

Community News



Your Community Newsletter and Village Voice
Winter 2013 Edition

WARM UP SOUTH WINCHESTER



Everybody in all parts of the district is being encouraged to ring the Warm Up line on 0800 952 0037 as they can get a reduced cost energy efficient boiler installed and those that qualify can get it for free through Government ECO funding. The Warm up Winchester Campaign is designed to promote ECO funding in the Winchester District to get people access to heating systems and insulation at low or no cost. Winchester is an area in most need of publicity as there was a poor take up last year, according to the Hampshire County Council's Hitting the Cold Spots report for 2012.

South Winchester

There will be 6 focused publicity campaigns around the Winchester district. Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery has been chosen as one of the first ones – to make "homes more affordable".



Leaflet drop Saturday 30th November, Badger Farm Community Centre 1pm – 4.30pm

Volunteer deliverers will have a base at a community building with refreshments, amenities and secure bag storage. The intention is to have competitions to engage the volunteers and build a sense of community, as well as a reason for publicity in the press. The leaflets will have details of the local drop-in event when people can come along to find out more from a stand.

Drop in event 7th December - TBC

There will loads of information available on the stand and experts to talk to. The idea is to draw together information from other projects happening in the area such as Hitting the Cold Spots, Green Doctors, Hampshire Energy Switch and Solent Green Deal so that we can really be a "one stop" shop of energy advice.

What do you need to do?

1. Are you part of a group or organisation that can spread the word about the campaign?
2. Can you put some posters up in your place of work or on a noticeboard?
3. Can you take some leaflets to put in a public meeting place?
4. Can you volunteer on the 30th November for 1 hour to deliver leaflets?

For more information contact Susie Phillips, Climate Action Coordinator

on 01962 827083 - susie.phillips@winacc.org.uk



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 2014 issue:

Friday 7th February 2014





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JANUARY 2014

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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 lizbethweir@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 877772	£3.00 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@arqiva.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	£4.15 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	For enquiries, visit: www.girlguiding.org.uk/ interested	£35 per Term	For girls aged 7 to 10 years. 07708 217 957 11.wincity.brownies@gmail.com
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	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Stanley Judd 01962 869889		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
Slimming World	Saturday	9.30am - 11.00am	Steve Coombs 07788 683 077		A warm welcome awaits you in your local group! New members always welcome.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.00am - 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.

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



Hampshire &
Isle of Wight

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST

Indoor meetings are held at Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester, SO22 4QB at 7.30pm in the Bushfield Room unless otherwise stated. Parking is available at the far end of Sainsbury's car park. Entry is £2.50 per person and includes coffee/tea. For further information telephone Loraine on 01962 861182 or Anne on 01962 881312. For **outdoor meetings** contact Mary on 01962 864440. Future indoor and outdoor meetings are listed below.

Sun. 19 Jan. 10am-2pm ~ Alresford Winter Bird Walk. Join John Clark for a guided walk of about 4 miles in the Alresford area to see winter birds. Meet at bottom of Broad Street near old fire station. Parking in station car park or nearby streets. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £2.50. More details from Mary.

Mon. 27 Jan. 7.30pm ~ Why are butterflies called butterflies and how did they get their names? Brian Fletcher will provide the answers in a colourful antidote to a winter evening. Joint meeting with Butterfly Conservation. To be held in St. Barnabas Church Hall, Fromond Road, Weeke. Further information from Loraine or Anne. Admission £2.50 including refreshments.

Sun. 2 Feb. 10am-3.30pm ~ Birding at Blashford. Join John Clark for a visit to this Trust reserve. Blashford Lakes is 2 miles north of Ringwood on the A338, turn right onto Ellingham Drove. The entrance is on left after 500 yards. Meet in main car park near Tern Hide. Bring lunch. Numbers limited so booking essential. Sorry, no dogs. Further details from Mary. Suggested donation £2.50.

Wed. 12 Feb. 7.30pm ~ Red Kites in Hampshire. Join Keith Betton, County Recorder for Hampshire Ornithological Society, as he describes the wonderful return of this majestic bird to our country. At Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester at far end of Sainsbury's car park. Further information from Loraine. Admission £2.50 including refreshments.

Wed. 12 Mar. 7.30pm ~ A Year of Birds. Photographer and writer Gerald Ponting shares his entertaining experiences from a year-long project to photograph birds at different locations in the British Isles each month. At Badger Farm Community Centre, as above. Further information from Loraine. Admission £2.50 including refreshments.

Sun. 23 Mar. 10am-2pm ~ Valley of Fields. Join Martin Keys for this circular walk of 6 miles along the Itchen Navigation and around St. Cross and Compton. Meet at Shawford Down car park near Shawford Station. Bring a packed lunch. Sorry, no dogs. Further details from Martin on 01962 842610 or Mary. Suggested donation £2.50.

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Carroll Centre

Incorporating the Stanmore Community Library

www.thecarrollcentre.org

We have had a very busy 2013 at the Centre with the launch of the new Stanmore Community Library that is supported by HCC and run by volunteers. It is becoming a popular venue for adults and families with children in our wide catchment area.



Families enjoying the Community Library

The Library is open.

Monday- Friday 10am-2:30pm (Free Wi-Fi and Self-Service Café) and on Thursdays 10am-5pm

(Lunchtime Community Café with hot meals)

Also open every 3rd Saturday of the month from 10am-12:30pm

Saturdays 18th January, 15th February, 15th March

A Make & Take themed craft session.

We welcome more volunteer helpers or groups that would like to meet in the library.

Our term-time timetable of activities has something for everyone every day of the week; Fitness classes, Job Club, Walking Group, Training Courses, Children activities such as Messy Play and Art Time, a Family Toddler Group and various youth groups. We also have a team of NHS Community Midwives and Health Visitors on site weekly (with appointments) and a drop in Baby Clinic on Mondays.

