Comunity News

Your Community Newsletter and Village Voice

The Community Spirit

Welcome to the summer edition of your Community News. I do hope you find it of interest! With spring coming to an end, we now have warm sunny days and holidays with family and friends to look forward to. Together with my wife, I have recently returned from a holiday in Western Canada and, during my time there, I was impressed with the friendliness of the people and the sense of community I experienced during our journey across British Columbia from Vancouver to the Rockies in Alberta. This reminded me of our own communities here in Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery and the variety of activities taking place in the Community Centre. We are fortunate indeed to have this facility on our 'doorstep' and we should all feel able to participate in one way or another. So, if you think that there is an activity or interest that is not currently being catered for, then please let me know and the Committee will see if it is possible to introduce such a group.

This leads me to the subject of the election of the Residents' Association's Executive Committee for 2007/2008. Our AGM is due to take place in July and we would welcome new members for the coming year. The duties are not onerous with meetings being held once a month. It is essential that we have as wide a cross-section of the community as possible on the Committee reflecting a variety of skills and life experiences. So do please consider volunteering. I would be happy to discuss the matter with you – my home telephone number is 01962 854542.

Finally, you will be aware that legislation banning smoking in enclosed public places comes into effect on 1st July this year. This will also include our Community Centre and Social Club bar and lounge. During the coming months we plan to redecorate these rooms making a more pleasant environment for all members.

I wish you an enjoyable summer.

Ian Millar
Chairman

Published by Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery
Residents' Community Association
Email: communitynews@bfobrca.com Tel: 01962 868630
www.bfobrca.com

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

In the last newsletter, I wrote about problems with rats. Although there have been some isolated incidents, I am pleased to say that the rate of these incidents seems to be declining.

The new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have started work in our area (South Winchester and Twyford) and we have three of them. They look like police officers at first sight, but have "PCSO" on their uniforms. They work alongside police officers, and deal with more minor offences.

We continue to have problems with motorbikes both around Badger Farm and on Bushfield Camp. If you see a motorcycle riding on any public path or open space, you should report it to the police immediately. Use the "101" service normally, but use "999" if there is someone riding up and down repeatedly causing immediate danger to pedestrians.

Although the police cannot respond to all incidents immediately, they still need to know of sightings to give them information on where to patrol. There are severe penalties for persistent offenders. The police are also aware of the problems on Bushfield Camp, but in this case they recommend that you write to the land agents; Cluttons Chartered Surveyors & Estate Agents, 1 Eastwood Court, Romsey, SO51 8JJ, to make them aware of the situation and the nuisance that the motorcycle access to the land is causing. Of course we are grateful to the owners for allowing pedestrian access, but not motorcycle access.

There has been concern over litter around the Parish recently. The City Council has a service for removing accumulations of litter. If any residents are affected by significant levels of litter in their area then it should be reported by telephoning 01962 848222 or e-mail environment@winchester.gov.uk; giving its location and the type of material concerned. The City will then arrange for the area concerned to be inspected and cleared if necessary.

There have been several planning applications from Sainsbury's in the last two months, concerning a car wash and some small extensions to the store and petrol station. You can now view planning applications online at http://www.winchester.gov.uk/ under "Environment and Planning". This site also has links to the County Council site.

I know that some people (including myself at times) are confused about which council does what, but in general, the County deal with roads, schools, transport, and police and fire liaison. Their web site is http://www.hants.gov.uk/. The City deal with our local footpaths, open space, planning, housing, leisure, litter, libraries, registry offices, parking, and waste collection. They also handle some work on roads and social care on behalf of the County. The Parish deal with play equipment, notice boards, Whiteshute Ridge, the Community Centre lease, and general parish matters.

Have a great summer.

