



Rowlands Castle Association

Autumn 2012

Village Magazine

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ROWLANDS CASTLE ASSOCIATION

Village Magazine Autumn 2012

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The Village Magazine is published three times a year by the Rowlands Castle Association. The aims of the RCA are to act as a channel of communication for the Village, to conserve the character of the Village and to enhance the life of the Village.

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Cover picture: Autumn in Stansted Woods
Photo: Pat Carter

Rowlands Castle Association

A summer of celebrations and a milestone for the RCA

by Catherine Billam, Chair, RCA

What a summer of celebrations we have had this year. The RCA did our bit with our 40th anniversary party on 22nd September – full account on page 7. As you can see from the photos, the Parish Hall was transformed, and people had a great time. Bim Verrecchia and his friends provided the music, and Andy Clifton, formerly the chef at The Castle (now at the Jolly Sailor in Southsea) cooked up a fabulous dinner. This was not done without a great deal of effort, help and support. In addition to all the organisations listed on page 8, I would like to thank the committee, their families and friends and all who helped to decorate and clear the hall, sell tickets, collect plates and tables and decorations and everything that went into making the night such a success. Roll on the RCA's 50th!

The Diamond Jubilee photo books are now for sale in the village shops. I suspect that a lot of sons, daughters, grandparents and friends of the village will be getting them as Christmas presents this year. All proceeds from the books will go towards a lasting memorial of the Jubilee for the village, so show your friends and family what we got up to this summer and buy them a copy.

You may have noticed that we have a new editor for the village magazine – Kevin Connell. Kevin took over from Richard Milton who has produced the magazine for the last four years. Richard passes on a very professional and successful publication to Kevin. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Richard for his effort and supporting Kevin in his new role. If you would like to submit an article or photos to the magazine, the email address is still the same: editor@rowlandscastle.com.

The RCA is run by a voluntary committee. We're a sociable group. We meet in each other's houses roughly ten times per year, and put on events like bonfire night, quiz night and the children's Christmas party as well as running the village magazine and the website. Our constitution limits the number of years anyone can stay on the committee and, at our AGM in March next year, a number of us will be standing down. If you fancy getting more involved in village activities, would you consider joining the committee? If you are interested give me a ring for a chat: 9241 3143 or email me: chair@rowlandscastle.co.uk.

Finally, the children's Christmas party will be on Sunday 16th December this year. Magic Mikey will be in attendance as usual, and if you have small children it really is a treat – hope to see you there.

Rowlands Castle Association

Your RCA Committee



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Richard Milton
9241 3292

Thoughts on our 40th Anniversary

by Kevin Connell

Reading through the RCA Newsletters from its first five years of existence it occurred to me how little the issues affecting the village have changed. The big concern back then was the rapid development in and around the village. Not surprising as the village had increased in size by 25% within the five years between 1966 and 1971. There were plans to bring 2,000 houses to the area, something that would have completely destroyed the character of the village and seen it swallowed up into the urban area of Havant. The RCA was set up in response to this and campaigned to make sure that the villagers' views were heard.

Forty years on we find ourselves outside of the protection of the South Downs National Park. The RCA will continue to do its best to enable villagers to have a voice in issues such as the Keydell 'Trojan Horse' development which has recently been rejected by the East Hants District Council. A big thank you to the local councillors and others who submitted such convincing arguments that the proposal failed by a larger margin than at the outline planning stage.

The importance of stability in a small community shouldn't be underestimated. Dr Shona Dempster is retiring after 27 years at the Village Medical Centre on the 16th November. She very kindly put off her retirement date in order to provide some stability in the Practice after Dr Caldwell's unexpected departure. There is a book in reception for those who would like to wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her contribution. The good news is that Dr Pippa Cox will be joining us on 27th November. I am sure she will receive a warm welcome into the village and will soon fit into the team.

We welcome to the RCA committee Sue Morrison whom many of you will know through her work in other areas of village life such as the annual fair on the green. There will be a number of changes to the RCA over the coming year with the loss of Catherine Billam after the AGM and Sue Connell later in the year. We are therefore particularly keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the RCA as a committee member.



Welcome Sue Morrison

RCA 40th Anniversary

40th Anniversary Party

by Kevin Connell

The RCA 40th Anniversary dinner took place on 28th September in the Village Hall. Just over 100 guests enjoyed a meal prepared by Andy Clifton of the Castle Inn. Music was provided by Bim Verrecchia whose fee was donated to the Motor Neurone Disease charity MND. He played a wide range of music including Elton John, David Bowie and Beatles numbers. Bim also brought on a range of guest artists who brought something a bit different to the proceedings.



Each guest had the opportunity to have a silhouette created by Sarah Goddard of Visage silhouettes. Guests were stunned to see her snip away at black paper with a pair of scissors and in a couple of minutes produce a true likeness. No preliminary sketches were involved just a keen eye and sharp scissors, an amazing feat of skill. Thanks to Sarah for giving us all a long lasting memento of the event.

There was a very successful raffle with an excellent range of prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. Over £300 was raised by the raffle allowing the event to make a small overall profit of £85.99. This will be added to Bim's donation to the MND charity.

The party had been months in the planning and the committee were all nervous that something would go wrong on the night. However, the catering staff and serving staff did an excellent job and we needn't have worried. Needless to say, we will be happy to leave the organisation of the 50th anniversary celebration to someone else. Hopefully we'll all still be living in the village to buy a ticket.



Committee members preparing for the start of the celebrations.

Photos: Richard Milton

RCA 40th Anniversary

40th Anniversary Party

The RCA would like to thank those who donated raffle prizes:

Asda Havant
Butser Ancient Farm
Curves Waterlooville
George Ide Solicitors, Chichester
Hilliers Garden Centre Chichester
Hotel Chocolat, Chichester
Keyline, Rowlands Castle
Martin Steels Opticians, Emsworth
Morrison's Supermarket Horndean
Pallant House Gallery
Paul Marshman
Pavilion Tea Room, Stansted Park
Richard C Arnold Opticians, Petersfield
Sainsbury Superstore, Farlington
Stansted Park Foundation
Staunton Park
Unique Hair and Beauty Salon, Rowlands Castle

Those who provided help in kind:

Bim Verrecchia and friends
Bishop Luffa School
Eugene and Herta Billam
Gordon Charlesworth/ Charlesworth Outside
Meon Valley Liberal Democrats
Paddy Mirams/PMA Communications Ltd
Pam Winn
Paul Marshman
Rowlands Castle Parish Hall
Rowlands Home Hardware
St John's Church
The Castle Inn
Wayne Thompson

Not forgetting Andy Clifton along with Lauren and Ian in the kitchen, Then there was James Morrison in the bar and all the waiting staff.

RCA 40th Anniversary

40th Anniversary Party



Above right: RCA memorabilia

Above left: ready to go.

