



The Parish of St Luke with St Mark, Winchester

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



It's been a busy summer in Oliver's Battery, and it was great to see many of you from OB and further afield at our open-air service on the Battery back in July.

The next milestone in our church's calendar is Harvest. In our area we are not far from the countryside. From my bedroom window I have been able to see the fields gradually change colour over the past few months, getting lighter and lighter. Whatever was going on closer to the ground – and I'm no expert on that! – I found it a beautiful sight in itself.

It brought some words of Jesus to mind: 'Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest' (John 4.35). Jesus looked at things around him and used them to explain spiritual truths. The yearly cycle of ploughing, sowing, growing and reaping is like a journey - rather like the journey each of us makes through life. We are all at different stages on the journey; some of us may feel stuck somewhere.

At St Luke's and St Mark's we'd like to share the journey of life with you and help to give it meaning. You are most welcome at any of our services, and do feel free to contact me (or Mike, the Vicar – tel. 865240) if you'd like to know more.

Revd Richard Wise (Curate) - tel. 861970 or email: rwise@fish.co.uk

Oliver's Battery Women's Group Programme Autumn 2006 – Spring 2007

Group meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month (public holidays excluded) from September to May inclusive, at 8.00pm in St. Mark's Church Hall.

4 th September	Beetle Drive
18 th September	The Hampshire Air Ambulance Service. Bring and Buy
26 th September	50th Anniversary of Oliver's Battery Women's Group Celebration Lunch at Keats Restaurant Ampfield
2 nd October	Paul Manning, A Falconry display
16 th October	George Fothergill, A talk on travel. Bring and Buy
6 th November	Rosemary Dunhill, A talk on Jane Austen
20 th November	Alison Owen, Trading Standards. Bring and Buy
4 th December	Jane Roger, A talk on Angora Goats
19 th December	Xmas Lunch at Brambridge Garden Centre

2007

21 st January	American Supper Entertainment
5 th February	Joyce Reader, History of Knitting. Bring and Buy
19 th February	Phillip George, Slides of Sydney
5 th March	Marjorie Monroe, A talk on William of Wykeham
19 th March	Keith Harmon, A talk on Dowsing
16 th April	A Jewellery Demonstration
26 th May	AGM

Stanmore Primary School

Working together to achieve high standards through effective teaching
in an atmosphere of encouragement and support

Art for Arts Sake – The school hall was turned into a gallery as we held our first exhibition of children's art. Every child in the school submitted a piece of work for inclusion and the artworks were all professionally framed to show them off to their best advantage. It was fantastic to see the wealth of home-grown talent that we have in school and also a great opportunity for our infants and juniors to appreciate their respective talents.

Introducing a new author – In our website project this year, short stories from seven Winchester primary schools with the theme of 'Champion' were published anonymously on the Virtual schools website and readers were asked to vote for their favourite. After three weeks of online voting, we were delighted that one of our pupils had won the Y3/4 category.

Are we healthy? Yes we are! (Well, we are trying our best!) – Stanmore has joined the National Healthy Schools programme and launched the initiative during a week filled with activities designed to promote good health and emotional well-being.

Skipping for fun! – Pupils took part in skipping workshops and finished the day with a display of skipping expertise in the playground. Parents who attended were impressed with their skill and dexterity and the children discovered that there is more to skipping than just jumping!

Staff Stepping Challenge! – All staff took part in a pedometer challenge. They set their pedometers at 9.00am and then had the number of steps recorded at 3pm by very strict year 6 monitors! The most active member of staff clocked up over 103,000 steps during the week.

We're all going on a summer holiday.... – The final two weeks of the summer term have zipped by in their usual frenzied style with a plethora of Sports Days, a visit from author Ian Whybrow, a day of technological challenges at Intech, a live web chat with Kings' Y7 and our parents Thank-You Tea being just a few of the highlights.

Dates for your diary

Covert Sale - Saturday 30th September 2006

Informal visit for YR 2007 parents and children – Wednesday 4th October 3.30pm

Stanmore Primary School serves areas of Badger Farm, Stanmore, St Cross, and the Romsey Road area. There are some 315 pupils on roll aged 4-11 in 11 classes in two teaching groups, KS1 and KS2. If you would like a copy of our prospectus and Ofsted report or would like to visit the school, please ring on 01962 852941 and we will be happy to assist you. Why not visit the school website for up to date news and pictures www.stanmore.hants.sch.uk

Olivers Battery Parish Council

By the time you read this, Autumn will have arrived after a long, hot Summer. I hope you enjoyed the weather but perhaps, like me, looking at my dry and dusty garden, you sometimes wondered whether you would ever see rain again!

Of course, this summer also saw the celebration of our 50th Anniversary as a Parish – both religious and civil – in a thoroughly enjoyable series of events. The Open Air Service on 23rd July, conducted by Revd. Richard Wise and attended by over 200 people, provided an opportunity for reflection on the past and dedication to the future of our community – a profoundly moving experience. The following week, over 20 walkers of all ages made a tour of the boundaries of our Parish which, surprisingly, took just over two hours. We did not actually “beat the bounds” - there being only two boundary stones (and one of those in the wrong place!) – but we were delighted by the sight of a deer leaping through a corn field in Port Lane. As I write this, I'm looking forward to the Fete and Barn Dance in early September, and I want to send a special vote of thanks to Mark Pyke, Rosemary Dunhill and many others who did such a splendid job of organising these celebrations, which will be remembered for a long time to come.

