

Community News

Your Community Newsletter and Village Voice
Spring 2013 Edition

NEWS FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY

As I write this, the snow is still falling; I measured it on the driveway and it's about 4 inches, whatever that is in cms. I wish we could make up our minds, it's so confusing to people like me.

Aren't we lucky to live in such a peaceful part of the Country, but we must not be complacent. As many of you know, the whole of the fields alongside the recreation ground are owned by a developer who is desperate to seek planning permission. Already they have carried out traffic surveys at the junction with Badger Farm Road. In discussions with the City Council, they have been advised that it is unlikely that planning permission will be granted, but never say never, so we must be prepared for the future.

So, what does living in Oliver's Battery mean to so many people? Many of you will have different thoughts - I for one value the fact that I live in the country but am still in touch with the City, albeit with a much reduced bus service. This is something that we as a Parish Council continue to keep a close eye on. It may be easy for the top end of the Battery to walk to the main road, but not so easy for those of you, including me, who live at the bottom of Old Kennels Lane. Despite continuing dialogue with Stagecoach it is unlikely to change as they regard it as a loss making route.

The shops continue to flourish and the Church has activities most evenings of the week, talking of which, the working party looking at the viability of improving the Church have now had several meetings and all of you will shortly be receiving a questionnaire through your door asking for your thoughts.

What have we got planned in the Battery this year? Well unfortunately last year rather overstretched us. You will remember we ran three very successful events cumulating in the Fete, and we finally got the Recreation Ground improvements under way. No mean feat for a very small band of willing helpers. Despite repeated requests for volunteers to help, it was still the same old few who came forward. This year we are hoping to run a smaller event on the Battery on either the 2nd or 3rd June to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, so watch out for the posters.

Lastly, elections for a new Parish Council take place in May, so I would like to say thank you to those that are not standing for re-election for the support they have given to the Parish over the past three years. It's also time for me to say goodbye and thank you for the support that you have given me over the past 20 years on the Parish Council.

Terry Morris ~ Chair, Oliver's Battery Parish Council

BF & OB RCA, Badger Farm Community Centre, Badger Farm Road, Winchester, SO22 4QB
Tel. 01962 868630 ~ Email: bfobrca@btinternet.com ~ Registered Charity No. 279592

Editorial deadline for Summer 2013 issue: **Friday 10th May 2013**





THE PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST MARK WINCHESTER



Caring for the Communities of Badger Farm, Oliver's Battery & Stanmore

From the desk of Rev'd Mike Gardner, Vicar of St Luke's Stanmore with St Mark's Oliver's Battery
St Luke's Vicarage, Mildmay Street, Winchester SO22 4BX.
Tel. 01962 865240 ~ revd.mike@yahoo.co.uk

Greetings from the keys of Rev'd. Mike's desk ... February 2013

All too soon the year is running away with us and before we know it ... it's EASTER ... below are the services in St Luke's and St Mark's over the busy Easter Week and if you need more information then please get in touch ... If you want to just give us a try then 10.00am on Sunday 24th at St Luke's and/or 10.00am on Friday 29th at St Mark's would be most interesting and of course any of the services on Easter Day. Fewer words this time but more information ... every blessing Mike.

Easter Week 2013 (24th to 31st March)

Palm Sunday: 08.00am St Mark's Communion Service with Blessing of Palms
10.00am St Luke's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem **Luke@10**
6.30pm St Luke's Communion Service with Blessing of Palms
Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday: **7.00pm St Mark's** Preached Communion Service
Maundy Thursday: 10.00am St Mark's Communion with Washing
7.00pm St Luke's Communion with Washing and Stripping of Sanctuary and Watch till 9.00pm
Good Friday: 10.00am St Mark's Service for All
2.00pm St Mark's Solemn Hour before the Cross
7.00pm St Luke's Who held the 'Nail'? (*Character readings of those at the cross*)
Easter Eve Saturday: 7.00pm St Luke's A hour before the Tomb (*reflective silents*)
Easter Day: 08.00am St Mark's Communion with Blessing of Easter Candle
09.30am St Luke's Communion with Lighting of Easter fire & Candle
11.15am St Mark's Service for All
6.30pm St Mark's 'Easter Praise' of Hymns and Readings

~ 0 ~

St Mark's Church	St Luke's Church
Oliver's Battery Road South	Mildmay Street
Oliver's Battery	Stanmore
Winchester	Winchester
SO22 4EZ	SO22 4BX



URGENT APPEAL FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS!!

A friendship club for older people in Badger Farm is urgently appealing for volunteers to come forward to help keep the club open. Brendoncare Badger Farm Club meet on alternate Thursday's 2pm-4pm at Badger Farm Community Centre. The clubs operate on the premise that prevention is better than cure. Recent studies show that loneliness and isolation have a detrimental effect on our health. The clubs offer a varied programme of activities, ranging from Tai Chi, specially choreographed for the older participant, to guest speakers.

Locality Manager Catherine Fellingham commented, "The club is great fun with a regular group of members supporting. We all have a good chat and get together over a cup of tea. Sadly ill health has forced a number of our volunteers to step down. If we don't find new volunteers soon we may have to close."

"We need enthusiastic volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds but we have an urgent need for a leader, treasurer, transport coordinator and activity planner at Badger Farm. As an accredited Investors in Volunteers organisation we are committed to providing outstanding training and support for all our volunteers. Many of our volunteers have supported us year after year and have found the experience incredibly rewarding." Brendoncare the Winchester based charity run over 50 friendship and well-being clubs for older members of our communities.

If you could spare a few hours a week to help run a club then please telephone Catherine on 07522 596793 for a no obligation chat. Or alternatively visit www.brendoncare.org.uk for more details.

COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm - 4.00pm	Elizabeth Weir 01962 856689 lizbethweir@gmail.com	£5 per person	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
Brendon Care Badger Farm Friendly Group	Alternate Thursdays	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Catherine Fellingham 01962 877772	£3.00 per session	Friendship for older people. Quizzes, speakers, outings, afternoon tea. New members and volunteers 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	£3.95 per hour	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!
Brownies	Thursday	6.15pm - 7.45pm During Term Time	To register an interest visit: www.girlguiding.org.uk/ interested	£35 per Term	For girls aged 7 to 10 years. 07708 217 957 11.wincity.brownies@gmail.com
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10.00am - 11.00am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service. All welcome.
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	2nd Wed. of the month	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Loraine Martin 01962 861182	£2.50 per meeting	Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Contact Loraine for details.
Jo Jingles	Tuesday	9.45am - 10.30am 10.45am - 11.30am	Victoria Smith 01489 877278		Music & Movement for children from the age of 1 year.
Legs, Bums & Tums	Monday Tuesday	9.30am - 10.30am 6.45pm - 7.45pm	Catherine Jones 07990 513 434	£4.00 per class	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned!
National Federation of Spiritual Healers	2nd Saturday of every month.	10.00am - 12.30pm	Doreen Rivett 01980 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 & Tots	Thursday	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Liz Lindsay 01962 866547	£2 per family per session	All parents, guardians and child minders with children aged newborn to 5 years are welcome. Just turn up on the day!
Royal British Legion	3rd Thursday monthly	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ruth Harrison 01962 881737		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
Slimming World	Saturday	9.30am - 1.30pm	Steve Coombs 07788 683 077		A warm welcome awaits you in your local group! New members always welcome.
Tea Dance	Friday	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Ian & Joan Millar 01962 854542	£4 per session	A chance to practice your Ballroom and Latin American dances in a relaxed and friendly occasion with tea and cakes.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.00am - 11.00am 6.15pm - 7.45pm	0845 073 0460	Weekly meeting fee of £5.99	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 Country Market	Friday	8.30am - 11.00am	Mrs Tina Sharpe 01962 855977		Fresh produce, cakes and preserves, crafts and plants. All welcome!
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Chris Barrett info@winchestertkd.co.uk	Membership by subscription	6.30pm-7.45pm beginners/intermediates 7pm-8.30pm seniors (black belts to 9pm)
Yoga	Monday Tuesday Friday	9.30am - 11.00am 5.30pm - 7.00pm 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.
ZUMBA	Wednesday	1.30pm - 2.30pm	Debbie Woodley 07724 136 428 debbie.woodley@ talk21.com	£5 per session	Effective and exhilarating way to tone the body with exercise to lively Latin rhythms using easy to follow steps.

This table provides details of some of the activities that take place at Badger Farm Community Centre. Other hirers may have chosen not to have their details shown above. If you are looking for an activity and you can't see it here, please call Jan, the Bookings Secretary on 01962 868630.

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CITY COUNCILLORS BRIAN LAMING & LYNDA BANISTER REPORT.....

It's been a busy time for your local Councillors since the last issue of the Community News. Here are some of the things that we have been working on recently.

Brian arranged for Badger Farm Parish Council to visit Shawford Down with City and County Council officers to see the different type of land management used there. During the visit the Parish Councillors talked to people using the down for walking and exercising their dogs. They were very interested in three highland cattle used for winter grazing. Local children, in particular, enjoy their presence and know the animals by their names, Fred, Wilma and Heather! Local residents told us that they miss the cattle in the Summer when they are moved to a different site as part of the management plan. The general feeling was that the new type of stewardship has improved the bio diversity of the area, increasing the number of insects, (including butterflies), bird life and different types of wild flowers.

We are now well into the City's tree reduction plan for Badger Farm and it is beginning to show benefits. The first part of the work on the Ridgeway path at the back of Wheatland Close to Silverwood Close has been well received and people have told me that they feel a lot safer at night on the path. When last seen the contractors were working on the central area.

The latest update on the proposed Housing Development to the south of Oliver's Battery is that the developers have now completed a traffic survey of the junction of Oliver's Battery Road and Badger Farm Road. We now await the outcome of the report and their next move. It is important to remember that the land is designated as countryside and is outside the development boundary. The Government Inspector's report is expected to agree that Winchester Council's Core Strategy has allocated enough land for development and that no further sites are needed in the next 20 years. If you would like to receive email updates on this, or any other subject, please email blaming@winchester.gov.uk to be put on the list.

Oliver's Battery residents suffered a prolonged power failure recently when some electricity cables fell down into a garden in Plovers Way. This was clearly a very frightening experience for the residents. Lynda has been assured that the cables along that stretch of the footpath were all checked at the time the repair was completed, are to current specifications, and are safe. It seems that this was a freak accident but because the cables run beside the footpath and very close to homes, it is to be designated high risk and will receive an annual inspection.

In response to a letter from Lynda to the Chief Superintendent of Police in Winchester, the neighbourhood team has investigated the problems with highway obstructions in South View Road. A plan to reduce the inconvenience to residents has been agreed and we will be monitoring its effectiveness over the coming months.

Whilst walking around Badger Farm Brian has noticed the very large amount of dog poo that is blighting the area. It is now appearing in amongst the children's play areas which is totally unacceptable. It is also on all the paths which are used by parents and children going to and from school. Whilst the majority of dog owners clean up after their pets, there is an increasing number that do not. The Dog Warden does visit the area and can fine offenders. There has been a similar problem in Oliver's Battery which does seem to be improving.

We are pleased to report that the late night bus service is becoming more and more popular. It needs to be used as much as possible to ensure that the service is continued after the first 12 months trial period. We must say a big thank you to Charlotte Bailey and Brian Colin for all their hard work in getting the grants to start the service and persuading Hampshire County Council to organise it.

Finally, the Community News is an important way of keeping the community aware of the local events and activities which take place in the Community Centre and the local area. It is for all of Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm so please send in articles and information for publication. The Community News is printed and distributed by the Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm Community Association and, vitally, is supported financially by the two Parish Councils. Without this support it would not be possible for it to continue.

City Cllr Brian Laming 0797 3265 028 blaming@winchester.gov.uk

City Cllr Lynda Banister 01962 853791 ibanister@winchester.gov.uk



OLIVER'S BATTERY WI

Oliver's Battery WI have a number of activities organised including a trip to see the snowdrops at Welford Park and a tarmari ball workshop. Our programme for March and April is as follows:

19 March 2013 ~ Astronomy: Journey to the Stars ~Mr R Gorman

16 April 2013 ~ 'What on earth do you want to keep goats for?' ~ Mary Dore

6 May 2013 ~ Our annual plant and cake sale at St Mark's, Oliver's Battery

Oliver's Battery WI meet on the third Tuesday evening of the month – 7.45pm in St Mark's Church, Oliver's Battery.

Please contact Cathy Winter for further information on 01962 620250.

