

Community News

Your Community Newsletter and Village Voice
Spring 2015 Edition



GREEN SHOOTS – A PLAN FOR OLIVER’S BATTERY

Something’s stirring up in Oliver’s Battery, and it’s not just the snowdrops appearing ahead of all the other green shoots of Spring.

Groups of up to ten people have been seen, similar in age and appearance, silent and purposeful, separately approaching particular houses around the area, then leaving a couple of hours later together - relaxed, laughing and convivial. And later on from those houses, awkwardly loaded into the backs of cars, a large black metal structure, fixed to flapping white sheets of paper, is transferred round the corner to yet another house to await yet another group of silent, purposeful people. What on earth can be going on???

Well, it’s nothing strange, sinister nor unlawful, it’s just the **Focus Group Discussions** for the Oliver’s Battery Community Plan – the very first consultation exercise taking place in the run up to the public Launch Meeting of the Plan in April. And the large black metal structure? The flip chart stand, flip charts attached, moving from one venue to another!

These **Discussion Groups** are drawn from particular ‘life stages’ in the community. This is why each group appears of similar age and appearance. We invited a group of those with families with younger children, a group of older people with no dependent children, a group of those with families of older children and a group of people who have come to live in the Battery more recently, since the last census in 2011.

During their two hour meeting, the groups were led by a professional market researcher, and an observer wrote findings and comments on the flip charts. (And served the teas and coffees!) Participants were asked firstly about their experiences of living in Oliver’s Battery. Then they were asked about both the positive and negative things about living here and about how things have changed, for better or for worse. In pairs, they were then asked to discuss in detail what changes they would make to improve a particular weakness that needed dealing with. These ideas were shared with the whole group, trends noted and priorities established.

Overall, the groups were asked to think about transport, roads, communications, and housing, aspects of community such as open spaces, facilities, landscape and community activities and the wider environment, including ‘green’ ideas. Finally, people were asked to identify the key things to have come out of the discussion and the main recommendations that would be made from their group.

The findings from all the groups, analysed by our market researcher, will be presented to the public at the **Launch Meeting** for the Plan on the memorable day of **Wednesday, 1st April, 2015** (No April Fools here!!) at **7.00 pm at Oliver’s Battery Primary School**, together with similar investigations from primary and secondary school residents. It should be an interesting and thought provoking evening. It leads off the major **Discussion and Consultation Phase** in the creation of the Plan, immediately after the Easter holidays. There will be meetings at different times of day and on different days of the week, for everyone in the community to come along and have their say.

So please, **put Wednesday 1st April 7.00 pm at the Primary School in your diaries** and come along to find out what our representative sample of residents say about life in Oliver’s Battery and their hopes for the future. And, after Easter, watch out for dates for you to come along and add your own opinions to the discussion. Looking forward to seeing you!! ***If you want to find out more about the Oliver’s Battery Community Plan, or want to get involved in any way, please contact: Cllr Constance Leach on constance@leach154.plus.com or 01962 865883.***



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

Editorial deadline for **Summer 2015** issue: **Friday 8th May 2015**





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communications!

SOME OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm - 4.00pm	Elizabeth Weir 01962 856689 lizabehweir@gmail.com	£6.50 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 857099	£4.00 per session	Friendship for older people. Quizzes, speakers, outings, afternoon tea. New members and volunteers welcome.
Badger Farm Bridge Club	Tuesday	7.15pm - 10.30pm	Fred Hotchen 01794 301185 07771 854 347 fred.hotchen@btinternet.com		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	£4.25 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!
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10.00am - 11.00am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service. All welcome.
FITSTEPS	Wednesday	2.00pm - 2.45pm	Debbie Woodley 07724 136 428 debbie.woodley@talk21.com	£5 per session	A new dance-fitness programme combining simple steps from the most popular Ballroom & Latin dances.
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	2nd Wed. of the month	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Loraine 01962 861182	£3.00 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	£5.00 per class	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned! Discounts available for multiple classes.
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	Catherine Thomas 07990 037 467	£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	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Stanley Judd 01962 869889		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
Slimming World	Saturday	9.30am - 11.00am	Steve Coombs 07788 683 077		A warm welcome awaits you in your local group! New members always welcome.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.30am - 11.00am 6.30pm - 7.45pm	07455 968 884	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)	Minature 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.

Here are details of just some of the activities that take place at Badger Farm Community Centre. Other hirers may have chosen not to have their details shown. If you are looking for an activity and you can't see it here, please call Jan, the Bookings Secretary on 01962 868630 or email enquiries@bfobca.org

THE WINCHESTER COUNTRY MARKET



Time to look forward!

Snowdrops and Daffodils are showing their heads and Spring really is just around the corner. So, it makes you start to think about the garden and what you can grow or plant for the seasons to come. Easter is early this year and we can help you in every way with Easter cards, gifts, cakes and jams plus fresh cut flowers and vegetables in season, as well as fresh trout and fresh laid eggs. As Easter is not far away, make a note that we will be at Badger Farm Community Centre on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, from 8.30am to 11.00am instead of Good Friday. A special date for your diary is Friday 17th April when we are having a Taster Day - see advertisement. Please do come and try - you will not be disappointed! Would you like to come and join our team? We are currently looking for new plant producers and cooks. If you would like to know more, please telephone Pauline on 01962 866340. We look forward to seeing you soon!



WINCHESTER COUNTRY MARKET

**COME TO OUR SPECIAL
'TASTER DAY'**

**ON FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2015
8.30 A.M. TO 12.00 P.M.**

Winchester Country Market is having a special '**Taster Day**' where you will have the opportunity to taste and sample a wide range of homemade jams, marmalades', pickles, cookies and other produce. There will also be demonstrations of arts and crafts.

We are based at the Badger Farm Community Centre next to Sainsbury's Super Store. Please come and taste! There will be light refreshments.



Winchester Cancer Support Centre, located at 68, St Georges Street, Winchester has been celebrating its second birthday. Officially opened in January 2013, the Wessex Cancer Trust centre has offered a free haven for patients; their carers and families, helping them cope with the effects of living with cancer. An astonishing 2,000 patients from Winchester and the surrounding area have walked through the doors since they opened – that's a huge amount of emotional and physical support that has been offered and given.

