



Badger Farm Oliver's Battery COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring 2020

Badger Farm Spring Clean 2020

I'll be honest, I never imagined living in Badger Farm. I wanted to be in the thick of it in the city centre, where all the action is. Then our eldest daughter, Hannah, made an arrival and our priorities changed completely. A house with sufficient room to swing a cat and a garden seemed essential.

Five years on I know we made the right choice. We love Badger Farm: it's spacious, quiet, green and friendly. It's also not too far to walk into town, although walking back is not quite so agreeable!

The other thing we like about Badger Farm is by and large it's clean, which is more than can be said for many areas. That said, at this time of year I still notice a lot of accumulated litter in bushes and undergrowth.

Britain has a real litter problem, as if you haven't noticed! In order to empower local communities to do something about this awful blight and not always be dependent on local councils, the annual Great British Spring Clean was devised. It is an attempt to mobilise the country, clearing up all the grot. It takes place over the same few weeks up and down the country; last year there were over 13,000 litter-picking events.

A few years ago, I decided we should have our own Spring Clean. With equipment

from the City Council, around ten of us cleared eleven black bags of litter from the Ridgeway. We were all gobsmacked by the level of litter that was hidden in the undergrowth: the harder you look, the more you uncover. We found all sorts, from video cassette tapes to bottles of Vimto with a best before date of December 1984!



Not only did we feel great about having cleared up all this junk, for the benefit of humans and wildlife alike, we actually all had a great time. Believe it or not, litter picking is addictive and very sociable, a great opportunity to chat whilst you work.

Since then we have done a further two Great British Spring Cleans here in Badger Farm and they have grown every time. Last January there were around twenty of us, including lots of youngsters whose litter picking rates put us adults to shame!

There was also a lot of interest in having more regular tidy-ups and so a few of us decided we could form a group to do just that ... and Tidy Badger Farm was born! With a generous grant of £250 from the Parish Council we were able to buy litter pickers and high viz jackets and now we're raring to go. We plan to do several litter picks this year, tidy up some grot spots and also remove some graffiti.

James | jamesvincentmiller@yahoo.com

Our Great British Spring Clean event is on Sunday 5th April at 10am, meeting at Davis Kickabout. Come and join us and make Badger Farm an even nicer place to live!



News from the Community Centre

Update from Jan – getting there!!

Hi to all my friends and colleagues at Badger Farm Community Centre.

Well, after stupidly tripping up my front step back in November and suffering multiple fractures to my right leg I'm really pleased to let you know I'm making really good progress – so much so that I have now been discharged from physio and was told I was their star pupil!! I have tried to maintain a positive and 'won't be beaten' attitude throughout and have set myself goals to achieve each day which is working well. I still need walking sticks to get about and can't walk very far but I'm being positive and will soon be back to the old Jan you all knew!

I must say I miss everyone so much and can't wait to see you all soon! I also have to thank all those lovely people who sent me such generous gifts and the mountains of cards which I will treasure. It reminds me of just what an amazing group of people you are. Like I said, I miss you all so much. My last thanks go to my Dave without whose love, care and ceaseless help I'd never had made it this far so quickly. NOTE: walking sticks are an excellent way of pointing out you need something out of reach! To end on a serious note – I miss each and every one of you ... you are very special and true friends.

Love Jan xxxxxx

Office hours

Currently Ali, the Community Centre Manager, will be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Our social media

A reminder that you can keep up with all our latest news on our Facebook page [fb.com/BadgerFarmCommunityCentre](https://www.facebook.com/BadgerFarmCommunityCentre), our Twitter feed twitter.com/BFCCWinchester and, of course, our website bfobrca.org. Do Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Community News distributor needed

We are currently in need of a volunteer to help us distribute Community News in Oliver's Battery. Each of our much-appreciated volunteers delivers to a couple of streets close to their home.

If you can help out, please get in touch with the Community News editor, Ann Jury (bfobrca.cnews@gmail.com), the Community Centre Manager, Ali Cochrane (enquiries@bfobrca.org), or call 01962 868630.



Chat-Tea Café

This January, the Chat-Tea Café celebrated its first birthday as it welcomed some new guests and some familiar faces to its monthly free drop-in Café.

A team of enthusiastic volunteers baked cakes, welcomed and engaged with the guests. Such a rewarding experience, making a difference to people's lives. Over the last year we have enjoyed some incredible guests and witnessed first-hand new friendships being formed.

This January's Café enjoyed a performance by local choir 'The Folk Choir' and a stand with great information provided by Karen who is an Affordable Warmth Engagement Officer helping everyone manage their heating and bills this winter.

Loneliness is an increasingly challenging issue and reaching out to such people is a worthy cause. Each Café offers a warm welcome, friendly faces, chat, company and some amazing home-baked cakes.

This Christmas, the Café also opened its doors at the Community Centre to over 30 guests from all over Winchester who would perhaps have been on their own. To see people

sitting and chatting with each other when they would normally be alone on Christmas Day, perhaps thinking of times past, was so moving. So very special.

We have to offer thanks to Sainsbury's for their generosity each month in helping with the Café, their customers for their generous food contributions to our Christmas lunch,

Trinity for providing a present for every guest and the Night Shelter for providing us with two delicious turkeys.

We all look forward to each and every Chat-Tea Café and welcoming new faces who can benefit from this most worthy, monthly event.

Other events are being considered to broaden the activities of the Chat-Tea Café. We get together on the last Monday of every month. Our next dates are 24th February, 23rd March and 27th April, all from 2 to 4pm.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from the friendly and welcoming atmosphere, or indeed who would like to be a volunteer, we would be delighted to hear

from you. Please find more information on our website chat-tea.co.uk, Facebook page [fb.com/communitychatteacafe](https://www.facebook.com/communitychatteacafe) or Instagram [instagram.com/chatteacafe](https://www.instagram.com/chatteacafe).

Sharing is caring – especially when it comes to cake!



