

A photograph of a deer standing in a field of white flowers, with a tree trunk visible on the right.

Rowlands Castle Association

Spring 2015

Village Magazine

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ROWLANDS CASTLE ASSOCIATION

Village Magazine Spring 2015

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The Village Magazine is published three times a year by the RCA. The aims of the RCA are to act as a channel of communication for the Village, to conserve the character and to enhance the life of the Village. **If you would like to make a donation to magazine printing costs there is a collection tin in the hardware store or you can pop an envelope through Martha Dombey's door 26 Drift Road.**

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Cover picture: Male roe deer amongst Ramsons (wild garlic) in the South Downs.
Photo by Andrew Whitmarsh, www.andrewwhitmarshphotography.com

Rowlands Castle Association

Message from the chairman of the RCA

by Kevin Connell Chair, RCA

First I welcome onto the RCA committee Gordon Charlesworth, Helen Penfold and Paul Griffiths. We are very grateful to them for volunteering. They were duly elected at the AGM on 2nd March. We say farewell and thanks to Sharon Broome who has done a first class job as treasurer over the past year.

I'm sure everyone will join me in thanking Barbara Openshaw for her organisation of the annual May Day Picnic which she has done for the past 20 years. She is standing down this year and is passing the baton onto the RCA which should ensure the event continues well into the future.

I noticed local authority workmen clearing polystyrene from Manor Lodge Road a couple of days ago. This is the second case of fly tipping polystyrene that I am aware of on that stretch of road. The previous case caused an accident when a car slid on a bag of the material that had blown on the road. Two cars were damaged in the resulting collision with one being written off. It was fortunate that neither driver was injured.

There was Carol singing outside the Robin Hood pub this Christmas. A healthy crowd of villagers turned out to sing along with Bim Verrechia the usual favourites. Thanks to Mark Seaman for the photos.

The RCA AGM took place on 2nd March. This year's guest speaker was Terena Plowright manager of the West Meon Sustainability Centre whose topic was the Greening Campaign. She came with a whole range of ideas for reducing our environmental impact. More about the Greening campaign on Page 51. Deborah Richards is leading the RCA Greening initiative. More on that soon.



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Rowlands Castle Association

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Deborah Richards

Rowlands Castle Museum and Model Railway

by Kevin Connell

The RCA were recently informed that a model railway representing the village in 1944 during the build up to the D day landings has become available for purchase. The creator is Peter Goss of York. The intricate model has been shown at more than 50 shows and achieved best in show status several times.

There have been plans in the past for a museum in the village and seemed like a good time to resurrect the idea using the model railway as an impressive centrepiece for the display. Combined with a visitors centre we could have a valuable resource for both villagers and visitors to the South Downs National Park.

The RCA has funded the setting up of a small working party to establish the feasibility of the project. There will be a requirement for premises for the museum, funding the purchase of the railway, day to day running of the museum and ongoing funding. So far we have already obtained a £500 grant from Marge Harvey's community projects fund at EHDC and twenty villagers have pledged money towards the project. We have also identified considerable expertise in running museums within the local community. There is a wealth of material available for the museum. The historical society have pledged a range of artefacts and a number of people have pledged items including artefacts from the prehistory of Rowlands Castle and the surrounding hamlets.

The museum will provide a range of benefits for villagers. There is the possibility of a model railway club for all ages and the museum will provide a resource for schoolchildren researching local history. If you would like to pledge any money towards the project or offer any help either in fundraising or setting up then we would be pleased to hear from you. Enquiries should be made to editor@rowlandscastle.com



Lies, Damned Lies and Incentives

by Michael Daysh

In my last article, I published my letter to our MP, George Hollingberry. I had written to point out the fact that the housing planned for East Hampshire is far in excess of local needs, and makes a mockery of the government's own policy of Localism, which has this objective: "To empower communities to do things their way - by creating rights for people to get involved with, and direct the development of, their communities;"



Mr Hollingberry did reply this time, to the effect that it was never his intention to listen to his constituents. He just wanted to tell people what will happen, regardless of what they said. And he is telling us that our green fields will be built upon. He went on to state, with breathtaking candour, that he was not concerned about the figures being wrong.

Compare and contrast that to his positively militant opposition to similar developments in Botley, where the local authority happens to be Liberal Democrat. He made this statement to the press, and I do wish he would listen to himself on this point: "The Lib Dems are facing both ways on green space. Their campaign has consistently pledged to protect our beautiful countryside. But at the meeting the Lib Dem Council showed that they have no intention of backing down on their plans to build on Greenfield sites."

Not that hypocrisy is the preserve of any particular party, and the main political parties have broadly similar approaches to house building. Danny Alexander, Liberal Democrat Chief Secretary to the Treasury, speaking on BBC Radio 4, said "We will tell these people [local people who object to his own eye watering housing plans] how many houses they will have and where they will be put." Mr Milliband is similarly aggressive on the subject. His approach was described by Graeme Leach, the chief economist at the Institute of Directors as "a Stalinist attack on property rights."

In a way I prefer the openness of the aggressive approach, as compared to the Orwellian patronisation and deception of Localism, but it all ends up with the same mess: irreversible damage to our environment because the construction industry and the Treasury are more influential than the electorate.

I urge readers not to be deceived by the populist contention that massive speculative house building will benefit those in housing need. I agree with Nick Herbert, Conservative MP for Arundel and the South Downs. In a Guardian article, headlined "Letting developers vandalise the countryside won't solve the housing crisis" he pointed out that "Cynically relaxing planning controls puts rural Britain at risk while doing nothing to ease the housing shortage in our cities."

In point of fact, simply by heating up the housing market as they are, all of the political parties will make matters worse for people who want to get onto the property ladder. In addition, the politicians' actions, in my opinion, have nothing to do with any housing crisis: I just cannot ignore the fact that the government receives huge tax revenues from the housing market. For example, in last year's boom, annual stamp duty revenue in-

Localism

creased by 31% to £6.45 bn.

What is more, the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a large charge on almost all new property developments. This means that a new starter home of 100 square metres will cost an extra £10,000 to buy locally, while in northern parts of the district, it will cost an extra £18,000 to buy. How does that help the “housing crisis” which is supposed to be the reason for all of the building? Clearly it does not help at all; it just makes houses even less affordable.

The government have marketed CIL as an incentive. Planning Minister Nick Boles announced on 10 January 2013 that;

“Instead of hectoring people and forcing development on communities, the government believes that we need to persuade communities that development is in everyone’s interest. Incentives are key to getting the homes built that we both need for today and for future generations.”

Obviously, when communities refuse to accept “incentives,” Mr Bowles does force development on them.

Along similarly depressing lines, the government also introduced payments to local authorities of the “New Homes Bonus” and “Business Rate Retention”. Together with CIL, these amount to significant funding for local government. The problem is that local authorities will come to rely upon these bonuses and other developer contributions in order to deliver basic services, just as Central Government relies on Stamp Duty.

It will not be long before we are told “if you want a school, a hospital, a surgery, a bus stop, a road or a district nurse, you will have to accept a new housing estate.” There are shades of this in recent discussions concerning the proposed development of 700 houses beside the Horndean motorway exit, where a new school is proposed.

This is not speculation on my part. In a Local Government Association Planning Advisory Service briefing is this disturbing but true statement: “These financial returns, to be spent on infrastructure, can be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.”

In the private sector this whole approach would elicit allegations of institutional bribery, and frankly, I do still feel hectored and forced. While, as I emphasise, this is all perfectly legal, it is nevertheless shoddy and anti-democratic.

All of the political parties seem to have missed the simple point that democracy and the environment belong to us, the people, and not to career politicians, industry sectors, lobby groups or the Treasury, whatever “incentives” are on offer.

I wish governments would credit communities, right down to Parish Council level, with the intelligence to make decisions about the future without hectoring or “incentives.” I am sure that this would result in a healthy and sustainable construction sector, because we do need houses, but communities have the inbuilt incentive to look after the environment at the same time.

As I said in my first article, governments have extolled us to fight for our green and pleasant land. Many relatives of mine did so. Those poor people who made those unimaginable sacrifices. Little did they know how much of the future would consist of concrete, fracking, extreme environmental events and the erosion of democracy.

U3A Programme

by Kevin Connell

For more information come to the Monday meeting 14.00 in the Parish Hall, third Monday of each month or email u3achairman@rowlandscastle.com. The U3A is intended for anyone not in full time work.

Visitors very welcome £2.00 per meeting.

The programme of presentations until March 2016 is as follows:

April 20th John Sandy

My Time Inside! Tales from a Prison Governor

May 18th Christine Ames

A glimpse through the door of No10! Christine was the youngest secretary at No10 under the Wilson and Heath Governments

June 15th Bruce & Peta Ives

The Dunreith Alpacas of Adsdean, hear about the breeding of this growing friendly herd and their party walks in the countryside

July – Annual outing to Windsor Castle

September 21st Bob Palmer

How the course of history has been critically affected by illness in World leaders

October 19th Dave Richardson

World War Two, the turning point.

November 16th Dr Bob France

Turner at the House of Art, Petworth

December 21st 2nd Anniversary and Christmas Party

Jan 18th Andrew Negus

Portsmouth Harlots, Dung and Glory

Feb 15th Bernard Allan

Manet and Modern Paris

Mar 21st Dr Tim Woodfine

African Wildlife & Endangered Species

We are also arranging various outings and theatre trips through the year.



Village News

Village Fair

by Grahame Morrison (Village Fair Committee Chairman)

With many thanks to the RCA for this opportunity, I would like to provide an update on the plans for this year's Village Fair on the 4th of July.