For Primary School Children; POPPINS After School Care and Playscheme is the place to be! A very well established OFSTED registered service. Places available for spring term. And for the Under 5's we have an OFSTED registered Crèche on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am-12pm



The Carroll Centre

Please visit our new website for an updated list of activities at www.thecarrollcentre.org

The Carroll Centre, Somers Close, Stanmore, SO22 4EJ

Telephone: 01962 840022

Pedestrian access from Stanmore and Badger Farm footpaths and free car park on the site.

Come and visit us!



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2013

12 - 4pm

Have your photo taken with Santa!

ENJOY

Craft and Gift Stalls

Face Painting

Hot Chocolate ~ Mulled Wine ~ Cider

Donuts ~ Mince Pies ~ Soup and a Roll

Soft Toy Tombola

Hamper Tombola

Children's Craft Station

All at

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£1 entry per adult

HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS!
FROM WINCHESTER
COUNTRY MARKET

Yes, it's almost here again! Trying to think of something different for gifts?

Then **LOOK** no further!

Come and visit us to see beautiful handmade jewellery, cushions galore and so much more. There are Christmas Cards, knitting for adults and children plus handmade children's clothing. Also available to purchase are delicious chutneys, jams, Christmas puddings and cakes as well as flowers and plants plus demonstrations on how to make jewellery and how to make stained glass. We are well worth a visit and there's something for everybody! Winchester Country Market is held weekly on a Friday at Badger Farm Community Centre from 8.30am to 11.00am. Why not pay us a visit to find out more? If you would like more information please telephone 01962 866340.

Date for your diary:

Saturday 29 March 2014

Easter Fayre

10.00am - 12.30pm

Admission Free

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Give Lara a call on: 01962 862487 or email Lara at: barkandsqueak@hotmail.co.uk



OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

The clocks have gone back, and with the arrival of strong winds, rain and the leaves turning on the trees, we are heading inexorably towards Winter. In the event of snow falling, Oliver's Battery is well supplied with grit bins for your use. The Parish Council also have several snow shovels available for residents to borrow. Details of where to find them are on the Parish Council website www.oliversbattery.org

The Parish Council has been busy recently, with plans well under way to renew the young children's play equipment on the Recreation Ground. The finishing touches to the MUGA and Tennis Courts will also be completed soon.

The second edition of our Oliver's Battery Parish Magazine has been well received – a new format, plenty to read and a popular notice board style back cover. Another edition will appear in the Spring. If you would like to contribute please send your articles to cldr.gagel@oliversbattery.org. We are keen to provide some information about the links that Oliver's Battery had during World War 1, in conjunction with the 100 years commemoration in 2014. If you have any information please do let us know - we plan to provide a display at the fete on 7th June.

The future for our much loved and well used St. Mark's Parish Hall has also been on the agenda. St Luke's PCC are currently considering the best way to improve facilities at the Hall. Rebuilding is being considered, though the costs involved are considerable and no decisions have yet been made.

As I write, I can hear fireworks going off outside. I hope you had an enjoyable Bonfire Night and that your pets stayed safely indoors. Christmas is coming next and my children have already received their Advent Calendars. Do remember to visit the varied and helpful shops available in Oliver's Battery as you prepare for the festive season. Shop Locally!

And finally, let me finish by wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Jane Gagel - Vice-Chairperson - Oliver's Battery Parish Council

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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.





ST MARK'S CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

Over the past few months a study group has been working on a possible redevelopment of St Mark's church, following a request from St Luke's Parochial Church Council which owns the building. Their main conclusion is that it should be feasible to transfer it to a charity and develop its use for a wider range of community activities, whilst continuing to hold church services on Sundays and Thursdays as at present.

The study group, led by Geoff Sharman and including representatives from Oliver's Battery Parish Council, St Luke's PCC, and major user groups including The Battery Club and the Women's Institute, has considered the need for such a community facility by visiting other local community centres and conducting an extensive survey of attitudes among local residents. It identified a widespread desire for a range of new local activities and for participation in groups which could support active, healthy, and socially engaged lifestyles. It also looked at what facilities a modern community centre would require, how this might be created most effectively, and how both the construction and operational costs of such a facility might be financed.

The study group concluded that the desired objective could be achieved by creating a new two storey replacement building on the St Mark's site at a cost in the region of £500,000. In present circumstances, large grants are unlikely to be available, so construction would be funded by a combination of charitable donations, local fundraising activities, and smaller grants from Oliver's Battery Parish Council and other grant-giving bodies. They believe this might well act as a stimulus in bringing the community together, but caution that it may take several years. One very encouraging finding from the survey was that significant numbers of respondents indicated their willingness to contribute to financing, funding raising, project management, and operation of a future community centre.

Operation of the facility would follow the "Littleton model" where a dedicated charity manages the centre, deriving a substantial proportion of its income from lettings to non-local groups to enable cost effective operation and some level of subsidy to local user groups. Given that a substantial number of Oliver's Battery residents already use the Badger Farm Community Centre, and that Badger Farm residents might well wish to use the proposed new centre, active cooperation with the Residents' Community Association is also something to be encouraged.

The Study Group presented an interim report at the Oliver's Battery Annual Parish Meeting in May. Their final report was discussed with the Parish Council on 10th September and presented to St Luke's PCC on 17th September. Both councils indicated their support and encouraged the formation of a Project Group which could take this work to the next stage.

What are the Next Steps?

The project is likely to take five years and can only succeed if the community is behind it. In the past, residents of Oliver's Battery have played a big part in community groups across and beyond our immediate area: now it's time to do something for ourselves! We've already received many excellent offers of support but will need a very broad range of skills, especially in fund raising, project management, administration, and the skilled process of applying for grants. If you have experience in any of these areas and feel you could help, or if you have questions or suggestions about the project, please contact Geoff Sharman at geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com, 01962 867961, or 12 Oliver's Battery Gardens.

