



Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Community News

**Your Local Community Newsletter
Winter 2017 Edition**

Protect your homes this Christmas, and keep up to date with all
the local news



**Cattle come to Whitshute Ridge: Find out more
on page 19**

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BFOBRCA , Badger Farm Community
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Tel. 01962 868630

Email: enquiries@bfobrca.org

Registered Charity No. 279592

www.bfobrca.org

Editorial deadline for **Spring 2018** issue:

Friday 2nd February

Editor: berenice756@gmail.com



With

the nights drawing in it's actually pretty special to see such a cheerful cover this time around.

The cattle being introduced to Whiteshute ridge are sure to bring smiles to every face, even when the weather is so miserable!

The festive season will soon kick off, and this issue is full of options on things to do over the Christmas Period. As always a massive thanks to those who have submitted articles. If you have anything you'd like to put in the next issue, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We want the news to really reflect the community it represents, and we can't do that without your help.

However, no need to worry about that now, it will be another 3 month before the next issue is due. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a brilliant new year.



Administrative Assistant Required

The parish of St Luke's and St Mark's Winchester is looking for a Ministry Administrative Assistant for 8 hours per week. The job includes assisting the Vicar with his correspondence and office work, putting together and maintaining a parish database, helping to co-ordinate parish activities and preparing publicity for events. The successful candidate will need good office skills, proficient computer skills and a working knowledge of social media. Salary £10.50 to £13 per hour depending on experience. For a job description please contact Diana Wills on drosiewills@gmail.com Applications to St Luke's Church, Mildmay St., Winchester, SO22 4BX by 24th November 2017.

SOME OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm - 4.00pm	Sarah Zimmer snippycards@hotmail.co.uk	£7.00 per person	A friendly "drop in" art group providing a "space to paint" in a relaxed setting. All abilities welcome.
Badger Farm ACOL Club	Friday	7.15pm - 10.30pm	Roland Richardson 023 8025 1277	£1 visitors £15 annual	Bridge Club
Badger Farm Bridge Club	Tuesday	7.15pm - 10.30pm	Fred Hotchen 01794 301185 07771 854 347 fred.hotchen@btinternet.com		Friendly and relaxed local bridge club. New members and visitors very welcome
Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup	Monday to Friday	Mon.Tues/Wed 9.15am - 3.00pm Thurs/Fri 9.15am - 12.15pm	Denise Tosdevine 07771 798 474	3/4yrs £4.50ph 2yrs £4.70ph	For children from 3 years to school age. Great OFSTED results. Afternoons also available - enquiries to Denise.
Badminton	Thursday	8.00pm - 9.00pm	Wendy King 01962 861525		Fun and friendly for any age and ability. All welcome!
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10.00am - 11.00am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service. All welcome.
FITSTEPS	Wednesday	2.00pm - 2.45pm	Sergiy Bondarenko info@bdance.co.uk	£5 per session	A new dance-fitness programme combining simple steps from the most popular Ballroom & Latin dances.
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	2nd Wed. of the month	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Loralne 01962 861182	£4.00 per meeting	Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Contact Loralne for details.
Legs, Bums & Tums	Monday Tuesday	9.30am - 10.30am 6.45pm - 7.45pm	Catherine Jones 07990 513 434	£5.00 per class	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned! Discounts available for multiple classes.
Healing Trust	2nd Saturday of every month.	10.00am - 12.30pm	Doreen Rivett 01980 862285 Doreenrivett@talktalk.net	Donation	Come to our group either for healing or to find out more about healing, our group and training courses.
Parents & Tots	Thursday	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Catherine Thomas 07990 037 467	£2 per family per session	All parents, guardians and child minders with children aged newborn to 5 years are welcome. Just turn up on the day!
Royal British Legion	3rd Thursday monthly	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Stanley Judd 01962 841402		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
RugbyTots	Friday	1.00pm - 1.30pm 1.35pm - 2.05pm 2.10pm - 2.55pm	Contact Phil Rowles phil@rugbytots.co.uk 007985 788 069	Enquire direct	A fun, active and confidence building class for boys and girls aged 2-7 years. Free trials available. www.rugbytots.co.uk
Senshi Ryu Karate	Thursday	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Phil Aucott senshiryuukarate@gmail.com	Enquire direct	Become fitter, more flexible, stronger, more disciplined., focused and confident.
Slimming World	Saturday	9.30am - 11.00am	Steve Coombs 07788 683 077		A warm welcome awaits you in your local group! New members always welcome.
Southern England Karate Federation	Tuesday	4.30pm - 5.30pm Children & Adults	Collin Rudkin 07966 303 585 Collinrudkin@btinternet.com	Enquire direct	Friendly and professional Karate club with high standards set at International level. Affiliated to the English Karate Federation and World Karate Federation.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.30am - 10.30am 6.30pm - 7.45pm	07455 968 884	Weekly meeting fee of £6.25	Your lifestyle, your choice. With Weight Watchers you choose the weight loss approach that works best for you.
Wessex Wargames Club	Tuesday	7.00pm - 11.00pm	Ian Ackerman 01962 624710	£3 per session (first session is free)	Miniature wargames and role-playing games of all periods and genres played.
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Lucy Scott info@winchestertkd.co.uk	Membership by subscription	6.30pm-7.45pm beginners/intermediates 7pm-8.30pm seniors (black belts to 9pm)
Yoga	Monday Friday	9.30am - 11.00am 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.
Gentle Therapeutic Yoga Reduce pain, discomfort and tension	Tuesday	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Christine Giles https://ahed.psc.ac.uk 01962 889547	Enrol on line or telephone	Become fitter, calmer and more relaxed; improve mobility, strength, stamina, physical and mental health using yoga postures and correct breathing.

District Councillor Brian Laming

New Service at Badger Farm surgery - Primary Care Hub

A new service is now operating from the Friarsgate Badger Farm Surgery premises.

A **Primary Care Hub** allows patients in Winchester, and surrounding villages to see a GP, nurse, or healthcare assistant from 5-8pm on weekdays, 8am - 4pm on Saturdays and 8am -12noon on Sundays.

Specialist treatment such as physiotherapy and mental health services will be added to the service in the near future.

Patients can book a routine appointment by ringing their own GP surgery, while urgent appointments at the hub can be booked by calling NHS 111 when their GP surgery is closed.