We have certainly proved that community spirit is alive and well in Olivers Battery. I hope this spirit will persist and take us forward over the next 50 years: there is much to be done and there are some challenges to be faced over that period. Let's do whatever we can to enable our children to celebrate 2056 with as much pleasure as we have had this year. If you have any thoughts about what plans we should make, please let me know.

The next event in the calendar is the annual fireworks and bonfire night at the Recreation Ground in November, organised by the Community Association. Kevin Hitchings and his team have laid on a splendid show for many years now but they are beginning to tire a little! They would welcome help with building the bonfire, especially from younger members of the community. Please contact Kevin via the office at the Community Centre if you can help. And don't forget to cut your hedges etc. and bring the dry prunings to the ground (no wet leaves, plastic, mattresses or other household waste – please!).

While I'm on the subject of vegetation, I should just mention that we have an infestation of Japanese Knotweed on the footpath leading from the bus stop in Old Kennels Lane to Treble Close. This is a seriously invasive plant and is not to be taken lightly: it can cause huge damage to roads, property etc. We are attempting to have it treated in the appropriate manner but please be aware and let us know if you see it anywhere else.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Colin Stride who has joined us as a new Parish Councillor. He has lived in the Parish for many years and has the distinction of being the second member of his family to serve as a Councillor.

Geoff Sharman, Chairman OBPC
Tel: 867961
e-mail: geoff_sharman@btconnect.com



ARE YOU READY FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER?

Think about those Christmas
party dresses!!



Come along and tone up with

LEGS, BUMS AND TUMS

A fun, friendly and enjoyable class designed to shape and tone.

Tuesdays at BF Community Centre

6.45pm to 7.45 pm.

Contact Catherine on 01962 855754 for details.



For children from 3 years to school age, with limited spaces
available for 2 years 9 months.

OFSTED inspected with very favourable results.

Mornings 9.30-12.00 (mixed ages)

Afternoons 12.30-3.00 (older children)

Sessions cost £5.75

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

Ideally situated in the community centre, with a sports hall for physical play and an outside area with a variety of play equipment. Our staff are highly experienced and qualified and we ensure a high ratio of 1:6, enabling plenty of individual time and attention.

"Children feel valued by staff who listen to what they have to say, self-esteem is high and behaviour is very good." OFSTED Oct 2004.

"The pre-school is a welcoming environment that provides excellent and stimulating care and education for the children." Accreditation Nov 2004.

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 **01962 842385** out of playgroup hours.

Pre-School Learning Alliance
accredited

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT & TEL NO.	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm - 4pm	Sue Oldfield 01962 883870	£4 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	7.15-10.30pm	Roland Richardson 023 8025 1277	£1 visitors £15 annual	Bridge club
Badger Farm Friendly Group	Alternate Thursdays	1.30pm - 4pm	Jane Harvey 01962 861091	£2.50 per session	Elderly and/or disabled welcome for afternoon tea, speakers, quizzes, etc.
Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup	Monday - Friday	9.30am - 12.00pm	Denise Tosdevine 01962 842385	£6.50 per session	For children from 3 years to school age. Great OFSTED results. Afternoons also available - enquiries to Denise.
Badminton	Thursday	8pm - 9pm	Wendy King 01962 861525		Fun and friendly, for any age and ability. All welcome!
Ballet, Tap and Modern Dance Classes	Monday	4pm - 5.30pm	Joanna Vowles 02380 696255	Please call for more details	Dance classes for children who are nursery aged and upwards with a ISTD Qualified Teacher
Brownies	Thursday	6pm-7.30pm	Mrs E Wald 01962 852644	£15 per term	For girls aged 7 to 10 years
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10am-11am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service. All welcome.
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	2 nd Wed. of month	7.30pm-9.30pm	Miss L Martin 01962 861182	£2 per meeting	Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Meetings held September to May
Jo Jingles	Tuesday	9.30am-12.30	Victoria Smith 01489 877278		Music & movement for children from the age of 1 year
Legs, Bums & Tums	Tuesday	6.45-7.45pm	Catherine Jones 01962 855754	£3 per class	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned!
Loose Moose Drama Club	Monday	5.15-7.15pm	Karen Blackburn 01730 710277		High quality theatre arts club for children between 8 and 16
Parents & Tots	Thursday	1.30pm-3pm	Caroline Clist 01962 860976	£1.50 per family per session	All parents, guardians and childminders with children aged newborn to 5 years are welcome. Just turn up on the day!
Slimming World	Wednesday	6pm—7pm	Jo Walton 07747 063817		Fun and friendly slimming club. Call Jo for further details.
Tea Dance	Tuesday Thursday Friday	8.30pm - 9.30pm 1pm-5pm	Ian and Joan Millar 01962 854542	£4 per session	A chance to practice your ballroom and Latin American dances on a relaxed and friendly occasion with tea and cakes. Other classes and individual tuition also available.
Wessex Wargames Club	Tuesday	7pm - 11pm	Ian Ackerman 01962 624710	£3 per session (first session is free)	Miniature wargames and role-playing games of all periods and genres played.
Winchester Country Market	Friday	8.30am - 11am	Mrs Tina Sharpe 01962 855977		Fresh produce, cakes and preserves, crafts and plants. All welcome!
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6pm - 9pm	Chris Barrett 023 8026 7771	Membership by subscription	Children (6-7pm) Adults (7-9pm) plus Additional times for senior grades
Yoga	Monday Tuesday Friday	9.30am-11am 5.30pm-7pm 1.30pm-3pm	Chris Wyeth 01962 868346	£25 per 5 week sessions	Experience the balancing effect of yoga on mind and body. Stretch and relax into a healthier life.

