

City Councillor's Report

Brian Collin reporting back on Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm and the City Council.

I'm writing this piece towards the end of August and I'm still waiting for the summer to start! By the time you read it, I guess we'll be shivering in the autumn mists and thinking about some much needed last minute repairs to house and garden, which, of course, you can get the materials for locally at our shops in Oliver's Battery. While you're there, you might even have a think about new clothes and other kit for the little ones and even more little ones if you've got pets as well as children. I know a lot of children get bikes for Christmas, so it might be worth checking out what's there at this time.

During the "summer" the City Council, in collaboration with the County Council, has been trying out flashing "30" reminder signs in Badger Farm (twice) and in Oliver's Battery. I was staggered at the number of times the sign was triggered. In Meadow Way, it went off over 9,000 times in a two week deployment. Even in "sleepy" Old Kennels Lane, it went off 2,300 times in a fortnight. I don't know the figures for Ridgeway yet, but I hope they will be less than Meadow Way. I believe most of the drivers setting the sign off are local residents and we should all take a lot more care with our speed around our area. I'll be discussing with the road safety officers where we go from here. It might be that the level of speeding warrants some speed trap enforcement. You have been warned. <stern mode off>

You might know that the City Council employs Neighbourhood Wardens to help with community safety in some of our areas – one being Stanmore. The wardens visited Badger Farm to check that their enforcement action in respect of untaxed cars on the road hadn't pushed them into our area. The good news is that there were virtually no untaxed cars found. The bad news is that the wardens found that our garage security left a lot to be desired. Some garages were half open with lots of very tempting combustible materials in them in plain view. Some garage owners will have received letters encouraging them to improve their security. I'm pleased to report that the collapsed wall in the garage block in May Tree has been repaired. Perhaps this autumn, we can all have a bit of a clear out and tidy up, eh?

I've been working with the police and some local residents in the past few months to re-establish Neighbourhood Watch in Oliver's Battery. We'd like to get it going in Badger Farm too. If you're interested contact me or the police. They have an article in this edition too so both contact routes are available.

I'm sure as you read this, you will be noticing the leaves starting to fall off the trees. The City Council has a special leaf clearance team that's employed when the leaves have come down. In parts of our area where there are pine trees, the needles come down some time before the deciduous trees. There, we have two sweeps; one for the pine needles and one for the leaves. But we always have to wait for the leaves to all come down before we sweep them up. If any accumulations get bad this year, please let David or myself know as we can arrange for extra sweeps in particular areas.

Don't forget, David and I are available at a Councillor's drop in contact time at Badger Farm Community Centre on the second Monday each month from 6:30pm till 7:15. You can get one or both of us there or just be in touch in the normal way.

Stay safe on the roads.

Regards

Brian Collin

ClIrr Brian Collin, City Councillor for Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm

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Email bcollin@winchester.gov.uk

BADGER FARM PARISH COUNCIL

I was recently talking to someone who works in an inner London borough about how he tries to encourage a community spirit in the people who live in high-rise flats. He said he tries to get the people on each floor to talk to the others on that floor, and then perhaps the next floor, and so on. This made me think about Badger Farm. Whilst we don't have any high-rise flats, and at the other extreme could hardly call ourselves a "village", I like to think that most of the roads on Badger Farm could have a "street" atmosphere. Most of the residential roads are not busy thoroughfares.

Perhaps, if you see your neighbours outside where you live, and you don't know them already, you could introduce yourself to them. I know that some people have problems with noise and other things from neighbours, but it is really a great asset to an area to have people who look out for each other and notice if something is not quite right. We are fortunate that the layout of Badger Farm encourages this.

Over the summer, we have been doing research into the needs of young people in the Parish. The request for somewhere to meet is often mentioned, but in this respect we are lucky to have the Carroll Youth centre adjacent to the Parish. We also have a good bus service into Winchester, although some of the evening services are being threatened with budget cuts. Nevertheless, there is still a bus service until after 11pm, and of course you can always share a taxi home. From Southampton, there is a service to Winchester (via St. Cross) until 3:30am on Friday and Saturday nights.