Activity	Day	Time	Contact	Phone
Brownies	Tuesday	17:45	Kayleigh Lunnon	07843 575741
Ballroom Dancing	Monday & Tuesday	13:00	Ian Millar	01962 854542
Battery Club	Wednesday	14:00	Diana Evans	01962 856360
Church Service	Sunday	See Board	Rev'd Mike	01962 865240
Holy Communion	Thursday	10:00	Rev'd Mike	01962 865240
Parish Council	Tuesday	19:30	Sara Kahner	01962 622422
Sing Winchester	Friday	19:15	Jac Gehrer	07941 246685
Scottish Dance	Thursday	20:00	T Steward	02380 253022
Tai Chi	Monday	09:15	M Culvert	02380 651223
WI	Wednesday	19:30	Sue Attrill	01962 620029
Yoga	Monday	10:30	Sheena Sutton	01962 856002



Learning about our community and having some fun

With our theme of 'people who help in the community' the children at Oliver's Battery Pre-school have enjoyed a range of fun learning activities to help them understand more about the world around us. The children were very excited to have visits from people who have community jobs, such as a fire-fighter, a dentist, an optician and even the lollipop man who talked about road safety.



A fire-fighter visits the children in pre-school

Now, as we head towards December, the theme of Christmas is never far away but in addition, the children will learn about other celebrations including Diwali. Unleashing their creative talents, the children will be having lots of fun with paints, glitter and glue to make Christmas decorations and cards in the run up to our nativity performance. Through all this fun, the learning continues as the activities our staff create are all aimed at building each child's confidence and enabling them to develop a range of skills.

Of course, at this time of year the staff, children and parents love to spread festive cheer – and raise money for the pre-school – and so we hope to be performing once again at Sainsbury's in December. We'd love to see you there!

Oliver's Battery Pre-school ~ Opening times:

Monday to Wednesday: 9.00am to 3.15pm

Thursday and Friday: 9.00am to 12.30pm

Various drop off and pick up times are available and children can attend morning, afternoon or all-day sessions.

Staff to child ratios are:

1:4 for children aged under three years 1:6 for children aged three years and over

Situated in the grounds of Oliver's Battery School in Winchester, our pre-school provides a secure, engaging and friendly environment for children aged two years and six months to five years old. Achieving 'outstanding' at our last Ofsted inspection in 2009 and staffed by caring and experienced practitioners, our pre-school offers children in the community a wonderful setting in which to play, learn and develop.

For more information or to make an appointment to take a look around, please contact Jackie Johnston, Pre-school Leader, on mobile 07941 796 958 or email oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com



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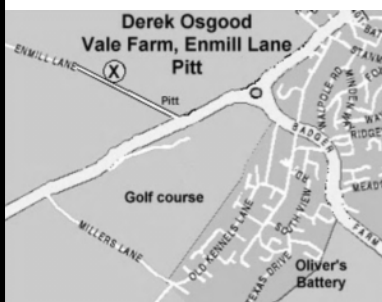
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SPOTLIGHT ON BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre is leased by Badger Farm Parish Council to The Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association. It was opened in November 1986. Since that time the Association has encouraged diverse activities within the building. Groups regularly using the facilities include a wide age range from new-born to the elderly covering areas such as art, dancing, exercise, sport, toddlers/pre-school, special needs and wildlife. There is also a thriving Social Club open to residents of both Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery parishes. Residents of adjacent parishes may also be members. The Association has charitable status and is managed by a Board of volunteer Trustees. In addition, there are three employees: a Caretaker, a Bookings Secretary and a Financial Advisor. All spare income is spent on maintaining the building and updating facilities in line with current legislation and health and safety directives. We are proud of our Centre and its role within the community. The Centre has a warm and welcoming atmosphere and all rooms are bright, airy and good sizes. The four rooms available for hire provide an excellent venue and good value for money. The Bushfield and Whiteshute Rooms also have the advantage of garden areas.

The Battery - The main hall which will hold up to 180 people. Suitable for wedding receptions, parties or sporting activities. The Social Club bar can also be hired with the hall.

The Bushfield - A room which will hold up to 70 people. Suitable for business meetings, exercise groups and parties.

The Whiteshute - A room which will hold up to 40 people. Suitable for children's parties and meetings.

The Warren - A small room holding up to 30 people and suitable for meetings.

All rooms hired include the use of a fully equipped kitchen. We are also able to offer Internet access. If you would like more details on prices and availability, please contact Jan, the Bookings Secretary ~ details on the front page.



Bushfield Room

Main Entrance

Whiteshute Room

Battery Hall

Warren

IT'S THE PLACE TO BE! WHAT'S HAPPENING & WHAT WE OFFER



Badger Farm Tuesday Bridge Club will celebrate its 30th Anniversary next April. It started off at St Mark's Hall in Oliver's Battery in April 1984 then transferring to Badger Farm Community Centre when it opened in November 1986. Originally they played in the Whiteshute Room by the kitchen but moved to the Bushfield Room when the Community Centre was extended. Badger Farm Bridge Club meets on Tuesdays from 7.15pm to 10.30pm. The emphasis is on playing Bridge in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and they welcome new members or visitors. If you would like to come along, please contact Fred Hotchen on 01794 301185 or 07771 854 347 or by email fred.hotchen@arqiva.com. You will be made very welcome!



The Royal British Legion was formed in 1921 for the benefit of ex-service men and women. Local meetings are held in Badger Farm Community Centre every third Thursday in the month from 7.30pm. The Winchester Branch of the Legion will be leading the Parade to Winchester Cathedral on Armistice Sunday to commemorate the ending of the 1st World War in 1918. The Legion are also arranging a Service of Remembrance in front of the Cathedral to be attended by Council members and to lay their cross in the garden. Next year will be the 100 year Anniversary of the end of the 1st World War. Since then up to the present men and women have been serving their country non-stop. The Royal British Legion will continue looking after our members and ex-servicemen with kind donations and help for future generations.