Keith Taylor

Chairman, Badger Farm Parish Council

Stanmore Primary School

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

Do the Stanmore Samba! … It's been noisy, lively, exhilarating and above all it's been fantastic fun. Every child in the school from YRtoY6 had the chance to play a Brazilian instrument and to learn about the Samba. Each week, a year group has been taught a variety of rhythms by a teacher from the Hampshire Music Service which they have combined into a glorious crescendo of sound. Hampshire Caterers also joined in the fun and offered special Brazilian meals. It all looked very tasty!

New sporting stars at Stanmore… Talented young Stanmore athletes took part in an indoor Athletics festival at Kings' School. Competing in eight activities against six other primary schools, the pupils achieved a first in the vertical jump, a first in the Girls events and a second in the 75m sprint. The children were great ambassadors for Stanmore! Our Girls football team also excelled in a recent six a side tournament at Mountbatten School. Winning the group stage without conceding a goal, the newly formed Girls team won the quarter final 2-1, the semi final 1-0 and although they lost their last match to a much more experienced team, the girls earned a place in the grand finale to be played at St Mary's Stadium on Sunday May 20th 2007. This is an outstanding result for a team who have only just started together. Well done!

And all that Jazz! Form, scales, harmony, improvisation, pictures and CONFIDENCE are all the elements that make up jazz music and when they were explained and demonstrated by the energetic and charismatic Abram Wilson they turned into a most entertaining and informative assembly. Accompanied by Gary Crosby on the double bass, Abram led the children through the history of jazz from its African roots to its refinement in New Orleans. Later the musicians visited each class, answering questions and explaining how their instruments work. We shall be seeing them again soon, in concert, when the WHOLE school visits the Turner Sims concert hall in Southampton.

Dates for your diary –Summer Fair Saturday 16th June 11.30 – 1.30pm

Stanmore Primary School – Stanmore Primary School serves areas of Badger Farm, Stanmore, St Cross, and the Romsey Road area. There are up to 300 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

BADGER FARM & OLIVER'S BATTERY RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDS 18TH JULY 2007 AT 8PM

BUSHFIELD ROOM, BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

PLEASE COME ALONG WITH YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS AND SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Oliver's Battery WI

Having celebrated the seventh birthday of Oliver's Battery WI in style – it was a chocoholics delight, members are looking forward to a lively summer of interests for all.

The regular programme of walks started in April with a walk in the Meon Valley with members, husbands and the loyal dogs, who never stop talking about the fun they have. This of course was followed by a super lunch in the sun at a local hostelry. There will be more walks during the coming months and these are always on Saturdays to allow working members to join in.

The newly formed Craft Group is so well attended that space will be a problem for any large projects but as well as the craft, there is plenty of time for chat and a chance to get to know people better. This meets once a month in between meetings.

There is a planned visit to Bramdean to visit the garden at Bramdean House, with a chance to have lunch first. This is a popular pursuit and will be repeated from time to time at local beautiful gardens.

In July, there is to be a visit to the WI's own residential college at Denman, near Abingdon for the Open Day. There will be a group from Oliver's Battery WI going, where there will be a chance to see the college as well as demonstrations of some of the courses available. Oliver's Battery WI was very pleased to be able to give a bursary for a two night stay at the college. The winner has already chosen her course and the chance to enjoy the Denman Experience.

Locally, the Winchester Group of WIs has several events coming up in the coming few months. A summer lunch will be held at Littleton for members from the eleven local WIs; this will be followed by the Group round of the Hampshire Federation Quiz and later in the year, there will be the Group round of the Skittles Competition.

There is a lively programme arranged for the rest of the year, which is shown on the Oliver's Battery WI page of the Hampshire website www.hampshirewi.org.uk Posters are always in the local shops to show what the next speaker is and when. The meetings are held in St Marks on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.45.

From the above, you can see that being a member of Oliver's Battery WI is a fulfilling experience and fits the interests of all its members. Please find space in your busy diary to pay a visit to one or two of our meetings, you will be so very welcome and hopefully pleased that you did!