JUST SOME OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	COST	DESCRIPTION
Badger Farm ACOL Club	Friday	7.00pm – 10.00pm	Roland Richardson 023 8025 1277	£1 visitors £15 annual	Bridge Club.
Badger Farm Art Group	Thursday	1.30pm – 4.00pm	Sarah Zimmer snippycards@hotmail.co.uk	£7.50 per session	A friendly drop-in art group providing a space to paint in a relaxed setting. All abilities welcome.
Badger Farm Bridge Club	Tuesday	7.15pm – 10.15pm	Fred Hotchen 01794 301185 - 07771 854 347 fred.hotchen@btinternet.com	Enquire Direct	Friendly and relaxed local bridge club. New members and visitors very welcome.
Badger Farm Pre-School Playgroup	Monday to Friday	Mon. Tues. Wed. 9.15am – 3.00pm Thurs. Fri. 9.15am – 12.15pm	Denise Tosdevine 07771 798 474	3/4 years £4.50ph 2 years £4.70ph	For children from 3 years to school age. Great OFSTED results. Afternoons also available. Enquiries to Denise.
Badger Farm Social Club	Monday to Sunday	Various – see bfobrca.org/activities/badger-farm-social-club/	01962 849257 enquiries@bfobrca.org		A social club run for the Community by the Community.
Badminton	Thursday	8.00pm – 9.00pm	Wendy King 01962 861525		Fun and friendly for any age and ability. All welcome.
Chat-Tea Café	Last Monday of the month	2.00pm – 4.00pm	info@chat-tea.co.uk	Free	A free monthly café set up to bring people together.
Eucharist (Holy Communion)	Tuesday	10.00am – 11.00am	Rev. Mike Gardner 01962 865240		Church of England Service All welcome.
Gentle Therapeutic Yoga (PSC AHED)	Tuesday	1.30pm – 3.00pm	Christine Russel www.psc.ac.uk/ahed 01962 886166	Enrol online or call Registry 01962 886166	Improve mobility, strength & stamina using yoga and correct breathing.
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	2 nd Wednesday of the month	7.30pm – 10.00pm	Judy King 01962 881032	£4 per meeting	Illustrated talks on wildlife for all. Contact Loraine for details.
Home Instead Dementia Activity Group	Friday	10.30am – 12.00pm	hants@homeinstead.co.uk 01962 736681	Small donation to cover costs	Activity group for people with dementia and their carers
Legs, Bums & Tums	Monday	9.30am – 10.30am	Catherine Jones cathjones@talktalk.net 07990 513 434	£5 per class	A fun and friendly class to help keep you fit and toned. Discounts available for multiple classes.
Older adults Bootcamp	Tuesday	6.45pm – 7.45pm			
	Wednesday	10.00am – 12.00pm			
Pilates	Sunday	6:30pm – 7:30pm			
	Various	Various	bfobrca.org/activities	Various	Several Pilates classes are held at the Community Centre. See our website for details.
Royal British Legion	1 st Thursday monthly	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Stanley Judd 01962 841402		A warm welcome awaits you at your local Royal British Legion group meeting.
Slimming World	Monday Sunday	9.30am – 10.30am 6:30pm – 7:30pm	Steve Coombes 07788 683 077		A warm welcome awaits you in your local group. New members always welcome.
Weight Watchers	Thursday	9.30am – 10.30am 6.00pm – 7.00pm	Thomas Taylor 0845 073 0460 twytaylor@weight-watchers.co.uk	Weekly meeting fee of £6.25	Your lifestyle, your choice. With Weight Watchers you choose the weight loss approach that works best for you.
Wessex Wargames Club	Tuesday	7.00pm – 11.00pm	Alan McFarlane 01962 864210	£5 per session (first session is free)	Miniature wargames and role-playing games of all periods and genres played.
Winchester Tae Kwon-Do	Monday Wednesday	6.30pm – 9.00pm	Lucy Scott info@winchestertkd.co.uk	Membership by subscription	6.30pm-7.45pm beginners/intermediates 7.00pm-8.00pm seniors (black belts to 9.00pm)
Winchester Young Embroiderers	Contact organisers for dates	10am – 3pm	Karen Brooking brooking.karen@gmail.com	£10	For children aged 8 upwards. Discover stitching and crafting; make fun projects. Must book.
Yoga	Monday Friday	9.30am – 11.00am 1.30pm – 3.00pm	Chris Wyeth 01962 868346	£45 per 5-week session	Vanda Scaravelli inspired Yoga classes for those that wish to refine and deepen their practice. Not for beginners.

Here are just a few of the events that take place regularly at Badger Farm Community Centre. For more details see bfobrca.org/activities. If you can't find what you are looking for or want to enquire about setting up a new group, please email enquiries@bfobrca.org or telephone Ali on 01962 868630.



Badger Farm Parish Council

SAM :)

Look out for the parish council's new speed sign on roads around Badger Farm this spring! We work hard to represent your views and try and make improvements to the parish. Last year a resident attended one of our monthly meetings and expressed real concern about the speed of cars travelling around the parish. BFPC agreed to look into what could be done to raise awareness of speeding. We investigated options and agreed to purchase a SAM (Smiley Activated Message) sign.



The SAM has been purchased with generous grants from Winchester City Council and County Councillor Jan Warwick's small grants scheme. BFPC are grateful to both WCC and HCC for their contributions. Several proposed sites have already been surveyed, and once approval has been obtained from the Road Safety team of HCC, the sign will appear. Data is logged at each location, so it will be useful to monitor the effect of the SAM on traffic speeds as it moves around the parish!

Annual Parish Meeting

Badger Farm Parish Council runs a small grants scheme to support residents with projects they feel would add to the quality of life in the parish. Please do get in touch if you have an idea that you think will benefit the parish.

Some of the past projects we have funded will be highlighted at our Annual Parish Meeting at the Community Centre on Monday 11 May.

We hope to see you there!

Website

badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Social Media

facebook.com/badgerfarmpc

twitter.com/badgerfarmpc

Clerk Email

clerk@badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk

Clerk Phone

01425 656010

07463 760801



Please join us for the

Annual Parish Assembly

Complimentary drink on arrival for the first 30 attendees!

Free raffle draw!

Come and find out about the projects the Parish Council has been working on over the past year and hear from some of the community groups it has supported

Monday 11th May 2020

6:45pm for 7pm start

@ Badger Farm Community Centre

The Assembly will be followed by the Parish Council AGM at 8pm which residents are also very welcome to attend.



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Tim Newcombe | 6ft 5"
www.talltim81.com | talltim81@gmail.com



Oliver's Battery Parish Council

The Asset of Community Value (ACV)

As previously reported, the landowner of the large open field around Texas Drive and Yew Hill Butterfly Reserve appealed to the First Tier Tribunal against the WCC decision to confirm the nomination of the field as an ACV. On 29th November 2019, the PC were pleased to learn that the appeal had been dismissed. This means that the land will remain listed as an ACV by WCC. The PC sincerely thanks all those who took part in putting together our submission of evidence that helped convince the judge of our case.

Recreation Ground

Further work on improving and maintaining the recreation ground includes the installation of a green safety surface on the tunnel mound and the installation of an additional cold water tap, one tap for drinking water and the other for washing cycles or filling a dog bowl, together with a concrete hard standing and drainage channel.

Four small sign boards have been erected. One, adjacent to the gravel path, will have a site map showing the location of the facilities and adult fitness equipment. The other three are located adjacent to the fitness stations and will provide simple instructions.

A simple survey is being developed for users of the recreation ground to identify their views, including what further adult fitness equipment or other improvements they would like to be installed there.