A team of professional counsellors, complementary therapists and trained befrienders deal daily with the emotional fallout of cancer. Nicci Roberts, Centre Manager and a cancer survivor herself, says: "We've had a busy and very positive two years. Cancer is no respecter of age, class or gender and we see people from all walks of life at all stages; from diagnosis, to treatment and out the other side, whether it's good news or not. It's so encouraging that we have seen so many people; we are really filling a gap that the NHS cannot hope to close, a fact which is recognised by staff at RHCH and in GP surgeries in this area, all of whom refer patients to us for support."

All treatments and therapies are FREE to patients, their families and friends, with the charity relying on private and corporate donations.

We are looking forward to hosting a Spring Fundraising Event at Badger Farm Community Centre, Saturday 25th April, between 10am and 12.30pm. Perfect for all the family, there will be stalls to appeal to all, including Cakes, Plants, Gifts, Scarves, Bags, Cards and a raffle. Delicious refreshments will also be available. For a small donation to the charity our complimentary therapists will also be available to give taster sessions of the treatments that we offer. The £3 entry tickets are available in advance, from us at the centre or on the door and will include coffee and cake! Donations welcome.

NEW YEAR! NEW CHALLENGE? Do you have a few hours free each week? Want to make a difference, have fun and meet new people? Why don't you think about volunteering with us? Right in the heart of the city, Winchester Cancer Support Centre provides a vital welcome for anyone affected by cancer, providing free, non-clinical support to local people. Cups of tea abound, laughter flows and care expressed. All volunteers receive training to help support patients and carers to face the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Contact; Nicci Roberts or Penny Goater on 01962 868576 or call in to us at 2nd Floor, 68 St. George's Street, Winchester. You would be very welcome.

Volunteer with Winchester Cancer Support Centre.



Brendoncare Badger Farm Club

We are a friendly club that meet at the Badger Farm Community Centre on alternate Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm. We enjoy a varied activity programme with some great entertainment and always look forward to spending time together and having a chat over a cup of tea. Here's a snapshot of what we get up to.....

March 12 Tai Chi with Sue Kelly ~ Time to relax your mind and body
March 26 Talk with slideshow from Geoff Watts ~ "Curiouser and Curiouser"

The cost is £4 per visit which includes refreshments and low cost transport can also be arranged.

If you would like to know more about joining as a member or volunteer please call:

Brendoncare Club Hampshire on 01962 857099 or visit www.brendoncare.org.uk

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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. Entry is £3 per person and includes coffee/tea and biscuits. Non-members are very welcome at any of our meetings. For further information telephone Loraine on 01962 861182 or Anne on 01962 881312. For **outdoor meetings** contact Mary on 01962 864440. For information on local reserves and other Trust events see the Trust's website at www.hiwwt.org.uk - phone 01489 774400. Future indoor and outdoor meetings are listed below.

Wed. 11 Mar. ~ 7.30pm-9.30pm ~ Wildlife Havens in a Changing World ~ John Durnell, the Trust's Head of Estate and Enterprise, will give us an insight into the ever growing importance of the Trust's nature reserves in the face of current increasing pressures and a look into the future prospects for the wildlife on our doorstep.

Sun. 15 Mar. ~ 10am-3pm ~ Keyhaven for Birds ~ Join John Clark for a bird walk of about 4 miles. Meet in the Keyhaven car park opposite the Gun public house. Free parking is available by the sea wall and closer parking can be found in the main car park where charges apply. Bring a packed lunch. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440. Suggested donation £3.

Wed. 15 April ~ 7.30pm-9.30pm ~ "Saving the River Itchen" ~ Graham Roberts, the Trust's otter expert, will take us on an illustrated journey down the river Itchen covering its ecology and the threats to its wildlife. Please note there will be a very brief Annual Meeting prior to this talk.

Sun. 19 April ~ 10am-approx. 2pm ~ Bird Walk around Longparish ~ Join John on the "Riverdance walk" to see spring birds. Meet in the village car park near the church (opposite the village hall). Bring a snack for a coffee stop. Sorry, no dogs. Further information from Mary on 01962 864440. Suggested donation £3.

Wed. 13 May ~ 6.30pm-7.30pm ~ A Wander Along the Winchester Streams ~ Ali Morse, The Trust's water policy and projects manager will take us on a short evening walk in Winchester to explain the Trust's conservation work on the streams flowing through the city centre and the resulting benefits for wildlife. Booking essential. For further information and to book your place phone Anne on 0780 476 4604 or email anneardill@hotmail.com

Wed. 3 June ~ 10am-1pm ~ Old Burghclere Lime Quarry Walk ~ Enjoy the late spring butterflies and orchids at this reserve guided by the members who help maintain it and record its wildlife. Meet and park in the Old Burghclere station farmyard in area. Further information from Mary on 01962 864440 or Mervyn on 01264 358737. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £3

We would particularly welcome help at our evening talks.

Please note that whilst every care is taken to see that dates, times and other details are correctly stated, we can take no responsibility for any loss or damage incurred for whatever reasons, nor can we take responsibility for the printing of goods and services offered within.

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SATURDAY 7TH MARCH - 10.00-12.00



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Saturday 11th April 2015

At Badger Farm Community Centre

2pm - 5pm

In aid of Naomi House Charity ~ Free Entry

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Tea/Coffee and Cupcakes for Refreshments

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KEEPING OLDER PEOPLE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Volunteer drivers and Befrienders are being sought to offer help and support to older people in Winchester.

The Winchester Live at Home Scheme (WLAHS), which provides volunteer based support and friendship to older people in Winchester who still live in their own homes, needs people to help provide transport for its members or drive a community minibus as well as Volunteers to visit Members in their own homes as Befrienders.

The vast majority of our members are aged 80 and over, so we need drivers to transport members to clubs and outings. They are also required for one-off visits to doctors, hospitals and other appointments. Volunteer drivers can use their own cars and claim a mileage allowance from the WLAHS or receive MiDAS driving training to allow them to drive a community minibus.

We have an increasing number of Members who are in need of someone to visit them at home to help reduce isolation. Befrienders are Volunteers who regularly visit members in their own homes. Hours are flexible to suit the individual; this can be anything from weekly to monthly visits, each visit lasting a minimum of one hour. Your help and time would be greatly appreciated. Relevant training will be provided and all expenses will be paid.

If you are able to help, contact the WLAHS office on 01962 890995 or email office@wlahs.org.

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March 14th ~ 10am-7pm

March 15th ~ 10am-4pm

Private View March 13th ~ 6pm-9pm

**The Link Gallery, University of Winchester,
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www.winchestergold.org.uk

www.facebook.com/changing.perspectives.artshow

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/changingperspectives2>

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<https://twitter.com/ChPerspectives>



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Course starts on Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 7.30 pm and continues on 11th, 18th and 25th March at Badger Farm Community Centre.