Following the success of last year, and the money it raised for good causes, we are working with the Parish council to both refurbish the existing equipment in the children's play area of the Recreation Ground and add some new ones - and more adult exercise equipment if budget allows. We are additionally providing a professional food processor for the Thursday Lunch Club and financial assistance to a number of village organisations. Together with the Rowlands Castle Association, we are also committed to the Parish Council initiative to provide emergency defibrillator unit(s), strategically positioned around the village.

We intend that this year be another highly enjoyable day during which the entire village can experience the attractions of a traditional English village fete. As usual there will be a range of stalls offering up a mix of cakes, crafts and all manner of other goodies. With Spring threatening to burst forth, make sure you get growing, baking, painting and taking pictures for the Horticultural Show in the marquee. Do not forget the children's funfair where once again prices will be kept to a very reasonable 50p a go on most rides so little ones can have loads of fun without emptying their piggy banks - or your wallets. Stansted Farm shop will be returning to provide hot food on the day and there will be an abundance of other options for refreshment available. As well as the return of the much loved Professor Crump (complete with unicycle and horn, balloon animals, magic tricks and size 20 shoes), this year we also have a traditional Punch and Judy show, rides on a mini traction engine, music from local street musicians and a packed program of events in the arena. These include a dog show (with prizes), Morris dancing, a demonstration from the Castle United football team, school bands, children's races, tug of war, and sheepdog demonstrations (with geese!) - and hopefully much more.

This year the committee, with the help of some reprobate ex-committee volunteers that I'm sure you'll recognise, will be running the bar throughout the day's events. This will save the cost of professional staff and so the resulting profits go straight to the village, even though prices will be less than pub ones. So please make full use of it! This is especially true in the evening, so you really don't need to bring your own.

The evening event stars local singer Rachel Hawnt with her band, Great Scott, who will be entertaining one and all with great songs from the 80's, 90's and Noughties that will just make you want to get up and dance. Between sets, and also to end the evening in style, we will have a professional DJ playing the platters that matter!

We have ambitious plans for more surprises on the day but it is too early to say whether they will come off. Intrigued? Come along and see!

We are a relatively small committee of 8 this year and could probably use some help on the day. If you are willing and able to help please contact me on ghamemorrison1@icloud.com . Thanks!

May Day Picnic on the Green 12.00-14.00

by Barbara Openshaw

Put the May Day picnic on 4th May 12.00-14.00 in your diary. This is the first year that the event is being organised by the RCA. Come along and support our local Rowan's Hospice while enjoying the music of the Blendworth Brass Band.

The May Day Picnic was first run in 1995 supporting the Sue Ryder Home [Bordean House closed in 1997]. I took over in 1996 with the backing and tutoring of Harold Hardy who continued his, and Margaret's, interest until his death. Money has gone to The Rowans from 2001.

In 1996 the Village raised £200. In those early days the Village School [St John the Baptist] gave exhibitions of Maypole Dancing –always very pretty although coupled with the anxiety of whether the children would manage to untwine the ribbons! Since then we have raised £7,805.01.

The Blendworth Brass Band started to play for us in the year 2000 A.D. They have played every year since with music that has been exciting, colourful and enlivening. Do you remember their playing "Singing in the Rain" on a particularly damp day?

Over these 19 years there have been generous gifts in the tins by individuals, that is people like you, and also invaluable support and cash. I would especially like to thank:

Clive Hancock who started B.B.Qs in the forecourt of the Robin Hood. He was aided on occasions by Mike and Sue Barratt. Even on their wedding anniversary they cooked under the bay window trying to shelter. True, the weather is not always like an early summer's day!

Graham Griffiths who put out a tin in the Post Office after a washout picnic. [There have been 2 !]

Pat Carter, along with Rita, has for many years prettied The Green with flowers and plants for sale.

The Verrecchias have supplied delicious ice-creams from a real van and organised treasure hunts.

Jan and Trish Halliwell. Jan always mows The Green before The Picnic. He brings along his own Riley or Jaguar and invites friends to show off their vintage cars.

Sandra, at the Fountain, who, 4 years ago, turned up trumps and persuaded Dave and Jane to lend their b.b.q and cook. B.B.Qs continue outside the Fountain.

TREGUSTS of Emsworth. The delicious sausages and beef burgers are much relished and devoured.

Trinity Angels cleaning service for their financial support 07932658461

The Allotment Society, 1 year on The Green with the most alcoholic raffle ever.

Chrissie from Tea on The Green. Last year Chrissie brought out goodies and intends to be even more adventurous this year.

All the Villagers and friends who come along and make a happy village atmosphere.

Letters

Parking Tickets and Fly Tipping

by Brian Iredale

It occurred to me that a couple of recent incidents that I have been involved in might be of interest to your readers, and these are as follows.

The first incident involved a parking ticket that was applied to my car when parked outside the convenience store in the village, opposite the cafe. I was in the store for no more than five minutes, and when I came out I discovered that the parking warden had placed a ticket on my windscreen. I pointed out that there were no double yellow lines on the road (these have subsequently been painted in), or any form of notice to indicate that I was breaking the law in doing so.

When I questioned the operative I was told that I was parked over a dropped kerb, and was blocking an "uncontrolled crossing". The name itself is significant, as is the lack of any form of notice explaining the significance of the kerb, or the bricks in the road. Pedestrian crossings are normally indicated by black and white strips in the road, and illuminated beacons. Where did these "uncontrolled crossings" come from?

I understand that the reason for employing the services of a traffic warden in the village was to prevent rail users from leaving their cars parked in the village all day whilst at work, and preventing visitors and shoppers from occasional parking. A perfectly reasonable measure to take. What would have been more reasonable under the circumstances, would have been for the warden to explain the reason and purpose of the crossing point, rather than rushing to place a ticket on my car.

The second incident involves fly tipping. I live in Woodcraft on the single track road leading to Ditcham Park School, and a fly tipper recently dumped a pile of semi domestic waste in the small copse halfway along the road. I decided to remove the waste, and take it to the Council tip in Petersfield. Shortly before I carried this out another fly tipper had discarded further rubbish along the road from Finchdean to Chalton, so I filled the remaining space in the rear of my vehicle with as much as I could accommodate. When I arrived at the tip, and explained what I wished to deposit I was informed that I was not allowed to do so! Apparently the tip is run by Hampshire County Council In Winchester, and not East Hampshire Council in Petersfield.

I was allowed to dispose of the rubbish that I had collected, but was informed that I would not be allowed to do so again. The fact that I was providing a public service, and saving the cost of the Local Authority sending out a vehicle to clear the waste appeared to be of no consequence.

As a rider to this situation a local farmer saw the person dumping this rubbish on the road between Finchdean and Chalton, and reported it to the Police. He gave a description of the person concerned, and the vehicle registration number, and suggested that they might like to take immediate action. Unfortunately the person taking the call appeared more interested in taking his details, date of birth, etc, than instigating any action.

Whether or not the matter was followed up by the Police I have no idea. We also suffer regular visits by fly tippers disposing of used tyres along the road, and it would be nice if some Police action could be taken to bring this practice to an end.

Rowlands Castle Women's Institute

WI Centenary Year

by Rona Musker, President, Women's Institute

Rowlands Castle WI ended 2014 with a very jolly Christmas meeting which took the form of a Barn Dance. Over 60 members took to the floor with vigour and all the spectators thoroughly enjoyed watching us being led by an excellent caller, Helen Floyd. Each December we all bring a present which is given to the charity "MIND" and this year it was delightful to welcome two representatives from the charity who were able to take away three boxes of gifts.

And we kicked off 2015 with a huge amount of publicity. This year marks the Centenary of the Women's Institute and as part of the Staunton Group, our WI joined in a celebration at the Meeting Place in Havant on January 13th, where we received a Baton from West Sussex. We then boarded a train to Portsmouth where we handed the Baton over to the Victory Group on board HMS Victory as it continued its journey through Hampshire. The Baton has been touring the country for over a year and its final destination is the AGM at the Royal Albert Hall on June 4th. Very few of us will be able to attend in person, but we are having a "live" video link streamed into St John's Parish Hall so that we can enjoy the momentous occasion.

I hope by the time you read this that we will have had a successful Jumble Sale to raise funds for other events we are holding to celebrate the WI Centenary. These include a Tea Party on May 15th and a lunch on September 15th when we will be joined by a very special Guest Speaker.

At this year's Village Fair we are going to be unashamedly WI and we'll be concentrating on traditional fare – so look out for jars and jars of marmalade, jams, and chutneys and loads of delicious homemade cakes!

These are my last scribbblings as President as I step down at our AGM in May. But I would like to thank all members of Rowlands Castle WI who have supported me so warmly for the last three years and special thanks to the Committee members who have served with me. It has been a privilege.



Local Council News

Parish Council Retrospective by Chairman of the Council, Cllr John Pickering

With election time fast approaching, this report from the Parish Council is more of a look back over the past 4 years of the life of the Council.

We got off to a 'sticky' start with what seemed to be a deliberate attempt by some to destabilise the Council and drive out some members before they had even started! Those involved should have known better and owed it to the Council members, and those who had just elected them, not to behave in so disruptive a manner.

However, once that had quietened down, the Council has worked well together and with Lisa, who continues to be a remarkably able, committed and hard-working Clerk. In such a demanding and busy time, we have been fortunate to have her supporting us. We are also grateful to those, Lynn Tremlett and Jon Law in particular, who have provided extra cover from time to time. We have recently been able to make a part-time appointment to ease some of the burden on Lisa, and we welcome Gill Whatley as our Administrative Assistant, to support Lisa, in the first instance dealing with some of our longer term issues and also the Recreation Ground.

