

Community News

Your Local Community Newsletter

Spring 2016 Edition



NEWS FROM BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

A FOND FAREWELL TO THE WINCHESTER COUNTRY MARKET



Friday 18 December 2015 was an extremely sad and bittersweet day here at Badger Farm Community Centre when we said a very reluctant farewell to the ladies and gents of the Winchester Country Market. They had sadly and reluctantly taken the decision to cease trading after being a regular fixture every Friday morning at the Community Centre for over 20 years. Many of you will have visited them during this time and purchased some of their delicious and unique wares. You will also have read their regular updates in Community News.

As you can imagine, a few tears were shed but the children from Badger Farm Pre-School raised the mood and a few smiles when they came in to sing and wish the traders well for the future. You can see pictured the staff from the Country Market along with some staff and children from the Pre-School. It is indeed a very huge gap that they will leave in our week but we all wish them well for the future and are sure they will keep in touch.

GOOD NEWS FOR BADGER FARM TODDLER GROUP

Badger Farm Toddlers were delighted back in November last year to receive a very generous grant from County Councillor Phil Bailey for £130.00. They have used the funds to purchase much needed art and craft materials for the children to use. This group meet every Thursday afternoon at the Community Centre during term time and it is positively flourishing! It is an excellent meeting place for parents to get together and have a cuppa whilst the children play safely and make new friends. There is always something going on and the atmosphere is very welcoming. Why not pay them a visit? You can see in the picture one of the children enjoying some of the craft materials.



BF & OB RCA, Badger Farm Community Centre, Badger Farm Road, Winchester, S022 4QB
Tel. 01962 868630 ~ Email: enquiries@bfobrca.org ~ Registered Charity No. 279592 ~ www.bfobrca.org

Editorial deadline for **Summer 2016** issue: **Friday 6 May 2016**



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Oliver's Battery
Winchester



Winchester

www.winchestergold.org.uk
Charity No. 1156536

GO LD

PLANT SALE OF THE YEAR! Coffee Morning & Garden Open

(National Garden Scheme Garden)
At Little Court, Crawley, Winchester, SO21 2PU
(By kind permission of Mrs Elkington)

On Thursday 28 April 2016 ~ 10am to 1pm

In aid of the local charity Winchester GoLD
supporting local people with learning disabilities
www.winchestergold.org.uk
Charity number 1156536

Winchester

www.winchestergold.org.uk
Charity No. 1156536

GO LD

GOLD CUP RACE NIGHT (a fun evening for all the family)

Friday 11 March 2016

Twyford Social Club ~ 7.00 pm onwards

Tickets: £15 including supper from:
Winchester GoLD, Winchester Discovery Centre,
Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8SB
Tel: 01962 873608

Or <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/206215>
In aid of Winchester GoLD charity number 1156536



QUIZ NIGHT!

At Oliver's Battery
Primary School

Friday 11th March at 8.30pm

More information on
www.fobsonline.weebly.com



80's DISCO



At Oliver's Battery Primary School
Saturday 7th May 2016

Come and dance to your
favourite songs!

More information on
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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.
Healing Trust	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 841402		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
RugbyTots	Friday	1.00pm - 1.30pm 1.35pm - 2.05pm 2.10pm - 2.55pm	Contact Phil Rowles phil@rugbytots.co.uk 007985 788 069	Enquire direct	A fun, active and confidence building class for boys and girls aged 2-7 years. Free trials available. www.rugbytots.co.uk
Senshi Ryuu Karate	Thursday	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Phil Aucott senshiryuukarate@gmail.com	Enquire direct	Become fitter, more flexible, stronger, more disciplined., focused and confident.
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 Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Lucy Scott 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. Please contact the organiser direct for more information. 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@bfobrca.org

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Oliver's Battery Send Christmas Wishes to Cumbrian Support Workers

As part of their 'Amazing Landscapes' topic last term, Year 4 (Skylarks Class) at Oliver's Battery Primary School studied the recent floods in Cumbria. The children were all particularly touched to learn that local organisations such as the hospitals, fire service and football team had given up their time to help those in need and thought it would be a nice idea to send letters and home-made Christmas cards, in the hope that they could lift people's spirits and show their appreciation for the support given.

Sophie (8) wrote: "I am sorry to hear that you have been through all these stressful floods. I am glad you were there for the community."

Katie (8) wrote: "I am sorry that people whose houses were ruined had to come to the hospital because of the flood. I feel happy that you have been supporting them."

Febie (9) wrote: "Thank you for being there for the community, we are very grateful for your kindness."

The cards and letters were sent to various organisations including, Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle, North Cumbria University Hospitals Trust and Carlisle United Football Club. The children didn't expect to get a reply, but it was lovely to arrive back at school after the holidays to find an e-mail and a letter of thanks from the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle as well as copies of the hospital Newsletter and local Newspaper, The Cumberland News, which both featured the children's letters. Carlisle United Football Club 'tweeted' photos of the children's letters and said: "Another Thank You to the Year Four children at Oliver's Battery School in Winchester who have sent us some Christmas wishes". North Cumbria NHS 'tweeted' a photo of a Christmas card and said: "Christmas greetings from primary pupils in @WinchesterCity thanking our staff for their efforts during the recent floods".

Steve Boon, Operations Director at Interserve (who are part of the hospital), e-mailed the school to say that the children are "a credit to the school". He also wrote "it is heartening that people from afar send their best wishes, so on behalf of everyone employed at the hospital can I say a huge thank you to your pupils. They are clearly able to articulate their thoughts and emotions very well."