Art Group



Badger Farm Art Group is a very well established Art Group, running for many years now. The members have a wide variety of skills and experience, but what they do have in common is the love of drawing and painting and the chance to share that enjoyment with friends.

We use watercolour colours, acrylics and experiment with some mixed media work. Members usually bring their own equipment and have their own ideas, but I am on hand to help with some advice and encouragement. Sometimes we will do some figure drawings or work from observation. Sometimes I will do a demo or a reminder about some techniques.

We are always keen to meet some new members, whatever age or skill level. If you are interested, please come along on a Thursday afternoon 1.30–4.00pm. £7.50 per session. Pay as you go. First session is free.

bfobrca.org/activities/badger-farm-art-group

Supporting Parish Events

The PC continued to support local community events through the provision of a grant to the Friends of Oliver's Battery Primary School for their fireworks evening in November and by providing financial support to the Oliver's Battery Events Group to enable the erection and decoration of a Christmas tree and seasonal refreshments on the edge of the Battery near St Mark's.

VE Day Celebration

The Bank Holiday at the start of May 2020 has been moved to Friday 8th May to facilitate the celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The Oliver's Battery Events Group, with the backing of the PC and the PCC of St Luke's and St Mark's, are planning a Street Party to take place on the Battery, subject to approval from Historic England. Live music, dancing, games, refreshments and all sorts of fun are planned. If you are interested in helping out then please get in touch at oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com. Keep an eye on the PC website and Facebook page for updates.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

A new resident permit system will begin operating later in 2020. It will be controlled by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and will ensure continued free access for Hampshire residents to any of Hampshire's HWRC to dispose of household waste. Residents can register their car for free access by visiting hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc. For residents without internet access, please call 0300 555 1389 to register.

Brian Mitchener – Chair, Oliver's Battery Parish Council
cllr.mitchener@oliversbattery.info | 01962 623585

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at Badger Farm

Award Winning Moo Music sessions for
the under 5's on a Thursday afternoon in
the community centre

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ali@moo-music.co.uk
or call 07833 443153

www.moo-music.co.uk/winchester



Hampshire County Council

Groundwater Levels and Flood Resilience

Following four months of exceptional rainfall, groundwater levels are rising fast locally and are well above average for the time of year. The recent rainfall will further increase groundwater levels as it works its way into the natural aquifers. Hampshire County Council works with the Environment Agency, Southern Water, District and Parish Councils to help make communities more resilient to the impact of flooding.

You can sign up for flood alerts on:
www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings.

On the road network, Hampshire Highways teams are ready with extra gully crews, and emergency gangs are on standby to help keep the roads clear of surface water.

Fallen trees on the highway can be reported on 0300 555 1388.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

A new resident permit system will begin operating from 1st April 2020. It will be controlled by Automatic Number Plate

Recognition (ANPR) and will ensure continued free access for Hampshire residents to any of Hampshire's 24 HWRCs to dispose of household waste, while access for non-Hampshire residents will be for a fee of £5 per visit. Charges for non-household waste, including soil and rubble, plasterboard and asbestos remain. Hampshire residents can register up to three vehicles via the Hampshire County Council website. The introduction of this system will allow those living outside Hampshire to continue to use Hampshire HWRCs while making a contribution towards the costs of disposal of their household waste in Hampshire.

Hampshire residents can register for free access to any of our recycling centres at hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc or you can call 0300 555 1389.

Library Service Strategy

Consultation on the county-wide Library Service Strategy commenced on Thursday 9th January. Please do share your views on hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations.

Cllr Jan Warwick

Hampshire County Councillor – Winchester Downlands
Tel: 07712 695431 | Email: jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk



Southampton Eastleigh Airport

In response to Southampton International Airport's planning application to Eastleigh Borough Council, WCC will be objecting to the proposed runway extension; this position was approved by the Cabinet on 22nd January. Southampton City Council has also objected to the proposed runway extension. As ward councillors, we will continue to reflect the views of our residents and continue to object to this proposal.

Kerbside Glass Collection

With 275 tonnes of glass collected in October, 221 in November and 264 in December compared to only 185 tonnes in December 2018, it is good to see the recycling rates increase. As 233kg of CO₂ is reportedly saved per tonne recycled it was estimated that 10–15 tonnes of CO₂ will be saved per month. In addition, it suggests that income may be received on the 80 extra tonnes of glass recycled and saved from the costs of disposal of household waste that formerly included recyclable glass. Also, it should be noted that missed rubbish and recycling collections during December 2019 were reported to have improved dramatically compared to 2018 (refuse: 178 to 98 and recycling: 118 to 55).

Children's Climate Parliament

On Wednesday 18th March Winchester City Council will be holding the first District-wide Children's Climate Parliament. Two children from every junior, secondary and sixth form will be invited to attend and to look at the issues affecting our

district in relation to climate change. They will be working with councillors looking at the problems facing us and what solutions can be found. The idea is to make the children a part of fighting climate change with us as a council working with them.

The Winchester Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020-2030 was approved at council winchester.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-and-energy/carbon-neutrality-action-plan.

Crowdfunding Launch Event 5th February 2020

WCC is launching their new Crowdfunding event on Wednesday 5th February. It will be an introductory session about this method of fundraising and the potential uses for local projects. Councillors will be attending and will report back to the parish council about this new source of funding.

Maytree Close Garages, Badger Farm

As many residents will be aware, on Wednesday it became necessary to close the garage block and access to the adjacent footpaths of May Tree Close. This is because of significant risk of injury due to falling masonry and the potential instability of the walls. This action has been prompted following a deterioration in the condition of the buildings after recent stormy weather and a subsequent independent assessment from a structural engineer.

A public meeting is taking place on Thursday 13th February at 7:30pm at Badger Farm Community Centre where options will be discussed and hopefully a way forward will be found. If you require any further information contact Winchester City Council's Building Control team on 01962 838176, Monday to Thursday 8:30am–5:00pm, Friday 8:30am–4:30pm.

Cllr Eleanor Bell

ebell@winchester.gov.uk

01962 775521

Cllr Hannah Williams

hwilliams@winchester.gov.uk

07776 138405

Cllr Brian Laming

blaming@winchester.gov.uk

07973 265028



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Tuesday 2.00pm at St Lawrence Parish Rooms,
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- mobility & joint flexibility
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**Oliver's Battery
Winchester**



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From your MP

It is fair to say, the past few months has been busier than usual for me. A not entirely unexpected General Election combined with a (very unexpected) family crisis tested my faith to its core.

December 12th saw me re-elected for a fourth time – thank you – but just four days later my father passed away after a frighteningly short illness. Losing a parent is always difficult but to lose both is to find yourself somehow at the end of the line. I've never been surrounded by more family, friends and constituents but right now remains a very strange place to be. Thank you for your kind messages and prayers; I felt them all.