*Right: Catherine Billam and Martha Dombey
welcome party guests*

Bottom: party gets underway

***Photos: Richard Milton
Kevin Connell***



RCA 40th Anniversary

40th Anniversary Party



Above: sit down meal

Right: Treasurer and Secretary

Below left: Chair and former Editor

Below right: Party in full swing

**Photos: Richard Milton
Kevin Connell**



RCA 40th Anniversary

40th Anniversary Party



Top left:: Sit down meal

Top right: Bim Verrecchia

Right: Sarah Goddard of Visage Silhouettes

Bottom: Bim and guest artists

Photos: Richard Milton



RCA 40th Anniversary

The RCA, the early days

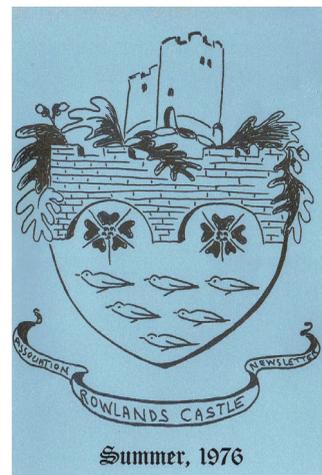
The first edition of the RCA Newsletter was published in the winter of 1972. It had 12 pages of content. The main concern of the issue was the South Hampshire Plan and the possible repercussions for excessive development in and around the village. Chairman back then was Eugene Billam, father of the current Chair. There were eight committee members initially. Membership was through an annual subscription of 25p. There was an appeal for historians to produce a series of in depth articles about the history of the village. The first letter to the magazine was by Robert Foley and concerned traffic problems in the village. He referred to the appalling (sic) accident record of Whicher's Gate Road.

The first social event organised by the RCA was a bonfire. Fireworks were provided by villagers. The bonfire took three weeks to build and it took two hours to set off all the fireworks. The RCA made a profit of 40p to add to its funds.

It took nearly five years for the cover of the newsletter to change. By then it had grown to 20 pages of content. The summer 1976 issue again had discussion of the South Hampshire Plan but the mood was far more cheery with only minor development planned for Rowlands Castle. There was discussion of the plan to build a new sports pavilion to replace the corrugated iron hut. The need for more allotments was raised. Thirty five years later the Parish Council are trying to raise sufficient funds to replace the sports pavilion and they are in discussion with Portsmouth City Council over the management of allotments in Rowlands Castle.



First RCA Newsletter cover



Second Newsletter cover

RCA 40th Anniversary

The RCA, the early days

So what sort of activities were taking place in the village 40 years ago? Below is a reproduction of the first 'What's on in Rowlands Castle'. By the following edition Badminton, Guides, Brownies, Medau rhythmic movement, Disco club, Mother's club and Stansted tennis club had appeared.

WHATS ON IN ROWLANDS CASTLE?

- Dec 6th 8.00pm. OPEN MEETING OF THE ROWLANDS CASTLE ASSOCIATION in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity to meet the committee, to discuss the South Hampshire Plan and to air any other matters which you feel concern the village.
- Dec 8/9th 7.00pm. Dancing display in the Church Hall by the Rowlands Castle School of Dancing.
- Dec 11th 2.00pm. Good Companions Christmas Party in the Parish Hall.
- Dec 11th 7.30pm. W.I. Christmas Meeting in the Parish hall.
- Dec 17th 6.00pm. Combined Church Service at the Congregational Church.
- Dec 21st 7.00pm. Village Carol Singing on The Green.
- Jan 7th 3.30pm. 43rd Folk Group and Combined Church Service at the Parish Church.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- Womens Institute - 2nd Monday of every month at 7.30pm. in the Parish Hall. New members welcome.
- Good Companions - every Monday afternoon in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm.
- Painting Society - every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm. and 7.30pm. in the Church Hall. Annual Sub. of 50p and 10p for the afternoon sessions or 15p for the evening sessions. The society was founded in 1970 by Mr. Jennings Wood and now has 100 members; another 50 members are needed. Tuition is provided.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THERE MUST BE MANY MORE ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO MANY PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE. IF YOU COULD LET ME HAVE DETAILS BY THE END OF JANUARY WE WILL BE ABLE TO INCLUDE THEM IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

CHARITY COLLECTION.

The house-to-house collection in aid of the Blind realised £52.31 (an increase of £11 over last year!).

Jubilee photo book

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Commemorative Photobook
on Sale NOW



What a Summer of fun it has been – what with the Olympics, Paralympics, Village Fair and of course the Nation's celebrations in honour of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



So, as the nights draw in and temperatures drop, what better way to remember the Parish's Jubilee Extravaganza than by purchasing copies of the Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Photobook.

The Photobook is packed with 80 pages of pictures, and we've included as many of you as possible. There are photos from all the Parish events; the School's celebrations; Montessori Fair and Children's Tea Party; Children's Bake off; Walking Procession and Grand Tea Party on the Green; Recreation Ground Tennis Tournament, Hog Roast and Games; the many street parties; and of course those fabulously patriotic Fireworks.

It even has a message from HM The Queen herself inside, with accompanying photographs!

As well as a wonderful reminder of the Jubilee celebrations, the Photobook is an ideal Christmas present, stocking filler, and/or could go into children's memory boxes.

How much is the Photobook?

The Photobooks are £6.00 each, AND if you buy 2 or more they are the **bargain**

Jubilee photo book

price of £5 each.

Where can I buy the Photobooks?

The Photobook is available from RC Londis and Home Hardware, and from all the Group members featured opposite.

What happens to the money?

The RC Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Group wants to build upon the funds left-over from all the donations made before and during the Jubilee Weekend. The Group aims to raise as much money as possible for a long-lasting commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee in the village.



The more Photobooks that we sell, the more funds will be available for the commemoration.

Your ideas

This brings us to our last point: what form do you think the commemoration should take? Of course, it is largely dependent on how much money we raise, and we're looking for something long-lasting, practical and/or beautiful, with low maintenance costs and as vandal-proof as possible! The Group would welcome any ideas you have, so tell us your ideas by e-mailing: rcdiamondjubilee@gmail.com



The Risk of Flooding

Advice from the Parish Council

by Steve Protheroe

Many of you will be aware that parts of the Parish of Rowlands Castle, that includes Finchdean, and Dean Lane End, although that hamlet is in West Sussex, is susceptible to flooding from groundwater sources (when the lavants rise), as well as flash surface water flooding, and sometimes foul water flooding too.

Following the wettest summer in 100 years, when over 14 inches of rain fell in the South East alone, it may not surprise you to know that the water table is currently very high. Based upon Environment Agency data, and historic records, it has been predicted that the lavants will more than likely rise this winter, if the current rainfall levels continue.

Protecting your home

Flash flooding occurred in Rowlands Castle back in June this year, both in Castle Road, where a fire tender was employed to pump out water, and Redhill Road/College Close junction areas, as the photos show. East Hants District Council can give assistance (Telephone 01730 266551) to residents who are concerned that their homes are at risk from flooding. During an emergency they can provide a limited supply of sandbags. Surface water flooding can happen for a number of reasons, such as heavy rainfall, blocked drains or overflowing rivers or streams. If residents are concerned that they are at risk from flooding contact the District and/ or County Council for advice. They will try to respond within two hours during working hours or four hours, outside working hours. However if there is a major flooding emergency, and they are dealing with a high volume of calls, it may take longer.



