

Community News

Your Community Newsletter and Village Voice
Winter 2014 Edition

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN WINCHESTER!

Escape to Winchester this Christmas season as the perfectly preserved medieval citadel embraces its title, 'England's Christmas Capital' for the fourth year running. Enjoy the Christmas Market which will be running daily from Thursday 20th November or don your hat and gloves and head to the Christmas ice rink. Find the perfect gift in one of Winchester's unusual boutiques, galleries or nationally-known stores. For **information and full details** on all things Christmassy take a look at the Christmas in Winchester guide, go to www.visitwinchester.co.uk or call the Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840 500.

Here's just a brief taster:



Winchester Farmers' Market

Stock up your Christmas larder with delicious fresh local produce and fine, tasty Christmas gifts at the country's largest farmers' market. Sunday 9th and 30th November and 14th December at Friarsgate.

Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market

Founded in 2006, the Christmas Market is recognised as one of the best in Europe, renowned for its unique location, high quality exhibitors and bustling atmosphere. Wonderful Christmas gifts, decorations and festive foods can be found in abundance. From Thursday 20th November to Sunday 21st December at Winchester Cathedral.

Winchester Cathedral Ice Rink

Tickets on sale now from the Cathedral Box Office! Don your hat and gloves and head to Winchester's Christmas ice rink. Experience an exhilarating skate against the magnificent backdrop of Winchester Cathedral with an adjoining café for refreshments. From Thursday 20th November through to Sunday 4th January at Winchester Cathedral.

Twilight Cathedral Towers Tour

A twist on the normal Christmas tower tour, see the Christmas lights sparkle across the city. See the Cathedral Close lit up from the top of the Cathedral Tower. Enjoy mulled wine and mince pies in the medieval Undercroft after the tour. From Friday 21st November to Tuesday 23rd December at Winchester Cathedral.

Christmas Walking Tours of Winchester

Stroll around Winchester's decorated streets and enjoy a City Highlights tour with a seasonal flavour. All Christmas City Highlights tours start from the City Museum. There is a special 'Adults Only' tour on Tuesday 16th December.

Live Nativity

The Christmas Nativity brought to life. See Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus and a selection of barnyard animals including a donkey, cow, goat and sheep. This event is free to enjoy but donations are welcome. From Sunday 23rd November through to Sunday 21st December at Winchester Cathedral.

Watercress Line Santa Special

The perfect way to start your Christmas! See Santa on a steam train as you take a one hour round trip through the scenic Hampshire countryside. Santa visits every child at their seat with a special gift. Includes wine and mince pie for the grown-ups. From Saturday 6th December to Wednesday 24th December at Mid-Hants Railway 'Watercress Line'.

Santa Fun Run 2014

The perfect event to get you in the mood for Christmas - the Santa Fun Run in Winchester! In the lead up to the festive period it's the perfect event to get you in the mood for the festivities. Takes place on Sunday 7th December at 9.30am at Bapsy Hall, Winchester Guildhall.

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS &
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO EVERYBODY!**

Don't forget to use our new email address on all communications!

enquiries@bfobrca.org



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

Editorial deadline for Spring 2015 issue: **Friday 6th February 2015**





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

Serving the communities of Stanmore, Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm

Advent calendars and candles help us to count down to Christmas, alongside the best before date and constant round of Christmas songs in all the shops. In the Christian Tradition, Advent is a time of getting ready not for Christmas but Christ's return to free His people and gather them together with Him. So Christmas when it comes marks the 'not this year' moment and we can celebrate afresh the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God, into our world.

Wishing Happy Birthday to Jesus and Happy Christmas to you all ...

**P.S. Don't miss our Advent Praise Service of readings, prayers, hymns and anthems
on Sunday 30th November in St Luke's at 6.30pm and St Mark's Christmas Fair on
Saturday 6th December from 11.30am.**



Christmas Services

The Parish of St Luke with St Mark



Sunday 21st 6.30pm in St Luke's
Carols by candle light

~~~~~

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Eve of Christmas

5.00pm in both churches

A Christmas service for all

9.30pm Eucharist in St Mark's