COME AND SING!



Come and sing folk music from around the world! No experience necessary and beginners are welcome. Come along and have a go!

Fridays - 7.15pm-9.00pm at St Mark's Church, Oliver's Battery - £5.00 per week

For more information visit www.singwinchester.com, call/text Jacqueline on 07941 246 685 or email jac@singwinchester.com.

Stanmore Primary School

Be the best that you can be...

Fun on the Farm – Thick snow and very icy conditions in January couldn't dent the air of excitement as our Year 5 children boarded the coach for their week long residential stay at the Out Of Town Centre in Beaulieu. During an action packed few days, the children fed and mucked out the animals, built survival shelters in the forest, had a close encounter with a Falcon, studied the speed and flow of a river, took part in the famous 'Beaulieu's Got Talent' competition and of course discovered that they could cope living away from home for a whole week. A great time was had by all....!

Whooshing around on the water – Whilst the children at Beaulieu potted about in the forest streams, their fellow pupils back at school were discovering what happens when a river meets the sea. Emerging from the River Itchen to hurtle around Southampton Sound in a speed boat was certainly an unforgettable way to realise just what is meant by the mouth of the river. 'It was the best school trip ever!' 'We went so fast, the spray was amazing' 'We jumped over the waves – it was soooo cool'

I have a cunning plan.... to make sure you find my books really interesting..... Judging by the length of the queue waiting to have their books signed, author and actor Tony Robinson, aka Baldrick from Blackadder had succeeded! In an animated and hilarious presentation, Mr Robinson rattled through various large historical empires, stopping along the way to construct a pyramid, drag a half dead person from the audience and prepare them for Mummification (poor Mrs Reed!), and aided by a very speedy Stanmore pupil, also managed a quick whizz through the very first Olympic games! Many thanks to St Peter's School for inviting us along to join in the fun.

You shall go to the ball! Inspired by their visit to the Theatre Royal to watch Aladdin, our Year 1/2 children have been busy devising their own production of Cinderella. Writing the script, sourcing costumes, learning lines – it's been a whirlwind of creativity but was well worth it when they presented the finished show to their parents. Oh no it wasn't! Oh YES it was!

Drop in for a coffee – Want to find out more about life at Stanmore School or the school curriculum? If you're a parent of a child at Stanmore School why not pop along on the last Tuesday of each month to The Orchard Room at 9am and join Mrs Barnett and fellow Stanmore parents for a coffee and a chat.

Looking forward to.... Spring has arrived and our Reception children are eagerly anticipating their visit to Laverstoke Park as part of their farm topic. Many thanks to Sainsbury's Badger Farm for their generous sponsorship of this trip.

Dates for your diary – Our Summer Fair will be on Friday June 21st from 3:20pm until 5pm. Make a note of the date now!

For details of all the latest happenings at school, visit our website at: www.stanmore.hants.sch.uk And if you would like to visit the school, please call 01962 852941 to make an appointment. Our Acting Head, Mr Darren Nickerson would be delighted to show you round.

SPRING NEWS AT THE CARROLL CENTRE

Carroll Centre
Registered Charity: 1007973

There's lots going on at the Carroll Centre this Spring. Every Tuesday- Friday we have our Community Library Café running from 10am-2pm. On Thursday there's Job Club from 10am-12pm or Parents and Tots from 10.30am-12.30pm. We now have the Stanmore Community Library at the Centre and it opens from 10am-2.30pm every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 10am-5pm on Thursday. So drop in and enjoy a cup of coffee and a homemade cake whilst you choose a book, magazine or DVD from the library. No library card, no problem, just ask one of our library volunteers how to sign up.

On Tuesday we have Tots Dance, a new session aimed at 3-4 year olds from 1.30pm-2.30pm during term time – only £1.50 per family – parents/carers and younger siblings are all welcome to join in. Easter holidays are also busy. The Carroll Centre Ofsted registered Easter Holiday Playscheme will run from Tuesday 2nd-Friday 12th April from 9am-4.30pm. As well as a choice of activities every day, a healthy lunch is provided all for only £20 per day. Half-day sessions also available. On Friday 5th and Friday 12th April we have FREE Big Lottery Funded school holiday play evenings (6.30pm-8.30pm) for primary aged children. The sessions include sports, crafts and cooking activities. The Carroll Centre is on the lookout for parent volunteers to support these sessions. If you are interested please contact the Carroll Centre on T. 01962 840022 or E. c.y.c@btconnect.com – we look forward to hearing from you ☺

Ofsted registered Poppins After School Care collects from all local primary schools and is open until 6pm with reduced rates for collection by 5pm. With a choice of activities, healthy snack and tea there's lots of fun to be had. Spaces currently available. There's lots going on in the evenings too. Tuesdays from 7pm-9pm is open to 11-13 years, Thursdays from 7pm-9pm is open to 14+ years and Fridays from 6.30pm-8.30pm is Primary Youth night open to YR-6. An Under 25's session runs every Friday afternoon at the re:fresh Youth Cafe.

For more details contact the Carroll Centre on: T. 01962 840022, E. c.y.c@btconnect.com or W. www.thecarrollcentre.org.

For further information please contact: Jool Heller-Dixon, Head of Centre, Tel. 01962 840022 E. c.y.c@btconnect.com

The Carroll Centre, Somers Close, Stanmore, Winchester, SO22 4EJ



WINCHESTER SUPPORT GROUP

The National Osteoporosis Society offers support to people with osteoporosis and their families and carers through a range of detailed information booklets and leaflets, a national telephone helpline and a network of regional support groups. The Winchester Support Group meetings are held in a friendly atmosphere for support, advice and information. Members are welcome to bring family and friends as guests. Meetings take place on alternate months at their **NEW VENUE** - St. Peter's Pastoral Centre (opposite the Library Discovery Centre,) Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. Support group contacts are Liz on 01962 861918 and Pam on 01962 866152. The programme for the first part of 2013 is below:

Tuesday 12 March at 7.00pm ~ "10th Anniversary Support Group Conference" at Winchester Hotel and Spa, Worthy Road, Winchester, SO23 7AB. Speakers are Professor Syrus Cooper, Professor Sue Lanham-New and Dr Annie Cooper

Thursday 4 April at 7.00pm ~ "Better Balance for Life" ~ Speaker is Sophie Jevensons. Learn about the nationwide project promoting exercise to do at home or within the community

Thursday 6 June at 2.30pm (for preparation of food) ~ "Fundraising Strawberry Tea" ~ 3.30pm to share scones, strawberries and cream and cups of tea with friends and family.