It is not the role of a parish council to 'run' its Parish. Rather, its task is to deal with the legal and formal requirements, to liaise with other parishes and councils at all levels, and to represent parish interests in such matters as planning. Beyond this, we have sought to act as a facilitator and encourager to the many other groups and organisations that are so important and effective in this Parish. It is they which make Rowlands Castle, including the Finchdean area, such an agreeable place to live, with a wide variety of activities available. Thank you to all office-holders and members. Our local businesses provide for many needs locally, and so contribute to our viability and well-being as a Parish. As a result of their efforts, I think we can honestly say that in many respects Rowlands Castle is 'alive and kicking'. We appreciate and welcome the generous financial contributions, for our general benefit, from such groups as the RCA, the Village Fair Committee, Good Neighbours and the WI.

Following some early 'churn' in the Council membership, we have had a settled group of councillors, providing a high level of effort and commitment, through their regular attendance at formal Council meetings, and considerable

Local Council News

contribution at other times according to their various interests and skills. It is right to recognise the particular efforts of Greg Beckett-Leonard and Bill Wilson on the technical aspects of planning applications, Kath Molloy in leading the Parish Hall Management Committee, Steve Protheroe as Chair of the Flood Action Group, and for his weekly inspection of the Play Area and all the equipment at the Recreation Ground, and David Symonds who (with Ruth Butler, our agent) has patiently but firmly brought the upgrading of the Pavilion to a satisfactory conclusion. Internal renovation of the building will be the next step.

Much time has been spent by the Council in advising on planning applications. This pressure seems unlikely to go away in the near future. The Keydell Appeal in relation to Mays Coppice Farm was successfully resisted by EHDC and RCPC working together. Significant contributions towards the costs of this case were provided by residents, local organisations and businesses, to whom we are very grateful – an early example of what is now known as ‘crowd funding’! We remain disappointed at the frequent failure of EHDC’s Planning Committee to heed the carefully researched and cogently presented concerns of the Parish Council on other applications. We continue to feel strongly that EHDC’s approach on the Hazelton Farm proposals is off-hand, disrespectful to Rowlands Castle and misguided. The planning issues on this will shortly have to be determined.

Financially, the Council has been able to make significant savings without, we believe, any impairment to the quality of the service provided. After 4 years of zero or very low increases, we have raised our required precept by £4000 for 2015/16. This will allow the Council to pursue present priorities and needs, not least further attention to traffic issues in the Parish.

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Monday 27 April starting at 7pm in the Parish Hall. This is organised by the Parish Council specifically for the benefit of residents. Refreshments will be provided and the poster reports from our village organisations will be available for you to read from 6.30pm that day. Do come along to take this annual opportunity to ask questions of your representatives and to draw attention to matters that might be addressed for our general good in the near future.

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve as Chairman of our Parish Council for the past 4 years and I thank colleagues, officers, volunteers, the press and constructive critics, for the support and advice they have given.

Local Council News

At the time of writing, it would seem that a number of existing councillors will be offering themselves for re-election, though the wise advice of Brian Harpur will be missed. His work commitments prevent him from standing this time around. May 7th will be an important decision day nationally and locally. Our Parish Council is not party political, and always seeks the best for our Parish as a whole. Whatever your views, do exercise your democratic rights by voting in these elections.

Highways (roads/pavements, flooding/drains, street lighting, overgrown vegetation etc)

HCC Contact Centre: 0845 603 5633

Report on-line at: www.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems

Rights of Way (footpaths, bridleways, pavement etc)

HCC Contact Centre: 0845 603 5636

Report on-line at: www.hants.gov.uk/rh/row/problem-report.html

East Hampshire District Council (waste collection, planning matters, environment)

Main Switchboard: 01730 266551

Website Home Page: www.easthants.gov.uk

**Emsworth Bowling Club
Jubilee Park, Horndean Road
OPEN DAY**

Saturday 9th May 2015

1.30pm - 4.30pm

Bowls is truly a 'sport for all'. It can be played by all ages and abilities - making it the perfect sport for all members of your family to play together.

Come along and meet some of our members, find out about the social activities of the Club and try your hand at the game.

The club will provide you with all the equipment you need on the day.

If you need more information call

**Club Hon.Sec. Sally PARRY on 02392 484391
or Membership sec. Martin ROBERTS 02392 412 759**

Final Report by Marge Harvey

As you all probably know by now, this will be the last time that I will be reporting to you as the District Councillor for Rowlands Castle. I have had this role for the last 12 years and I thought that it was about time to let someone else represent you at Penns Place. Malcolm Johnson will be taking over from me as the Conservative candidate and I hope that you will all support him. He is a very competent man and I'm sure that he will work hard to represent Rowlands Castle. I will still be your Hampshire County Councillor and that next election will be in 2017, so I will still be looking after you at Winchester until then.

After many years, you may have noticed that Links Close in Castle Road has finally shown some movement. The trees have been felled to make way for the much needed parking spaces for the people who live in the Close. I have been trying for many, many years to get this done and make it much more accessible for the emergency services and the less mobile people to be able to access their homes. The spaces will be limited to residents only, so that these residents can access their vehicles without having to seek parking places in Castle Road and carry shopping etc. to their homes. So, even though it looked like this wouldn't happen, I kept it at the forefront of my work for Rowlands Castle and I'm really pleased to say that EHDC have finally taken back the money they gave to Radi-an to do this scheme and are doing it themselves.

As you all will now know, the application for the land East of College Close has been allowed and even though the Parish Council and myself asked for it to be refused on safety issues, the committee decided that it should go ahead. So, that is two down and one to go.

The next application will come before the planning committee for the Oaklands Phase Two, which is for 106 houses. If this goes ahead, we will have almost achieved the 150 houses that the government inspector allocated for Rowlands Castle until 2028, within the first couple of years of the plan. What worries me about this is that over the next few years, we will still have SHLAA sites that may come forward and even though we are very close to the number allocated, it will not stop developers putting forward their plans as it was always a minimum number, but we will be in a much stronger position as all the allocation sites will have been satisfied if this last application is allowed and EHDC also have their five year land supply now, so things do look a little better, but me being me will still worry about our village.

Another issue that still worries me is the article four field which was part of Mays Coppice Farm. This field is an AGRICULTURAL field and was really well looked after by the previous owner. After she died, the field was sold off in plots and in my opinion, has been abused as an agricultural field. The new owners were misled about what they

District Council News

could do with the land and I'm afraid that EHDC have not done a very good job of looking after what is allowed. The field has a bridle way which has more than doubled in size and I will now be trying to get HCC to sort this problem out and it is also a public footpath, where many people walk their dogs. This is still done and is not a problem, but as it is (as most of you know) a flood plane, houses will not be able to be built there, but my real worry is the caravans that have arrived there and EHDC do not seem to be dealing with this. Make no mistake, I have made my feelings known about this field and as a resident, I will still keep doing this.

With only a few weeks left as your District Councillor, I will carry on doing the very best that I can to deal with any issues that arise. As your Hampshire County Councillor I thought it would be a good idea to point out what my responsibilities are at HCC are. All foot ways (footpaths) roads, lighting, health, children, planning for waste, schools, traffic and highways anything else that EHDC do not do. The list is so large that I'm still trying to get my head around it all. I am on the regulatory committee since last months full council meeting, two children's committees, the health committee and any working parties that are asked for, so as you can imagine, my life is still very busy, which is one of the reasons that I am standing down from EHDC. I want to do the very best job for you all and I cannot do that if I am rushing around between Winchester and Petersfield. Over the last few months I have been leaving home at 8am and not returning on many days until around 9.30pm because HCC have their meetings during the day and EHDC have theirs in the evening, so to do my job for you, it has been very very tiring and I don't spent very much time with my family, which is not right. I will still continue to have my surgery on the first Thursday of every month, as I have since I started working for you and I will still be available by email and telephone.

Traffic calming in the village is continuing to be a very big problem and parking is still something that is getting worse. People using the station, which has free parking, encourages people from everywhere to drive to Rowlands Castle and park because it's free and now it's full, they are parking all around the village. I am working on the traffic calming and I know your Parish Council is also working on this, so I hope that this will become easier. The only way to stop people from outside the village from parking all around the village is to either have yellow lines, controlled parking with meters or residents parking or to get Network Rail to build another car park. I will be speaking to them in the near future and hope that they will come to the table at HCC and work with us. The officers are coming into the village in the new financial year for us to talk about all of the issues and a plan will be put in place to try and solve the problems we have, because with all of the extra houses, it can only get worse.

As in the past, I am always available to speak with you and try to help with any problem that you may have, just either come to my surgery or call or email me and I will get back to you very quickly. I look forward to speaking with you over the next few weeks and hope that as the weather gets better, to see you around the village.

Neighbourhood Watch

Update on NHW move from Havant to East Hants NHW and Sundry items **by Steve Protheroe NHW coordinator**

In recent weeks I have attended several meetings at, EHDC, and other venues locally, to enable the smooth change over of our village NHW scheme from the current base within Havant NHW, to the East Hants NHW. This will link in with the change over from 1st April 2015, when our local Policing Safer Neighbourhood Teams move from Waterlooville police station to Petersfield police station, and eventually to offices at Penns Place where EHDC are based. The team will be known as Neighbourhood & Prevention Team.

The staffing team structure from that date, will be headed up by District Commander Chief Inspector Beth Pirie. There is an Inspector at the next level, and that is Insp Karen McManus. There are then 3 teams based at Alton, Longmoor Sector based at Bordon, and the Butser Sector based at Petersfield. This team is headed up by Sgt Phil Shore, and he has a team of 3 PC's and 7 PCSO's. They will cover Petersfield Town, East Meon/Buriton/Langrish, and the 3 South of Butser Parishes, of Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle.