In the North Cumbria University Hospitals newsletter said: "The Trust was delighted to receive a parcel of fantastic homemade Christmas Cards and letters from pupils at a primary school in Hampshire this week, who decided to write to staff at the Cumberland Infirmary after hearing about the Cumbrian floods. The Year 4 youngsters from Oliver's Battery Primary School in Winchester wrote to thank staff for their efforts to keep the hospital running in difficult circumstances." And Skylarks received a letter from the Trust which read:

"Dear Boys and Girls

We wanted to write to thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas cards and letters you sent to the staff at the Cumberland Infirmary here in Carlisle. I understand you have been learning about landscapes and in particular, the Lake District, and heard all about the flooding we have experienced here in recent weeks. It was very kind of you to think of us and to take the time to make such lovely cards and touching letters. We have passed the cards and letters on to staff in wards and departments around the hospital and they really appreciated your kindness."

An article appeared in The Cumberland News, dated 25 December 2015 showing some of the letters received from Skylarks.

The children were delighted:

Charlie (9) said "Lots of people didn't have homes to go to for Christmas because of the flood. We all felt happy to know the fire service, hospital and football team were helping, because it meant they had someone to rely on."

Lucy (8) thought "After seeing lots of news clips of the damaged caused by the floods, we thought that hand-made cards and letters would be a nice surprise at Christmas."

Evie (8) felt "It was amazing that people with busy jobs were making time to help those in need. We wanted to cheer them up with our letters, but expected that they would be too busy to reply. I thought about them a lot over Christmas."

Prasant (8) said "We were shocked to have a reply because we didn't ask for one! It made us feel proud that they would say such good things about us in their newspaper."

We still have places available at our school. We would love to show you our school and amazing grounds. Please arrange a visit any time of the year to see our school at work either by telephone 01962 869496 or email admin@oliversb.com.

Fey Wood ~ Headteacher

WINCHESTER LOCAL GROUP - HAMPSHIRE & IOW WILDLIFE TRUST

If you would like to know more about not only our British wildlife, both in the countrywide and off our coast, but also the spectacular wildlife of Ethiopia, then do come and join us on one of our Spring events. **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 email Anne on anneardill@hotmail.com. 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. There is lots of information on local wildlife and how you can get involved. Future indoor and outdoor meetings are listed below.

Wed. 9 March ~ 7.30pm ~ 9.30pm ~ In Search of the Endangered Ethiopian Wolf

Dan Free, Operations Manager at Naturetrek Wildlife Travel Company, will be describing the spectacular scenery and wildlife of Ethiopia. Held in the Bushfield Room at the Badger Farm Community Centre. For further information, contact Loraine on 01962 861182 or anneardill@hotmail.com. Admission £3 to include coffee/tea.

Sun. 3 April ~ 10am ~ 3pm ~ Keyhaven for Birds

Join John Clark for a bird walk of about 4 miles, for coastal birds and early migrants. Meet in the Keyhaven car park opposite the Gun public house. Some 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 telephone Mary on 01962 864440. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.

Wed. 13 April ~ 7.30pm ~ 9.30pm ~ Looking out for Wonderful Whales and Delightful Dolphins

Join Anna Bunney from ORCA, one of Europe's leading whale and dolphin conservation charities, to learn about the variety of whales, dolphins and porpoises around the UK coastline, the threats they face and how you can help with the ORCA surveys. Held in the Bushfield Room at the Badger Farm Community Centre. For further information, contact Loraine on 01962 861182 or anneardill@hotmail.com. Admission £3 to include coffee/tea.

Fri. 22 April ~ 7.30pm ~ Winchester Skittles Evening

A warm welcome awaits you with a light hearted game of skittles at The Winchester Club. Cost £13 per person to include supper. Booking essential – please book early for this popular event with Helen and Martin Keys on 01962 842610. Last bookings on Friday 1st April. The Winchester Club is in Highfield Lodge, Worthy Lane, Winchester SO23 7AB - turn into Worthy Lane car park and proceed up the slope on the right where there is plenty of parking.

Wed. 4 May ~ 6.30pm ~ 8.30pm ~ Floodplain Meadows: Does Biodiversity Prevent Flooding?

Trust reserves officer Rachel Remnant will guide us through the water-meadows of the River Itchen on a walk and talk covering flooding and the biodiversity of chalk river meadows. We will end around sunset as the bats begin to emerge from their roosts. Meet in Garnier Road at the start of the footpath to St. Cross by Meadow View Cottage, SO23 9QG. Parking by the start and along Garnier Road. Booking is essential – to book your place please contact Loraine on 01962 861182 or anneardill@hotmail.com. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.

Wed. 25 May ~ 10.30am ~ 3.30pm ~ Butterflies and Flowers at Old Winchester Hill

Join Brian Fletcher for a walk at this chalk downland National Nature Reserve to see spring butterflies such as skippers and blues, and other wildlife. Bring a packed lunch. This is a joint event with Butterfly Conservation. Meet in the main reserve car park on the minor road south east of Warnford. For further details, please contact Mary on 01962 864440. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.

We would particularly welcome help at our evening talks.

OLIVER'S BATTERY WI



In the almost 16 years since Oliver's Battery WI started, we have become very successful and have outgrown St Mark's Church as our meeting venue. After research and a democratic vote, the decision was taken to move to St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Oliver's Battery Road North. Meetings will now be on the third Monday of each month, except August, at 7.45pm. We are all looking forward to continued success and enjoyment.