This new service will be available to the Practice and also to the "111" service and appointments will be offered to all patients. It is necessary to phone the Practice to make an appointment with the Hub. The service is not intended to provide emergency appointments and bookings must be made in advance.

Staff at the hub will have full access to the patient's records as long as the patient has given their consent when they book their appointment.

Junction Badger Farm Road and Oliver's Battery has been raised again by a large number of residents. Your local councillors, together with the Parish Council, have had meetings with the County Council to see if any improvements can be made. These improvements would be minor due to lack of funding at HCC level and the lack of government grants. However, agreement has been reached to remove the traffic island at OB entrance and re-mark the junction, in order to facilitate vehicle exit onto Badger Farm Road.

Sainsbury's junction: a replacement **school crossing person** has been advertised but we know that this service is also likely to be affected by impending cuts by County Council.

Local bus service: Bus services in Oliver's Battery may also be affected by proposed **Hampshire County Councils cuts**. We earlier managed to save a very minimal service but this too is now under threat along with the **dial a ride service**. We will continue to fight against these cuts - Oliver's Battery needs a good reliable service that meets the needs of residents.

Go onto HCC website to respond to consultation on cuts (which not whether!)

Texas Drive planning application will probably come to Planning Committee on 14th December. As I am aware of the great deal of interest this application has aroused, I am sure that many will want to attend this public meeting.

Empty house Harrow Down has caused problems for the area over the last few years. This unsatisfactory situation will hopefully be settled shortly. The City Council has made an inspection of the property and applied for an EDMO order (Empty Dwelling Management Order). The petition that I asked the neighbours to sign some time ago has greatly helped with the application. I will keep you updated as soon as the EDMO has been granted.

White Shute Ridge: It is hoped to put 6 cows onto the ridge by Hampshire Countryside Service just before Christmas and a 'Meet the Cattle' day will be organised once they have settled in. All will be welcome.

Brian Laming -brian.laming@btinternet.com and telephone number 01962 862487



THE COMMUNITY BOOKCASE



When Hampshire Library Service terminated the mobile library service, this left Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm with nowhere nearby to borrow books from.

The Community Bookcase has been set up at St. Marks, Oliver's Battery and has been open now for a short while.

Unlike a formal library there is no need for membership, tickets, or having to check books in or out. Instead it is run on trust, with borrowers being asked to return the books, so that other readers can enjoy them. This means that all users of St Marks can borrow books at the same time as making a visit for other reasons.

When you are returning a book though, please could we ask you to fill in the small form at the front of the book, especially the date it is being returned.

The main opening time is on a Thursday morning between 10:30 and 11:15. This means you have a drink at the Coffee Pop Inn, and enjoy meeting other people in the community as well as choosing your books to borrow.

On most Thursdays, Helen or Kate will be there if you need help to find a book that will suit your taste.

PLEASE BORROW, READ, AND RETURN

Get your Christmas Cards and help

Charities too!

You can now find the annual Christmas card shop in the Guildhall. Raising money for local and national charities, it will run until the 16th December. Last year alone the shop raised over £60,000 so pop on down and get a Christmas job done early!

TOP DOG TRAINING

Contact Marina or Eddie for further details
 07824514849 / 07393991752
www.top-dogtraining.co.uk

Friendly, family run dog training business providing

obedience classes in Somers Close, Stanmore.

We offer set courses of 8 weeks for puppy and basic training.

Classes running Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings.

£80 for each course

Winchester Local Group Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust

If you would like to know more about not only our British wildlife but also the wildlife and scenery to be found in the Austrian Alps then do come and join us on one of our winter events. Non-members are always very welcome. Indoor meetings are held in the Bushfield room at Badger Farm Community Centre at the far end of Sainsbury's car park. (SO22 4QB) For further information about the Group please phone Loraine on 01962 861182 or email Anne - atardill2@gmail.com. Alternatively visit the Trust website

Sun 26 Nov 10am – 3pm	<p>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 (map ref SU 535 023, nearest post code PO14 3JT) or by the sea-wall, and meet in the Yacht Club car park, Cliff Road, Hill Head (map ref SU 535 023). We will go in as a group - entry charges to the reserve apply and we should get a group rate for entry. Refreshments are available in the café but this can get busy so bring a packed lunch. For further information, phone Mary on 01962 864440. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.</p>
Wed 13 Dec 7:30pm – 9:30pm	<p>Inspirational Places and Wildlife Come and share your photos of places far and near that have inspired a love of nature over a glass of mulled wine/soft drink and nibbles or just come along. As last year photographic expertise not required – enthusiasm for the content far more important. Equipment provided. Please contact Anne Ardill beforehand if showing photographs on 01962 881312 or atardill2@gmail.com. Admission £4 to include light buffet.</p>
Wed 10 Jan 7.30 – 9.30pm	<p>Around the Austrian Alps Marmots, Alpine Choughs and stunning mountain scenery! Join Brian Fletcher for an illustrated talk on the great variety of wildlife to be found in this very beautiful part of the world. For further information, contact Loraine on 01962 861182 or atardill2@gmail.com. Admission £4 to include coffee/tea.</p>
Sun 21 Jan 10am – 2pm	<p>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 (map ref SU 588 329). Parking in the station car park (SU 588 325) or nearby streets, Bring a snack for a coffee stop. Sorry, no dogs. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440. Suggested donation £4.</p>
Wed 14 Feb 7.30pm - 9.30pm	<p>The Solent and South Wight: The Trust's Living Seas Come and find out about our fascinating local marine life. Hear about seagrass beds, chalk reefs, rocky sponge gardens and the amazing life there beneath the waves with Tim Ferrero from the Trust. Plus an update on the Trust's work to protect our seas. For further information, contact Loraine on 01962 861182 or atardill2@gmail.com. Admission £4 to include coffee/tea</p>



BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

We have lots of news for you this edition! At our September meeting, John Godbold stood down as Chairman after many years of service to the parish. John will be staying on as a councillor for the foreseeable future, but is taking a back seat to concentrate on other projects. BFPC thank him for all his hard work on our behalf. The September meeting saw Councillor Mrs Rhian Dolby elected as Chairman and Councillor Mrs Julie Lacey elected as Vice Chair. We also welcomed Mrs Christine Howe as our new Parish

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

If you need to get in touch with the parish council you can do so by telephoning Christine. The parish office is open 9AM to 2PM Tuesday to Thursday, tel: 07463 760801. If there is an emergency outside these hours please telephone Christine on 01425 656010. You can also email Christine and the parish councillors on clerk@badgerfarmparishcouncil.go.uk

We are also intending to set up a PO BOX address for the parish council to streamline postal communications. More details to follow.

