

Community News

Your Local Community Newsletter

Summer 2016 Edition



OLIVER'S BATTERY QUESTIONNAIRE REVEALS THE POSITIVES!



A Visual Presentation of the
Main Positives about Living in
Oliver's Battery

Access Amenities/Facilities

Countryside

Community Friendly

Local Shops Location

Neighbours/People

Peace and Quiet

Post Office Safe Sainsbury's Town and Country

Transport Links Views Walking

Winchester

To the left is a 'Word Cloud', which is a visual representation of the main positives about living in Oliver's Battery. This preliminary Data from our Questionnaire is saying that we particularly love our countryside and views and the peace and quiet. And we appreciate our position close to Winchester and with good access to transport links (outside Oliver's Battery). We generally feel safe and value local shops and the friendly people around us.

We have recently distributed the first set of data on the questions in our survey, together with this Word Cloud. Again, positives appear to outweigh the negatives – individuals generally express a strong feeling of belonging, the majority of residents appearing to know many or some people and very few residents feel unsafe walking alone after dark.

Households show a fairly strong agreement that Oliver's Battery is a place where people look after one another, the majority think communication of community information is effective and not surprisingly, the overwhelming majority of respondents do not want development on Greenfield sites in or around Oliver's Battery.

Some of the data provokes more questions – what should be done to reduce the length of wait at the road junction? And if the bus service within Oliver's Battery does not meet the needs of residents, what viable alternatives should be developed? Answering these and other questions raised by the data we have collected will direct our efforts over the next few months, as we build our Action Plan.

Come along to the next big Meeting

We are planning a public meeting on Friday June 10th, 7.30 pm at the Oliver's Battery Primary School, to present more data from the Questionnaire, with an up-date on 'Work in Progress' on the Oliver's Battery Plan. It should be an interesting evening!

Get involved with the Oliver's Battery Plan

We are looking for people to help develop ideas for our Action Plan. Follow your interests and join one of the following groups – Community, Facilities and Amenities, Communications, Environment and Development, Roads and Transport.

Please contact Connie on 01962 865883 or email constance@leach154.plus.com

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

Editorial deadline for **Autumn 2016** issue: **Friday 5 August 2016**



CONGRATULATIONS STANLEY!
 We are very pleased to announce that local resident and Trustee of the Association, Stanley Judd, was recently presented with a Community Award by the Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Angela Clear, in recognition and grateful appreciation of his service to the community. Stan works tirelessly for the Royal British Legion and in particular for their annual Poppy Appeal and can be seen every year in Sainsbury's collecting donations. Sincere congratulations Stan! He is pictured here proudly accepting his award.



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 For more information contact: Anna Miles, Assistant Manager, Winchester Live at Home Scheme - 01962 890995 - www.wlahs.org



CONGRATULATIONS TO MARATHON LADY LIZ !

We are delighted and proud to let you know that another local resident and Trustee of the Association, Liz Lindsay, recently ran in and completed the London Marathon crossing the line in 4 hours 14 minutes, beating her personal best by five minutes! Liz is a seasoned runner but said this was the absolute hardest run she has ever done. She dedicated the last three miles to her children which gave her the mental encouragement to cross the finish line. She says the crowds were amazing - chanting, shouting and cheering on runners at every point. All in all she tells us this was an incredible experience and, although it took her a good few days to recover, she is overjoyed and thrilled to have accomplished such a major feat and is now looking towards the Brighton Marathon! No stopping some people! Liz is pictured here proudly showing her medal along with her three delighted children.

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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)	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)
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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18 holes of golf and 2 course carvery
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Prize giving & raffle.

(Team numbers are limited so please register
your interest as soon as possible)

For more information or to donate a prize please
contact fundraising@brendoncare.org.uk or call

01962 852133



Brendoncare exists to improve the quality of life for older people, through the provision of care homes, housing with care and clubs, offering support that is built on relationships and responds to the needs, aspirations and choices of each individual.



**CAN YOU PLAY CRIB?
HAVE YOU GOT A FREE
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CONTACT EITHER IAN OR TREVOR
SOCIAL CLUB – SUNDAY LUNCHTIMES
12-2pm OR PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME
AND NUMBER BEHIND THE BAR**

**THANK YOU AND WE
HOPE TO HEAR FROM
YOU SOON!**



because you're amazing

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.



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.

ST LUKE'S SENIORS HOLIDAY CLUB



We have been holding the Seniors' Holiday Week at St Luke's Church Centre since 2008. The club is open to all residents of Stanmore, Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery and offers a week's holiday without having to pack a suitcase.

There are 5 days of activities, including an outing in the middle of the week. Morning coffee, a hot lunch and tea and cake are provided each day. We can also offer transport to and from St Luke's - all included in the very reasonable cost for the week.

Activities over the past years have ranged from talks on bee keeping to Tai Chi, a visit from a choir to craft sessions.

The Holiday Week this year will run from 15th to 19th August. If you would like any more information please telephone Pam Turner on Winchester 867828.

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

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AFTERNOON TEA WITH MAY MARTIN
Saturday 4 June 2016
Doors open 1pm & event starts at 2pm
Mottisfont Abbey,
Mottisfont, SO51 OLP

Join May Martin for an exciting opportunity to hear about her 40 years as a sewing teacher and behind the scenes of The Great British Sewing Bee. Join us in our beautiful marquee for a cream tea, set in the spectacular grounds of Mottisfont Abbey. You will also be able to have the opportunity to explore the famous rose gardens when they will be in full bloom.

