

Community News

Your Local Community Newsletter Spring 2017 Edition



End Of An Era - A Legacy of a Decade

This issue is a special issue in many ways. Firstly it's the first of the new year, and let's be honest, we really were all egging 2016 to end! Also because it's my first ever Community Newsletter as the new editor (hi!). But most importantly it's an opportunity to thank all the hard work that has been put in, over the last ten years, by Jan Dawkins of Badger Farm Community Centre. Jan took up the newsletter mantle a decade ago, with no support and has brought it forward in leaps and bounds to where it is today. I can honestly say that it is thanks to Jan, that the handover has been so smooth. Without her tireless effort (whilst running the centre no less!), I have no doubt it would have faltered and I would not have had such a easy time of picking it up. You'll still see Jan in her role, running the community centre, taking bookings and generally being helpful! But for the Newsletter you'll be stuck with yours truly. So a HUGE thank you to Jan and all her hard work.

Berenice Kenny - email:berenice756@gmail.com



A massive thanks to Jan and all her hard work!

NEWS FROM BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

You will probably be aware that I have now stepped down from my role as Editor of Community News after ten very happy years. During that time, I have made many friends and have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed producing the publication each quarter although at times it did get a bit stressful! The reigns are now in the very capable hands of our new Editor, Berenice Kenny. I am confident that she will continue to produce an excellent newsletter and, over time, make some much needed improvements to it. Please feel free to contact Berenice if there is anything you'd like included in a particular edition.

I will continue in my role at Badger Farm Community Centre, running day to day operations, bookings, meeting callers and generally making sure all runs smoothly along with my able right-hand man, Merv! I will give updates to you in future editions as to what is happening at the Centre and any news I think you'd like to hear.

Forefront in our minds right now is the overhaul of the toilets at the Centre during Summer this year. We have thought long and hard about this major refurbishment and are very much looking forward to being able to offer much better facilities to our hirers. Of course, there will be the inevitable disruption but with the works taking place during July it is hoped this can be kept to a minimum.

Day to day, Badger Farm Community Centre continues to be a hive of action and activity. The building is always full of hirers either taking part in activities as diverse as yoga, art, Tae Kwon-Do, choir practice and karate to name just a very small amount! Do feel free to call in and see me, or email or telephone, if there's anything you'd like to join, enquire about or even set up a new group of your own. Belated best wishes to everybody for a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing lots of you during 2017.

Jan Dawkins

Bookings Secretary

enquiries@bfobrca.org

01962 868630

Copy Deadline for Summer Edition: Friday 5th May 2017

BFOBRCA, Badger Farm Community Centre, Badger Farm Road, Winchester, SO22 4QB
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BADGER FARM SOCIAL CLUB –



YOUR FAMILY FRIENDLY LOCAL PUB !

We are a **SOCIAL CLUB** for all the family hidden within the **Badger Farm Community Centre**, run FOR the Community, BY the Community. We always welcome new members from the local area and have lots on offer for you to enjoy !. So do come in and see what we have to offer!

Opening times:
Sunday: Midday – 10.30pm
Mon-Thurs: 4.30 – 11pm
Friday: 4pm – Midnight
Saturday: Midday – Midnight

Membership (frozen from previous years !):
Family = £30; Single = £20; Concession = £10

Get involved and support our teams, who compete in league and cup matches in the area.

DARTS – both Men's and Ladies team's who

have had success with promotions (League) and Cup wins !

POOL – the Men's team play Wednesday's and have great success in the league and cup ! We'd like to recruit new members as well as set up a Ladies team !

So please come and join us !

NOTE - FREE POOL – EVERY TUESDAY FROM 7PM ! ALL ARE WELCOME !

CRIBBAGE - season is well on the way and still time to join in the fun !

If you are interested in joining a team do come in and ask at the Club. We don't bite !



Each week we also run a meat draw with fantastic joints from a local butcher ! We also have lottery machines, weekly Lottery bonus ball winner and have even **acquired a league-standard Football Table !!!!**

If you're a Saints fan we will run discount beers when matches are televised ! With the Six Nations Rugby on we'll run a similar promotion for England matches – there'll even be a bonus for ever can "Swing Low" the best !

For the months ahead we'll have some bank holiday barbecue's so look out for the posters, and are planning a **BIG FAMILY** party for the August Bank Holiday weekend !

On top of all this fun we have multiple TV screens showing numerous sporting events via Sky and BT (Football, Rugby, Darts, Cricket, Boxing, American Football, etc).

We offer numerous lagers, ciders, Guinness and at least 3 quality crafted real ales as well many soft drinks for you to enjoy at Club prices ! Don't forget we are cheaper than the pubs and in a family friendly fun atmosphere ! Do pop in to see what's on offer and ask for a Membership Form !.



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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	Sarah Zimmer snippycards@hotmail.co.uk	£7.00 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	Sandra Day sday@brendoncare.org.uk	£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	3/4yrs £4.50ph 2yrs £4.70ph	For children from 3 years to school age. Great OFSTED results. Afternoons also available - enquiries to Denise.
Badminton	Thursday	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Wendy King 01962 861525		Fun and friendly for any age and ability. All welcome!
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10.00am - 11.00am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service. All welcome.
FITSTEPS	Wednesday	2.00pm - 2.45pm	Sergiy Bondarenko Info@bdance.co.uk	£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	£4.00 per meeting	Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Contact Loraine for details.
Legs, Bums & Tums	Monday Tuesday	9.30am - 10.30am 6.45pm - 7.45pm	Catherine Jones 07990 513 434	£5.00 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 Ryu 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.
Southern England Karate Federation	Tuesday	4.30pm - 5.30pm Children & Adults	Collin Rudkin 07966 303 585 Collinrudkin@btinternet.com	Enquire direct	Friendly and professional Karate club with high standards set at International level. Affiliated to the English Karate Federation and World Karate Federation.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.30am - 10.30am 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)	Miniature wargames and role-playing games of all periods and genres played.
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Lucy Scott info@winchestertkd.co.uk	Membership by subscription	6.30pm-7.45pm beginners/intermediates 7pm-8.30pm seniors (black belts to 9pm)

Here are details of just some of the activities that take place at Badger Farm Community Centre. 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@bfobca.org

AS SEEN ON




MAKE YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT MORE FUN!

