

Community News

Your Community Newsletter and Village Voice

Winter 2012 Edition

Seasons
Greetings

THE COST OF VANDALISM



As the weather gets colder, fewer of us will be tempted to make use of the play equipment on the Central and Davis kick about areas with our families until the sunshine returns next year (hopefully!). However, there has been a particular focus on these facilities at recent Parish Council meetings due to the concerning incidents of vandalism resulting in damage to the equipment..

The play equipment and safety surfaces are expensive to maintain and require regular safety checks, but it is considered that these areas are a vital resource for the residents of Badger Farm and the Parish Council has a duty to provide them. In addition to the ongoing maintenance costs, in the last five years, damage and thefts totalling over £4,000 has been caused to the equipment through wanton vandalism. This has included the theft of swing seats and rope bridges, the uprooting of support posts from the ground and damage to slide surfaces.

I wanted to draw readers' attention to this activity to ask residents to be vigilant to anyone who may not be using the equipment for its intended purpose and to report it to the police on the non-urgent 101 number. This goes for any antisocial behaviour which occurs in the area. Until the individuals committing this vandalism can see that we, as a community, will not tolerate such behaviour it will continue. It is worth remembering that we, as residents, ultimately bear the cost of this damage, through the Council's increasing insurance premiums or having to fund repairs directly, which comes out of the precept afforded to the Parish Council through Council Tax. This precept must cover all the Council's obligations and if the repair of play equipment becomes a disproportionate cost then it will be necessary to consider whether it makes sense, given the other financial responsibilities of the Council, to continue to pay for the upkeep of equipment which is routinely vandalised. It would be a real shame if we lost this resource because of the actions of a very small minority.

John Godbold ~ Chair, Badger Farm Parish Council

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

Editorial deadline for Spring 2013 issue:

Friday 8th February 2013



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Cost ~ £3.95 per hour

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm - 4.00pm	Elizabeth Weir 01962 856689 lizbethweir@gmail.com	£5 per person	A friendly "drop in" art group providing a "space to paint" in a relaxed setting. All abilities welcome.
Badger Farm ACOL Club	Friday	7.15pm - 10.30pm	Roland Richardson 023 8025 1277	£1 visitors £15 annual	Bridge Club
Brendon Care Badger Farm Friendly Group	Alternate Thursdays	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Catherine Fellingham 01962 877772	£3.00 per session	Friendship for older people. Quizzes, speakers, outings, afternoon tea. New members and volunteers welcome.
Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup	Monday to Friday	Mon.Tues/Wed 9.15am - 3.00pm Thurs/Fri 9.15am - 12.15pm	Denise Tosdevine 07771 798 474	£3.95 per hour	For children from 3 years to school age. Great OFSTED results. Afternoons also available - enquiries to Denise.
Badminton	Thursday	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Wendy King 01962 861525		Fun and friendly for any age and ability. All welcome!
Brownies	Thursday	6.15pm - 7.45pm During Term Time	07708 217 957 11.wincity.brownies@ gmail.com	£30 per Term	For girls aged 7 to 10 years.
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10.00am - 11.00am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service. All welcome.
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	2nd Wed. of the month	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Loraine Martin 01962 861182	£2.50 per meeting	Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Contact Loraine for details.
Jo Jingles	Tuesday	9.45am - 10.30am 10.45am - 11.30am	Victoria Smith 01489 877278		Music & Movement for children from the age of 1 year.
Legs, Bums & Tums	Monday Tuesday	9.30am - 10.30am 6.45pm - 7.45pm	Catherine Jones 07990 513 434	£4.00 per class	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned!
National Federation of Spiritual Healers	2nd Saturday of every month.	10.00am - 12.30pm	Doreen Rivett 01980 862285 Doreenrivett@talktalk.net	Donation	Come to our group either for healing or to find out more about healing, our group and training courses.
Parents & Tots	Thursday	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Liz Lindsay 01962 866547	£2 per family per session	All parents, guardians and child minders with children aged newborn to 5 years are welcome. Just turn up on the day!
Royal British Legion	3rd Thursday monthly	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Ruth Harrison 01962 881737		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
Slimming World	Saturday	9.30am - 1.30pm	Steve Coombs 07788 683 077		A warm welcome awaits you in your local group! New members always welcome.
Tea Dance	Friday	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Ian & Joan Millar 01962 854542	£4 per session	A chance to practice your Ballroom and Latin American dances in a relaxed and friendly occasion with tea and cakes.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.00am - 11.00am 6.15pm - 7.45pm	0845 073 0460	Weekly meeting fee of £5.99	Your lifestyle, your choice. With Weight Watchers you choose the weight loss approach that works best for you.
Wessex Wargames Club	Tuesday	7.00pm - 11.00pm	Ian Ackerman 01962 624710	£3 per session (first session is free)	Minature wargames and role-playing games of all periods and genres played.
Winchester Country Market	Friday	8.30am - 11.00am	Mrs Tina Sharpe 01962 855977		Fresh produce, cakes and preserves, crafts and plants. All welcome!
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Chris Barrett info@winchestertkd.co.uk	Membership by subscription	6.30pm-7.45pm beginners/intermediates 7pm-8.30pm seniors (black belts to 9pm)
Yoga	Monday Tuesday Friday	9.30am - 11.00am 5.30pm - 7.00pm 1.30pm - 3.00pm	Chris Wyeth 01962 868346	£35 per 5 week sessions	Experience the balancing effect of yoga on mind and body. Stretch and relax into a healthier life.
ZUMBA	Wednesday	1.30pm - 2.30pm	Debbie Woodley 07724 136 428 debbie.woodley@ talk21.com	£5 per session	Effective and exhilarating way to tone the body with exercise to lively Latin rhythms using easy to follow steps.