~~~~~



Thursday 25th Christmas Day

08.00am Eucharist in St Mark's

09.30am Eucharist in St Luke's

~~~~~



New Year's Eve



7.00pm Eucharist in St Luke's

St Luke's  
Stanmore  
SO22 4BX



St Mark's  
Oliver's Battery  
SO22 4EJ

Don't forget to use our new email address on all communications!

[enquiries@bfobrca.org](mailto:enquiries@bfobrca.org)

# SOME OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

| ACTIVITY                                      | DAY                                | TIME                                                             | CONTACT                                                                      | COST                                         | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Badger Farm Art Group                         | Thursday                           | 1.30pm - 4.00pm                                                  | Elizabeth Weir<br>01962 856689<br>lizabethweir@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<br>023 8025 1277                                           | £1 visitors<br>£15 annual                    | Bridge Club                                                                                                          |
| Brendon Care<br>Badger Farm Friendly<br>Group | Alternate<br>Thursdays             | 2.00pm - 4.00pm                                                  | Catherine Fellingham<br>01962 857099                                         | £4.00 per session                            | Friendship for older people. Quizzes, speakers, outings, afternoon tea. New members and volunteers welcome.          |
| Badger Farm<br>Bridge Club                    | Tuesday                            | 7.15pm - 10.30pm                                                 | Fred Hotchen<br>01794 301185<br>07771 854 347<br>fred.hotchen@btinternet.com |                                              | Friendly and relaxed local bridge club. New members and visitors very welcome                                        |
| Badger Farm Pre-School<br>Playgroup           | Monday to<br>Friday                | Mon.Tues/Wed<br>9.15am - 3.00pm<br>Thurs/Fri<br>9.15am - 12.15pm | Denise Tosdevine<br>07771 798 474                                            | £4.25 per hour                               | For children from 3 years to school age. Great OFSTED results. Afternoons also available - enquiries to Denise.      |
| Badminton                                     | Thursday                           | 8.00pm - 9.00pm                                                  | Wendy King<br>01962 861525                                                   |                                              | Fun and friendly for any age and ability. All welcome!                                                               |
| Eucharist<br>(Holy Communion)                 | Tuesday                            | 10.00am - 11.00am                                                | Rev. Mike Gardner<br>01962 865240                                            |                                              | Church of England Service. All welcome.                                                                              |
| Hampshire Wildlife Trust                      | 2nd Wed. of<br>the month           | 7.30pm - 9.30pm                                                  | Loraine<br>01962 861182                                                      | £3.00 per meeting                            | Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Contact Loraine for details.                                                  |
| Jo Jingles                                    | Tuesday                            | 9.45am - 10.30am<br>10.45am - 11.30am                            | Victoria Smith<br>01489 877278                                               |                                              | Music & Movement for children from the age of 1 year.                                                                |
| Legs, Bums & Tums                             | Monday<br>Tuesday                  | 9.30am - 10.30am<br>6.45pm - 7.45pm                              | Catherine Jones<br>07990 513 434                                             | £5.00 per class                              | A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned! Discounts available for multiple classes.          |
| National Federation of<br>Spiritual Healers   | 2nd Saturday<br>of every<br>month. | 10.00am - 12.30pm                                                | Doreen Rivett<br>01980 862285<br>Doreenrivett@talktalk.net                   | Donation                                     | Come to our group either for healing or to find out more about healing, our group and training courses.              |
| Parents & Tots                                | Thursday                           | 1.30pm - 3.00pm                                                  | Catherine Thomas<br>07990 037 467                                            | £2 per family<br>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<br>monthly            | 7.30pm - 9.30pm                                                  | Stanley Judd<br>01962 869889                                                 |                                              | A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.                                          |
| Slimming World                                | Saturday                           | 9.30am - 11.00am                                                 | Steve Coombs<br>07788 683 077                                                |                                              | A warm welcome awaits you in your local group! New members always welcome.                                           |
| Weight Watchers                               | Thursday                           | 9.30am - 11.00am<br>6.30pm - 7.45pm                              | 07455 968 884                                                                | Weekly<br>meeting fee of<br>£6.25            | Your lifestyle, your choice. With Weight Watchers you choose the weight loss approach that works best for you.       |
| Wessex Wargames Club                          | Tuesday                            | 7.00pm - 11.00pm                                                 | Ian Ackerman<br>01962 624710                                                 | £3 per session<br>(first session is<br>free) | Minature wargames and role-playing games of all periods and genres played.                                           |
| Winchester Country<br>Market                  | Friday                             | 8.30am - 11.00am                                                 | Mrs Tina Sharpe<br>01962 855977                                              |                                              | Fresh produce, cakes and preserves, crafts and plants. All welcome!                                                  |
| Winchester<br>Tae Kwon-Do                     | Monday<br>Wednesday                | 6.30pm - 9.00pm                                                  | Chris Barrett<br>info@winchestertkd.co.uk                                    | Membership by<br>subscription                | 6.30pm-7.45pm beginners/intermediates<br>7pm-8.30pm seniors (black belts to 9pm)                                     |
| Yoga                                          | Monday<br>Tuesday<br>Friday        | 9.30am - 11.00am<br>5.30pm - 7.00pm<br>1.30pm - 3.00pm           | Chris Wyeth<br>01962 868346                                                  | £35 per 5 week<br>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<br>07724 136 428<br>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.

## OLIVER'S BATTERY WI

It has been a great year for Oliver's Battery WI. We have been growing in numbers steadily so that we now have our 50 members. Not so long ago, we were concerned that we only had 20 members so we must be getting it right to attract new members!

So what have we been doing? In September, we entered the Littleton & Harestock Show WI Competition and for the first time in our 14 years, we WON!! So, many thanks to the team who created our entry.

The speakers have been very inspiring as well as entertaining, so we look forward to more over the coming months, from Suffering Suffragettes to Legal Advice and from Christmas Celebrations to What the Bride Wore. Does this entice you to come along and sample some WI magic? Craft seems to be popular and so this continues with more small craft sessions before Christmas. We also are looking forward to an evening out in January for a New Year Meal, when most members gather at a local hostelry for a chance to not only eat & drink but also to socialise.