For the not-so-young amongst us, can I remind you that a free bus pass is available for the over-60s from the City Council for off-peak travel on buses anywhere in the county, including those buses back from the city centre - so leave the car at home!

Badger Farm has become part of the alcohol exclusion zone in the city. This means that there are restrictions on anyone drinking alcohol in public places. In practice, this is not likely to affect many people, but it does give the police more powers where there is a problem with a group of drinkers in a public place.

You may have noticed the temporary speed limit sign we had installed during the summer. If it flashed at your car, please remember that at that speed you would probably kill a child who ran out in front of you.

Finally, one of our parish councillors, Dan Plelps, is interested in boules (also known as petanque), and was wondering if there is any interest in making a playing area for it. If you would be interested, email me at kgtaylor@bcs.org.uk, and I will pass your name on.

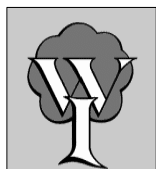
Let's hope we have an "Indian" summer this year to make up for all the rain!

Keith Taylor

Chairman, Badger Farm Parish Council

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

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Oliver's Battery WI

Meets on the third Tuesday in St Marks at 7.45

Over the summer, there have been the much enjoyed walks and the lunch afterwards. We have also enjoyed a Cheese & Wine get together, just to keep in touch, with no formal meeting in August.

There is much to look forward to in the autumn. Having heard so much about the Wickedest Place in Europe – Portsmouth Point – it is now up to us to find out by visiting the oldest part of Portsmouth, with the very popular speaker Madeleine Selby. She will certainly bring the history alive with her local knowledge.

The craft group continues and has proved useful in learning tips from other Oliver's Battery members. Walking will also be on the agenda so long as the weather is kind to us.

There are also some very good events organised by the Hampshire Federation of WIs, to which all members can apply for tickets. An America Day, with guest speakers from the American Embassy; Speaker Selection Days; the Autumn Council meeting with guest speaker Angela Baker – the original Calendar Girl and an Open House at WI House for all to find out more. Plans are also well in hand for members from all over Hampshire to attend a Hampshire weekend at the WI's Residential College – Denman College – near Abingdon. There is a choice of five courses over a three night stay in June 2008.

We have been very pleased to welcome several new members over the past few months. It is always a pleasure to see new faces and to all get to know each other better, we hope they will find there's so much to being a WI member.

The programme of speakers is arranged to suit all tastes and the speakers are all booked up to January 2009. WI Speakers are auditioned by an audience of members, to make sure they are what members would like to listen to.

It would be super to welcome even more new members, the door is always open to anyone who would like to come along to a meeting or two.

If you would like to know more, please call Sue on 620029.



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8 Fallow Field Badger Farm Winchester SO22 4LY

Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Social Club

Annual General Meeting

To be held on Sunday 9 September 2007 in The Warren at 8.00pm

All members welcome to attend or apply for positions on the Committee.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Social Club.

Current resolutions to be received by 25 August 2007.

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Elysabeth Sheppard
01962 882655

www.europalingua.org.uk

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.



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 abili-
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	2 nd 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	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
Slimming World	Wednesday	6pm-7pm	Jo Mortimore		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.

Butterfly Conservation 's local nature reserve Yew Hill

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

Volunteers continue monitoring butterflies until the last week in September so it is too early to say how butterflies have fared in relation to previous years but obviously the very poor summer weather means it has been a difficult year for butterflies. Chalkhill Blues have been present in good numbers to the delight of visitors. It was National Moth Night on August the 11th and a party of 6 set up lights to attract moths at Yew Hill. Pleasingly, reported Tim Walker, the 54 species recorded was a good mixture given the clear skies and vaguely chilly conditions. Moths have lovely names like Willow Beauty and Rosy Footman!

We have had numerous public walks at the reserve and several visits by private groups. We do welcome such groups as they enable us to make a claim for a grant. If you belong to a local group that would like a visit (at no cost to the group) contact me – bookings being taken for 2008, but they are obviously limited

Recent practical work has included clearance of ragwort. We do recognise its usefulness to insects but we are mindful of the danger it poses to grazing animals. Obviously we hope that the current foot & mouth outbreak will be contained so that we can have cattle on the reserve in autumn and winter as usual. They are vital in encouraging the special plants upon which the butterflies depend.