The County and District Council has limited resources, and will give priority to situations where the dwelling or premises are at serious risk. Sandbags may be distributed to prevent water entering habitable premises. They will not be provided for the protection of garden boundaries, garages, outhouses, etc.

Because of the limited availability of sandbags - home owners who are aware that their homes are at risk from flooding are encouraged to protect their properties well in advance of a flood situation. Sandbags can be obtained from any builders' merchant or DIY stores, even grow bags will do. Any cloth bag that can hold sand or soil so that a low wall can be built to hold the flow of water is effective. We are currently researching to see if any local commercial business can help to supply our local needs.

If your house is under threat, and you have no sandbags, you'll need to improvise.

So, what is the Parish Council doing about this possible flood risk?

The Risk of Flooding

With the assistance of key staff from Hampshire County Council, and the Environment Agency, the Parish Council has re-instated the Flood Action Group (FAG), made up of local volunteer Flood Wardens. The Group has now met formally, and a revised Flood Action Plan is being drawn up, based upon Hambledon's plan. This village, in the western Meon Valley, also suffers very similar flood problems to ourselves, and we are working closely with their FAG too.

We will also work closely with our two County Councillors, John West for Finchdean, and Sam Darragh for Rowlands Castle, to ensure that drains are kept clear, and gullies and ditches are maintained.

If you own land adjoining a watercourse, you have certain rights and responsibilities. In legal terms you are a Riparian Landowner.

As I write, all the ditches in Finchdean have been cleared, and we are now working with other local landowners to ensure those in the village are cleared too. We will also work closely with EHDC staff, and our District Councillor Marge Harvey.

Each one of us also needs to be prepared for any type of flooding that may occur, and have a plan to act if flooding occurs.

Many of you will have seen the devastation caused by recent flash flooding. (Cloveley in North Devon was hit badly recently). In an Emergency situation it is vital for us all to stay calm, and the FAG will ensure that vital information is communicated urgently to all parties. A Flood Incident Centre will be set up in the Parish Hall, and will be staffed.

In the event of flooding, the following chain of communication is strongly recommended:-
Resident -- Flood Warden -- FAG Chairman – HCC / EA / EHDC/ EA.

However – if life is at risk you should always call 999 for the emergency services.

Each resident will have a Flood Warden for their local area. All the contact details are included with this article. If you are unsure of who to ring, then please ring myself, or Marge Harvey.

We all need to be “Good Neighbours” to support each other in times of crisis, whether this be due to flooding, or during times of snow and ice. During these times, please look out for vulnerable residents, both young and old, and do let the FAG know of any concerns you may have in this regard.

Flooding can make everyone vulnerable, but some more than others. If you know of anyone you think may need additional assistance in such circumstances – perhaps they are elderly, infirm, looking after small children, visually impaired etc, please let the Parish Office know on 02392 413044, and its staff will keep Confidential records on file for reference, should the need arise.

Due to the risk of groundwater flooding in Hampshire the Environment Agency has devel-



The Risk of Flooding



opened a Groundwater Flooding Briefing Note service to share groundwater level information with residents and professional partners. The briefing notes are sent out via email when groundwater levels are high. To register for this service contact the Environment Agency on sossd@environment-agency.gov.uk.



For advice on flooding and how to protect your property, please follow the link below: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/flooding.htm> It is also worth looking at the following website link: www.hants.gov.uk/localresilienceforum Take Care.

Steve Protheroe, Chairman of the Rowlands Castle Parish Flood Action Group

FLOOD WARDENS CONTACT DETAILS OCTOBER 2012

Alex Finch Finchdean 07778186641	email: alex@finchdean.com Tel 92412361 mob
Andy Lee Finchdean 07771886152	email: andy@finchdean.com Tel 92412361 mob
Mary Williams Finchdean Road No mob.	email: ironsidewilliams@gmail.com Tel 92412763
Martha Dombey The Drift 92410030	email: martha@widley18.orangehome.co.uk Tel
John Adams Whichers Gate Road 07979033819	email: Johnjvadams@aol.com Tel 92412362 mob
Steve Protheroe Durrants Road Tel 92413440 mob 07821370944	email: steveprotheroe369@btinternet.com
John Simons Dean Lane End Tel 92412077 mob 07879493075	email: johnsimons2010@hotmail.co.uk
Marge Harvey Woodberry Lane/Glendale Tel 92413858 mob 07840694133	email: MargieandDave@aol.com

Good attendance for RCA fireworks display

by Kevin Connell

The RCA fireworks display in the recreation ground was another big success. The crowd was slightly down on last year's record perhaps due to the constant threat of bad weather. However it was a clear night and the lighting of the fireworks went to schedule. The bonfire although not the tallest ever was probably the biggest in volume. Selstar mounted their usual excellent display.

The display, although raising less than last year, still provided a healthy surplus of well over £1,000 after costs, to go to good causes in the village. The only worry for next year is the escalating cost of fireworks. Selstar, despite significantly rising costs to them, have managed to maintain the quality without price increases over the last three years but in order



08.30 work begins



The core of the bonfire takes shape

to keep up the standard next year and maintain a 20 minute show a considerable increase in their fee will be required. This will not mean an increase in gate prices but it will mean that margins will be much tighter with only a small surplus anticipated. Costs are kept down by the generous help of organisations such as Keyline, Caroway, Charlesworth Outside, and AVS fencing and without the volunteers from the village the bonfire would be a much more modest affair.

RCA Fireworks



Bonfire 'Meister' Alan Ayers



12.30 task completed



*Photos by: Sue Connell, Amanda Banks,
Steve Protheroe and Pat Carter*

School's 'Jungle Climber' officially opened by Richard Milton

On the evening of September 20th, parents, teachers and children gathered at St John's School for the official opening ceremony of the latest addition to the school's outdoor play facilities. The new outdoor climbing frame – called a Jungle Climber – was installed in



Jack Miness, son of Sue declares the playground open

memory of Sue Miness who was Deputy Head of St John's from 2008 to 2011, until her early death. The frame has a memorial plaque that reads; "Inspired by Sue Miness who loved everything about the outdoors and who believed that everyone should challenge themselves and follow their dreams."

Sue was Deputy Head at St Johns for 5 years. In her time at the school she taught in Year 5. She lived in the village with her husband and two children and it was her youngest son, Jack, who cut the ribbon on the balloons to declare the climbing frame officially 'open'.

Sue loved the outdoors and was a keen walker and sailor. She had requested donations rather than flowers at her funeral and that the money raised in her memory would go towards outdoor play equipment for the children of St John's.



St John's School

How children celebrated the Jubilee

by Kay Pennicotte-Henrie, Headteacher

The new academic year started off with sunshine and it was lovely to see the children using our newly installed play equipment. This was officially opened by the Miness family on Friday 14th September and a plaque paying tribute to Sue Miness has been displayed near the equipment. Sue would have been so pleased to hear about the enjoyment that the children are having.

The children have already enjoyed trips out of school to Marwell Zoo, the D-Day Museum and Havant Thicket. Parents and governors have supported the children on these trips for which we are very grateful. The trips so far this autumn have enjoyed better weather than our summer outings!

The weather has not deterred us from working on our outdoor learning project however and phase two is now underway.