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

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

We are asking the City Council when they will be sweeping the pavements as most of the Autumn leaves have now fallen. Please let us know if there are any particular problems. Although the plants and shrubs are going into their Winter 'hibernation' there are still a lot of overhanging hedges, which obstruct pedestrians and encourages moss growth. If the hedges are on private property, please ensure they are maintained as this helps everybody. We will continue to ask the Council to cut back where these areas affect everyone.

The Council has now completed the work on the footpath that runs from the Ridgeway down behind Wheatland Close to Silverwood Close. This had become very overgrown and dark. Many children use this path to go to and from school so this should help everyone.

It has also been brought to our attention the problems with both open spaces on Badger Farm. The Central area has had a problem with litter, broken glass and vandalism to the play equipment. It is very dangerous to leave broken glass and other items where children play, we do not want any serious accidents. There has also been some problems on the Davis kick about area as well. If you see anything happening please call 101 immediately. The Police are aware of the problems and need more information to help them.

We are continuing to keep a close eye on the No. 2 and No. 5 Bus route and the service provided. The No. 2 route is vital for the residents of Oliver's Battery and we need to use it or lose it. If you have suggestions on how to improve either of these services please let us know so we can talk to the Bus Company and Hampshire County Council.

Since we had a meeting with the Landowners agent for the proposed new housing development on Oliver's Battery we have not heard anymore. We have had more discussions with the city officers and as yet they have not received any enquires from them either. Hopefully things will stay that way. If you would like to be added to our email list to be informed as soon as the situation changes please email us to be added to the list.

Please remember that we have a very good selection of local shops in Oliver's Battery that are well worth your support. Cromwell's Coffee House is now under new management and offers an extended menu as well as the opportunity to browse some antiques and collectibles. Why not pop in and give it a try when you are in the area.

*Brian Laming ~ Tel No. 01962 862487 ~ Mobile No. 07973 265028 ~ E mail blaming@winchester.gov.uk
Lynda Banister ~ Tel No. 01962853791 ~ Mobile No. 07583087369 ~ E mail ibanister@winchester@gov.uk*

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Winchester Country Market is one of 10 Country Markets in Hampshire and is a well established feature on a Friday morning at Badger Farm Community Centre from 8.30am to 11.00am. There you will find a wide selection of good homemade cakes, bread and preserves. Also, you will find an interesting variety of fresh fruit and vegetables in season, free range eggs, beautiful cut flower arrangements and unusual plants, in addition to exquisitely hand crafted gift items. All this is served with a smile, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

A parcel delivery service is available throughout the year, ensuring your friends and family are able to receive our homemade produce, wherever they are in the country.



A small selection of beautiful gift ideas

On Saturday 24th November from 10.00am to 12.30pm, we shall also be holding our Christmas Fair at Badger Farm Community Centre where you will be made welcome with tea, coffee and homemade cakes. This will give you an opportunity to browse our extensive craft selection as well as see various demonstrations and craft workshops, especially those for children. It's a perfect opportunity for you to purchase some very unique and beautiful early Christmas presents for family and friends! Come along and meet us - we look forward to seeing you.



VOLUNTEER COOK NEEDED TO HELP WINCHESTER CHARITY'S LUNCH BUNCH

A Winchester charity supporting older people is appealing for a volunteer cook to help it run its popular lunch club. The Winchester Live at Home Scheme (WLAHS) is searching for help to prepare and serve meals at the Friday Lunch Club. The fortnightly club attracts around 40 of the charity's members, with a two-course lunch dished up by volunteers. Claire Morgan, manager of the WLAHS, said: "The Friday Lunch Club is one of the most popular events we run, offering our members a welcome opportunity to eat, chat and socialise. Due to its popularity, we are in need of an extra pair of hands to help us with the cooking and dishing up of the lunches." The lunch club is held on alternate Fridays and volunteer cooks work on a rota basis. The WLAHS will provide food hygiene training for any volunteers who come forward. If you are able to help, contact the WLAHS office on 01962 890995 or email office@wlahs.org



OAKWOOD ACADEMY OF DANCE COMES TO BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Oakwood Academy of Dance, the longest established dance school in Chandlers Ford, is celebrating its 50th year in 2013. The Academy is expanding and is now offering ballet and children's dance classes on a Monday evening at Badger Farm Community Centre.

Beverley Warman-Johnston, the Principal for the last 20 years, and her teachers, Sally and Abbie, are fully qualified ISTD teachers, CRB checked and fully insured.