The National Telephone Helpline number is 0845 450 0230 and is staffed by osteoporosis nurse advisors. It is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Contact the National Osteoporosis Society, Camerton, Bath, BA2 0PJ, telephone 01761 471771 or 0845 1303076 ~ www.nos.org.uk ~ email info@nos.org.uk



Quiz Night

With a French Flavour!

Shawford Village
Hall SO212QG

**Friday 22 March
at 7pm**

Tickets £15
To include supper
Cash bar

Email: julietahawkes@aol.com

Proceeds for Sporting Activities



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WINCHESTER & DISTRICT BRANCH NEW MEMBERS WELCOME



The Royal British Legion was formed by Earl Haig in 1921 for the benefit of Ex-Servicemen and Women. They have 7 homes and 3 convenience homes which are now known as "Poppy Breaks." In 1970 the Queen, in recognition of the work they do, granted them the "Royal" seal of approval.

Local meetings are held in Badger Farm Community Centre every third Thursday at 7.30pm in The Whiteshute Room from January to November. Anybody wishing to attend would get a very warm welcome.

Anyone can join the Legion - whether or not you have a connection with the Armed Forces. As well as providing financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and their dependants, the Royal British Legion is one of the country's largest membership organisations with over 400,000 members nationwide and overseas.

For further information please contact:
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Winchester Citygate Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

Partners and Community Together - (PACT)

PUBLIC MEETING

Come and meet your local police team, get updates and have your say.

Monday 25th March 2013 at 7.15pm

At St. Cross Hospital (Hundred Mens Hall)

A meeting to discuss your priorities for your area to enable the police to set priorities for the next 3 months.

Areas discussed will be: St. Cross, Stanmore, Oliver's Battery, Badger Farm, plus surrounding areas.

We hope to see you there!



To report anti-social behaviour
and neighbourhood issues, call 101.



In an emergency, dial 999.



Legs, Bums and Tums
Fun Exercise Classes
at Badger Farm Community Centre

Come along and enjoy our friendly and effective classes. The classes combine cardio and conditioning work and are suitable for all abilities. Improve your body shape and improve your fitness levels. Monday mornings 9.30-10.30 (termtime only) and Tuesday evenings 6.45-7.45 at Badger Farm Community Centre.. Other daytime classes available at different venues. Cost of class £4.00 per session. Any enquiries to Catherine Jones 07990 513434 or cathjones@talktalk.net Fully qualified Aerobics Instructor and member of REPS Register Of Exercise Professionals.

BADGER FARM SOCIAL CLUB



Once again a new year has started and we are left to reflect on another very successful festive season at the Badger Farm Social Club. This year the traditional kids Christmas Party was made even more special by a magic show from our friends at the magic circle who baffled and amazed children and parents alike. In fact some of the parents were so fascinated that they stayed for the evening show of music, close up magic and merriment. Though the Chairman's infamous mulled wine may have helped too! We must also thank the many sponsors who provided prizes for the annual Christmas Draw including Winchester Automatics, Wessex Wargamers and Sainsbury's Badger Farm & Sainsbury's Winchester.

New year saw a glamorous evening of music and dance with evening dress very much in evidence as the members saw in 2013 in style.

Our sports teams have continued to thrive with men's and ladies darts, pool teams (on a brand new table) and the cribbage team all making a good start to the year. The football team have had the best start to a season they have ever seen, but we are always on the lookout for new players, so if you are a budding Messi or Walcott and have some free time on a Wednesday evening just come and talk to the staff who will put you in touch with the team.

As for other sport, with Six Nations Rugby, Champions League Football, Premier League, Aviva Rugby, cricket, darts and many more televised sports we are as busy as ever. If you were wondering what it is like in the Club, why not drop in during a televised England game in the six nations and enjoy the rare treat of **£2 a pint** on our draught beer for the duration of the game! Or you could catch up on other news and sport using the free wi-fi!

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http://bfsc.org.uk

email info@bfsc.org.uk

STOP PRESS! On 4 May at Badger Farm Social Club, 24 players from the Winchester Darts League will be taking part in a Ryder Cup style event to raise money for the Magic Wand Appeal which is based at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. People are welcome to come along and support the players and we are hopeful of announcing more news on this event very soon.



WINCHESTER'S BEST KEPT SECRET

So many people do not realise just what the weekly Country Market does - with beautiful handmade craft, wonderful home grown cut flowers and plants, cakes to make your mouth water and fresh vegetables in season. There is also a wide choice of home made chutneys, pickles and jams and fresh eggs. Goods and produce can be made to order and even delivered to your local area for a small charge.

Winchester Country Market is held weekly on a Friday at Badger Farm Community Centre from 8.30am to 11.00am. Why not pay a visit to find out more? If you would like more information please telephone 01962 866340.

Dates for your diary:

Winchester Country Market Easter Fayre
Saturday 23 March from 10.00am
Lots to see and buy plus art & craft demonstrations

Maundy Thursday Market
Thursday 28 March

(no Market Friday 29 March)



 **ZUMBA®** Ditch the workout, join the party!™
fitness **AT BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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WEDNESDAYS - 1:30 – 2:30 pm

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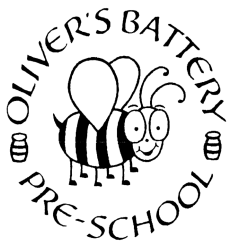
WINCHESTER CHARITY TUNES UP FOR THE NEW YEAR!

A Winchester charity is aiming to start 2013 on a high note with a new singing group for people with memory loss. Singing for Wellbeing will be hosted by the Winchester Live at Home Scheme at the United Church on Jewry Street every Monday from 11am-12.30pm. The class will complement the charity's Memory Café, run in conjunction with the Winchester Dementia Support Group, which offers support for people dealing with all types of dementia.

Claire Morgan, manager of the WLAHS, said: "The Memory Café provides an important chance for carers, family and friends, volunteers and those suffering with dementia to share experiences and chat over a coffee. "We hope our new singing class will also provide an opportunity for older people with memory loss to meet and sing together in a social and stimulating environment."