We are launching a cookery book in time for Christmas and some villagers have kindly donated recipes, time and sponsorship; thank you to everyone. We value the support of our village and always welcome help listening to children read, or if you have another skill to offer please contact the school office on 023 9241 2095 ~ age is not a barrier!



Rowlands Castle Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Photo book



Following the very successful celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the village, the organising committee have joined forces with the photographic club to create a photo book to remember the event.

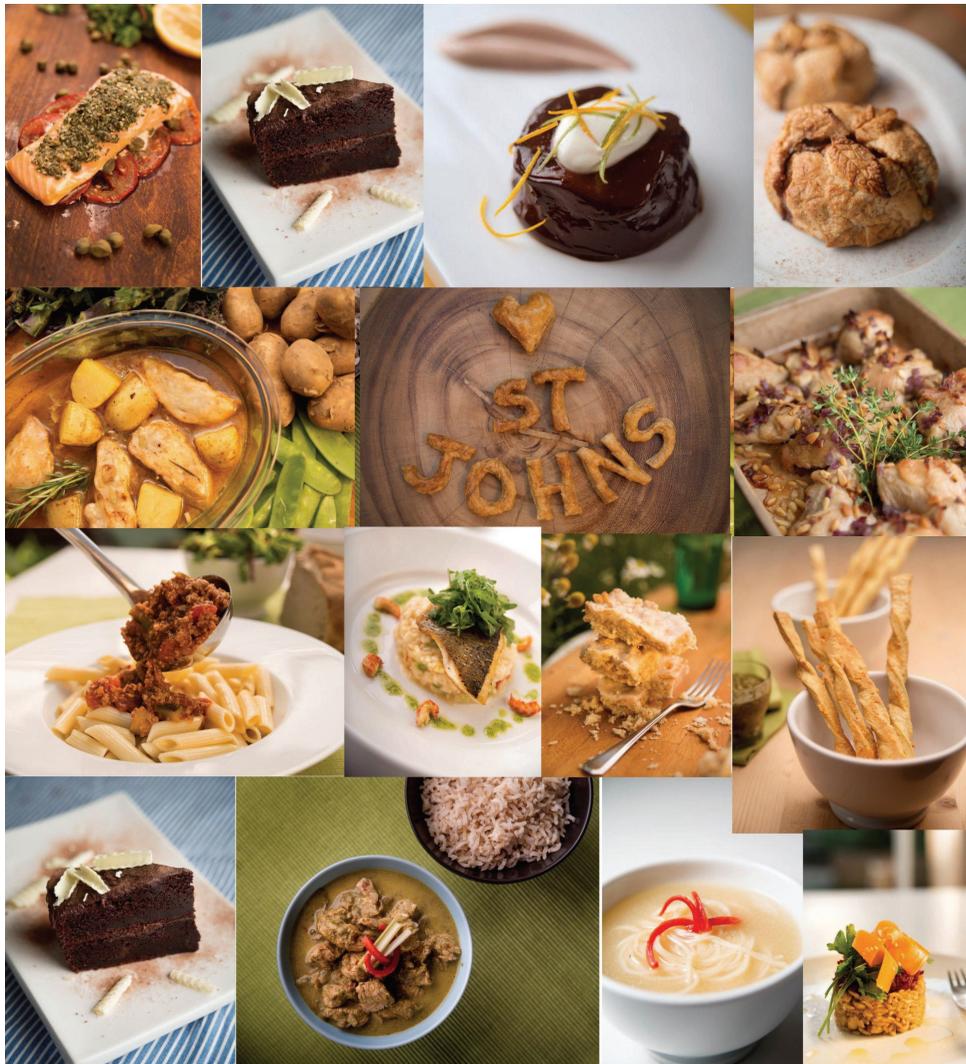
The book will go on sale in the Village stores in the Autumn and the guide price is £5.00. All profits will go towards a permanent commemoration of the day in the village

To help gauge demand please register interest by sending an email to RCDiamondJubilee@gmail.com

Donations to the fund are still most welcome and if you would like to contribute please contact our treasurer Dreen Chestnutt at 22 The Fairway or on 02392 412754.

St John's School

Essence of St John's School cookery book



Editor's montage of offerings from the book

Essence of St John's School

by Yvette Mindel, Chair PTA

Family cooking like never before. 'Essence of St John's School' is a mouth watering recipe book, lovingly created by the Parent Teacher Association of St John's CEC Primary School, Rowlands Castle.

Packed full of delicious recipes and stunning photos, it includes family-friendly recipes passed down through the generations from school parents, old-girls/boys, staff and governors, local people and businesses.

The inspiration behind the book was to raise funds to support the Outdoor Learning Project at St John's. The makeover of the outdoor area includes allotments, a woodland walk, a bug hotel and outdoor classrooms.



*Holly Urquhart, Year 5,
James Arnold, Year 5.*



Neil Ellis owner of Fraser Neil catering gives instruction.

The recipe book has involved St John's pupils throughout its production, from helping cook the recipes, to taste testing (of course!), helping our professional photographer capture some stunning shots and even getting involved in the printing process, it has been a real labour of love.

But most importantly, the finished product is a stunning, professionally produced and bound collection of recipes covering Starters & Lunches; Afternoon Tea; Mains; Puddings & Desserts. We even have a specially created recipe from Greg Wallace of Masterchef fame.

The books will be on sale from 12th November in:

- * Rowlands Castle Hardware Store
- * Londis, Rowlands Castle

St John's School

* St John's School Reception (Whichers Gate Road, Rowlands Castle) * Or you can order online at www.stjohnspta.co.uk/essence/

The books are only £10 each or if you are looking for the perfect Christmas present to give out you can buy three for £25.



And the best thing of all, 100% of proceeds go to the school outdoor learning project due to the generous contribution from our sponsors. To find out more and order a copy of your book online, visit www.stjohnspta.co.uk/essence/

All photographs courtesy of Peter Langdown.

Peter Langdown, photographer



Ruth Butler, brains behind the book.

Photography Club

Award for Pat Carter and then Photography Club get lesson on lighting by Kevin Connell

There was a special meeting of the Photography Club in September at which Pat Carter was presented with an award by the Diamond Jubilee Committee for her outstanding contribution to the Jubilee book. There was a display of all the photographs, many taken by Pat, and the book was available for sale.

There followed a talk on lighting by David Ford. David is making quite a name for himself photographing cage fighters and he showed various techniques for enhancing key aspects of the photos such as the eyes. Club members were able to practice using his equipment and get tips on the best kit to buy for a realistic budget. David provided a slide show of his work which was very impressive and I am sure will inspire club members to greater things. If you are interested in photography why not come along. Meetings are monthly in the village hall. Next meeting is November 22nd at 19.15. Point of Contact is Pat



Volunteer model Mark Seaman

Photo: Kevin Connell



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 Women's Institute

A great Jubilee Year!

by Rona Musker, President, Women's Institute

The members of Rowlands Castle WI thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the various Jubilee events this summer, especially serving tea and cakes at the URC to the many people who took part in the Vintage Procession around the Village in early June.