Would you like to join a Club for older people in Badger Farm? Brendoncare Club Hampshire run social clubs for older people throughout Hampshire. The Badger Farm Friendly Club meets at the Badger Farm Community Centre on alternate Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm. Members enjoy spending time together and take part in a range of activities and entertainment including arts and crafts, music, exercise sessions, games, outings and listening to guest speakers. The cost is £4 per visit and low cost transport can also be arranged. If you would like to know more about joining as a member or volunteer please call: **Catherine Fellingham on 07522-596793 or Brendoncare Club Hampshire on 01962 857099 or visit www.brendoncare.org.uk**



A warm welcome awaits you in your local **Slimming World** 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.



Are you a girl aged 7 to 10? Would you like to have a fun time with other girls of your age? If so, join us at **Brownies**. We meet every Thursday during term time from 6.15pm to 7.45pm at Badger Farm Community Centre. The cost is £35 per term. To find out more visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested, email 11.wincity.brownies@gmail.com or telephone 07708 217 957. Look forward to seeing you!

..... YES, THERE'S MORE



Jo Jingles is here! For music, singing and movement classes for children ages 3 months to 5 years. Every Tuesday morning at 9.30am in Badger Farm Community Centre. Come along and enjoy the activities. For details call Victoria on 01489 877278 or email home@victoria-smith.co.uk ~ www.jojingles.com/winchester



Legs, Bums and Tums ~ Fun Exercise Classes at Badger Farm Community Centre. 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. Cost of class £4.00 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.



Winchester Tae Kwon-Do. Over 25 years at Badger Farm Community Centre. If you are interested in martial arts but don't know how to start, then why not give us a try? We are a mix of all ages, fitness and ability. Our information pack costs only £6 and includes two lessons. Fully qualified, insured and CRB checked teachers. Mondays and Wednesdays 6.30pm-7.15pm beginners and intermediates ~ 7pm-8pm seniors, (black belts to 9pm). Details on 023 8026 7771, info@winchestertkd.co.uk or www.winchestertkd.co.uk



PILATES AT BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Jenny Forster – 07929 624 526 - Wednesday – 9.30am-11.45am ~ Thursday – 9.30am-11.45am ~ Friday – 9.15am-10.15am ~ Term Time Only

Jan Davies – 07904 187 257 ~ Wednesday – 1.00pm-2.00pm Term Time Only

Caroline Smith – 07803 302 654 - caroline.bodycontrolpilates@gmail.com Wednesday – 5.30pm-6.30pm ~ Term Time Only

Penny Little – 07904 472 605 ~ Friday – 10.30am-12.45pm Term Time Only



YOGA AT BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Chris Wyeth – 01962 868346 - Monday – 9.30am-11.00am ~ Tuesday – 5.30pm-7.00pm ~ Friday – 1.30pm-3.00pm Term Time Only

Yoga ACE – Peter Symonds College – 01962 886166 ~ Tuesday – 1.45pm-3.15pm ~ Term Time Only

Iyengar Yoga - Louise Kirby – 01962 854003 or 07815 458 353 ~ Monday (various) – 6.30pm-8.00pm (enquire direct for details) ~ Term Time Only



Ditch the workout, join the party!™

ZUMBA every Wednesday at Badger Farm Community Centre

between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Exercise class to lively Latin rhythms. Simple and fun! Pay as you go - £5 per session. Further information from Debbie on 07724 136 428 or email debbie.woodley@talk21.com



Whiteshute Bridge Club. Do you play Bridge? If so, you would be very welcome to come to our friendly club which meets in the Whiteshute Room in the Community Centre every Monday night. We play duplicate bridge, from 7 o'clock until 10 pm. The annual subscription and table money are minimal, and refreshments are available during play. We take the game seriously (but not too seriously!) and aim to play 24 boards or so. Ideally we like couples to join, but we can help you to find a partner if you do not have one. If you are interested, please contact the chairman, Robin Eynon (01962 853732, or robineynon@aol.com).



We are a small, friendly group of people who meet every Wednesday at Badger Farm Community Centre during term time to study intermediate level Spanish. We are very keen to welcome new members to our informal classes so, if you are interested, please email Pam Holland on pozzie_pam@hotmail.com or contact Jan at the Community Centre on 01962 868630.



BADGER FARM ART GROUP

Do you enjoy drawing and painting? Why not join our friendly art group on Thursday afternoons at Badger Farm Community Centre? All levels of skill and experience welcome. Sessions run by professional artist. Further details from Liz Weir Tel. 01962 856689 ~ Mobile 07783 695 220 or Email lizabethweir@gmail.com



WINCHESTER & DISTRICT CARERS' FORUM. Are you providing or arranging care and support for a relative, friend or neighbour? If so, the forum could help you. This is a local independent organisation run by carers, for carers. For further information, please contact Janet on 01489 89338 or email janet@clickers.org.uk. Next meeting at Badger Farm Community Centre on Monday 3 February 2014 from 2pm to 3.30pm.

These are just some of the many and varied events held at Badger Farm Community Centre. All clubs and organisations offer a very warm welcome to new members. There is also the very active and popular members' Social Club which is open every weekday from 5pm (4pm on Friday) and from midday at weekends. If you see something that you are interested in, please contact the individual named or alternatively contact Jan Dawkins, the Bookings Secretary on 01962 868630. The Community Centre goes from strength to strength each year. During 2013 the whole of the inside of the building was re-decorated and new lighting installed in the Bushfield Room. We will also soon have a brand-new website. If you are passing, drop in and pay us a visit - we'd be delighted to see you!

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THE SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS SCHEME BENEFITS BADGER FARM PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Some of the team at the Winchester, Middle Brook Street and Badger Farm Sainsbury's stores visited Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup to help present their order of Active Kids equipment to the children. The Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup has been registered to the Active Kids scheme since 2006. The team joined the children during an outdoor play session, where the children proudly showed off the bikes, trikes and scooters they have received through the scheme. Denise Tosdevine (Playgroup Manager) said: "Customers at Sainsbury's Badger Farm and Winchester, Middle Brook Street have been really supportive this year and it's great to have this equipment for the children to use. The scheme has helped us teach the benefits of a healthier more active lifestyle to our children over the last few years and we're really looking forward to getting active with this year's equipment. Badger Farm Pre-school Playgroup serves our local community, so if you would like to come and enjoy riding bikes and scooters alongside a wealth of other activities please contact us on 07771 798 474."