The Live at Home Scheme, which supports older people living in their own homes, runs its Memory Café on the first Friday of every month from 10.30am-12.30pm, also at the United Church. Refreshments are provided at both the Memory Café and Singing for Wellbeing. A donation of £4 is suggested for the singing class.

For more information on the Live at Home Scheme's clubs and activities ring 01962 890995, email office@wlahs.org or visit www.wlahs.org.



OLIVER'S BATTERY PRE SCHOOL

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - 9.00-3.15

Thursday and Friday - 9.00-12.30 (we may offer a Thursday pm session if there is a demand for this)

We now offer various drop-off and collection times. Children can attend a morning, afternoon or all-day session.

Staff to child ratio 1-6 over three and 1-4 under three

We are situated in the beautiful landscaped grounds of Oliver's Battery Primary School in our own purpose built building and have an all weather outdoor play area with play equipment. Our staff are all qualified in childcare to a high standard and have many years experience of working with children. We have an open door policy and welcome all children regardless of what school they will attend.

We provide a safe and stimulating environment for all children to develop at their own pace and operate a key-worker system. We were inspected by OFSTED in February 2009 and rated as "Outstanding." To view the whole OFSTED report, visit the website www.ofsted.gov.uk or collect a copy from the Pre School.

"Children's needs are met very well and they thoroughly enjoy their time in the setting."

"Excellent learning opportunities help to meet the needs of all children and keep them actively engaged."

"The capacity to maintain continuous improvement is excellent because of rigorous monitoring of children's progress and of their activities to ensure that these meet children's needs."

Each child is entitled to 15 free funded hours a week (for 38 weeks a year) from the term after their third birthday. For non funded children our fees are £4.35 per hour. Payment can be made weekly, monthly or termly. Please contact Jackie Johnston for further details on 07941 796 958 or email oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com.



DO YOU HAVE A BIG FUNDRAISING IDEA?

At Oliver's Battery Preschool we are still busy raising money for our much-needed new building. The preschool achieved 'outstanding' in its most recent Ofsted inspection but we desperately want to give our children a bigger, better equipped environment in which they will continue to thrive.

Coming up we'll be holding our Community Bake-Off, so get your rolling pins at the ready and we'll also be having a Craft Fair which will showcase some great local talent. But, do you have a great fundraising idea to share with us? Maybe you have always wanted to jump out of a plane or abseil down a building and would like to donate your sponsorship money to us! We would love to hear from anyone who might take on a challenge for us. Simply get in touch at oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com We would also be pleased to take any spare Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers off your hands. If you would like to donate them to us please contact Karen on 01962 890380 or email us and we will arrange to collect them from you.



AN UPDATE FROM STEVE BRINE, MP FOR WINCHESTER

The community of Oliver's Battery has been prominent in my thinking of late as a number of key local issues have cropped up.

I was visited recently at my weekly surgery, held at the Discovery Centre in Winchester, by representatives of the Oliver's Battery Pre-School. They wanted to brief me on ambitious plans to replace the ageing and unsuitable building with something modern and fit for purpose. As a father of two little ones myself – as well as your local MP – I was very interested to hear about this and want to do all I can to help. I subsequently visited the pre-school and if I couldn't see the problem before, I am more with the plan now than ever before! I am aware a recent Ofsted graded the facility outstanding and of course I know what happens inside our education settings is more important than the buildings around them but if we teach our young people in conditions not as good as we would like, we are letting them down and I know this community will pull together and leave no stone unturned in meeting the ambition of a new pre-school for Oliver's Battery in the (hopefully) near future.

That is why I was equally pleased at an even more recent surgery to meet the Chair of your Parish Council, the brilliant Terry Morris, to hear of their plans for the future of communal life in the village and the residents questionnaire currently underway. Seems to me there has to be full community-wide solution to the long-term future of St Mark's and the pre-school and I was fascinated to talk it through with Terry and, in-turn as we move into the future, his colleagues on the parish. I know elsewhere in the magazine you will be able to find details of how to complete the survey but for ease, you can go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/2F9GT7M. We also discussed the seemingly never-ending threat of hundreds of houses being built on the edge of the village and I remain committed, as my predecessor was, to fighting any such plans side by side with residents.



Warmer days! Steve pictured with Terry Morris and Popcorn at Oliver's Battery.

Finally, it was an absolute pleasure last month to visit Oliver's Battery Primary School. I aim to get to know every single school in my constituency and it was great to meet Sue Mudie, hear a bit about the history of your school and to have a good look round. I visited in the week of Chinese New Year so it was reassuring to find Chinese words being written and even noodles being brought to the boil. Another class were learning how to make sandwiches and another were hearing how cupcakes are made so I am confident there are few empty tummies at Oli B Primary School! It was also lovely to take questions from one class of children who asked, with the vigour and commitment I find everywhere in local schools, their usual wide array of questions. My favourite remains 'do you work for the Queen' to which, in case you wondered, in a roundabout way I suppose I do! Anyway, what a lovely school and thank you to all staff and pupils for giving me such a warm welcome on such a cold (and snowy day).

On top of all of this, my work in Westminster continues at pace. Supporting the Prime Minister where I think he is doing the right thing by our country, such as reducing the EU budget and paying down this country's debts, and challenging him where I think he's off the mark or proposing things that are wrong. My work within the field of health policy, and especially the fight against breast cancer continues and by the time you read this I hope to have secured a full debate on the subject in the House of Commons.

There remains a huge amount of information about my work locally and in Westminster at www.stevebrine.com and if you have a smart-phone you can now download my App via that site.

Steve Brine ~ MP for Winchester & Chandler's Ford
01962 791110 (constituency) ~ 0207 219 7189 (House of Commons)
Email: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk ~ Website: www.stevebrine.com ~ Steve Brine TV: www.stevebrine.tv



"Fit For Life" Exercise Plus

Every Thursday ~ 2.30pm - 3.30pm ~ St Mark's Church, Oliver's Battery

After a fall, exercise is key in aiding your recovery.

Join our exercise class which is taught by a qualified postural stability instructor who is also a registered nurse. This class is specifically designed for those who are recovering from a fall and works together with the exercises prescribed by the RHCH Falls Clinic. £12 per month.