City Councillor's report

Brian Collin reports on events locally, in the City and beyond.

As I write this, we're in the middle of enjoying the Oliver's Battery 50 celebrations. Maggie and I have composed the Treasure Hunt clues and we've started collecting egg shells for the "Golden Egg" stall at the fair in September. We're looking forward to hearing all about the archaeology project. The organisers have worked very hard and it all looks very impressive, informative and enjoyable. By the time you read this, the celebrations ought to be happy memories and I would like to pass on my thanks in advance to all the people who've put in so much work.

I've just received my regular e-Mail newsletter from our Theatre Royal. I'm so pleased that their programmes go from strengths to strength. Check out their offerings. If you haven't been recently, you'll be surprised how they've kept their standards high. If you've never been, this autumn is a chance to "break your duck" and see what good things there are to enjoy.

Both in Oliver's Battery and in Badger Farm, I am getting reports of drivers behaving anti-socially or irresponsibly. Typically, this is excess speed, but it can also include deliberately taking corners too fast - horrendous when you think of our estate roads - or accelerating too hard and noisily. Please be considerate - especially when returning after dark. If anyone sees a car driving irresponsibly, let me know as I have an invitation to report such drivers to the police. A quick email will do.

Over the summer, in response to requests from residents, we've had extra police patrols in Badger Farm. It's always disappointing when there are episodes of bad behaviour that warrant this. Again, the new 101 number is a good place to report incidents if you are inconvenienced. If you like, drop me a line and tell me the incident number and I can monitor any trends.

I've been pleased by the police response to reports of riders behaving irresponsibly on motorbikes. A national initiative has set out that mini-bikes if caught on the public highway or on pavements will be taken away and crushed. So keep the reports coming in.

Even though we've had some indifferent weather in August, I hope this note will arrive in time for you to rush out to Oliver's Battery shops and get some things for the garden or the BBQ in our Indian summer this September. While you're there, you will find out how comprehensive they are and how convenient, saving you travel and the planet some CO2.

David and I are still getting to grips with the vegetation grown and are hoping to have another clearance operation this autumn. Do let us know of any "thorn spots".

As always, if there's anything I can do to help, please be in touch.

Brian Collin
27 Compton Way, Oliver's Battery, Winchester SO22 4HS
Phone (home) 867572 (mobile) 07753 821770
email. bcollin@winchester.gov.uk

OLIVER'S BATTERY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The school ended the summer term on a high note as it prepares to welcome its new and permanent Headteacher, Mr. Dean Buckland. Dean, who was the Head at Aybridge Primary near Romsey, takes up his post in September.

The school had a very busy summer term with Year 5 having a superb week at Stubbington and Year 6 enjoying their week at Avon Tyrell. Parents organised a day/night camp for Year 6 camping in the school grounds. The school put on a marvellous concert of 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat' held over three days. This was a team effort and was a huge success. The Friends of Oliver's Battery School held numerous events: a disco, a quiz evening (a great success!) and a family fun evening. All helped to raise funds to benefit the school. Her Majesty's Inspectors came to the school and were pleased to report that progress was being made in all areas.

Finally, the school held a very moving and emotional memorial service to Adrian Boiles, the popular and much-loved caretaker who tragically died at Easter whilst on vacation. Each class contributed as well as songs, readings and memories provided by the school community. One hundred balloons were released—an awe-inspiring spectacle for a man who is sadly missed.

With Thanks!

Previous Chairman of the Residents' Community Association, Mr Derrick Makewell, would like to thank Oliver's Battery Parish Council for their kind gift in recognition of the years that he served on the Parish Council. Derrick intends to use the gardening vouchers to buy some more orchids to add to his collection.

THEATRE ROYAL SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

In true Kitchener style Theatre Royal Winchester wants you. We are looking to recruit new volunteers to assist in many aspects of running a successful theatre.

Behind the scenes at Theatre Royal Winchester there are a hard working team of employees who work to ensure that the theatre runs smoothly and professionally. However, there are another group of people who are equally important and very much the unsung heroes of the theatre, the volunteers. Volunteers have many roles within the theatre, including ushering, tour guides, distribution assistants, education workshop assistants and more recently assisting in the production of a book about Theatre Royal Winchester's history.

Theatre Royal Winchester could not survive without the commitment and dedication of the volunteers and as we strive to continually improve we are looking for more volunteers to join and become part of our theatre community. If you have an interest in the arts, want to expand your interests, or simply meet new people this is the perfect opportunity. We have a wide range of volunteering roles to suit all individuals' interests and requirements. At present we are particularly interested in finding distribution volunteers to join our team. This role involves working to ensure that posters, leaflets and brochure are present in locations in your local community. It is a fantastic opportunity to become more involved in your local area and also assists the full time staff at Theatre Royal Winchester in making sure we maintain a presence and supply information to the whole district. All relevant expenses are reimbursed.