Later that month we held a very successful Jubilee tea in the Parish Hall. We had planned to hold it in a member's beautiful garden but rain stopped play on the day and we had swiftly to move indoors. But the gazebos and bunting went up, a delicious array of cakes and sandwiches arrived, a harpist, Danielle Clarke, played during the afternoon and a thoroughly good time was had by 70 members. The following week the sun shone and we were able to enjoy the lovely garden over a cup of tea.



WI Jubilee garden tea party
Photo: Vera Whitlock



Flower bed on the village green
tended by members of the WI

Photo: Jane Pickering

Our Good Cause this year is St John's School who are fundraising to create outdoor learning facilities in their lovely grounds. In spite of the appalling weather at the Village Fair we were able to raise £330 for the school which was wonderful. We have also taken over care of the flower bed on the Green which this summer had an Olympic coloured theme. It has 4 Jam and Jerusalem roses with the centrepiece being a Charlotte rose which was kindly donated by a member to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee wedding. We plan to look after this bed until the WI centenary in 2015.

Our Book and Craft Clubs continue to flourish on the 3rd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month and we have enjoyed visits to Kew Gardens and Standen near East Grinstead with its lovely gardens and beautiful William Morris interior. After 20 years of providing teas for visiting groups to the village Mary Osborne has passed on her apron to Elisabeth Hall (tel.92412815) so if you know of interested parties please contact Elisabeth.

Challenging Year for the Painting Society

by Terry Devaney

The members of RCPS were certainly challenged this year with the inclement weather. On occasions it would have been tempting to curl up on the sofa with a good book instead. As always though, the bonhomie of the group of friends won through and nearly all the meetings were well attended. Our thanks go to Gill Dollery who did a great job organising the outings. We visited venues throughout the county, Hambledon, where a lucky few were invited in by a resident for tea and cakes, Titchfield, where this time, two of the artists were invited to sit in a beautiful garden and then were served wine. These lovely displays of hospitality more than made up for the weather. It certainly has been a case of 'wet into wet' a painting technique which lived up to its' name. Mr and Mrs Bailey at Michelland Farm Denmead made the Society's members very welcome. It was warm and sunny on that day, a rare treat! There were many other places visited, the last meeting took place at Langstone, where just a few die-hards turned up, they know who they are! The weather was atrocious.

A small group of members went to Menton, France near the Italian Riviera on a painting holiday organised by Paddy Holmes, the Patron of the Society. Paddy is very generous with the time she gives us. There are lovely photographs of all the Tuesday summer painting days out on the website. Bob Payne puts a lot of time and effort into



the running of the website and the photographs are all taken by him. I recommend people should visit the site, especially if they want information about the society, it has so much to offer. We start back meeting in the Parish Hall on the 9th October with a workshop given by John Shervall. It will be on Sea and Sky using acrylics. In the evening there will be a demonstration from Danny Byrne, Cartoons and Caricatures in Pen. This starts the programme of Life Drawing and

on alternate Tuesdays, workshops and evening demonstrations. Please check the website for details.

Web address : www.rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.org.uk

Rowlands Castle Tennis Club

Rowlands Castle Tennis Club – Annual Prize-giving

by Mark Cooter, Chairman, RCTC

The annual prize-giving of the Rowlands Castle tennis club took place on 19 October in the Village Hall and was attended by over 60 club members. More prizes than ever were presented by the club President, Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, and former British No.1, Chris Wilkinson. The evening was also attended by 9 of the 13 ex-Chairmen/Ladies of the club, including a welcome back to the club's founding Chair Lady, Frances Fawcett. Tournaments held now span the generations from the Under 16 Singles to the Over 70's Mixed Doubles.

A selection of the winners are shown here:

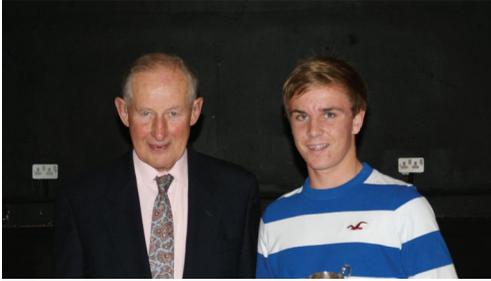


*Selection of ex-Chairmen/
Ladies*



*Club Secretary Alan Best being
presented with 'Exceptional Ser-
vice Award'*

Rowlands Castle Tennis Club



Matthew Lee, youngest ever open singles champion (14)



Over 70's Mixed Doubles winners – Jane Dalton & John Webber



Ladies Doubles League Team – Champions Ladies Division 3, Portsmouth & District LTA



Most Improved Player – David Shepherd

Cricket

Where did the Summer go?

by Jonathan Law, DACD CC

My wish for more seasonal weather at the end of the last article proved not to be granted as July was a virtual washout. Unfortunately our appearance at the East Meon six a side competition combined with a beer festival was one of the fixtures lost to the weather. We had entered as the DACD Pirates and would have been taking to the field to the Captain Pugwash theme tune. Still there is always next year.

The end of July saw play resuming with a good win against Harvesters who play at The Lord Wandsworth School near Hook. The school has the best pitch we have played on, putting those school fees to good use. As we moved into August the weather was still playing havoc with the fixture list but we managed a couple of exciting tied matches with DSTL and the Red Lion both at the recreation ground. Our first trip to the Isle of Wight ended in defeat to Brading although it was agreed to be a good day out. September started with victories over Raytheon Marine and a particularly pleasing win over Bishops Waltham before losing our return game with Lavant. We managed to re-arrange one of our cancelled April games with Old Hambledonians for the end of September at the recreation ground, which was played in glorious sunshine.

My articles this year have read more like weather than cricket reports, however we still managed to play 25 games with 10 at the recreation ground.
Played 25 Won 9 Lost 9 Drew 1 Tied 2.

On 15th September we held our Black Tie 25th Anniversary Ball at the Bat and Ball, Old Broadhalfpenny Down. 50 players, partners and friends of the club enjoyed some fizz on the hallowed ground before moving inside for a sit down meal and disco. As the evenings draw in we have completed the end of season refurbishment of the square and are now looking forward to our close season trip to Munich in November, followed by the end of season player awards dinner at the Bat and Ball.

Till next year and the Spring issue which will have a report on winter nets starting in January.

Castle United ready for Europe by Kevin Connell

The RCA have presented Castle United Football Club with a set of European standard 'Fluo' corner flags. They are the same design as used in Euro 2012. The flags are of superior quality and are designed for ease of use. The presentation was made, before the game against RDM FC in Havant Sunday League Division 2, to Steve Crooks, the team manager and Ian Howard, the club captain by Catherine Billam, the RCA Chair and Kevin Connell, the RCA Treasurer. Castle United went on to win the match 3-1. This is the fourth season for the club playing adult football with several players coming through from the youth setup.

Castle United are making a special effort to develop their youth team. There is a new initiative by the F.A. introducing 5v5 for U7s and U8s, with progression to 7v7 and then 9v9. This allows the children to play on more appropriate size pitches and with appropriate size goals. The smaller pitch and number of players allows greater number of touches of the ball and involvement in the game with the aim of helping develop greater technical skills at a lower age, an approach which has been very successful in countries such as Spain. The move will also bring a more child friendly approach to competition,



Catherine Billam and Kevin Connell (right) present the new corner flags to Steve Crooks and Ian Howard.