Please contact the office for further details:
Winchester Live at Home Scheme
The United Church, Jewry Street,
Winchester, SO23 8RZ

Tel. 01962 890995 - Email: office@wlahs.org
Website: www.wlahs.org

Supported by:



The set up of this new class has been possible through the support of the WCC Small Grants Scheme



BADGER FARM ART GROUP

Do you enjoy drawing and painting?
Why not join our friendly art group on Thursday afternoons at Badger Farm Community Centre?
All levels of skill and experience welcome.
Sessions run by professional artist.
Further details from Liz Weir
Tel. 01962 856689 ~ Mobile 07783 695 220
Email lizabethweir@gmail.com



We are a small, friendly group of people who meet every Wednesday at Badger Farm Community Centre during term time to study intermediate level Spanish. We are very keen to welcome new members to our informal classes so, if you are interested, please email Pam Holland on [pозzie_pam@hotmail.com](mailto:pozzie_pam@hotmail.com) or contact Jan at the Community Centre on 01962 868630.



Badger Farm Toddlers

Thursdays 13:30 – 15:00

Badger Farm Community Centre

 For latest information, follow us @ToddlersBF

2013 Dates

Feb	07 14 28
Mar	07 14 21 28
Apr	18 25
May	02 09 16 23
Jun	06 13 20 27
Jul	04 11 18

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Is a house full of pre-schoolers driving you mad?

Grandchildren need some entertainment?

2013 Dates

Sep	05 12 19 26
Oct	03 10 17 24
Nov	07 14 21 28
Dec	05 12 19

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Call Liz on 01962 866547 for details, or just turn up on the day – the kettle's always on

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Thursday – Friday ~ 9.15 – 12.15

Cost ~ £3.95 per hour

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

Ideally situated in the Community Centre next to Sainsbury's, with a sports hall for physical play and an all-weather outside area with a variety of play equipment. Our staff are highly experienced and qualified and we ensure a high ratio of 1:6 enabling plenty of individual time and attention.

“Children benefit from a range of highly stimulating activities and show exceptional motivation to participate and learn, creating an atmosphere full of excitement, fun and purposeful play.”

The playgroup operates an open door policy so please feel free to call in at any time and see us in action or call the playgroup supervisor Mrs Denise Tosdevine on 07771 798 474 out of playgroup hours.

Maid Marian



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County Councillor Charlotte Bailey reports on Local Matters:-

I am a strong believer in the benefits of having libraries – as many as possible! I visit the Discovery Centre frequently but also get books from my local mobile library. Now I have started to get books from the new library at the Carroll Centre in Somers Close, Stanmore. With the recent cuts, Stanmore Library was due to close but local Councillors worked hard to find a new home for it and it now uses volunteers to keep it open. Why not give it a visit? It is easy walking distance, particularly from Badger Farm, and for those not able to walk there is a free car park. Although small it has a good stock of books and anything you want can be ordered in.

By the time you read this the new Hockley Viaduct cycle and pedestrian route from Bushfield roundabout to Winchester will be open. The new path goes along the edge of a field in Itchen Farm and then down to the viaduct. There are stunning views over to St Catherine's Hill. The viaduct has been restored and new views opened up as you go along. There is even an old signal to remind us that this was once the Didcot to Southampton railway. The other end of the Viaduct joins to paths along the navigation into Winchester. A great route for young and old, but if you have very young cyclists why not park in the Park and Ride on a Sunday when it is free with no buses to scare young cyclists. A relaxing cycle to the Farmers Market too.



A beautiful view from part of the new Hockley Viaduct.

If you have been in Badger Farm or Oliver's Battery during the day you may have noticed the Parish Lengthsman at work doing odd jobs on the pavements, or up on Whiteshute Ridge. For the last year Chris Sparkes has had the job of working for the Parish Councils for three days each season, doing all those jobs which the County or City Councils never quite got around to doing. Funded by the County Council this has been a great success and I hope that it will continue for another year. If you notice a dark corner that seems to have been neglected – do let me or your Parish Council know so we can get Chris on the job.

In the last Community News I reported on the County Council plans in case of bad weather and we have certainly had a lot of it! Generally a combination of gritting lorries and public spirited volunteers kept most of the streets passable but I have been asked for another grit bin near the Badger Farm Road underpass so do let me know of any others suggestions you have.

Do contact me to discuss these or any other issues.

Charlotte Bailey ~ 4, Grove Road, Shawford, Winchester, SO21 2DD
01962 713392 or 07711 613560 ~ charlotte.bailey@hants.gov.uk



BABY FIRST AID COURSES

NCT's brand new Baby First Aid courses have arrived to Winchester. NCT has teamed up with the British Red Cross to create the NCT Baby First Aid course. This unique course will give you the chance to learn and practice vital first aid skills that could one day save your child's life.

The NCT Baby First Aid courses will take place on Saturday 30 March at either 10:00-12:00 or 14:00-16:00 at Badger Farm Community Centre and we would like to invite you take part. The two hour course will be delivered by an expert British Red Cross trainer and topics covered generally include unconscious baby or child (breathing or not breathing), choking, bleeding, burns, raised temperatures . Every parent or carer has worries about facing an emergency situation involving their child. These courses will address your fears giving you practice in lifesaving techniques and opportunity to ask questions.

Places are limited so book on a course today to be sure of securing the chance to attend. To find out more information and to book, or if you would like to be kept informed about future NCT Baby First Aid courses please email firstaid@winchester-nct.org.uk.



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WHITESHUTE BRIDGE

We are a friendly club, playing duplicate bridge at Badger Farm Community Centre every Monday evening from 7 until 10 o'clock. We would very much welcome applications from pairs of experienced bridge players. Please contact Robin Eynon on 01962 853732 if you are interested.



**NATIONAL GARDEN
SCHEME OPEN GARDEN
IN OLIVER'S BATTERY**

On 27th, 28th and 31st July one of our local residential gardens opens for the first time on the National Garden Scheme (NGS). Not only will it prove to be a fun visit, there will be the usual tea/cake and plants for sale and you will also get the opportunity to meet its owner Susan Summers of Summers Garden Designs. Susan is passionate about plants and looks forward to meeting you and sharing her garden.

There are a few things still needed in preparation for the opening so if you have any unwanted tea/cake plates (good condition please) or a water urn that is not being used and would like to donate them, get in touch with Susan on 01962 877389 or susan@summersgd.co.uk.

Susan was also recently featured in the January issue of Hampshire Life. If you missed it go to her news page: www.summersgd.co.uk/news.php and click on the link HAMPSHIRE LIFE (JANUARY 2013) to read more.