We have started with a demonstration of Tai Chi and Chi Kung as a possible exercise to try and there are some superb speakers booked for the rest of the year. As well as speakers, the summer outing is being planned to Mapledurham House. By popular demand, the **Annual Oliver's Battery WI Plant Sale with Coffee and Cakes for Sale** will take place as usual on the first Bank Holiday in May - **on the 2nd at St Mark's Church, from 10.00 onwards**. Plants are being propagated and cuttings set, so please come along and get good value plants that have been grown especially for the sale. You can meet up with old friends too, with a coffee and home made cake and the chance to take home some cake for tea. All are baked fresh for the sale by Oliver's Battery members.

As you can see, we are thriving and would be happy to greet you as a visitor or potential new member at any of our meetings. You can see what we get up to on the Hampshire WI web site at hampshirewi.org.uk and go to the Hampshire WI's where we have a page. If you would like more information, please contact President Katherine at katherine.elsmore@hotmail.co.uk

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OLIVER'S BATTERY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Spring! What a wonderful time of year, when early flowers and longer days give us a real sense of optimism. This year, there's yet another reason for optimism: our newly founded charity, Oliver's Battery Community Centre Limited, is up and running - and off to a flying start! Donations in the first month are approaching £5,000, which is an extremely generous and encouraging response. We're grateful to all donors and especially those who have given via standing orders or Life Membership subscriptions, demonstrating a long term commitment to the project to rebuild St Mark's church as a modern community centre.

Those who have lived in Oliver's Battery for years remember a time when there were more community activities and know how well our community can respond to a challenge. In 2016, there's much to celebrate: it's 60 years since the formation of Oliver's Battery Parish Council and 60 years since the building of St Mark's - but there's also a challenge. Our bus services, some of our shops, and our only community building are all in decline. If left unchecked, this trend could lead to empty shops, a derelict building, and perhaps worse: the heart of our community is greatly in need of renewal. We look forward to the findings of the recent Parish Plan survey, and hope they clarify these issues.

The project to build a new community centre is an important part of that. It will provide a place for new clubs, societies and groups to base their activities, and a place where young and old can meet socially - especially those who don't get out as much as they would like. It will also give existing user groups a secure future. That's why we must proceed with as much speed as we can muster.

We distributed a leaflet with details of our plans over the New Year. There are more copies at Badger Farm Community Centre, Oliver's Battery Post Office, and St Mark's. If you've lost your copy or didn't receive it, please pick one up there. If you are still thinking about how to respond, please read your copy again and consider whether you could make a donation or volunteer to help.

Part of our challenge is to tap the many sources of local and national grant funding which exist and could bring so much benefit to our community. But we have to show evidence of our own fundraising in order to unlock these grants. There is a long way to go and, therefore, we will be grateful for all contributions, large or small, and from wherever they come.

Geoff Sharman ~ for the management team, **Oliver's Battery Community Centre Ltd.** ~ Tel. 867961
geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com



BADGER FARM SOCIAL CLUB – YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL COMMUNITY PUB !



We are situated in the Community Centre and welcome anyone from the community to pop in and see what we have to offer.

Open Sunday 12noon-10.30pm / Monday to Thursday 5pm-11pm / Friday 4pm-12am and Saturday 12noon-12am

Membership is available for residents of Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery and surrounding areas for only £30 for a family, £20 for a single person and £10 for concessions. We have a pool team as well as men's and ladies darts teams who play in local leagues. If you are interested in joining us, pop in and speak to Mel at the Club. Each week we have a meat draw from a local butcher and have other weekly activities and draws. We also run special member events at Bank Holidays and Christmas/New Year. We also organise trips to sporting events at the request of members. There are multiple screens in the club showing numerous sporting events via Sky and we theme the bar accordingly, for example, Rugby 6 Nations, Football European Championships and in the special year the Rio Olympics! We offer quality lagers, ciders and 4 real ales (local and national) as well as many other drinks at club prices (cheaper than the high street on many major brands.)

Why not pop in to see what we are up to! We hope to see you soon.

Mel, Richard and the Team

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Stanmore Primary School

Be the best that you can be.

Rabbit, Rabbit! Year 1 children in Maple Class had a big surprise one morning when they arrived into class. The signs had been there for a little while; Munch, the class rabbit had got much plumper and had been putting her hay into large comfy looking piles. Then she looked as though she was building a nest and by the next morning she had seven babies! At first they were hidden under a soft heap of fur in the corner of the cage and Munch kept a very close eye on them. Maple Class found out all about how to help her look after her babies. Munch fed them and Miss Norris and the children checked that they were warm with nice round tummies twice a day. They wrote a class blog detailing their development and soon they had changed from hairless mole-like creatures into cute little bunnies with long fluffy coats of grey and white fur. The children loved handling them and watching them hop around the classroom. Some of the little rabbits have brand new homes but two, a boy and a girl, are now in Aspen Class. We'll have to keep a close eye on them or the whole process will start all over again!

Fun on the Farm – Our annual Year 5 residential trip to the Out of Town Centre in Beaulieu was brilliant fun! In addition to mucking out the animals and making sure they had all been fed (before breakfast!) the children traced the source of a river, built survival shelters in the New Forest, toasted marshmallows round the camp fire and enjoyed the Top Gear experience at the Beaulieu Motor Museum. The weather was kind all week – blue skies, lots of sunshine and VERY cold! Everyone discovered that in spite of all their doubts and worries they could manage just fine staying away from home for a week and a fab time was had by all.

Order Order! Our school council who are known as S.P.E.A.K (Share, Present, Express, Action, Know) have been invited to visit the Houses of Parliament on Monday 14th March 2016. Steve Brine, Winchester's M.P. will meet them and they will be treated to a tour of the Palace followed by some activities organised by the Parliament's education service. It's all very exciting and who knows what ambitions this visit may spark...