Booking is essential. Book online at www.capmoneycourse.org To find out more (or book) you can telephone 01962 868770 or email: cap@winbap.org.uk

CAP is a national charity (reg no. 1097217) passionate about lifting people out of debt and poverty.



Volunteering is a great use of your time and your talents. You can assist those who are in need of help and in return, you get personal satisfaction, experience and a chance to meet some wonderful people.

We promote hundreds of volunteering opportunities across the Winchester District. If you are looking to find a suitable volunteering role then you can:

- Give us a call on 01962 807036
- Check out our web site www.waca.org.uk/volunteer
- Book a time to come for a one to one chat with one of our skilled volunteer advisers at Winchester Discovery Centre, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - 9.30am to 3.30pm



**WINCHESTER
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
(W.B.S.)**

- Have you ever experienced a major loss in your life?
- Would you have liked to talk to a trained volunteer?
- Would you feel able to offer this help to others?

**March to May 2015
W.B.S. is running a course for potential
Bereavement Visitors**

If you are interested, please telephone 01962 877102
Or email help@winchesterbereavementsupport.org.uk
www.winchesterbereavementsupport.org.uk



**BADGER FARM NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH FOR ALL AGES**

Elderly and Vulnerable – Hitting the Cold Spots:

Neighbourhood Watch is reminding everyone that thanks to funding from Hampshire County Council there is financial and practical help available to the elderly or vulnerable who need help and advice about keeping warm this winter.

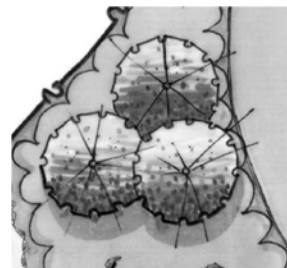
Tel: 0800 804 8601: Email: staywarm@environmentcentre.com
Web: www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots

Young Families/School/College/University: Neighbourhood Watch is anxious to talk to and engage with young people of all ages. What prevents you from getting involved? I am happy to meet for an informal chat to hear your ideas. School children – poster competition? At College or University? Want to get credits for some community work experience etc? – share your ideas or skills? My contact details below.

Sandie Vining – Area Neighbourhood Watch Representative for Winchester Tel: 01962 865384 Email:

SandieVining@btinternet.com ~ Web: www.wehnw.org.uk

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PLAY AREA QUESTIONNAIRE

DAVIS AREA – NEAR LARK HILL RISE
CENTRAL AREA – NEAR BROAD CHALKE DOWN

Online version available at:
www.badgerfarmparishcouncil.gov.uk

ON WHICH ROAD DO YOU LIVE?			
HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE IN EACH AGE GROUP?	0 to 4	5 to 9	Over 10
		DAVIS	CENTRAL
WHICH PLAYGROUNDS DO YOU USE?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IF EACH AREA HAD THE SAME EQUIPMENT WHICH AREA WOULD YOU PREFER TO USE?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOW OFTEN DO YOUR CHILDREN VISIT?	EVERY DAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	WEEKENDS ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NEVER/VERY RARELY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROUGHLY HOW LONG DO YOUR CHILDREN SPEND AT THE PLAY AREA EACH VISIT?	5 TO 10 MINS	15 TO 30 MINS	1 HOUR
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IF YOUR CHILDREN DON'T USE THEIR LOCAL PLAY AREA, WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO USE IT?			
WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE INSTALLED <u>AT DAVIS?</u>			
WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE INSTALLED <u>AT CENTRAL?</u>			
DO YOUR CHILDREN THINK ANY AGE GROUP IS UNDER REPRESENTED BY THE FACILITIES PROVIDED? PLEASE ASK THEM TO GIVE THEIR OWN OPINIONS.			
AGE OF CHILDREN:			
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN/OR USE ADULT FITNESS EQUIPMENT?			
IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE LET US KNOW IN THIS SPACE			

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON PLAY EQUIPMENT

The situation is that the facilities both at Davis and Central are beginning to reach the end of their life. We want to make replacements and would welcome your input.

A substantial amount of money needs to be spent on replacements. We might be able to obtain extra funding for this. If not we will have to spend our available funds or borrow.

Have you any views on what is needed or wanted? If so we would appreciate your input. Please fill in the SURVEY FORM on Page 8 and either post it in the letter box at the Community Centre or complete the survey at our web site www.badgerfarmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Unfortunately from 1st April there will be some rule changes to the Concessionary Bus Pass. During the week, Monday to Friday, they will only be valid between 9.30 and 11pm. During the weekends and Public Holidays, however they will valid all day.

We have been promised better path maintenance and the completion of the line paintings on the roads. Let's hope that both will materialize.

Do you know about the Parish Lengthsman? This is an arrangement with other parishes where we share a groundsman for a few weeks over a year. This enables us to do smallish jobs such as clearing areas on the Ridge, or tidying overgrown hedges. These are jobs done strictly in addition to maintenance to which we are entitled to by the Councils.

On a less happy note there are three things that need to be mentioned:

There seems to be an abundance of dog poo on the Ridge. Although this area is not only used by Badger Farm we could help by removing our own dog's mess. Please do use the dog bins, or take the offending matter to your own bins for disposal.

It is very disappointing that the new picnic bench has already been scratched. It is there to be used and enjoyed by us all.

Finally it has been noticed that the public bin at Davis play area has been filled to overflowing with household waste. This, and other similar bins are not there as a backup for householders. They are to be used by people visiting the recreational areas.

Have a lovely, happy, and prosperous New Year, and look forward to a lovely spring and summer.

WINCHESTER SUPPORT GROUP



National
Osteoporosis
Society

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 at St. Peter's Pastoral Centre (opposite the Library Discovery Centre,) Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. Support group contacts are Anne on 01962 864410 and Pam on 01962 866152. The National Telephone Helpline number is 0845 130 3076 www.nos.org.uk ~ email info@nos.org.uk The programme for 2015 is below:

Thursday 19 March ~ 2pm ~ What is Reflexology and what are its benefits? Speaker, Victoria Horne from the Association of Reflexologists.

Thursday 4 June ~ 7pm ~ Osteoporosis Update. Speaker, Dr Neil Buchanan, Consultant Rheumatologist, Royal Hampshire County Hospital.

