

Rowlands Castle Association

A scenic photograph of a pond with lily pads and autumn foliage under a blue sky with clouds. The pond is the central focus, with several lily pads floating on its surface. The background is filled with dense trees in various shades of green and yellow, suggesting an autumn setting. The sky is a clear blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

Autumn 2013

Village Magazine

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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.

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Cover picture: Ann Page

Rowlands Castle Association

Message from the chairman of the RCA

by Richard Milton, Chair, RCA

Saturday November 2nd will have seen the biggest event in the Rowlands Castle winter calendar – our fireworks and bonfire night celebrations. An estimated 2,000 people come to watch our spectacular 20-minute firework display, mounted by award-winning local pyrotechnics experts, Selstar, in the Recreation Ground, Links Lane. The RCA makes a modest profit on the event which will be devoted to good causes in the Village. Our thanks to our Bonfiremeister Alan Eyers and to everyone who devote time and energy to building the bonfire.

A special word of thanks is due to Rowlands Castle Parish Council. Insurance premiums for private bonfires have gone sky high in the wake of recent accidents and it was only possible for us to insure the bonfire thanks to the RCPC's efforts.

The RCA Quiz night held on 12th October in the Parish Hall raised money for two causes: St John's Primary School outdoor play space, and the Rowlands Castle Toddler Group which is celebrating its 25th year. Cheques for £200 will be presented to both organisations. As on previous RCA Quiz nights, the questions were set by Sue and Kevin Connell and the question master was Dave Richardson.

Monday 14th October saw the inaugural meeting in the Parish Hall of the Rowlands Castle University of the Third Age (U3A) group. Some 70 local people met to hear about setting up a U3A group from South East Area organiser Pam Jones. The meeting voted to form a local group and a steering committee was formed. The formal first meeting of the steering committee was scheduled for October 28th at the time of writing. Again, this was an RCA initiative – led by Magazine Editor Kevin Connell – and the Committee was unanimous in supporting this important step in bringing the U3A to the Village.

Finally, we look forward to the RCA's annual Children's Christmas Party to be held in St John's church hall at 3:30 on Sunday 22nd December. As in previous years there will be tea, a show by the incomparable Magic Mikey (will he magically levitate a table again as he did last year?) and a visit from Father Christmas.

Rowlands Castle Association

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Thoughts as we approach Winter

by Kevin Connell

The summer was a long time coming but thankfully has hung around a bit longer than usual. It's not often that gardeners are still picking courgettes from the open garden in late October. Pumpkins seem to be unusually large this year and indeed the British pumpkin record was broken by a monster 689kg specimen.

It has been an eventful summer. We had just finished absorbing the Inspector's report on the Keydell Inquiry when the fracking controversy reared its head locally. A public meeting was held in Waterlooille which by all accounts was very lively. Jennifer Flintoft offers her thoughts on the fracking issue later in this magazine. I'm sure that the Science and Technology Group of the newly formed Rowlands Castle University of the Third Age will have some lively debates on this issue.

We are sad to see one of the village's most colourful characters Herbie Armstrong move on. The Fountain Inn has always offered a unique experience and many of us will remember listening to Herbie during his twice weekly jam sessions. There is an article about Herbie and the future of the pub later in this issue.

The photography club have produced a Rowlands Castle 2014 calendar which is of excellent quality. It includes a range of seasonal views from around the village photographed by members of the club. Look out for it as it is great value at £5 and an ideal Christmas gift to send to relatives and friends in far away places.

**Rowlands Castle
Photography
Group**

ROWLANDS CASTLE

2014 CALENDAR

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St John's Flower Festival

Pictures from the 2013 flower festival by Pat Carter



University of the Third Age

U3A meeting well attended

by Kevin Connell

The University of the Third Age has passed its first hurdle. At a meeting of around 70 villagers there was a unanimous vote to proceed with setting up a steering committee to guide the Rowlands Castle U3A through the setting up procedure. The meeting was led by Pam Jones of the regional U3A organisation who explained to the meeting the procedure in setting up a new U3A. Speakers from Havant and Waterlooville U3As gave brief talks enthusing about their experiences of U3A. Thanks to Judith Worley, Chair Havant U3A, Pat Chalmers Treasurer and Pam Johnson Speaker Secretary Waterlooville U3A for organising this part of the meeting.



The next key meeting will be held on 4th November when Pam Jones meets the steering committee to assess the readiness of the committee to proceed with an **inaugural meeting scheduled for 9th December**. At that point the U3A becomes self funding. So far the RCA has kindly paid for the hire of meeting rooms and refreshments.

A wide range of interests have been identified and a good number should be up and running soon after the launch date. Popular topics (7 or more expressing interest) include Archaeology, Arts & Crafts, Art Appreciation, Book Club, Bridge, Computing, Cycling, Films, Genealogy, History, Languages, Outings, Photography, Pilates and Yoga, Play Reading, Science and Technology, Singing, Theatre, Travel and Walking. Other topics currently bubbling under such as wine tasting, dinner parties and line dancing are likely to become viable as further questionnaires are assessed.

University of the Third Age

In order for an interest group to be created someone must be prepared to lead. For some groups this will be very straightforward and just a case of setting up a series of meetings. Others, such as the Theatre Group, will require more planning. For some groups it will be possible to share leadership. For example a different person could lead a walk every week.