26 acres beautiful spring GARDENS OPEN

famous for magnificent azaleas and rhododendrons, with bluebell woods, azalea grove, Japanese pond, specimen trees:

Coles Gardens, Privett

- **Bank Holiday Monday May 28th 12.00 noon – 5pm**

12.00 – 2pm	bring a picnic lunch to eat in the Orchard
2.15 – 3pm	music for a summer's day
2.30 – 5pm	home-made cakes and cream teas for sale

Adults £4, concessions £3.50, children free. No dogs.

Winchester Mencap

registered charity number 264604

From Winchester take the A 272 and turn left at the West Meon Hut, go up hill and turn right on bend to Privett. Continue a long way through the village until you see signs for Coles on the left.)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN COMMUNITY NEWS AND REACH OVER 4000 READERS IN THE LOCAL AREA?

A QUARTER PAGE ADVERT COSTS £25
A HALF PAGE COSTS £45

Contact Jane on 868630 or e-mail: bfobrca@btinternet.com

Le Club Français

Fun French

It is never too early to learn!

Tuesdays 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Fridays 4.15pm - 5.15pm
Saturdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

Nursery & Primary

Games Drama Songs

for children aged 3 - 11

Our sessions are fun and informal even though we follow a programme carefully developed for the early years by dedicated linguists, teachers and child psychologists.

At the River Park & Fleming Park Leisure Centres

Please contact:
Elysabeth Sheppard
01962 882655

Le Club Français C'est Super!

www.europalingua.org.uk

Tea At Two

The Dean of St Luke's has kindly offered to open his garden on Saturday, 23rd June from 2.00 till 4.30.

Teas will be served throughout the afternoon.
All are welcome.
Proceeds towards the rewiring of St. Luke's Church.

For further details please contact Cynthia Beadle on 01962 854324.

COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT & TEL NO.	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm - 4pm	Judith Handford 01962 881919	£5 per person	A friendly 'drop in' art group, providing a 'space to paint' in a relaxed setting. All abilities welcome.
Badger Farm Acol Club	Friday	7.15-10.30pm	Roland Richardson 023 8025 1277	£1 visitors £15 annual	Bridge club
Badger Farm Friendly Group	Alternate Thursdays	1.30pm - 4pm	Gwen Hobbis 01962 777404	£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!
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	2nd Wed. of month	7.45pm-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 0799 0513 434	£3.50 per class	A fun and friendly class designed to help keep you fit and toned!
National Federation of Spiritual Healers	1st Saturday of every month	10.00am — 12.30pm	Sylvie Lucas 023 9225 4722	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-3pm	Carolyn Freeth 01962 855461	£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 Mortimore 02380 396889		Fun and friendly slimming club. Call Jo for further details.
Tea Dance	Friday	3.30—5.00pm	Ian and Joan Millar 01962 854542	£4 per session	A chance to practice your allroom and Latin American dances on a relaxed and friendly occasion with tea and cakes.
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.

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

Sad News for Stanmore Primary School

As many of you will have seen in the local press, Mary Gray a well known member of the local community was recently, tragically killed in a car accident.

When her children were little, Mary was involved in St Luke's Church as a Sunday School teacher. She was leader of the Badger Farm Playgroup for several years before moving to Stanmore Primary School as a Teaching Assistant.

Her death is a great shock to all the staff at Stanmore School and to the children and parents who knew her. Mary fully supported the school firstly as a parent of three children who all attended Stanmore School and latterly as an active member of the school community. She gave her time unselfishly, supporting children in Years 3 and 4 and assisting teachers in a wide ranging role. She was an active member of the Friends of the School and has never missed helping at any of the school fairs. She helped with swimming lessons and was an eager volunteer for all the school residential trips. She was also a Governor for many years. She recently became a keen and valued member of the Winchester Community Choir

She was a lovely, kind, caring, giving person who liked helping children more than anything. She was cheerful, fun and always laughing; a person who knew and was liked by everyone. She will be sadly missed.

The school will be creating a special area in the school grounds in memory of Mary. This will take the form of a circular wooden seat around one of our magnificent beech trees and some special planting. If any of you would like to be a part of this, contributions can be sent to the school office.