The East Hants NHW team is headed up by Margaret Filley, who is the President of the Hants and IOW NHW schemes (that has been established for nearly 20 years now), Gillian Hawkins who is a police volunteer, acting as Secretary, and Jackie Walker who handles the accounts.

I have met them all, and am very impressed by the amount of work they undertake on behalf of NHW. Likewise I am very impressed with our new police team, having met Beth Pirie on a number of occasions. She is in charge of the strategic delivery of services, and staffing for the whole area, and is a very active and professional in her work, and sees NHW members as playing a vital role in supporting the police, in these times of major budget cuts that you are all aware of.

All is now in place for a smooth transfer of police information being passed to our members via the email system we have in place. At present we have a period of transition as the changes take place, so please bear with us over the next few weeks as you may not see a lot of information being cascaded out. However, should there be an urgent need to let you know of a problem then I will be in touch. (See Later paragraph re shed breaks ins)

The monthly CTCG meetings, that I attend on behalf of NHW will continue, but from April they will be held at venues in each of the parishes, and with costs being kept to a minimum, each office has agreed to make no charge for the quarterly meetings being held. (The Chairman, and Committee of our Parish Hall has kindly agreed for us to use the upper room in the Hall)

A new computer system called "Alert" is being set up from April 1st 2015, and you will have seen details of the scheme in the local Police Newsletter recently sent out by the local police team. We are all being encouraged to sign up to this scheme over the next few weeks.

Finally, there have been a recent spate of burglaries in certain areas of the village including Uplands Road, where tools were stolen from sheds. The local police have asked that we all remain vigilant, and keep an eye out for each other's properties. It is hoped that this note will give you all as much information as I currently have available, in relation to the change-over.

(Horndean and probably Clanfield will undertake as well soon)

1st Rowlands Castle Scouts

“The Sport in Scouting is to find the good in every child and develop it” Robert Baden-Powell

by Nicci Lucas

Christmas always seems to come and go so quickly, however it is memories such as Christmas camp that not only the leaders never forget but the youngsters also...for the right reasons! Our scout hut was filled with 35 excited children over the weekend of 12th to 14th December. The Scouts arrived on the Friday for their usual meet, with the cubs joining them on the Saturday for games, tent pitching and fire lighting. Some of the parents joined us for mulled wine and mince pies by the camp fire prior to us all embarking on a stunning star lit walk into Stansted woods just in time to experience the meteor shower. We were joined by a few Beavers on the Sunday morning who created some seasonal decorations prior to eating a delicious roast turkey lunch kindly prepared by the leaders. I can't thank you all enough for the effort that went into making the weekend happen and so enjoyable for everyone.

A warm welcome to the four new boys who have joined Beavers this term. They have settled in extremely well and we hope that they have enjoyed their first term. The Beavers have been busy over the last couple of months working towards their Global challenge badge. They have learnt about Australia Day which was in January, tasted food from different countries and found out about fair trade. They have also been lucky enough to visit Havant leisure centre as part of their fitness badge. During the last couple of weeks they have been busy designing some amazing Mother's day cards and paper flowers.

The Cubs also have had an eventful term working towards their chef's activity badge. This was chosen by the older Cubs last year and they have risen to the challenge. The first week they were lucky enough to have a visiting chef who took the boys through food hygiene and knife safety. Then in groups they chose and designed their menus and then took it in turns to cook a meal. These meals were then frozen and they opened up the Cubs restaurant on March 11th where we were joined by 35 parents to experience the delights of cubs cooking. It was a huge success and to this day I have had no reports of food poisoning!! The cubs have also worked hard to complete their science badge this term, by looking at weather patterns, star gazing, discovering circuit boards and making weather vanes.

We also had a very important visit from Heartstart, a



1st Rowlands Castle Scouts

group of medical students from Southampton who taught the Cubs basic CPR, choking and recovery position. We try to do this once a year with them to reinforce this vital first aid technique.

The District Cubs chess competition took place in Havant on Saturday 14th March where a group of budding chess enthusiasts sat down quietly and battled it out for the afternoon. I have never experienced

Cubs so quiet!! Congratulations to Sam Lucas who won the older group for Rowlands Castle and Oliver Green who was a close runner up and also Charlie Stamper who was runner up in the younger section.

As an Easter treat we finished the term by having a visit from Matt Blossom, (www.mattblossom.com) who taught the Cubs circus skills including plate spinning (these were plastic!), juggling and diabolo and balancing clubs (that's clubs not cubs) on their heads!! He was absolutely amazing with them and they all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Global has also been the subject for the Scouts this term with them starting the term with an interesting challenge of collecting dirty water from a point in Finchdean road, and having to carry a full bucket over the fields to the scout hut. Back at base they had to sieve the water, cleanse it and prepare it for human consumption. Not sure how many Scouts drank their water at the end, however it was a valuable exercise into how precious water is and emphasised that fact that many people have to walk miles a day to collect clean water. The Scouts have also spent an evening with the Hayling Scouts in Stansted woods and navigated their way back from West Marden in the dark.

The Scouts have also been focusing on their communicator badge and have spent time communicating with Morse code, semaphore and have learnt the phonetic alphabet. It was interesting to experience them communicate in additional ways other than texting, twitter and facetime!!

Scouting helps children reach their full potential and helps them to develop skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment. This everyday adventure is only possible thanks to our dedicated team of adult volunteers and I would like to thank you all for your continued support and dedication. If anyone would like to get involved or have youngsters that wish to join in the fun then please do contact me on 02392 412543.

We are currently looking for a cubs leader and a secretary for the group. If you feel that you would like to give scouting a go or have a few spare hours a month then please do get in contact with me.



Girl Guiding

Girlguiding in Rowands Castle continues to go from strength to strength.

by Jane Beveridge

The Rainbow Unit is flourishing with its new Leaders have been very busy having fun. They have taken part in a Village scavenger hunt, held a talent night, been camping indoors, made dens, held science nights and had an introduction to indoor tennis with instruction from the Miss Hits Tennis Academy.

Brownies have grown to over 30 members. In the early autumn, 19 Brownies joined over 600 Brownies at a special PGL weekend just for Brownies at Little Canada on the Isle of Wight as a final celebration of the Brownies 100th Birthday. During the autumn term they concentrated on badges with a number of Brownies gaining Swimming badges, a Pony Rider badge and most of the Unit gained Cook or Advanced Cook Badges.



At Christmas the Brownies made tree decorations and were all given a 'Reward Sticker' Advent calendar to gain stickers by fulfilling their Promise and doing a 'Good turn' everyday. In the Spring term so far they have completed their Communicator Badge, learning sign language, writing letters and learning how to use the phonetic alphabet, and are now working on their Disability Awareness Badge, looking at different disabilities and how people cope with them at home and out in the Community.

The Guides continue steadily. In the Autumn term a Peer Educator led them through the Girlguiding Resource 'Free Being Me'. Free Being Me is a global badge programme using fun and interactive activities to grow girls' self-esteem and body confidence. It encourages girls to celebrate their individuality, empowering them to challenge the myth of the "perfect-looking woman" created by society. This term they have been working on various activities in the themes of

Girl Guiding

'Chocolate', 'Experiments', and 'Football': designing their own brand of a new chocolate bar, making pop-corn and baking a football pitch cake!

At Christmas all the Units got together to raise £178 for the Childrens Society by doing good turns for friends and family. They made Christingles and then celebrated with party food and a visit from Father Christmas.



For further information about joining us as a young member or as an adult volunteer, please log onto www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and complete the required details. We will then be in touch with you

We want to hear from you.



Do you have something to say? The RCA Village Magazine belongs to the whole Village and serves as a channel of communication between villagers. If you have a point of view, write a letter and we'll publish it.

Simply write to Editor, RCA Village Magazine, 19 Mallard Road, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6HN. Email to editor@rowlandscastle.com

Rowlands Castle Historical Society

The society now has a permanent display cabinet for small items. It is in the small Parish Hall alongside other items of our village's past. If you have any artefacts that you would like to donate, either temporarily or permanently, please contact us.

Thank You

Paul Marshman RC 412028

Barbara Openshaw RC 412400

Emsworth Arts Trail

Rowlands Castle and Finchdean Artists exhibit together at the Emsworth Arts Trail

by Deborah Richards

Emsworth Arts Trail now in its fourteenth year, offers the exciting chance to see the work of over 150 local designers, painters and makers at fifty-five venues. Visit artists in their own homes and studios. Churches, community halls, pubs and shops also act as exhibition space to bring creativity to every corner of the town.

A group of four artists/makers from Rowlands Castle parish are exhibiting together and invite you to visit them at The Hewitt (formerly known as the Emsworth Centre), 35-37 South Street, Emsworth. PO10 7EG. Open 10 -5pm daily. This central venue is located very close to the harbour and will have refreshments available.

Jean Bradley of Finchdean, makes individual beads using Venetian glass, often with silver, copper or palladium inclusions. She also fuses and casts glass, forming bowls and sculpture. She particularly likes making pieces for the garden and home. Woodcuts and cards will also be for sale.



Deborah Richards from Finchdean, makes original prints, paintings and drawings which respond to the changing light, colour, rhythm and mood of the Solent coast and local downland views. Affordable original 'one-off' prints and cards to frame will be for sale.

Sylvia Tomkinson of Rowlands Castle, designs and hand-makes her jewellery using silver, gold and semi-precious stones to create several distinctive collections within her jewellery range. In particular she uses the contrasts of colour or texture to create her unique designs.



Jonquil Tonge also from Rowlands Castle, makes silver jewellery influenced by various geometric and curved forms including semi-precious beads, such as black onyx and baroque pearls. She likes to incorporate an element of fluidity, movement and fun to her designs. She teaches jewellery making and also is the founder of The Contrasts

jewellery Fair.