TRY RUGBYTOTS

Weekly play sessions for girls & boys aged 2-7 yrs. Develops social and physical skills in a fun, positive environment.

0345 313 3258 | phil@rugbytots.co.uk
Badger Farm Community Centre - Friday pm
1.00pm & 1.35pm 2-3.5 yrs | 2.10pm 3.5-5 yrs

Classes also running Tuesday am Itchen Abbas,
 Tuesday pm River Park Leisure, Saturday am Winchester.



rugbytots.co.uk
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For more information contact Lara on:

Mobile number : 07891549214

Email : barkandsqueak@hotmail.co.uk

Check out Bark and Squeak's Facebook page for regular updates: <https://www.facebook.com/barkandsqueak>



Badger Farm Toddlers

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

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

Bikes, puzzles, Play-dough, books and much more for toddlers!

And for new mums and babies a well stocked and comfortable baby mat area. (We also provide baby scales and a baby changing area in the room!)

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

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

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

Auctions in a Day

Comes to Badger Farm Community Centre



Declutter and make some money at Auctions in a Day – your friendly, local, monthly auction.

Auctions in a Day will be holding their first Sale of the year at Badger Farm Community Centre on Saturday 1st April

We opened for business in 2003, and hold 10 sales a year in Winchester and Itchen Abbas. Our aim is to help you sell your items in a professional but relaxed atmosphere. We fill the gap between the car boot and the larger Auction Houses. Our sales include: collectables, jewellery, old toys, militaria, ceramics and other items of interest, whilst avoiding modern electrical items. We attract around 100 buyers to each auction. Our commission is a reasonable 12.5% plus £1 per lot entered for sale. No charges for reserves. We pay out to sellers on the day, making it very easy to sell with us.

You can find out all about us including past sales at our easy to use website <http://www.auctionsinaday.co.uk/> where you can also sign up for our newsletters.

Please put the day in your diary, come along with or without lots and check us out. Sellers drop off their lots at 9 am, Viewing is from 12.30pm and the Auction Starts at 2pm.

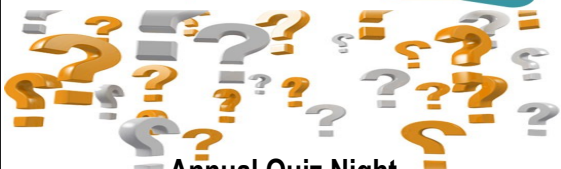
The icing on the cake is our delicious homemade bakes with tea and coffee!



Winchester

www.winchestergold.org.uk
Charity No. 1156536

**GO
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Annual Quiz Night

on

Friday 17th March 2017

7.00pm for 7.15pm

@

Twyford Village Hall, Hazeley Road,

Twyford SO21 1NH

Soup & Ploughman's & Cash Bar

BACH: MASS IN B MINOR

Experience one of Western culture's blazing masterpieces (and tick it off your bucket list).

The Waynflete Singers host a concert in the awe-inspiring space of the Nave of Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 25 March at 7.30pm. They will be joined by the Girl Choristers who will add their magic voices

to the mix and the highly acclaimed, period-instrument ensemble Florilegium, under the direction of the Cathedral's Director of Music, Andrew Lumsden.

An internationally renowned line up of soloists will perform: Ruby Hughes, Robin Blaze, Andrew Staples and Benjamin Bevan will add the sprinkle of glitter to make this a stunning event.

The Mass in B Minor is a monumental work and is both complex and sublime offering the audience exhilaration, awe and therapy all in one evening not to be missed.

Booking is now open: special offer on mid-price tickets is available 2 for 1 (£19.50).

Ticket prices: £39.50, £32.50, £24.50, £19.50 (2 for 1), £12.50

Box Office : 01962 857275. www.tickets.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

Waynflete Singers : Registered Charity No. 285107

www.waynfletesingers.org.uk

For more information please contact Sarah Jones sj@luminaconsulting.com



Oliver's Battery Primary School

~ Creative, caring and confident learners for life ~



Fun Trips Planned!

The children have returned to school after a busy end to the term. KS1 performed a lovely play to parents entitled 'When Santa lost his hat', our school choir sang at our Christmas Fair. KS2 did some lovely readings and singing at St Luke's Church.

We have got lots of exciting trips planned for this term – Year 2 are off to the Living Rainforest, Year 3 are off to Butser Ancient Farm, Year 4 to Fishbourne Roman Palace, Year 5 to Paultons Park and Year 6 are going to the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth.

Go wild with new Forest School experience for all the children!

Here at Oliver's Battery School we are lucky to have a wonderful outdoor space for learning and playtime. This year we have embraced the ethos of Forest Schools and are offering this to the whole school. Each class (Year R to Year 5) will be in our very own woodland, for one afternoon a week for half a term. These children will be able to participate in Forest School type activities, in all weathers, come rain or shine. Our busy year 6 class will have their woodland activities during their Summer Camp Weekend.