In return for volunteering regularly for Theatre Royal Winchester we are able to offer discounted tickets, free ticket offers throughout the year, invitations to special events, full training, backstage tours, as well as the opportunity to meet new people and support your theatre.

If this sounds of interest to you we would love to hear from you. Please contact Laura Bailey to discuss opportunities that best suit you.

Telephone: 01962 844 600

E-mail: marketing1@theatre-royal-winchester.co.uk

Address: Theatre Royal Winchester, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB

YOUR LETTERS

Letters and comments do not reflect the opinion of the Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Residents Community Association.

COMMUNITY NEWS REVAMP?

Dear Jane

The format and content are good and there is no need for any change.

Thank you for your good work.

Sincerely, Mr A E

Ed says: Thanks, Mr E. Short, sweet and to the point! And a reflection of the majority opinion.

CHANGES TO COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor

Change to 'Community News' is unnecessary. In a world where commercials are the norm, it's nice that 'Community News' resists the temptation to stuff itself full of paid advertisements which have no merit to the local people. Your publication has the tone just right!

Yours sincerely, Mrs S

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

Dear Jane

In response to your request for comments on changes to 'Community News, I ask: what would you change? The current format works well. As they say, if it ain't broke, then don't fix it!

Best regards, Mr J B

Ed says: Thanks for the vote of confidence!

If you have any issues, gripes, or problems that you would like to comment on in "Community News", please drop me a line:
Jane Fielding, Bookings Secretary, Badger Farm Community Centre, Badger Farm Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4QB
LETTERS MAY BE EDITED.

Oliver's Battery Hanging Bowl returns to Winchester

To coincide with the 50th anniversary celebrations of the parish, and to mark the culmination of the Community Heritage project, Winchester Museums has organised events for this autumn.

On Saturday 9th September at the OB50 fete, a group of Saxons will re-enact the warrior burial, perhaps involving local children. The Saxons will be around for the entire afternoon for more informal interaction.

Winchester Museums will have a stall at the fete with information panels from the Community Heritage Project, together with the replica Saxon hanging bowl and other objects found in the parish.

The Museums Service has arranged with the British Museum and Hampshire County Council the loan of the original Saxon hanging bowl, found in the excavations on the Battery in the 1930's. The bowl, accompanied by a fine silver and iron "seax" or knife, will be on display at the Guildhall Gallery in Winchester from early September 2006 to mid-January 2007.

On 13th December, Dr Barbara Yorke, from the University of Winchester, who is an expert on Anglo-Saxon England, will give a lecture about Anglo-Saxon times in southern England, placing the warrior burial in its wider contemporary context. The lecture will take place in the Guildhall in Winchester, at 7.30pm.



MARTIN ANDREWS ARCHITECTS

R I B A C H A R T E R E D A R C H I T E C T S

If you would like to have an informal discussion about a future building project please contact us.

T: 01962 813 447

E: enquiries @ maarchitects.co.uk

8 Fallow Field Winchester SO22 4LY

www.maarchitects.co.uk



Badger Farm Social Club

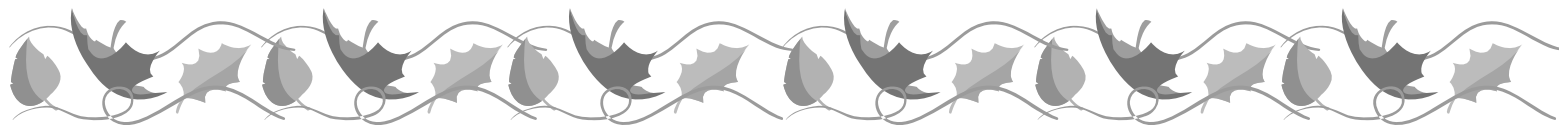
at Badger Farm Community Centre

BORED IN THE EVENINGS AND AT WEEKENDS?
WHY NOT COME AND JOIN THE SOCIAL CLUB?



REGULAR MONTHLY FEATURES

- Quiz Night Every 1st Sunday of the month at 8.00pm
Come and test your brain power!
- Bingo Night Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 8.00pm
Come and test your pockets!
- Music Quiz Night Every 1st Tuesday of the month at 8.00pm
Come and test your memory!



County Councillor Charlotte Bailey reports

Thank you to all of you who sent in your views on the **Park & Ride sites**. The County Council was planning to put in an application this autumn but the response from more than 750 people has made it look more closely at the site near the M3 so they are taking time to draw up plans for that site too. We will have a chance to comment further when we see the final plans. It will be important to consider also the effect on traffic along Badger Farm Road.

In October the **new arrangements for waste collection** will start in Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm. I know that some people are very concerned about this so thought I would reassure you by letting you know that I have had this type of collection in Shawford for the last 18 months. I have been particularly pleased with the free collection of green garden waste (other Councils charge for this) because, although I have 4 compost heaps, there are often times when I want to get rid of more woody garden waste and it is good to know that this material is composted to provide an organic soil conditioner. I had to think a bit more carefully about how I wrapped my food waste (I know of one lady who freezes hers until collection day) and have had no problems with smells or maggots. I know that Winchester's target is to recycle 36% of our waste so I feel particularly pleased when my recycling bin is nearly full and my household rubbish barely fills a quarter of my bin. Good luck to you all!