You can also contact us via our Facebook page or via our new website www.badgerfarmparishcouncil.gov.uk where you will find telephone contact

numbers for each councillor.

Have you ever been out and about around Badger Farm and spotted something that needs fixing, clearing up or generally reporting? Can we encourage residents to download the Winchester City Council app to your smart phone. It is an excellent way of recording problems and logging them with Winchester City Council. There is a facility to upload photographs of problem areas along with the report. Each report is given a number that can be tracked. Our WCC district councillors have encouraged us to use this facility and tell us it is the best way of making sure that things get done! So next time you are out and about and spot something amiss, please report it via the app.



OFSTED inspected in June 2015 with very pleasing results

For children from 2 years to school age.

Limited spaces available for 2 – 3 years.

OPENING TIMES (flexible)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday ~ 9.15 – 3.00 and Thursday – Friday ~ 9.15 – 12.15

Spaces are now available!

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

Funding available for 2 year olds if applicable.

Ideally situated in the Community Centre next to Sainsbury's with a sports hall for physical play and an all-weather outside area with a variety of play equipment.

Our staff are highly experienced and qualified and we ensure a high ratio of 1:6 for 3 and 4 year olds and 1:4 for under 3 year olds enabling plenty of individual time and attention.

“Staff place a high priority on helping children develop very good skills in listening, speaking, investigation and discovery. As a result children become confident communicators who enjoy learning and have the necessary skills for their future learning and school.”

The playgroup operates an open door policy so please feel free to call in at any time and see us in action or call the playgroup supervisor Mrs Denise Tosdevine on 07771 798 474 out of playgroup hours. You can also see us in action and get more information at the Community Centre website on www.bfobrca.org



OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

Wildflower Project

Organised by the Oliver's Battery Countryside Group (OBCG) and with grant support from the PC, a successful wildflower project was undertaken on the Battery during the summer. Two small areas by the village sign provided a beautiful display of poppies, cornflowers, corn cockles and daises that became a magnet for bees, butterflies and many other insects.

Following positive feedback from local people, OBCG plan to extend the wildflower areas on the Battery. With further grant support from the PC, wildflower turf will be laid this autumn, pre-sown with over 30 native species of flowers and grasses.

Bird Boxes

The PC have recently agreed to a joint request from OBCG and the local RSPB group to erect some bird nesting boxes in the parish in memory of Maurice Walker, a long term resident of Oliver's Battery and former chairman of the local RSPB group who sadly passed away in August. It is proposed to place the nesting boxes on the Battery, at the recreation ground and in the Wildlife Area. Volunteers and interested groups will make boxes of various sizes and types over the winter ready for installation in trees in early spring.

Defibrillator

In July, the PC agreed to the purchase of an automated external defibrillator to be located in the community to help resuscitate victims of sudden cardiac arrest. The Oliver's Battery Dental Surgery has kindly agreed that the defibrillator could be

located, in a cabinet, on the external wall of the Surgery. The PC has received advice on the purchase and installation of the defibrillator from South Central Ambulance Service.

Texas Drive

The PC continues to work with our City Councillors and local residents to oppose the latest planning application submitted by a developer in respect of Texas Drive. The PC is unhappy with WCC's approach to planning enforcement; although the works undertaken by the developer on site appear to be a wilful breach of planning permission, the developer has been invited by WCC to submit a new application rather than being required to comply with the planning permission granted in October 2016. The PC is of the view that the new application should be rejected.

Road Junction

Thanks to the assistance of Councillor Jan Warwick with her contacts at HCC and WCC, a solution regarding the widening of the footway outside 80 Oliver's Battery Road South at the junction with Badger Farm Road has been agreed in principle. A detailed breakdown of the costs has been requested. This work is part of some other improvements at the junction that the PC has agreed with HCC.

Brian Mitchener - Chair Oliver's Battery Parish Council

cllr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info - 01962 623585



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Badger Farm Community Centre - Friday pm

1.00pm & 1.35pm 2-3.5 yrs | 2.10pm 3.5-5 yrs

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



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www.moo-music.co.uk/winchester

Badger Farm Toddlers

Thursdays 13:30 - 15:00

Badger Farm Community Centre

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

All welcome, run by qualified pre-school teachers!

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

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

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

Open term time only!

Info: Catherine 07990037467

or Esther etsouramanis@icloud.com

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



Olivers Battery Primary School

~Creative, Caring and Confident learners for life~

Exciting works are beginning at Oliver's Battery. After lots of consultations and work with school councillors and members of staff, the final plans are in place and building is in motion. The children are all very excited to see their final colour choices!

House Captains This half term saw our Year 6 children stepping out of their comfort zone and applying for the job of house captain. The process involves children writing and presenting a speech to children across the whole school. We were very proud to see so many children being brave and having a go. The speeches were all of a very strong calibre this year. We look forward to seeing the children rise to the challenge and really developing their role as heads of school.

Harvest Festival Rev Mike came into deliver our Harvest assembly and take away all the produce that our families very kindly donated. During the



assembly, Rev Mike encouraged children to reflect on what it might be like if we had no food shops near or if we had food shops but we weren't allowed anything from them. We also discussed the importance of charities like the Basic Bank Winchester in supporting families and young

people and how pleased they would be with our donation. The donations given showed how our school charter is at the core of what we do at Oliver's Battery Primary school, with children demonstrating that they are *kind and caring and look after each other and everyone in our community*

Year 6 Calshot trip Year 6 children went on a 3 day adventure to Calshot. During their time away, they took part in lots of different activities, such as: skiing, kayaking, archery, climbing and sailing. The children showed their resilience with an outstanding 'have a go' attitude; many children were really proud that they had tried something that they didn't think they could do. Instructors were also really complementary of the children about how quickly they picked up techniques and how they showed a high level of skill in a short



period of time. All children arrived back at school slightly tired but beaming and so excited to share their adventures.

National Fitness day On Wednesday over 150 pupils joined 10,000 other schools in participating in ten minutes of fitness fun at 10am for National Fitness Day. The children and staff followed Mrs Marshall's lead in taking part in aerobic exercises in the Playground to Reach For The Stars, Jump and Cha Cha Slide!

The children joined in enthusiastically, laughing and smiling as they exercised! It was an amazing sight.