The benefits to these activities are that they will learn to assess their own risk taking and solve their own problems. They will become more resilient and self-confident with boosted self-esteem. They will have to co-operate and be creative.

Everything they do is self-initiated, with encouragement and guidance on how to solve any problems by the teaching staff. We encourage our children to assess the risks they might face, within an appropriate boundary. Our first group was Year 4 who really loved their sessions and made a scrapbook of each week. We hope you have enjoyed hearing about our woodland fun! We know our children will love their hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

'A school that's moving from strength to strength' Ofsted March 2016. We have places available at our school. Please arrange a visit anytime of the year and see the school at work. Either telephone 01962 869496 or email: admin@oliversb.com. Web: www.oliversbattery.hants.sch.uk



Feedback from our first group (Year 4)

"I really enjoyed climbing up the trees and making dens. The best bit was toasting smores"

"I really enjoyed lighting up the cotton wool with a striker. Thank you."

"I really enjoyed the tree climbing because it is something I don't normally do"

"When I'm older I want to work in the woods"

"I love forest school, thank you so much"

Children get a wealth of experiences including; exploring the woodland, climb trees, make dens, creating amazing imaginative meals in a "woodland kitchen", making swings and low ropes, making crafts, constructing bows and arrows and slingshots, lighting fires, cooking and eating real campfire food, and going on scavenger hunts.

Winchester Bereavement Support

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?

W.B.S is running a training course for volunteer Bereavement Visitors between March and June 2017. If you are interested, please phone 01962 877102 for further details or email:

help@winchesterbereavementsupport.org.uk

Winchester Bereavement Support is a voluntary organisation offering a service to bereaved individuals in Winchester and the surrounding areas. It is independent, and has no ties with statutory bodies or the churches.

Support is normally given through home visits by "Bereavement Visitors" who are carefully selected and must successfully complete a comprehensive training programme. Referrals are made directly by the bereaved person, although this is often on the recommendation of their G.P. The service is confidential, free and the Visitors are given full support from trained Counsellors.

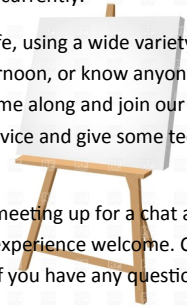
Badger Farm Art Group



There has been an Art Group at Badger Farm for nearly 25 years with some of the original members still in attendance now. There have been many tutors over the years but I am very pleased to have been entrusted with the role currently.

We work from photos, paintings and from life, using a wide variety of materials. If you are free on a Thursday afternoon, or know anyone else who is, and enjoy painting, why don't you come along and join our friendly group? I'll support your ideas, offer some advice and give some technical guidance.

The group enjoys seeing each others work, meeting up for a chat and of course having a cup of tea! All abilities and experience welcome. Come along and give it a try. You can email Sarah if you have any questions on: snippycards@hotmail.com



FOLKS SINGING

There is a **NEW** singing group opening in Badger Farm Community Centre, starting on September 20th, Tuesdays in term time, 1.30pm-2.45pm. **FREE** first session, no obligation! £5 a week thereafter. Learn folk songs, mainly from the '60s and '70s, beautifully arranged in 3 and 4 part harmony, voices only. With songs by Donovan, Dylan, Peter Paul & Mary, The Seekers, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Marley, Woody Guthrie, Joan Baez and many more.

No experience necessary; all welcome, from shower singers to seasoned choir goers! There's no need to read music as all songs are taught by ear. To find out more you can email Jac on jac@folkssinging.com, check the website www.folkssinging.com, or text/phone on 07941 246685.

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Community Newsletter: Report from your District Councillors

The City Council met with representatives of Badger Farm Parish Council and District Councillors to discuss the future management of the **Whiteshute Ridge**. Extended ecological surveys have been commissioned. These will allow the City Council to review the current condition of the site when compared to data gained over the past 10 years and provide a baseline going forward. These surveys will be undertaken in June, as this is the best time to assess the range of plants and animals on site. Community practical conservation workdays have been planned for the 3rd and 4th of February. On these days the group will undertake scrub removal on the chalk grassland to allow the species-rich grassland habitat to flourish. However, much of the scrub will be retained, as this is also a valuable habitat for birds and glow worms. The other task will be to repair steps on the footpath up to the ridge and install a handrail to improve access. A woodland management plan is under way and will feed into an overall Whiteshute Ridge Management Plan. This will be an evolving document to help direct the management of the site for the next 5-10 years. Cattle 'Meet and Greet' sessions will take place in March. We would like to thank everyone who has taken an interest in this project and particularly those who have volunteered to help. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for their support. We are committed to protecting and enhancing the site in the long term for both people and wildlife.

Details of the Deloitte's December presentation on the future of **Bushfield camp** are now available on the Winchester City Council website at <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/major-sites/bushfield-camp/>. The Commissioners have outlined plans for an employment and innovation campus creating well paid job opportunities. The natural area will continue to be accessible to the public. Further information is expected in the spring. Specific enquiries may be addressed to Bushfield@deloitte.co.uk

The purchase of the Garrison Ground at **Bar End** by Winchester City Council from Tesco is now complete. The Council can now move forward with this area as the best option for the location of the City's new community sports and leisure centre. We understand the developers at Vale Farm (Pitt) have lodged an appeal against the City Council who recently refused their application to build 350 homes. We will keep you updated if the appeal progresses.