Going Dutch....At the time of writing, our year 4 children are preparing to take part in the Ghent Winchester Book Arts project with students from Belgium who are visiting Winchester University. The students have devised an art project with Dutch illustrator Kaatje Vermeire. Taking the story of Japie, the old man who collects, boxes, bird houses and suitcases as their inspiration, the students and Kaatje are going to be creating an art installation using found objects. It all sounds fascinating and we are really looking forward to our cultural exchange.

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 Head, Mrs Justine Brooks would be delighted to show you round.

JOIN US AT OUR DEMENTIA CAFE IN WINCHESTER



Leading the
fight against
dementia

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 or by telephone on 01256 363393. We very much look forward to seeing you. Visit our website for further information at alzheimers.org.uk

Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Registered charity number 296645.

On Monday 11th January Community First launched their new Volunteer Wessex website. The website has a really local feel, giving local organisations and volunteers across Winchester, Havant and East Hampshire the chance to advertise for help and find opportunities where they live. Community First helps other organisations find, recruit and support potential volunteers, but they also offer the same support and guidance to the potential volunteer. Tom Belshaw, Development Manager for Community First said:

“We’re really proud to launch this new site which is the result of lots of work behind the scenes with volunteers and local community groups. We know that there are lots of people who want to volunteer and plenty of willing helpers, but it’s getting the information in one easy to access place, the new site does this. Volunteer Wessex helps groups to promote their activities and services locally and it gives volunteers more control of the information they want to share by creating a sort of online volunteering CV. We will grow the site over the next few months, making it the local one stop shop for volunteering.”

A team of volunteers at Community First have worked really hard over the past few months to make sure the new site is ready to launch. Tim Houghton, Chief Executive of Community First said “volunteering is at the heart of a vibrant and successful community. Lots of people find their own ways of giving time but many people ask us for help and our easy-to-use on line service will make it much easier for people to find new opportunities and get into a volunteering role quickly. We’re really keen to attract younger volunteers as well those who might volunteer their time and expertise relevant to their work. There are some fantastic opportunities to help people and organisations right on your doorstep and we hope to see a big upsurge in numbers of volunteers coming forward.”

To see the website go to www.volunteerwessex.org. If anyone wants to speak to a member of the Volunteer Service team about volunteering or volunteer recruitment they can contact the team on 0300 500 8085 or email volunteer@cfirst.org.uk



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OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

As we look forward to spring and longer daylight hours, we have more opportunity to enjoy the walks and open spaces available to us in and around Oliver's Battery. This time last

year I reported that the Parish Council were in discussions with Hampshire County Council regarding the transfer of ownership of the Battery open space alongside St Mark's Hall to the Parish Council. The transfer was finally completed in December 2015. Now that the Parish Council owns the open space, we are planning the design of an interpretation board, to be placed at a suitable location on the Battery, to give an overview of the history of the site. In particular, the discovery of the grave of a Saxon chief and a bronze bowl during excavations in the 1930's will feature.

A number of residents have expressed concerns about the speed of traffic, particularly in Oliver's Battery Road South and Old Kennels Lane. The Parish Council are in the process of purchasing Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) equipment that lights up to show the speed of approaching vehicles. The equipment will be able to be moved to different locations as required and will log data on traffic passing the sign. The SLR equipment will enable the Council to more effectively monitor traffic speed on Oliver's Battery.

Increased use of the recreation ground, following the installation of the MUGA and new children's play equipment, had led to a deterioration to the surface of the section of Texas Drive leading to the car park. In January work was undertaken to repair and improve the access to our highly valued recreation ground.

It is a concern that some elderly/vulnerable residents are being tricked into participating in a scam in various forms, either by telephone or by a 'cold caller'. We would advise all residents:

- Never respond to unsolicited phone calls.
- Never give out personal details to cold callers.
- Be wary of being asked for advanced fees.
- Be wary of handing money over to people you do not know.

Finally, the Parish Council has been asked to confirm its position regarding the proposed replacement of St Mark's with a new building as set out in the recent leaflet sent to residents by the new Oliver's Battery Community Centre Charity. The Council's position remains unchanged from that set out in my report to the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2015. In summary, the Council:

- Supports the principle of creating a new community centre in Oliver's Battery but expressed some concerns regarding the Oliver's Battery Community Centre Charity's proposals.
- Would focus its attention on the Oliver's Battery Plan which will review the community's requirements in relation to a community centre in the light of views expressed in the development of the Plan.

Brian Mitchener ~ Chair Oliver's Battery Parish Council
cldr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info - 01962 623585



WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



There have been premature signs of Spring since December but now it has arrived officially and it is a joy to see the garden shedding its drab winter coat for good. There are plenty of jobs to be done out in the fresh air or in the greenhouse to keep us busy after work and at weekends. However, once a month, on a Wednesday evening, we take time off to join fellow members for an evening's relaxation and inspiration. Why don't you come and join us? We have the following speakers lined up for the next few months:

March 2016 ~ (Wednesday 9th) ~ A speedy AGM, followed by a talk on the "Seafront Gardens of Southsea" by Roger Young, who used to be a parks officer for Portsmouth and Southsea Council.

April 2016 ~ (Wednesday 13th) ~ Barrie Clarke, botany officer at Hilliers, will tell us his interesting story of "Looking for Lobelias" in the world's warmer climate.

May 2016 ~ (Wednesday 11th) ~ Paolo Arrigo will introduce his talk on the "Seeds of Italy" with a tune played on his accordion. He will also bring seeds for sale.

Our meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester, SO23 7AB, starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome; fee £3. For more information visit www.winhortsoc@weebly.com.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our popular Annual Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 14th May 2016 at
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9.30am ~ 2.30pm
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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 helpline is staffed by osteoporosis nurse advisers and is open 9am to 5pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Tuesday from 11am to 7pm. Telephone 0808 800 0035 ~ www.nos.org.uk ~ email info@nos.org.uk.