Rights, Respect and Responsibility The Year 6 children started of the year by looking at their

Rights, Respect and Responsibilities in order to support children in becoming knowledgeable, active, socially responsible, democratic citizens. Children started off by looking at the UN Rights of the Child. They had lots of discussions about what a right was and distinguishing between a want and a need. Children were able to look at their rights and come up with their responsibilities towards those. For example, there was lots of discussion around the right to a good quality education and how children have the responsibility to come to school, listen to teachers, try their best and to trust adults in school. It was really interesting how these responsibilities link to our school charter...

Thank you to volunteers We had a small but keen team a couple of weeks ago and managed to clear the scrubby plants from the flower meadow and clean the polytunnel, both of which will be used for butterfly studies next Summer. Thank you volunteers for all your hard work!

Jobs will include:

- Clearing the lookout
- Clearing and burning cut trees from the woodland copse (forest school area)
- Clearing the butterfly shelters
- Cutting and burning scrub by meadow

New faces are most welcome. Please come and give us a try. For details of all the latest happenings at school, visit our website: www.oliversbatteryprimary.com

And if you would like to visit the school, please call 01962 869496 to make an appointment. Our Head, Miss Wood would be delighted to show you around.



From Simon Lever

I have talked with many people during the wonderful walks along Whiteshute Ridge and surrounding area. One thing is abundantly clear, is that we are most fortunate in living so close to such well tended rural beauty.

Tame White Cattle

In preparation for the arrival of the tame white cattle from St. Cross, much work has been carried out from fencing to wooden steps and cutting back hedges to afford as much space as required without impacting on the beauty and wild feel of the ridge.

The team that has worked on the fencing deserve to be complimented for the professionalism and indeed enthusiasm for the task.

Further, we are most fortunate in having a dedicated and equally enthusiastic grass cutter.

Indeed, the grass 'pathways' allowing ease of access are a joy to behold. The quality of the grass cutting would not go amiss on a bowling green or golf course! All credit to the enthusiasm and dedication of Colin who enjoys the task as much as people enjoy the quality of the finished workmanship.

Friends who have visited us from another country were so impressed that they took photographs of the pristine grass 'lanes'! The sentiment being, 'only in Winchester.....!'

We are so fortunate in having such beautiful walks so close to home. The scenery is spectacular and seeing Winchester Cathedral seemingly rising up through the mist is a joy to behold.

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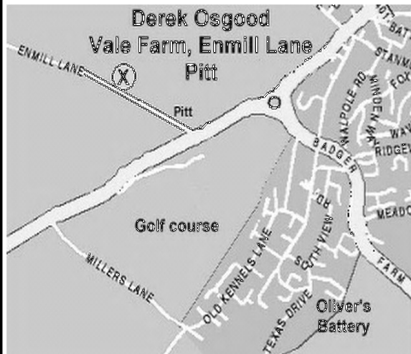
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Oliver's Battery Pre-school

The new academic year is well under way and we have welcomed lots of new children who have settled in well and are busy enjoying their time and making new friends.

As the days get shorter and winter approaches, our children have been busy throughout the term learning all about Autumn and the Harvest. Along with colourful Rainbows, People who help us - Police Officers and Firefighters and with the sparkle of Christmas fast approaching, we still have Bonfires, Diwali and Christmas to come.



Our home corner has once again been transformed throughout the term. It has enticed the children by becoming a Home, a Vets and is currently a Fire Engine with play fire hoses and sirens, encouraging some fantastic role playing. As always the children have been having lots of messy fun creating some fantastic crafts -

Rainbows, Handprint leaves for our Autumn Tree, Fire Pictures and for Christmas they will be continuing the crafty theme by making their own Crowns and Christmas Placemats ready for their Christmas Party.

This half term will see the children enjoy their Christmas party with a visit from Santa and also take part in

their own nativity carol service, singing songs at the Church Hall on Wednesday 6th December.

We are now offering the new Government funded 30 hours childcare (eligibility applies), allowing us to increase our hours and opening on a Thursday afternoon if required.



As a small charity we are always on the look-out for additional members to come join our committee and as we enter into a new phase for the pre-school we would love to hear from you if you would like to join us and can spare even just one hour a week.

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

- Rated across the board as 'good' by Ofsted in November 2016 and where "Children form strong bonds with staff"
- Conveniently located in the beautiful and spacious grounds of Oliver's Battery Primary School.
- We accept all children aged two years to school age, regardless of which primary school they will attend
- All children are funded from the term after their 3rd birthday.
- If eligible, we accept funding for two-year olds.
- Opening times: 8.45am-3.15pm Mon-Thurs, 8.45am-12.45pm Thurs-Fri



Oliver's Battery

WI Group

With the beginning of September Oliver's Battery WI resumed their activities with our craft group enjoying an afternoon workshop making beaded angels possibly for this year's tree or just as a pretty guardian, and with the season to be jolly being not far away another workshop will be Wreath making - always something to inspire with OBWI!

The ladies are an active bunch, but on occasion we do stand (and sit in our deckchairs) and watch, however we do like to be proactive, so on a lovely sunny September Sunday Seventeen of us (and a couple of

WISH's (WI Supporting Husbands) found ourselves feeling truly inspired by others who were running the Winchester Half Marathon; for which we provided marshalling for the stretch from Old Kennels Lane to Badger Farm Road - Hats off to the participants of the Race. We were happy to cheer them on and to keep them safe from the traffic - So you see the Women's Institute is not just about Jam & Jerusalem, but friendship, learning, support, fun and activity. With the donation we received for our help with the marathon, we hope to provide a bursary for one of our group to attend Denman the WI College in Marcham Oxfordshire - Our President Barbi was lucky enough to win one this year & went on a taster weekend, where she made a very

colourful fascinator, learnt Burlesque dancing & a mouthwatering class on Sweetie making .

From 18 to 118 there is a WI out there for you, From Gothic to Original, New Wave & every variety or flavour you could imagine! Oliver's Battery WI next meeting - 7.45pm on 20 November at St Peters School, Oliver's Battery Road North.





Badger Farm Social Club

Your Family Friendly Community Club

Want to join as a new Member ? Join now for 2018 and pay nothing for 2017 !

Plus ! Bring this advert and get a free drink when you join !

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

Support your club team - join our team who compete in league and cup matches. Darts; both Men's and Ladies team's who continue to have had success promotions (League) and Cup wins!