A trail guide is available from local shops, libraries and other venues listing all participants with a map of the locations. For more information and a copy of the trail guide please visit www.emsworthartstrail.org.uk.

25th – 26th April and 2nd, 3rd, 4th May 2015

Speedwatch

Robin Reucroft

Speeding in rural areas and villages is something that affects us all. It is one of the most complained about topics in Village society. It contributes towards accidents and impacts on the day-to-day lives of people in the community.

Some four years ago a group of like-minded residents were recruited by the Police to form the very Successful Community Speedwatch. Parish Councils from the South of Butser parishes contributed towards the cost of equipment and since that formation many hundreds of sessions have been held resulting in thousands of culprits receiving letters from the Police and in some instances visits from the Police to repeat offenders.

During the years that Speedwatch has been running a marked reduction in speed has been observed in some of the 'hotspots', there are still many sites that produce as many as 60 speeders in the two hour sessions and these are further addressed by a Police visit to the site with a speed enforcement gun resulting in fixed penalties. On top of that offending, vehicles are recorded on the Police National Computer and the status of road tax and insurance is checked.

We, as members, of Speedwatch do believe we are making a difference but as with all voluntary organisations always need new members. South of Butser Speedwatch is short of members and would like to appeal to 'like-minded' residents who have some spare time to consider joining. Police vetting and training is necessary and local travelling expenses can be claimed. High visibility clothing is provided and volunteers are covered by Hampshire Constabulary public liability insurance. Please give this some consideration, it will make you feel much better by doing something rather than just complaining.

For more information contact your local neighbourhood police officer or visit the website roadpolicing.management@hampshire.gov.uk. You could also make a local call to 02392 596989

Craft Fair

Craft Fair Update

by Hilda Tart

The craft fayres will be held on the 1st Saturday in each month from April until December (not in Aug) in the Parish Hall, Links Lane, Rowlands Castle PO9 6AD from 10am to 1pm. Admission is free.

There will be approx. 20 stalls selling craft items hand-made by local people include Bead-work, Cards, Glass-work, Jewellery, Knitting, Patch-work, Photography, Quilting, Textiles and Woodwork.

There will also be a Knitting Advice Clinic and a Plant stall.

We are very grateful to Teresa Atchison who provided our refreshments last year. This year staff from the local "Tea on the Green" will be providing refreshments and we look forward to this new partnership.

If you would like to be considered for a stall please contact: rowlandscastle-craftfayre@gmail.com



The Committee Entertains the Members

by Elisabeth Hall, Chairman

Who is tacking up the horse? – Tom Pearce, the treasurer. Who is inside the horse? – The programme planners. Who are those in the dishevelled group? – Can you recognise the secretary and the chairman?

A hilarious end to the Christmas social evening for members when the committee, plus some extras, went to Widecombe Fair. The story was acted out to the tunefully sung accompaniment of Gordon Charlesworth, and the evening contained a gardening quiz and social chat, so that we all went back home into the night, full of Christmas spirit (wine actually).

The Christmas social event is restricted to members only, as are the garden visits programmed for June and July, but the club welcomes visitors to its monthly meet-

ings at The Church on the Green for a small fee. Check the village noticeboards for dates and lecture topics. At each meeting we share topical tips and try to solve each others' gardening problems.

The annual spring bulb competition is judged in March this year; it is a narcissus 'Fortune,' which is guaranteed to bloom – pictures in the next magazine.

Pat's plant sale is to be held on 9th May in the village hall, where there will be a huge variety of plants for sale.

Tip: Cover your camellias if frost is likely.



Tennis Club

New Members Welcome

by Alan Best

As I write this article in early March the sun is shining and I have my shorts on for the first time in many months – a very good sign for the coming tennis season. Rowlands Castle's tennis club continues to thrive. We have over 300 members with around 100 active adult players and we cater for the majority of your tennis needs, be they for social or competitive tennis:

For the pure social player we have three tarmac courts in good condition (and which are likely to be refurbished very soon) with an on-line booking system which ensures that you can book your court in advance and be certain of getting your game.

And for the social player who isn't a member of one of the regular "groupings" we run "club" sessions every Monday and Friday evening from 6pm until dusk. If you haven't played for a while but would like to start again then these sessions are for you. Just come along with your racquet, introduce yourself to the evenings supervisor and he or she will mix you in with the other players.

For the more competitive players we run teams in the local Portsmouth League. We have Men's, Ladies and Mixed teams, all playing at a decent standard (though some way below Wimbledon level!). We like to operate on a "squad" basis, rather than relying on the same 4 or 5 players for every match, so if you are interested in playing for any of the teams then please do come along to a club session and introduce yourself.

And for those who like to play socially, but with a competitive element, we run a number of socially biased "American Tournaments" during the season. All players are shuffled around in these events so you finish up playing with and against a number of different people – a great way of getting to know other members! But the main purpose of the day is to get through to the tea interval, when tea and cakes are served in abundance!

The one thing the club does not have is a resident coach – but we still provide coaching opportunities for you, with Roger Manvell, who runs the Advantage Tennis Academy at the nearby Avenue club in Havant, running coaching sessions for juniors (on Wednesday evenings) and Adults (Tuesday evenings and Friday lunchtime) and Chris Wilkinson (former British No 1) being available for personal coaching by arrangement (contact him on 07768 772561)

The committee are always happy to welcome new members and anyone in Rowlands who would like to join to either learn to play, or to get out their rusty (or not so rusty) racquets is encouraged to join us. Try the web site as a first port of call, or email the Chairman (Robin Thompson) on chairman@rctc.co.uk or the Secretary (Alan Best) on sec@rctc.co.uk

Swing Along with Monkey Music

by Emma Barnes

Monkey Music, the award winning pre-school music group for children aged 3 months – 4 years across the UK, will be opening in Fishbourne, Havant and Petersfield from 20th April.

Founded in Dulwich, South East London in 1993, Monkey Music nurtures a child's natural love of music so that it will last a lifetime. Based on an exciting and progressive curriculum, Monkey Music provides weekly music classes that are entertaining and educational, and is imaginatively taught by specialist teachers who gently encourage social and musical skills within a fun, stimulating and friendly environment. Classes are small and tailor-made, and the teachers make full use of the lively 30 minute classes to captivate the children using a winning combination of catchy music, percussion instruments, visual props and boundless energy, with lots of opportunities for the children to experiment with the instruments and make music of their own. Over 300 traditional and original songs, musical games and exciting movement ideas are used throughout the curriculum, with the children grouped in small classes according to their age.

Unique to Monkey Music is their newest curriculum which has been specially written for babies from 3 months in response to huge demand from parents, who are increasingly aware of the importance of introducing their children to music from as young an age as possible. Called "Rock'n'Roll", each class is themed around the everyday life of a very young child and is a special time in the week for parents and carers to simply stop, look at each other and enjoy the sensory experience of sound together.

Today, thousands of children enjoy Monkey Music classes at more than 200 locations all over the UK and Ireland, with classes in new areas opening up all the time. "I am delighted to be able to bring Monkey Music to the area and am looking forward to sharing the magic and joy of Monkey Music with local children", said Emma, who runs Monkey Music in this area. "It's fun, formative and a great way of making friends!"

If you would like to find out more, or are interested in taking your little monkey along for a complimentary class, please contact Emma on 02394 000226. Or why not visit the interactive website at www.monkeymusic.co.uk, which is packed with fun pictures to colour in, music to listen to, competitions to enter and loads of information about Monkey Music and its merry band of teachers!

Monkey Music : Nurturing a Lifetime of Music•



Domestic Heating Advice

New App

by Nic Radcliffe

In this issue I'd like to talk about a new app I've recently found on the app store. Its currently only on apple but I hear it will be coming to android soon. If you aren't up to date with apps on phones don't worry they have a website explaining this particular one at voltzapp.com. What the app does is search all the energy deals from all the energy companies and based on your usage gives you the best deal option and the chance to switch.

After downloading Voltz (for free) you have to do the usual things, choose an email and password, enter your address and size of house. They then ask you some simple questions about your requirements and what company and tariff you are currently on. They are all there to choose from. It then estimates your usage, if its totally wrong you can enter it yourself. All of these details can be found on your recent utility bill if you are unsure. From here it then searches all the deals out there and tells you if you're on the cheapest tariff or not. If you're not it gives you the option to switch right then and there with just a couple of clicks. I personally will save £287 a year when I switch. I haven't done it yet as I'm on a fixed rate contract which ends in April and will get charged if I leave early. If I didn't shop around though what most companies do is when your contract is up move you to their standard tariff even if this means your bills rise.

All of this is a great move in the right direction for the world of energy, one I'm sure the energy companies aren't very happy about. It also raises the point that the younger generation with knowledge of phone apps etc will now get cheaper energy than the elderly that aren't so electronically savvy. Who could probably do with the saving a lot more but that's a whole other topic. So I'd urge you to get your grandads and grandmas set up on this app. I certainly will be.

I hope this has been helpful. If I can help you at all, please give me a call on 07905 908143.



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World book Day by Kay Pennicotte-Henrie

We celebrated World Book Day this year by dressing up as our favourite book characters. We had many Harry Potters and Hermiones; from J.K. Rowling's popular series. Where's Wally? was also popular.

In addition there was a large selection of fairy tale characters from the traditional stories. The staff joined in the fun and the whole school paraded around during assembly time.



All children received a book token to spend on World Book Day books or they could use them towards another book.

We spent part of the afternoon in a sponsored 'Silent Read-a-Thon'. Many parents and villagers joined in. We have raised an amazing £1000. We will be spending this money on books to be read outside at playtimes and lunchtimes. This idea came from the children who often request to read outside.

We will be using our willow dome for a reading area as the weather gets warmer. The worship area is also a lovely quiet space for reading.