Oliver's Battery Pre School

Monday - Friday mornings 9.00-11.45
Monday and Wednesday afternoons for older children: 12.50-3.20
Tuesday and Thursday afternoons are also available.
Friday lunch club 11.45-12.45

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

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

We provide a safe and stimulating environment for all children to develop at their own pace and operate a keyworker system. We received an excellent Ofsted report and have achieved accreditation status.

Each child is entitled to five free funded sessions a week from the term after their third birthday. For non funded children our fees are £7 a session.

Please telephone for further information Jackie Johnston on 07941 796958 .

County Councillor Charlotte Bailey reports

This is the time of year for new life and growth and there are two projects close to here which are all about regeneration.

Thanks to a Countryside grant and matched County Council funding, **Shawford Down** has been partly fenced so that six Highland cattle can graze the downs.
They have come from Avington Park so are used to adults and children walking amongst them. There is no restriction on dogs which will only need to be put on a lead if your dog will be tempted to worry the cattle.
There are five females and one male called Fred who responds to his name. The first thing they will eat is the ivy as that is their favourite food and once that is cleared will concentrate on the grassland area which will keep it short and eventually lead to more primroses, cowslips and chalkland flowers. We look forward to more butterflies too.

The **Itchen Navigation** is also on the first phase of its new lease of life. A Lottery grant has been awarded to the Hampshire Wildlife Trust to repair the banks and improve conditions for plants and animals to thrive. A recent survey revealed that there is a roost for bats in a Poplar tree north of Shawford Bridge. Six types of bats live next to the Navigation between Shawford and Otterbourne and that stretch is also home to a healthy number of water voles. Otters can be found near the Waterworks. Good news but the environment is always under threat. Hampshire Wildlife Trust welcome local volunteers to help. Visit www.hwt.org.uk to find out more.

Even nearer to home at **Yew Tree Hill** the pyramidal, bee and frog orchids will soon be appearing and the footpaths over **Whiteshute Ridge** and **Bushfield Camp** are a pleasure to walk. The County Council has managed maintenance work on many of our local footpaths. A claim has gone in to try to give permanent footpath status to the Bushfield permissive paths and that will soon be looked at.

I am hoping that the summer will be a little quieter for Badger Farm residents as motorbikes are being discouraged from riding illegally on the Ridge and the Camp. All your Councillors have been active in getting the Police to get up there and use enforcement powers. We must keep the pressure up. The new Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) have already been seen around the area on their bikes.

The **Park & Ride application** is now in. There are mixed feelings about this. On the one hand it will take traffic away from the City Centre and will ease congestion along Romsey Road if those employed at the Hospital, the University and the Police use it. On the other hand it will use a green field which is visible from St Catherine's Hill. The bus routes and changes to junctions will be the next stage and we will be asked our views on this as we have been on the P&R.

Do contact me on these or any other issues.

Charlotte Bailey
4, Grove Road, Shawford, Winchester, SO21 2DD
01962 713392 104
charlotte.bailey@hants.gov.uk

Butterfly Conservation's local nature reserve Yew Hill

Lynn Fomison Reserves Officer for the Hampshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation writes….

By early May butterflies were regularly being seen at Yew Hill including lots of Holly Blues and Brimstones – the males are those large yellow butterflies we see from early spring and they are Britain's most long-lived butterfly. We have encouraged them at the reserve by tending the Buckthorn bushes on which they breed. Pleasingly the occasional Green Hairstreak and Small Heath are also being seen. The dry April meant that flowers were slow to appear and the cowslips were quite small. Rabbits have been more active than we would desire, and so, too, the moles! Spring bird song has been lovely with blackcaps and skylarks regularly being heard.

It is helpful if local people contact me if they become aware of any undesirable activities on the reserve such as camping, fires, barbeques or vehicles. The reserve is a protected area and the police were advised when we had a series of problems last year. Anyone can ring 101 to contact the Police non-emergency number and report a problem.