Some of the children from Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup showing off their new trikes alongside from left Will Hunt, Produce Manager, Denise Tosdevine and Dave Bell, Check-Out Manager



The children from Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup show off their splendid pumpkins in Sainsbury's store, Badger Farm!

PUMPKIN FUN AT SAINSBURY'S

Sainsbury's very kindly donated pumpkins for Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup to carve and decorate to be used in their store display. Carving and scooping gave the children an opportunity to experience different kinds of vegetables and fruit. Linked to this, we made pumpkin soup, used the pumpkin seeds for collage and used the lanterns in our dark cave for looking at shadow and light. A pumpkin walk and photo opportunity in Sainsbury's completed our celebrations. Many thanks to Sainsbury's colleagues for including us in this event.



OFSTED inspected in 2011 with very favourable results.

For children from 3 years to school age.

Limited spaces available for 2 years 6 months.

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

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.

"Welcome to all our children and their families who started with us in September, everyone settled into their new routine very quickly. We hope you enjoy the news about our school and I hope to see you at our Carols by Candlelight event." S Mudie, Head Teacher




We would like to invite the whole local and school community to our "Carols by Candlelight" fundraising event. This homely, outdoor, candlelit carol service will take place in the school grounds on Friday 29th November from 6pm. Warming refreshments will be available (such as sausage rolls, hot chocolate and mulled wine) and please bring any donations for the collection buckets – all of which will be used to benefit the children. Please do come and hear the children sing ... everyone from our local community is warmly welcome.

News of the school activities: Our Year 2 class recently had a multisports festival at Kings' school where they had the opportunity to learn new sport skills in a different environment. The Year 3 class will be taking part in one in November. These events are always popular with our children. We now have a Year 5 netball team who have been fantastic at learning their new sport so quickly. They are looking forward to their first match this half term. We wish them luck and hope they enjoy the experience.

Badger class harvested the school allotments recently and one of our parent helpers kindly made a marrow cake from the allotment marrow. **Thank you as always to our parents who come and help in the school, providing an extra pair of hands, eyes and ears to the busy day.**

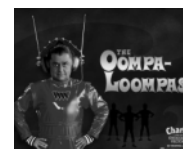


 Year 3 and 4 recently went to the Mayflower theatre to watch a performance of James and The Giant Peach as part of their English studies. Years 5 and 6 will soon be going to see the Mayflower's War Horse production.

Year 5 and 6 began this half term with their topic 'I am inspiration'. Children were able to explore various inspirational role models, both past and present, and link their learning to our literacy unit on biographies. They studied the lives of famous icons (eg Martin Luther King, Winston Churchill and Derek Redmond), thought about what the word inspirational meant to them, considered who was inspirational in their lives, and thought about how they inspire others. They have produced lovely quotes and art work. Their next topic was 'Rubbish!' This was an excellent opportunity for children to develop their knowledge of how our own rubbish affects others in the wider world. Children carried out extensive research on coltan mining, sweat shops and landfill waste as well as exploring how rubbish affects them in their everyday lives. They have now developed some very passionate views.

Carrying on with the Eco theme, the dedicated Grounds Team have been planning the poly tunnel planting for the next season, where they plan to provide food for use in the school kitchen. We have roasted our own potatoes in the past (and marrows and pumpkins) so we are hoping to grow a larger variety for our own cooking. The children learn about how to grow food, where it comes from and how to reduce waste.

Skylark class have been Oompa Loompas learning all about chocolate, creating new flavours and designing and producing a box in which to sell their product. Watch out Sir Alan Sugar.



Oliver's Battery primary school is a happy school with staff dedicated to ensuring your child is learning and socialising to the best of their ability. If you would like to come and visit us please call the office on 01962 869 496 to arrange a viewing. We would love to show you around.

Visit us on www.oliversbattery.hants.sch.uk

UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Do you use the night bus? It runs on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from Winchester Bus station at 21.33, 22.33, and 23.33, stopping at Badger Farm Sainsbury's. Unfortunately passenger numbers have not grown to the point where it could be run commercially. Unless more people use the service, it will be hard for Winchester Town Forum (the 'parish council' for the city area), to justify keeping funding in place. Costs are rising and without extra money being found the service may not continue after September 2014. Other Parish Councils are being asked to contribute but can only consider doing so if sufficient of their residents show that they actually use the bus. *Please let us and them know if you value the service.*

You may have heard that Hampshire County Council's Highways department is advertising road closures in the ward. The work will be done over the next 12 months, each road being closed only while the work is done. The roads affected will be Austin Avenue and part of Compton Way in Oliver's Battery and Ashbarn Crescent, Meadow Way, May Tree Close and Rooks Down Road on Badger Farm. We will be told nearer the time when the work will actually take place. The County Council is trying to avoid future problems by 'getting on top of' the work before it becomes urgent. If you know of other roads that you think are in need of attention please let us know.

There continues to be a great deal of interest in the plans for a new Leisure Centre in Winchester. Many people are concerned about the potential loss of open space if a larger centre is built on the present site and are also asking questions about the costs and whether or not all options, including refurbishment, have been considered. As a consequence, the City Council will be holding a public consultation between 18th November and 2nd December, including an online survey. Your local Councillors are committed to ensuring that the necessary consultation and analysis of options takes place before any decisions are made.

Please get in touch if you think we can help you in any way.