The children are encouraged to attend their weekly classes and to appear in our annual show at The Point Theatre in Eastleigh. We also offer national recognised examinations (ISTD), audition preparation and summer schools. The aim of the Academy is fun, professionalism and building a confidence for life.

For a free trial lesson contact Miss Beverley on 02380 741510 and come along to meet our friendly, professional teachers.

WINCHESTER FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP



The Winchester Fibromyalgia Support Group meet monthly on Mondays at Badger Farm Community Centre from 10.30am to 1.30pm. This is a friendly support group open to sufferers of FM/CFS and their partners, family and carers. For more information please call 0845 3452678. Forthcoming meeting dates for 2012/2013 are ~ 17 December ~ 21 January ~ 18 February



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

ZUMBA® – an exercise class to lively Latin rhythms, using simple, easy to follow steps. The effective and exhilarating way to tone the body and stimulate the mind! *Zumba is designed for men and women of all ages and abilities.* You don't need a partner – you don't even need to know how to dance. Just follow my lead. It's simple and it's fun! So if you like Latin music, come and give ZUMBA® a try!

WEDNESDAYS - 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Pay as you go ~ £5.00 per session.
Your first session is half-price!

What to wear: Comfortable workout clothes and trainers or jazz shoes that allow you to swivel and slide.
Bring water and a towel!

For further information call Debbie on 07724 136 428 or email: debbie.woodley@talk21.com

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WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

What will Winter have in store for us? When the tidying up has been done and the leeks and other late crops do not require much attention because even the weeds have slowed down, we will have time to browse through seed catalogues and plan for next year. When you have done that or if you need inspiration and would like to spend an evening or two in the company of other keen gardeners, you might like to attend one of our monthly meetings.

December - (Wed 12th) This will be a festive meeting with seasonal entertainment provided by members and a long interval to socialise and enjoy a glass of wine, mince pies and home-made Christmas cake.

January - (Wed 9th) There will be a talk by Fran Clifton, Head Gardener at Hillier's Arboretum, about "Seasons at the Garden".

February - (Wed 13th) Jennifer Carter will share her passion for "Monet - His Home and Garden" with us.

All our monthly meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester, starting at 7.30pm. For more information ring 01962-865557 or visit our website: www.winchesterhorticulturalsociety.hampshire.org.uk

We look forward to meeting you.



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Do you have some time to spare? Would you like to help the local community and become one of our much valued distributors of Community News? We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help us, please telephone Rachel Skinner on 01962 868653 to find out more. She would be delighted to hear from you and you will be doing something for the local community!!

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



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Badger Farm Toddlers

Thursdays 13:30 – 15:00

Badger Farm Community Centre



Are you a new Mum or Dad in need of some adult conversation?

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

Grandchildren need some entertainment?

Come and give Badger Farm Parent and Toddlers a try!

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



2012 Dates

Sep	06 13 20 27
Oct	04 11 18 25
Nov	08 15 22 29
Dec	06 13 20

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
WINCHESTER & DISTRICT BRANCH
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME



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

Local meetings are held in Badger Farm Community Centre every third Thursday at 8.00pm in The Bushfield Room from March to November. Anybody wishing to attend would get a very warm welcome.

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

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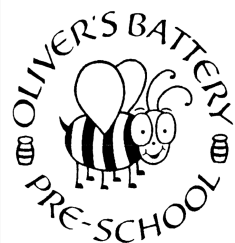
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OLIVER'S BATTERY PRE SCHOOL



Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - 9.00-3.15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A NEW BUILDING FOR OLIVER'S BATTERY PRE-SCHOOL

The best Christmas present that the pre-school children of Oliver's Battery could receive this year is a new building that doesn't let in the winter weather!

We are working really hard to raise the £90,000 still needed to make this Christmas wish come true. Some of us even sang nursery rhymes in the High Street and managed to raise a respectable £178.94 (I am not sure whether this was a reward for our singing or an attempt to make us go away!).

If you feel that you could help us in any way with our fundraising, please email oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com

Karen Andrews
Oliver's Battery Pre-School Committee



OLIVER'S BATTERY WI

Since the last Community News, Oliver's Battery WI have enjoyed a number of events, including a guided walk around Winchester. The weather stayed fine and despite darkness descending this only seemed to add to the atmosphere.

With no meeting in August, Nicola Davis stepped in at short notice in September. Nicola is a style consultant and, using several members as guinea pigs, she showed us how using the right colours can easily make all the difference. In October Mrs Deanna Hilton showed us how to make material bags.

Our programme for December to February is as follows:

11 December 2012 ~ 'We ring, you ring' with Bishops Bells

15 January 2013 ~ 'Doorstep Crime' with Hampshire Police

19 February 2013 ~ 'The Secret Gardens of Hampshire' with Patricia Elkington

Oliver's Battery WI meet on the third Tuesday evening of the month – 7.45pm in St Mark's Church, Oliver's Battery. Please contact Cathy Winter for further information on 01962 620250.

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Stanmore Primary School

Be the best that you can be...