This summer our tree-house project will go ahead and an outdoor classroom will be available for the children to use.

We are proud that our children are achieving well in reading compared with national figures. Recent research has shown how regular readers are more likely to be high achievers in all walks of life.

Children appreciated all the adults that spent time reading with them on World Book Day and our regular readers.



If you have spare time and would like to read with children on a regular basis please contact the school office for details. 02392 412095

St John's School



St Johns Primary School Summer Fair on Saturday 13th June 2015

Roll up; Roll up for the St John's Primary School Summer Fair on Saturday 13th June from 12 to 3pm. Entry is free, and it's sure to be a great afternoon of fun and entertainment for the whole family.

There will be a host of stalls and fun activities for you to enjoy including bouncy castles, beat the goalie, coconut shy, craft activities, face painting, a great treasure hunt in the woodland walk, and the famous Vintage Bus Rides, with lots more for all the family. New this year is The Photo Booth, so bring your camera and stop by to capture some fun family memories.

In addition, we have a full afternoon of entertainment with arena displays and games, including St John's dance club, Irish Dancing with Pauline Boyle and Active8 Minds sports challenge. Full refreshments will be available including a Pimm's & beer tent, cream teas, locally made Treagust sausages and burgers from our BBQ, candy floss, crepes and ice-cream.

Everyone can find brilliant bargains in the nearly new books, toys and games and DVDs stalls. With a tombola, raffles, plus loads of gift and craft stalls from local companies - it will be the perfect place to pick up a gift or a little something for your home.

The fair is organised by the parents and teachers from St John's School PTA with all proceeds going towards school projects.

Please put Saturday 13th June in your diary now to ensure you don't miss out on a great afternoon of fun for all the family.

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023 9282 6714 admissions@por.gdst.net Kent Road, Southsea, PO5 3EQ
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DREWS FARM

Drews Farm is situated between Rowlands Castle and Forestside. We have reintroduced livestock onto approximately 20% of the farm. Dexter cows and a mixture of Welsh Black Mountain and Easy Care Wiltshire sheep graze on some of the best low lying chalk pastures of the South Downs National Park. They are not fed on any supplements, additives or prophylactic antibiotics to encourage quicker growth and weight gain.

Approximately every 3-4 months we sell mixed boxes of Beef and Lamb/Hogget.

We try to produce the best tasting, healthiest beef and lamb without compromise for our family and you.

The beef is hung for 28 days to achieve a superior taste and is vacuum packed for optimum freshness. The boxes are 7-10kg of mixed cuts.

To reserve your box or to put your name on the mailing list please email :
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Visit our website for further information: www.drewsfarm.org



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Rowlands Castle Painting Society

Spring Art Exhibition

by Terry Devaney

2015 has begun well for the Society. The relatively mild winter has meant the attendance at meetings has been good and there have been some excellent workshops and evening demonstrations for the members to enjoy. The photograph is of Gary Miller who gave a wonderful still life workshop.



The Society warmly welcomes its' new members who have recently joined. New members bring new life and ensure the wheels keep turning! The ability of the artists is wide ranging and varied. There are no restrictions on who can join, the only criteria is to genuinely enjoy art and want to be with like minded people. It will soon be Spring and members will now be busy with getting work ready for the fast approaching Silver Cup Awards. It is purely for members who will submit paintings into categories, winners being selected by the members and awarded with their trophies. We hope Paddy Holmes, the patron of the Society will present the trophies.

This year, Rowlands Castle Painting Society are having the annual Spring Art Exhibition on the 16th and 17th May to include being part of the Greater Havant Art Trail. The Exhibition will be offering much more this year as there will be cards on sale, a craft table, tombola and refreshments. Both the large and small hall will be in use, with tea/coffee and cakes on sale in the small hall.

This Exhibition promises to be the perfect showcase for the members hard work and is an ideal opportunity to buy an original work of art. This is certainly going to be worth seeing, so put the date in your diaries! More details can be found on: www.rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.org.uk

Lets bring a Spring into your step!

by Juliette O’Hea MCSP MSc PGDip (rheum)

In the winter edition of the Village Magazine I suggested a couple of warming exercises. In this Spring edition lets try some exercises that focus on your arms and legs to bring a spring back into your step. The following exercises will help to mobilise, energise and strengthen.

Sit in a firm, upright and preferably armless chair and place a small, soft cushion behind your lower back. Imagine you are being pulled up by a piece of string attached to the crown of your head, creating height and space in the spine. Soften the shoulders away from your ears. Now pull in your navel, tightening your abdominal muscles to protect and strengthen the spine. If you can, try to keep this posture throughout the exercises.

Exercise 1

From this position, perform a marching action swinging your arms and lifting your knees (not your buttocks). Try to lift opposite arm and leg. Allow the movement to be free and not forced. Alternate marching up on your toes and then up on your heels.

Exercise 2

Circle your wrists and ankles in one direction and then the other. Spread the fingers and toes.

Exercise 3

Still in sitting, come up on to your toes, lifting the heels and then rock back onto the heels lifting your toes. At the same time make a fist and then release and stretch the fingers.

As with any exercise, if there is any sharp or unusual pain, never push into the pain and back off the exercise a little. Try to exercise regularly and keep moving through your week.

‘Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies’ Mother Theresa

Juliette is a Chartered Physiotherapist and she lives in Rowlands Castle. She can assess and give you exercise advice in your own home and she runs exercise classes for people with arthritis and mobility problems in Emsworth, Havant and Chichester. For more information please check out her website www.arthritisfirst.co.uk, email her physio@arthritisfirst.co.uk or call her on 02392 413885/07974 238787



Rowlands Castle Golf Club

Not Just Golf

by Keith Fisher Secretary/Manager



Rowlands Castle Golf Club was established in 1902 and provides a challenging test of golf with a varied and interesting layout. We have a large and active membership and are renowned for being a friendly and social club.

However, many people do not realise that as well as the golf course, we also have fantastic function and clubhouse facilities, and regularly welcome local organisations who take advantage of these when it comes to hosting their events, parties and meetings. For the non golfers in the village there is also an opportunity to take out social membership, which enables you to not only use our restaurant and bar facilities but also attend our regular social events.



Our social scene has certainly been busy in recent months starting in October when the club hosted a traditional Trafalgar night celebration in aid of the Royal Marines Charity, with guests being treated to entertainment from sea shanty singers, the Royal Marine band along with the traditional Royal Navy toasts.

We always celebrate Christmas in a big way at the club, with the festivities commencing early in December with the Ladies Christmas Fayre where visitors enjoyed a large and varied array of independent local stalls crammed with seasonal goodies, along with plenty of mince pies and early Christmas cheer.



Our annual Family Christmas party is one of the most popular events of the year with a traditional turkey dinner, plenty of entertainment and a visit from Father Christmas for the children. Later in the month members

Rowlands Castle Golf Club

were treated to a Christmas carol concert from Blendworth Brass band in aid of “Action for Children”. The seasonal festivities were finished off in style with a black tie New Years Eve Party to welcome in 2015.

On the golfing front the winter weather can have a profound effect on golf, but substantial investment in drainage means the course is fully playable even in the most inclement of conditions. October traditionally signifies the end of the clubs main Men’s competition season culminating in members competing for the Quaffers trophy, which is followed by a presentation evening where all the trophies, cups and medals from the season are presented to the respective winners. Throughout the winter months competitions, although keenly contested, take a more informal and varied format with our members enjoying playing in Turkey Trots, Fourball Better Balls, Texas Scrambles and various knockout formats.

Within the club we have a number of very active Sections including Men, Ladies, Seniors, and Juniors, with both competitive and friendly golf offered and played by golfers of all standards. Golf is a very social game and a great way of meeting new people, so if you are new to the area or want a social and active hobby then come and see what we can offer.

The Club is very proud of our active Junior section and along with many internal Junior competitions we enter teams in a number of local leagues and host friendly matches, with the emphasis very much on participation and enjoyment. We are actively trying to increase the numbers of Junior golfers and currently hold clinics on a Sunday morning, starting at 10.00am for children under 6 years of age, then at 10.30am we host an hour clinic for the older children. These clinics are completely free and there is no need to book, just bring your child along on the day and we can also provide equipment for them to use, These sessions are open to all and if you require any further information please contact Peter Klepacz our Professional on 023 92 412785.

For further details on membership please contact the Secretary/Manager, Keith Fisher, on 02392 412784 Ext 3 or e-mail manager@rowlandscastle.co.uk.

Horndean Music Society

February Concert

by Irvin Draycott.

Following the unfortunate withdrawal of the original Artist for the February concert, due to a medical condition, the Society was indeed fortunate in being able to engage at very short notice the very well known virtuosi Karen Kingsley (piano) and Robert Blanken (clarinet) who together form the very well regarded “Monington Duo”.

Their first item was Malcolm Arnold’s Sonatina opus 29. Given in three movements this burst into life with an immensely complex clarinet part appropriately supported by an elaborate piano part in a first movement that gave full vent to its Allegro con brio prescription. This gave way to the beautifully lyrical clarinet part in the Andantino with a dreamlike undercurrent from the piano accompaniment that seemed to burst through to sunlight occasionally. The final movement marked “Furioso” was beyond my powers of description. One could only marvel at the power, control and complexity and unity that these accomplished artists achieved. Believe it to have been just wonderful!