Pool; Join the Men's team

who play Wednesday's. We'd like to recruit new members as well as set up a Ladies team.

Nb. We have FREE pool - every Tuesday from 7pm. All Welcome!

Cribbage; if you are interested in joining a team or even want to set up a new team, do come in and ask the Club. We don't bite! We can support our teams with food in home matches and help with transport to other venues.

We love our sport, so offer a full range of television, with multiple screens that include SKY and BTSPORTS, as well as normal terrestrial. We run promotions for televised sporting events covering football, rugby and cricket, with discounts on draught beverages, so come along and cheer for YOUR team ! Don't forget International Rugby (Autumn and Six Nations), Ashes Cricket and Premiership and FA Cup Football.

We have Club events, so for Christmas we will have a Children's party with Santa Claus in his Grotto (early December). The Adults

party will be a week before Christmas and includes the annual Draw with BIG Prizes ! Lastly and by no means least our New Year's Eve party will include a fun Disco ! So watch out for many other events, plus if you have any ideas for activities do come along and get involved.

As a club we offer lots of snacks and refreshments including numerous lagers, ciders, Guinness and at least 3 quality crafted real ales as well many soft drinks, all for you to enjoy at Club prices ! We are cheaper than the pubs and offer a family friendly and fun atmosphere !

Do pop in to see what's on offer and ask for a Membership Form !. Since we are part of the Community Centre we can open the bar for any events that you wish to organise at the Centre itself, so do get in touch with Jan at the centre, just go to <http://www.bfobrca.org/> or telephone: 01962 868630 or email: enquiries@bfobrca.org.

Opening Hours

Sunday

12pm - 10:30pm

Monday - Thursday

4:30pm - 11pm

Friday

4pm—midnight

Saturday

Midday - Midnight



Multiple TV sets showing numerous sporting events from Sky and BT including Football, Rugby, Cricket, Darts and much more.



With Cider's, Ale's, Lager, Guinness and a range of soft drinks on offer, this is the place for the whole family

Oliver's Battery Supper Nights at the South Winchester Golf Course

Our regular booking at the South Winchester Golf Club is continuing in 2018!

We have organised the following dates, all on a Thursday evening, from 6.00 – 9.00 pm. Last meal orders by 7.15 pm, please.

Thursday 18th January

Thursday 22nd February

Thursday 22nd March

Thursday 19th April

It's an opportunity to have a relaxed evening in very pleasant surroundings. Meet other OB residents, have a drink, have a meal at very reasonable prices, get to know some of your neighbours. We may not have a pub in Oliver's Battery, but our evenings together over the past year and a bit have proved a very entertaining alternative. Hope to see you there.

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RUNNING CONDITIONING

SATURDAY 9.30am-10.30am
Five Bridges Road,
Winchester



Interval running and strength work for runners, designed to build cardiovascular endurance, develop running technique and increase stamina.

Classes £10 each or £18 for two options, £26 for all three!
All levels welcome

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Annual Quiz Night

on

Friday 23rd February 2018

7.00pm for 7.15pm

@

Twyford Village Hall, Hazeley Road,

Twyford SO21 1NH

Ploughman's & Cash Bar

Tickets £16 p.p., table of 8 for £128

(Payments by BACS to Winchester GoLD: Sort Code 20-97-01
Acc No 63630056

Please give your surname and 'Quiz' in the reference)

Tickets available through local contact or Juliet Hawkes

01962 808554, 07887946830, julietahawkes@aol.com



Winchester City Festival Choir will perform the PREMIER of David Briggs' *God's Grandeur*, Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* at their annual concert Saturday 27th January 2018 at Thornden Hall, Chandler's Ford.

If you like *West Side Story* then you will enjoy listening to the musical rhythms and percussion of the Chichester Psalms. John Rutter's popular mass uses a children's choir and harp as well as the full forces of the seventy strong WCFC. Choir members are excited to be singing their first specially commissioned work by David Briggs, who composed the *Tsunami Requiem* they sang in 2015.

More details about the programme and performers can be seen at www.wcfchoir.org. Tickets are £15 (students £8) from www.thorndenhall.co.uk or 023 8024 6555. Tickets are also available from members of the choir, some of whom live very locally!



Christmas Crime Menu



A few tips on how to stop criminals leaving a bitter aftertaste this Christmas



Starters

- Car Thief Classic**
Tasty & Quick, window left open or car left unlocked = car gone.
- Traditional Starter**
Instant Take Away, Keys left in vehicle = car gone
- Santa Surprise**
Takes a little longer, Presents left on back seat or on view = stolen.

Main Course

- House Jackpot**
Quick to do, windows and doors left unlocked, no alarm set no light timers on = burglary.
- Christmas Parcels**
Small medium or large, presents left under the tree in view = stolen.
- Tasty Takeaway**
Instant grab, keys and bags left in sight = id theft, burglary.

Dessert

- Cycle Surprise**
Bikes not marked or secure whipped away in a second.
- Shed Delight**
Quick treat if tools not marked or shed is in secure
- Garage a la Whoops**
Expensive items left on view or unmarked = taken.

Always lock doors and windows, leave gifts out of sight, park in well lit areas, take personal items with you.

Use light timers, lock doors and windows properly, use a chain when opening the door, keep keys out of sight

Use good fitting locks or alarms on sheds and garages, mark your property.

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St Mark's Church, Oliver's Battery
Thursday 3.45-4.45pm
St Faiths Village Hall, St. Cross

Benefits include improvements in

- mobility & joint flexibility
- balance & co-ordination
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Dear Residents in Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery,

Crime trends evolve and whilst we still have house burglaries, incidents regarding vehicles, sheds, bicycles, anti social behaviour, drug and alcohol related crimes and assaults, the most worrying trend is the cyber crimes that are on a steep rise.

Cyber crime is a priority in many organisations now while the police and multi agencies try to find ways of combating the many scams, fraud and other crimes carried out on line. Suspicious communications either directly at your door or on the telephone, through mail or email, on your mobile, can all sound genuine but no matter

how convincing someone is, NEVER give out personal information, NEVER click on a link in an email, NEVER feel desperate due to a threat of a deadline given when your email account will be closed, or your money will disappear, your phone will get cut off etc.

Don't panic, do nothing without serious thought, contact the organisation on a **separate number and phone** to check authenticity, ring a friend, call on a neighbour to give you time to assess the situation. Report anything suspicious to the police, Crimestoppers, Action Fraud (contact details for all these were given in the last issue of the Newsletter.