Tickets are £25

(includes entrance to Mottisfont Abbey and cream tea refreshments)

All profits donated to Alzheimer's Society

For more information or to book tickets please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/239361 or contact Natalie Bettinson on 02380 610 159 or email Natalie.Bettinson@alzheimers.org.uk

Alzheimer's Society

Leading the fight against dementia

OLIVER'S BATTERY WI



Since the New Year, we have been meeting in St Peter's School, Oliver's Battery Road North on the third MONDAY of most months. It has been a big decision, taken democratically, but now we have to adjust to the larger space we can use. There is parking at the school and plenty of space to get to know other members. It will take time to adjust but so far, it's been good.

The Annual Plant Sale has just taken place and we were delighted to greet our "regulars" and more to St Mark's, where we are known for our Bank Holiday Monday Plant and Cake Sale. It might have been on the cool side, but those who turned out will have got many bargain plants that will thrive in the coming months - the runner beans looked wonderful, as did the geraniums but there were many more to choose from.



A busy Annual Plant Sale for Oliver's Battery WI

We continue to have speakers to inspire, amuse and challenge us - always the focal point of the meetings. In July, a coach load of members and friends will make the journey to Mapledurham, near Reading for a summer day out, by the Thames. If you would like to know more about Oliver's Battery WI, please contact our President Katherine Elmore. katherine.elsmore@hotmail.co.uk

BADGER FARM FRIENDLY GROUP



Are you someone who enjoys supporting others and coordinating activities? Do you have a few hours to spare each week? The Badger Farm Friendly Group is a social club for older people and enjoys a mixture of entertainers, guest speakers, seated exercise, arts and crafts and occasional club outings. We are looking for a volunteer club coordinator to work with other volunteers, preparing the venue, ensuring members are comfortable and organising games and activities. The club meets alternate Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm at the Badger Farm Community Centre. The club is one of over 85 clubs run by Winchester-based charity The Brendoncare Foundation to provide fun and friendship for older people and help reduce social isolation. New members are always most welcome. Why not come and see for yourself what fun we have? And your first visit will be free!

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering at the Badger Farm Friendly Group or coming along as a member, please get in touch with us either by phoning 01962 852133 or by emailing clubhampshire@brendoncare.org.uk.



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Check out Bark and Squeak on Facebook for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/barkandsqueak>



News from the Oliver's Battery Community Centre Charity

As you see, we now have a new logo for our charity, which we'll use as a letterhead and in our other communications in future! I'm also delighted to be able to tell you that several new members have joined our management team, bringing the number to nine, and we are making good progress on a number of fronts, which we will report on in the near future. But first, I wanted let you know about an important date for your diary:

Saturday 23rd July - Family Fun Day to celebrate of the 60th Anniversary of St Mark's

The Family Fun Day will be held on the Ancient Monument open space and will include activities and stalls in the style of a village fete. We will be there with a stall to talk about our project, the detailed plans we are currently developing, and how residents can get involved. Do please come and see us! And please contact me if there's anything you want to discuss.

We've recently held meetings with Steve Brine MP, senior officers of Winchester City Council, our District Councillors, and representatives of Community First, Winchester and Action Hampshire - two charities which exist to support other voluntary organisations. All of these have shown their support for our project and offered valuable advice on how to raise funds and manage our project. We expect to be working closely with them in future. *Geoff*

Dr Geoffrey Sharman, Chairman of Directors ~ 01962 867961 ~ geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com



JOIN US AT OUR DEMENTIA CAFE IN WINCHESTER

If you have dementia or are caring for someone with dementia, come along to your local cafe. The venue is Badger Farm Community Centre, Badger Farm Road, Winchester on the first Monday of each month from 2pm to 3.30pm. For more information, contact the local Alzheimer's Society by email on winchester@alzheimers.org.uk 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.

Ofsted say Oliver's Battery school is "moving from strength to strength"

Oliver's Battery Primary School is still celebrating the endorsement that Ofsted inspectors have given the school. After rapidly improving, through sheer hard work, the staff and the children have been instrumental in gaining a 'Good' Ofsted rating overall and 'Outstanding' for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Ofsted report states "Early year's provision is outstanding. Children in Reception Year are enthused by the rich and varied curriculum that has been developed around their interests. Children have a love for learning and develop high levels of independence. The stimulating environment contributes greatly to this. Excellent use is made of both indoor and outdoor areas, which are both stimulating and well resourced." The report also talks of the other years within the school: "the quality of teaching leads to good rates of progress in reading, writing and mathematics, with some groups of children making accelerated progress. The excellent links with Kings' School result in a smooth transition for pupils in Year 6."

In Oliver's Battery Primary School the children are the school and the report recognised this: "Pupils' well-being is paramount. They feel safe, well cared for and respected". Ofsted had a great deal to say about the children and their behaviour and attitudes to learning including; "Pupils are well mannered and courteous. Pupils are polite, friendly and respectful. They are proud of their school and their achievements and look smart showing care in their appearance. They are eager to take on responsibilities and they show a high degree of confidence."