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. For more information telephone 01962 866152. The programme for 2016 is below:

Wednesday 20 April ~ Annual Review ~ 2pm ~ Followed by - Falls Prevention, including a taster session on Steady & Strong Exercises. Speaker: Adi Phillips - Falls Coordinator for North East Hampshire & Nurse Specialist in Falls and Bone Health

Wednesday 15 June ~ 7pm ~ Osteoporosis Update. Speaker, Dr Neil Buchanan, Consultant Rheumatologist, Royal Hampshire County Hospital.

Wednesday 19 October ~ 7pm ~ How the Helpline advise people who telephone the Charity. Speaker: Suzanne Chedburn, Helpline Nurse, National Osteoporosis Society.

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

National Osteoporosis Society, Camerton, Bath, BA2 0PJ
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www.jojingles.com/winchester

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

It has been a busy winter for the both of us, with major developments across the city and local issues to keep on top of. Fortunately, road sweeping and the maintenance of public areas seems to have worked better this year and last, but thank you to those who have spotted things which have slipped through the net and let us know.

If you have any questions on what we have been doing or want to raise any concerns please do via the contact details shown below. The main things we have been working on recently are:

The Silver Hill Scheme

As regular readers of this report or the Chronicle will know a large development at the bottom of the city known as Silver Hill has been on the cards for many years now, with various schemes being brought forward over time. At Council in January the Liberal Democrats tabled a motion at full Council to terminate the current Silver Hill Project. The developer had asked for more time to start the development and this was decided to be unacceptable. The developer's proposal would have created an indefinite delay. Also, the likelihood that a bus station and affordable housing were to be removed from the scheme, led to it being felt that the only cause of action left to the Council was to terminate the contract.

New leisure and cultural centres on the horizon!

Another major development area that the Council has been dealing with is in Bar End, where a new leisure centre to replace River Park is proposed. This is something both of us have been in favour of for a couple of years and the Council now seems to share our views. The new centre could provide first class facilities and would be much more easily accessible for Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery residents and is therefore something the local team will keep campaigning for.

The Number 5 Bus

We continue to keep a close eye on local bus services, having written to Stage Coach in the autumn to raise issues around the punctuality of buses.

This seems to have improved in recent weeks. We have also worked to get the screens showing upcoming bus times fixed, as a couple had either stopped working entirely or were out of sync.

Pitt Vale

We also remain concerned that Linden Homes are using delays in schemes such as Barton Farm as justification for the Pitt Vale development and we have raised this issue at every opportunity. During the last Council Cabinet meeting Cllr Laming asked how it would affect the Council's housing figures if such schemes did not go ahead soon. The Leader of the Council sidestepped the question but confirmed that the Council would back our opposition to the Pitt Vale application. At present there has not been any more movement on Pitt Vale. The city planners are awaiting further information from Hampshire County Council and, we believe, clarification on some points from Linden Homes. If you would like to join our mailing list to get regular updates on this scheme please email Brian (details below).

The Hospital

Regular readers will know that we have concerns over the hospital and proposals for some of its services to be moved to a new hospital near Basingstoke, which will be much less accessible for elderly or disabled residents. We continue to monitor the situation and will keep you informed of any developments. Meanwhile, you can help us understand resident's needs and experiences of local hospitals by filling in our survey online at: winld.org.uk/nhssurvey

Empty Homes

This is an issue we have been working on for a couple of years; with sky-high house prices in Winchester and thousands of people struggling to buy or rent homes in the area, the fact that hundreds of homes across the city are sitting empty is a major issue. We have now got the Council looking at this properly and will keep pushing for more action.

Cllr Brian Laming - 07973 265 028 - blaming@winchester.gov.uk
Cllr Patrick Fancett - 07757 508 608 - pfancett@winchester.gov.uk

Handy Man

mobile: 07788 587544 Home: 01962-862295
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Dear Friends with Easter all over and packed away before the end of March I must get my Easter Blessings to you now as Spring and new life should be in full flow as we work our way through another year. With an early Easter we can hope for a long Summer but with the seeming never ending pleasantly named storms, who knows what it might be like. The 10.30am services on Sundays at St Marks have proved to be such a great blessing to our community that they are now happening every week, you would be most welcome to join with others at this informal service. We will be offering a wide choice of services over Easter starting with:

Maundy Thursday 24th 10.00am Eucharist with Washing at **St Mark's**

7.00pm Eucharist at **St Luke's** with Washing, Striping of the Sanctuary and Watch till 10.00pm

Good Friday 25th 10.00am Reflective Service for All at **St Mark's**

11.00am Veneration of the Cross at **St Luke's**

Eve of Easter 26th 7.00pm A hour before the Tomb at **St Luke's**

Easter Day 27th

8.00am Eucharist at **St Mark's**

9.30am Parish Eucharist at **St Luke's** with lighting of the Easter Fire and Candle

10.30am Family Service for All at **St Mark's**

6.30pm Easter songs, music and readings at **St Mark's**



TRACY'S FEEL-GOOD TIPS

The Dieting Roller Coaster



Dieting can become a roller coaster for those with genuinely healthy intention. Sadly resulting in a permanently lowered metabolic rate which causes accelerated fat storing.

It is very concerning that fad diets promoted by popular media can cause a vicious cycle of unhealthy eating. This often begins in the teenage years when peer pressure can go against common sense at a time when nourishment is such a priority. Unfortunately most diets work superficially by radically restricting calories to below resting metabolic rate causing a famine response. Consequently even more weight is stored in the longer term. In this condition, the body becomes more calorie efficient, stretching them further and further.