Next year the WI is 100 years old, so there will be many celebrations all over the county as well as nationally but be sure Oliver's Battery will be making it's mark with much to attract.

If you are new to the area or just want to meet new friends, please do contact President Cathy Winter on 01962 620250 or visit [www.hampshirewi.org.uk](http://www.hampshirewi.org.uk) and visit the Oliver's Battery page. We meet in St Mark's at 7.45 each month. We would all like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.



*The ladies of Oliver's Battery WI enjoying their success at the Littleton & Harestock Show.*



## THE WINCHESTER COUNTRY MARKET



Hello! Well, it's that time of year again - to wish all our customers a very Happy Christmas and to thank you all for your support throughout the year. Now is the time to think of unusual and unique Christmas gifts and cards for your family and friends. Time also to order your



### Christmas Puddings, Christmas Cakes and Mince Pies!



We are pleased to let you know that we now have a cook for gluten, wheat and dairy free produce. We still have plants for the Winter garden and bulbs will be starting to sprout for Christmas presents. Why not join us during the month of December for a cup of coffee or tea for just 50p plus a free mince pie with brandy! Delicious! We very much look forward to seeing you all soon. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year from everybody at the Winchester Country Market.

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.



## WinACC at the Car Boot Sale on 30 November

WinACC will be the charity collecting the fees from stallholders at the Car Boot Sale on Sunday 30 November at the old Cattle Market on the corner of Worthy Lane and Andover Road, Winchester. We'll also have several WinACC stalls.

This is the last sale before Christmas, so please help us raise funds by having a pre-Christmas clear out and donating the items to us to sell, or having a stall of your own on 30 November so WinACC can benefit from your booking fee. If you have items to donate, please contact Caroline on 01962 774127 or email [winacc@winacc.org.uk](mailto:winacc@winacc.org.uk)

**Don't forget to use our new email address on all communications!**

**[enquiries@bfobrca.org](mailto:enquiries@bfobrca.org)**

# Warner & Richardson Solicitors

Warner & Richardson was founded over 200 years ago and has built a reputation for personal service and high quality advice. With the longest record of service of any Winchester firm we are committed to providing innovative solutions to our clients' problems and needs based on a strong foundation of local knowledge, experience and pragmatic advice.

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Please see our new website at [www.wandr.co.uk](http://www.wandr.co.uk) for further details

Partners: Richard Robson, Robert Goodchild, Scott Burdett and Katharine Palmer

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Email: [lawyers@wandr.co.uk](mailto:lawyers@wandr.co.uk)  
Website: [www.wandr.co.uk](http://www.wandr.co.uk)

## Join us at our Dementia Café in Winchester

**Alzheimer's  
Society**

Leading the  
fight against  
dementia

If you have dementia, or are caring for someone with dementia, come along to your local café

**alzheimers.org.uk**

Venue: Badger Farm Community Centre,  
Badger Farm Road, Winchester, SO22 4QB

Time: First Monday of each month from 2pm to 3.30pm

For more information, contact the local Alzheimer's Society by email on [winchester@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:winchester@alzheimers.org.uk) or by telephone on 01256 363393

**We look forward to seeing you**

Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Registered charity number 296645.



# Badger Farm Toddlers

Thursdays 13:30 – 15:00

Badger Farm Community Centre

Dates 2014

|     |             |
|-----|-------------|
| Sep | 04 11 18 25 |
| Oct | 02 09 16 23 |
| Nov | 06 13 20 27 |
| Dec | 04 11 18    |

**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?**

**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!

**Come and give Badger Farm Parent  
and Toddlers a try!**

Just turn up on the day – the kettle's always on

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



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## 'Strictly' comes to Winchester!

For all "Strictly" fans who would love to dance (but don't have, or don't want, a partner) and want to keep fit at the same time, FITSTEPS is for you! This **NEW** dance-fitness programme, created by 2 of the professional dancers from the TV show, combines simple steps from the most popular Ballroom and Latin dances with proven fitness techniques to create a fun, energetic and effective workout.

**Mon 6:15 – 7:00pm at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School**  
**Wed 2:00 – 2:45pm (from 7th January 2015)**  
**at Badger Farm Community Centre**

Pay as you go - £5 per session. Plus! **Loyalty card scheme.**

To register your interest or for further information, call **Debbie on 07724 136 428**

Or email: [debbie.woodley@talk21.com](mailto:debbie.woodley@talk21.com)

# FITSTEPS®



## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST

**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trusts** Indoor meetings are held at Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester, SO22 4QB at 7.30pm in the Bushfield Room unless otherwise stated. Parking is available at the far end of Sainsbury's car park. Entry is £3 per person and includes coffee/tea and biscuits. 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. 30 Nov. 10am-3pm ~ Birding at Titchfield Haven.** Join John Clark for a Winter bird walk at this Hampshire County Council Reserve. Park in the Yacht Club Car Park or by the sea wall and meet in the Yacht Club Car Park, Cliff Road, Hill Head. Entry charges to the reserve apply. Refreshments available in the cafe or bring a packed lunch. Further details from Mary. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £3.

**Wed. 10 Dec. 7.30pm ~ Christmas Social & Quiz.** Come and help us celebrate the festive season and take part in a light-hearted wildlife quiz over a glass of mulled wine or non-alcoholic drink and finger buffet. All welcome. Further details from Loraine.

**Sun. 18 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 the bottom of Broad Street near the old fire station. Parking in the station car park or nearby streets. Bring a snack for a coffee stop. Sorry, no dogs. Further details from Mary. Suggested donation £3.

**Mon. 26 Jan. 7.30pm-9.30pm ~ Along the Jurassic Coast.** Join Brian Fletcher for a photographic tour of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. He will show us the stunning coastal scenery with a full supporting cast of wild flowers, butterflies and other colourful insects. This is a joint meeting with Butterfly Conservation. Held at the St Barnabas Church Hall, Fromond Road, Week, Winchester.

**Sun. 1 Feb. 10am-3.30am ~ 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 on to Ellingham Drove. The reserve entrance is on the left after 500 yards. Meet in the main car park near the Tern Hide. Bring lunch. Numbers are limited so booking is essential. Sorry no dogs. Further details from Mary. Suggested donation £3.

**Wed. 11 Feb. 7.30pm-9.30pm ~ Nature in Close-Up!** Join us for a fascinating evening looking close-up to nature without the need of a hand lens. Renowned natural world photographer Andrew Watts will treat us not only to a selection of close-up photographs of UK insects, other small animals, fungi and plants but also giving away a few of the precious "tricks of the trade" he uses. Further details from Loraine. Suggested donation £3.

We would particularly welcome help at our evening talks.



Do you have some time to spare? Are you interested in volunteering? Would you like to help the local community and become one of our much valued distributors of this very popular local quarterly newsletter? We are urgently looking for more volunteers. The publications would be delivered direct to you for distribution. If you have a bit of spare time and fancy some

gentle walking exercise, please contact Jan Dawkins at the Community Centre on [enquiries@bfobrca.org](mailto:enquiries@bfobrca.org) or Rachel Skinner on [rmskinner@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rmskinner@tiscali.co.uk) Your help would be very much appreciated!



# DEREK OSGOOD

Motor Care

## New MOT bay!

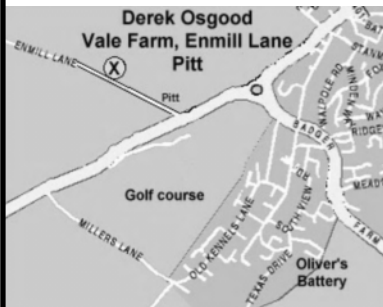
- MOT work
- air-conditioning
- exhausts
- clutches
- brakes
- timing belts
- services