County Cllr Phil Bailey 01962 775275 phil.bailey@hants.gov.uk
City Cllr Brian Laming 0797 3265 028 blaming@winchester.gov.uk
City Cllr Lynda Banister 01962 853791 ibanister@winchester.gov.uk



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From the desk of Rev'd Mike Gardner, Vicar of St Luke's Stanmore with St Mark's Oliver's Battery
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Tel. 01962 865240 ~ rev'd. mike@yahoo.co.uk



**An invitation to you from St Luke's Church, Mildmay Street, Winchester
Come and join with others from across the community and city**

Advent Celebrations

A chance to view crib sets from across the churches of the City and 'home' sets from members of St Luke's and St Mark's.
Saturday **30th November**. Church open for viewing 11.00am until 4.00pm.
Advent Fair in Hall 11.30am until 2.00pm
and Sunday 1st December. Church open for viewing 2.00pm until 6.00pm.
Advent Service of Hymns and Readings 6.30pm.

What better way to start December than by focusing on the real events of Christmas?
Hope to see you soon, may be at Christmas Carols **Sunday 22nd December**, 6.30pm at St Luke's
or at the Christmas Eve crib services at 5.00pm at both St Luke's and St Mark's.

With best Christmas wishes to you and yours Rev'd. Mike ~ Tel. 865240



BADGER FARM SOCIAL CLUB ~ CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Another great year for the Club and many thanks for everyone's valued support. Membership has stayed steady at around to 200, which is a little up on last year. Our beer prices have not increased all year and good news, they will be staying the same for the foreseeable future. You may have noticed that many of our Real

Ales are sourced from local micro breweries based in Hampshire and as always the Club looks to support local businesses. This year we have had both bars decorated and are about to replace the furniture which I'm sure you agree is well past its best. Also you may have noticed the new Lottery machines recently installed and we will be replacing the Juke Box with an Internet connected one which will be able to search and play tracks via the net.

BT Sport The Club received requests from many members for BT Sport, so we have had it installed, which means we now have extra Premiership games and a varied range of televised sport for you, the members. I will say that the cost is quite prohibitive if the members don't use the facility. So the Committee will keep an eye on the usage to see if BT Sport is financially viable for the Club.

Teams Congratulations to all who partake in the various team events. These include crib, pool, ladies' and men's darts. Many congratulations to our Ladies darts teams, Ladies' A for winning the League and Ladies' B for coming runners up. Our Men's team is in the Plate final later in the year and good luck. Once again darts competitions have been a huge success as well as the Club being used for Winchester District Darts prize giving this year.

Badger Farm Mafia The Badger Farm Mafia has been up and running a year now and it's been great to see how the skills and connections of the members are being put to good use in helping the micro-economy of Badger Farm. Many local people have made use of a variety of the services available from members, including plumbing, fencing, decorating, electrics and carpet cleaning. If anyone is interested in advertising their services in the Club please come and speak to me.

New Year Celebrations After the success of New Years Eve last year we will repeat the evening in the same way and the evening will be a free for members ticketed event. As with last year, it will open be for members only, although a small number of guest tickets will be available for guests of members. The New Year Party will be in both bars with a disco in the Bushfield and more details to follow.

The Club has grown into thriving community over the last three years and now has a very strong foundation for the future to grow and support our local community. On a personal note may I say a big thank you to the Committee and all the Staff this year for all their hard work and support in keeping the Club running and a great place to visit for all our members.

Richard Butler ~ Chairman



A CHRISTMAS NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As we come to the end of another busy year at Badger Farm Community Centre, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have visited us and used our facilities. The year got off to a bad start with the major flooding in the Battery Hall but throughout the coming months we have worked hard to make improvements in the Centre such as new lighting in the Bushfield Room, full re-decoration throughout and by the time you read this we will have some new flooring in the passageway leading to the Bushfield/Warren Rooms. We will also soon have a new and exciting website which will make it easier for people to find us. More news of that in the Spring edition. It just remains for me to say a huge thank you to

Merv the Caretaker for all his help and support this year, and also to the staff from the Social Club who are always willing to assist and help out, in particular Mel whose cheerful and obliging help has been invaluable to me this year. We would also like to thank the Trustees for their work and commitment. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Do come and visit us during 2014! *Jan Dawkins ~ Editor*



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INSPIRING WOMEN

OLIVER'S BATTERY WI

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday at St Mark's Church, Olivers Battery at 7.45pm.

Over the past few months it's been all go in Oliver's Battery WI, with more new members; a theatre trip to see Evita; good speakers both in our WI as well as in the Winchester Group; a fancy breadmaking demonstration - and tasting of course! As well as joining in on events run by the Hampshire Federation, which included workshops making Etui Boxes there was the Federation's Autumn Meeting at the Anvil in Basingstoke to hear Dame Jenni Murray. We are now looking forward to more good speakers, a theatre trip to see War Horse in the spring and the revival of the popular New Year's Eve Stagger - a safari supper to beat all suppers.

Each month between meetings there is the Knit and Natter Group to enjoy and also a Book Club that meets to discuss a book just read. There is a rumour that plants are already being propagated for the Plant Sale on May 5th 2014 at St Mark's.

All this adds up to a very well run WI with plenty for all ages and tastes. Friendship is the key and there is always something new in the pipeline to suit all. If you are new to the area or feel you would like to make new friends or just have some "me" time, come and see us or maybe give Cathy Winter a call on 01962 620250. As President and newly appointed WI Adviser, Cathy will be able to tell you more of what is on offer.

Whatever your reason, we would love to see you at a future meeting, you would be very welcome.

Oliver's Battery WI wishes everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a good New Year - with a Resolution to come along to a WI Meeting!!

HERE ARE SOME OF WINCHESTER MENCAP'S FORTHCOMING EVENTS THESE ARE VERY GOOD FUN AND GREAT VALUE TOO!

Winchester
and district
Mencap
registered charity no. 264604

November 29th 2013 ~ 6.45 for 7.15 ~ "Frigid Women" ~ Sue Riches describes her memorable trek to the North Pole. Tickets available £15 to include wine and canapés. Contact ali.peck@btinternet.com or 01489892986.