Cllrs Eleanor Bell, Brian Laming and Jan Warwick

Cllr Brian Laming ~ 01962 862487 ~ blaming@winchester.gov.uk ~ 07973 265028

Cllr Eleanor Bell ~ 01962 775521 ~ ebell@winchester.gov.uk

Cllr Jan Warwick ~ 07717 104236 ~ jwarwick@winchester.gov.uk



The National Osteoporosis Society offers support to people with osteoporosis, 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—5pm
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Tuesday from 9am—7pm

Tel: 0808 800 0035

The National Osteoporosis Society works with the medical profession to facilitate greater understanding of the needs of people with osteoporosis. We encourage the government, health authorities and opinion leaders to prioritise osteoporosis as a serious health problem which demands better facilities. Our awareness campaigns aim to ensure every generation understands the importance of maintaining healthy bones and how to prevent osteoporosis.

Contact:

National Osteoporosis Society
Camerton Bath BA2 0PJ

Tel: 01761 471771 Fax: 01761 471104

Website: www.nos.org.uk

Email: info@nos.org.uk



THE PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST MARK
WINCHESTER

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

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



Dear Friends

Lent starts this year on 1st March and is seen as a season of 'giving up' of things that are not so good for you. But it should be seen as a time to 'take on' something that will benefit you and those around ... so how about ... Using the new **Oliver's Battery Book Case** borrow ~ read ~ return any of the donated books whenever St Mark's is open, the main time at the moment (we are looking to open at other times soon) is 10.30 to 11.15am on Thursdays with Coffee Pop Inn, which on the 4th Thursday each month also host a Tradecraft Stall and a Bring and Buy table.

Following on from the most enjoyable Harvest and Christmas Activity Parties at St Luke's we would like to invite you to the Easter Challenge Party on Saturday 22nd April 2.30 till 4.30pm with games; puzzles; crafts and challenges for all ages, also refreshments and an Easter egg hunt .. something for everyone .. look out for details.

Yours Revd Mike 01962 865240

revd.mike@yahoo.co.uk www.stlukeswinchester.org
like us on Facebook: TheparishofStLukewithStMark



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theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Winchester Women's Institute

Fairy lights have been put away, Christmas trees have been shredded/recycled already and January is drawing to a close. We at the Ollie B WI have had our first talk of 2017 from a lady called Jennifer Carter entitled, "Fabric, Threads and Inspiration". A graphic designer, Jennifer treated us to a visual extravaganza of fabric colours 'put together' creatively using quilting techniques, appliqué and sometimes combining with screen printing. The stories that Jennifer revealed to us lying behind the inspirations for every single piece of her work simply enhanced their beauty and creativity. Certainly a lady who leaves no fabric or thread to lie idle!

Join us! We have a diverse monthly programme including:

February 27th offers a talk entitled "Plants which affect our life", the speaker, Mrs Cox.

If you are interested in more information you can discover it by contacting the President Katherine Elsmore at Katherine.elsmore@hotmail.co.uk

Our summer plans include a trip to Hampton Court for a day and a July visit to a local garden yet to be confirmed. Meanwhile, the newly formed Craft Group, meeting at St Marks Hall on a Monday afternoon once a month is thriving, as is the weekly Coffee Morning along with the well established Book Club which meets on an evening monthly.

May 2017 brings the AGM and we will be looking to elect new committee members bringing with them new energy and fresh ideas – maybe this is you? A warm welcome awaits everyone joining us at St Peter's School Hall (along Olivers Battery Road North) every third Monday of the month at 7.45pm. **Please join us.**

Olivers Battery Pre-School



Celebrating Chinese New

As the last of the Christmas glitter and the excitement of our fantastic nativity, held in the school hall and our party attended by Father Christmas, floats away the children have been enjoying their new Spring topic of Growth.

They have been comparing differences between babies and toddlers and studying what plants need in order to grow. They have really been excited by growing their cress and bean plants.

Our home corner in pre-school has once again been transformed. In the past couple of months it has intrigued the children as a space rocket, a Christmas castle and now the children are really enjoying their adventures in the Gruffalo corner with activities including making a Gruffalo crumble!

Not long now until our easter egg hunt and trip to Adventureland!

Please contact Jackie Johnston our pre-school leader on mobile 07941 796 958 or email oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com to pop by to see our happy pre-school.

- Rated across the board as 'good' by Ofsted in November 2016 and where *"Children form strong bonds with staff"*
- Conveniently located in the beautiful and spacious grounds of Oliver's Battery Primary School.
- We accept all children aged two years to school age, regardless of which primary school they will attend
- 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



View of the outside of our "Gruffalo Corner"

Oliver's Battery Community Centre: Building a Hub for our Community!

2016 was a year of steady and sustained progress, with many important actions completed as we have reported to you via a leaflet. This year, we are planning to step up the pace. Part of this will be holding regular fundraising events, following the pattern of our successful event last November. We hope the next event will be on **Friday 18th March**, but details have still to be finalised. Do put the date in your diary and watch for more details. There will be further events during the year.

I'm glad to say that we now have a long list of supporters and ten active members of our management team. They are all working hard to make our dream of building a new community centre in Oliver's Battery into a reality. Volunteer effort is the core of this project and nothing could demonstrate the spirit of the community better than this! But, of course, we need and will **welcome more volunteers** to help with fundraising, publicity, and other tasks. There are many ways in which we can raise funds, such as coffee mornings, garage sales, and sponsored walks, and it's fun to get together with friends in support of a good cause. If you think you could help please e-mail or call me for a chat.

Best wishes for 2017,

Geoff Sharman,

Chairman Oliver's Battery Community Centre

geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com

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OPENING TIMES (flexible)

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Thursday – Friday ~ 9.15 – 12.15

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

Funding available for 2 year olds if applicable

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.

“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.