**almost on your doorstep ....**



**Our MOT bay is now open.**

**Book online or phone.**



**Enmill Lane, Pitt, Winchester - 01962 840 144**  
**www.derekosgood.co.uk**



## A CHRISTMAS NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As we approach the end of another busy and eventful year at the Community Centre, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have visited us and used our facilities. We go from strength to strength and people often comment to me on what a friendly and excellent Community Centre we have. We continue to strive to make improvements for the benefit of hirers and the community in general and are looking at a couple of large projects for next year. Of course, it all depends on finances! We now have a new and exciting website which makes it easier for people to find us and my thanks go to Ann Jury for her tireless commitment and patience in creating this for us. Please take a look if you have not already done so at [www.bfobrc.org](http://www.bfobrc.org) Of course, I can't let the occasion pass without saying a huge thank you to Merv Hall, the Caretaker (my right-hand man!) for all his help and support this past year, and also to the staff from the Social Club who are always more than willing to assist and help out - again mentioning Mel Andrews whose cheerful help is invaluable. Thanks also go to 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 2015!

*Jan Dawkins ~ Editor*



**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.**



## COMMUNITY AGENTS PROJECT – VOLUNTEERS WANTED

A new scheme helping older people to stay informed, safe and independent in their homes, has been launched in the Stanmore, Highcliffe and Winnall areas of Winchester. The Community Agents scheme, which is part of a wider initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Hampshire, will be delivered by Age Concern Hampshire and is funded by Winchester District Council. Community Agents are well trained volunteers who help to put older people in direct contact with agencies and organisations that are able to offer help and advice. By helping to provide access to the right information at the right time Community

Agents can assist many older people to live independently in their homes and communities. Community Agents work closely with the Information and Advice Team of Age Concern Hampshire and will signpost people to the appropriate service to help meet their needs. Community Agents offer between 4-6 hours a week. They are supported by a Community Agent Co-ordinator (Age Concern Hampshire) and receive training in Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Mental Health Awareness, Lone Working and 'Trigger Tool'. Becoming a Community Agent provides a great opportunity to develop skills, meet new people and become involved in the local community.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Community Agent please contact Bruce White (Community Agent Project Co-ordinator) on 078 1336 8260 or [bruce.white@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:bruce.white@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk) at Age Concern Hampshire, 1 St. Cross Road, Winchester. SO23 9JA.



## COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER?

Winchester Live at Home Scheme provides volunteer based support and friendship to older people in Winchester who still live in their own home and may have become isolated and lonely for whatever reason. We are urgently seeking to recruit Volunteers in a number of different roles, including:

**Befrienders Shoppers Fundraisers Drivers**

Please visit our website at [www.wlahs.org](http://www.wlahs.org) for more information about these and other Volunteering opportunities. Your help and time would be greatly appreciated. All applicants are DBS checked, relevant training will be provided and all expenses will be paid. To discuss these opportunities please contact the Live at Home office: The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RZ Tel: 01962 890995  
E-mail: [office@wlahs.org](mailto:office@wlahs.org)



# BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

What a lovely Autumn we have had. The long drawn out warm weather has indeed made for a very pleasant season.

We welcome, a little belatedly in some cases, our new members, Julie Lacey, Monica Pelling, Rhian Dolby and Simon Fletcher. This now gives us a full Parish Council.

It is unbelievable that our picnic table on Whiteshute Ridge has been very badly vandalized. Some unscrupulous persons have actually burnt it, and it was so badly damaged that the remains have had to be removed, which in itself has caused a lot of expense. The police have tried to identify the persons involved, unfortunately to no avail. This action seems so senseless; I only hope that the perpetrators are aware of the effect of their behaviour.

The road works should, by now, be completed, which will help with the safety on our steep hills, and also improve road surfaces generally. We have also been informed that our major footpaths will be swept more frequently this Autumn.

We recently had a very constructive onsite meeting with representatives from Winchester City Council and Nature Conservancy on Whiteshute Ridge. All parties seem in favour of our ideas for this nature reserve. Although it will probably not be until 2016 that the cattle are installed, the idea is now taking shape.

We have acquired quotes for the New Equipment at Davies Playground. The swings are, at the moment, safe. Please treat them with care. They are only meant for children, not adults use. Any extra weight will only lessen their life.

Please have a happy Christmas and New Year, from all of us at your Parish Council.



## YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



There are two active Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Badger Farm who receive my regular bulletins. Crime incidents were reported in **May Tree Close, Lowden Close, St Anne's Close, Broad Chalke Down and Elder Close** during 2014. Neighbourhood

Coordinators also receive crime prevention advice, alerts, news from our police team, the Police and Crime Commissioner, notification of police/residents' PACT Meetings, recent scams and much more.

With the winter months come darker evenings so please review your home security like leaving lights on when you are out, keeping all doors and your car locked. At Christmas, we have a special fun menu for reminding everyone about tips to avoid being the victim of crime, such as not leaving presents on view indoors or in your car. Let me know if you'd like a copy.

If you would like to know more about what is involved in being part of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please do contact me and I would be happy to come and have an informal chat with individuals or groups of residents. Lots more information can also be found on our website listed below. I wish you a safe, happy and crime free winter.

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](http://www.wehnw.org.uk)



## WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Have you put your garden to bed yet or are you running a little late? There is still time to tidy the flower and vegetable beds and to plant a few more bulbs and shrubs. When all this is done you will deserve a sit-down and a chance to look through seed catalogues and to make plans for any changes you may wish to make in your garden next year. You may also like to take some time off and come to one of our monthly meetings to be inspired and entertained. Our programme for the next three months offers the following:

**December (Wed 10th)** ~ A relaxed Christmas meeting with a home-grown programme of festive readings, seasonal refreshments and plenty of chat among members about the ups and downs of the past gardening year.

**January (Wed 14th)** ~ Well-known local horticulturist Ray Broughton will give a talk about "Plants of Distinction". These will include new plants as well as some old favourites.

**February (Wed 11th)** ~ Come and join us for a virtual tour of "The Gardens of Russia" under the expert guidance of John Baker.

Our meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester and start at 7.30pm. Visitors are free. For more information visit [www.winhortsoc@weebly.com](http://www.winhortsoc@weebly.com).



*We look forward to welcoming you!*





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## Brendoncare Badger Farm Club

We are a friendly club that meet at the Badger Farm Community Centre on alternate Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm. We enjoy a varied activity programme with some great entertainment and always look forward to spending time together and having a chat over a cup of tea - here's a preview of what's coming up for the rest of this year.