**OLIVERS
BATTERY** WI

**PLANT
SALE**

**MONDAY
6TH MAY**

ST MARKS

10-12.30^{PM}



WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Springtime is on its way and with it comes the pleasure of getting out into the garden. There is plenty of work to be done, flower and vegetable seeds to be sown, early potatoes to be planted, new shoots to be protected from slugs, and perhaps the lawn mower needs some attention before we start using it, to name but a few. However, we can also allow ourselves some time off and what better way to spend it than to attend one of our friendly, interesting and inspiring monthly meetings. You would be most welcome. Visitors are free.

March 2013 (Wednesday, 13th) Our AGM will be followed by a talk by the local botanist Celia Cox on the interesting topic of "Plants which affect our lives." Our mini Spring Show featuring daffodils and narcissi will be held on the same evening.

April 2013 (Wednesday, 10th) Side-stepping from the strictly horticultural, Roger Buchanan will give a talk on mainly "Hampshire's butterflies" which promises to be very enjoyable.

May 2013 (Wednesday, 8th) One of our most favourite speakers, Ray Broughton, for many years Head of Horticulture at Sparsholt College, will return to impart this latest crop of "Topical tips and new ideas." If you like to be updated on what goes on in the horticultural world, this is the meeting not to be missed.

Our meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester, starting at 7.30pm. You can find out more about us on our website:

<http://www.winchesterhorticulturalsociety.hampshire.org.uk/>

ADVANCE NOTICE: Our annual **Plant Sale** will take place on **Saturday 11th May** at the Brooks Shopping Centre, 9.30am till 2.30pm.

We will be selling quality flower and vegetable plants grown by our members.



Oliver's Battery PRIMARY SCHOOL

Creative, caring and confident learners for life

Oliver's Battery School currently has 231 children on roll in 9 classes.

Highlights so far...

Last term we enjoyed many exciting events ranging from a Science trip at the Solent Skills Festival; cycle training for year 6; a visit to Winchester Cathedral; watery fun in the Kings' Swimming Club; choir singing at Sainsbury's; a very entertaining ukulele concert and beautiful creations from the sewing and knitting clubs. As ever our Christmas productions gave us much to be proud of with thanks to everyone who made them such a success.

Meanwhile...this term

We have some fantastic fundraisers in year 5/6 who are busily organising money raising activities for new goal posts for our school. So far their ideas include a fancy dress day, tombola, cake sale and a three legged race.

Down in Key Stage One

Our topic is Princes and Princesses. The children are learning and re-telling favourite traditional tales. This develops their story telling skills, growing their writing skills in the process. We are planning to have our own royal ball and banquet which will offer opportunities for invitations and letter writing. We are also spending some time learning about real life princes and princesses by studying the royal family tree.

And over in Key Stage Two

We have started our focus on 'Imaginary Worlds.' Helping develop the children's creative thinking we have been looking at extracts from the Harry Potter series, The Chronicles of Narnia and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children have already produced some phenomenal pieces of writing, and are currently working on producing their own imaginary worlds.

School Swimathon

Last October, Oliver's Battery School was thrilled to start a weekly swim club. Currently this comprises of 20 regular pupils. This has worked in very neatly with our year 5/6 Fitness for Life Topic. Our school is now 1 of 80 schools in England to register for the School Swimathon, a new initiative set up by Swimathon Foundation and the Amateur Swimming Association. Already, our children have done a 30 minute continuous swim to clock up as many lengths as possible in that time (no mean feat) and they will all endeavour to beat their individual distance at the end of this term when they will have the opportunity to do a second 30 minute swim. The children have enjoyed challenging training sessions and the fastest swimmers are all set to swim in the Hampshire Schools Relays Gala at The Quays in Southampton later this year. Ready Steady....

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For beginners and improvers. Come along to a Saturday workshop at Badger Farm Community Centre and spend quality time making gorgeous items for you, your home and your family. Your own machine is not essential.

WORKSHOP DATES:

Saturday 9 March

Saturday 11 May

Each 4 hour workshop has a theme but you are also welcome to work on a project of your own choice. Recycling is encouraged so bring along those pretty linens and fabrics you've been saving to make into something beautiful. For more information visit www.letsgetsewing.co.uk or telephone Dawn on 07954 642295.

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BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

THE FUTURE OF WHITESHUTE RIDGE

Whiteshute Ridge is owned and maintained by The Parish Council on a lease from Winchester City Council. The cost of the upkeep was originally paid for by the interest on a lump sum provided by the City but with inflation and extremely low interest rates the yield on the lump sum now comes nowhere close to covering the costs. The vast majority of the cost is now covered by the precept and our contingency funds. It has been noted that the grass land and general condition of the flora has been suffering over the last few years, and this has had a knock on effect on the wildlife particularly the insect population.

At present the paths are cut several times a year and the grass cut once a year in an effort to keep the original chalk grass and flora and fauna. The Parish has been approached by WCC and HCC with a view to improving the condition of the grassland and assisting with the cost. The most favoured way of doing this is to introduce limited grazing on the Ridge, by way of few cattle during the Winter months. Grazing a few cattle would mean few changes on the Ridge, ie. fencing the whole area, but this could only mean a few gates to negotiate and no restrictions on dog walking or any other activities.

If we decided on this route we may qualify for more grants to help with the upkeep and this would help with our budget. Our neighbouring Parish at Shawford have introduced four Highland cattle to a comparable area and this has proved a great success with families and the local school and has vastly improved the grassland habitat. We plan to hold some consultations in the future but I would welcome any comments or ideas, and particularly if you would like to get involved in some aspect of this project.

Whilst on the subject of volunteers, your Parish Council is in need of reinforcement, as we are a Councillor short of our quota. If you feel that you would like to find out what is involved please contact me or our Parish Clerk.

John Godbold ~ Chairman, Badger Farm Parish Council ~ johnrgodbold@hotmail.com

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES! Would you like to advertise your business in Community News? This very popular publication is distributed free to all residents of Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery whilst also being freely available within Badger Farm Community Centre. If you would like to let the local people know about your services, please give Jan the Editor a ring on 01962 868630 for more details.