It is always best to view one's goals in terms of principles of healthier living. These principles are classic and simple for anyone to apply without following fads and they are extremely effective for achieving weight loss that lasts:

- 1. create a daily calorie deficit – always staying above RMR (resting metabolic rate: starvation point). Your doctor or personal trainer will be able to calculate the amount of calories that will achieve this
- 2. protect hormone efficiency – using slow burn foods & enjoyable regular exercise
- 3. lift weights and do plenty of cardiovascular exercise -- which raise metabolism and prevent loss of muscle tissue
- 4. get enthused about activities of daily living (ADLs) – walking to work, tea and lunch breaks, stair climbing, standing work stations, housework, gardening, DIY, dog-walking...

If you feel continually bombarded by mixed messages you are not alone... the diet industry is a great big marketing machine... 10,300,000 results on Google... from a £28 BILLION/per year industry. With Spring just around the corner it is a great time to set the wheels in motion for getting healthier, fitter and stronger. Have fun doing it!

Tracy Frost is a personal trainer qualified to work with GP referred conditions. She runs Fit4Fun exercise classes and Feel-Good Body Workshops focused on joint health in Oliver's Battery. For her website go to <http://www.bwellthy.blogspot.co.uk> and Amazon Kindle for her book Feel-Good Joints and Muscles. The author can be contacted directly for printed copies on 07896 120 099.

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AN UPDATE FROM STEVE BRINE, MP FOR WINCHESTER

It's been said many times that a backbench MP has limited power but, potentially, a great deal of influence. More than five years in, I agree with that!

A good example of such, and the ability of this role to make a real difference, came on my birthday at the very end of January when many years of work and campaigning saw the Psychoactive Substances Act receive Royal Assent from Her Majesty the Queen.

Constituents, including a number of families here, have raised with me their concern about so-called 'legal highs' and, sadly, we have seen some tragic deaths (including locally) as a result of their use. Because they have been legal, due to the chemists staying one step ahead of the law, the message went out that these party drugs are safe, harmless fun. They are not and the parents I have met who've lost children as a result of these drugs, know that better than anyone. Years of pressure saw the proposal to introduce a "blanket ban" on psychoactive substances included in my party's manifesto last year and the Bill was a key part of the first Queen's speech.

The opening of the 'head shop' on Stockbridge Road last year provoked a huge response (passed as it is by hundreds of young people and school children every day) in my post bag and was rightly covered by this newspaper. There was of course relief just before Christmas when the shop was finally closed down using long-winded anti-social behaviour laws after many of us raised concerns with police, local authorities and trading standards. As I said in Parliament, I know many of my constituents were pleased to see the back of this outlet and will welcome the new law which makes its return extremely difficult.

I spoke at every step of the Bill's Commons' stages and, while new laws are welcome, we now need to work with the police to bed it down and step up sensitive and evidence based education among young people of the dangers all drugs present to them and their future. You can find out more, and follow the links to my work on this subject, and follow the links, via www.stevebrine.com/legalhighs



Locally, I have written before about the excellence of the schools in Winchester and Oliver's Battery is of course one of its fastest rising stars. So it was great to welcome the Education Secretary herself to my constituency recently. As well as taking a look at the new all-through school at Westgate we spent time (as pictured) meeting students training to be the teachers of tomorrow at our excellent University.

Prof Joy Carter and Steve with the Secretary of State at the University of Winchester.

Finally, I have added a new date to my much in-demand draw for tickets to watch PMQs. If you and a friend would like to be considered for Cameron V Corbyn on Wednesday 13th April 2016, please visit www.stevebrine.com/PMQs to enter.

You can find more information about my continuing work as your local MP, in Winchester and Westminster, via the website or on 01962 791110.

Steve Brine MP for Winchester
steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk
www.stevebrine.com

Dementia Friendly Winchester is run by a group of volunteers who are passionate about raising awareness of dementia. We want to ensure that people with dementia can lead a good life in the city and are met with understanding and support when they are out and about. Many local businesses and organisations have, as a result, committed to becoming dementia friendly and their staff have become Dementia Friends.

We are a very friendly group of people and we meet once a month, usually in central Winchester. We are also looking for more volunteers and need help with PR and marketing (including running a new website and writing newsletters), taking notes at monthly meetings, starting new projects or liaising with businesses.

For further information please email dementiafriendlywinch@hotmail.com



THE PARISH OF ST LUKE & ST MARK
FAIRTRADE GROUP

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ST MARK'S CHURCH, OLIVERS BATTERY
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OLIVER'S BATTERY PRE-SCHOOL

SPRING ROLLS AND SPRING FAYRES

In February the "home corner" in pre-school was transformed into a Chinese restaurant as the children explored the topic of the Chinese New Year. The children created lanterns, learnt about the Lion Dance and sampled some Chinese food. Other topics the children will have an



Chinese New Year Artwork from the Pre-School

opportunity to "get their teeth into" are pets, Mother's Day and Easter when they especially look forward to a chocolate hunt in the grounds of the primary school followed by an Easter themed party. On 7 May the pre-school will be holding a Spring Fayre in the school hall with a cake sale, refreshments, pre-loved toys stall and a fantastic array of local crafts. There will be entertainment for children in the Funky Playbus; a double-decker bus which has been transformed into a mobile soft play area. Look out for further details nearer the time.

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 ~ Take a look at our new Website: www.oliversbatterypreschool.org.uk

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Mondays 6:15 – 7:00 pm ~ St. Peter's Catholic Primary School
Wednesdays 2:00 – 2:45 pm ~ Badger Farm Community Centre
 Pay as you go, £5.00 per session.