Olivers Battery Parish Council

Play Equipment for Younger Children - As reported last time, a project by the Parish Council (PC) to upgrade the toddler play equipment in the recreation ground was shortlisted, along with two other projects, for a public vote in Tesco stores to receive funding from the Tesco Bags of Help Initiative. The outcome of the vote that took place in the first two weeks of November resulted in our project, entitled “Vikings and the Saxon Noble King”, qualifying to receive a grant of £8,000. The new play equipment area is aimed at pre-school children and toddlers and comprises two forts and a ship, linked together by a circuit of smaller play elements, including stepping stones in the form of a “balancing dragon”, a balance weaver, monkey bars and a tunnel within a earth mound. One of the forts and the ship will be accessible to wheelchairs. The children can role play Vikings and Saxons and move to and from the forts and ship, which will provide a variety of challenging play opportunities, learning and help promote the children’s wellbeing and development. A sketch of the proposed layout of the new equipment can be seen on the PC website.

Slide Relocation and Swings - We are relocating the adjacent slide to the existing raised grass area towards the existing timber towers (including a new timber platform in a similar style to the long slide) following the approval of the Vikings and the Saxon Noble King Project. We are also enhancing the current swings by building a new toddlers swing frame and by refitting the existing toddler swing seats, reposition existing basket swing to existing toddler swing frame and fitting new open swing seats (for older children) to the existing basket swing frame. It is planned for the work on the play equipment to be completed by late spring.

Oliver’s Battery Film Group - The PC helped sponsor the recent first meeting of the Oliver’s Battery Film Group held at Oliver’s Battery Primary School. There were 64 residents present to watch “Far from the madding crowd” and the level of support shown encouraged the team led by Madeleine Page. The emergence of the Film Group is just one of the outcomes arising out of the work being done by the Parish Plan Group led by Connie Leach.

Parish Council vacancy - After two and a half years serving on the PC, family and work pressures have meant the Tom Gernon has needed to step down from the Council. The PC has valued Tom’s contribution to the work of the Council during his time of service. Any resident of Oliver’s Battery able and willing to serve on the PC should contact our Clerk about the vacancy that has arisen on Tom’s departure.

Pitt Vale Development - The PC were recently informed that Linden Homes have lodged an appeal against the Winchester City Council planning decision regarding their proposed Pitt Vale development. The PC will be working with our City Councillors to continue to oppose this unwanted scheme.

Brian Mitchener - Chair Oliver’s Battery Parish Council cllr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info - 01962 623585



Ann's Computer Corner

In 2009, when my Dad forwarded this chain email to me I replied, "*Thanks for the heads up, but actually, this is a hoax ... see www.snopes.com/computer/internet/hackermail.asp. It's always worth checking on snopes - a site which exists to debunk urban myths and other such things - before forwarding them on.*"

But that was eight years ago, so why am I raising it now?

There has always been misinformation flying around the internet, but it has never seemed more prevalent than it is today. From hoaxes through dubious sites luring you with click-bait to increase their advertising revenue to "fake news" designed to sway your opinion it's undeniable that we live in a world where we need to fact-check more than ever.

While the internet can be an outlet for widespread misinformation, it also inspires a community developing tools to fight back. Tools like:snopes.com: established in 1994 to share research on urban legends, one of the earliest claims it debunked was that the late Walt Disney was frozen and hidden in a safe place within Disneyland. Over the years, it evolved to investigate a much wider range of rumours, scams and questionable facts and has long been my go-to site for checking suspicious stories. It still has a lighter side – a recent article addresses the "Secret Symbolism' of Oreo Cookies" – but now releases multiple articles every day addressing the popular stories in the news. And yes, snopes' own validity has been fact-checked – factcheck.org/2009/04/snopescom/!fullfact.org: for UK-based stories, Full Fact is an independent fact-checking charity. If you don't believe the politicians' statistics on Question Time, you'll get the truth here (fullfact.org/bbcqt/2017/Jan/26). Full Fact has recently gone into partnership with Google to build the first "*fully automated end-to-end fact-checking system*", presumably to help Google expand the use of the Fact Check label in its News Feed.politifact.com: for news from the US, Pulitzer Prize-winning Politifact rates, on a scale from True to Pants on Fire, "*the accuracy of claims by elected officials and others who speak up in American politics.*"reporterslab.org/fact-checking: not a fact-checker itself, instead this points to over 100 fact-checking sites worldwide, including those of the Guardian, BBC and Channel 4.slate.com: take your filtering one step further and install their "This is Fake" extension to "*help combat the proliferation of bogus stories*". Do take the time to read their insightful article on how and why on goo.gl/SJPG8A.

The advice I gave to my Dad all those years ago still holds true. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "Don't trust everything you read on the internet."

Ann

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.

THIS IS NO JOKE

IF A PERSON CALLED SIMON ASHTON (SIMON25@HOTMAIL.CO.UK) CONTACTS YOU THROUGH EMAIL DON'T OPEN THE MESSAGE. DELETE IT BECAUSE HE IS A HACKER!!

TELL EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST BECAUSE IF SOMEBODY ON YOUR LIST ADDS HIM THEN YOU WILL GET HIM ON YOUR LIST. HE WILL FIGURE OUT YOUR ID COMPUTER ADDRESS, SO COPY AND PASTE THIS MESSAGE TO EVERYONE EVEN IF YOU DONT CARE FOR THEM AND FAST BECAUSE IF HE HACKS THEIR EMAIL HE HACKS YOUR MAIL TOO!!!!!!...

Anyone-using Internet mail such as Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL and so on. This information arrived this morning, Direct from both Microsoft and Norton. Please send it to everybody you know who has access to the Internet. You may receive an apparently harmless e-mail titled '**Mail Server Report**'

This is a new virus which started to circulate on Saturday afternoon. AOL has already confirmed the severity, and the **anti virus software's are not capable of destroying it** .