Our reserve is a very special place for nature locally and it is there for peoples' quiet enjoyment. Do help us to protect it and if you want to get to know it better we do hope you will join us on some of our walks. If you belong to a group who would like a special walk please contact me.

Lynn Fomison
01962 772251
Website @ www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Friday 15th June
Yew Hill. Winchester. **Leader** Colin Matthews (01794 388272). **Meet** at 7.15pm end of Old Kennels Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451 269) near junction Port Lane/ Millers lane or join us on the Reserve (SU 455 264).
Amble through the flowers. Wind down after a busy day with a relaxing walk around Butterfly Conservation's Yew Hill Nature Reserve. Superb views and we will be taking a close look at the spectacular flowers and butterfly habitat

Thursday 12th July
Yew Hill. **Leader** Lynn Fomison (01962 772251). **Meet** at 12.30pm end of Old Kennels Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451 269) near junction Port Lane/ Millers lane or join us on the Reserve (SU 455 264). A gentle stroll at one of the best times to see summer flowers and butterflies. Those who wish can start with a light picnic lunch. Approximately two hours.

Tuesday 24th July
Yew Hill. **Leader** Ivan Arnold (and possibly Brian Fletcher) **Meet** 10.30am end of Old Kennels Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451 269) near junction Port Lane/ Millers lane or join us on the Reserve (SU 455 264). A gentle stroll at one of the best times to see Chalkhill Blue butterflies. Celebrate National Butterflies Week by getting to know your local reserve.

M A R T I N A N D R E W S A R C H I T E C T S

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

We are a small design led, architecture practice located on Badger Farm. We work on small to medium sized domestic and commercial projects ranging between £5,000 and £500,000. We provide guidance on all aspects of design, including individual kitchens & bathrooms, obtaining planning & building control approvals, seeking competitive tenders and supervising and administering projects until complete.

T: 01962 813 447 **E:** enquiries @ maarchitects.co.uk

8 Fallow Field Badger Farm Winchester SO22 4LY

The Parish of St Luke with St Mark, Winchester

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

Revd Mike Gardner, e-mail mike-vic@fish.co.uk Tel 01962 865240

The Parish of St Luke and St Mark has a busy summer before them. With on going fundraising to cover the costs of relighting St Luke's Church (the cables all need replacing after 46 years), we hope the work will be approved and carried out over the summer and the end resort an improvement and benefit to all who use the church. Dreams of what might be the 'new' St Mark's church and hall are still at a very early but promising stage.

We start the summer with our Foundation Day Service at 11-00am on Sunday 15 July [St Swithin's Day this year] followed by a picnic in the Vicarage garden, the good saint willing. And bring the summer to a close with the now annual Teddies and Friends parachute jump and fun day in the grounds of St Luke's, on the Bank Holiday 27th August, look out for details and invites.

We also have a number of Weddings and Blessings this year, which is a great joy to see families coming together to celebrate these special days.

At the beginning of July we welcome Marcus Bagg to Oliver's Battery as he comes from college in Bristol to be the new curate in the Parish, Richard Wise and Family moved on to be the Vicar at Bishopstoke in April. I know he will receive a good welcome and become a valued member of the community.

Yours as busy as ever, but never to busy to stop and talk
Mike Gardner, (Vicar of St Luke's and St Mark's)

OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

It's that time of year when we hold our Annual Parish Meeting and review the past year. We had an excellent year in Oliver's Battery, with the OB50 celebrations being the highlight. But no matter how good a community or an area is, it can always be improved! So I'd like to tell you some of the ways in which we are trying to make the Parish even better.