Picture by Richard Milton

breaking up the eight-month long adult based season into smaller periods of competition which encourage increased learning. Proposed changes to the player pathway and competition framework go hand in hand with the FA Coaching philosophy, as outlined in the 'FA Future Game', which gives clear guidance on how the game should be played and coached. This philosophy is fully embedded in the FA coaching courses.

St John's Church

Christmas is a comin'

by Graham Mitchell, St John's Church

As we realise the Christmas season is now almost upon us, probably like me you're sitting there wondering where on earth 2012 went to!

The world seems to be changing at an alarming pace. Perhaps, as Christmas approaches, we need to slow down, step back and reflect upon what Christmas and the Christmas season is really all about.

For Christians, we know that this is the time of year we remember and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who was born into this world as a human baby. After all that is the 'Reason for the Season' - the birth of the Christ Child some 2000 years ago.

And the Christmas season is also:-

* About family - relationships and fellowship with our loved ones

* About community - caring about friends and neighbours, be they in Rowlands Castle or on the other side of the world.

* About giving - giving of one's self, sharing with those about us, both near and far, who are less fortunate than ourselves.



Christmas is coming.

So like all families, the St John's family are busy planning the events and activities for December. This year, as well as all the special services which are set out below, we are going to celebrate a 'Created Windows' Festival which replaces the Christmas Tree Festivals of the previous two years.

Again this will involve local churches and organisations, who will create 16 hand-painted 'and lighted stained-glass windows inside the church which should provide a spectacular backdrop to our Christmas services and events.

On Saturday December 15th we will be holding a Victorian Evening, where our talented cast will entertain us with song, verse and other terpsichorean delights! Our special December services are listed below so please come and

St John's Church

join us - we'd be delighted to welcome you.

Sunday December 2nd	6pm	Advent Candlelit Carol service
Sunday December 9th		3pm Christingle service – with the School choir <i>The Created Window Festival will be opened</i>
Sunday December 16th	4pm	Taize, a service of prayer and meditative song <i>The Created Window Festival ends</i>
Monday December 17th	2pm	School carol service
Sunday December 23	6pm	A traditional service of nine lessons and carols
Monday December 24th	6pm 11.30 pm	Carols around the tree – Instant nativity Midnight Communion
Tuesday December 25th	8 am 10 am	Holy Communion Christmas Day Family Communion



In the bleak midwinter December 2010

Photos: Kevin Connell

**Graham Mitchell (Churchwarden) St John the Baptist, Rowlands Castle
07785 568056, 02392 410111 (Office)**

St John's Church Centre

10 Years on

by Ian Hewitt

The church centre was opened on 15th December 2002 by Reggie Brien one of the then churchwardens who, with his wife, Dee, donated the plaque by the front entrance, 'Unless the Lord builds the house ...' This is part of a quotation from Psalm 127 and continues, '... they labour in vain who build it.'

Ten years on it is interesting to recollect how it came to be built and funded. Long(ish) story, but please bear with me ...

In the late 1990s provisional plans were drawn up for a new hall and serious fundraising began as a millennium project in 2000. The PCC visited local churches with similar projects to see how they had gone about similar projects. St Wilfred's, Cowplain was completing a massive rebuild project under the inspiring ministry of Revd Peter Handcock (now Bishop of Basingstoke) and became our 'model' for how to go about it.

On a visit to the United Reformed Church at Mengham, the lady showing us round their new extension seemed to understand what we wanted. Judy had been the architect. We invited her to consider ours.

The new rector arrived early in 2001. At his



2001 The Old Hall and the pot hole!



June 2000 The Fund Launched

first annual parochial meeting he challenged the congregation; do we really want to go for the building or not? Yes, we did. A third annual gift day took place that summer under the experienced and wise leadership of Pennant Jones and Reggie Brien.

During the 2011 gift day church members were asked if they could donate either by one-off gifts or by regular monthly payments for the year, as long as they could or until the project had been paid. Owen Pike was building fund treasurer and without his careful control of finances it is

unlikely that the project would have been as straightforward.

Other fundraising continued with members of young church 'caging the change' (raising well over £2,000 over the period just by donating their coppers from their pocket money). There were sponsored walks, runs, swims

St John's Church Centre

and cycle rides, an auction and coffee mornings. However serious bulk of the giving had to be donations by church members.

Plans were drawn up in Autumn 2001 and let for contract to be received by end Jan 2002. This was initially to get a clearer idea of costs to see how much more we would need. But the sooner we started the better as building costs were rising considerably faster than inflation.

Charlie Batty was project manager for this phase of the project. On 18th February 2002, we held a PCC meeting at which we would hear the bids from 6 contractors. The two lowest bids were close. After discussion we opted for Stirlands of Barnham whose total bid came in at £467,000.



Summer 2001

Clearing the site

The rector then turned to Owen and asked, “If we were to place the contract next month, how much would be in the funds by July?” (when a major Stage Payment would be due.) Owen replied, “£300,000.”



1 June The walls begin to appear

So we were faced with a gap of some £167,000. We had some discussion about how we might bridge it. Some suggested re-mortgaging homes as security; not agreed. Someone then proposed that we consider donating or lending money from within the PCC itself to see how much that would contribute.

In the parable of the Widow's mite, Jesus constrains his followers to donate in secret. He castigates the Pharisees who give grandly and trumpet their giving publicly. So we had a short time for prayer and meditation then PCC members wrote down how much they might give or lend. The rector then added up the sums from 12 small pieces of paper.

Exactly £167,000.

Until the meeting, only the rector and Charley had seen the bids and knew the building costs. Only Owen, as fund treasurer knew how much might be in the fund by July – and only Dennis added up the sums written down on those 12 bits of paper. I was PCC secre-

St John's Church Centre

tary at the time, and it was only as I was writing up the minutes of the meeting that I realised that the amount proposed exactly matched the sum needed to the nearest £1,000.

Although we had some 2,000 appeal brochures printed, in anticipation of asking all households to donate to a village project, PCC members felt strongly we should not go 'public'. The church seems to have a reputation for always asking for money. If we



9 August **Roof beams in place**



Mid August **View from the Air**

wanted to have a new centre, we'd have to fund the bulk of it ourselves.

A few donations totalling less than £20,000 came from outside sources - EHDC, a Christian charitable trust, other local churches and livery companies. But the rest was paid for within 3 years of opening by regular giving from church members. A step of faith that

God was in charge of the project.

'Unless the Lord build the house ...'

**Coincidence ... or divine intervention ?
Well I know what I believe.**



*St John's Church Centre May 2005
All Photos: Pennant Jones*

The Church on The Green

Music to our ears!

by Ken White, Presiding Elder

A small boy of about eight years old stood listening enthralled to the Palm Court Orchestra as they accompanied the diners in the restaurant on the top floor of the leading department store in Bournemouth. Suddenly his enjoyment was rudely interrupted by a man in a dark uniform. “Move along” he ordered and reinforced his order with a firm hand on the little boys back. I consider that might well have been the point in my life when I first enjoyed good music, especially when it came from a live orchestra. The attendant in the uniform was only doing his job, but I well remember being very miffed at not being able to stand and enjoy something that I had never experienced before in my short life. Looking back I am truly grateful that my love for music was not stifled at birth!