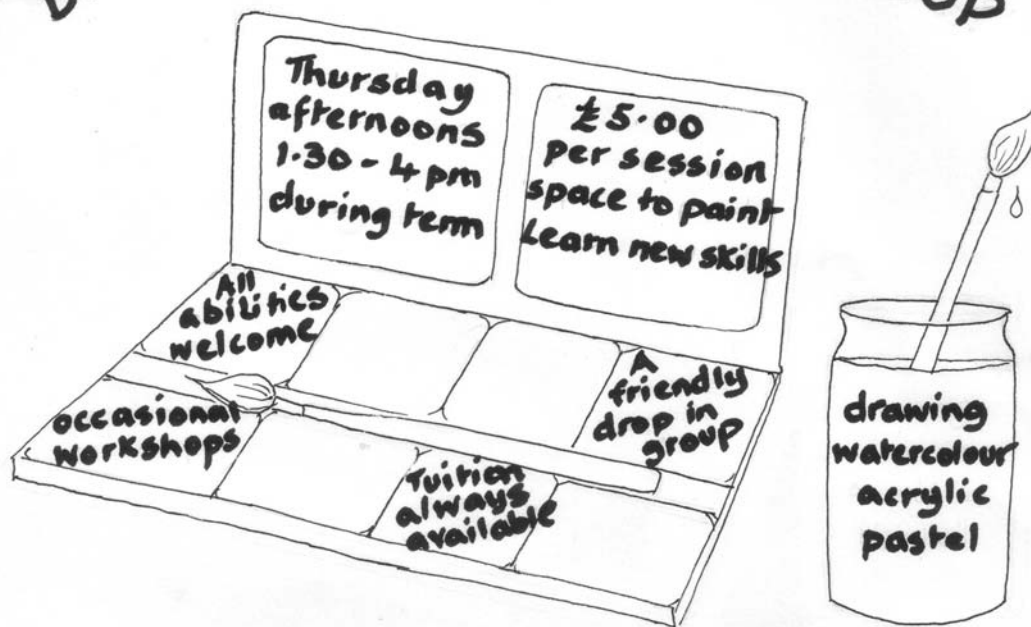
Boost your child's chance of staying safe in a car was the recent message given at the Road Safety Group. Did you know that from 18 September those children who have grown out of a child seat must **use a booster seat** if they are **under 4ft 5ins** in height? Adult seat belts are not suitable - in fact, the belt itself could cause serious injury if it's worn across the neck or waist. There will be a few exceptions - visit www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk for details - but in general any adult breaking the new law could end up with a £30 fixed penalty notice or a fine of up to £500 if a case goes to court. Be prepared for a few battles with those children who thought they had graduated to adult belts! Equally important is to ensure any child car seat, booster seat or booster cushion is fitted correctly. At annual **car seat safety checks** it was discovered that nearly 40% of seats were fitted incorrectly so why not check yours. Visit www.hants.gov.uk/press/2006/PR2961.html for details of where the checks will be carried out.

101 is the new number to call to report all kinds of non-emergency anti-social behaviour issues. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and should leave 999 for real emergencies when offenders are nearby, life is at risk, injury is caused or threatened, or crime is happening at the time.

I was very pleased at the response to my last article in Community News. Thank you for alerting me to things that need doing. Keep your ideas and suggestions coming.

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

BADGER FARM ART GROUP



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT : Josephine Chisholm 01962 863392
Judith Handford 01962 881919

OLIVER'S BATTERY PRE-SCHOOL

With over 30 years teaching and childcare experience,
Oliver's Battery Pre-School provides high quality care and education.
In July 2005 we were awarded Accreditation.

The children enjoy a happy, friendly, safe, secure and stimulating
environment in which to develop their early skills.

Our premises are situated within the lovely grounds of Oliver's Battery School.
We have regular fundraising events - tots playtimes, discos, Nearly New Sales
Look out for our posters and come along and join us!

Opening times:

Monday-Friday mornings 9.00-11.45a.m. for mixed ages.
Afternoon sessions available for older children preparing for school.
All sessions are £6.00 (grants available to children over 3).

Friday Lunch Club until 12.45

For further details or to visit us, please contact
Mrs Jackie Johnston at home on 01962 851645
through the school on 01962 869496 or on her mobile no: 07941796958

All children are welcome regardless of which school they will eventually attend.

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

Over the summer we have had several reports of noise, abusive behaviour, criminal damage, and general nuisance from youngsters using the open spaces round the Parish; particularly the central kick-about area. We have also had motorbikes ridden on these areas.

Where there is an offence being committed; such as riding a motor vehicle on a public open space; it should be reported to the police. This would best be done using the new "101" number now available in Hampshire. Make sure that the police raise an incident number so that it is tracked. The police are allocated resources based on the number of incidents they have; so the more incidents, the more resources they get (in the long term). Unfortunately the police have recently been reorganised, and in some cases are having to use less officers to cover areas like Badger Farm. Nevertheless, they have been making additional staff available to investigate our problems. The Parish is separately trying to find out more about the needs of our youngsters by means of a survey being conducted by an independent organisation.