Order! Order! Having pledged to visit all 49 schools in his constituency, Steve Brine our local MP arrived in Stanmore School in September on his latest fact finding mission. He answered questions in assembly, toured the school talking to staff and children and had a short chat with representatives from S.P.E.A.K. This is Stanmore's school council and our very own example of democracy in action. Mr Brine's description of The Palace of Westminster as a magical Hogwarts style environment which gives him a real buzz every time he enters the building, obviously struck a chord here as various children suddenly announced political ambitions of their own! Mr Brine will be back in school later in November when S.P.E.A.K. present The Magic Wand Appeal with a cheque for over £700 – the results of their fund raising efforts over the past year.

'I'm gonna pick up the pieces and build a Lego house' or maybe a car or garage, or shop or road..... Boxes and boxes of Lego bricks filled the school hall earlier this term as every child in school took part in a Lego workshop. On the first day, the children made a giant town together. Older pupils learnt the basics of electrical circuitry as their town house constructions had to allow for lighting and younger pupils helped build cars, garages, shops, roads, playgrounds and all the paraphernalia that make up a busy town scene. Later, using their knowledge of circuits, junior pupils took part in a timed challenge to build a working railway, complete with fully functioning trains, a working bridge, railway station and surrounding area with useful lighting. It was amazing what could be achieved with little plastic bricks and a whole lot of imagination!

Totally Amazing Our annual Book Week kicked off with a live production in the School Hall of a new show called 'Totally Amazing'. Featuring West End actors and taking its inspiration from four well known books, the show set out to prove that boredom doesn't need to exist. Open a book, get to know the characters, use your imagination, draw on your memories and let a little bit of random into your life! With lots of audience participation and plenty of catchy songs and it was a great way to launch our week of reading and the delights of a good book. Other highlights included a book fair, dressing up day and a visit from author Paul Geraghty. Paul drew as he spoke (often in his own made up language!) and offered lots of tips for aspiring artists along the way. 'Start with the largest item in the picture', 'Draw lightly at first and don't rub out!' 'Use a good reference like a photo or the actual object'. It was fascinating seeing how to pitch an idea to a publisher (a story board on an A4 sheet), amazing to see how a rough drawing became a finished double page spread and best of all, incredible watching a drawing appear as Paul inked in his light pencil marks. The drawings of Solo the Penguin and Talon the Dinosaur will be framed and hung in the Library for everyone to enjoy.

If you'd like to hear Paul in action, just log onto our podcasting site, www.smhms.co.uk to listen to him reading his story 'Rotten and Rascal - the two terrible Pterosaur twins' in his own inimitable style – great fun!

Our Christmas Fair will be on Friday 7th December 2012 from 3:30pm – 5:30pm. Visit Father Christmas in his grotto, browse the festive stalls and relax with a mince pie and cup of tea. Put the date in your diary now! For details of all the latest happenings at school and to view lots of photos, check out our website at: www.stanmore.hants.sch.uk If you would like to visit us, please call 01962 852941 to make an appointment. Our Acting Head, Mr Darren Nickerson would be delighted to show you round.



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Our info pack costs only £6 and includes two lessons.

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS at Badger Farm Community Centre

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7.00pm-8.30pm seniors, (black belts to 9pm)

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OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

Well what a busy year we have had in the Parish. Remember the Jubilee Celebrations, first the Party on the Green, followed by the Garden Party. All those that managed to get to at least one of them had a good time. We were so lucky with the weather. The sun also shone on us for the Fete in September. This event takes a lot of arranging for a small band of willing helpers. Sadly this may be the last of our annual event, unless we get more help, as the proverb says "many hands make light work" it will not happen next year. Can you spare a little time? Please let any of the Parish Council know.

Any one for Tennis? At long last we now have a tennis court and kick about area. Many of those who have used it have expressed their delight at being able to play tennis in the Parish without having to travel outside the area. We have had a slight problem with the contractor who promised to reseed the surrounding area this Autumn, but the time for sowing grass seed for this year has ended, so it will not be finally finished until next Spring. However, the Woodland Trust have donated 400 small trees that will be planted around the bottom edge of the new area. They are due to arrive in early November, so should be in place before you read this.



The new tennis court

Council Vacancies: Sadly I have decided to step down from the Council in the Spring. I have been a Councillor for 20 years serving as Chair for the past 3 years. I have enjoyed my time but feel it is time to pass the mantle on to someone who can carry on the good work into the future. This will create a vacancy and there may be more. I urge every one of you to consider standing for election next May. I or anyone of my present Council would be pleased to tell you what it entails.

Lastly may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Terry Morris ~ Chairman ~ Oliver's Battery Parish Council

E mail chairoliversbattery@gmail.com ~ Website www.oliversbatteryparishcouncil.gov.uk



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST WINCHESTER DISTRICT

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

Wed. 12 Dec. 7.30pm ~ Christmas Social. Join us for a light-hearted wildlife quiz with prizes. All very welcome. Admission £2.50. Further details from Loraine.

Mon. 28 Jan. 7.30pm ~ Out & About in the New Forest. Join Brian Fletcher on a photographic tour of the waters, woodlands and heaths of the New Forest. Joint meeting with Butterfly Conservation. To be held at St. Barnabas Church Hall, Fromond Road (off Stoney Lane), Weeke, Winchester, SO22 6DS. Further details from Loraine.