The new library, funded with generous assistance from Friends of Oliver's Battery School, was recognised as an asset to the school. The report says "Pupils read well and enjoy reading both in and out of school. They make good use of the new, well-stocked school library which contains a wide range of quality texts." Nicki Duffield, Chair of Governors said "I'd like to thank the dedicated teaching and support team led by our amazing head teacher Fey Wood; they have worked so hard to ensure the school is the best it can be by putting the children first."

Fey Wood joined the school in January 2015 and has been relentless in her bid to ensure the school offers all children in the school the best education possible.

The Ofsted report shows that the leadership of the school is unwavering; "The inspirational and committed headteacher has led the school ably" with the support of "Governors [who] are positive and committed".

Fey Wood, Head Teacher said "I am immensely proud of all the hard work that has gone into achieving this judgement. The children are at the heart of our school and this is clearly reflected in the report. To achieve outstanding for our Early Years is testament to the enriched curriculum and variety of opportunity including outdoor environment that we have here at Oliver's Battery. It has been a pleasure to lead the school towards this judgement and I am looking forward to leading us 'from strength to strength'." Winchester MP Steve Brine said; "I am absolutely thrilled for Fey Wood and all her team including the children and parents. I know how much this means to this school which never stopped believing they could do better and now it's turned around. I'm so proud of them for this achievement."

In the report Ofsted inspectors described the school as "moving from strength to strength"; the school will continue to improve and ensure that the children always get best possible educational experience.

Places are available. If you are interested in visiting the school please call 01962 869 496.

The Hampshire County Council website admissions page can be accessed here
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions.htm>



Oliver's Battery Primary School School Council



Miss Wood and children in the new library at Oliver's Battery Primary School

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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
WINCHESTER EMBROIDERERS' GUILD
6th AUGUST 2016
OPEN DAY - 11am to 3pm

Winchester Embroiderers' Guild are holding an Open Day, offering an opportunity for members to showcase the variety of work that stitchers do now. Come through the door and watch demonstrations of stitching, both hand and machine. See how your plastic carrier bags can be transformed; how to create jewellery from the contents of the button tin and see how to create a new fabric from painting and printing.

We endeavour to create a fun day for all the family and there will be sewing activities for children, parents can join in too, and competitions for all, plus a chance to look at members' work and sketch books. As well as a Sales Table of donated threads and fabrics, there will be an opportunity to purchase new materials from some local traders. Everyone is welcome, entry is free and there will be a refreshment area with home made cake!

FITSTEPS®

Love "Strictly"? Try *FitSteps!*
For all "Strictly" fans who would love to dance and keep fit at the same time, FITSTEPS is for you. No partner required! This "FAB-U-LOUS" dance-fitness programme, created by 2 of the professional dancers from "Strictly Come Dancing", combines simple steps from the most popular Ballroom and Latin dances with proven fitness techniques to create a fun, energetic and effective workout. If you're ready to bring out your inner dancer, join us!

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



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Badger Farm Community Centre

Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm

Fridays 10.30-11.30am & 11.30am-12.30pm

St. Luke's Church Hall, Stanmore

Thursdays 6.00-7.00pm

To book your place, contact **Karen Reay**

Mobile 07460 974677 - email: karen@reay.me



OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council have recently reviewed and updated the Rules and Regulations governing the use of the recreation ground. A sign will be displayed there giving a summary of the latest Rules

and Regulations. A more detailed list will be placed on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council would ask all users of the recreation ground to respect the Rules and Regulations. As previously reported, the Parish Council have had in mind the replacement of the toddler play equipment at the recreation ground. The matter has become more urgent lately in that the elephant on a spring has broken and has had to be removed. A capital project for the replacement of all the toddler equipment is being prepared.

The outline planning application by Linden Homes for the development of 350 homes on land at Pitt Vale bordering the village of Pitt continues to be a concern to the Parish Council. An amended planning application has recently been submitted to which the Parish Council have made further comments and objections. These are additional to those submitted last July against the original planning application.

The issues associated with dog fouling continue to be a problem around Oliver's Battery including at the Recreation Ground. Where there is regular and persistent fouling where you live, you can report this to Winchester City Council's Environmental Health and Licensing Team on 01962 840222 ext 2172.

However in reporting a fouling hot spot it will enable Winchester City Council to focus resources on the areas of greatest need.

The police have recently highlighted the need for residents to be aware of rogue traders that carry out distraction burglaries. These types of criminals knock on the door pretending to be someone else. They distract the resident to gain entry and steal items from inside, sometimes with an accomplice. Offenders may pretend to have lost a pet or claim they need to use your home phone. They may claim they are from a council, bank, utility supplier, or even police. Residents should stop unknown people from entering their home and tell the police about unwanted or suspicious callers by phoning 101.

The Parish Council celebrates it's 60th year this year and will be marking the event with a community organised Barn Dance in October. Details will be publicised once arrangements have been finalised. Two of our councillors are stepping down from the Council. Maggie Collin has served 6 years and Jane Gagel for 5 years. The contribution of both councillors will be greatly missed. As a result of them stepping down, there are vacancies on the council for residents with an interest in local issues and some time and willingness to represent the views of all residents. Applications to serve on the council should be addressed our Clerk, Elizabeth Billingham (email: clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com; address: The Clerk, 7 Chapel Road, Swanmore, SO32 2QA).