Everyone is nervous about getting involved in reporting incidents, but one way to reduce this nervousness is to know that your neighbours are all fully supportive in fighting crime. The neighbourhood watch scheme is one way to do this, and we are planning to run a campaign in the autumn to recruit more parts of the Parish into the scheme. In my experience, the scheme not only helps neighbours feel more secure, but can also help in other ways by getting people talking to each other, and generally helping each other out. We are fortunate that most of the Badger Farm is arranged in clusters of houses, and these are ideal for creating "local hamlets" where people can talk to each other and also watch out for suspicious activity.

The debate on the site for the "Park and Ride" at the bottom of Badger Farm road continues. The two favoured sites for this are one or other side of the road to Compton from the Bushfield roundabout. Hampshire County Council are putting a lot of research into the best site, and are hearing representations from local people. In particular Compton people want the site next to the motorway to be used. This site is closer to the M3, but has more problems for the buses to get to it.

Of course we in Badger Farm are not going to benefit from using the Park and Ride itself, but it should bring "spin-off" improvements in the provision of more bus lanes on Badger Farm road, and possibly better arrangements at the bottom of that road. Don't hold your breath, however, since this is not scheduled for several years yet.

In a previous newsletter, I mentioned the new recycling and waste disposal arrangement being introduced locally. I am sure that most people are now aware of these, but for more details contact Winchester City Council, or look at their web site <http://www.winchester.gov.uk>

Have a pleasant autumn,
Keith Taylor
Chairman, Badger Farm Parish Council

COMMUNITY COLOUR!

BADGER FARM ART GROUP meets **THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 1.30-4pm.**
SPACE to PAINT, an opportunity to learn **NEW SKILLS & make NEW FRIENDS!**

All interested in drawing and painting are very welcome to join our 'DROP-IN' weekly art group. Individual advice, tips and encouragement are available from experienced tutors. All abilities are welcome. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. You can bring your own project and materials and work at your own pace. We also run occasional **WORKSHOPS** on various topics and techniques.

Comments from some of our members....

"A lovely, informal art group, gives the opportunity to learn and explore. Encouragement for all." Debbie

"A really enjoyable afternoon. Just paint and draw at your own pace with encouraging tuition." Barry R.

"Massive encouragement. A lovely, friendly group." Margaret

"Tutors offer sound advice in our chosen medium. I feel my watercolour technique is improving." L.P.

"The group is an enriching experience. An informal group where everyone works in any medium e.g. watercolour, pastel, acrylic, etc. People of every age and ability are welcome." Marie-Christine L.

"I like this class. It is for beginners as well as the more experienced, as teaching is on an individual basis. And 'pay as you go' suits my holiday absences!" M.C.W.

"Encouraging tuition, a range of abilities. Beginners are welcome—come and enjoy yourself." M.W.

"I enjoy the informal art group, which has a relaxed atmosphere for anyone starting to paint or developing their artistic ability; new members are always made welcome." Sue F.

Please see our ad on page 12! Or contact us for more information, or how to join the group:

Josephine Chisholm: tel. 01962 863392 or Judith Handford: tel. 01962 881919

Why not use the Badger Farm Community Centre for your party?

The **Battery Hall** has a capacity of 200 people and can be used for a wide range of sporting events and dancing, as well as larger-scale parties. It has access to the kitchen and the garden and use of the bar is available via prior arrangement.

The **Bushfield Room** fits up to 75 people, is carpeted and has direct access to the garden. It can be combined with the **Warren** lounge bar to extend to a capacity of 125. It's perfect for wedding receptions, Christening parties and Anniversary celebrations!

The **Whiteshute Room** has space for 50 people and is carpeted with direct access to the kitchen and garden. It's a lovely setting for children's parties and smaller scale events.

The Centre has a wide range of facilities, including bar hire, use of the kitchen and all utensils, two lovely gardens, chairs and tables and presentation equipment, such as the OHP/screen and flip chart.

Whatever occasion you are planning, call the Bookings Secretary on **01962 868630** for prices and availability.



OH WHERE, OH WHERE CAN WE FIND A CHAIR?

Or Executive Committee members.....



As you will know from reading the front page, Ian Millar has kindly agreed to act as Chairman for the time being until a more permanent replacement can be found. This gives Rachel Skinner a well-deserved break from the Chairman duties, although she is still very active in her role as Vice-Chairman.

The Executive Committee do any excellent job and are to be commended on the work that they do for the Community. However, new members are essential in order to keep ideas fresh and to prevent the work falling to a few. When we have our full quota of Committee Members the work is minimal but the input that is put back into the community is noticeable and appreciated.

Do you think that you could fill a position on the Committee or even be our new Chairman? To qualify you must either be a resident of Oliver's Battery or Badger Farm or you must be a member of a User Group at the Community Centre. Perhaps you are already a Parish Councillor and you feel ready to take on a bit more responsibility in the community. Or maybe you're newly retired and you're looking for something worthwhile, where your help will be fully appreciated. Or maybe you just have a bit of spare time available and you feel that you'd like to use it by helping your local community. Whichever of these positions you may be in, you may be just the person we're looking for!