**Nov 27th Christmas Lunch with the Weeke Gaiety Club. Details to follow.**

**Dec 11th Christmas card-making activity with Carolyn from "Stamp Up"**

The cost is £4 per visit which includes refreshments and low cost transport can also be arranged.

If you would like to know more about joining as a member or volunteer please call:

**Brendoncare Club Hampshire on 01962 857099 or visit [www.brendoncare.org.uk](http://www.brendoncare.org.uk)**



## OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

One of the jobs of any parish council is to represent the interests of the whole community. Understanding the needs of different groups in the community is an important part of our role as councillors.

We have a responsibility to be well informed, especially about diverse local views. One of the ways in which this can be achieved is through the creation of a Parish Plan.

### A Parish Plan for Oliver's Battery

In summary, a Parish Plan:

- Consults our community in a thorough and systematic manner. (Through a combination of focus groups, in-depth interviews, workshops at public meetings, neighbourhood and specialist group questionnaires.) It gives everyone an opportunity to have their say.
- Provides detailed and unbiased information on issues of importance to our local community, giving statutory authorities, like the Parish and City Councils, information about the needs and views of a community. It provides useful evidence when applying for funding for projects.
- Helps individuals and organisations be prepared for questions or issues which arrive about changes or threats to local services and activities.
- Helps people to become more involved in what goes on around them, providing a vision of the community in the future and a defined plan of action to show how this will be achieved.

Oliver's Battery Parish Plan will involve a whole range of activities such as large public meetings and small group discussions. Focus groups and in-depth individual interviews will survey attitudes and opinions across all the groups of people that make up our community. Public workshops will enable people to share opinions and ideas about what they like about living in Oliver's Battery, what they don't like, and things that can be improved. There may

be researchers at the shops, or knocking door to door. We will be consulting younger people, from both primary and secondary schools. A Parish Questionnaire will provide the hard statistical data that can be analysed and interpreted, and the findings fed back to the community and an action plan agreed.

Our Parish Plan will take a while to complete. Around eighteen months is generally thought to be the average. Activity will start in the New Year. We will be asking local residents to take part in *Focus Group discussions*. These groups will provide us with the first evidence of community opinions about living in Oliver's Battery, what needs to be changed or developed and what needs to be maintained or protected. In Spring and Summer, we will be following this up with *public meetings and discussion groups*. We hope that these events will allow people to get together, meet other residents and put forward ideas in a social and informal atmosphere. By the Autumn, we will be ready to deliver the *Parish Questionnaire* to every household. By Christmas, we will have analysed the results, and have an outline *Action Plan* for the future. By Spring 2016, the detailed *Parish Plan* will be published, giving us a clear plan of development for our community for the coming years.

Our Parish Plan will need people to undertake a wide range of roles such as interviewing, leading workshops, designing, distributing and collecting questionnaires, publicity, etc. You can get involved. People with a whole variety of skills will be needed, so join in, meet some neighbours and have some fun. Find out what makes your community tick and have your say.

The parish council has appointed Connie Leach to lead the development of the Parish Plan and she can be contacted by email at [cldr.leach@oliversbattery.info](mailto:cldr.leach@oliversbattery.info) or on 01962 865883 for further information and to register your interest in being involved.

Brian Mitchener ~ Chair, Oliver's Battery Parish Council ~ [cldr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info](mailto:cldr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info) - 01962 623585.



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](mailto: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](mailto:lizabethweir@gmail.com)

## AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

As always, it has been a busy few months in Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm, with lots going on all around the area.

### Badger Farm Road

We were shocked to hear of the recent crash on the exit from Oliver's Battery Road South onto Badger Farm Road and of course wish those involved a full and speedy recovery. This junction has been looked at in the past, with traffic lights or a roundabout ruled out as workable options. However, in light of this crash, County Councillor Phil Bailey and ourselves have been in contact with the County Council and will again look at all possible ways in which we can work to reduce the chance of such an accident happening again.

### The Hospital

We continue to be concerned about the future of the Hospital; Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is proposing to build a new Acute Care and Trauma Centre, possibly in the area north of Winchester. We would like to thank many of you for your support with our petition against the plans as we came round and knocked on many of your doors this summer.

The Clinical Commissioning Group, which purchases healthcare on behalf of the local population has again delayed its consultation on these proposals. However, this is due to begin sometime this autumn. To recap, the plans are to change A&E to a minor injuries unit and remove obstetric services from RHCH. There would still be a midwifery department for low-risk births.

It is important to us all that we retain a good local hospital with the best possible range of services that can be safely and efficiently provided. We hope as many of you as possible will make your views known during the consultation. If you would like to know more or be included on the email list for regular updates please let us know.

### Buses

The local bus services are again under threat. Oliver's Battery No. 2 service will be cut to only three days a week. Although the time table has not yet been agreed it would appear there will be a bus service at 10.20 and 11.55 from Oliver's Battery and returning from the city at 11.20, 12.50 and 14.00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The No. 5 bus will run as normal as there is no public subsidy but will finish at 19.00 instead of 21.00. This will be common for every service in Hampshire.

The seniors' concessionary bus pass will be changed to start after 09.30. We are now seemingly fighting to keep services going, so please contact us if you would like to help our campaign to keep this vital life line going.

### Whiteshute Ridge

We continue to work with Badger Farm Parish Council and the City Council to look at ways to improve the range of wildlife and increase the variety of plant species on Whiteshute Ridge. This area is a major asset to Badger Farm, and whilst it is already widely used, the Parish Council would like to encourage even more people and the local primary schools to take advantage of what it offers.

### Leaf Sweeping & Estate Management

This year's exceptional grass and foliage growth has shown up the inadequacies of the company who have the maintenance contract with the Council. After several meetings with the officers and contractors, things did get better towards the end of the summer. We will have to wait and see if this continues into next year. We have also managed to secure a commitment that during the winter we will get paths in the area swept more often.

We continue to monitor the proposed 'Pitt Vale' scheme and will work with the City Council Planning Department to resist the proposal vigorously as it is outside the development boundary of the city and would cause traffic congestion, problems with existing infrastructure and ecological damage.

If you would like to talk to us about anything, please feel free to contact us:

City Cllr Brian Laming - 07973 265 028  
blaming@winchester.gov.uk

City Cllr Patrick Fancett - 07757 508 608  
pfancett@winchester.gov.uk



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“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.

Sainsbury's Active Kids