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



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Thursday 3.45-4.45pm
St Faiths Village Hall, St. Cross
Benefits include improvements in

- ▣ mobility & joint flexibility
- ▣ balance & co-ordination
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Email taichienquiries@gmail.com
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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 0800 800 0035 ~ www.nos.org.uk ~ email info@nos.org.uk.

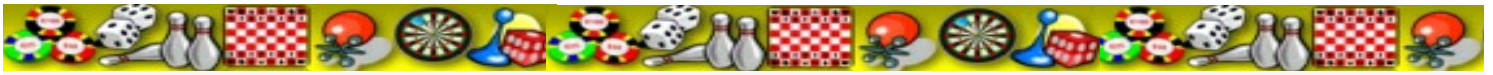
The Winchester Support Group meetings are held in a friendly atmosphere for support, advice and information. Members are welcome to bring family and friends as guests. Meetings take place at St. Peter's Pastoral Centre (opposite the Library Discovery Centre.) Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. For more information telephone 01962 866152. The programme for the rest of 2016 is below:

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
Tel. 01761 471771 / 0845 130 3076



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A LOCAL FRIENDLY SUPPORT GROUP FOR ADULTS WITH LIFE CHANGING ISSUES?

ARE YOU FREE TO JOIN US ON ALTERNATE THURSDAYS BETWEEN 10.00am & 12.30pm? WE MEET AT BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE IN THE WARREN ROOM WHICH IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE AND USER-FRIENDLY FOR DISABLED VISITORS.

WE HAVE COFFEE, CHAT AND PLAY BOARD GAMES LIKE BINGO, BEETLE DRIVE, etc.

WE ALSO OCCASIONALLY HAVE BBQ'S AND GO OUT FOR MEALS OR ON TRIPS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, OR NEED MORE INFORMATION,

PLEASE TELEPHONE DI ON 01962 868156 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



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or contact Juliette on 07799 890860 / juliette.green@fitdankbaby.co.uk



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Oliver's Battery
Winchester



AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Since the last edition there have been local elections with the new ward boundaries. We are now joined to Otterbourne, Compton, Shawford and Hursley. So I welcome two new City Councillors, Eleanor Bell and Jan Warwick to continue representing the whole community.

Whiteshute Ridge project is continuing to progress with the City and Badger Farm Parish Council working closely together. English Nature is now talking to us about possible grants and the Hampshire Wild Life Trust is working closely with us. The City and Parish Councils are hoping to be able to start organising a public consultation in the next few months. This is a very important ecological project.

Whilst on the subject of wildlife, there is a very real problem with dog fouling in the area particularly on the entrances to open spaces. This is now common throughout the area. It is now such a problem that the City is actively looking at how it can be reduced. The maximum fine for dog fouling is £1000.

Pitt Vale application is still going on and should be at a planning committee meeting either end of June or July. I will be advising on this by email so if you are not on my list and would like to be included, please send me an email so you can be added.

Following on from the election, it was brought to our attention on the doorstep that people would really like a kerb side glass collection. You also want the junction of Oliver's Battery Road and Badger Farm Road looking at again. We will be taking up both these priorities. There is also the need to try again to improve the bus service in Oliver's Battery and make it far more frequent. As you all know, I have been constantly working on this for a long time. So we have our work cut out.

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



WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Hopefully, by the time you read this, Summer will have arrived and you will be busy planting, weeding and mowing the lawn. Maybe in between jobs you will allow yourself to sit in the sun and enjoy looking at the results of your efforts. However, if you fancy something more stimulating you could come along to one of our monthly meetings to hear an interesting horticultural talk, mingle with like-minded people and swap gardening tips. Here is what's on offer during the next few months:



June (Wednesday 8th) ~ ROSES: There can't be much that John Wood, Head Gardener at Hinton Ampner, does not know about his favourite plant, the rose. He will be a pleasure to listen to.

July (Wednesday 13th) ~ WEEDS - CAN WE EVER WIN? Dr. Alick Jones is well qualified to supply an answer to this question. He and his wife Sarah have written a book about the subject entitled "The Fascination of Weeds" in which they take a fresh look at the plants most of us dislike.

August (Wednesday 10th) ~ LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD: Jennifer Carter will take us on an exciting tour of New Zealand.

Another event in **August (Saturday 20th)** is our **ANNUAL AUTUMN SHOW** at Badger Farm Community Centre from 2pm - 4pm. It is an Open Show and schedules can be obtained by ringing 01962-275498. Take part or come and see what we have managed to produce in our gardens because of, or despite, the Summer weather. Tea and home-made cake will be available.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester SO23 7AB, starting at 7.30pm. New members and visitors (£3) are welcome. See also www.winhortsoc@weebly.com.

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.

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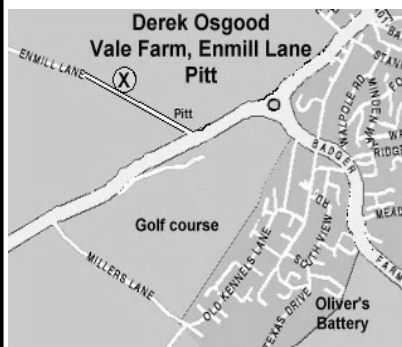
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Badger Farm Toddlers

Thursdays 13:30 - 15:00

Badger Farm Community Centre

Come and join Esther and Catherine at this friendly drop-in group!