We are planning a winter programme to continue clearance of scrub and undertake maintenance work on hedgerows. If you would like to get involved – contact me.

We are a friendly group who meet about once a month usually on a week day. We do have a Sunday work party planned with Hampshire Conservation Volunteers on December 2nd though.

Lynn Fomison
01962 772251
web site www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Improvements to the Centre

The last twelve months have been a busy time for the Association. We have seen many changes and have been very active in refurbishing the Community Centre. The office, entrance hallway and connecting corridors have all been redecorated and re-carpeted and new carpets have also been laid in the Bushfield and Whiteshute rooms. The toilets have had new units to replace old and damaged ones and replacement floor coverings have been laid. A 'Welcome' sign has been put up in the entrance hall and notice boards have been redesigned. We have also purchased new furniture for the office to replace old and worn out items and a storage cupboard for use by the caretaker. Outside, paving has been laid in both gardens to facilitate access to the final exits on emergency evacuation. A safety rail was also installed on the ramp at the rear and the gates were altered to open outwards to the car park. With the co-operation of our local Sainsbury's superstore, the path outside the main entrance has been cleared of overhanging foliage, making the area lighter and less threatening for hirers and visitors.

Events and Activities

The annual firework display was held once again at the Oliver's Battery recreation ground and was a great success with a large number of residents attending. Our gratitude goes to all those volunteers, who gave up their time to help make the event go so smoothly, particularly Kevin and Barbara Hitchings, Greg Wood, Colin Stride, Robert Makewell, Dave Thomas, the Scouts Group and St John Ambulance staff.

We celebrated also the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the Centre with a reception for trustees, staff, users and those volunteers, who regularly deliver the Community News. The Social Club and Pre-School Group also held their own well-attended parties to mark the occasion.

Use of the Centre continues to grow with regular and one-off bookings. We have a varied mix of activities on offer to residents and we are keen for this to continue. We recognise the support given to the Centre by all the User Groups and we value their continued involvement in our community.

Staffing and Training

We have had a change in staff at the beginning of the year with a new Bookings Secretary, Jan Dawkins. She is now making her presence felt in the day-to-day running of the Centre's business and is a welcome asset to the team. Together with our caretaker, Mervyn Hall, Jan attended a Fire Safety at Work course. The Committee's Health and Safety officer, Loraine Martin, attended an H&S Risk Assessment course and a Control of Substances Hazardous to Health course. I also went on a Fire Risk Assessment course.

New Legislation

We have seen the introduction of two major pieces of new legislation: on 1st October 2006 in respect of Fire Safety and on 1st July 2007 in respect of a Smoking Ban in enclosed public places. The former required considerable work in undertaking a fire risk assessment throughout the Centre together with the necessary documentation, which has to be available to the Fire Service in case of an inspection. In this connection, we have held two day-time test emergency evacuations in the last few months involving several groups and I am pleased to say that our procedures worked well.

With the latter, the Centre already had restrictions in force on smoking on the premises; it affected the Social Club more, where smoking had been allowed. Smoking is now restricted only to the garden outside the Warren and Bushfield rooms. The Social Club continues to be the focal point of the Centre and it is to be hoped that the ban will encourage more residents to join as members.

A health and safety risk assessment was also carried out by Loraine with only minor points needing attention. This highlighted the fact that the work undertaken in previous years by our predecessors had been well thought out and well done.

Thanks and Valediction

I would like to end my report by thanking the Executive Committee members for their help and support during the last year. In particular, I would wish to single out those, who are retiring after many years service: namely Barbara Hitchings, Kevin Hitchings and Ray Bennett. As you will be aware, Barbara and Kevin have been the driving force for the annual fireworks display and the distribution of Community News for very many years; they will be greatly missed. I would also like to thank Elizabeth Barrett, who is standing down as Secretary, for being so helpful and conscientious. Fortunately, Elizabeth has agreed to continue on the Committee.