Traditional crime prevention is still vital, so lock your car, doors, sheds and windows, ensure even if you are out there are lights on in the house, check your security lighting outside, never leave valuables in the car or

on view through a window. Please keep an eye out for an elderly or vulnerable neighbour, ensure they have someone they can speak to if they have concerns about scams. If you are elderly or vulnerable please contact someone if you are worried about something suspicious, there are lots of support networks in your communities but if you are not sure, then do get in touch and I will try to point you in the right direction.

If you would like some crime prevention advice, the Neighbourhood Watch booklet produced by our National Organisation or want to know more about Neighbourhood Watch then do contact me:

Sandie Vining. Area Neighbourhood Watch Representative. Tel: 01962 865384 E: Sandievining@btinternet.com

Winchester Radio

Radio for Winchester, from Winchester, by Winchester



Welcome to the future of radio in Winchester!

Winchester Radio is something totally new: a not-for-profit, charitable FM-band radio service for the city of Winchester and the surrounding villages, from the city of Winchester, run by people living in Winchester. By providing a hyper-local service, we hope to become both a good friend in the living room, and a trusted source of useful, helpful information for and about Winchester.

Radio for Winchester, from Winchester, by Winchester

Our music output will typically consist of a wide variety of pop, rock, jazz, easy listening, country and classical, covering the 1950s through to today, selected to particularly appeal to the over 50s. Requests will form a big part of the music we play.



We'll mix this with specialist music and local interest programming, including for those working from home, retired veterans, those with caring responsibilities, the housebound and those in hospital. For the elderly and those living with dementia, we'll have reminiscence and nostalgia programming. And overnight, more soothing programming providing relaxation.

Alongside the music, we will have a mix of features that are educational, heart-warming, entertaining, and thought-provoking. We'll keep our listeners in touch with what's happening locally, encouraging them to participate in activities in and around the city.

Anyone living in Winchester will be able to get involved from early 2018 – as a member of the charity, as a volunteer, as a member of the Board of Trustees. We envisage the vast majority, if not all, roles will be filled by volunteers.

If you're a caring person, team-oriented, and wanting to get totally immersed in the community, you'll be able to learn a range of new skills, including radio broadcasting, interviewing, audio editing, wider digital literacy, and much, much more! There'll also be opportunities to put existing business skills to good use to support us in roles such as training, marketing, finance, fundraising, engineering/IT and administration.

Visit our website, register your support, and tell your friends and family!

www.winchesterradio.uk  @WinchRadio  /Winchesteradio



Support us today –

just text WINR44 £2 / £5 / £10 to 70070 to donate now.

Winchester Radio is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in England and Wales, number 1160752.

Christmas across the Parish of St Luke

you would be most welcome to join in.

At St Luke's, Mildmay Street, Stanmore. SO22 4BX

Saturday 16th Christmas Activity Party 2.30 till 4.30 pm

A time for the family to come together with crafts, fun, music and games

[under 12's with adult over 12's with permission slips]

All welcome.

Sunday 17th Carols and Readings by Candle light 6.30 pm

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th Family Crib Service 5.00 pm

Christmas Day Festive Sung Eucharist 9.30 am

At St Mark's, Oliver's Battery Road South. SO22 4EU

Saturday 2nd 'Christmas Cracker'

Fundraising Lunch with Stalls from 12 noon

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th Community Crib Service 5.00 pm

Eve of Christmas Eucharist 9.30 pm

Christmas Day Festive Eucharist 8.00 am

Merry Christmas



Look out for Community Carol singing details

www.stlukeswinchester.org 01962 865240





**From your MP - Steve Brine
(Conservative Party)**

First of all this month, I found myself in Manchester recently and one thing I remember from that speech by the Prime Minister was that a new generation of **council houses** will be built with an extra £2bn going into the affordable housing budget. The move will also allow more homes to be built for social rent.

The news follows Winchester's lead, as the council here has been building council homes for years through its *New Homes Programme*. I've opened many over the years, in Micheldever and Kings Worthy to give two examples, and the timing couldn't have been better as WCC announced a few days later it will double the amount of council homes built by 2020. More on this from your City Councillors I am sure.

While in Manchester, I took the chance to visit the largest single site cancer centre in Europe at **The Christie Hospital** wearing my Ministerial hat. The Proton Beam Cancer treatment it will offer is a first for the UK (currently children with certain forms of cancer have to visit the US) and I was blown away by the engineering miracle taking place. It's basically a mini Hadron Collider and will not only save lives, it will

dramatically reduce the long-term impact this kind of radiation treatment can cause. We should remember, when listening to Radio 4 and especially when watching Channel 4 news, there is good news out there and so much hope.

As Parliament returns, we're busy with Brexit legislation of course (and much else besides) but my work in the constituency seems to be on fast forward with constituency Friday's (and weekends) busier than ever. Lots of conversations going on at the moment around the ongoing (as I write but hopefully resolved by the time you read) dispute between the RMT and South Western Railway which is resulting in strikes massively inconveniencing us rail users. The answer is always talking around the facts, not confrontation; those involved know what they need to do. See more; www.stevebrine.com/trains

After a lovely letter from a volunteer, I visited **Winchester Bereavement Support** recently. Based at Richard Steel & Partners in town, they've been at it since 1982, providing bereavement support to anyone over the age of 18 living locally via a team of trained volunteer visitors. I found their stories both inspiring and moving; www.winchesterbereavementsupport.org.uk

One other thing I want to mention is the **new health care hub** I opened recently. It's the new arrangement, under the banner 'Mid Hampshire Healthcare', which will enable you to see a GP, Nurse and Healthcare assistant in the evenings and at weekends. The new Winchester hub, which helps us deliver on our extended access

commitment for General Practice, is based at the Badger Farm Surgery next to Sainsbury's so very handy for you.

You book a routine appointment by ringing your own GP surgery while urgent appointments at the hub will be booked by the out of hours GP service via NHS 111 when your GP surgery is closed. See more; www.stevebrine.com/extendedaccessGP

Finally, I continue to work with County Councillor Jan Warwick on the tricky issue of the **Oliver's Battery Junction**. Working with the parish council and HCC Highways Engineers we now have a scheme drawn up to widen the pavement and improve sight lines. I am grateful to everyone for moving this forward and especially to the adjacent residents who are allowing part of their garden to be used so this can happen.