The second item was by the little known Dutch composer Theodor Verhey whose “Four Character Pieces” opus 3 were thought to be influenced by German romantic music. It opened with an elegant Allegro in which the piano perfectly complemented the beautifully flowing clarinet part. There followed an Andante of majestic grandeur, and then a Piece marked Allegretto con moto in which the exquisite tone of the clarinet seemed to engage the measured tone of the piano in an intimate vocal duet. The final Molto vivace gave the piano a brilliant Beethovenian accompaniment to which Miss Kingsley did full justice in support of the ever certain tempo and tone of the clarinet. This was followed by Introduction and Allegro appassionata Opus 256 by Carl Reinecke, a prolific if little known composer who, from this sample of his work, held closely to the late romantic style and manner. Both artists clearly enjoyed the demanding and thrilling closing appassionata section, and this satisfaction was echoed abundantly in the audience reaction.

The final item in the first half swept us back into the 20th century with a Sonata by Francis Poulenc. The first movement gave the impression of an arcadian rural picture. The second, marked “Romanza” seemed to present a questing

Horndean Music Society

lyric from the clarinet and a calm and assured support from the piano. The final Allegro con fuoco showed the amazing range and tone of the clarinet in the hands of our Artist as piano and clarinet played pursued and pursuer to bring the first half to a tremendous closing climax.

The second half of the concert was given under the title “An English Miscellany” and featured works by eight English composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. These included “Three Harveynian Showpieces” by Paul Harvey which could have graced the BBC Light Programme from the wireless days of my boyhood. Similarly “Fugue on a Nursery Rhyme” (Twinkle twinkle) by Sydney Lawton; “An Evening Song” Ivor R. Foster and “Scherzo” by Thomas A. Johnson showed the demanding artistry required for the performance of these so-called light music pieces. It is a tribute to the accomplished skills of the performers that they transported us so readily to the World of broadcast music of a bygone age that many of the audience recalled with pleasure.

“Chanson de La Nuit” by Arnold Safroni gave a perfect evocation of the evening dusk over the smoky chimneys of Edwardian London and again Karen and Robert gave perfect musical expression to that vision. There followed “Latin Timeshift” by Mike Cornick and “Clarinet Cakewalk” by Terence Greaves. In this latter piece the intricate trickling runs from both instruments, played with consummate ease, raised the clear image of the Bertie Wooster set.

The final work in this extensive Programme was Southwold Sonatina by James Rae which is in three movements, “Sole Bay”, “Harbour”, and “Off to the Nelson”. In the first movement the clarinet constantly rises above the ominous threat offered by the piano. The second movement gives a placid calm to both instruments and the feeling of a calm sea lapping the Suffolk coast and the only activity being the lonely patrol of the odd seagull. The final self explanatory movement was played with great vigour and humour to bring a most momentous concert, which had spanned nearly two hundred years of music, to an end. The Chairman’s thanks to the Artists for their wonderful performances was amply reinforced by the loud and prolonged applause of an appreciative, well informed audience that was well aware of the gems it had received. It was indeed a privilege to have been there.

St John's Church

Upcoming Events

by Revd Trevor Filtness Vicar of St John's

As I write this on a warm spring day we look forward to the return of longer days, the promise of more sunshine and the wonderful summer events which are an important and traditional part of our vibrant village life.

This summer we will be celebrating our 'patronal festival', that is the birthday of St John the Baptist, on Sunday 28th June with a Messy Church Birthday Party!

Messy Church is a relatively new way of worship. Some of you will already have come to our other Messy Celebrations and will know what it involves. But as a reminder, the day normally begins at about 10am with fun activities connected with the theme of the day, followed by exciting worship, which as we will be celebrating John the Baptist will undoubtedly involve our Christening Pool in the Centre and then we get together for a BBQ in the church grounds. Do come along and experience a new and exciting kind of fun worship – there is no charge!

Talking of churchyards, you may have noticed that we are clearing the last remaining unused area of the churchyard so that we have much more room for burials. This may seem like a pessimistic subject but I know that it is important and comforting to many in our parish to know that they can be laid to rest in our beautiful village churchyard.

I am also delighted to say that our ministry team has been considerably strengthened by the arrival of the Rev Barry & Sue Smith. Sue is a church lay minister (Reader) and both will be leading our worship from time to time. Barry and Sue were in the parish for a few months before I came here in 2011 so are already known to quite a few in Rowlands. Over the last 18 months my pastoral ministry has evolved such that I have not been able to 'cover the ground' adequately and I am pleased to say that Barry, a former QA Hospital Chaplain, will be making this the focus of his ministry.

Our pastoral ministry is for everyone in the Parish, whether you come to church or not, whether you are a professing Christian or not. Very often it is simply a matter of knowing that you can just talk to someone that can make a difference in your life. As a part of this I would like to remind everyone of our 'Here to Listen' pastoral initiative. This is friendly, confidential and is for anyone who might be feeling lonely, troubled or who just needs someone to talk to. This might include a chat over the phone or meeting you at home.

To get in touch, you can phone, or someone can do it on your behalf, using the confidential telephone helpline: 0845 2269437 or by e-mail to: heretolis-

St John's Church

ten@saintjohnschurch.org.uk. You can also contact us in the church office on 02392 410111 or just get in touch with me.

With every blessing Trevor

Revd T Filtness Vicar St John the Baptist, Rowlands Castle

07785 568056 or 02392 410111 (Office)

A very big thankyou to all those who helped with the November poppy appeal. The café, shops, pubs, garage, St John's Church, golf club always do so well with very generous donations.. Our helpers in the street are amazing, also those who help count the money in the tins once they are collected. The grand total was £2,000. Well done everyone.

Anne Haigh



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St Hubert's Church



The Idsworth Millennium Fresco

by John Bates

In 1998 St. Hubert's Church was looking for a suitable way to mark the millennium. After much discussion a local farmer and member of our congregation, Richard Mason, hit on the idea of a "modern" fresco depicting life at the beginning of the third millennium and compliment the existing 14th century wall paintings in the chancel. Unfortunately Mr. Mason did not live to see the finished fresco but his double legacy of the original idea and a generous bequest provided the impetus for the wonderful new work we can now see on the wall above the chancel steps.

Further finance was forthcoming in the form of a grant from the Cottam Will Trust, an organisation set up by a certain Father Cottam for the advancements of objects of religious beauty.

Owing to the age and character of St. Hubert's Church it was imperative that the new Fresco sat well within its surroundings and having taken advice, both religious and secular it was agreed that the mural should be presented in the mediæval style (hence the somewhat strange look of some of the animals). Fresco painting is basically painting on to wet lime plaster, a method used by both Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci, but who was capable of carrying out such work today? We were very lucky to find a talented artist in Fleur Kelly, probably the best and most experienced artist in this field having worked on the Place of Westminster, St Mary's in Bath and St. Thomas tower at the Tower of London. Fleur was trained in this technique by Leonetto Tintori in Italy.

The theme of the Fresco was to be a central area depicting Christ in majesty set in a mandorla frame. Note the snail on the right hand edge a reference to our then Priest in charge, the Rev. Dr. Trevor Reader, formerly a botanist. Christ is seated on the world and is shown in an attitude of blessing. In his hand He holds an orb, on which are the three churches of our Benefice. The surrounding picture is of course of St. Hubert's and its surrounding hills, fields and woodlands inspired by the vision of St. Peter recounted in Acts Chapter 10& 11. This was chosen as the church was originally dedicated to St. Peter.

Peter's vision of a sheet being let down from heaven with all kinds of animals, birds & reptiles, convinced Peter that the Gospels were for all peoples, not just the Jews. This story provided an ideal opportunity for the artist to depict the many animals and creatures that can be seen in the woods and fields around our church, including the black rabbits that sadly seem to have disappeared. The keen

St Hubert's Church

eyed will notice the sheet resembles a sail with reefing points on it. This is a reference to the many Naval personnel at St. Hubert's. The white stag of St. Hubert with the cross between its antlers had to be included and the Pelican is a traditional representation of the crucifixion.

Artistic licence was employed by Fleur Kelly when she painted the two angels using the faces of her own daughters, Celeste and Madeleine.

The water at the bottom of the mural depicts the Levant that rises in the field below the church following heavy rainfall, and the footbridge over it which worshippers and visitors use to reach the church over the flood. Both fish and water are strong Christian symbols, although no fish have ever been seen in this part of the Levant.

Mandy and Martin Banfield were married at the church on 16th July 2000 whilst the scaffolding was still in place for access to the painting and so it was appropriate that they should be depicted in the mural. Staunton Park School visited in June 2000 and is commemorated by the boy walking on the hill. The boy on a bike is Timothy Fisk the son of the farmer at Heberdens farm opposite the church. Hikers are frequent visitors to St. Hubert's and had to be included and the man on the bench, a family friend of the artist, recalls the rest needed after the climb up the hill. Many of the animals were included at the suggestion of parishioners, the spaniels much loved by our churchwarden Graham, Geese kept by the Butt family and the Friesian cows farmed by John Edney. The steam train was particularly included for our organist of 50 years, Derek Hickman, a real steam buff. Chinook helicopters and light aircraft are a familiar sight over the church and to the right of the church the lunar eclipse can be seen.

Plants and trees are all representative of those that grow around our church.

No matter how many times you look at this remarkable piece of art I know you will always find something new and ponder "why is that in the picture?"



St Hubert's Church



**The United Benefice of
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with Idsworth**
www.bcichurches.co.uk

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Benefice Office: 023 9259 7023

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3rd Sunday of month	Family Worship
4th Sunday of month	Mattins
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Please check notice boards or website for seasonal and other occasional variations.

Benefice Secretary

Carol Legg

Tel: 023 9259 7023

The Benefice Office
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Churchwardens:

John Butt

Tel: 023 9241 2262

Garden Cottage
Idsworth
Waterlooville, PO8 0AW

Roger Walker

Tel: 023 9241 2669

13 The Peak
Rowlands Castle, PO9 6AH

Church on the Green

New Beginnings!

by Jason Clark COTG

My wife Wendy, two children and I find it a real privilege to be part of an old village Church, steeped in history like our Church on the Green, with over 200 years worth of stories to tell, that have happened throughout the ages.