Wed. 13 Feb. 7.30pm ~ Munching in the Meadows! Join David Rumble, the Trust's Head of Conservation for South Hampshire, for a look at the wonderful wild flowers and variety of wildlife to be found in a traditionally grazed hay meadow. Further details from Loraine.

Sun. 17 Feb. 10am/3.30pm ~ Birding at Blashford. Join John Clark for a visit to this Trust reserve near Ringwood. Numbers are limited so booking is essential. Further details from Mary.

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

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

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

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



AN UPDATE FROM STEVE BRINE, MP FOR WINCHESTER

Hard as it is to believe, the Christmas lights are up again, Winchester's Christmas Market is open and the opportunity for an MP to fall flat on the ice in Cathedral Close is there for all to see!

In one of my recent columns for the *Hampshire Chronicle*, I think, I said I was desperate for the national economy to return to growth so we can safeguard local jobs – and you know what, it did. There is still a long way to go, and no-one in this Government has an ounce of complacency about them, but recent figures taking us out of recession show we are on the right track I believe. This is another sign that the economy is healing: we've cut the deficit by a quarter, over a million new jobs have been created in the private sector, inflation is down, and the economy is growing again.

For me, the challenge of this Government remains the same; to re-balance our economy away from one that is largely reliant on London and the financial services sector for its success. That sector is of course important, and many people locally work in this area, but we have to ensure the whole economy is lean, fit, obsessed with enterprise and we continue to spend money on the future – on education, incredible infrastructure and technology.

I remain an MP so utterly focused on my constituency – and it was great to be in Oliver's Battery the other day holding a great big birthday cake to celebrate one year in business for the excellent Steve's Barber Shop. I opened the shop for Steve and he has worked tremendously hard, like so many local businesses on the Battery I know, to make a success of it. I think the best thing I can add in support of this particular business is that I am a very happy (and tidy) customer.



Steve Brine and friends celebrate one year of business for the local Barber shop.

I have mentioned school places so many times before and will go on doing so because few things are more important to local families. Infact I was in the County Council just the other day going through detailed projection plans with their excellent officers to ensure I fully understand how the next four years of admission rounds will pan out for us in Winchester and can better represent you when you need me on the subject. In addition, there is currently a proposal to permanently enlarge the premises of St Peter's Catholic Primary School from 315 to a total of 420 places. This will allow the school to admit 60 children each year at the age of 4+. That process concludes in early December and I would urge anyone who doesn't know about it to search on the www.hants.gov.uk website.

As always, there is a huge amount of information about my work locally and in Westminster at www.stevebrine.com. For now though, I would like to wish all readers of *Community News* a very Merry Christmas and a successful - and happy - 2013.

Steve Brine ~ MP for Winchester & Chandler's Ford
01962 791110 (constituency) ~ 0207 219 7189 (House of Commons)
Email: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk ~ Website: www.stevebrine.com ~
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Email home@victoria-smith.co.uk www.jojingles.com/winchester



It's been another fantastic year for the club and thanks for your valued support. Membership has increased to 190, which is almost double last year's numbers! The drop in beer prices of 10p a pint in January was much appreciated. Due to the increased beer sales we will be putting on another real ale, this will be a local one from Winchester. The club tries its best to support local businesses.

Sky

In January we installed the 3D TV which has brought in many more people for football matches. Later in the year we installed free Wifi for all members and user groups. There was an addition of a fourth TV which can be used for extra sport viewing. Recently we've improved the sound system with new speakers and amplifier for all the rooms.

Community Support

Thank you very much to Sainsbury's who have sponsored our football team and printed our new shirts. They will also be supplying half-time refreshments during matches. The cricket team will also be receiving sponsored shirts for the next season. Alongside this Sainsbury's will be providing many of the prizes for our Christmas draw. Many thanks for their increased support. With currently only 15 members from Sainsbury's this is an incredibly generous level of support and commitment from them for the community. We look forward to welcoming an increased number of members who work in Sainsbury's next year.

Teams

Congratulations to all who partake in the varied team events. These include crib, pool, ladies' and men's darts and of course our football and cricket teams. The ladies darts competitions have been a huge success. Thursday nights will never be the same again!

Garden

The garden has been fantastic this year due to all of Merv's the Caretaker's hard work. To make his life easier we even had a garden tap fitted! There have been lots of positive comments from users of the centre. Without the stoic support of Merv and Jan in the office, the place would fall apart, thank you.

Furnishings

In the New Year we will be updating all the furniture in both bars. Alongside this we will be redecorating both rooms.

Badger Farm Community

It's been great to see how the skills and connections of the members have started this year to be put to greater use, helping the micro-economy of Badger Farm. We are all putting work and money back into our community. This year people have made use of a variety of the services available from members, including plumbing, fencing, decorating, electrics and carpet cleaning. With this in mind we will be making use of our electronic media in the club (i.e. TVs) and on the website. For £5 per month members can advertise their businesses to promote their wares.