You can find more about my work, locally and in Westminster, via my website.

**Steve Brine
MP for Winchester**



WINCHESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

What will Winter have in store for us? Time will tell but a few good frosts would be useful in order to eliminate some of the pesky garden pests. There is still some tidying up to be done and there is a bag of daffodil bulbs waiting to be planted rather belatedly. The vegetable garden continues to yield welcome produce and there are some autumn-planted new potatoes to look forward to at Christmas provided they live up to the promise made on the packaging. On some of the evenings when it's too dark to work in the garden we head for one of our monthly meetings to hear an interesting talk and to socialise with fellow gardeners. Why don't you come and join us? This is what our programme has on offer for the next three months:

December (Wednesday 13th) - We will take a break from horticultural topics and instead enjoy one of Gerald Ponting's excellent talks on **St. Petersburg and Other Baltic Treasures**.

January (Wednesday 10th) - Ben Cross of Crosslands Nursery will tell us all about **Alstromerias**, their history and how to grow them successfully.

February (Wednesday 14th) - The alternative to an expensive St. Valentine's dinner. Barry Clark, Hilliers' Botany/Records Officer, will serve up a selection of **Rare and Unusual Plants**, some of which we might be tempted to grow in our gardens next year.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester, SO23 7AB and start at 7.30pm. Visitor's fee £3. For more details visit our website: www.winhortsoc@weebly.com

We look forward to meeting you.



OLIVER'S BATTERY COMMUNITY CENTRE

(Charity Number 1173149)

Since our last article in the Autumn edition, quite a lot has been happening with the project to replace St Mark's Church Hall with a modern Community Centre in Oliver's Battery.

The directors are continuing to hold regular meetings with interested parties, seeking support from City and County Council including Health Out-reach teams. Application for grants from various companies and organisations are underway and we are continuing to improve our existing website.

Finance Our funds continue to grow with regular donations and sponsorships such as a 53 mile cycle ride (over £1000) and a 16 mile walk (over £300). In addition, following our Charity registration, we have been able to claim back Gift Aid Tax from the majority of our donations.

Fund-raising Events We have two fund-raising events planned so far for next year:

Saturday 16th February – we have the return by popular demand of 'The Little Big Band' playing the arrangements

of such legends as Duke Ellington, Glen Miller, Count Basie and many more. Last year tickets sold out before the day and we are expecting a similar response this year.

Friday 18th May - we are also delighted to announce that Jac Gehring's Community Choir will be returning to entertain us. Her enthusiastic members will again be demonstrating their choral talent with a varied programme.

Further information will be available on these and other events nearer the dates.

Exciting times are ahead and we hope that the Oliver's Battery Parish Plan, forecast for publication in December, will fully support what we consider to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring the Parish facilities up to the 21st Century. St Mark's Hall is the focal point of the Parish and is in the best position to have a Community Centre to be proud of.

Ian Millar

Vice Chairman

OBCC Ltd

Email: obccLtd2016@gmail.com

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Being a Good Neighbour!



Almost ten years ago, a small number of volunteers from Oliver's Battery set up a new small care group. The six team members aimed to give a helping hand to the older members of their community who were still living in their own homes and wished to retain their independence.

The volunteers offered help in a variety of ways, including:

driving people to and from hospital
GP and other medical appointments

visiting and befriending
doing small practical tasks in the home
like changing a light bulb or tuning a TV
shopping,
collecting library books and prescriptions
– anything a good neighbour would do.

The team steadily grew to include volunteers from Badger Farm and impressively increased fourfold the number of tasks they carried out for their clients in your community.

After a few successful years of helping out, the 'OllieBees', as they were known, were approached to take over responsibility for Winchester City and its surrounding villages.

To reflect this new status, they changed their name to Winchester Good Neighbours to more formally associate with the scope of the expanded client support area.

2017 has seen over twenty-five volunteers regularly giving of their time to helping others. However, requests for

neighbourly assistance are on the increase.

Our two busy Coordinators, who live in Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery would be delighted to hear from you if you are able to help for a couple of hours a month.

It will make all the difference to those who rarely venture outside their front doors.

If you would like to give a helping hand, Sue and Jane would be really pleased to hear from you.

Please call them on **08450 948 946**





White cattle coming to Whiteshute Ridge

I am delighted to say that significant progress has been made over the past few months to secure the long-term future of Whiteshute Ridge as an area of pasture to the south of Badger Farm. It is being developed to allow shared public access and introduce British white cattle later in the year.

Responsibility for Whiteshute Ridge came back to Winchester City Council in April 2017, but we are grateful to Badger Farm parish council for everything they have done over the years to help conserve this area.

Work is already underway on the Ridge – with new fencing nearly finished, a water supply soon to be installed and new gates to follow.

A friendly breed of British white cattle will arrive on site later in the year. We will put notices up around the site and

information on our website stating exactly when this will be.

In designing the pasture we have taken into consideration any walkers who feel less confident around cattle, by splitting the area into two halves with a fence running down the middle. The cattle will graze on one side, leaving the other half free.

All are welcome to come along to our next 'meet and greet' on the Ridge, which we will organise after the cattle have settled in. Signs will inform visitors which area is being grazed, but everyone is free to use both halves of the pasture.

The steps leading onto the Ridge from Lowden Close have been renovated and the steps closer to Sainsbury's will be upgraded next. A management plan for the Ridge is currently being produced and a survey of key species was undertaken in the summer. This baseline evidence, along with regular monitoring, will enable us to understand the impact of the new grazing.

We held our first wildlife walk on Whiteshute Ridge during the summer, which was extremely successful. Walkers had the opportunity to see bats and use bat detectors to identify and listen to them. Next summer we'll do something similar, perhaps with a look-out for glow-worms too.

If you'd like to help we welcome

people to become 'lookers' – keeping an eye on the welfare of the cattle, the condition of the fencing, and volunteer generally.

I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved so far and look forward to working together to keep the Ridge special for walkers and wildlife alike.

Check out the site signs and our website for news about the Ridge: winchester.gov.uk/planning/open-spaces/whiteshute-ridge-project-latest-news

You can register as a friend or volunteer by emailing Claire Jakeman at: cjakeman@winchester.gov.uk.