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WinACC
Winchester Action on
Climate Change

Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) is a grouping of local residents, climate specialists, businesses and policy-makers, working together to cut the carbon footprint of Winchester city and the wider district by providing information, developing policy, and supporting local people to tread more lightly on the planet. WinACC is independent of political parties, the Council, business or other organisations, and works with all who share their aim.

You can meet like-minded people and discuss important local issues at their six-weekly open meetings. The next ones are:

Saturday mornings 10.30am- 12.00pm (refreshments from 10.00) at St Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook St, Winchester, SO23 9LH (behind Abbey Gardens by King Alfred's statue)

1 April - getting the message across to public and politicians

1 July - Out of the car, onto the bus

Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.15pm (refreshments from 7.15) at Winchester Discovering Centre, Jewry St, Winchester SO23 9SB

21 February - Building Low Carbon Housing - by HAB housing, developers of Loveden Fields, Kings Worthy

13 June - How Oxford City tackled traffic congestion (check before you come in case topics had to change.)

Maybe you'd like to join their lobbying about traffic congestion and air pollution? Join "Incredible edible" to help people grow, eat and enjoy local food? Work on waste? These and many other ideas on their website WinACC.org.uk, or ring their office on 01962 827083. If you want to get their e-newsletter with information about all that's going on in the District, just email WinACC@winacc.org.uk or sign up on the front page of their website.

Can you help improve walking routes in Stanmore?

WinACC supports the City Council's initiative to encourage walking, "Feet First". In 2016, WinACC volunteers walked the most important pedestrian routes through the town centre and told the Council how to make them better. Signposts are important so that visitors don't lose their way, and people learn about new walking-friendly routes. The Council has allocated some money for improvements, and plans to make maps on its website and in print. WinACC has also been working with the residents of Kings Worthy on mapping walking routes to connect key places in that community as part of the Connecting Kings Worthy initiative.

After Easter, a similar project will happen in Stanmore. Whether you have lived in Stanmore for a long time or have just arrived, perhaps as a student, WinACC would love you to take part. Local people know the routes and what the problems are. Contact walking@winacc.org.uk to find out more or ring Richard on 01962 827083.



Winchester Horticultural Society

Spring is on the doorstep and with it the cheerful sight of yellow daffodils and other Spring flowers. The winter frosts should have destroyed quite a few of the garden pests, so we can make a fresh start on growing our favourite flowers and vegetables. It will be a pleasure once again to spend creative time out in the fresh air and bringing the garden back into shape for the warmer months. Is your lawn perhaps in need of special attention? Then why don't you give yourself an evening off and come and join us on

Wednesday, 8th March

Hear one of our very knowledgeable members, John Wigginton, talk about the ins and outs of **lawn care**. This meeting starts off with a short AGM and also includes a Mini Spring Show of Narcissi and Daffodils which will be judged during the interval.

Wednesday, 12th April

John McDonald will give us a talk on how to grow **sweet peas** for exhibition and for pleasure.

Wednesday, 10th May

We will welcome Paolo Arrigo of **Seeds of Italy** who, amongst other things, will tell us about the Franchi family's seventh-generation seed company. There will be seeds for sale.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worth Lane, Winchester SO23 7AB and start at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome, £3. For more information visit www.winhortsoc@weebly.com We look forward to meeting you.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our Annual Plant Sale will be take place on **Saturday, 13th May**, at the Brooks Shopping Centre, from 9.30am - 2.30pm. Not to be missed!

Stanmore Primary School - Be the best that you can be.....



Maths day – it all adds up to great fun! Children at Stanmore had a brilliant time at the start of the term celebrating what fun Maths can be and finding out how useful it is in everyday life. Everyone was asked to come into school dressed as an aspect of maths and they rose to the challenge magnificently. There were dominoes, clocks, calculators, shapes, riddles, dice, sums, and numbers galore. There was even a robber with a swag bag, because what do robbers do? They 'take away' of course! Maths challenges took place in the hall and the classrooms all day with prizes for winning teams. It was very competitive during the 'Countdown' challenges in the hall as each table tried to be the first to work out how to reach the total using the numbers provided. The Times Table Championships were equally closely fought. Who knew Maths could be such good fun?

We're ready for the challenge! The school hall has been a hive of activity every Monday night after school as our dancers from Years 3 - 6 prepare for their performance in Junior Rock Challenge at Southampton Guildhall on 17th February 2017. Taking Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as their inspiration, the children have been examining the personality traits and circumstances of the main characters. Some are rich, greedy, selfish and spoilt whilst Charlie himself is thoughtful and considerate but poor. What difference does this make to the way they behave and how can the children show this by the way they dance? They've all been working really hard so we will all be hoping they wow the judges on the 17th!

Arabic on a Friday afternoon.... On Fridays in the afternoon, Stanmore pupils can take part in a range of activities, sports, crafts or ICT in our Stanmore Stars sessions. This is a reward for their good behaviour all week and the children really enjoy choosing what they would like to do. Now in addition to the usual treats on offer, the children can learn Arabic. This has proved very popular and children in Years 3 -6 have been learning numbers, how to say 'hello/goodbye and my name is...' and have had great fun playing Arabic bingo. At present a competition to design an Arabic greetings poster has over 100 entries....

A full diary...At the time of writing we are looking forward to a busy term of visits and events. Our netball team will be taking part in a tournament at Kings' School, Years 3 and 5 are really excited about a morning of science activities at The University of Winchester, Year 4 will be welcoming a group of students from Belgium to do some literacy work with them and Ali Sparkes will be launching her latest novel 'Thunderstruck' to a rapt audience of junior children!