For further information, call **Debbie on 07724136428** or email: debbie.woodley@talk21.com



 The following open letter has been received by the Editor from the Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup and is addressed to the Badger Farm Parish Council following their recent Play Equipment Survey.

Dear Parish Councillors

As stated in the results taken from the minutes of your meeting held on 11 January 2016 regarding the play equipment - 67% of replies were from families with children aged 0.4 years. As the local Pre-School, we actively encourage physical activity for the under 5's to promote healthy lifestyles and living. We chat to our parents about using the play areas and also take our Pre-School children to the park for regular use of the larger equipment that we cannot provide on our site. Bearing this in mind, can you, as our Parish Council, please let us know what decisions you have made regarding the actual equipment to be purchased and for what age group. The equipment currently provided at the Central Kickabout is ideal for under 5's. Instead of potentially investing much needed funds on new equipment, could the current equipment not be repaired?

We need to encourage this younger age group to participate in healthy exercise and by providing local facilities this will benefit all children in the future and promote healthy lives. Let's not overlook the fact that these young children are the adults and decision makers of tomorrow!

Regards
 Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup



PLEASE REMEMBER!

Please remember that our old email address, bfobrca@binternet.com is now obsolete and no longer in use. The new email address is enquiries@bfobrca.org.
 Make sure you use this when getting in touch!



It's well worth a visit and we can publicise any event you may be holding at the Centre there - www.bfobrca.org



Take a look at our Facebook page and give us a "like" and "share". Our website will be looking very festive from December. Full of information and events and an Advent Calendar!





OLIVER'S BATTERY PLAN Questionnaire Response Rate hits 73%!

Thank You, Oliver's Battery! The Response Rate to the Oliver's Battery Plan Questionnaire has hit 73%. This is an outstanding figure for this type of local community survey. It gave every household a chance to have their say and clearly

shows that the overwhelming majority of people who live in Oliver's Battery care enough about the issues we face to take the time to respond.

The open box questions were used in every section to allow people to express their views at greater length, while the final open box question invited comment on any aspect the residents felt had not been covered. We were therefore able to capture wide ranging opinions beyond the more straightforward responses expressed on, say, a five point scale of agreement/disagreement.

The Questionnaire covered many different aspects of life in Oliver's Battery. The high response rate has allowed us to capture current opinion on a wide range of topics. Once analysed, we will be in a position to offer extremely robust statistical data that is detailed, relevant and up-to-date.

What Next – Analysis and Action Plan. We are currently in the process of up-loading the data and then the analysis can begin. We will be sharing this with the community as soon as we can – probably through bulletins and public meetings where we can begin to prioritise the issues for action. We won't forget to include mention of the consultation material that we have been gathering over the past year, while talking to different groups of people in the community. And the £50 Prize will be drawn at the first Public Meeting where we reveal the results of the Questionnaire.

These next phases of creating a Plan for Oliver's Battery is where it becomes really exciting - we can continue working together because a Plan encourages people to become more involved in what goes on around them, it provides a vision for the future and a clear plan of action.

As ever, there is still a need for **people to get involved** – follow your interests as the different themes and threads go forward – do you want to help develop what goes on at the Rec, or help to improve provision for the young or the old? Come along to the public meetings, get in touch to get involved in the discussions that will further the process of making Oliver's Battery an even better place to live. **This is our community - let's plan the future together.**

And finally, a great big **Thank You** to all those residents who filled out the Questionnaire and a heartfelt **Well Done** to all those who were involved in creating, writing, trialling, publicising, distributing and collecting the Questionnaire. If you want to find out more about the Oliver's Battery Plan, follow the Plan page on www.olliversbatterywordpress.com or contact Connie Leach on constance@leach154.plus.com



Badger Farm Toddlers
Thursdays 13:30 - 15:00
Badger Farm Community Centre
Come and join Esther and Catherine at this friendly drop-in group!
All welcome, run by qualified pre-school teachers!
Bikes, puzzles, Play-dough, books and much more for toddlers!
And for new mums and babies a well stocked and comfortable baby mat area. (We also provide baby scales and a baby changing area in the room!)
We offer a cuppa and a chat for you, fun and a snack for the little ones!
Open term time only!
Info: Catherine 07990037467
or Esther etsouramanis@icloud.com

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

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Our staff are highly experienced and qualified and we ensure a high ratio of 1:6 enabling plenty of individual time and attention.

"Staff place a high priority on helping children develop very good skills in listening, speaking, investigation and discovery. As a result children become confident communicators who enjoy learning and have the necessary skills for their future learning and school."

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.



Legs, Bums and Tums 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 (term time only) and Tuesday evenings 6.45-7.45 at Badger Farm Community Centre.. Other daytime classes available at different venues. Cost of class £5.00 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.



ANN'S COMPUTER CORNER

It's appropriate, with the spring-cleaning season approaching, that 8 February was Clean Your Computer Day. By the time you read this, the day itself will be passed, but don't let that stop you! I wouldn't advocate, as some suggest, taking the side off your desktop computer to give it a thorough clean unless you're confident you know what you're doing. But there's no harm in running over the outer casing with the soft-brush attachment of your vacuum cleaner, particularly near the fans as these can accumulate huge amounts of dust. Just turn the computer's power off first!

I do suggest spending an hour or two going through your computer and dejunking. Delete unneeded documents and tidy up your photos. Weed out old emails. Declutter your desktop. Check your Downloads folder: it's amazing how many files end up in there—sometimes with multiple copies. Open "Uninstall a program" in the Control Panel and remove any programs you know you'll never use again.