New Year Celebrations

This year it will be a free ticketed event. It will be for members only, although a small number of guest tickets will be available. This is due to the event in recent years becoming too large and impersonal and we wish to bring it back to its roots and what membership of the club is all about. It will be in both bars with a disco in Bushfield. More details to follow. Thanks for everyone's valued support. We look forward to building on the success of this year to grow the awareness of the social club in our local community.

Richard Butler ~ Chairman

**Christmas
At
The Badger Farm Social Club**

It's a great time to join the Badger Farm Social Club with the festive season looming
We have a whole host of festive events planned to give our Members an even better
Christmas this year.....

**Children's Christmas Party
Magic Evening
New Years Eve party
Christmas Draw**

Join the Club...Join the fun!

@bsfcorguk facebook.com/bfscorguk <http://bfsc.org.uk/>

County Councillor Charlotte Bailey reports on Local Matters:-

I am not sure what the weather will be like when you read this. As I write the sky is clear and it is quite warm but last week we had hail and flooding. We seem to be getting much more extremes of weather and the County Council is trying to prepare for its effects. Over the last two Winters we have prepared for ice and snow with greater stocks of salt, more grit bins for us to use and better weather prediction so gritting can be done at the right time.

Now we are planning action to solve some of the many flooding problems which occur with heavy rain. Pitt roundabout is an all too frequent example of where water accumulates and spreads across the whole road. Luckily it seems to drain away within 24 hours but we still need to slow down when driving through it. Engineers will be looking at how to solve that problem but please let me know if there are other flooding hot-spots that Hampshire County Council needs to know about.

With Winter making its presence felt, keeping your home warm and you and your family healthy can be expensive and sometimes daunting. It is good to know that the 'Hitting the Cold Spots' project is being extended to March next year. This scheme is being run by the County Council and funded by the Department of Health. Organisations across Hampshire are working together to provide free experts and advisors to support older people in practical ways to keep your house warm, improve insulation and reduce your bills. Advisors can help find simple ways of keeping the temperature up and your heating bills down. They can help most people who own or privately rent their home and who are over 18 years old with financial or practical advice.

Find out more by calling 0800 804 8601, look up information at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/bettertime/cold-spots.htm> or email staywarm@environmentcentre.com

You may have seen some of the Wartime Farm series which was shown in September and October on television. We were very pleased that they used Manor Farm Country Park for the filming. This is one of Hampshire County Council's excellent places to visit throughout the year. It is great for children and adults. There are many events between now and Christmas and to help see in the New Year I shall be part of a group called the Madding Crowd helping to Wassail the animals and fruit trees at Manor Farm, to ensure healthy crops and stock next year! This happens on Sunday January 6th. Hope to see you there.

I meet so many people as a County Councillor and the Autumn is a time of AGM's where I can find out the great work that the many locally based charities carry out. More and more people are giving charity gifts for Christmas. If you are one of them please consider some of our Winchester charities like Emmaus, Trinity, the Winchester Churches Nightshelter, Friends of the Family or the Winchester Live at Home Scheme. They all do a great job and in these difficult times need all the help we can give them. Fairtrade gifts are another good idea. Have a great Christmas.

Do contact me to discuss these or any other issues.

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



FUN AND FRIENDSHIP AWAITS NEW MEMBERS OF LOCAL ACTIVITY CLUB

Brendoncare, the Winchester based charity, run over 50 friendship and well being clubs for older members of our communities. The clubs operate on the premise that prevention is better than cure. Recent studies show that loneliness and isolation have a detrimental effect on our health. Brendoncare run 2 clubs in Winchester, one at Badger Farm Community Centre and the other at St. Barnabas Church, Weeke.

The clubs offer an exciting programme of activities, ranging from Tai Chi, specially choreographed for the older participant, to guest speakers. Locality Manager Catherine Fellingham commented "Recently we listened to Brenda Logie, a former "Southampton Sweetheart" who talked about her experiences as a singer entertaining the troops in Southampton during the war. We've also had a visit from Marian Rashleigh from Evangelical Action who told us about the relief work they do in some of Brazil's poorest communities. We have quizzes and games and indoor curling competitions. But most of all we have a good chat and get together over a cup of tea. "

"Our clubs are thriving across the south but sadly we have a shortage of volunteers in Winchester. Our volunteers play a crucial role in the running of the clubs. We need enthusiastic volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds but we have an urgent need for a leader, treasurer, transport coordinator and activity planner at Badger Farm. As an accredited Investors in Volunteers organisation we are committed to providing outstanding training and support for all our volunteers. Many of our volunteers have supported us year after year and have found the experience incredibly rewarding."

Brendoncare Badger Farm Club meet on alternate Thursday's, 2pm-4pm, Badger Farm Community Centre.

Brendoncare Weeke Gaiety Club- alternate Fridays, 2pm-4pm, St Barnabas Church, Weeke.

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

Maid Marian



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Highlights so far...

Oliver's Battery Singers

Thank you to all the children who went along to the Oliver's Battery Summer Fete back in September singing proudly, representing our school. It was lovely to see so many children and parents there and the crowd certainly seemed to enjoy the singing.