All welcome, run by qualified pre-school teachers!

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

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

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

Open term time only!

Info: Catherine 07990037467

or Esther etsouramanis@icloud.com

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

Stanmore Primary School

Be the best that you can be.

Where have all the teachers gone? Our Reception children had a bit of a shock one Monday when they arrived into school to discover that their teachers had vanished and in their place were four superheroes! Instead of Mrs Batten, there was a tea towel caped crusader called Cora Cook. She showed the children how to make some tasty dips for their vegetables – yum! Out on the back field a mysterious figure in a white coat blasted a rocket high into the air. Who was it? It was Professor Prue of course! She had made her own rocket fuel from vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. She told the children when the acid in the vinegar reacted with the bicarbonate of soda it produced a gas and the resulting pressure caused the rocket to blast off! Out in the playground there were two more strange figures, Gertie Gardener and Tennis Tess. Gertie Gardener was carefully planting colourful pansies into the empty pots and Tennis Tess was demonstrating her ball skills in a speedy game of tennis. These superheroes are all gifted in the things they enjoy and the children now have to dream up their very own super hero based on their own favourite activities and come into school dressed as that person. Look out - Superheroes about!

Tweet tweet! Stanmore school is now on twitter. You can see all our tweets at: <https://twitter.com/stanmoreprimary> and if you have a twitter account yourself you can follow us @stanmoreprimary.

Step into my shoes.... Stanmore School is taking part in a brand new project called Empathy Lab which will explore ways of using stories and words to build empathy skills in children. Having empathy for others is a vital life skill which helps children collaborate, form the relationships they need in order to learn, and be a force for good in the world. Stanmore is one of only 12 schools in the country that will be trialling new material for Empathy Lab. We are very excited to be involved at the very start of this pioneering new movement, with a chance to influence what we hope will become a nationwide scheme.

A bit of a mood On her last visit into school, our lovely Patron of Reading, the sparkling Ali Sparkes, ran two writing workshops with Year 4. Showing the children a 'naked paragraph' which contained the vaguest outline of a story, she asked them to come up with ideas to improve it. Their descriptive words and suggestions made a huge difference so her next challenge was to take the same paragraph and completely change the mood of the story by using different words and dialogue. The new stories ranged from creepy horror to fairy tale frothiness. It was amazing how the same paragraph could be so radically changed by replacing certain words and phrases. Ali was entertaining and inspirational as usual and we look forward to welcoming her back to school in the autumn term as part of our Book Week celebrations.

Summer fun..... the summer term is always very hectic with lots of events to pack in before the end of another school year. We're looking forward to Sports Days, a Legoland trip, a Woodmills activity day, a trip to Swanwick Lakes, a beach themed disco, our Year 6 production and plenty more besides. It's going to be busy!

Dates for your diary - Our Summer Fair will be on Friday 10th June from 3:20pm until 5:15pm. There will be the usual fun stalls and tasty barbeque food. Hope to see you there!

For details of all the latest happenings at school, visit our website at: www.stanmore.hants.sch.uk or check out our twitter @stanmoreprimary

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 SOCIAL CLUB – YOUR FAMILY FRIENDLY LOCAL PUB !



We are a family club operating 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 to offer as detailed below. So do come in and see what we have to offer! 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 and £10 for a concession.

Open times:

Sunday: 12noon – 10.30pm ~ Mon-Thurs: 5pm – 11pm ~ Friday: 4pm – 12am ~ Saturday: 12noon – 12am

Social club teams: Men's darts – A-team were recently been promoted in the league. Ladies darts - ladies team awarded the knockout cup. Men's pool team – enjoy great success and always welcome new recruits. We love to set up a Ladies team too ! Even if you don't want to join a team we offer FREE pool on Tuesday evenings. Cribbage team – Now recruiting for next season which runs from Sept to May. Do you like Poker ? We have a fun evening of Poker on the last Tuesday evening of every month! If you are interested in joining us pop in and speak to Mel at the Club. We have a weekly meat draw, special events (BBQ's) at Bank Holidays and parties at Christmas/New Year. We have multiple screens showing numerous sporting events via Sky and BT (Football and Rugby Premiership). We offer lagers, ciders and at least 3 quality crafted real ales as well many other drinks at club prices. Why not pop in to see what we are up to. We hope to see you soon.



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AN UPDATE FROM STEVE BRINE, MP FOR WINCHESTER

As Members of Parliament, we are not short of lobbying from a wide range of organisations.

One mainstay of this world, and a group that has really risen in prominence in recent years, is Open Doors. It is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide and at the start of every year they produce a report on freedom of religion including a world watch list of the 50 countries in the world where it is hardest to be a Christian.

Hundreds of MPs, including me as a member of the active Christians in Parliament group, attend the launch of Open Doors annual update each January and this year was no different where the Northern Ireland Secretary gave the stirring keynote address. Not surprisingly, North Korea heads the list for the fourteenth consecutive year where Kim Jong Un has continued to consolidate his power and Christians try to hide their faith as far as possible to avoid arrest and being sent to a labour camp. Today there are an estimated 50-70,000 Christians in 'gulag-style' prison camps in the country!