The start of a new Parliament is a time to re-focus and re-energise for MPs and I am no different. I plan to continue my relentless focus on the NHS and will be working closely with the service locally as we look towards the rebuild of the RHCH and securing safe and sustainable services in Winchester for the long-term.

Nationally, I want to work with my successors at the Department of Health on the prevention agenda I did much to craft when Public Health Minister. Tackling the dangerous hoodoo around immunisations, facing the obesity crisis and making good our pledges on the early detection of cancer to name three.



Elsewhere, I am determined to keep up the pressure on my school funding campaign working with the f40 group of similarly affected counties. The focus will now turn to helping teachers with the significant challenge they face around high-needs provision. And I am committed to shining a very bright light on the funding timebomb sitting underneath early years' provision. I have lots of constituency examples to get in front of senior Ministers.

Finally, I will be pushing Ministers to live up to every one of their green pledges and I will be using every ounce of my experience to ensure our voice is really heard in Westminster around the future of the railways. I have already told the Transport Secretary that we have run out of patience with SWR and I will be calling for a franchise review at every opportunity the Commons affords me. We clearly cannot carry on like this and it's about much (much) more than an industrial dispute which has obviously long outlived its welcome. This pressure has already borne fruit with a red light warning given to SWR and Ministers have shown, with Northern Rail, they are not afraid to act.

Much more via my website at stevebrine.com but please 'like' my Page at [fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP) for more instant updates.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester, including Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm




Here for you, in Christ

Family Events in 2020

Sundays at St Marks

PALM SUNDAY WALK 5th April 3:30 – 5pm

Walk to the Wildlife area for outdoor family service

POWER TO LIVE 31st May 3:30 – 5pm


Family afternoon with games & quizzes with short thanksgiving

GOD'S HOUSE 28th June 3:30 – 5pm

Outdoor fun with Winchester's Bouncy Cathedral and games
(Provided agreement obtained from Heritage England)

FAMILY BBQ 19th July from 12noon

Join us for lunch following the 10:30 All Age Service




BREATHING & HEALTH CLASSES for 2020



'Bushfield Suite', BADGER FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE, WINCHESTER
1015 to 1145 > LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH*

A unique opportunity to explore the ancient Russian Breathing System, drawing on practises intended to both energise & relax, passed down over generations by the Russian Breath Masters Classes embrace a selection of the following breathing & associated practises:



- The 7 Principles to Breathing
- Core breath-work using the 4-Pillars
- Breath-hold practises

- Relaxation Stretching Methods
- Breath Waves
- Pulse rate focus work

Suitable for all ages (over 18) and abilities – Beginners most welcome
(Normal Gym or Exercise Kit is all you need!)

*Saturday Class Dates for 2020

25 th January	7 th March	28 th March	25 th April
30 th May	27 th June	25 th July	29 th August
26 th September	31 st October	28 th November	

Also see our Website at www.systemamidwessex.co.uk for more details about Systema and those Classes run.
Contact Rob Hodgkinson on 07912-174612 / e-mail at rob@systemamidwessex.co.uk

Pre-Book via Website £8.00 or Turn up on the Day £8.50
Students / Retired Pre-Book via Website £6.00 or Turn up on the Day £6.50
Thinking of / or looking to come along and try? > Your first TWO (trial) classes only £10

Winchester Local Group Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust



Join us at our talks this spring including a 'journey' to the Isles Of Orkney with wildlife photographer Gordon Small, and discover how a solar energy farm near Lymington is also supporting wildlife. Wrap up warmly for a walk to see our coastal birds or discover emerging wildlife in the Hampshire countryside. Our indoor meetings are held in the Bushfield Room at Badger Farm Community Centre. Non-members are always very welcome at all our events.

For further information about the Group please phone Loraine on 01962 861182 or Anne on 07804 764604 or via atardill2@gmail.com. Alternatively you can visit the Trust website at hiwwt.org.uk/events.

Wednesday 11 March, 7.30–9.30pm ~ The Isles of Orkney

Wildlife photographer Gordon Small shares his amazing experiences of a month's wildlife watching from mid-May to mid-June in the spectacular setting of the Orkney Islands where the cliffs are full of Kittiwakes, Guillemots and Razorbills and Puffins can be seen hang-gliding on the updrafts! Spectacular scenery, sunrises and sunsets! Admission £4 to include coffee/tea.

Sunday 15 March, 10.00am–3.00pm ~ Normandy and Oxe

Marshes Join us for a coastal walk from Lymington to see the marshes and more open waters for winter waders, wildfowl and other birds. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.

Saturday 4 April, 10.00am–12.30pm ~ Discover Flexford

Nature Reserve Join Barbara Hillier for a general interest walk around the Wildlife Trust's Flexford reserve and discover the history of this site. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440 or Barbara on 023 8026 6786. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.

Wednesday 8 April, 7.30–9.30pm ~ Cooking on Sunlight

Anthony Woolhouse, Chair of West Solent Solar, will explain

how the solar farm near Lymington – on what was a landfill site – is now being managed to enhance biodiversity at the same time as providing solar power. Admission £4 to include coffee/tea.

Wednesday 13 May, 6.30–8.00pm ~ A Winnall Wander

Join Susan Simmonds, Trust Education Officer, on an evening walk at Winnall Moors nature reserve. She will explain the management of this lush wildlife haven at the heart of bustling Winchester. **Booking essential.** For further information and to book your place, contact Anne – details above. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.

Saturday 30 May, 10.30am–1.00pm ~ Old Burghclere

Lime Quarry Walk Enjoy the late spring butterflies and orchids at this reserve guided by the members who help maintain it and record its wildlife. For further information, please phone Mary on 01962 864440 or Mervyn on 01264 358737. Sorry, no dogs. Suggested donation £4.

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But don't take our word for it, come and try it for yourself!

(Half Price membership valid until April 2020)

Opening times:

Sunday: Midday–9.30pm | Monday–Thursday: 4.30pm–11pm | Friday: 4pm–11pm | Saturday: Midday–11pm



Oliver's Battery WI

Ladies, Oliver's Battery WI look forward to meeting YOU in 2020.



Oliver's Battery WI meets monthly for a varied programme at St Mark's Church Hall in the evening (usually on the 3rd Monday) from 19:30 for a 19:45 start until about 21:45. We encourage all members to get involved – it's a great way to get to know other members and no WI event would be complete without a raffle, cuppa and some home-

made treats, gluten-free options also available!

We'll be busy in the community again in 2020 as plans are underway for involvement with the VE Day afternoon celebrations on The Battery on 8 May; this is also the potential date of our Annual Plant Sale. Can you help us by growing some of the stock required?

This is an open invitation to ladies of any age. Come to a meeting (two for free) and find out for yourself if we're the group for you. Oliver's Battery WI is just one of many groups in Winchester.