For the third year running, we have arranged with Hampshire County Council for additional grass cutting on the Oliver's Battery Ancient Monument. This should maintain a "village green" like appearance which greatly improves the amenity of this area for everyone. At the Recreation Ground, we are developing a program of improvement aimed at increasing the range of facilities for junior sport. There is a great need for this, and a number of young people have approached us to ask for new facilities for football and cricket. I'm glad to say we were able to respond quickly by purchasing and installing two sets of portable goalposts. These have been very well used in the recent weeks of good weather. The footballers are also keen to look after the equipment and protect it from damage. We hope to provide facilities for other sports in future. The next step is to develop a plan and we are very fortunate in being able to draw on the services of a local landscape architect to help us with this. Perhaps even better, Winchester City Council are holding money in their Open Space Fund which can be applied to this project, in addition to our own funds.

Elsewhere in the Parish we are planning improvements to the unmade section of Compton Way between Oliver's Battery Gardens and Priors Way, which is well used by those living locally and as an access route to the Recreation Ground. This road is "surfaced" with rough limestone cobbles, probably laid by the Army during the First World War, although now suffering from the ravages of time and water from recent storms. It is not very safe for pedestrians and almost impassable for those using wheelchairs or with children in pushchairs. After discussion with those most affected, we have commissioned works which should take place in the next few weeks. We are also planning maintenance work to Footpath 7 which runs along the border of the large field to the south of the Parish.

In my last column, I referred to the need for improved community facilities in Oliver's Battery and asked for your views on this matter. I'm glad to say that I have received quite a number of responses from individuals, and from groups which use St Marks for their activities, all of which have been extremely positive. But I would still like to hear from others who may not yet have had the opportunity to comment on this idea. Please let me have your thoughts.

Looking further ahead, it's important that we provide clear guidance for those who may be seeking to extend or develop properties within Oliver's Battery, and you may recall that we started the process of developing a Village Design Statement a couple of years ago. I'm glad to say this is progressing and we recently held a meeting with Steve Opacic, Head of Strategic Planning at Winchester City Council, to review the draft document. We plan to produce a final draft later this year which will be published for formal consultation, with the expectation that it will subsequently be adopted as part of the Winchester Local Development Framework.

Finally, I'd like to thank Peter Bugg, our groundsman, Bernard Quartly, our Parish clerk, my fellow Parish Councillors and others for their time and many contributions to these projects. Without their efforts, little would be achieved.

Geoff Sharman, Chairman, Oliver's Battery Parish Council
Tel: 867961 E-mail: geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com

Brian Collin reports on events in the ward and in the wider City area.

One of the groups I belong to is an informal contact group with the local police. I'm very impressed with the local police service. There are several teams in the Winchester area. The team serving Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm is headed by Sgt Ali Hibberd and is based at Twyford. Their area covers our patch, Stanmore and Colden Common and Twyford. It's quite a big area, and many of them use bikes to get about. On a bike, you see more of what's going on and, because you're going slower, you get seen by more people. The numbers of regular police officers have been augmented by the arrival of Community Support Officers. Police Community Support Officers are the closest thing to a village bobby you get nowadays. They spend nearly all their time patrolling – foot or bike, rarely car. They are very visible and they're there not to control but to support the community in getting on with its life peacefully and safely. They have radios and can summon serious help if they need it. I hope we will see more and more of these "bobbies on the beat".

In the meantime, pressure from me and David and from local residents continues so that the police are taking action against illegal motorcycles in Badger Farm and on Whiteshute Ridge. The traffic police have declared the area a black spot and are patrolling it. It's they that have the powers to confiscate motorbikes, so that's good news. I have written in support of the people who are planning the paintball games on Bushfield which, when they start, will fence off the area and reduce the use by mini-motos.

Meanwhile, if you see illegal motorcycles on Badger Farm, you should report them to the police. Use 101 in normal circumstances or 999 if you believe there's a clear and present danger to people. Try to get as much of a description as you can and tell them where they were and where they were heading.

As I write this piece at the start of May, we don't know whether Saints will be promoted. Nor do we know whether the fine weather in April will return. I hope so. It's good to have some rain for the garden, but it would be also good to have some fine weather to enjoy sitting out in it. Then there might be time to have a bar-b-que getting nice food from our local butcher and fuel from one of our other local shops. I rarely plug our local garage at Pitt, but they often have good, sustainable charcoal available.