One of my favourite clean-up tools is ccleaner (www.piriform.com/ccleaner). I mainly use it to tidy up less-accessible files, such as cookies, browser history and the temporary files created by my programs. This not only gives me more disk space, it can make a noticeable difference in the performance of my browser. If you don't want to install new software, the Disk Clean-up tool, included in the System or Administrative tools in all versions of Windows, will do a more basic clean-up. However, ccleaner also offers extra tools to, for example, find out which types of file are using your disk space and to identify and delete duplicated files. The LifeHacker article on lifelhacker.com/what-should-i-be-cleaning-with-ccleaner-1677083816 has excellent advice on using ccleaner.

For pictures, I found ccleaner a little lacking, so I turned to Image Search Pony (<http://www.winchestercomputertutor.co.uk/software.html>). Note: I would strongly recommend downloading it from my website rather than freeware sites. I will be writing an article on safely installing and updating software in a future edition of Community News.) Specify your Pictures folder—or, ideally, a sub-folder as this can take a very long time to perform the initial analysis on a large folder—click Search and ISP shows you all your duplicate photos, along with information to help you decide which copy to keep and which to delete.

One final note: after you've cleaned everything up: it's an ideal time run a backup! And then sit back and enjoy your freshly organised computer.

Happy dejunking!

Ann

PS If there are things you would like me to cover in future articles, please do get in touch.

Ann is the founder of Winchester Computer Tutor (www.winchestercomputertutor.co.uk), offering good-value, friendly 1-to-1 tuition for less-confident computer users.



Ann's Computer Corner Live!

INTRODUCING WINDOWS 10

Winchester Computer Tutor is holding a friendly seminar to help you learn more about Windows 10.

If you've not yet tried Windows 10 and want:

- to discover why you really should update
- to learn how to carry out the update
- to see what's changed and what's new

come along to watch my presentation, ask any questions and have a chance to get hands-on with it for yourself.

Where: Badger Farm Community Centre

When: 21 April, 2 to 4pm - **Cost:** £10

Contact: Ann Jury on 01962 626130

ann@winchestercomputertutor.co.uk

MAKE WASTE INTO SOMETHING WONDERFUL

Make something brilliant this half term and change the world!

If we use waste materials to make new useful things, we can help to cut out rubbish and make a better world for the future.

Can you make something new from waste and join the Re:Design Challenge?



Scarf from an old T-shirt



Bird feeder from a milk bottle



A bag from crisp packets

"Be a designer!"
"Get the whole family involved"

"Great Prizes!"
"Be part of Winchester Fashion week"

Find out more from www.thegreatwaste.org.uk

Deadline 11 March 2016 5pm
Send or bring your entry to
Winchester School of Art, Park
Avenue, Winchester, SO23 8DL

Entries welcome from
individuals, groups or
families, professionals and
non-professional alike



Winchester City Council



TheGreatWaste
@TheGreatWaste15





NATURE NOTES FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY



It was a dreary drizzly day for the Big Garden Birdwatch with a disappointing count probably having something to do with the mild temperature. Birds can pick and choose where they feed and were most likely finding natural food in our surrounding fields. This winter has been the mildest and wettest since records began causing flooding and devastation to lives in the north witnessed by us on TV screens in the comfort of our sitting rooms. The most recent storm, Henry, with winds up to almost 100mph, is the eighth one to hit the UK since the Met Office began the naming system last November. Does anyone really still believe that climate change is not happening? We are indeed fortunate living in Oliver's Battery but I wonder if we can each do something in our small way to contribute to this increasingly worrying phenomenon? I remember this being predicted in the 1980s and possibly earlier but the message mostly fell on deaf ears. Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) works to help us become more aware and to show us practical things we can do so you might like to take a look at their website – www.winacc.org

I slipped and fell on our patio on the first day of black ice earlier this month so was housebound for over a fortnight itching to be fit enough to take a walk around our fields. Our countryside is not at its best at this time of year but on my first trip out I was shocked, angry and sad in equal measures to see the state of the hedge that divides the two large fields beyond Texas Drive. Health and Safety guidelines prescribe clearance distances from overhead cables so the electricity company had commissioned a contractor to reduce its height as it had not been managed since its planting over ten years ago. The once elegantly undulating contour created by several species of native trees had been reduced to a stark straight strip. There are no straight lines in nature, only those imposed upon them by man in his expediency to save time and money. But worse than this was the method used, that of a flail fixed to a tractor. The branches of each and every one of the trees had been hacked by the mechanical metal machine and were starkly split and splintered with their torn bark hanging down. In just one place only, tucked away, a few of this year's hazel catkins had survived like refugees from a battle, while in places along the bottom of the hedge, looking like spent ammunition, lay squashed drinks cans thoughtlessly discarded in past summer months. In the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, poet, "O if we but knew what we do when we delve or hew - hack and rack the growing green!" (Binsey Poplars 1879).

Norma Goodwin ~ norma.goodwin@btinternet.com

DEREK MAKEWELL

We were very sorry to learn of the sad passing of Derek Makewell towards the end of last year. Those of you who have been involved with the Community Association over the years will no doubt remember that Derek was a very popular Chairman for many years and ran the Association along with the then Trustees in a very efficient and competent way. You may also remember that his daughter, Jane Fielding, was my predecessor as Booking Secretary. Derek was extremely popular with hirers, staff and local residents and we extend our condolences to his widow and family at this sad time. *Jan Dawkins, Editor*



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

Saturday 7th April 2016 - Auction - Contact 01962 734941
 Sunday 10th April 2016 - Stamp & Postcard Fair - Contact 01795 478175

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.



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



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