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HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST WINCHESTER DISTRICT

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Indoor meetings are held at Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester, SO22 4QB at 7.30pm in the Bushfield Room unless otherwise stated. Parking is available at the far end of Sainsbury's car park. Future indoor and outdoor meetings are listed below. For further information please telephone Mary on 01962 864440 for outdoor meetings or Loraine on 01962 861182 for indoor meetings.

Wed. 13 Mar. 7.30pm ~ A Journey to the Galapagos Islands. Join Andy Tucker of Naturetrek Wildlife Holidays and his wonderful photographs to discover more about the amazing endemic wildlife to be found on and around this UNESCO Natural Heritage site off the coast of Ecuador. Further details from Loraine.

Sat. 23 Mar. 10am/2.30pm ~ Bird Walk at Farlington Marshes. Join Roger Clark for a three mile walk to see the Spring birds at the Trust's Farlington marshes reserve. Further details from Mary.

Wed. 10 Apr. 7.30pm ~ The Scenery & Wildlife of Tanzania. Join us for Loraine Martin's entertaining illustrated talk as she shares her experiences of this East African country, home to fascinating birds and some of the largest concentrations of mammals in the world. Further details from Loraine.

Sun. 21 Apr. 10am/1pm ~ Stockbridge Down in Spring. A walk with John Clark for Spring birds and other wildlife on Stockbridge Down. Sorry, no dogs. Further details from Mary.

Sun. 5 May. 4.15am/7.30am ~ Dawn Chorus at Shawford Down. Join John Clark for a walk to hear the dawn chorus on Shawford Down and along the River Itchen. For further details please contact Robin on 01962 861123.

Wed. 8 May. 6.30pm ~ An Evening Stroll through the Meadows. Join Alex Hogg from the Trust's Winchester reserves team for a stroll through the tranquil meadows at St. Cross to see the Trust's grazing management scheme for maintaining the diverse range of wildlife in the Itchen Valley. Further details from either Loraine or Anne on 01962 881312.

Wed. 15 May. 10.00am/12.30pm ~ Discover Flexford Wildlife Reserve. Join Barbara Hillier for a general interest walk around the Wildlife Trust's Flexford reserve and discover the history of this site. Further details from Mary.

Wed. 29 May. 10.30am and 2.00pm ~ Butterflies and other wildlife at Martin Down. Join Brian Fletcher for a walk on this National Nature Reserve. Full day (bring lunch) or just the morning or afternoon. This walk is joint with Butterfly Conservation. Further details from Mary.



NATURE NOTES FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY



Mixing extra rations for the garden birds during the week of deep snow was like preparing a family meal! The garden was a hive of activity including birds not often seen. As usual, the blackbirds spent most of their time driving each other away

while their close relative, the gentle song thrush lingered on the fringes of the motley crowd making sudden dashes to gain a morsel. She had also been quietly at work on our front doorstep leaving behind the beginnings of a snail cemetery. So what happened to all the birds one week later? The Big Garden Bird Watch weekend came and went with hardly a sighting. This must be common if a cartoon I saw in a bird magazine is anything to go by; several birds were concealed in a hedge while one on the wire above said 'you can come out now, the BGBW is over!' That week people rang in to Radio Solent with the same concerns. What was your experience?

The Parish Council has planted a variety of small native trees behind the new tennis court and multi-use games area; in time they will give a pleasant backdrop and will screen it from distant views into the parish. Surplus trees were kept and after clearing the overgrowth a community work party planted them alongside the footpath connecting Broadview Lane to the field.

Without trees we would not have the delicate greens of springtime, shade in the summer and the fabulous autumn colours. But in winter you can see their shape and form, one species different from another and no tree of the same kind exactly alike. They reveal their basic selves to us without leaf and fruit adornment, inviting us not to glance but to really look. Each one has its own personality. The winter tree offers us a delightful channel through which to see the sky especially on a sunny day or at night when the stars are out. A favourite of mine is an oak in the front garden of a house in Oliver's Battery Road South. The branches are twisted and contorted like the limbs of an ancient man dancing in the wild wood that once covered these islands.

It's heartening to see signs of spring on a wintry day. Despite an insulated jacket, our outside tap had a six inch icicle hanging from its spout yet underneath, bravely peeping through the snow, was the bud of a daffodil. Skylarks have returned to our fields establishing territories in combat with each other hovering low with only half a song. We know spring has really arrived when hearing the first chiff- chaff, so listen out on Whitechute Ridge around the third week of March.

If you want to identify winter trees and have access to a computer go to this website:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk › About us › Projects › Nature Detectives

Norma Goodwin

Ed's. Note. My thanks to Norma for regularly contributing these delightful articles for Community News. I'm sure I am not alone in saying that they are not only very knowledgeable but also extremely interesting and I have had some very complimentary comments from other readers on the same lines. Please continue Norma!



WINCHESTER AND EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



A Neighbourhood Watch scheme can be your own road, close, part of a road or perhaps a block of flats. It should not be so large that it is difficult for the coordinator to keep in contact with other members. The ideal size for a scheme is 12 to 24 households but there really are no rules! Neighbourhood Watch involves two way communication between yourselves and the police to ensure that important information and advice can be shared to keep you and your neighbourhood safe. Your home, garden, shed, garage are important and you will want to ensure that they are protected in every way against theft, vandalism and malicious damage. Neighbourhood Watch will help you to do this. By sharing information about any local crimes and also providing crime prevention advice Neighbourhood Watch is there to help the whole community to become stronger and more resilient. You can help us to help you!

Our main focus is the reduction of crime and the fear of crime but Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch also has partnership arrangements with the County Council, our local Winchester and East Hampshire Community Safety Partnerships, Trading Standards, Hampshire Fire and Rescue and others – all helping our communities become safer, better places for us to live in. You will have excellent advice and support from them all. 'Together' we can achieve much for ourselves and our neighbours too.

The only cost to getting started is the shared cost of signs for your scheme. You may in fact save money as some insurance companies reduce the policy costs for members of active NW schemes. Joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or helping to set one up couldn't be easier! Your local Safer Neighbourhood policing team and Neighbourhood Watch Representatives are happy to help and advise.

Want to know more? We have our new Winchester and East Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch website which is still being added to but your feedback would be welcome. The link is www.wehnhw.org.uk Alternatively, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to come and chat informally to individuals or a group and see if I can help in any way.

Sandie Vining, Neighbourhood Watch Representative for Winchester Citygate Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.
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