We're approaching the start of a new municipal year at the City Council and I'm waiting to see what agenda is being set for us.

As always, if there's anything either David or I can help with, please call.

Brian Collin
27 Compton Way, Oliver's Battery, SO22 4HS
Tel 867572 or mobile 07753 821770

Winchester District of the HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Autumn programme

Wednesday 12th September 2007 at 8pm
" A Journey up the River Test"
John Durnell, Head of Conservation for West Hampshire will give an illustrated talk on the wonderful variety of wildlife to be found in this famous river valley.

Wednesday 10th October 2007 at 8pm
"In Celebration of a Woodland"
Join Richard Hedley and Lawrence Brody for a wildlife year in a wood, presented through slides and poetry, including a short talk on the conservation of orchids.

Wednesday 14th November 2007 at 8pm
"Beneath the Waves"
Jolyon Chesworth, SE England Marine Conservation Manager, will give a video presentation of the marvellous marine life to be found around our coast, followed by an update on recent marine issues.

Wednesday 12th December 2007 at 8pm
"A Christmas Party"
A light-hearted quiz followed by some of Loraine Martin's favourite slides from many parts of the world, plus mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome.

Please contact Loraine Martin on 01962 861182 for further details.
Admission £2 to include refreshments.

Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup

Pre-School Learning Alliance accredited

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 £6.50
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.

YOUR LETTERS

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

WHY NOT US?

Dear Editor

Why does Serco keep parts of Badger Farm looking immaculate whilst no-one ever tends the two "islands" on Elder Close? I have lived here for 20 years, and in spite of periodic requests, they remained completely untended. Last autumn the "hidden" footpath was revealed again as a result of the HCC questionnaire, in which I had recorded my complaint, and stated that no action had been taken. We really do pay our council taxes.

R.B., Badger Farm

Response from **Keith Taylor**:
Thank you for your comment about shrub maintenance in Elder close. According to my records, all verges and other public areas in Elder close are the responsibility of the highways department to cut. I will check with David Spender who has close contact with the maintenance team, and we will see what can be done.

NO POLICE!

Since your publication of the last Keith Taylor column in the Badger Farm Parish Council newsletter the motorbike problem on the ridge has increased!!! You actually told everyone who reads this letter the Police can't/won't do anything about it. Thanks very much! Even if they have no power on private land they could at least show their faces? As a night worker I'm particularly unimpressed.

A. H.

Response from Keith Taylor:
BF Parish Council is in correspondence with the Church Commission's agents, and they are fully aware of the views of local residents. However, I think that the only way to legally stop the noise is for everyone who is affected to keep a record of when their peace is disturbed, and to send a summary to the Environmental Health department at Winchester City Council. They may then issue an injunction. They are in contact with the police, although I will also discuss this with Inspector Baxman when I see him next week.

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.

Badger Farm Social Club

We would like to welcome all new members. We are situated in the Community Centre and have two bars and a garden. Our Lounge bar is already a Non Smoking area and smoking is allowed in the other bar until July 1st 2007 when the whole Centre will become a Non Smoking Zone. Smoking will however be permitted in the garden which is an enclosed area with a patio after this date.

Bar prices are very reasonable and the main bar offers a pool table, darts and a big screen TV where you can relax and watch football, music, racing and boxing.

So please pop in and visit us. We will be having a fun day at the Bank Holiday in August and you will be made very welcome.

City Councillor David Spender reports back

Just before Easter I was walking along Oliver's Battery Road South when I was surrounded by a group of teenage lads. "Why haven't we got anywhere to play football?" they said. "You're on the Council or something, aren't you?"

We talked for a few minutes and next day I received a well argued e-mail from one of the boys making the case for extra football goals on the Recreation Ground. I presented the case on their behalf at the next evening's Oliver's Battery Parish Council meeting and was impressed with the enthusiasm and support for the idea from the Parish Councillors. They agreed on the spot to pay for the goals and had them installed within ten days. All credit to Frazer from Oliver's Battery and Jack from Badger Farm and their friends for making the suggestion and to the Parish Council for their swift action in response.