February 7th 2014 ~ Quiz night with supper ~ Shawford Village Hall. Please telephone 01962 873608 for more info and bring a table of your friends. Tickets are likely to be set at £17.50 pp. Cash Bar.

March 21st 2014 ~ A stimulating talk by professor Rachel Mills from the Oceanography Centre at Southampton. Please telephone 01962 873608 for more info.

Do come along and support us - we'd be delighted to see you!



AN UPDATE FROM STEVE BRINE, MP FOR WINCHESTER

In the bleak midwinter we may be but (as I write this at least) the frosty wind has yet made moan. Nonetheless, Christmas is upon us again and while the reason for the season is sadly not the same for everyone these days, I hope the season of goodwill is and have no doubt Winchester's big society will continue to look out for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Residents will be well acutely aware the Pitt Manor development received outline planning permission last year – meaning it will go ahead - and the detailed 'Reserved Matters' planning application is now with the City Council. The consultation deadline was at the end of November but the application has an overall 16 week determination deadline of 17th February 2014. Remember this is for the assessment of layout, appearance, scale and landscaping of 200 houses with play facilities and a 200 space park and ride. I have posted various links so you can stay informed via www.stevebrine.com/pittmanor and you can course contact local St Luke or OBBF city councillors.

Linked to this, I continue to work with my colleagues – led by the team working in Stanmore – to get every last drop of benefit out of the Pitt Manor development. Cllr Jamie Scott and others have been working tirelessly with me for the past four years to see residents are represented on issues surrounding the new homes, especially the re-design of the junction with Romsey Road/Stanmore Lane. 'Top junction' as it's known locally is key to that, especially getting two lanes out of Stanmore Lane to reduce congestion across the area. Constituents will be very aware I did not want this development to happen, and while it is small compared to Barton Farm, it's going to have a major impact on this main route into the city and it's important all local representatives – including me - work together to somehow make it work.

Finally, senior citizens in this area will be very aware of The Battery Club which meets around fortnightly in St Mark's Hall. The club celebrated its 9th birthday in good spirits recently and I was honoured to go along as a special guest to help cut (and it must be said, eat) the cake. Accompanied by my dog Popcorn I met members and held a lively question and answer session with around forty members. Thank you for asking me along, I wish this brilliant club every success for many years to come.



Steve enjoys the celebrations - and cake! - at the Battery Club.

May I wish all readers of Community News a Merry Christmas and a successful New Year; and remind you I am available as your MP if you ever need my help or just want to have your say on the issue of the day, local or national. You can email me steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk or call 01962 791110.

Steve Brine - MP for Winchester

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Oliver's Battery, Winchester.





WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Autumn has drawn to a colourful close and Winter is on its way. The garden has been tidied up and demands far less of our time. We can spare a few moments to sit down with a hot drink and browse through the seed catalogues, making plans for next year. If you have the odd evening free you might like to join us at one of our enjoyable and informative monthly meetings. Our programme for the coming three months offers the following:



December (Wed 11th) ~ A meeting with a festive touch and a demonstration by Sally Burr of "**How to make Christmas decorations using fresh material from the garden**", interlaced with a glass of wine, mince pies and home-made Christmas cake.

January (Wed 8th) ~ What better way to spend a cold winter's evening than to listen to Gerald Ponting's interesting account of his "**Voyage to North Africa**" and to enjoy his splendid photographs.

February (Wed 12th) ~ Time to look ahead and to benefit from Tim Woodland's vast experience of "**Planting and Growing Summer Bulbs**".

Our monthly meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester and start at 7.30pm. Visitors are free. You can find out more about us on our website:
<http://www.winchesterhorticulturalsociety.hampshire.org.uk/>

We look forward to welcoming you!

Stanmore Primary School

Be the best that you can be...

Engage, excite, amaze...! This was the challenge set to artists and scientists taking part in the Creative Collisions project with local schools and Stanmore pupils of all ages rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and creative energy! Taking part in a series of art, poetry and science workshops, the children produced artwork with clashing shape and texture; thought about word collisions, producing fantastical monster poems and in a science workshop had great fun dropping eggs from height to see the impact of the resulting collision with the ground! Could they build a protective surround for the egg that would save it from cracking? It was a tense moment as the eggs were unpacked – some were unscathed, but others had cracked – why was this...?

These sessions culminated in a day at the Winchester Science Centre, where the children took part in an art installation workshop to build a Collider Scope, based on the Large Hadron Collider. This installation then formed part of the Creative Collisions 10 days in Winchester project, the ambitious and exciting contemporary arts event which took place between 25th October and 3rd November. Did you see our work?

Walk like an Egyptian! You could be forgiven for thinking that you had travelled back in time to Ancient Egypt if you walked into any of the Year 3/4 classrooms on Egyptian Day last term. The children were taking part in a series of workshops leading to performances of short plays in the afternoon and had been asked by their teachers to come into school dressed as an Ancient Egyptian.

The response was fantastic. Mummies, bejewelled Egyptian princesses, Pharaohs and slaves, many with exotic eye make-up and home-made head dresses really lent an air of authenticity to the plays and workshops. Thank you to all our parents for your support – it really does make a topic come to life and be remembered.

There's Wally! Our annual Book Week, just before half term, was a busy jam packed week with author visits, a Book Fair, the Hampshire Illustrated Book Award, and a host of fun book related activities in the classrooms. Local author Ali Sparkes kicked off the week with a hugely entertaining inter-active talk about her books, which included an optical illusion to allow the children to travel back in time! After signing books in the school Library, she popped into Elm Class to give our budding authors some helpful tips and advice. Peter Dixon, poet and educationalist made a rare school visit on Tuesday delighting the children with his fantastic poems and attempting to persuade them that **everyone** can be a poet!

And on Friday, the school was filled with a vast array of weird and wonderful figures as the children dressed up as their favourite character from a book. To their amazement, the entire staff came dressed as Wally from the popular picture book by Martin Handford to support the Where's Wally competition that had been running all week. It was not so much Where's Wally as there's Wally!