Continued on page 9

YOUR LETTERS

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

A PLEA!

I would like to plead with dog owners to clear up after their dogs in Badger Farm and on the paths on the ridge. I walk over the ridge with my children to Oliver's Battery school frequently and without fail, I witness that a dog owner has failed to clear up after their dog right in the middle of the paths. Yesterday on the way back from school, my little boy ended up with dog excrement on his shoes, socks and legs. This has also happened on the way to school before now and is extremely unhygienic and very inconvenient. He had to spend the day in his PE shorts and plimsolls. This is totally unacceptable in areas where there are a high number of children.

K. M. , Badger Farm

Response from Keith Taylor:

I am sorry that you and your son have had such an unpleasant experience with the results of dog fouling around Badger Farm. We do provide as many dog bins as possible within the budget of the Parish, but nevertheless a few people do not bother to use them to clean up after their dogs. Perhaps they do not realise that they could be given a fixed penalty notice of £50.

Winchester City Council adopted the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 to cover all land within its district which is open to the air and to which the public are allowed or permitted to have access these include Open Spaces and Footbridges. This Act makes failure to clean up after your dog an offence. Anyone seen allowing their dog to foul and not cleaning up after it may be approached by the Councils Animal Welfare Officer or other authorised officers and issued with a FIXED PENALTY NOTICE of £50.

Unfortunately, there is only one Dog Warden for the whole of Winchester and he has limited time to visit particular places, although we have recently arranged that he visits Whiteshute Ridge specifically. I will look into the possibility of other people (Police Community Support Officers) also enforcing the Act. I will also look at putting up more notices.

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.

Chairman's Annual Report continued from page 8

It would be appropriate here to mention also the effort and care that our treasurer, John Pettett, puts into his work on our behalf. I have greatly appreciated his support and advice to me personally during the last twelve months. My thanks must also go to Jane Fielding, who consistently produces such an interesting Community News each quarter.

It is perhaps disappointing to note that nobody has come forward from either of the two parishes to volunteer to serve on the Executive Committee for this coming year. So, we shall have to manage with fewer trustees; a situation, which is far from satisfactory. Finally. I cannot let the opportunity pass without thanking our permanent staff, Mervyn and Jan, who are the Centre's day-to-day representatives and the 'public face' for hirers and visitors. Their efforts are much appreciated.

And Finally!

We look forward to another interesting and busy year!

AGE Concern

WINCHESTER
Reg. Charity No 260790

Age Concern Winchester needs your help!

Age Concern Winchester is a local charity providing services to the elderly of Winchester. Many of our clients live in Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery. We are keen to hear from anyone who could volunteer for any of the following:

- Drive our 10-seater Minibus**, all you need is a full clean driving licence.
- Work in our Charity Shop**, on the till or helping to prepare goods for sale.
- Help at our Lunch Clubs**, serving coffee and lunch and friendly chat.
- Shopping and light housework** for an elderly person (paid at £8 per hour).

If you are interested and would like further information please contact Mike Davies at Age Concern Winchester, 68 St George's Street, Winchester SO23 8AH.

Tel: 01962 840667

E-mail: ac.winchester@btclick.com

Web site: <http://www.communitigate.co.uk/hants/ageconcernwinchester/index.phtml>



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

From Revd. Mike Gardner,

Vicar of St Luke's Parish

All to soon Autumn is upon us, our minds along with the season changes and turns to more mellow thoughts and a slower pace of life. Harvest celebrations marks the final crops of the growing season and time to tidy up and put the garden and greenhouse in good order for the promise of tomorrow. Time to take stock and reflect on all our tomorrows, what can we know of it all but before I roll up in a ball and hibernate There is still much we can get excited about and involved in across our community, from this little rather sheltered corner, we are part of so much bigger. Much of the world is in need of something, we can't fix it all but we can effect things by our views, concerns and actions. So lets not fall into a deep slumber but be awaked to the call to serve our neighbours in all their walks of life.