Future Oli B WI evening group meetings:

Monday 17 February Women's Health with Ann Henderson

Monday 16 March Thrive's Story of Gardening

Wednesday 22 April 20th Birthday Meeting with Singer Caryn Morant (Raffle for ACWW)

Monday 18 May Annual Meeting

Monday 15 June Fernheath: Not just a Place to Play – story of an adventure playground by Patricia (Paddy) Williamson
Members also share hosting of monthly sessions for readers, crafters and knitters.



Please contact oliversbatterysec@hampshirewi.org.uk if you'd like more information or to be put in touch with a 'buddy' to arrive with; alternatively please just turn up to a meeting. We look forward to seeing you and chatting over a cuppa and some cake! Remember WI is a lot more than knitting, baking and singing Jerusalem!

*In friendship,
Oliver's Battery WI*

School Crossing Patrol - Badger Farm Road, Winchester

Hampshire County Council School Crossing Patrol Service currently has a large team of dedicated community-minded men and women carrying out the important role of ensuring the safety of children on the way to and from school.

We are keen to hear from those members of the community who can demonstrate traffic awareness, a sense of responsibility and are keen to show dedication and commitment in carrying out a very important job to make the roads of Hampshire safer for children. The job involves working for approximately an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon.

A uniform is provided to protect you against the elements. Some basic IT skills are required.

Salary Range: £9.36 per hour

Work Location: Badger Farm Road, Winchester

Hours per week: 10 hours

Contract Type: Permanent (Term Time Only)

For more information and to apply for this role go to tinyurl.com/hcc-schoolcrossing. For an information discussion, contact Sarah Janes, School Crossing Patrol Supervisor, on 01962 832227.

Stay Young & Healthy Yoga for Everyone



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**Badger Farm
Community Center**
Thursdays
1:15PM - 2:00PM

Email: aarti.gandhi@gmail.com

Phone: 07989211789

Just eat real food!

OK so you've heard from me already about the colourful polyphenols in real fruit and veg, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices. These colour pigments have been shown to play a role in 'anti-rusting' or other health-promoting functions, though only when taken in balanced context with other vital co-factor nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, healthy fats, adequate proteins, enough fibre, etc.

I've been hearing for decades to avoid processed foods. Why? Because processing removes nutrients! So why do heavily processed 'high-refined-carbohydrate/low calorie/low fat/low sugar/low salt/low taste/low this/no-that' foods get a pass? Over-processed foods often contain gums, glues and a range of additives and dodgy 'new-to-nature' ingredients that I wouldn't touch with a barge pole!

So, despite being heavily promoted as being 'healthier&delicious', many ultra-processed convenience meals by nature contain a cocktail of chemically-altered food additives which our grandparents wouldn't recognise. We know that adding vitamins and minerals to processed foods doesn't make them health foods. 'Just eat real foods!' as a wise grandmother used to say!

A research paper discussed on the Food and Behaviour (or FAB) website (tinyurl.com/bfob-fab1) discusses five lifestyle changes to get you started, the first one of which is to im-



prove our general diet and start moving (e.g. around our beautiful Bushfield): 'Wholefoods such as leafy green vegetables, legumes, wholegrains, lean red/white meat and seafood, provide nutrients that are important for optimal brain function. These foods contain magnesium, folate, zinc and essential fatty acids ... Foods rich in polyphenols, such as berries, tea, dark chocolate, [moderate] red wine and certain herbs, also play an important role in brain function.'

For more recipe ideas and support, see free, evidence-based information and infographics at the doctor-led national charity called Public Health Collaboration, phcuk.org. They offer free, easy-to-download leaflets on either 'Real food lifestyle' (tinyurl.com/bfob-lifestyle) or 'Real food lifestyle for weightloss' (tinyurl.com/bfob-weightloss)

Indeed, customer-focussed food manufacturers seem to have responded to this move to self-care by creating tasty, easy-to-prepare dishes with a small number of 'real-food' ingredients which our grandparents would approve of. Lab testing some nutrient levels is often recommended to evaluate how healthy our diets really are for us.

Amanda Turner | ATnutritiontuition.co.uk

A CNHC-registered Nutritional Therapist and Registered Nutritionist mBANT based at The Cupboard of Health in Winchester, Amanda is keen to educate motivated shoppers. A main aim is to help you to feel more empowered and clear up nutritional confusion! NEW! Amanda is also an Ambassador for Public Health Collaboration, phcuk.org

Home Instead Dementia Activity Group at Badger Farm Community Centre



As part of its service to the local community Home Instead is delighted to sponsor the Dementia Activity Group at Badger Farm Community Centre on Friday mornings. Come along and join the regular activity group for people with dementia and their carers.

The sessions are run by a team of volunteers with experience and an understanding of dementia care. Enjoy games, activities and a sing-along – all designed to provide stimulation for people with dementia. Carers will have the opportunity for some time out to chat to other carers in a similar situation. The sessions are funded by Home Instead and are free to attend, although a small donation is requested to cover the cost of tea or coffee. The Activity Group runs on Fridays from 10.30am until noon. Dates for 2020 are shown below:



February	7th	14th	21st	
March	6th	13th	20th	
April	3rd	Good Friday	17th	
May	1st	Bank Holiday	15th	29th
June	6th	13th	20th	
July	3rd	10th	17th	31st
August	7th	14th	21st	
September	4th	11th	18th	
October	2nd	9th	16th	30th
November	6th	13th	20th	
December	4th	11th	18th	

About Home Instead Central Hampshire

Home Instead understands that home is where you feel the happiest and where most people want to stay for as long as possible. With their help you can stay in your community and live under your own roof, surrounded by your own things and continue to live by your own rules. From their office in Alresford, they have been at the forefront of specialised home care for the elderly by supporting those being cared for and their families for many years.

Whether you're looking for help getting dressed and showered, help around the house or companionship, their trained CAREGivers are perfectly matched to you. They believe age should be celebrated and that everybody should be able to live happily, comfortably and independently at home.

For more information please email hants@homeinstead.co.uk, visit their website homeinstead.co.uk/central-hampshire or call 01962 736681.

Citizens Advice



Lesley Rose, Advice Services Manager for Citizens Advice Winchester District, gives advice on keeping an elderly relation safe at home.

My elderly mother had a fall when I was visiting her recently and although she wasn't badly injured, she lives alone and I'm worried what would happen if she fell again when she is on her own. Is she eligible for any free alarm systems?



A personal alarm is a good way of helping older or less abled people feel safe at home and remain independent for longer. They also offer peace of mind to family and friends who can't always be there to help.

There is an enormous variety of alarm systems on offer, so it's worth doing some research as to what would work best for you. The cheapest alarms make a loud noise when activated to alert anyone nearby that there is a problem, whereas some of the more sophisticated have an in-built motion sensor which can detect an unexpected movement and automatically make contact with a call centre or family member.