Success!
I reported on the "surprise" removal of a planted bed from Falcon View by County Council contractors in the last issue of "Community News". Readers may recall that local residents got up a petition for its restoration and that County Cllr Charlotte Bailey and I met with Highways officials to demand that they cancelled plans to tarmac over the area. I can now report that the County had backed down and re-planted the bed (see picture). A successful outcome for all of us involved!

The replanted bed in Falcon View

Street nameplates around our area have been getting increasingly tatty in recent years. I asked for replacement of some of the worst ones and I'm pleased to say that this has now been done. Ten Oliver's Battery street nameplates have been renewed and another, on Old Kennels Lane near the junction with Port Lane, will be replaced shortly. Most recently the broken sign at the entrance to Harrow Down, Badger Farm has also been replaced at my request.

General tidiness issues of the local area continue to be monitored. Work with the City Council over the last couple of years has got the Badger Farm foliage onto an improved maintenance schedule, but we'll be keeping an eye on this during the growing season.

I'm sure there will be other references in this issue to the new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Area Community Safety Officers (ACSOs). It was good to meet both teams at the recent Oliver's Battery Annual Parish Meeting. Between them they provide a useful increased level of patrolling in our area, and I understand that they would welcome the occasional cup of tea from local residents too!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

David Spender
29 Old Kennels Lane, Oliver's Battery.
Tel: 01962 877767
e-mail: dspender@winchester.gov.uk
website: http://obbfcouncillor.blogspot.com
Surgery: 2nd Monday of every month (not August). Badger Farm Community Centre. 6.30 pm to 7.15 pm.

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer

(Nat King Cole)

So summer is once again here... hooray! The schools are due to break up soon and those of you with children will be looking at a six week stretch :) Let's hope that the weather is better than it currently is and then we can all get outside and let off some steam. However, if the weather is not as sunny as we'd like then don't forget that some of the children's group at the Community Centre also run through the summer, not least Tae Kwon-Do. Do give Jan a call on 01962 868630 and see if there's anything you or your children might like to attend.

So, how many of you have seen one of our new bicycle-riding PCSOs around the patch? I certainly have. It's almost like having a bobby on the beat again and their presence feels very reassuring. Although they are not, strictly speaking, police officers, they do have the power to deal with some of the minor niggles that go on in any community. If you see one, do stop and give a cheery wave and make them feel valued!

The Annual General Meeting of the Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association is coming up in July (see the notice on page three). Please do make every effort to attend and put your views on the community centre and the local area forward. Whether they are positive remarks or more constructive comments, I know that the Executive Committee will be pleased to hear them. Representatives from both Parish Councils also attend so it will also give you an ideal chance to collar one of them for a chat too! As ever, we are always looking for new volunteers to join the Executive Committee of the BF&OBRCA. If you're interested, give Ian a call on 01962 854542.

With all best wishes

Jane

EDITOR

BF & OB RCA
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 279592
BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE
BADGER FARM ROAD
WINCHESTER SO22 4QB
TEL : 01962 868630
EMAIL : COMMUNITYNEWS@BFOBRCA.COM
EDITORIAL DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN ISSUE : 17/08/07

HEY YOU! Yes, YOU! Don't skip over this bit!

WE ALWAYS NEED NEW

VOLUNTEERS

to help deliver Community News.

It's a good way to keep see the autumn colours!

PLEASE contact:

Barbara Hitchings

Tel: 01962 623532

WHILST EVERY CARE IS TAKEN TO SEE THAT DATES, TIMES AND OTHER DETAILS ARE CORRECTLY STATED, WE CAN TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE INCURRED FOR WHATEVER REASONS, NOR CAN WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRINTING, OR GOODS AND SERVICES OFFERED WITHIN.