We at St Luke's and St Mark's would like to invite you to share with us the celebration of Harvest on Sunday 7th October at :
08.00am at St Mark's Olivers Battery
09.30am at St Luke's Stanmore
11.15 short All Age service at St Mark's
or at a joint evening praise service in St Stephen's

With Harvest Blessings,

Mike



OLIVER'S BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

By now, many of you will be aware that a section of Compton Way between Oliver's Battery Gardens and Priors Way has been resurfaced. This apparently simple project raised many unexpected issues and has proved surprisingly difficult ... so let me explain. The section in question is a narrow lane and probably originated as an army roadway during the First World War. Now it is officially classified as a bridleway on the Definitive Map held by Hampshire County Council. This means that it may legally be used by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, but not by motorised vehicles. Over the years, however, it has been used by vehicles and, indeed, the owners of three properties in Compton Way use it as the primary access to their homes.

After years of use with no maintenance, and following the heavy storms earlier this year, the surface had become deeply rutted and dangerous, especially for the elderly, and impassable for those using pushchairs or wheelchairs. So resurfacing was required – but if this led to more vehicles using it at higher speeds then, of course, it would not make it any safer for pedestrians. After consultation, we decided to install three “sleeping policeman” style ramps, white lines indicating a narrow carriageway, and traffic signs indicating “No Vehicles Except for Access”. These take the form of a red circle containing symbols for a motorcycle and a car – popularly referred to as meaning “low flying motorcycles”! It seems that some people are unfamiliar with this type of sign, but it's in the Highway Code – so now you know.

I'm glad to say that I've heard many appreciative remarks from pedestrians who use this route but, unfortunately, there are too many vehicles using it – some drivers see it as a good shortcut even though they are using it illegally, others claim they “didn't see the signs”, and delivery drivers apparently follow Compton Way blindly. To cope with the latter problem, two of the residents involved have very kindly agreed to change their addresses to numbers in Priors Way, which will eventually lead to deliveries taking a different route. May I therefore take this opportunity to ask you to respect the “No Vehicles” signs and resist the temptation to take a short cut? Thank you, and you will make a lot of pedestrians very happy!

Progress continues with the Oliver's Battery Village Design Statement, which has now been reviewed by the Strategic Planning team at Winchester City Council headed by Steve Opacic. Numerous detailed comments will be included in the fifth draft which will also include maps and detailed charts presenting information from the survey conducted in 2005. This draft will be issued as a formal Consultation Draft during the September/October period to a number of “statutory consultees” (other councils, government agencies, etc.) and will also be placed on the Parish Council web site. I do urge you to look at it, since it could affect you if you are proposing to extend your property or have an interest in Planning matters. We will also make printed copies available to local residents on request so please contact Bernard Quartly, our Parish Clerk, if you would like one. As a reminder, the overall purpose of this document is to provide guidance when planning applications are being determined and to protect the character of Oliver's Battery over the long term. Getting a statement of local views on these important questions embedded into the planning process offers us the best opportunity to do that.

Finally, please remember that the bonfire season is approaching rapidly! Now is the time to cut back those overgrown hedges – especially any that may be protruding over the footpath in front of your house – and dispose of the prunings via your green waste collection or on the local bonfire. Dry material only, and no plastic please!

Geoff Sharman Chairman, Oliver's Battery Parish Council

Tel: 867961 e-mail: geoffrey.sharman@btinternet.com

County Councillor Charlotte Bailey reports

The last few months have seen the County Council making savings in all areas of its budget. The most immediate threat for Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm has been to some of the **Stagecoach 5 bus** service. Once alerted you all rallied round amazingly. I was able to present nearly 67 emails and 37 petition forms showing how we value the service and I know that more came in later. At the decision meeting it looked as though all was lost but I have since heard that, because of all the representations we made, we will keep the weekday 20.05 bus. Good news but that still means we lose the 21.05 and all Sunday evening services. I will now work with David Spender and Brian Collin to see if the City Council can help or even Stagecoach! We have not given up.