Some local authorities run their own community alarm systems which may be subsidised or even free for those assessed as having eligible care needs.

If your mother lives in Hampshire then it's worth getting in touch with Connect to Support Hampshire, via their website connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/home, as they may fund the provision of a personal alarm (if she is deemed eligible) through their preferred provider.

If you need to purchase one privately then do shop around. Personal alarms are available from a large number of organisations including local authorities and charities such as Age UK as well as commercial companies.

Lesley Rose | advice@cawinchesterdistrict.org.uk | citizensadvice.org.uk



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing crime and the fear of crime, it is an important part of a **caring community**. If you would like to know more or receive regular information I send out, including incident reports, do contact me. In the meantime, below is some useful resources of help and advice for you or someone you know.

The Blue Lamp Trust/The Bobby Scheme A representative of the Blue Lamp Trust came to give a presentation at our Neighbourhood Watch County meeting. The charity has now increased their work though it is still primarily for the elderly or vulnerable. Their literature says: 'We are a registered charity which provides a FREE home safety and security survey to assess the work needed to make the client's home safe and secure. We fit a broad range of equipment including: Door and window locks; Spy Holes; Window Alarms; Door Chains; Smoke Detectors. For more details on the Free of Charge service call: 0300 777 0157 or bluelamptrust.org.uk.'



The Silver Line (thesilverline.org.uk) is a free confidential helpline providing information, friendship, and advice to older people open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The Silver Line provides 3 functions:

1. A 24-hour helpline 365 days a year offering information, signposting, advice and place to talk.



SPANISH

HIGHER INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION CLASS

Badger Farm Community Centre
Wednesday 9.45-11.45

We are a small, friendly group of people who meet every Wednesday for 2 hours.

Ven y únete a nuestra clase. Hablamos, escuchamos historias, vemos películas y nos divertimos mucho.

We are very keen to welcome new members to our informal classes so, if you are interested, contact us at esglearnspanish@gmail.com for more information.

2. A befriending service to combat loneliness.
3. A means of empowering those who may be suffering abuse and neglect and, if appropriate, to transfer them to specialist services to protect them from harm.

St. John's Winchester Charity Hand in Hand Another resource I became aware of is a new pilot initiative launched in 2019. 'A new wellbeing initiative designed with local older people in mind. Our service provides friendship and support to the people who are referred to us. We support individuals to remain independent for as long as possible and help to improve their quality of life.' Once you are referred by your GP, their friendly staff and volunteers offer support by connecting you to services or individuals who are best placed to help you to: • Get out and about more in the community • Maintain and make friendships • Make more of your own choices, and to remain independent • Keep active and healthy • Feel less lonely or isolated • Become more financially secure • Learn more about technology • Feel safer in your neighbourhood. See stjohnswinchester.co.uk/hand-in-hand/what-is-hand-in-hand.

One further development on their website is a directory of helpful resources for advice and support: stjohnswinchester.co.uk/information-news/advice-and-support.

Hampshire County Council offers a website for services and organisations: ConnectToSupportHampshire.org.uk

Sandie Vining

Neighbourhood Watch Area Representative

Winchester City

01962 865384 | sandievining@btinternet.com

Community First

Have you ever thought about volunteering, but don't know where to start? Then look no further. Community First is a charity which helps people in the Winchester area to find the right volunteer opportunity. Our dedicated volunteering website volunteerwessex.org lists hundreds of roles with charities and community groups.



If you'd rather talk to us about volunteering then go to volunteerwessex.org/volunteer/finding-a-role to book an appointment with one of our advisors at the Discovery Centre.

What are you waiting for?



**WINCHESTER
SUPPORT GROUP**

2020 Meeting dates

Meetings are held in a friendly atmosphere for support and Information
Family, friends and guests are welcome to our meetings

Meetings take place at:
St Peter's Pastoral Centre, (opposite the Library Discovery Centre)
Jewry Street
Winchester
SO23 8RY

Time: 19:00
Refreshments at each meeting
£2 donation appreciated to cover expenses

Wednesday 22 April
AGM followed by a talk on Falls Avoidance/How to build muscle
by George Mathew,
Physiotherapist, RHCH

Wednesday 24 June
Medical Update
Dr Beth Curtis, Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Fellow
Rheumatology MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit
Southampton University Hospitals

Wednesday 21 October
Royal Osteoporosis Society update
Jane Raleigh, Service Delivery Lead

For further information:
Telephone: 01761 473269
Email:
winchestervolunteers@theros.org.uk
Website: theros.org.uk/winchester

**1 in 2
women
1 in 5
men**

Prevalence of Osteoporosis in the UK

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Limited spaces available for 2 – 3 years.

OPENING TIMES (flexible)

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

Spaces are now available!

All children are funded from the term after their 3rd Birthday.
Funding available for 2 year olds if applicable.

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

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

"Staff are qualified, experienced and knowledgeable about how children learn. They provide children with a good range of activities to engage and motivate them. Children are kind and caring towards one another and behave well. Staff are positive role models and this helps to create a relaxed and homely environment where children settle happily. Ofsted 2018"

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

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Contact Carolyn

07759 778436

www.benitayoga.co.uk

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Mr Tibble

We are very sad to share the

news of the death of our much-loved caretaker, Pete Tibble. Mr Tibble was often the first person that the school community would see in the morning and he would always greet them with a smile and brighten up their day. He knew our pupils and their families by name and was always there at the start and end of each day to ensure everyone was safe.

During the day, Mr Tibble put his hand to many different and varied tasks, maintaining and improving our beautiful grounds and making repairs. He could turn his hand to many things: making shelves, building sheds and sorting out the dishwasher in the staff room! His work entailed him being here after everyone had left even on the darkest and dreariest of nights which was always much appreciated by the staff.

During our building works, Pete worked with our contractors to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our school community. It was a challenging time but Mr Tibble took this all in his stride. Our contractors speak very kindly of him and recognised that his knowledge of the school was invaluable to them.

The children have spoken of their fond memories and will always remember him saying cheerio at the end of the day. We as a school community will remember him with affection as he is a very much missed as a member of our team.



Oliver's Battery Preschool

The children enjoyed a very exciting Christmas party at the end of last term which concluded with a visit from Father Christmas.

The children have been busy being creative and making displays for the pre-school walls. We have had a firework and bonfire display and more recently Santa on his sleigh.

The children have settled back after the Christmas break and quite a few new children have joined pre-school this term. Our teachers have lots of exciting activities planned for the children, with topics including different types of food, Chinese New Year, Mother's day, Spring and ending with Easter. At the end of term we will once again have our Easter Chocolate hunt in the school grounds followed by a picnic for the children and their families.

The pre-school's 'home corner' changes every few weeks; so far this year it has been a castle from the film 'Frozen'. Last term the children wanted the home corner to become a fire engine after the firefighters came to visit. The children enjoyed pretending to put out fires and dressing up.