Thursday 1 October ~ 7pm ~ Annual Meeting followed by - Can Nutrition Really be a Help to Bone Health? Speaker, Professor Susan Lanham-New, Head of Nutritional Sciences Department at the University of Surrey.

Raffle and refreshments at each meeting. £2 donation appreciated to cover expenses. All welcome.

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2015

The Outdoor Season starts in April at our club and we are looking to welcome new members, including juniors.

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Saturday 18th April 2pm - 4pm

Sunday 10th May 2pm - 4pm

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Contact:- Membership Secretary
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Email address: info@friarybc.org.uk

~~~~~  
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# OLIVER'S BATTERY WI

We have celebrated the New Year with loads of fresh enthusiasm, more new members and some stunning ideas for the coming months.

Having eaten very well to welcome the New Year, with over 30 enjoying good food and a chance to socialise, we are now ready to get the seed trays out, with compost and seeds to start the preparations for the **Plant Sale, which is on Monday 4th May from 10.00** until we sell out! There will also be the usual perennials as well as vegetable and flower plants to entice you to make Oliver's Battery an area that has beautiful gardens, using WI home grown plants. As if that isn't enough, we will serve coffee all morning with stunning home made cakes - so please put the date in your diary and the venue, which will be **St Mark's Church**.

Before Christmas quite a few of us enjoyed gentle crafting as an antidote to all the stress of Christmas shopping. We will be holding a Craft Dabble Day in March, so if this is "up your street" then please make contact with us.

As well as the brilliant speakers, we also have a reinvigorated Book Group, which meets once a month having read a chosen book. The discussions are frank and not all books get the high praise but many do. If this isn't you, then we also enjoy the Knit and Natter, lots to talk about, but some good knitting goes on too.

We are also looking forward to a coach outing to Arundel in West Sussex in the warmer weather. So, if this all sounds too good to miss and you want to meet like minded women, then please contact Cathy Winter on 01962 620250 or come along to a meeting and see what you think. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, except July and August in St Mark's, Oliver's Battery Road South at 7.45pm. More information on the WI can be found at [www.hampshirewi.org.uk](http://www.hampshirewi.org.uk) and look for Oliver's Battery WI's page.

## 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 07976 728730  
or Esther [etsouramanis@icloud.com](mailto:etsouramanis@icloud.com)**

### Dates 2015

|     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| Feb | 05   12   N/A   26       |
| Mar | 05   12   19   26        |
| Apr | 02   N/A   N/A   23   30 |

## JOIN US AT OUR DEMENTIA CAFE IN WINCHESTER

If you have dementia or are caring for someone with dementia, come along to your local cafe. The venue is Badger Farm Community Centre, Badger Farm Road, Winchester on the first Monday of each month from 2pm to 3.30pm. For more information, contact the local Alzheimer's Society by email on [winchester@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:winchester@alzheimers.org.uk) or by telephone on 01256 363393. We very much look forward to seeing you. Visit our website for further information at [alzheimers.org.uk](http://alzheimers.org.uk)

## AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Once again, it has been a busy few months in Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm, with all sorts going on all around the area.

### Buses

As many of you will have seen and heard, from the beginning of January County Council funded bus services have been drastically cut. This has greatly reduced the service in Oliver's Battery and led to a large reduction in the number of evening buses on the Number 5 route.

We have worked with County Councillor Phil Bailey and Winchester City Council closely to try to mitigate the effect of these cuts and have recently had a small victory with the news that two Park and Ride buses will now stop on Badger Farm Road in the evenings, meaning that it will be possible to get in and out of town later.

The specific buses that will now stop in the area are; the Park and Ride services leaving the Train Station at 8.10 and 8.35 going out to the South Car Park, and the 8.00 and 8.25 services going into the city.

### Badger Farm Road

We continue to be concerned about the Oliver's Battery Road South/Badger Farm Road junction, following the accident in the autumn. We are consulting actively with local residents and the highways department at the County Council. We are aiming to get Council staff to the area soon to look at what the most effective solutions could be to sort out this dangerous junction.

### The Hospital

You may have seen recently in the news that the local Hospitals Trust looks to be pushing forward with its plans for a new hospital near junction 7 on the M3. We feel that this proposal would damage Winchester Hospital taking many critical services out of the area, as well as having a large impact on the many hospital staff who live in the area.

We have been out actively campaigning in the area specifically talking to residents about the likely loss of consultant level maternity services in Winchester, and would like to take this

opportunity to thank all those we spoke to for your time and signatures on our petition. With so many people in the area having been born in the hospital or having had their own children there, there is a lot of strong feeling on this issue and we will continue to campaign to keep as many services in Winchester as possible.

### Estate Management

Following on from the summer's exceptional grass and foliage growth; road and path sweeping during the autumn and winter has again shown the shortcomings of the Council's contractors. After many conversations and several meetings with the Council's officers, the road sweepers have begun to get on top of the issues - however we will still have a few troublesome spots.

We have been pleased to see that the gritting services have been working well in the area during the recent cold weather, but please do drive carefully.

### Phone Mast

Local residents have again fought off the phone companies who applied to the Council once again to increase the height of the phone mast on Ridgeway from its current 10m to a proposed 15m. This is something they have now tried to get permission for on multiple occasions but something we will fight against every time as we know any such phone mast would be an eyesore and stand out above the trees.

Finally, Oliver's Battery Post Office are collecting used postage stamps in aid of Naomi House Hospice. As this is a special, local charity, would everyone help to support them if possible? Thank you.

If you would like to talk to us about any issues, please feel free to contact us:

City Cllr Brian Laming - 07973 265 028  
blaming@winchester.gov.uk

City Cllr Patrick Fancett - 07757 508 608  
pfancett@winchester.gov.uk



### SPRING FEVER AT OLIVER'S BATTERY WILDLIFE AREA ON SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

**Everyone is invited** to celebrate the first day of spring at Oliver's Battery Wildlife Area (next to the playground and recreation field) when the beautiful new signs will be unveiled at **11am**. There will be a variety of **guided activities** to help visitors, young and old, to explore the wonderful wealth of wildlife inhabiting this area which was created by members of the parish only nine years ago. If you planted a tree in 2006 then come along to see how it has grown! The signs' illustrator, Wendy Bramall, will be present to talk about them, as will others who have contributed to developing area for the enjoyment of local people. There might also be poems, cakes and a walk to Yew Hill.

Check the website  
[www.oliversbatterycountysidegroup.org.uk](http://www.oliversbatterycountysidegroup.org.uk) to find out more nearer the time.