There is a new **grant scheme** which gives each County Councillor a small pot of money to be of benefit to the local community. Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm have lots of active groups meeting regularly and it may be you have a particular project which needs a boost of cash. Alternatively you may have a project in mind which has not got off the ground yet. If your group would like to find out more then just call me or why not invite me to a meeting?

I recently put on a hard hat and boots for a tour around the new **Discovery Centre** in Jewry Street. It is at the carpet-laying stage and is due to open in the Autumn. There is plenty of space for books and also lots of quiet spaces for those who want to study while baby rhyme or children's sessions are going on. Computers will feature prominently as so many reference works are stored there. The 'Gallery' at the top of the stairs could host art from the National collections or local shows and the 'City Space' downstairs will show us themed exhibitions using some of Winchester's collections. I think this will be a real asset to Winchester as long as we regular borrowers are still served with a good variety of books too.

I looked carefully at the 'Performance Space' which is now supposed to fill the gaps left by the proposed closure of evening entertainment at the **Tower Arts Centre**. It certainly does not have the character of the Tower. The Save the Tower protests will still go on at:-
petitions.pm.gov.uk/SaveTowerArts/

The **Park & Ride site** has been approved and now the bus routes and road layouts need deciding on. I will make sure the County consults properly with us on this.

Do contact me on these or any other issues.

Charlotte Bailey

4, Grove Road, Shawford, Winchester, SO21 2DD

01962 713392 or 07711 613560

charlotte.bailey@hants.gov.uk

Winchester District of the HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Autumn programme

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.

City Councillor David Spender reports back

I'm writing this piece while still on holiday in Canada. It's certainly been good to enjoy the weather here as an escape from our so-called summer!

A few local issues to mention. First of all, I went on a inspection tour of the public areas in Badger Farm with a couple of City Council officers during July. It was a useful opportunity to look at some of the most overgrown areas and to agree action to get them sorted. Most of the planted areas in Badger Farm are owned by the County Council and are "looked after" by the County's Highways Department. Some of this work is then passed down by the County to the City Council, but with a very small maintenance budget attached to it. However, we try to make the best use of the limited funds and get the worse problems sorted. Please let me know if there are areas that are particularly overgrown and I promise to take them up with the officers concerned.

I also met with Oliver's Battery Parish Council Chairman, Geoff Sharman, and some Compton Way residents during July. The concern here was that traffic was still using the newly re-surfaced stretch of Compton Way leading down to the Recreation Ground. This is a bridle way and has been signed as "no motorised traffic". The only reason for using this stretch of pathway is for access to 52 Compton Way, which opens off of it. I'd appeal to all residents to abide by the sign and access the Rec via Priors Way...or, if able, walk!

An ongoing concern has been the future of the Tower Arts Centre. I've taken part in two demonstrations against the County's plans to transfer the management of the centre to King's School. Although the plan means that the centre will survive, it also means that its independent artistic programme will be lost. This is our local arts centre and a valuable service to our community. There is an independent website dedicated to supporting the Tower at <http://savetowerarts.blogspot.com/>, please take a look if you have internet access.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you'd like to raise any issue or problem.

David Spender

Winchester City Councillor for Oliver's Battery & Badger Farm

Tel: 01962 877767

e-mail: dspender@winchester.gov.uk

website: <http://obbfccouncillor.blogspot.com>



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

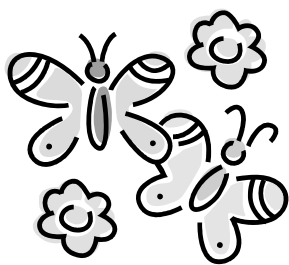
All children are funded from the term after their 3rd birthday.

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.



Wildlife in Oliver's Battery !

"Ten men went to mow, went to mow a meadow...." Well it was actually one man with a mowing machine, two men, one woman and one child in a pushchair (but of course no dog) who really mowed Oliver's Battery's meadow down on the wildlife conservation area in mid August. Perhaps this "Breathing Space" created for both wildlife and people is one of the parish's best kept secrets, as a number of local residents asked for directions to it but the lost driver of the mower denied all knowledge of the existence of the conservation area! The parish council and our countryside group have been developing the area, located at the far side of our recreation ground (follow the arrow) for your enjoyment for well over 2 years. Do go and see it for yourself.