In **Key Stage One** this term we have been busy learning about different types of *celebrations* including Diwali, Sangra Day (Buddhist Day of Friendship) and of course, Christmas. We've also found out more about *fire*, studying the Great Fire of London which has been the starting point for some fantastic art and design work. Meanwhile over in **Key Stage Two** we have been building our class community and learning how to budget for resources while enjoying the challenge of writing and delivering our own manifesto!

Grounds Day

In October we ran another very successful grounds day thanks to the support of many parents. We were able to clear all the raised beds ready for new soil. The poly tunnel has been reinforced so that it can withstand the brisk winds that we have up here in our elevated position. In the lower grounds, the pathways have been strimmed back so that the children can continue to go on their enjoyable Wellie Walks and use the 'look out'. This ongoing maintenance makes a big difference to the opportunities for all our children. Thank you!

Date for your diary...

Friday 14th December: come and support us at the Childrens' Christmas Fair - From 3:30pm till 4:30pm

Lots of games and activities for the children plus a hall full of stalls to help with your Christmas shopping!

We would love to show you around our school and grounds. Come and find out what we can offer your child.

Please give us a call on 01962 869496 if you would like to find out more.

For up to date news and information visit our website at www.oliversbattery.com

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

So What Does the Parish Council do?

As Chair of the Parish Council, I am pleased that we regularly have residents attend our monthly meetings to discuss the various goings-on in our community. Some of these have an in-depth knowledge of the workings of the Council, whereas others know very little. I wanted to take the opportunity in this newsletter to 'introduce' the Parish Council to readers and provide an overview as to its roles and responsibilities.

A Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government and has no political affiliation. Parish Councillors are residents of the parish who volunteer their time (no, we don't get paid or claim expenses!) to attend meetings and follow up on issues discussed during the course of those meetings. The Council must have a quorum to operate, being 4 current Councillors.

The Council is awarded an annual precept, which is raised through Council Tax. This precept is used to support its operations and carry out local projects. As has been mentioned in the leading article, one of the Council's responsibilities is the provision and maintenance of play areas, but it is also responsible for, amongst other things, the management of Whiteshute Ridge.

Even for areas for which the Council does not have responsibility, such as the maintenance of roads and footpaths, lighting and local transport, we act as a liaison between the community and the relevant bodies within the City and County Councillors to ensure that the concerns of local residents are communicated and taken up by the appropriate organisation. To this end, Council meetings are attended by Winchester City and Hampshire County Councillors, as well as our local Police Liaison Officer.

We are currently looking for someone with an interest in shaping our local community to fill a vacancy for a Councillor and would welcome anyone to come along to one of our meetings to find out what we do and to see the Council in action. Being a Parish Councillor is a rewarding role for a relatively small time commitment. Meetings take place on the second Monday of every month in the Bushfield Room of the Community Centre. We look forward to seeing you there!

Finally, I would like to thank Councillor Nichola Blencowe who is moving out of the area and leaving the Council; she has been a valuable member of the Council and has been responsible for our news letter articles over the last year.

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



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



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or email ~ zizikirby@yahoo.co.uk**

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ~ FAIRY LIGHTS AND CANDLES

Some seasonal safety advice from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

- Fairy lights make your home look festive and bright, but it is important to remember to use them safely.
- Never use indoor lights outside even if you think they are safe from the weather.
- Fairy lights and Christmas tree lights don't get used very often, so you should always ensure they're in good working order before using them:
- Check that the fuse in the plug is the right size.
- Replace any blown bulbs.
- Check the wiring for any damage.
- Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, such as paper or fabrics (be especially careful with other Christmas tree decorations).
- Always unplug fairy lights when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Candles can be dangerous, if you use them, always put them out when you leave the room and keep them away from decorations, greeting cards and curtains etc.
- Candles and nightlights are often used in celebrations for Christmas, they should never be put in or near a Christmas tree, plants, flowers or other foliage. You should also be careful that ribbons and other decorations aren't near any naked flames.
- Never overload plug sockets.



DON'T DRINK & DRIVE; HAVE A SOFT DRINK AND STAY ALIVE!

- You can't calculate your alcohol limit.
- It takes less than you might think to become a drink driver.
- Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.



At Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service we hope that you do not have to invite us round during your festivities and wish you a safe, enjoyable, fire and incident free festive period.

Useful contact points and further information:

You can download a copy of our home fire safety leaflet at: www.hantsfire.gov.uk/homesafetyinformation.pdf

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service homepage: www.hantsfire.gov.uk ~ Community Fire Safety Department: 02380 626809

Email: community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk



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THE PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST MARK WINCHESTER



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

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

If good intentions were £5 notes I would be a wealthy man, if missed deadlines where debts I would owe a little, but I get by with just enough to allow things to happen.

This may be why I look forward to the churches 'Purple' seasons when we are encouraged to spend time in preparation, getting ourselves ready for ... by self examination, study, reflection and special times of prayer. The first of these times 'Advent' starts this year on Sunday 2nd December [*the other, 'Lent' on Wednesday 13th February 2013*].