I may have been a Christian before entering Parliament but I had no real idea of the extent to which some parts of our world are dangerous places to just be. I am hugely grateful to Open Doors for the work they do in educating those of us in Westminster and to the many constituents who, judging by my postbag, know of their work and understand these issues as much as they are troubled by them. There is much more detail, and links, via www.stevebrine.com/opendoors if you are interested.

Much closer to home and I am staying well briefed (thanks to the energetic Connie Leach) on the emerging Oliver's Battery Parish Plan as well ideas around the much discussed new community centre courtesy of the Parish Council and Geoff Sharman of the Oliver's Battery Community Centre Ltd. I am aware there's a huge amount of community organising taking pace in the village right now and, so long as it all comes together at some point behind a unified vision, that can only be a good thing for both Oli B and Badger Farm. I have offered my help and support - and will continue to give it - wherever required.

The Budget of 2016 may have excited the media and unravelled in places - in-part I suppose my fault for opposing the misguided forced Academies idea - but one part holding firm is the £2m matched funding I was able to secure to create the south's first children's emergency department at Southampton. That's the kind of substance that matters to me and why I was so pleased to pose for a photo with the Chancellor and his famous red book! More can be found at www.stevebrine.com/sayyesgeorge



Finally, many congratulations to Cllr Jan Warwick, Cllr Eleanor Bell and Cllr Brian Laming who represent the area on the new city council. I will continue to work with them all, as well as the new Conservative administration at the Guildhall, for the benefit of constituents.

You can find much more information about my other 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



NOTICE

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BADGER FARM & OLIVER'S BATTERY RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

**WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2016 IN THE BUSHFIELD ROOM
AT BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE STARTING AT 7.30pm**

**All local residents are invited to attend. Come along and have your say about how the
Association is run.**

**All matters for discussion, motions and nominations for the
Officers of the Association should be submitted to the Secretary of the
Executive Committee no later than two weeks prior to the meeting.**

**Forms for nominations can be obtained from the Bookings Secretary at the
Community Centre.**

**The Executive Committee Secretary can be contacted via the Community Centre on
01962 868630 or by email at enquiries@bfobrca.org**



OLIVER'S BATTERY PRE-SCHOOL

In March, staff of the pre-school and members of the committee attended one of the Mayor of Winchester's Community Award presentation evenings at the Guildhall. The pre-school received an award, alongside many others, for services to the community through volunteering and going beyond the duties of paid employment to ensure the pre-school is happy, positive and inspiring. We were very proud to be recognised in this way and also very encouraged by just how many people give up their time to support a lot of essential organisations in and around our city.

Back in the pre-school the children are enjoying more time outside in the stimulating and well equipped play area and this was also the setting for a sponsored obstacle course held in April. The children were so enthusiastic that time for the event ran out before their energy did! The money raised will help fund a coach for the pre-school outing in June. The children have been looking at the topic of "Homes and Houses" and created an excellent display in pre-school based on the story of the Three Little Pigs. Also to look forward to this term is the sports day, an educational walk around Oliver's Battery ending at the park and rounding up the end of the academic year with a Teddy Bear's picnic.

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

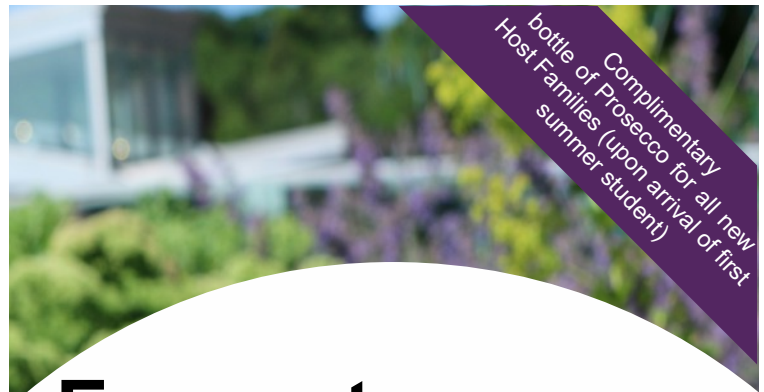
BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Do you know about the LENTHSMAN? Every so often we have the services of a person who will do various things that your Parish Council think is of importance. These jobs can be anything from clearing an area of ground, cutting back brambles or bushes, clearing shrubs etc. These jobs can be on our estate or on the hill, but we try not to encroach on the City or County's responsibilities.

Please be aware of where cars or vans are parked. Parking on or over pavements can be very hazardous for pushchair or mobility transporters. Also parking on grass areas are frowned upon as it will churn up land. Please also clear up after your dog, and try not to leave litter about. We all want Badger Farm to be safe, and as tidy as possible.

An important date for your Diary. On **8th August, 7.30pm at the Community Centre** we are holding an Extra-Ordinary meeting to discuss further developments of both Davis Kickabout and the Central Play areas. We particularly want to know what parents and guardians consider are important for their children. The current plans for the play area at Davis are progressing, with planning options being considered at our next Parish Council meeting.

The process of Whiteshute Ridge being included within The Nature Conservancy area is going ahead slowly and steadily. It really is a lovely place to walk where you can view a surprising amount of wild life and plants. If you have not been up there, it really is well worth the climb up the hill, and with the weather warmer, it is a perfect place for a picnic. Have a lovely summer.



Earn extra money as a Host Family

If you live in or around Winchester, close to a bus route, you could earn up to £1,040 (tax free) by hosting an international student over the summer.