For details of all the latest happenings at school, just 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.

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Council had a very busy time last year and 2017 is set to be just, if not more so. Preceding our usual Meeting on the 9th January we invited you to select your preferences for play equipment for the Central Play area. About 16 people attended and we were pleased to receive a very favourable response. This enabled us, 2 weeks later, with the data acquired from the previous meeting, to put out tenders for the work needed. Following this we will ask for a loan and hopefully the new play area for older children at Central will be completed this coming summer. In the mean time we are arranging for the younger children's area to be re-vamped, and generally smartened up. This will eventually lead to us having another fenced, attractive and active area for our children.

By the time this Community News is delivered you will have noticed some work has been done on Whiteshute Ridge. Scrub will have been cleared in the centre and the steps repaired with a hand rail added. There is a Community Group which, if you are interested in lending a hand in future projects please get in touch with cjakeman@winchester.gov.uk or ring 01962 848301 Ecological surveys have, and will continue to be done on a regular basis. These will map the condition of the Ridge and record the variety of plants, insects and birds etc. and also the general condition of our chalk hill. Our Clerk Viv has unfortunately left but has been replaced with Grace Austin. Her contact details are 07788 784 343 or email on graceaustin@sky.com

Do you know about our LENGTHSMAN? He is shared with some other Parishes and we use his services for a few days every few weeks. We can instruct him to do various work for us clearing paths, cutting back hedging, overhanging trees, brambles and generally tidying up areas. If you know of an area which you think might need attention please get in touch with our new clerk Grace Austin. A reminder of the dates of the Parish Council Meetings. They are held on the second Monday of every month with the except August in the Bushfield Room at the Community Centre. If we plan a different day, or need to have an extra meeting our Notice Boards will have details, as well as our Web Site which has recently been renewed. All residents are invited. Have a lovely Spring and enjoy 2017

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Oliver's Battery
 Winchester



Winchester Local Group Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust

Can you tell a hare from a rabbit? Have you ever heard a bat? Come and join us to find out more about our wonderful British wildlife. All are very welcome. Indoor meetings are held in the Bushfield room at Badger Farm Community Centre at the far end of Sainsbury's car park (SO22 4QB). For further information about the Group please phone Loraine on 01962 861182 or email Anne - atardill2@gmail.com. Alternatively visit the Trust website at www.hiwwt.org.uk

Wed 8 th Mar 7:30 – 9:30pm	The Hare Jane Russ, author and chairman of the Hare Preservation Trust will tell us more things you never knew about these delightful and elusive creatures. Admission £4 to include coffee/tea
Sun 26 th Mar 10am - 1pm	Itchen for Spring Join Martin Keys and Helen Short for a walk of 3-4 miles based on the Mills and Meadows Itchen Navigation circular trail, to enjoy the signs of spring on some of the Trust's Winchester reserves and the Itchen valley. Meet in parking area 5 of the St Catherine's Park and Ride, Winchester (map ref SU 487 281, postcode SO23 9NP, entrance via Garnier Road or Bar End Road). Bring a snack for a coffee stop. Sorry, no dogs. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440 or Martin on 01962 842610. Suggested donation £4.
Wed 12 th April 7:30pm – 9:30pm	'Bats - Superheroes of the Night' Nik Knight, Chairman of the Hampshire Bat Group, will describe the amazing world of bats and the threats they face in Hampshire today. Admission £4 to include coffee/tea.
Sun 23 rd April 10am – 2pm	Bird walk around Longparish Join John Clark for a guided walk of 4 miles in the Test Valley around Longparish to see spring birds and other wildlife. Meet in the village car park near the church (opposite the village hall) (map ref SU 425 439, post code SP11 6PA). Bring a snack for a coffee stop. Sorry, no dogs. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440. Suggested donation £4.
Wed 26 th April 8pm – 10pm	Go Batty in Winchester Following our recent talk, join Nik Knight, Chairman of the Hampshire Bat Group, for an evening bat walk to see the bats along the river in Winchester. Meet in the car park in Garnier Road, where it is crossed by the Itchen Navigation (grid reference SU 484 280, post code SO23 9PA). Numbers are limited so booking is essential . For further information and to book your place, please phone Mary on 01962 864440. Bring a torch. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.
Wed 10 th May 6:30 - 8pm	Flows and Floodplains An evening walk and talk with Ali Morse, the Trust's water policy and catchment specialist, to explore a section of the Itchen Navigation and the Trust's grazing project south of Winchester from Hockley Viaduct towards Shawford. Meet in parking layby on A3090, Hockley Link Road, just before traffic lights and slip road onto J11 of M3. Map ref SU 475 265. Booking essential as numbers are strictly limited. To book your place, please contact Anne on 01962 881312 or atardill2@gmail.com. Suggested donation £4.
Sat 20 th May 10am – 3pm	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. Meet in the main reserve car park on the minor road south east of Warnford (map ref SU 646 214). For further details, please contact Mary on 01962 864440 or Brian on 01962 882746. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.



From your MP: Steve Brine

To mark the turn of the year, January saw my third **ASKtheNHS** meeting in Winchester.

I said from day one in this job that the **NHS would be my priority** and have stayed true to my word. There's a great deal of potential change coming to our local NHS in the years ahead now the *Service & Transformation Plan* has been published. I remain as committed as ever to seeing we have access to the best services and receive treatment that is world-class but also that we have a grown-up debate with the public who are in my experience far more savvy about this than the national media would have us believe. I utterly reject the tendency to put the NHS on a pedestal that can never be challenged as I do the tactics of our political opponents to talk it into the ground and that is partly what ASKtheNHS is all about.