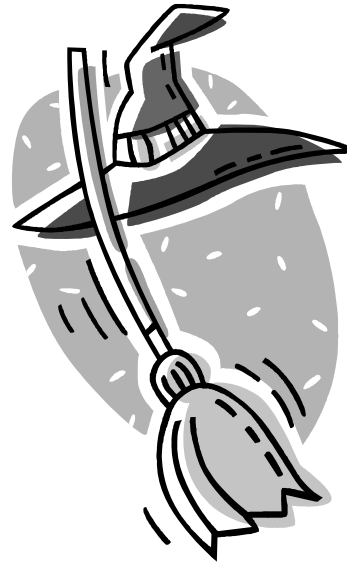
The Committee meet once a month for approximately an hour and the time that you spend outside of these meetings is up to the individual—as with many things, the job is what you make of it. However, it should be stressed that you must be committed to the job. It's a voluntary position and the rewards that you get back are dependent on what you put into it. Nevertheless, what greater reward can you get than seeing a well-oiled Community Centre working well, being popular and busy, and looking in great condition?

Why don't you contact the Residents' Community Association Secretary, Elizabeth Barrett, on 023 8026 7771 or email her at chrislib@tiscali.co.uk if you're the person for the job!

HALLOWEEN QUIZ

Test your knowledge of 31st October by taking our fun quiz....

1. The tradition of dressing up started because:
 - A) We try to scare away evil spirits
 - B) It's a way to honour the dead.
 - C) When the evil spirits come, they won't recognise you.
2. Halloween falls on the night before:
 - A) All Soul's Day
 - B) All Saint's Day
 - C) The first Harvest Moon
3. Another name for Halloween is:
 - A) All Soul's Day
 - B) Feast of the Dead
 - C) Samhain
4. The name given to a group of witches is:
 - A) A commune
 - B) A cauldron
 - C) A coven
5. Who wrote the bestselling novel "The Witching Hour":
 - A) Stephen King
 - B) Anne Rice
 - C) Dean Koontz
6. What would you traditionally 'bob' for at a Halloween party:
 - A) Oranges
 - B) Pears
 - C) Apples
7. Who directed the groundbreaking horror movie "Halloween":
 - A) John Carpenter
 - B) Neil Jordan
 - C) M. Night Shyamalan



Check your answers on page 17. No peeking now!

OLIVER'S BATTERY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Oliver's Battery WI was formed in 2000 and meet on the third Tuesday of each month in St Mark's Hall at 7.30 for 7.45.

The regular walks have been well supported by members, husbands and they usually include some four legged friends as well. The highlight of these walks is the pub lunch that follows.

The main source of activity in between meetings has been completing the wall hanging in St Marks, which we hope everyone has had a chance to admire and enjoy. We have also been working towards the Fete, Scarecrow Competition as well as designing an entry into the Littleton and Harestock Show.

Oliver's Battery WI is one of 204 WIs in Hampshire and more are expected to start shortly. Belonging to the Hampshire Federation means members have the opportunity to attend events, day-schools and visits organised by the Federation Sub Committees and meet some of the 7500 members in the County.

We do hope you will come along and see for yourself at one of the coming meetings on September 19th, October 17th, November 21st and December 12th (please note not third Tuesday). You will receive a very warm welcome and soon feel part of a happy group of ladies.

If you would like further information please phone –
Judy Baxendale on 867777 or Sue Atrill on 620029

HARVEST SERVICES at ST LUKE'S and ST MARK'S

Sunday 1 October

- 8 am** Holy Communion *at St Mark's (OB)* followed by...
- 8.45 am** Fair Trade Breakfast *(to book, please contact Rosemary Dunhill, tel. 869007)*
- 9.30 am** Said Holy Communion (no sermon) *at St Luke's (Stanmore)*
- 11.15 am** 'Give us today our daily bread' - a short, informal service for all ages *at St Luke's*
- 6.00 pm** Joint service with St Stephen's *at St Luke's — Preacher: Canon Paul Townsend*

Gifts of non-perishable foods will be gratefully received at any of the services and will be donated to local charities.

HALLOWEEN QUIZ ANSWERS

1(A), 2(B), 3(All of these!), 4(C), 5(B), 6(C), 7(A)

How many did you get right? 1-2 Oh dear!, 3-5 Not bad!, 6-7 Halloween genius!

CITY COUNCILLOR DAVID SPENDER REPORTS

You may have read that Winchester's Tourist Information Centre recently received a national award for its excellent service. Tourism and culture are very important parts of our local economy and this importance can only grow in the future. During late August and September I'll be taking part in a review of the City Council's museum strategy, looking at how we can ensure that our local museums meet the future needs of both residents and visitors. If you have any thoughts on this issue I'd love to hear from you.

I was pleased to see that new bollards have been put in place down in Ivy Close to prevent vehicles getting onto Whiteshute Ridge. This was Badger Farm Parish Council's initiative and I applaud them for it.

Our local bus shelters continue to give some cause for concern. The ones in Ridgeway in particular are in a poor state. Sometime ago the glass in these shelters was replaced with perspex. This was done because the glass was being repeatedly smashed. Now the perspex itself is getting into a bad state. We've asked the contractor who's due to clean the shelters at the end of August to see if it's possible to do a more thorough cleaning job on them.

During the next couple of weeks I'm planning to go "walkabout" with one of our Oliver's Battery Parish Councillors. We're going to take a look at all of the street signs in Oliver's Battery and draw up a list for possible cleaning or replacement. If you know of any that you think are in a poor state, please let me know.