We are looking for host families to provide a friendly, welcoming living environment for one or two international students (aged approximately 20-23) for two to four weeks.

- Help overseas students achieve their aspirations
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All international students will be undertaking a full-time educational programme five or six days a week.

Find out more [✉ hosting@eversoenlsh.com](mailto:hosting@eversoenlsh.com) [☎ 01962 676242](tel:01962676242)



Friends of
Oliver's
Battery
School

FOBS

Summer Fair

All welcome!

Bands Dance Games

Fair ground rides

Bouncy castle Races

Beat the goalie

Refreshments

Saturday 25th June ~ 11am—2pm

in the beautiful grounds of Oliver's Battery Primary School
entrance free



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Tel. 01962 865240 ~ revd.mike@yahoo.co.uk



Dear Friends, Neighbours, Parishioners

As we all head to a summer of celebrations, Queens 90th; Olympics and the 60th anniversary of both St Mark's church and the Oliver's Battery Parish Council, being some of the extras this year.

When I hit 60 a 'couple' of years ago I was looking forward too so much but only ended up with free prescriptions (*not had one for the last 15 years*) and cheaper films at Eastleigh cinema, still waiting for the rest. So often the build up to a milestone is more than getting there as the next mile is soon begun and we continue to travel life's highway. That's why it is so important to include all generations in our community and family celebrations. It gives us time to retell the 'old' stories, be part of today's story and plan for the next chapter in our together story.

We at St Mark's hope you will join in our celebrations and will continue to invite us to share in yours by our prayers and thanksgiving.

Revd Mike, Vicar of St Luke with St Mark, Winchester.



You are invited to our party!

Where? St Mark's church and on the Battery

When? Saturday 23rd July from 2.00 - 5.00 pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon of Family Fun

Join us to celebrate the 60th birthday of St Mark's
Games and races for all ages including Beat the Goalie, Tug-o-war,
Bounce on the Bouncy Cathedral (4-14 year olds)
Competitions, Find the Treasure, Refreshments
History of St Mark's display and much more!
Our own community choir 'Sing Winchester' will perform



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OFSTED inspected in June 2015 with very pleasing results

For children from 2 years to school age.

Limited spaces available for 2 – 3 years.

OPENING TIMES (flexible)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday ~ 9.15 – 3.00

Thursday – Friday ~ 9.15 – 12.15

Spaces are now available!

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.



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

In my spring article on spring cleaning your computer I wanted to recommend tools which, while great in themselves, needed to be downloaded from freeware sites. The trouble is, these sites offer traps for the unwary so here are some tips on how to more safely use them.

Trap 1: misleading search results

Search for a program and some search engines such as Bing and (these days to a lesser extent) Google, will show adverts at the top of the page. Beware of clicking these. The second result when searching "chrome download" on Bing is uk-download.com which admits that "When you choose to download the software that is available on this site, you may be presented with offers from third-party advertisers." Make sure that, where possible, you download from the official website. And if something's not free on the official site, be very suspicious of sites on which it is free.

Trap 2: too many buttons

Looking to download a program, you go to its page on a freeware site and only to see multiple buttons: "Update Drivers Now", "Download Now!", ">", "GET IT NOW". Which is the right one to download your program? To find out, install an ad-blocking extension such as Adblock Plus or, my favourite due to its low memory use, µBlock Origin. These remove advertising content, giving you a very clean webpage with only one button ... the one you really need. Note that the new Microsoft Edge doesn't yet support extensions so you currently can't use this trick on that browser.

Trap 3: bundleware

Now you've clicked the right button and downloaded the setup file you go to run it. STOP! Some developers "bundle" other programs with their own. And some freeware sites, like the notorious download.cnet.com, will take clean programs and add in extra software—called PUPs or Potentially Unwanted Programs—that you really don't want. Why do they do this? They get paid for it! So, whenever you download something, don't just open it. Use Show in Folder to find it in your Downloads folder, right-click it and run anti-virus and anti-malware scans.

Trap 4: express install

If offered a choice between Express and Custom Install, always use Custom; it's not just for "advanced users". Custom allows you to choose exactly what does and doesn't get installed—check all the options carefully—and should prevent you ending up with anything that's slipped through your previous checks.

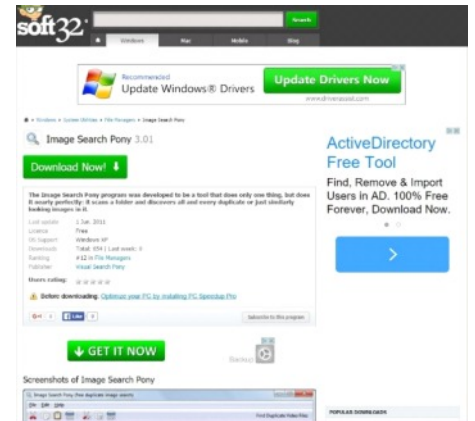
A final tip: to avoid these traps, whenever possible use ninite.com, "a safe, centralized place to get the freeware you need". Read more on howtogeek.com/201354/ninite-is-the-only-safe-place-to-get-windows-freeware/.

Safe downloading!

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!

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Winchester Computer Tutor is holding a friendly seminar to help you learn more about online security.