The story so far is that the wildlife is blooming, blossoming, thriving, sliding, chirping, fluttering, buzzing and scampering in the area! Can you match those activities to the following denizens: flowers, bushes, trees, reptiles, birds, butterflies, bees and rabbits? Come and see for yourself. Take a rest on the new sustainably-sourced bench and enjoy the end of summer. Listen to the grasshoppers and watch the butterflies.

When the area was officially opened last September it was mainly bare soil and plants struggling to survive in the dry summer. Over the winter some small trees succumbed to the sharp teeth of the hungry rabbits. However, most trees survived and grew well during this wetter summer. The wildflower meadow, only sown in October, has been a delightful sight this summer with its wide variety of different grasses and colourful flowers. Members of the group are enjoying learning about the wide range of unusual plants that have also appeared this year. Even plants normally considered "weeds" elsewhere are appreciated here as they provide vital food for many different sorts of insects.

Sunday 16th September 3pm

Wildlife in the Conservation Area

Bring you own picnic to enjoy in the Conservation Area. This will be followed by "Nature's Harvest" - activities for all ages! Events will be organised by members of the OBCG to help you discover what a treasure we have. For more information, look on signboards by the Community Centre, school and shops.

BREAKING NEWS: fantastic new website:
www.oliversbatterycountysidegroup.org

Clare Shorter, Chairperson, Oliver's Battery Countryside Group

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 .

A NOTE FROM PC EMMA PORT

Dear readers,

My name is PC Emma Port and I am one of the local beat officers for your area. I work with a team based at Twyford Police Station. The dedicated PCSO (Police community support officer) for your area is Warren Carne.

Myself and Warren are currently working with your local parish council and other agencies to re launch the Neighbourhood watch scheme. The launch will be in January 2008.

The purpose of this announcement is to notify you of our plans and also to request anybody's interest in being a neighbourhood co-coordinator.

If anybody is interested in becoming a co-coordinator or has a general enquiry into what we are doing then please contact us on 0845 045 45 45 or e-mail Emma.port@hampshire.pnn.police.uk and warren.carne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.

We will be advertising in future editions of our work so far and watch out for notices on the parish council boards for forthcoming meetings in the new year.

I look forward to working with you.

Regards, Emma



"September maidens feel the change, Like the blue of the sky"

(Rachel Millsaps)

Apparently the summer is the busiest time for moving house, although fewer houses are put on the market at this time of the year. I suspect that this is because of the school holidays. Having just moved myself, I know that the process was started back in the spring and we finally completed our move at the beginning of August. This suits many people because, I suspect, of the school holidays and the theory that life is not quite as busy as at other times since many parents have to take time off work.

This, to some degree, is true. Certainly at the Badger Farm Community Centre, July and August are quieter months. However, there are some groups that continue throughout the school holidays and, for some, this is a real blessing, especially if they provide entertainment for the kids. Bear this in mind for the Christmas holidays if the children are bored and want to try something different.

If you are planning to hire a room at the Community Centre next year for a function, such as a child's birthday party or a wedding anniversary celebration, then you really need to be thinking about it now. Booking spaces are going very quickly and many people have to alter their dates or change their preferred room. Give Jan a ring now on 01962 868630 with a couple of dates and times if you want to make sure of a booking. Just remember, the early bird catches the worm and the early booker gets the room!

We have moved to a house with a much bigger garden and I'm already finding the upkeep hard work, although, to be fair, there was an awful lot to do. The previous owners had let it get rather overgrown and jungle-like. I'm quite looking forward to the onset of autumn and winter when I can leave the garden a bit. Of course, I'll no doubt then be busy decorating and furnishing the house in preparation for the arrival of our second baby in November!

With best wishes

Jane

EDITOR (jane@bfobrca.com)

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

WE ALWAYS NEED NEW

VOLUNTEERS

to help deliver **Community News**.

If you think that you can help them

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.