The Church has seen many men, women, boys and girls join in the different services and activities that have been held, including Sunday worship and communion, Tuesday Prayer and Bible studies, the coffee mornings on Tuesday and Wednesday and various children's campaigns and a youth group. Also a new two sided clock face in 2001 and an absolutely lovely extension called 'The Meeting Place' built in 2009 which beautifully compliments the main Church itself, which was built over two centuries before. As you can see, whether young, middle aged or older in years, we have something for everyone!

On the 31st of October last year, we held a children's 'Light Party', which is an alternative to the Halloween theme and amongst the many things that we did were: X Box games; electronic air hockey; snooker; skittles; arts and crafts and even musical statues – A great time was had by children and adults alike! Since October, we have had the blessing of a new family join us, they include three children, to add to our two children, so a Sunday school is once again in action while the actual Sunday morning service is being held.

This year, we have really felt a sense from God to focus on families, youth and children, the heart of any town or village. To that effect, we are delighted to announce the commencement of two new ventures, both of which will start in March. First of all, a mums/dads/grandparents and toddlers group, called Music Makers, which will happen twice a month on a Friday morning, this will include music, dancing, finger food and free play, for a small fee of £2.50. Secondly, a Youth Group called S.P.E.C. This will be on the last Friday of every month and will concentrate on 9 – 14 year olds (approx.) Once again, many of the previous 'Light Party' activities will be in action, this will be a joint effort with St Johns Church but will be held in the Church on the Green.

Every one of us has been created uniquely and our prayer is that God will bless each and every activity held in these exciting times ahead!

Jace (Student Pastor)

History

Between the Rivers – Rowlands Castle men in Mesopotamia.

by Tony Cowin - Historical Society.

Four of those remembered on our War Memorial fought and died in Mesopotamia in the First World War. All were Hampshire Territorials, who sailed from England on 9 October 1914 for Karachi to join the British Indian Army.

The Royal Navy had recently adopted oil fuel for its latest battleships, and fitted it as a supplement to coal in many of the older ships. The first British troops landed at the head of the Persian Gulf very shortly after war was declared on Turkey (5 November 1914), to secure the oil refinery at Abadan, and the oil pipeline from the wells in the Zagros mountains. The Turks were surprised, and quickly yielded in succession Abadan, Basra and then Qurna (the junction of the 2 rivers Tigris and Euphrates) on 19 December 1914.

George Bolbeck, Thomas Oliver and Sydney West came from India to land at Basra in March 1915. Harry Jacobs came later, on 6 September 1917.

In 1915 our forces, commanded by General Townshend, fought up the Tigris towards Baghdad. Kut-al-Amara, 100 miles from Baghdad, fell on 28 September. Turkish resistance increased, whilst we were dependent on an extended river supply route. Defeated at Ctesiphon (only some 60 miles from Baghdad), General Townshend and the 6th (Poona) Division retreated to Kut-al-Amara, where they were surrounded. The Royal Flying Corps attempted re-supply by air. A supply ship, manned by volunteers, tried to breach the Turkish defences, but failed. 2 attempts at relief by our troops were made, both unsuccessful. During the second, Thomas Oliver was killed (21 January 1916). He is buried at Kut. Townshend destroyed his guns, and surrendered to the Turks on 29 April 1916.

Our forces regrouped in southern Mesopotamia, now under the command of General Sir Stanley Maude. Basra was rebuilt as a modern port, with wharves,



British troops on the advance in Mesopotamia, 1915.

warehouses, slipways for shipbuilding and repair, and workshops. Water transport was very greatly improved, with large river craft coming under their own power from India and Burma. A flotilla of gunboats was established. A buoyage and pilotage department kept track of the ever-changing conditions on the river.

George Bolbeck died on 26 September 1916. He is remembered on the Basra memorial. There is no known grave.

Maude started his advance up the Tigris in December 1916. In a well-handled campaign, with excellent logistic support from the newly-established river fleet, he recaptured Kut in February 1917, and entered Baghdad on 11 March 1917. Maude ended his advance in Baghdad, thinking his supply-lines too extended. He died of cholera on 18 November, being replaced by General William Marshall.

Sydney West, on the garrison of Baghdad, died on 3 February 1918. Harry Jacobs, who came from India only on 6 September 1917, died on 5 October 1918. Both are buried at Baghdad North Gate cemetery.

The British resumed their campaign in February 1918. Armistice discussions started in October, leading to the Armistice of Mudros on 30 October. Against the rules of the Armistice, British forces continued to advance, entering Mosul unopposed on 14 November 1918, the effective end of the war in Mesopotamia, one day after our occupation of Istanbul.

The Cost. Conditions in Mesopotamia were bad. Temperatures to 120 degrees F were common, flooding every spring, horse-flies by day and mosquitoes by night. Medical services were initially very poor; hospital ships helped later in the campaign. The following overall figures attempt to allocate the cause of death.

- 11,012 killed
- 3,985 died of wounds
- 12,678 died of sickness (cholera, typhoid, dysentery)
- 13,492 missing and prisoners (9,000 at Kut)
- 51,836 wounded.

This was small by the standards of the Western Front.

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The Greening Campaign is a structured programme with Three Phases for the community to work through, offering:

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- ◆ Training days
- ◆ Events

All to help you move towards a safer, more comfortable, clean future.

The Greening Campaign Phase 1 is designed to get everyone in your community to take the first small steps to being 'green'. We want people to do this on mass - lots of people making small changes makes a big difference and then everyone can take on slightly bigger challenges later together! Lets get everyone supporting and encouraging each other.

You will get your community to choose some really simple challenges (simple so it is easy for everyone to join in!). We then get the challenges put on a challenge card and at the time of a launch the cards will be delivered to every house so people can take on the challenges. You will then see cards in the windows of those taking part and you will feel a lump in your throat as you walk through your village, town or estate because together your community can make a difference! We then let you know how much energy and water your community saved together!

Deborah Richards is leading the RCA Greening initiative. More soon.

<http://www.greeningcampaign.co.uk/>

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WOMENS FELLOWSHIP IN ROWLANDS CASTLE

Since last I wrote Women's Fellowship has enjoyed more companionable afternoons with lively chat and a cup of tea, these have included debates, craft, our version of What's My Line, sharing family heirlooms, looking back to our school days, games and music plus our Christmas festive meal. We continue to meet at St John's Church Centre every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month at 2pm except in August. We have a wide range of backgrounds, interests, skills and ideas and enjoy the companionship WF offers. Coming up we have Bring and Buy, Slide-show and Outings so if you are interested in coming along to our small very friendly group please contact Claire Stanley 02392412340



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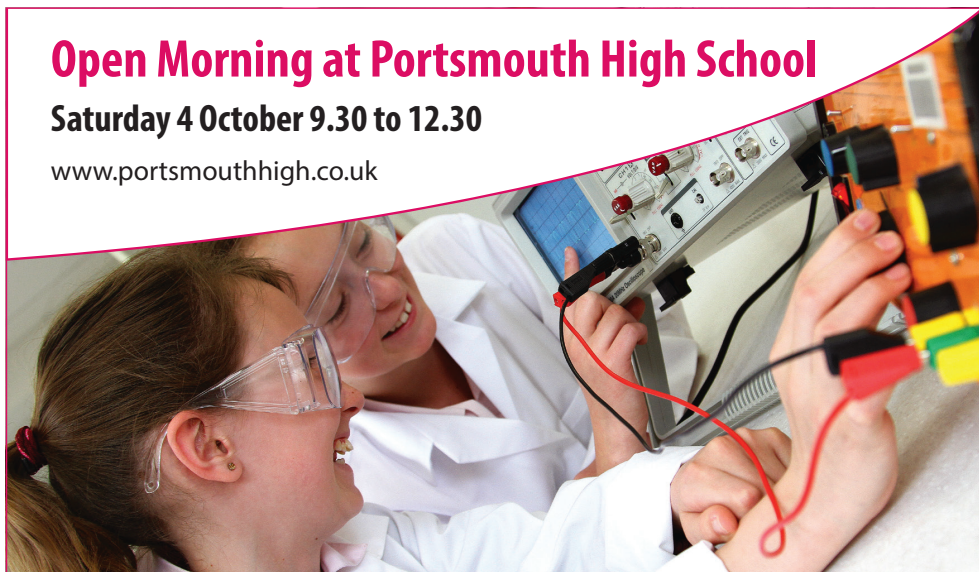
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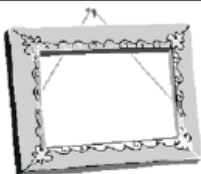


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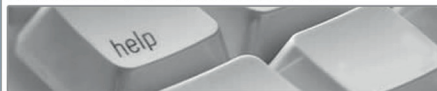
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The advertisement graphic for Rowlands Home Hardware is enclosed in a blue border. It features a collage of images: a red lawnmower, a bird feeder with two birds, a white HG paint can, a white toaster, a set of knives, a pair of pliers, and a silver kettle. A yellow paint roller is also visible. The text "homehardware" is written in a blue and yellow banner. Below it, "Not just paint!" is written in large, bold, blue letters, followed by "WE COVER EVERYTHING!" in bold, blue letters. Three checkmarks are followed by the text: "GREAT SAVINGS ON MANY RANGES", "FRIENDLY EXPERIENCED STAFF", and "OPEN SUNDAYS". The Dulux logo is also present. At the bottom, the website "www.rowlandshomehardware.co.uk" is displayed in a blue banner. A red banner at the very bottom contains the text "POST OFFICE" and "OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK".

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