Viking Day

Years 3 and 4 took part in an amazing Viking Day as a hook for their new project. The children dressed up as Vikings and there were some incredible costumes. The children were set three different challenges: making their own longboats, baking Viking bread using traditional methods and creating shields ready for battle. The children had great fun stirring, pouring and kneading the ingredients to make the dough and even got to taste the bread and butter at the end! Everyone involved had a great day and the children were really excited about finding out more.

Mary Rose Trip

Years 5 and 6 visited the Mary Rose Museum and had a wonderful day exploring and learning about the Tudor warship. During the day, the children learnt lots of interesting facts. Their favourites were the gory ones about rats and the deaths of sailors. After a guided tour of the Mary Rose, the children attended workshops and learnt about different artifacts from on board the ship.

For details of all the latest happenings at school, visit our website: oliversbatteryprimary.com. If you would like to visit the school, please call 01962 869496 to make an appointment. Our Headteacher, Mrs Redfern, would be delighted to show you around.

- Rated across the board as 'good' by Ofsted in November 2016 and where 'Children form strong bonds with the staff'.
- Conveniently located in the beautiful and spacious grounds of Oliver's Battery Primary School.



- We accept all children aged two years to school age, regardless of which Primary School they will attend.
- All 3 and 4 year olds are funded for 15 hours from the term after their 3rd birthday. If eligible, we accept funding for 2 year olds the term after their 2nd birthday. We are very pleased to offer government funded 30 hours childcare (eligibility applies).
- Opening times: Monday to Thursday: 8:45-15:15 and Friday 8:45-12:45 with flexible drop off and pick up times.
- For more information, please

contact our pre-school leader, Jackie Johnston, on 07941796 958 or email oliversbatterypreschool@gmail.com to pop by and see our happy pre-school.

- Our website: oliversbatterypreschool.org.uk



A walk on the bright side

The arrival of Spring is akin to opening a door on a secret garden, releasing a shining, colourful, glistening light on a grey winter's day.

Spring is the season of awakening, of enlightenment and inspiration. Springtime lifts human spirit beyond imagination revealing a new chapter of Mother Nature's wonders.

Woodland blessed with bluebells, a breeze seemingly enabling magical blooms to turn their heads, greeting the on-looker, revealing a spectacle of colour unique.

Closing the eyes, focusing senses, releasing heart and soul, embracing the symphonic sound of myriad wild birds, gently caress the senses as they celebrate the gift of Spring's re-birth.

Opening the eyes to witness Nature's glory, sight, sound and scent combine to grace the observer with heavenly insight. Spring is here.

Simon Lever

Getting healthy at the Community Centre

LBT classes run at the Community Centre every Monday morning 9.30–10.30 (term time only) and Tuesday evening 6.45–7.45 (all year round). These classes are run on a pay as you go basis and are open to all levels of fitness!

An **Older Adults Exercise class** is also available on Wednesday morning (11.00–12.00) which runs in half term blocks – please contact Catherine directly to book!

Bootcamps are also available on Sunday evening – again please contact Catherine directly to book!

For all enquiries call Catherine Jones on 07990 513 434 or email cathjones@talktalk.net.

Catherine is a full member of REPS (Register of Exercise Professionals).

If your New Year's Resolution is to slim down a bit, you might consider joining one of the weight loss workshops at the Community Centre.

Slimming World hold sessions on Monday from 9.30 to 10.30am and on Sunday from 6.30 to 7.30pm. You can get in touch with Steve Coombes on 07788 683 077 or see slimmingworld.co.uk for more information.

Weight Watchers meet on Thursday from 9.30 to 10.30am and from 6.00 to 7.00pm. Check out weightwatchers.com/uk for general information or contact Thomas Taylor on 0845 073 0460 or twTaylor@weight-watchers.co.uk to sign up for this local group.

Winchester
Go LD

Garden & Craft Fair

Thursday 7th May 2020 from 10am to 4pm
Upper Farm, Down Farm Lane, Headbourne Worthy
SO23 7LA

Entrance £5 Parking available on site

Hillier Gardening expert Bob McQueen, experienced with over 30 gold award winning Chelsea Flower Shows, *answering all your gardening queries*

Creative Flora expert florist Louise Bradshaw offering two seasonal flower workshop demonstrations at 11am and 2pm

Workshop tickets at £20 available in advance, numbers are limited. Tickets include one workshop, entrance and lunch in the GoLD Café Marquee. Contact Ros Francis on 07868 132250 or ros.francis@hotmail.co.uk

Stalls for 2020 include plants, garden products, local crafts, homeware, produce and gifts

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Stanmore Primary School

Making Reading Magical

Many of us take reading for granted, an essential part of life that enables us to navigate our way through the day: glancing at the news; swiping through social media; checking our diaries. Who needs to be where, when and with what equipment? Many of us would be lost without this key skill.

At Stanmore Primary School, children are mastering the key skills for reading; we also aim for them to develop a love of reading and be able to select books based on an understanding of what makes an enjoyable read. We are lucky to have a fantastic library and, with the support of Hampshire Library Service as well as our team of committed volunteers, our library is going from strength to strength as a place where children can develop this lifelong love of reading.

Governors and leaders at Stanmore have invested in a robust structure for teaching reading that takes children through from Early Reading to independence. Our reading books are closely matched to our phonics programme for younger or less experienced readers. Our highly personalised Reading Plus programme gives our older children practice in developing reading speed and fluency. At Stanmore, reading is prioritised because it unlocks children's access to our rich curriculum and sets them up to be the BEST they can be in the future.



Recently, children in Year 1 and 2 took part in 'Bedtime Stories'. This was a lovely event for parents and children led in part by teaching staff with a contribution for parents from the School Library Service. The classroom looked magical, decorated with fairy lights and everyone enjoyed the hot chocolate and marshmallows provided.

'If you're going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books.'
Roald Dahl.

We are already planning our next reading event....

What does it mean to belong to Stanmore Primary School?

Why not visit us; we would love to share our school with you. Get in touch on adminoffice@stanmore.hants.sch.uk or 01962 852941 for a personal visit to see us in action.

Tech Talk

'I'll Google that'. Like Hoover and Xerox, Google has become a verb in its own right. And there's a reason for that: 'Google – unquestionably being the best search engine out there – makes use of powerful and intelligent algorithms ... to let the users get the best out of a search engine with a personalized experience.' (itsfoss.com/privacy-search-engines).

But there's another option: 'I'll Ecosia that'.

Why? Ecosia is a search engine that plants trees. Each search you carry out on ecosia.org earns a point; for every 45 points, Ecosia plants a tree.

How does it work? Like every search engine, Ecosia is paid for by advertising. Their difference is that they use their revenue to fund not-for-profit organisations who plant trees in places where it will have a significant impact; current projects include Brazil, Madagascar and Spain.