Many think of Advent as getting ready for Christmas and in some ways that's true, as at Christmas we recall the birth of the Son of God to an earthly family and all the excitement that caused. But the core reason to get ready for is the fulfilment of Jesus' promise to come again to be with us and we with him in person, face to face, hand in hand. When a dear friend visits us we know that they will accept what ever they find because they know and love us, but we still want to make that extra effort to show our best side and be ready to welcome them as best we can. To make time for them and do the things they enjoy, to make them feel 'at home' and comfortable, to be ready and not taken by surprise. That's what we try to do in Advent in preparation for Christ's second coming.

You would be most welcome to come along to any of our Advent and Christmas Services.

Advent Carols and Readings at St Luke's
Sunday 2nd December 6.30pm.

Christmas Carols and Readings at St Luke's
Sunday 23rd December 6.30pm.

Family Crib Services at both St Mark's and St Luke's
Christmas Eve 5.00pm.

Eve of Christmas Holy Communion St Mark's, 9.30pm.

Christmas Day Holy Communion
St Mark's, 08.00am, St Luke's 09.30am.



Seasonal Greetings and Blessings from all at St Luke's and St Mark's.



PARTY YOURSELF INTO SHAPE

A Latin-inspired, easy to follow,
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Just Feel the music and let loose

Monday 6pm at Oliver's Battery Primary School	£4
Wednesday 11am at Winnall Community Centre	£3
Wednesday 6.30pm at Oliver's Battery Primary School	£4
Friday 9.15am at Winchester College PE Centre	£5

Classes last approximately 45-60mins

Contact Claire your licensed Zumba Instructor for
more details or just turn up and join the party.

Pilates classes available, bookable in advance:



Monday 9.30am at Stanmore Community Centre
Monday 7pm at Oliver's Battery Primary School
Wednesday 7.30pm at Oliver's Battery Primary School
Friday 10.15am at Winchester College PE Centre

Claire 07899 814668
clairebeauwhite@yahoo.co.uk

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NATURE NOTES FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY



Early November, and a few sunny Autumn days have compensated for the recent torrential rain, wind and storms which have been the pattern of our 2012 weather. I would not swap Hampshire for the USA's eastern coast but we cannot afford to be complacent because the vagaries of nature are here again in the form of Ash Dieback. This serious disease could change the face and shape of our countryside forever as did Dutch Elm disease over forty years ago since when 25 million trees have been lost. The elm was a tree loved by poets and painters and prized for its timber. If you are too young to remember these noble trees do take a look at a Constable painting or use your Internet search engine.

I am not aware of any local instances of Ash Dieback but we must be vigilant. Symptoms are blackening of leaves but seasonal leaf-fall makes this difficult to detect. Another sign is the discolouration of stems and diamond shaped lesions on the bark. Don't mistake the ash "keys" for diseased leaves; they are the winged seed pods that often remain on the tree for months. If you suspect anything please go to www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara for more information or to report it.

If you are walking the local footpaths you will know how slippery they are following the heavy rain but they are passable now vegetation has died back. It is also worth going out on less favourable days to see the dramatic skies and breathe in our fresh air. Local roofs have lichen and moss on them so you can be certain we have little air pollution. There are no breath-taking Autumn colours in our immediate countryside because we don't have those types of trees but the hedgerows are painted with a range of subtle ochre shades. Once again six cattle are grazing Yew Hill which, together with a small flock of sheep in the field below the reservoir completes the rural scene.

I seem unable to resist talking about rooks so must tell you of a recent observation. After hearing shooting beyond the parish I came across a rook sitting on a wire making a sound I had never before heard from this bird. It was a long soft wail which to my human ears expressed sorrow. Was it lamenting a lost mate? I emailed my thoughts to Mark Cocker, writer and broadcaster and well known authority on rooks. He confirmed it is thought that pair bonds between rooks extend beyond the breeding season and the idea of birds expressing emotion is probably true to some extent but fraught with difficulties! What's your view?

Norma Goodwin



A FINAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It's coming to the end of another very busy and eventful year here at Badger Farm Community Centre. The year got off to a bad start with the water damage to the main sports hall floor resulting in the need for its total replacement. This caused considerable disruption not only for us but also for regular hirers who had to have their bookings cancelled or moved. My thanks to everybody for their patience and understanding. The Community Centre continues to thrive, becoming more and more busy and popular. Bookings taken have varied from wedding receptions, engagement and "special" birthday parties - all using the services of the excellent Social Club bar - to an all-day acting and performing workshop for young people, cooking demonstrations, auctions, sewing classes and much more. Please do give me a ring if you would like to hold meetings or any other event at the Centre. I will do my best to fit you in! Finally, I'd just like to say a very big thank you to Merv, the Caretaker. He goes about his duties on a daily basis, always there in the background providing extra help to hirers when required and, more importantly, making sure I am supplied with coffee throughout the day. I find his knowledge, advice and support invaluable. Many thanks!

Please remember, this is your newsletter - if you would like to contribute an article, advertise or have anything to say, just let me know! I look forward to seeing you during 2013 ~ regulars and new faces ~ in the meantime, Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Jan Dawkins - Editor



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