### Hitting the cold spots



### EXTRA FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FUEL POVERTY - WINCHESTER DISTRICT

We are pleased to be working with Winchester City Council to offer extra support to tackle fuel poverty throughout the Winchester District. Hitting the Cold Spots can help individuals and families through practical support and detailed advice. Visits from skilled Advisors can lead to the provision of emergency heating, access to funding for repairs and replacement heating or hot water systems as well as small grants to help cope with winter emergencies.

Hitting the Cold Spots will also provide practical support with debt, financial advice and benefits as well as assistance with switching energy providers. Home Safety visits offering carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are also available.

For further information see [www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots](http://www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots) and for advice contact the Hitting the Cold Spots Advisor on Freephone 0800 804 8601 or email [staywarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:staywarm@environmentcentre.com)





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**Spaces are now available!**

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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.



## OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

As I write, the first snowfall of the winter has left a dusting of snow over Oliver's Battery. Thankfully, there has not been enough snow to create any major problems for residents. However, it

should be remembered that, if we do get any significant amounts of snow this winter, the Parish Council do have several snow shovels available for residents to borrow. Please contact the Parish Clerk ([clerk@oliversbattery.info](mailto:clerk@oliversbattery.info) or 07443 622513) if you have need of one.

A serious road accident at the junction of Badger Farm Road with Oliver's Battery Road South in October has raised major concerns among residents about the safety of this particular junction. Discussions are ongoing with Hampshire County Council (HCC) via Councillor Phil Bailey about options and possible solutions to reduce the dangers at this junction.

In the last edition of this magazine we gave details of our proposals for a Parish Plan for Oliver's Battery. Elsewhere in this magazine, Connie Leach, the councillor leading the development of the plan, gives a summary of progress made to date. This is a chance for all residents to have their say about the pros and cons of living on Oliver's Battery and agreeing priorities going forward. Why not come along to the Launch Meeting on 1 April 2015 to listen to the findings of the focus groups. Details are in Connie's article on the front page.

The Parish Council is currently in discussions with HCC regarding the transfer of ownership of the Battery open space to the Parish Council. The majority of the open space is a scheduled monument registered with English Heritage. It is proposed that, prior to the transfer, HCC will investigate the current state of the trees and undertake any remedial work. Once the freehold has been gifted to the Parish Council, the trees and grass cutting would become the responsibility of the Parish Council (the Parish Council already pays for 80% of the costs of cutting the grass).

Since my last report, the PTA at Oliver's Battery Primary School organised a very successful fireworks evening at the school. The Parish Council was pleased to help the PTA by providing a grant to help with costs and by helping with the distribution of advertising leaflets.

Finally I, together with the Vice Chair Maggie Collin, met recently with Geoff Sharman and Ian Millar from the Project Group that is seeking to replace the current St Mark's building with a new community centre. The Project Group were encouraged to take the necessary steps to move the project forward by forming a charity, opening a bank account, continuing fundraising and to present their grant requests to the Parish Council.

Brian Mitchener ~ Chair, Oliver's Battery Parish Council ~ [cllr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info](mailto:cllr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info) ~ 01962 623585.

Don't forget to use our new email address on all communications!

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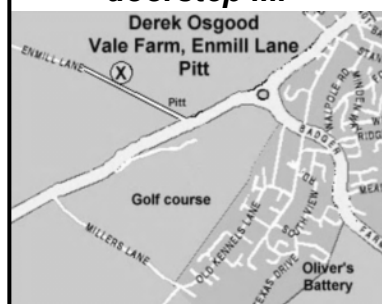
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## AN UPDATE FROM STEVE BRINE, MP FOR WINCHESTER

During the past five years I've got out and about a fair bit and covered one or two issues. I've written about many of them for this newsletter.

One key issue has been rail services as used by my constituents, primarily to get into (and out of) London each day. Back in November 2013 I hosted a big open meeting, ASKSWT, with the Chief Executive of South West Trains taking our questions and a number of residents from this community attended.

So many excellent issues were raised and a Winchester wish-list was drawn-up. A little over a year on, we've made huge progress. On-train wi-fi is now live, parking (car and bike) capacity at Winchester Station has been increased by some 20% thanks, partly, to the new decked car park, we have for the first time a footbridge with disabled access and just this week we've confirmation that Winchester will be staffed until 11pm each night. Late night safety, especially for women travellers, was a key concern at the 2013 meeting and it's been addressed.

Looking ahead, I want to focus some more on our other stations but as I said in a key Commons debate recently, the big issue facing us in the South is capacity on what is the UK's busiest rail service and I am now working with SWT, Network Rail, Ministers and neighbouring MPs to draw together an investment plan worth billions of pounds. It is real long-term thinking which has sadly been absent for so long on this line. You can see more [www.stevebrine.com/trains](http://www.stevebrine.com/trains)

Closer to home and it was useful to meet up with new Oliver's Battery Parish Chairman, Brian Mitchener, recently. I get together with parish chairs from time to time and would value such a session with Badger Farm at some point also. Anyway, one subject we discussed was the feedback I've had since my recent South Winchester Post newspaper article on the junction of Oliver's Battery Road with Badger Farm Road. I've had some really useful stories and it was good to hear how seriously the PC take the issue and the way they are now working with local councillors to discuss possible options with highways engineers from HCC.

We also discussed the coming together of the parish plan for Oliver's Battery and the ongoing discussions over a future community building for the village. Clearly there is a long way to go - and a great deal of money to raise - but I know from experience elsewhere in my constituency that a whole community solution is the way to make this very worthwhile dream a reality.

Finally, you may have picked up from the local press that I am now working at the Home Office inside Government as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Police Minister, Mike Penning MP. It's a fascinating role for me and we were in Winchester together recently with the Chief Constable seeing how Hampshire is leading the way on Body Worn Video for police officers. This is such an important step in keeping front-line officers safe in their work. One other campaign I am pursuing in this field is a long overdue change to the pension rules for police widows. I am working with my boss to encourage him to consider the case for all police widows and widowers to get their widowed pension provision for life - even if they remarry or live with a new partner. You can see more on this via [www.stevebrine.com/policewidows](http://www.stevebrine.com/policewidows)

You can find more information about my work as your local MP, in Winchester and Westminster, via [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com) or on 01962 791110.

Steve Brine MP for Winchester ~ [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)



## WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Goodbye to cold Winter weather - although down here we were let off lightly on the whole - and a warm welcome to Spring with its promise of renewal, cheerful crocuses and daffodils and rewarding hours to be spent in the garden. When you need a break or just some inspiration, we would like to invite you to join us for one of our monthly meetings where you will be able to hear an interesting talk and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners. Our programme for the next three months covers the following:

**March 2015 (Wednesday 11th)** ~ Our AGM, followed by a short talk on a horticultural topic.

**April 2015 (Wednesday 8th)** ~ Rosie Hardy of Hardy's Plants will further our knowledge of "**Summer Flowering Perennial Plants**" and will have a selection of her plants for sale.

**May 2015 (Wednesday 13th)** ~ We will be able to share John Negus' thoughts on "**Effective Use of Colour**" in the garden.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, 9th May** at the Brooks Shopping Centre, 9.30am-2.30pm

Our meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester and start at 7.30pm. Visitors are free. For more information visit [www.winhortsoc@weebly.com](http://www.winhortsoc@weebly.com).

***We look forward to welcoming you!***

Don't forget to use our new email address on all communications!

[enquiries@bfobrca.org](mailto:enquiries@bfobrca.org)

# Oliver's Battery Community Centre

It's an unexpected honour, and a great pleasure, to be invited to write for Community News - although, for me, it's not a new experience. Readers may recall my regular articles from the period 1985 to 2010, when I served as Chairman of Oliver's Battery Parish Council. During those years, we protected Oliver's Battery from major development, created a Village Design Statement, tackled crime and vandalism, upgraded street lighting, defended important rights of way and created new ones, enhanced the management of the Ancient Monument open space, and made successive improvements to the Recreation Ground. These culminated in detailed plans for the all weather multi-use games area which was built under the chairmanship of my successor, Terry Morris, and has been so successful since. We also encouraged the formation of, and grant aided, various community groups including the Oliver's Battery Pre-School and the BF&OB Residents Community Association itself.

It wasn't all plain sailing. Change is always difficult because it frightens some people and appears to threaten others. I remember some very noisy public meetings and parish council meetings, but I'm glad to say that the gain outweighed the pain.

In 2006, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Oliver's Battery Parish Council and, coincidentally, the 50th Anniversary of the current St Mark's Church and Hall. Shortly afterwards, I had a long discussion with Revd. Mike Gardner in which I suggested that these anniversaries might provide an opportunity for renewal with the construction of an improved building which could support expanded community use. He was enthusiastic but, nevertheless, it wasn't until 2012 that St Luke's Parochial Church Council, owners of the building, gathered a group of volunteers to look at its future and asked me to lead it.

We looked at the experience of many other communities in the Winchester area and met the people who run their village halls and community centres, spoke to experts, and conducted a detailed survey of residents in Oliver's Battery and the Oliver's Battery Road North area. We concluded that what worked in other communities could also work here and, in September 2013, we submitted a final report to both St Luke's PCC and Oliver's Battery PC recommending that an independent charity, for the benefit of all local residents, be formed which could raise funds to create and operate a new building fit for the 21st Century.

St Luke's PCC endorsed our recommendations. They agreed that I should form a volunteer group to take the project forward and that group met for the first time in January 2014. We made rapid progress, translating the requirements which had been collected from user groups into a building specification, and producing a design concept which responded to that specification. As many of you will know, we showed that design concept at the Oliver's Battery Fete in June 2014 and in a leaflet circulated to all households in the target catchment area. I'm delighted to say that approximately 200 households have given their support for the project in writing, and we have received the enthusiastic support of our District Councillors, our County Councillor, the Mayor of Winchester and Steve Brine, our M.P. We also managed

to raise a seed fund of £1,000. I'm enormously grateful to all those who responded and/or contributed.

Unfortunately, progress in other directions has not been quite so rapid. We now understand how to set up the proposed charity, and we have the funds to do so, but the work has yet to be done. Most community centres are charities, run by locally elected trustees. This has great advantages: funds raised qualify for Gift Aid support and operation must conform with charity law, and is regulated by the Charity Commission. This ensures that each centre operates strictly independently and for the benefit of their whole community. In our case, the new charity would lease the site from St Luke's PCC at a nominal rent, create a new building, and then manage it for the community. Whilst church services could continue, the church would effectively become one of a number of user groups.

We've also held a number of discussions with Oliver's Battery Parish Council, which has expressed some reservations about the project and published these in a leaflet in September 2014. The Project Group has produced a ten page document responding to the PC's questions and two of us recently met with Brian Mitchener, the Chairman, and the Vice-Chairman for detailed discussions. I believe the agreements made there give us a way forward and I look forward to working with Parish Councillors.

I have happy memories of my daughters attending Brownies and learning disco dancing in the existing St Mark's building and of many other community events, and I'm very impressed by the work done by the current user groups. These cater for all ages but are especially valuable to older residents, some of whom have limited travel options and find the opportunity to meet others with similar needs and interests very welcome. Expanding the number and range of such groups must be our primary objective but this cannot happen without a new building, given the condition and limited life of the current building. (One popular group which used to meet in Oliver's Battery moved to another centre because they found the hall too cold for their craft activity.) **We therefore have a need and a unique opportunity to create something valuable not only for ourselves, but also for future generations of residents.**

2015 is the year in which we must move forward to create our charity, publicise it widely, and make a solid start on the demanding task of raising funds. If you have previously offered your support, and even if you haven't, I do hope you will join us in this community project and assure you that all help will be welcome. **And, whatever your views, I urge you to express them by writing to the Parish Council (c/o The Clerk to OBPC [clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com](mailto:clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com)), copying me and your MP, or by attending the Annual Parish Meeting in May.**

Incidentally, all the documents I've referred to will be made available to residents who want to know more. Please just let me know if you would like copies.

With best wishes, Geoff Sharman - Chairman, Oliver's Battery Community Centre Project Group  
[geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com) - 01962 867961