## SCHOOLS IN HAMPSHIRE RECEIVE THEIR NEW ACTIVE KIDS EQUIPMENT

Sainsbury's Badger Farm and Winchester customers have helped to donate £5,424,702 worth of Active Kids equipment and experiences across Hampshire since the scheme launched in 2005. Active Kids ambassador Ellie Simmonds congratulates schools, groups and clubs in Winchester. Local schools and groups including **Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup** are celebrating after receiving this year's Active Kids equipment. In total 85 schools, groups and clubs local to Sainsbury's Badger Farm and Winchester are registered to the scheme.

Mel Andrews, PR Ambassador from Sainsbury's 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 and 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 be the top collecting organisation in our area. 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 0777 179 8474."



Mel Andrews, with the staff and children at Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup

## WHITESHUTE BRIDGE CLUB ~ DUPLICATE BRIDGE



Are you interested in playing duplicate Bridge? We are a friendly, long established club who play at Badger Farm Community Centre at 7pm on Monday evenings. We are keen to invite new pairs who would like to join a club that welcomes members who are looking to step up to club level and play in a social atmosphere. If you have a bridge partner and you are both interested in joining, we would be pleased to welcome you. For any further information, please contact Robin Eynon on 01962 853732 or Graham Rolfe on 01962 861506

Don't forget to use our new email address on all communications!

[enquiries@bfobrca.org](mailto:enquiries@bfobrca.org)

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## AN UPDATE FROM STEVE BRINE, MP FOR WINCHESTER

**Local NHS** - No column from me would be complete right now without mention of our hospital and proposals which could bring major service change to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester.

September saw my second open meeting on the subject when we heard from senior clinicians (this time the focus was on maternity services) and I will go on giving my constituents the information they need to feel fully informed about what's being discussed. That must be done in a responsible way and I can promise you that from me at least, if not everyone else. More via [www.stevebrine.com/asktheseries](http://www.stevebrine.com/asktheseries)



Steve speaking at a recent ASKtheNHS meeting

**Devolution for Scotland, and England** - My recent column for one of our local newspapers focused on the subject of devolution following Scotland's decisive NO vote over independence at the end of September. You can read it in full via my website but the point I was making was in-part the unfairness of the West Lothian Question, whereby Scottish MPs still vote in Westminster on matters long since devolved to Holyrood. It's a subject I have received piles of correspondence about in recent weeks as you can imagine, including from constituents in Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm.

For me, this was unfinished business from Tony Blair's botched devolution settlement in 1997 and it bred a resentment in England which my constituents have every right to feel. I raised it in the Commons with the Deputy Prime Minister back in the Summer and continue to discuss the issue with William Hague in his role of Leader of the House of Commons. As I said to William, for me reform of the unfair Barnett Formula must form part of this new settlement too because, while I am pleased the UK remains together, I want these anomalies addressed and do not want us to throw goody bags worth billions of pounds north of the border to reward the Scots for having the good sense to stay within our 300 year-old union with nothing in return.

Taking part in last month's landmark debate in the Commons, I believe there is a cross-party consensus among MPs to get this done and to re-balance our fragile constitution but this must be done through the elected House of Commons because constitutional reform is not a matter for Prime Ministers (or even ex-Prime Ministers) to handle via the Royal Prerogative. We need to learn the lessons of 1997 and do this properly which, for me, does mean a cool-headed constitutional convention in this country which seeks to heal our United Kingdom after what's been a bruising referendum north of the border this year. As always, I would love to hear your views on the subject.

**Parliament** - we are now in the midst of our longest session of the year - after conference, before Christmas - and we've much to ponder including; the recall of MPs Bill, the ongoing 'war' with ISIL in Syria and Iraq plus huge amounts of preparation for the Chancellor's Autumn Statement (strangely given in December) which will set many spending plans for the next five years. I am also busy with my new role as a PPS in the Home Office and Ministry of Justice where there is literally never a dull day! More via [www.stevebrine.com/westminster](http://www.stevebrine.com/westminster)

**Pitt Vale** - meeting constituents in Oliver's Battery recently I know how much concern there is locally about a proposed Linden Homes development at Pitt Vale. Happily, my constituents appear to watch BBC South Today so were aware how angry I am about this cheeky, speculative punt. To be blunt, enough is enough; we are not anti-development in Winchester, in fact we are certainly doing our bit to address the housing shortage in this country, but this is just too much for Winchester. More at [www.stevebrine.com/pittvale](http://www.stevebrine.com/pittvale)

**Finally, my survey** - I am currently conducting the largest ever survey among constituents as part of my role as the local Member of Parliament and you should have had one - individually addressed - through your door by now. If we missed you or someone in your household, please go to [www.stevebrine.com/surveys](http://www.stevebrine.com/surveys) where it can also be completed online.

You can find more information about my work as your local MP, in Winchester and Westminster, via [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com) or on 01962 791110. In the meantime, I hope you have a peaceful Christmas with the people you love the most and a 2015 to prosper.

Steve Brine MP for Winchester ~ [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)



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[www.jojingles.com/winchester](http://www.jojingles.com/winchester)



## BUGS, SLUGS AND SPARKLE

The new term is now in full swing and got off to a great start thanks to the lovely weather in September. The children were able to spend lots of time outside, foraging in the pre-school's beautiful surroundings for leaves and sticks to make some wonderful works of art.

The theme of Harvest was explored with the children learning about the process of growing and gathering crops. This led to a great display in the pre-school with the children's pictures of apples, leaves and sweetcorn: all in fantastic autumnal colours. Following on from this was an adventure into the world of mini-beasts as the children created their own versions of ants, ladybirds, slugs and snails to adorn our kitchen cupboards!

Preparations for all the Christmas activities will soon be under way. The children love trying on all the different costumes for the Nativity characters and learning the songs ready for the big performance to family and friends at the beginning of December. There will be much excitement at the pre-school Christmas party on the last day of term when a certain someone in a red suit makes a guest appearance. Throughout all of this the children (and no doubt the staff) will be up to their ears in glitter as they enjoy all sorts of Christmas craft activities.

### About our pre-school

- Rated overall as 'good' by Ofsted, Oliver's Battery Pre-school achieved 'outstanding' for how well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.
- Conveniently located in the spacious grounds of Oliver's Battery Primary School, we provide a safe, engaging and friendly environment for children aged two years to school age.
- We accept all children, regardless of which school they will be going to
- All children are funded from the term after their 3rd birthday.
- If eligible, we accept funding for two-year olds.

**Opening times: 9am-3.15pm Mon-Weds ~ 9am-12.30pm Thurs-Fri**

For more information or to pop in and take a look around, please contact Jackie Johnston, Pre-school Leader on mobile 07941 796 958 or email [oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com)