The meeting heard presentations from the panel of senior NHS leaders and included a detailed Q&A with constituents who raised issues including the link between the NHS and social care, the management of long-term conditions, future NHS funding and local GP services. There was also a substantive discussion about a proposal from our Trust to build a new £350m Critical Treatment Hospital between Winchester and Basingstoke to care for the sickest patients. You can read more about this special event and follow the links to much more via www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

And linked to this, I was delighted to see our Prime Minister use her first big domestic policy speech to talk about the **mental health challenge** facing our country today. I wholeheartedly back new measures to transform the way we approach and deal with mental health so that more children and young people receive support and care. As a constituency MP, I hear for myself from teachers how these challenges can grow and develop from a very young age so the announced new support for every secondary school to increase awareness around mental health has to be right. I have posted more on this and some key links via www.stevebrine.com/mentalhealth

February saw my annual opportunity to address **Winchester's business community** via their breakfast event at the Wessex Hotel in town. Sponsored by Winchester Business Improvement District, the event is an opportunity for businesses across the area to meet up, share experiences, and hear an update from me on the national, international and local business scene.

After providing a detailed report on the current buoyant labour market and an update on the Government's approach to Brexit, I took questions from the floor including the on-going business rates revaluation, immigration, planned works J9 of the M3 Junction how the UK should work responsibly with President Trump.

I also spoke about a range of local issues including what I call the 'Winchester Challenge' and didn't pull my punches. That challenge is to ensure the new leadership at the City Council – now including your own impressive Cllr Jan Warwick - drives through some its big projects so Winchester regains its reputation for competence and a place where things get done. Big ticket items such as the leisure centre and station approach have got to move forward now and I am clear the new leader and Chief Executive need to assert their authority because Winchester is not a great bet for investors right now. It is time for all our sakes to face down the sneering, often politically driven, cynicism which is threatening any attempt to improve the city. More: www.stevebrine.com/businessbreakfast

Finally, my on-going **PMQ ballot** is proving more popular than ever. I have now added **Wednesday 22nd March 2017** so do add your name to the draw via www.stevebrine.com/PMQs or 01962 791110. You can find more about my other work, in Winchester and of course in Westminster, via my website which now includes a fast growing **Brexit** mini-site (with links to all the key information including recent PM speech) at www.stevebrine.com/brexit

Steve Brine MP
Winchester, Oliver's Battery & Badger Farm
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Nature Notes from Oliver's Battery Spring 2017

It's frosty outside but, on opening the door, a promise of spring is born in on the joyful notes of a song thrush who sits atop a neighbour's tree sharing his delight with all who listen. The bitter weather has brought to us a handsome male chaffinch hoping to eat some sunflower hearts in competition with our regular charm of goldfinches. Not agile enough to eat from the hanging feeders the robin, collared doves and wood pigeons sit underneath picking up the pieces. I have not seen any redwing although I hear on the grapevine they have visited our fields and been seen eating berries in gardens in Badger Farm. Readers have also told me of an owl calling on the battery late at night, a barn owl quartering our fields, a red kite over Millers Lane and a mistle thrush enjoying the fruits of a local garden. This large thrush is often called the 'storm cock' owing to it frequently singing in windy wet weather.

Early in January just before 4pm we witnessed an unusual and breath-taking sight of a long V formation of birds flying over our garden. Wave-upon-wave of formations continued to cross high above in a southerly direction the birds' white feathers glinting in the sunlight like stars in a clear sky. I thought they must be gulls but had never before seen gulls flying in an orderly way. Contacting Wildline (*) the conclusion was they were probably black headed gulls who had been feeding in large flocks inland and were on their way to roost in safety of numbers on the saltmarshes of the south coast. However, I have doubts because near the end of January I observed hundreds of gulls lower in the sky flying untidily together in the same direction but not in formation. If you saw this phenomenon what do you think?

Writing in late January signs of spring are in my garden with bulbs well through the hard earth and several clumps of snowdrops in flower. If you want to see carpets of them go to Welford Park near Newbury before 5th March (**). There are a few catkins in the hedgerow beyond the tumuli; so nature is recovering from that devastation of unsympathetic flailing last year after which no hawthorn or sloe berries grew. I am still sad about the mindless destruction of my little oak sapling of which I recently wrote. We haven't many oaks here on the chalk, but drive just a little way to enjoy seeing their strong and shapely boughs, each tree displaying a unique character. Forty years pass before they bear acorns. A thousand oaks were used to construct Salisbury Cathedral and 2,000 to 3,000 to build a warship such as HMS Victory. You can read more such facts in the book "Walking Through Spring" (2016) by Graham Hoyland who planted 500 acorns on his walk northwards to follow spring. Do read it if you love walking, literature and poetry and have concerns for our environment.

Norma Goodwin

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Oliver's Battery Countryside Group



It was a day of bright sun and sparkling frost, when the temperature hardly reached the dizzy heights of zero degrees Celsius. However at the wildlife area, the Oliver's Battery Countryside Group kept as warm as toast as they chopped down, strimmed and burned the previous year's overgrowth, which has to be cleared to allow the new season's plants to flourish. Children used the discarded sticks to make wigwams, rambles passing through stopped to chat and join in the fun. So it was not all hard work as potatoes, baked to perfection in the bonfire, provided lunch, while buzzards and a kestrel wheeled over our heads, and long-tailed tits, robins and sparrows flittered in the trees. We are a friendly bunch of people, so if you love the countryside and are keen to do your bit for wildlife, then come and join us! We are meeting on the first Saturday of every month at 10am onwards – everybody is welcome.



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 Grace Austen on graceausten@sky.com

Olivers 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 more information.



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