We cannot stop the approach of winter but we can help to brighten those cold dark days with something to look forward to. Here is a suggestion. Put a ring around the date of Saturday March 23rd 2013 and mark it as A Musical Evening. Many people enjoyed the live music we were able to provide on the morning of the village fair. Members of the same group will be back together with others to provide a programme that will suit many tastes. It will feature a jazz group playing popular jazz music and classical music including Gershwin and other popular composers. For all who cannot resist joining in there will be audience participation featuring songs from past decades. This is only a taster! We have yet to complete the bill for that evening. During the interval refreshments will be available.

This event will be held in the Meeting Place and admission is free. We only ask you to give a small donation to a yet unnamed charity. Please keep a sharp look out for publicity early in the New Year as some details have yet to be finalised. Admission will be by ticket only as we expect this event to be popular. An old Jewish legend says that after God had created the world He called the angels and asked them what they thought of it. One of them said, “The only thing lacking is the sound of praise to the creator.” So God created music, and it was heard in the whisper of the wind and in the song of the birds. He also gave man the gift of song. * So cheer up this coming winter with the sound of music.

* Source the Speakers Quote Book By Roy Zuck. Kregel

Domestic Heating News

Three helpful homeowner tips

by Nic Radcliffe

Winter is upon us once again so I want to start by reminding you of something I've mentioned in one of my previous articles - the freezing of boiler condensing pipes. As you will know if it happened to you last year, this causes your boiler to stop working just when you need it most. There are ways to stop this happening though. One way is to increase the size of the pipe. Another is to re-route it so that it's inside as much as possible. Or best of all, there's a little heated wire that can be installed round the pipe that only comes on when the outside temperature drops below five degrees. Very clever.

Next, as you've probably heard (or found out via your bill depending when this comes out), both British Gas and Npower are putting their gas prices up from November by as much as 6%. So naturally people are asking me about ways of saving money on their bills. Many people know that a modern condensing boiler will save them hundreds of pounds a year on their gas bills, but what many people don't know is that by replacing their old-fashioned radiators with modern ones also saves them money. Manufacturing has come a long way in recent years and so modern radiators not only warm up more quickly but also have a much higher wattage output than identical older radiators. You can then save more money by fitting a thermostatic valve to each radiator so each room can be set to a different temperature. For instance, bedrooms cooler than living rooms, and spare rooms cooler again while just stopping them from getting that little bit too cold.

And on a positive note to finish, I'd like to thank all of my customers for the little extra things I receive for a job well done. These have included bottles of wine, a home-grown cucumber and even eggs from their chickens. But I knew I'd really made it when I was offered to sit down at the end of the day with my customer for a glass of sherry.



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

Planning issues

by Marge Harvey, District Councillor

Fellow residents

It's that time of year again and I am desperately trying to get everything done before Christmas, as, I am sure you all are.

It has been a very interesting few months with planning. I have been returned to the planning committee and this is something that I really enjoy.

Trying to get the refusal for the Keydell application did take a lot of time and investigation, but it was worth it in the end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to write in to EHDC and make their feelings known and to the lady in Whichers Gate Road who employed a planning consultant to give his views, which was really helpful. I was able to send his report to the planning committee, just to focus their minds and I do believe that it did just that. Of course, we just have to wait and see if they go to appeal, but the houses that had been put in for that site, have been removed by the Government Inspector who is looking at the plan at EHDC for the next few years, so every little helps!! As you all know, I was against it from the start and I do feel that it was entirely the wrong site for such an enterprise. We may have to fight this again if they go to appeal, and that is when we will need everyone to come to the appeal, as it should then be turned into a public enquiry where everyone can speak and say how they feel. I must say that I feel EHDC were wrong in even putting the site forward and I said so very loudly and clearly!

As you all should know by now, the Oaklands site has now been given permission for 39 houses. This was a site that was allocated by the Government Inspector a few years ago, so it was always going to be housing.

What we had to do was to make sure that we got the very best outcome and I know that the Parish Council were against it, but better 39 houses than 47, and the drainage system is a much better design than the previous one that had permission, so hopefully, it will be built soon and as soon as the first house is occupied I have negotiated £21,000 to be given to the Parish Hall for help with renovations, so let's just get on with it.

I am also trying to negotiate with Taylor Wimpey to help with the Pavilion, so



District Council News

we will just have to see how that materialises.

I have felt for some time now, that we have been ignored at Hampshire and whilst I was a Parish Councillor and during my time as a District Councillor, I have worked quite closely with Hampshire and know quite a few of the officers, so I do feel that I can make quite a difference both in Horndean and Rowlands Castle.

The new Havant Community Clinic will be opening in December and I am going this week (early November) to see exactly how it has emerged. I must admit, I am quite excited about this project as I have been with it since its inception and to see it through to fruition and working to make life easier for us, is amazing.

I have also been invited to join the Community Advisory Board, which is an arm of the Clinical Commissioning Groups which will be making decisions for us all in the future to do with health. I had been to a couple of their meetings and felt that although they said that they had been doing public consultations, I really didn't know much about them, so, as usual, I told them that if I didn't know about them, then most of the public wouldn't, so they invited me to join a committee to make sure the public did get to know. There has only been one meeting so far, so I will keep you up to date as soon as we get started.

I am still working on my other committees and trying to help EHDC find money to close the gap in the budget, which is very difficult. I know that many people do not like the fact that we have joined up with Havant Borough Council for joint services, but we would be very much worse off if we hadn't, because we have made a lot of savings by doing this, and that all helps protect the services that you receive. We also have joined with Winchester for our waste service, which was a bit rocky to start with, but seems to be working well now.

At the moment, we are joining up with Havant and Hampshire for our IT. I may have trouble with this, but I am assured that it will make my life a lot easier!! Before I close this report, I would like to remind you again, that I hold a surgery on the first Thursday of every month, in the cafe in the village, so if you would like to come and discuss anything with me, please come along and have a coffee or tea with me, or as always, you can always call me or e mail me at home. If I am not at home you can leave a message and I will call you back.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and look forward to meeting with you before the Hampshire election in May next year.

Kind regards

Marge

Hitting the Cold Spots – Helping You to Stay Warm in Hampshire

by Lisa Walker

Are your heating bills going through the roof? If they are, much of the heat you are paying for could be going the same way. Hitting the Cold Spots, a Hampshire County Council scheme funded by a grant from the Department of Health, can help and advise you on ways to keep warm and healthy this winter.

Cold weather not only makes life uncomfortable but can also lead to serious health problems such as strokes, pneumonia, depression and heart attacks. Hampshire County Council has been developing new and innovative ways to help people keep warm and reduce bills.

The easy way to find what you need is to call our dedicated free Advice Line **0800 804 8601** where your call will be answered by a member of our Hampshire based, friendly and knowledgeable team from the Environment Centre.



Experienced Advisors can visit you at home to offer practical advice on how to keep your home warm and to assist with reducing your energy bills. This winter, we are offering*:

Grants for heating and hot water system repairs.

Urgent support with alternative heating measures (electric oil filled radiators) if you are without heating.