## FESTIVE FUN, NEW YEAR & NEW GROWTH

Although perhaps a dim and distant memory for some, Christmas at the pre-school was a fantastic time and started off with the Nativity at the beginning of December. It was great testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff who encouraged our little ones to perform brilliantly and almost all of them in costume. The raffle held afterwards raised over £350 for the building fund and we are extremely grateful to the local businesses that donated raffle prizes

and to all those who bought tickets.

The last day of term held huge excitement as it was party time (it's astonishing how many Party Rings a group of pre-schoolers can consume!) followed by the much anticipated appearance of Father Christmas. Each child and sibling received a beautiful book and got a chance to pose for a photograph with the guest of honour before we waved him goodbye and listened eagerly for the sound of sleigh bells.

The new term sees the children looking at the topic of growth: baby animals, plants, human growth and even comparing feet! They have also been exploring the Chinese culture around the time of Chinese New Year. A lovely dragon display was created with the children's hand prints and even more popular was the chance to try prawn crackers.

### About our pre-school

- Rated overall as 'good' by Ofsted, Oliver's Battery Pre-school achieved 'outstanding' for how well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.
- Conveniently located in the spacious grounds of Oliver's Battery Primary School, we provide a safe, engaging and friendly environment for children aged two years to school age.
- We accept all children, regardless of which school they will be going to
- All children are funded from the term after their 3rd birthday.
- If eligible, we accept funding for two-year olds.

**Opening times: 9am-3.15pm Mon-Weds ~ 9am-12.30pm Thurs-Fri**

For more information or to pop in and take a look around, please contact Jackie Johnston, Pre-school Leader on mobile 07941 796 958 or email [oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com)

## Carroll Centre

The Carroll Centre at Stanmore offers a range of services and activities, including:

### Poppins Nursery

A new purpose built facility that opened in 2015 for children aged 2 – 4 years old. It is Ofsted and Hampshire County Council registered, and a Pre-School Learning Alliance member. Our nursery includes a large open plan area with an integrated kitchen, book and literacy corner, construction and maths area, an arts zone and play space. We also have an outdoor play area offering a range of opportunities from growing flowers and vegetables, to developing their physical capabilities on the equipment.

### Poppins After-School Care

An Ofsted registered provision operating from the Carroll Centre. We offer a warm, safe and friendly environment for your child to come to with experienced staff. We collect from Winchester area schools. Transportation from school is either by minibus, car or supervised walk. We offer a healthy snack and light meal. We have a variety of indoor and outdoor activities including craft, sport, IT and creative play depending on what they like to do to relax after a day at school. Most childcare vouchers are accepted.

### Young Parents Group

A welcoming and supportive environment for all parents under the age of 25. Our service includes a range of activities including skill building, arts and crafts, information and advice, peer support and experience sharing, along with specialist drop-ins. We also offer free condoms, pregnancy tests and chlamydia tests through the NHS Get It On! Service. Every Tuesday from 12 – 2pm.

For further information please visit our website: [www.thecarrollcentre.org](http://www.thecarrollcentre.org) or contact us on 01962 840 022 or [c.y.c@btconnect.com](mailto:c.y.c@btconnect.com) ~ Carroll Centre, Somers Close, Stanmore, Winchester, SO22 4EJ



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.



A warm welcome awaits you in your local group. New members are always welcome so, come along and join! The group meets at Badger Farm Community Centre, Badger Farm Road (next to Sainsbury's) every Saturday morning at 9.30am. If you would like more information, please telephone Steve on 07788 683 077.



### 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 or Email [lizabethweir@gmail.com](mailto:lizabethweir@gmail.com)

# Stanmore Primary School

Be the best that you can be

**All aboard!** Imagine the scene.....winter storms have lashed Winchester causing devastation and misery. Daily life has ground to a halt – who are you going to call? Well, Noah looks like a good bet, given his experience with flooding and preserving life on earth. This is the premise that our children in Years 3-6 have been working hard on, rehearsing every Monday for their performance for Rock Challenge in front of an audience of 1,000 people at Southampton Guildhall on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. Can Noah save the day or will global warming consign Winchester to a watery end...?

**On the Saxon trail....** Year 3 and 4 enjoyed an action packed day out in Winchester, exploring the Cathedral and City Museum for Anglo-Saxon information. In the City Museum, they made rubbings of Anglo-Saxon coins, sketched pots and even held a pot that was over 1100 years old! In the cathedral, they used each other to measure how big the original Anglo-Saxon cathedral would have been, and heard stories about different people that were connected to the cathedral. As well as discovering facts about different parts of the building, they pretended to be the Anglo-Saxons who pumped air to make the enormous organ work! In the Learning Centre, they all made 'silver' brooches and laminated letters, just as the Anglo-Saxon monks would have done (although the children used yellow paint instead of gold leaf!).

**He's behind you!** Following their exciting trip to the pantomime Sleeping Beauty at the Theatre Royal, our Year 2 children have devised their very own pantomime, based on the classic tale, Cinderella. The children thought carefully about which characters should be included and helped produce scenery, props and costumes. Each class then performed their pantomime version of the traditional tale to their delighted parents who really enjoyed it. Oh no they didn't.....oh YES they did!

**Down on the Farm...** at the time of writing our Year 5 children are all looking forward to their week long residential trip to the Out of Town Centre in Beaulieu. During an action packed few days, the children will be feeding and mucking out the animals, building survival shelters in the forest, studying the speed and flow of a river and taking part in the famous 'Beaulieu's Got Talent' competition. They will also discover that they are actually able to cope with living away from home for a whole week – a prospect that seems a little daunting at the moment!

For details of all the latest happenings at school, visit our website at: [www.stanmore.hants.sch.uk](http://www.stanmore.hants.sch.uk)

And if you would like to visit the school, please call 01962 852941 to make an appointment. Our Head, Mrs Justine Brooks would be delighted to show you round.



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## ANN'S COMPUTER CORNER

This very old, very precious photo shows my great-great grandparents John and Sarah Allen and their family around the turn of the 20th century. It's amazing to have this to keep the family memories alive.

Sadly, John's namesake and great-grandson suffered from Alzheimer's and so my Mum, his sister, read up a lot about this condition. She was particularly inspired by the concept of Memory Books ([goo.gl/83VPxt](http://goo.gl/83VPxt)) which can be used to both capture and stimulate memories. I was therefore very interested when I was contacted by a local lady, Anne

Forrest, in her quest to spread the word about her Digital Life Stories. These are effectively video versions of Memory Books and can be compilations of photos, film/video footage and music, providing a multi-sensory experience that can get amazing reactions. Seeing Anne's work—some of which you can find on YouTube ([goo.gl/V8xwFe](http://goo.gl/V8xwFe), [goo.gl/2XnA5v](http://goo.gl/2XnA5v), [goo.gl/3leHxX](http://goo.gl/3leHxX))—it struck me that these aren't just for people with dementia. They would make a thoughtful gift for anyone. So, with Mother's Day coming up, I thought I'd give you some hints on how to create one for someone in your family.