Is it legitimate? Ecosia is certified by B Corp to 'meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose.' (Bcorporation.uk). Each month, they publish their financials so you can see exactly where the money goes.

Is it private? More and more people have concerns about Google tracking their data. Ecosia does use trackers (hint: if you don't want your searches to be tracked at all, use duckduckgo.com) but commits to anonymising all searches within one week, encrypting your search and not selling your data.



Is it really environmentally friendly? Ecosia's own servers run on 100% renewable energy. But the search is powered by Microsoft's Bing and Microsoft aren't quite there yet, although they're moving in the right direction - 'by 2025, we will shift to 100 percent supply of renewable energy' and 'by 2030 Microsoft will be carbon negative, and by 2050 Microsoft will remove from the environment all the carbon the company has emitted either directly or by electrical consumption since it was founded in 1975.' (tinyurl.com/wct-ecoblog). Even on current figures, though, Ecosia estimates every search removes 1kg CO₂ from the atmosphere due to the carbon-negative effect of the trees they plant.

Is it effective? I've used Ecosia for a while now. It does give different results to Google but it almost always finds what I'm looking for. And if it doesn't, I just add #g to my search term and it redirects to a Google search. Likewise, #w searches directly in Wikipedia, #a in Amazon, #b in Bing. One of the many other short tags (tinyurl.com/wct-ecosia) I use a lot is #m which opens Google Maps at the searched-for location.

Any downsides? Other than, understandably, having to allow ads, my only complaint is that it doesn't work with some of my security extensions like Bitdefender's TrafficLight.

Try Ecosia on ecosia.org. If you like it, install the browser extension, change your browser's default search and/or download the app on your phone.

Save the earth by searching the web!

Ann Jury

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winchestercomputertutor.co.uk/anns-thoughts/ill-ecosia-that

Winchester Horticultural Society

Spring is on its way, heralded by the cheerful sight of daffodils and other early flowers, and it will be a joy to see the garden come back to life after the wet and dreary winter months. There will be plenty of jobs to be done out in the fresh air or in the greenhouse, from planting out early potatoes to sowing seeds. However, once a month, on the second Wednesday, we down our tools and head for The Winchester Club to spend a couple of hours listening to an interesting talk by a visiting speaker and to socialise with fellow gardeners. We would be very pleased if you decided to join us on one of the following dates:

Wednesday, 11th March 2020 Our brief AGM will be followed by a horticultural Quiz. Come and join one of the teams and help them win! There will also be a mini Spring Show of narcissi/daffodils.

Wednesday, 8th April 2020 Under the title 'Plants and Their Wicked Ways' Alan Martin will highlight the unusual behaviour that some plants resort to.

Wednesday, 13th May 2020 Ray Broughton, ex-head of horticulture at Sparsholt College, will make a return visit to explore 'The Future of Horticulture' which promises to be very interesting.

All our monthly meetings are held at the Winchester Club, Churchill Room, Worthy Lane, Winchester, SO23 7AB, every second Wednesday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. We usually have a guest speaker and two gardening-related competitions. Visitors are welcome, £4, or call 01962 868862 to enquire about membership.

'Being a member of The Winchester Horticultural Society will help you to become a better gardener, whilst enjoying the company of like-minded people in friendly surroundings.'

For more information visit our website: winhortsoc.weebly.com.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our Annual Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, 16th May, at the Brooks Shopping Centre, Winchester, from 9.30am–2.30pm. This is your chance to buy flower and vegetable plants lovingly grown by our members.

Norma's Nature Notes

It seems incredible that I am writing my Nature Notes for the Spring edition while Storm Brendan is battering our bungalow! We have had such varied weather over the past few weeks with sunny days alternating with wet ones. Until yesterday it was quite mild and there are several plants from last year valiantly still flowering in the back garden, especially our Gazanias.

Over Christmas we were away in Windsor on a nice package holiday. Christmas Day was mild with blue skies and we enjoyed a walk down to Eton in the warm winter sun admiring its rays lighting up the branches of a magnificent willow tree. Everywhere we went there was an abundance of mistletoe hanging from trees in keeping with the spirit of the season. But Boxing Day was wet and windy and our tour was to Kew Gardens. We battled our way around with umbrellas facing into the wind for fear of them blowing inside out and took refuge in the Palm House. It was wonderful to be warm again among the tropical plants reaching up to the glass roof but there was something missing. No sound or sight of exotic tropical birds and other creatures. But suddenly my ear caught some familiar notes: a robin was singing high up in the branches. He knew I had spotted him as he bobbed a curtsy and



looked sideways at me. However, as he descended I realised his interest was focused on a couple sitting on a wall eating sandwiches. Boldly landing on the ground a few feet away from them he continued to curtsy and was rewarded with a few crumbs. He certainly knew on which side his bread was buttered, another example of wild life ingenuity taking every opportunity that arises.

Since our dog, Millie, died in 2017 I have become more of an armchair 'naturalist' in the winter months. It is a delight to watch the birds that come to our feeders – four varieties of tits and finches, a gang of sparrows, sometimes starlings and the occasional blackcap. We have an abundance of wood as well as feral pigeons that enjoy the dropped seeds under the feeders, and ground feeding birds like blackbirds who come for the mealworms and soaked raisins. When we put cooked meat and fat on the bird table we are invaded by crows, rooks, jackdaws and magpies and often gulls but the most surprising event was a visit to our roof by a heron, presumably from the golf course ponds, who stayed around for quite a long time. The Big Garden Birdwatch is scheduled for 25th – 27th January so watch this space.

Norma Goodwin, 14 January 2020

Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Parish Council Meetings

Our parish councils meet monthly and members of the public are welcome to attend.



Badger Farm Parish Council

meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August) in the Bushfield room at Badger Farm Community Centre. Contact the clerk, Christine Howe. clerk@badgerfarm-pc.gov.uk.

Oliver's Battery Parish Council

meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at St. Mark's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery Road South. Contact the clerk, Sarah Sawyer. clerkoliversbattery@gmail.com.



Forthcoming Events at the Community Centre

Chat-Tea Café

Monday 24 February ~ 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Bushfield Room

Chat-Tea Café

Monday 23 March ~ 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Bushfield Room

Auction

Saturday 6 April ~ The Battery
See auctionsinaday.co.uk for more details

Chat-Tea Café

Monday 27 April ~ 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Bushfield Room

Auction

Saturday 4 May ~ The Battery
See auctionsinaday.co.uk for more details

For more information on events at the Community Centre, please take a look at our website bfobrca.org

If you have a community contribution or would like to advertise with us, please get in touch.

Editorial deadline for Summer 2020 issue:

Friday 1 May 2020

Editor: Ann Jury

Editorial email: bfobrca.cnews@gmail.com



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