

Locally, the house martins, like many migrant birds, arrived late but have successfully produced eighteen broods nesting on properties near the fields in the Plovers Down area. Soon they will fly south and their pretty tinkling sounds will be missed. Red kites too have been spotted overhead, so look heavenswards when you are outside.

Norma Goodwin

norma.goodwin@btinternet.com



Winchester Local Group Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust

Come and join us on our events this autumn to find out more about British wildlife including the magnificent trees in the New Forest and our delightful Ladybirds. Our indoor meetings are held in the Bushfield Room at Badger Farm Community Centre at the far end of Sainsbury's car park .(SO22 4QB). Non- members are always very welcome. For further information about the Group please phone Loraine on 01962 861182 or email Anne - atardill2@gmail.com. Alternatively you can visit the Trust website at www.hiwwt.org.uk/whats-on

<p>Wed 12th September 7.30 – 9.30 pm</p>	<p>Ancient and Veteran - Trees of the New Forest Join Hannah Chalmers, Tree Officer for the New Forest National Park Authority, for an illustrated talk on some of the most notable trees in the Forest including the Knightwood Oak which has been a tourist attraction since Victorian times and why these magnificent trees are so important for biodiversity/wildlife. Admission £4 to include coffee/tea.</p>
<p>Wed 10th October 7.30 – 9.30 pm,</p>	<p>Ladybirds Bryan Pinchen will be sharing his expert knowledge with us in an illustrated talk about this delightfully endearing beetle, beloved from an early age. He will describe some of the many different species of ladybirds living in Great Britain - not all of them are brightly coloured and spotty! However ladybirds do have their enemies - join us to find out more. For further information, Admission £4 to include coffee/tea.</p>
<p>Sun 28th October 10 am – 3 pm</p>	<p>Ode to Autumn Join Martin Keys and Helen Short for a walk of 3-4 miles based on the Mills and Meadows Itchen Navigation circular trail, to enjoy autumn colours and wildlife on some of the Trust's Winchester reserves and in the Itchen valley. Meet in parking area 5 of the St Catherine's Park and Ride, Winchester (map ref SU 487 281, postcode SO23 9NP, entrance via Garnier Road or Bar End Road). Bring a snack for a coffee stop. Sorry, no dogs. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440 or Martin on 01962 842610. Suggested donation £4.</p>
<p>Wed 14th November 7.30 – 9.30 pm</p>	<p>Birds and Mammals of Estonia Join bird expert Andy Lester for an illustrated talk on the simply amazing variety of birds and mammals to be found in this small Baltic country with its great natural beauty of lakes and bogs, thick forest, flowery meadows and a splendid coastline. Huge numbers of migratory birds pass through the country adding to the rich diversity of Estonia's very special wildlife. Admission £4 to include coffee/tea.</p>



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