If you're wondering about things such as:

- which anti-virus software to use
- how to recognise suspect emails & websites
- good ways to manage passwords
- what security practices to put in place

come along to watch my presentation and ask any questions. No need to book; just turn up on the day.

Where: Badger Farm Community Centre

When: 14 July, 2 to 4pm

Cost: £10 **Contact:** Ann Jury on 01962 626130

ann@winchestercomputertutor.co.uk



Latin Line New Beginners' Class

Come along and have some fun with Latin dance rhythms!

New class commencing

**Tuesday 14th June
7.30-8.30pm**

Oliver's Battery Primary School
Austen Avenue, Oliver's Battery
Winchester, SO22 4HP

No partner needed - gentle exercise
For further details and enrolment, please telephone

Ian and Joan Millar
on Winchester (01962) 854542 or Email:
millardancing@yahoo.co.uk





NATURE NOTES FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY



It's over a month since the first day of spring and we have hit a cold spell with heavy sleet falling all day recently. There have also been white frosty mornings usually followed by bright sunny days when it is a delight to walk with my dog across the local fields listening to skylarks pouring their liquid songs from above. These fields, so desolate all winter, are now brightened by swathes of dandelions like the sunshine itself. I am heartened to report that the hedge beyond Texas Drive is making a valiant recovery from its earlier desecration and we should soon see the first creamy hawthorn flowers. I heard my favourite harbinger of spring, the chiff chaff, on 23rd March and you can hear its two toned call in both parishes. Some confuse it with the call of the great tit but there is a distinct difference. Sadly I have not heard that other harbinger of spring, the cuckoo locally for many years, have you?

I must tell you of a phenomenon that has caused me great curiosity over the past four years and that is the appearance of tiny fluffy white feathers on the ground around the same time each year. It first happened shortly after my mother died in March 2012. I keep finding them in my garden and on local countryside walks. I cannot fathom out from whence they come; they are not from sparrowhawk or fox kills. Fancifully I imagine that they have something to do with my mother and I have since read that Gloria Hunniford regularly finds white feathers which she believes are messages from her deceased daughter, Caron Keating who died young. I welcome any rational explanations so please get in touch.

A reader in Badger Farm emailed with news of a tawny owl calling from a tree in his garden throughout the winter. This "hoo-hoo-oooo" sound is the male owl's territorial call. Once also known as the brown owl this nocturnal bird's habitat was traditionally in hollows in trees mainly in broadleaved woodland. With the decline in the number of woods the tawny owl population has reduced in the UK to 19,000 pairs but they also live in copses and large hedgerow trees, old buildings and nowadays purpose built nest boxes. Largely sedentary, sitting camouflaged at nest sites during the day, they hunt at night within 10 kilometres accurately pinpointing their prey using their highly developed hearing. The main diet is small mammals, birds, insects and amphibians. They have one breed of 3 – 4 white nearly round eggs incubated by the female. When they are sitting on eggs or have young they can attack and inflict serious damage as happened to the famous bird photographer, Eric Hosking, who lost an eye. I am interested in compiling a record of any type of owl observed in both parishes so please contact me on norma.goodwin@btinternet.com and I will report next time.

Norma Goodwin ~ norma.goodwin@btinternet.com



Wildlife in YOUR Garden?

Birds, bees, furry and crawling creatures are all around us in the summer, welcome or not. Whether you shriek in horror at the sight of a bee or eagerly look to see if it is collecting pollen, we all know we need bees to pollinate our food plants and keep the cycles of life going. The leafy trees, fruiting shrubs and flowering grasses and blooms so abundant around Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery gardens and paths are vital habitats for our native wildlife which provide so much recreation and pleasure for we city dwellers.

We all need wildlife, not only for food but also for our physical and mental health. Easy access to the countryside is particularly valued by many residents, as a recent survey of Olly B showed. However the wildlife in our countryside needs our help. Have you heard a cuckoo yet? I have not heard one in Winchester for about three years now, which makes me sad. Do you look at butterflies? They used to be such a common sight that we did not remark on them but now the few we see are worth a comment. I have seen only a few swallows so far this year, perhaps there are not enough insects for them to feed on in our tidy urban area now. Where can they nest when we tidy our dilapidated outbuildings?

Yes, wildlife is still around but they are fewer in number now, mainly due to habitat loss, such as hedges being removed along the golf course in Olly B. Gardens are nationally recognised as really important habitats for wildlife and our gardens and public spaces could be much more wildlife friendly too. We have proved this in Oliver's Battery Wildlife Area, which was planted up exactly ten years ago. Come and see what native plants grow here to create places for insects and birds to shelter and feed in. We cannot promise that you will see the secretive reptiles and mammals but we know they live here too. Bring a picnic, sit on the benches, explore the hazel tunnels and enjoy the wildlife then perhaps stroll up to Yew Hill Butterfly Reserve or down to Whiteshute Ridge too.

Removing hedges, hacking down brambles beyond your boundary line, growing ALL non-native plants, extensive decking, paving and tidy gardens leave little space for wildlife. Could your garden be more wildlife friendly, less tidy and with more native plants and even a few "weeds"?

The OB Wildlife Area is next to the recreation field. There is an event planned for 24th July. See the web site: www.oliversbatterycountysidegroup.org.uk for more details.

Clare Shorter, OBCG Secretary



Published by Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association
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