Coming soon.... Our Christmas Fair will be on Friday 6th December 2013, from 3:20pm until 5:30pm. There will be lots of festive stalls, delicious food and Father Christmas will be in his grotto waiting for children to pay him a visit.....do come along if you can!

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



Badger Farm Toddlers

Thursdays 13:30 – 15:00

Badger Farm Community Centre

Dates 2013/14

Nov	07 14 21 28
Dec	05 12 19
Jan	09 16 23 30
Feb	06 13 27
Mar	06 13 20 27
Apr	03 24
May	01 08 15 22
Jun	05 12 19 26
Jul	03 10 17


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

 For latest information, follow us @ToddlersBF

Self-service baby weighing

When you just want to keep an eye on baby's weight, and either can't seem to get to a baby clinic, or big brother or sister get too bored to wait around - come to us and weigh while they play!

PLENTY OF FUN FOR THE LITTLE ONES - A CUPPA AND A CHAT FOR YOU



BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Autumn has certainly started, with all the leaves beginning to turn into their rusty hues. The change of colours does tend to compensate for the loss of the warmer weather. As I started writing this, there was the great windy night of the 27/28th October. Various trees were blown down, and I hope no one had any damage to their property. I was woken in the middle of the night, and looking out of my window I was quite amazed at the violence of the storm. Up until then, Badger Farm seemed to be quite quiet and orderly, with no major reports of anything untoward. Please do call 101 if you notice any sign of misconduct.

Water meters are being introduced across Badger Farm, which will mean that we will all be paying for the water we use, and inclusive charges will be discontinued. Single and smaller households should find their water bills reduced. The new charging structure will encourage us not to waste water.

Meadow Way is scheduled for major road repairs in the near future. This will apparently require the road to be closed at various times, and access to side roads restricted. It will be nice to have a good new surface on this stretch of Badger Farm.

The idea of having Cattle on the Ridge is still being considered, although we cannot expect any work to start for 18 months yet. The idea is that cattle, which will only be on the hill for the winter months, will eat the grass. This will help to keep the original chalk grass, flora and fauna, which in turn will have a major effect on the ecology of the area, encouraging wild life, and the range of wild plants.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BE SAFE AT CHRISTMAS



Tips and Advice about 'When Shopping', 'At Cash Points', 'At Home', 'If you are going away', 'If you are out for the evening', 'Registering bikes, mobiles, electrical items etc.' are available for free at www.immobilise.com. Fraud and Identity Theft are also a huge concern at Christmas and the New Year so again Neighbourhood Watch has plenty of advice to share to ensure residents do not become victims. Please contact me if you would like any further information : Sandie Vining – Area Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the Winchester City and Winchester Citygate Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Tel: 01962 865384 Email: Sandievining@btinternet.com Web: www.wehnw.org.uk



NATURE NOTES FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY



Stepping onto the field a few weeks ago I noticed an unusual stillness and discernible silence. The swallows and house martins had gone; they would be winging their way on the long flight to Africa. My feeling of loss was soon replaced with anticipation that they would return to our local fields again next year as they have done for hundreds of generations, although in diminishing numbers.

If we could step back in time we would be amazed at the *abundance* of nature. We can only imagine it by reading descriptions in poetry and prose. Actual statistical records of data started comparatively recently. Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" (1962) shocked our complacency and triggered concern for the rapid loss of our wildlife.

Earlier this year the "State of Nature Report" was published. This wake-up call is a scientific collaboration between the twenty five UK conservation and research organisations using the data collected mainly from the 1960's. It is not a happy read because the stark statistics of losses are frightening – more than 60% of the 3,000 species surveyed have declined over the last 50 years. However it carries a message of hope where targeted conservation has succeeded in stopping the decline and, in some cases has increased species such as the otter. You can read it yourself by downloading a copy from one of the conservation bodies. I have a hard copy, a beautifully produced ninety page illustrated book with additional summary booklets of all four UK countries. It was free from the RSPB but I would recommend a worthy donation if you request a copy. This document must surely have an influence on Government thinking and action? In fact there are Government documents containing UK Biodiversity Indicators to measure progress towards halting biodiversity loss. The latest update was in September 2013 which also can be read online.

I was recently delighted to discover a small flock of sheep had been introduced to one of the small paddocks off Texas Drive. They have been moved elsewhere until the grass grows back sufficiently, so look out for them when they return. In the past our local downland would have been covered with large flocks of sheep. They are ideal to manage chalk grasslands because they graze between the flower stalks leaving nectar sources for insects. The skylark is a bird of this environment, nesting on the ground and feeding its young with insects. Had you walked here at that time the air would have been full of their song. We are lucky to still have a handful of these endangered songsters and long may it be so. Should the land ever be developed there would be no place for them.

Norma Goodwin

Ed's. Note. Many thanks to Norma for continuing to send in these wonderful nature notes. I'm sure I'm not alone in saying how vivid and descriptive they are. Please continue in 2014 Norma!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

- **Sunday 12th January** - Stamp & Postcard Fair - Contact 01795 478175.
- **Saturday 1st February** - Auction - Contact 01962 734941.
- **Saturday 15th March** - Auction - Contact 01962 734941.
- **Saturday 29th March** - Winchester Country Market Spring Fair - 10.00am to 12.30pm. Contact 01962 866340.
- **Sunday 20th April** - Stamp & Postcard Fair - Contact 01795 478175.

BADGER FARM & OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Badger Farm Parish Council meet on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) in the Bushfield Room at Badger Farm Community Centre at 7.30pm. Contact the Clerk Martin Macpherson on clerkbfpc@aol.com 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.

AND FINALLY.....



A very big thank you to Will Hunt from Sainsbury's who kindly donated from the store a large box containing packs of spring flowering bulbs for our use. These will be distributed to various groups including the pre-school and toddlers as well as adding welcome colour to our own garden area.
Thank You Sainsbury's!

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.



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