## WINCHESTER DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HIGH STREET IS NOW LAUNCHED!

Winchester is the first city in Hampshire to launch a Dementia Friendly High Street. On 23rd October 2014, at King Charles' Hall, Winchester Guildhall, many local citizens, official guests and representatives from local businesses and organizations gathered together to celebrate the occasion. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic performance from 'Singing for Wellbeing' (see picture) – a local singing group operating under 'Winchester Live at Home scheme' at The United Church.



As part of Hampshire County Council's Dementia Friendly Hampshire initiative delivered by Andover Mind, one of the county's leading mental health and wellbeing charities, the business community is being called upon to get involved and encouraged to sign up to the Hampshire Dementia Action Alliance (HDAA) which is made up of organisations committed to making a positive difference to the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers. Members of the HDAA publish their own Action plans which include Dementia Awareness for staff. At the launch the Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Eileen Berry (pictured below) presented HDAA members with 'Working to become Dementia Friendly' stickers – look out for them!

Winchester has over 50 businesses and organisations who have signed up to the scheme, amongst them WCC, Winchester BID, Rotary, Boots Opticians & Pharmacy, C&H Fabrics, YMCA Café, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, TSB Bank... Everyone can join the initiative and make a positive difference – Dementia is everyone's business!

For more information, please contact 07827 318032, e-mail [vessi.wharton@andovermind.org.uk](mailto:vessi.wharton@andovermind.org.uk) or visit [www.hants.gov.uk/dementiafriendly](http://www.hants.gov.uk/dementiafriendly)



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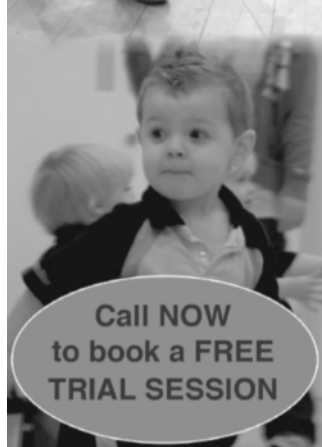
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Sparsholt College - Sat am

See website for class times / venues details

t: 0845 313 3258

e: [phil@rugbytots.co.uk](mailto:phil@rugbytots.co.uk)

[rugbytots.co.uk](http://rugbytots.co.uk)

# Stanmore Primary School

Be the best that you can be

It's been a busy term so far – here are just a few of the highlights....

**Tom Gates is in the hall...!** Actually there were quite a few Tom Gates wandering around the school when children dressed up as their favourite character to launch our annual Book Week. There were also plenty of Harry Potters, some Cinderellas, a white rabbit and even a Teenage Mutant Turtle! It was an action packed week with a book fair and visits from award winning author Ali Sparkes and poet James Carter. James ran poetry workshops with Years 3, 4 and 6 who then presented their poems to invited parents at the end of the day. Ali chatted to Year 1/2 and Year 5/6 and will be visiting us again later this year as she is going to be our Patron of Reading. She'll be popping in from time to time to check we are enjoying reading, holding writing workshops, writing a story with us and maybe giving us a sneaky peek at an unpublished book or two....!

**We built this city.....** from loads and loads of Lego bricks! The entire school put their engineering and constructive skills to the test when they all helped build a huge Lego city in the school hall. Complete with houses, office buildings, railway stations, an airport, parks, and working windmills, it was an impressive sight and very satisfying for everyone to be able to say 'I made that'..

**Why is there a gorilla in that classroom?!** Don't worry, he hadn't escaped from Marwell Zoo but he was very keen for children in Year 3/4 to visit him there and to find out lots more about Rainforest animals and their habitats. Following their trip, the children decided to hold a Rainforest Fair to raise money to sponsor an animal. Working together, they devised a variety of stalls selling everything from jokes to decorated biscuits and raised a grand total of £172 which will be used to sponsor a Cotton Tailed Tamarind, an Okapi and a Red Panda. Well done Year 3/4!

**Come to my dragon party.....** Large black footprints and a strange smoky smell announced the presence of a dragon in the Year 2 classrooms! Fortunately he turned out to be very friendly and wanted the children to find out all they could about dragons so he could come back to school for a dragon themed party. After making dragon masks, writing dragon poetry, devising dragon games, the children held a roarily good party in the school hall where everyone had a monstrously good time!

**Out of this world....** Children from Year 5 enjoyed an amazing day out at Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium. Handling moon rocks, discussing how satellites are made with satellite engineers, watching the time delay on a satellite feed really made their Space topic come to life and gave them a real sense of the vastness of space.

**Coming soon....** Our Christmas Fair will be on **Friday 5th December 2014, 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](http://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.



## BLOOD DONORS NEEDED THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS

Although overall blood use within the NHS has reduced thanks to improvements in clinical and surgical practices, hospitals and patients still rely on more than 7,000 people attending a donation session every day across England and North Wales. It is important that vital blood stocks are maintained at all times, as red blood cells have a shelf life of just 35 days and platelets a shelf life of only seven days. NHS Blood and Transplant needs to collect blood of each blood group in the right quantities to meet patient needs and regular donors are crucial in enabling us to do so.

Amanda Whatley, Donor Relations Co-ordinator in Hampshire said: "As the weather gets colder there is an increase in people who can't donate due to colds and flu so we really do need every one who can donate to make the effort to do so. By spending your hour with us you are helping to ensure that patients are able to get the blood they need. So if you are thinking about donating for the first time or you are an existing donor who hasn't been for a while then please book an appointment to give blood."

Blood is required to treat patients for a whole range of reasons. It is used in accidents and emergency situations, during surgery and in maternity and neonatal care when either mum or baby need blood. It is also used as a treatment for cancer and for blood disorders, such as sickle cell anaemia.

You can register as a donor, find out whether we've got a session coming up in your area and book an appointment to donate whenever and wherever you are through [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) or by using our app on your Android, Windows or Apple device. To download an app for your device, search 'NHSGiveBlood' in the app store.

The next sessions in Winchester take place on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 17th December and Monday 12th January, all at 1.30 - 3.25 and 4.30 - 7pm at the Winchester Hotel and Spa in Worthy Lane SO23 7AB. There is also a session at

**Badger Farm Community Centre on  
23rd December from 10 am – 2 pm.**

Call 0300 1232323 for more details.

## ANN'S COMPUTER CORNER



As the Christmas Countdown at [days.to/until/christmas](http://days.to/until/christmas) ticks down I've been making my own online advent calendar ([goo.gl/eVJ9bL](http://goo.gl/eVJ9bL)) and thinking about ways that the internet can get you in the spirit of the season.