I'm not sure which software Anne uses to create her Digital Life Stories, but for many people probably the most convenient free software to use is Windows Movie Maker. This is part of the Microsoft Windows Essentials suite of software, so you may already have it on your computer. If not, download it from [goo.gl/AdY1yo](http://goo.gl/AdY1yo).

Once you have your software, you need to gather and digitise your images. Start at the beginning of the family collection and work your way through, bringing your story up to date. You'll need to scan your photos; most home printers scan too so this shouldn't be a problem. For video, you may need to buy a USB Video & Audio Grabber. Film will be harder to digitise; there are some hints on [goo.gl/7l78oS](http://goo.gl/7l78oS).

Don't be limited to your own images. Many organisations are making their digitised historic photos and footage available. Google may help you find clips that add atmosphere to your story; download these using [keepvid.com](http://keepvid.com). Do be careful of copyright status—use [goo.gl/1Diyid](http://goo.gl/1Diyid) to get pointers to many public domain and Creative Commons sources.

All you need do now is put it together, which Movie Maker makes very simple following the steps on [goo.gl/LLjYV9](http://goo.gl/LLjYV9). Have fun playing with the animations, visual effects and themes; you may be surprised how creative you can get. At the end just save or publish your movie ... and then enjoy sharing all those memories with the family.

Ann Jury

Ann is the founder of Winchester Computer Tutor ([winchestercomputertutor.co.uk](http://winchestercomputertutor.co.uk)), which offers good-value, friendly 1-to-1 tuition for less-confident computer users.



We are very proud of the progress our Year 5 children have made recently. A big thank you to Year 5 for their class assembly entitled "Celebrating Difference." All of the pupils presented themselves well and took part.

The dance showed real talent and we would like to thank Miss Wellington from Kings' School for teaching the pupils their various moves. Year 5 have made huge strides in developing friendships and building on their

learning behaviours. This was shown in a very moving way through this poem that all the pupils had learnt. We would like to share it with our wider community.

I Choose...  
To live by choice,  
Not by chance;  
To make changes,  
Not excuses;  
To be motivated,  
Not manipulated;  
To be useful,  
Not used;  
To excel,  
Not compete;  
I choose self-esteem,  
Not self-pity;  
I choose to stand strong,  
Not join the crowd and be one among many.  
I choose to be me.

Come and see what Oliver's Battery School can offer your child. We have 175 children on roll and provide a happy, safe environment, with wonderful grounds, for your child's learning and socialising. We have strong links with King's School. Call us on 01962 869 496 and we will happily arrange for you and your child to come and have a look around. For more information, please see our website [www.oliversbattery.com](http://www.oliversbattery.com)



## NATURE NOTES FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY



The first day of February and it's a bright sunny morning with a wild bitter wind. Colder weather is forecasted but it's been a comparatively mild winter. Last weekend I had the best count of birds for years, thirteen species, for the Big

Garden Birdwatch. The spring is not far away now and signs are already showing with snowdrops and crocuses in flower and catkins full size on the hazels. A few shrivelled hawthorn berries remain on the ends of branches out of reach of birds. At the dreary end of November half a dozen blackbirds sat eying with intent the glossy red fruit amongst the leafless shrubs reminding me of a print I have of the Croatian artist Ivan Lacković.

Let me dispel a couple of myths. Last time, I mentioned the kestrel's ability to see the urine trails of small rodents. I have read on a falconry website that these trails are due to the rodents not having bladders. Wrong! Small rodents urinate frequently but they do have a bladder. I also heard tell that harvest mice build their nests at the bottom of grass stalks getting higher as the grass grows. Very whimsical, but they build their summer nests high in the tops of grass and reeds. It is in winter they make a nest at ground level which is probably how the myth originated.

Walk to Yew Hill when the sun is low and you will see a landscape of small grassy mounds intensified by light and shadow. These are the nests of the Yellow Meadow Ant built up over generations in this unimproved grassland. The grass on the mounds is much finer than that around and frequently scattered with rabbit droppings. The soil too is very fine having been dug out and brought to the surface by the worker ants during the process of constructing the chambers and passages of this breeding colony which can extend to a metre below ground. This ensures a consistent temperature and humidity for the developing eggs. The workers are not often seen above ground but are attracted by the sweet substance secreted by the larvae of the Chalkhill Blue butterfly which they take below ground thus protecting them from predators in this symbiotic relationship. You may see a green woodpecker busily probing the anthills with its long sticky tongue or catch it disappearing with an undulating flight.

In early January an Oliver's Battery reader had a lone fieldfare eating apples on his tree and wonders if it's the same bird that has visited for the past few winters. Another reader recently spotted a red kite over her house in Badger Farm which is great news. Your observations are welcome so please keep them coming.  
norma.goodwin@btinternet.com

Norma Goodwin



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Below are details of some of the events coming up at Badger Farm Community Centre. For more information, please contact the organiser direct. If you would like to include an event you are holding in this section, remember it does not have to be at the Community Centre, contact the Editor, Jan Dawkins on 01962 868630, email enquiries@bfobrca.org or visit our website www.bfobrca.org

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Launch Meeting for Oliver's Battery Community Plan - Oliver's Battery Primary School - 7pm
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April - Auction - Contact 01962 734941
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Handmade Craft Fayre - Badger Farm Community Centre - 2pm-5pm
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Winchester Country Market Taster Day - 8am-12pm
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Stamp & Postcard Fair - Contact 01795 478175
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Wessex Cancer Support Fundraiser - Badger Farm Community Centre - 10am-12.30pm

### BADGER FARM & OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Badger Farm Parish Council** meet on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) in the Bushfield Room at Badger Farm Community Centre at 7.30pm. Contact the Clerk Viv Brooks on viv@bcl-construction.co.uk for information.

**Oliver's Battery Parish Council** meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at St Mark's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery Road South at 7.30pm. Contact the Clerk Elizabeth Billingham on clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com for information.

Do you have some time to spare? Are you interested in volunteering? Would you like to help the local community and become one of our much valued distributors of this very popular local quarterly newsletter? We are urgently looking for more volunteers. The publications would be delivered direct to you for distribution. If you have a bit of spare time and fancy some gentle walking exercise, please contact Jan Dawkins at the Community Centre on enquiries@bfobrca.org or Rachel Skinner on rmskinner@tiscali.co.uk Your help would be very much appreciated!



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