Finally, the arrival of the big new recycling bins locally has reminded me of a concern raised by a resident of Broad Chalke Down. He has rightly pointed out that bins left on the footpath can cause considerable obstruction. This is a particular problem for disabled or partially sighted people or for parents with pushchairs. It's difficult when people are at work all day, but we should all (including me) try and keep the pavement clear.

David Spender

Contact me at:

The Councillors Advice Centre - Badger Farm Community Centre 6.30pm to 7.15pm on the 2nd Monday of every month,

or phone 01962 877767 or e-mail: dspender@winchester.gov.uk

Read David's online "blog" at <http://obbf councill or.blogspot.com/>

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Take a Stroll though Oliver's Battery's own "Breathing Space"

You may have heard about "breathing spaces" for wildlife and people in the media, but did you know there is one of these special places in Oliver's Battery? If you walk across the recreation ground, pass the football goalposts and go through a small wooden gate you will find yourself in the "Conservation Area", which the Parish Council set aside for the community a few years ago.

Immediately on your right is clump of brambles and nettles which has been left as habitat and a food source for rabbits, bees, birds any other passing wild creatures. You may even spot some blackberry hunters enjoying nature's harvest at this time of year! Much of the area had been swamped by this impenetrable scrub until the Oliver's Battery Countryside Group started to improve the area for wildlife and people last winter.

Many thanks to over 80 residents of the parish, both young and old, who helped to plant the small shrubs you can see peeping out of their protective tubes. There are over 300 of them and they are all trees found growing in Hampshire which provide food in the form of leaves, flowers, nuts and berries for birds and beasts. If you look carefully you will recognise hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn (sloe), and maple and perhaps some of the nine other species. Most have managed to survive the periods of drought this summer, with careful weeding and watering by group members.

You may think the area looks "untidy" but wildlife does not thrive in neatly manicured areas. Reptiles were found here but not under plants, but under some junk! The "weeds" growing between the shrubs are useful sources of food for insects, as you will see if you look closely. In addition to the planted shrubs, over 40 flowering plants were recorded here this summer.

As you stroll along the path you will see an area of grasses and a few flowers on your left. This is being managed to encourage it to spread and the surrounding bare soil will be sown with fine grass seed and wild flowers seeds when the rain starts falling in the autumn. Perhaps by next summer it will look more like a flowery meadow. Seven different types of butterflies were seen here this summer, not to mention the moths, grasshoppers, beetles, and bees etc.

Just before you go through the kissing gate look left to where, in a few years time children, will hopefully be able to play in the hazel "tunnel" that has been planted here. The two large trees are Hornbeam and Whitebeam and you will be able to spot the difference if you look at their leaves - the clue is in the names!

Rabbits, fox, owl, woodpeckers and many birds continue to live in this area despite the recent disturbance. In future this area will provide a variety of sheltered and open spaces for a much wider variety of insects, birds, reptiles and mammals to live. In time there will be short grass for picnics and a bench or two for human residents of Oliver's Battery to rest upon, take a deep breath and enjoy their countryside.

This project has been partly funded by the Parish Council and Hampshire County Council, but significant funds have come from the Hanson Environment Fund - which has distributed more than £15 million in the last eight years. The fund uses landfill tax money generated by the company.

If you would like to join in activities with the group such as caring for the shrubs, sowing seeds, and learning about wildlife please contact me, Clare Shorter, O.B. Countryside Group on 852136.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. ~Albert Camus

I have now been back at work as Bookings Secretary for a couple of months and I haven't found it too difficult to get back up to speed. It has, of course, helped that it was perfectly timed to coincide with our 'quiet season' over the summer, which allowed me to ease back in without being thrown in to the deep end too much. Jill has done a fantastic job whilst I've been away and I'm very lucky that she has also agreed to stand in for me when I take holiday. I feel confident that the bookings will be left in good hands then.

Many of you cannot have failed to notice the addition of a small helper in the office with me! We are very lucky because the Executive Committee of the Residents' Community Association are a very forward-thinking group of people and have allowed me to bring my baby into the office with me until Christmas whilst I work. This is working surprisingly well. Elliott spends some time in his playpen and in his chair whilst I work at the computer and sits on my knee and plays whilst I make phone calls. I am blessed that he's such a content baby and that he doesn't give me any trouble during this time! Many people have commented positively on this arrangement and I can only say that it's as a result of the Committee being aware of the importance of family and being understanding of the modern needs of today's workers. I have noticed a distinct increase in visitors to the office though and I daresay that not all of them come to see me or make bookings. Elliott is fast becoming a very popular little man!

In the last edition I asked for comments on the possibility of changing 'Community News' and I am pleased to say that a few of you emailed or wrote to give me your opinions. Some of these can be seen in the letters section on page 9. I was surprised that the majority do not want to see 'Community News' changed in any way and that you certainly want to avoid it becoming too commercial. The most popular comment was that 'Community News' should stay local, with local notices and local articles. And thanks also for the kind comments on the good job that I am doing! However, if there is anything different you'd like to see in the publication then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Jane — EDITOR (01962 868630)

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 VOLUNTEERS**
 to help deliver **Community News**.
 Take a walk in the autumn sun!
 PLEASE contact:
Barbara Hitchings
 Tel: **01962 623532**

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