**Chestnuts roasting on an open fire.** The Christmas feast is a central part of the celebration and sites like the BBC's Christmas recipes ([goo.gl/KpQ5sq](http://goo.gl/KpQ5sq)) are sure to bring you inspiration. Christmas with Delia Online ([goo.gl/gHK4iR](http://goo.gl/gHK4iR)) looks set yet again to be the quintessential guide to Christmas food. If, however, you fancy something different this year how about trying some medieval *Tourteletes in fryture* (fig pies with honey, [goo.gl/MWQqC5](http://goo.gl/MWQqC5)) decorated with *Snow* ([goo.gl/VMtBZP](http://goo.gl/VMtBZP)), adding some of Provence's *13 Desserts of Christmas* ([goo.gl/31eiiA](http://goo.gl/31eiiA)) to your table or toasting your loved ones with a traditional *Wassail* ([goo.gl/NyA09m](http://goo.gl/NyA09m)). One thing I definitely won't be serving is Greenland's *Mattak* ([goo.gl/YKYIEZ](http://goo.gl/YKYIEZ))! I'll stick with the turkey ... and won't forget to use British Turkey's calculator ([goo.gl/XB41WJ](http://goo.gl/XB41WJ)) to make sure that it's thoroughly defrosted and cooked.

**Jack Frost nipping at your nose.** Get out and enjoy the special atmosphere at Winchester's own Christmas market ([goo.gl/wIQro7](http://goo.gl/wIQro7))—don't forget to book your tickets for the ice-rink ([goo.gl/Z3VZOE](http://goo.gl/Z3VZOE)). Give your children a taste of an old-fashioned Christmas at the traditional Father Christmas Grotto in the old station at Milestones Museum ([goo.gl/mVVRqU](http://goo.gl/mVVRqU)). If you want to go further afield, find inspiration for Christmas trips on visitEngland ([goo.gl/JfZPcN](http://goo.gl/JfZPcN)) or the Rough Guides ([goo.gl/EVGsi9](http://goo.gl/EVGsi9)).

**Yuletide carols being sung by a choir.** Nothing evokes the season's spirit more quickly than the sound of Christmas music. For music of *every* description YouTube is the place to go, from the plethora of Christmas playlists ([goo.gl/sbq3be](http://goo.gl/sbq3be)) to the ethereal voices of our own Cathedral choir singing Silent Night ([goo.gl/kVcyW6](http://goo.gl/kVcyW6)). On Christmas Eve, I'm going to light the fire, turn on the Christmas lights and listen to [radiosantaclaus.com](http://radiosantaclaus.com)!

**Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow.** I love to share the magic of Christmas with the children—telling the Nativity story ([goo.gl/XuuZBy](http://goo.gl/XuuZBy)), learning surprising facts about Christmas ([goo.gl/jNLYHd](http://goo.gl/jNLYHd)) or just playing games ([goo.gl/miva0L](http://goo.gl/miva0L)) together. And it's such a treat to see their faces as they receive a personalised letter from Father Christmas ([christmas.nspcc.org.uk/santa](http://christmas.nspcc.org.uk/santa)) or, as the big day gets closer, they watch Santa's Christmas Eve progress on the Official NORAD Santa Tracker ([noradsanta.org](http://noradsanta.org)).

### Merry Christmas to you!

Ann Jury

PS While I have shortened most of the links they still aren't the easiest to use, so you can also find a copy of this article with clickable links as a post on the Community Centre website ([www.bfobrca.org](http://www.bfobrca.org)).

Ann is the founder of Winchester Computer Tutor ([winchestercomputertutor.co.uk](http://winchestercomputertutor.co.uk)), which offers good-value, friendly 1-to-1 tuition for less-confident computer users.



### A FREE COURSE (OF 4 SESSIONS) HELPING YOU TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY BETTER

Managing your money and budgeting are always important and will help you cope with changing life circumstances. On the CAP Money Course you will learn how to gain control over your finances so you can save, give and prevent debt. Whether you are financially well-off or not, self-employed, on benefits or in debt no matter what your financial situation is, the CAP Money Course will benefit you.

**Course starts on Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 7.30 pm** and continues on 11th, 18th and 25th March at Badger Farm Community Centre.

**Booking is essential. Book online at [www.capmoneycourse.org](http://www.capmoneycourse.org) To find out more (or book) you can telephone 01962 868770 or email: [cap@winbap.org.uk](mailto:cap@winbap.org.uk)**

CAP is a national charity (reg no. 1097217) passionate about lifting people out of debt and poverty.



Sundays

10-12

### KAIROS GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Encountering destinies, Transforming lives

2 Corinthians 6: 2 -

“Now is the time of God's Favour”

**Bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ  
to young and old and assisting them**

**to grow in the faith**

Meeting Venue:

Badger Farm Community Centre

Badger Farm Road

Winchester, SO22 4QB

Pastor Joseph Phiri & Pastor Nancy Phiri

Phone: M: +447473819673 / M: +447859823300



## NATURE NOTES FROM OLIVER'S BATTERY



In a recent BBC Eggheads quiz, contestants were asked which of these birds, the magpie, wren or chaffinch was the most common. Magpies are everywhere, but they chose chaffinch. In fact it is the wren. It's not surprising because this least visible bird is brown, small and shy vanishing into bushes at the sight of human beings. Its presence is often only detected by a tremendous burst of song.

An email from a reader prompts me to expand on the three main hunting techniques of the buzzard. We mostly observe it soaring over open ground, sometimes hanging in the wind before dropping onto its prey, not always with success. They have amazing sight due to the large number of rods and cones in their eyes meaning they are able to see prey moving on the ground 50 metres or more below. You may see one perching on a post or tree, then spotting prey, flying straight to it or sneaking up on it by taking cover in stages for a surprise attack. They also walk on the ground looking for invertebrates. The kestrel, sometimes seen here although worryingly diminishing in numbers, has the additional advantage of being able to track rodents on the ground by seeing their urine trails which glow in UV light.

Another reader sent a photograph of a toadstool under a tree in Badger Farm. Surprised to see such a large one, the span of a small hand, in a residential area she wondered if I could identify it. Unsuccessfully looking online for a flattish grey spotted specimen with a tinge of blue I contacted Hampshire Fungi Research Group who suggested it was an Amanita Spissa gone over with blue mould. I had never heard of this before but I understand it is in the agaric family.

At the end of September a bright yellow hairy caterpillar with a tuft of red tail hair was rapidly heading up my drive towards the flower border. Easily identifiable this larva of the pale tussock moth was probably looking for somewhere to pupate. The moth itself is quite unlike the larva being generally grey with darker wavy transverse lines. If you keep your eyes peeled you might find a pupa\* in your garden. I spotted one in between the slats of our shed nearly brushing it off thinking it was a dead leaf. It's probably the Large White (Cabbage) Butterfly but it's safe in our garden as we don't have cabbages to protect!

Returning to the chaffinch, while holidaying in Dorset I saw one whose legs and feet looked like old lichen covered twigs and have since learned there is a disease known as chaffinch viral papilloma. Let me know if you observe this and I will feedback to Garden Wildlife Health.

*\*The pupa of a butterfly is called a chrysalis and that of a moth, a cocoon.*

You can see images of the wildlife I have mentioned online by using a search engine.

Norma Goodwin

**Ed's. Note:** Many thanks to Norma for contributing these delightful and informative articles to Community News throughout the year.

**Oliver's Battery Countryside Group** frequently displays seasonal poetry in the wildlife area. We are seeking to display poems written by residents of Badger Farm as well as Oliver's Battery. If you could write a poem about wildlife, the countryside, weather, the seasons, sounds, sights and smells of the countryside or what living in your parish means to you, please send me an email with the poem attached or a printed page through my letter box. Please include your name and contact details. Norma Goodwin, 3A Momford Road, Oliver's Battery. Email [norma.goodwin@btinternet.com](mailto:norma.goodwin@btinternet.com) Here's one I have written for starters:

Late August,  
an early evening.  
The swifts have gone.  
Through my open window  
I hear her sweeping paths  
Then a robin's bitter song  
As summer passes into autumn



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Below are details of some of the events coming up at Badger Farm Community Centre. For more information, please contact the organiser direct. If you would like to include an event you are holding in this section, remember it does not have to be at the Community Centre, contact the Editor, Jan Dawkins on 01962 868630, email [enquiries@bfobrca.org](mailto:enquiries@bfobrca.org) or visit our website [www.bfobrca.org](http://www.bfobrca.org)

Tuesday 23rd December - National Blood Service - Contact 0300 123 23 23

Sunday 11th January 2015 - Stamp & Postcard Fair - Contact 01795-478175

Saturday 7th February 2015 - Auction - Contact 01962-734941

### BADGER FARM & OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Badger Farm Parish Council** meet on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) in the Bushfield Room at Badger Farm Community Centre at 7.30pm. Contact the Clerk Viv Brooks on [viv@bcl-construction.co.uk](mailto:viv@bcl-construction.co.uk) for information.

**Oliver's Battery Parish Council** meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at St Mark's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery Road South at 7.30pm. Contact the Clerk Elizabeth Billingham on [clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com](mailto:clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com) for information.



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