Small grant support to cope with winter fuel emergencies.

Carbon

monoxide detectors – provided free with a home safety visit.

Tariff change advice to help you to save money on your fuel bills, and practical support and assistance with debt, money and benefits.

Access to free loft and cavity wall insulation, including for solid wall properties.

Free assessment for connection to mains gas supply.

Our visiting Advisors offer practical and financial support, and can be with you when any works are being undertaken within your home. Mrs T from Farnborough contacted the project for support and said: “The Advisor was brilliant. She came to see me and we sorted out my hot water tank, it had been broken for 6 months. Thank you”. For free and in-depth advice, please contact the Environment Centre office on **0800 804 8601** or email staywarm@environmentcentre.com. Hitting the Cold Spots services are available until 31 March 2013 – so call now!

* Some of the above services and emergency relief are subject to availability and conditions apply.

Parish Council News

by Clerk to the Council, Lisa Walker

Planning issues have been at the forefront of Council's attentions lately. Members of its Planning Sub Group – Brian Harpur, Greg Beckett-Leonard and Bill Wilson – supported by the Chairman, have worked tirelessly to investigate and analyse the weighty documentation provided with the applications for the Keydell site at Mays Coppice, and the Oaklands site off Redhill Road.

The Parish Council prepared a very strong case against the Keydell proposals and was helpfully supported by District Councillor Marge Harvey and an effective letter to EHDC from George Hollingbery MP. As you may already know, in September EHDC's Planning Committee refused the Keydell application by 6 votes to 3, a larger majority than when outline permission was refused for the same site. Thank you to all those who supported the Parish Council in this matter, and took the trouble to express their objections to the application.

Next, the Council turned its attention to the applications for the Oaklands site. In August this year EHDC Planning Officers granted permission to the Reserved Matters application for 45 dwellings, which was based on the outline permission previously granted. However, the site owner – Taylor Wimpey – also submitted an alternative application for the site for 39 dwellings. The Parish Council voiced its serious reservations regarding the impact either development would have on the village's drainage systems and traffic levels, and its concerns at the apparent inadequacy and inaccuracy of the Traffic Statement provided by the applicant. Notwithstanding strong representations by the Parish Council and a local resident, planning permission was granted unanimously by EHDC's Planning Committee on 18 October 2012.

The Council has no desire to oppose all future development in the Parish, however it is increasingly frustrated at the lack of attention seemingly paid by the District Council's officers to the carefully considered comments of the Parish Council and local residents on particular applications. It is seeking a meeting with the Chief Executive of EHDC to voice such concerns.

In October, the Council was pleased to receive a revised draft of the Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA) from the project's Co-ordinator, Mr Chris White. Members were impressed with the revised document and Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to the LCA Group for all the hard work its members have committed to the project. Council unanimously agreed to adopt the LLCA as policy, and has also committed itself to 7 agreed principles and actions arising from the document. Furthermore, an accompanying Photographic Survey of the Parish is to be commissioned, and Council will continue to seek total inclusion of the Parish in the South Down National Park.

Parish Council News

The Recreation Ground continues to play host to many sports users this autumn, including both Castle United and Castle United Youth Football Clubs, Busy Buggies exercise classes and the forthcoming Tuesday Morning Bootcamp sessions. A survey of the Pavilion has recently been undertaken to ascertain its current state and suitability for refurbishment and possible upgrade.

We understand the normal deadline for an Appeal against the Magistrates' Judgment in July to revoke the Licence to sell alcohol at the Shell Whichers Gate site has now passed. No Appeal has been lodged. Councillors continue to work well as a team, contributing their various professional and personal skills for the benefit of the Parish. We were sorry to receive Cllr David Lester's resignation in September. David has moved away from the area and we all wish him well in his new home. He will be sorely missed and we thank him for his dedication to village matters over the many years he lived here, especially through his membership of the Council, the Parish Hall Management Committee and the Short Mat Bowling Club. The resulting vacancy on the Council was advertised in accordance with procedural guidelines. We have since been advised that 11 electors requested a By-Election to fill the vacancy. This has prompted formal arrangements for nominations, postal and proxy voting, and a polling date and venue etc. This process could cost this Council up to £3,500. Had a By-Election not been requested, the Council would have been at liberty to co-opt to fill the post at little or no cost.

Please take a moment to read the Flooding Advice in this edition of the RCA Magazine. I would also draw your attention to the helplines and websites below which can be very useful when reporting/responding to issues around the Parish.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Highways (roads/pavements, 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 etc)
HCC Contact Centre: 0845 603 5636
Report on-line at: www.hants.gov.uk/rh/row/problem-report.html

East Hampshire District Council
Main Switchboard: 01730 266551
Website Home Page: www.easthants.gov.uk/

District Council News

Have your say on changes to social housing

Residents can have their say on proposed changes to the provision of social housing by completing a survey for Hampshire Home Choice (HHC).

Changes to the law following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, Armed Forces Regulations 2012 and the impending Welfare Reform Act 2012, will affect who can apply for social housing, how people are prioritised and the benefits system as a whole.

HHC, which is managed by Test Valley Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council, Havant Borough Council and Winchester City Council, advertises all social housing in the four council areas. It is asking residents to complete an online survey which will help inform changes to the HHC Allocations Policy. The policy will set out conditions for the organisation's provision of social housing across the county to ensure homes go to those most in need. Survey questions include whether there should be a maximum total income and savings threshold for individuals, couples and families to be allowed on the housing register and who – if anyone – should be given priority for social housing.

Elizabeth Wallington, Hampshire Home Choice Manager, said: "There are some difficult decisions to be made around the provision of social housing so it is incredibly important that residents are able to have their say on changes that might affect them."

Residents have until Friday 30 November to complete the survey, which is available online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XNLR5DP>.

If you require a hard copy of the survey or more information please contact Elizabeth Wallington on 01264 368614.

RCA Childrens Christmas Party

Sunday December 16th 16.00-18.00 in
St John's Church Hall

Snacks

Magic Mikey

Father Christmas

Entrance £1

Look out for more details

Find out the latest news and leave comments on this rare art form at our blog:

www.silhouettedcutting.co.uk

And follow me on: <http://twitter.com/silhouetteSarah>

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Reading
Berkshire
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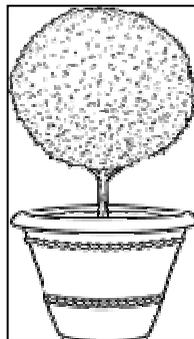


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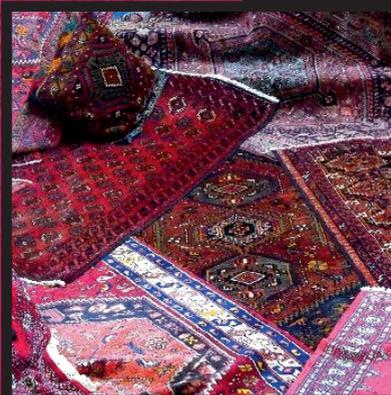
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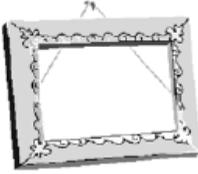
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