Susan Croker
Head of Landscape and Open Spaces at Winchester City Council



Winchester Movement Strategy

Hampshire County and Winchester City Councils are running a joint public consultation asking people who live in, work in, or visit Winchester to give their views on travelling in and around the city. Over the past decade there have been many changes to transport in Winchester. These include park and ride schemes and new 20mph speed limits in the city centre. With new housing developments underway, and other potential developments being planned, the time is right to review progress and set a new overall direction for movement in Winchester.

The Movement Strategy will set out an

agreed vision and long-term goals for traffic and transport improvements in Winchester over the next 20 to 30 years. It will provide a framework from which we can develop detailed proposals and specific target measures.

The councils wish to hear people's views on questions such as:

- how to achieve the right balance between different types of traffic
- how best to support growth and economic vibrancy
- improving air quality and any other issues which are important to residents

This part of the process is open to everyone. You can provide your feedback online at www.hants.gov.uk/winchestermovementstrategy By post – by requesting a paper copy from

strategic.transport@hants.gov.uk or Tel: 0300 555 1388. You can also email your response directly to strategic.transport@hants.gov.uk. The Information Pack and Response Form can also be requested in other formats, such as Braille, audio, easy read or large print. Please return paper Response Forms in the Freepost envelope provided. If you do not have a Freepost envelope, please post your response to Freepost HAMPSHIRE.

This consultation will run until midnight on **8 December 2017**.

Cllr Jan Warwick
District and County Councillor
JWarwick@winchester.gov.uk or jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk



Even accompanied by a steaming glass of mulled wine, there's one Christmas job I find tedious – addressing Christmas card envelopes. My answer? Use Microsoft Word to automatically create address labels. Here's how.

Start by creating a list of all your names and addresses. Create a new Word document and insert a table with columns for Name, Address 1, Address 2, City, Postcode and, if you're sending abroad, Country. The next job is to fill in the table and then save the document. The good news is that this a job you'll only need to do once as you'll be able to use the same information next year!

When that's done, create another new document. Then, in the Mailings tab click on Start Mail Merge, then Step-by-Step Mail Merge Wizard and a new Mail Merge bar will open on the right-hand side.

Step 1: Click on Labels and then [Next: Starting Document](#).

Step 2: You need to tell Word which labels you're using, which turns out to be the trickiest part of the process! Select Change document layout and then click on [Label options...](#) In the window that appears, select the label manufacturer and product

number. I use Avery-compatible 14-per-sheet labels and had to Google to get the right product number (it was J8163). Click OK to confirm that Word can change the layout of your document then click [Next: Select recipients](#).



Step 3: As you've already created your address list, select Use an existing list then [Browse...](#) Choose the document that has all your addresses in, then click Open and OK. Word will place the «Next Record» field in all but the first label. Next, click on [Next: Arrange your labels](#) to design your label.

Step 4: Add an [Address Block...](#) You can play around with the options in the Insert Address Block dialog box but I find that the default ones usually work well. When you're happy with the layout of your address, click OK and «AddressBlock» will appear in the first label.

At this stage, you can make your labels look festive; maybe change the fonts or insert a picture like these from pixabay.com. Click Update all labels to copy your design into the other labels then

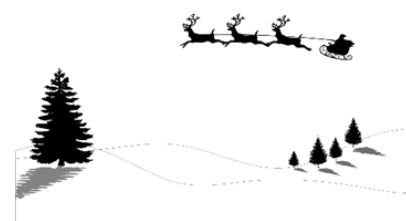
[Next: Preview your labels](#).

Step 5: If you're not happy with how your labels look click on [Previous: Arrange your labels](#) to make changes. Otherwise, click [Next: Complete the merge](#).

Step 6: Click [Print...](#) then OK, select your printer and OK again to enjoy your beautifully presented labels.

Wishing you a very happy (and tedious-free) Christmas!

Ann



Ann is the founder of Winchester Computer Tutor (winchestercomputertutor.co.uk), offering good-value, friendly 1-to-1 tuition for less-confident computer users.

Nature Notes from Oliver's Battery

Queuing in traffic approaching Lyndhurst I noticed a cottage with heavily mossed thatch desperately in need of restoration. Following a discussion about the types of materials used in Hampshire's rich heritage of thatched cottages I decided to learn more. In Hampshire the ancient tradition of thatching was the main method of roofing for all except grand buildings and those of the wealthy until well into Tudor times. Straw as a bi-product of farming was the most common. Reed was used in coastal areas and river valleys and heather in the New Forest. Mechanical inventions over time relieved the heavy labour of production by hand and nowadays with changes in climate and agricultural practises there are three products used. Organic Long Straw is specially grown because modern wheat varieties are too short; Combed Wheat Reed which suits rounder less steep roof pitches and Water Reed that can form more angular shapes and complex roof designs. Each requires a different method of application using a variety of tools. Space here only allows for the basics but do read the informative online booklet (see link below).

Talking of tradition you may be aware that some words of the natural world no longer feature in the Oxford Junior Dictionary? They are replaced by new words such as Broadband and Blog. Concerns that the younger generation is becoming detached from nature prompted a group of writers and naturalists to write an open letter of protest to the Oxford University Press asking for the decision to be reversed. Read online link below. Receiving negative response, the writer and naturalist Robert Macfarlane and

Pembrokeshire artist Jackie Morris collaborated to produce a truly magical book called "The Lost Words" (2017). Twenty words including kingfisher and acorn are described by Robert's acrostic poems called 'spells', a brilliant pun, accompanied by stunning artwork by Jackie. This generous sized volume will appeal to children and adults alike. It is for grandparents to read with grandchildren and share their own childhood memories and to encourage them to get outside and enjoy what our countryside still has to offer. It is a book to be cherished. I know what will be on my 'wish list' this Christmas!

Most of us remember the fun we had playing 'conkers', those gorgeously warm brown shining fruits we hunted for with great excitement amongst the autumn leaves trying to gather the best to outdo our friends and challenge them to a game. Conker is one of the lost words. The nut, encased in its green prickly husk is the seed of the horse chestnut, a non-native deciduous broadleaf tree introduced to the UK from Turkey in the late 16th century. It is frequently seen in majestic rows along roadsides or as individual trees in parks and gardens. When leaf stalks fall from the twig a scar is left resembling an upside-down horseshoe with nail holes and crushed conkers were once used to relieve horses of coughs-hence 'horse chestnut'?

Norma Goodwin, November 2017

http://www.traditional-thatch.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Hampshire-thatching_booklet.pdf

<http://www.caughtbytheriver.net/?>



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