Some groups may require additional materials. For example the computing group may be interested in a particular piece of software. U3A, as an educational organisation, is entitled to educational discounts. These can be substantial for items such as software.

There is a monthly meeting of the whole U3A which will be held in the Parish Hall. At this Groups are able to share experiences, if they wish, with others. There is also an invited speaker and of course refreshments.

Each U3A has its own website. The national website can be found at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/home.html> From here websites of individual U3As can be found. These are useful sources for ideas for new interest groups and are certainly worth accessing if you wish to find out more about how U3A works.

Rowlands Castle



RCA Quiz

Annual Brainstorming Event!

by Sue Connell

The Rowlands Castle Association annual Quiz Night took place this year on Saturday 12 October in the Parish Hall. A very good and competitive turnout saw nine teams of six do battle with each other to win one of the four prizes on offer. First prize was six bottles of wine, second prize was a large tin of Heroes chocolates, third prize was a box of Celebrations, and of course there was a fun booby prize for the losers!

The quiz questions were set by Sue Connell, and marked by Kevin and Theresa Connell, and contained a Picture Round, a TV Workplaces Round, a Quick Fire Entertainment Round, and eight other subject rounds. Our resident Quiz Master, Dave Richardson, made sure everything ran smoothly, and entertained everyone with extra snippets of knowledge related to the questions. In the end, the scores were very close, which made for an exciting and hotly contested finish!



Photo: Sue Connell

Added to this, a welcome half time supper of Fish and Chips was provided by Deep Blue of Bedhampton.

There was also an excellent raffle, which took place before the final scores were announced, and included donations from the village of bottles of wine from **Londis Stores**, **The Castle Inn** and the **Fountain Inn**, a hand held blender from **Home Hardware**, a case of lager from **Keyline**, a £20 voucher from **Style Hair-dressing Salon**, and a soft toy knitting kit from **Handmade Studios**. **Sharon Broom** also donated a bottle of wine, and **Martha Dombey** donated two tins of chocolates. Martha was also responsible for the wonderful and very effective table decorations.

The £400 profits from the ticket sales and the raffle will this year be shared by St John's School and the Rowlands Castle Toddler Group.

Many thanks to everyone who came along and ensured that this was a fun and worthwhile evening. See you next year!

Rowlands Castle Village Fair July 6th 2013

by Jon Higham on behalf of the RCVF

What a lovely sunny day we had to make up for the deluge from last year. I understand that the Village fair has one rainy day every 18 years! As with previous years there was tremendous support from the village and surrounding areas for our annual Fair. It is fabulous to see how popular this event is.

This year the wonderful Professor Crump opened the Fair at 12.00pm (remember it starts at 11.00am!) and continued to entertain the crowds throughout the day. He was a great and very popular addition to the Fair. Will he be back...??. he popped up at all the events including the Childrens' sports (and those of us roped into the adults sack races!), Tug of War, Dog Show (a special thanks to Jean Howells for stepping in to judge this year), Ditcham Park fencing display, Horndean Brass Band and Fancy Dress.

There was a great turn out of stall holders both inside and outside the Marquee offering everything from craft stalls, Bee Keeping, cake baking, Homeware, traditional sweets and the Scouts coconut shy amongst many different offerings. They all made a really good effort and hopefully went home happy! The horticultural show organised by Brian Aherne was fantastically supported again this year and really did add to the colour of the day. Well done to all the entrants and exhibitors. A welcome addition to the Marquee was the extended canopy that provided respite from the sun (as opposed to last years rain!) and will be continued in the future.

The Children's Fair rides proved very popular especially the Reverse Bungee. I don't think there was ever a point throughout the day when there wasn't a queue. The 8 Golden Ticket winners certainly had fun - remember to try to win a Golden Ticket you need to win the Fair Brochure cover completion (well done Maya!) or try your luck on the Tombola at the St John's School Fete. The Fair ground ride prices are kept as low as possible to allow everyone to have a go... not even pocket money escapes the ravages of the last 5 years we have all faced!

The Tug of War competition was won by the Extra Mech Services Team. Well done. This was achieved in the face of stiff competition from last years winners, the Castle Inn and Carroway and The George Inn. I can imagine the ribbing in the Carroway/Extra Mech yard on the following Monday! If you would like to enter a team next year, please let one of the Fair Committee members know.

Village Fair

The bar proved ever popular and it had one of it's best years ever. The beer, wine and Pimms flowed throughout the day and Libby's catering provided a fantastic array of locally sourced produce including quality burgers, hot dogs and salads and Tea and Coffee long into the evening. Thanks to Clive and the RCVF bar staff for manning the pumps all day and night. It really provides a great meeting place for the adults whilst the children entertain themselves at the Fair

The evening kicked off with people coming to the Band and DJ in the Marquee. A rapid transformation occurs as all the stall holders pack up and rows of large tables and chairs are set up with a stage. Groove Star played sounds from the MoTown era and others. The themed Bands always go down well with the revellers and Steve Kingsley did his legendary sets between the band's sets and after. I imagine there were a fair few blisters on feet the next morning! The bar and the evening entertainment really do help keep the costs of the Fair rides low, so please continue to support them.

All the Fair committee are entirely voluntary putting it all together during the year and setting up in the week before. It takes a great deal of effort but the social aspect of being involved and the eventual day is what makes it all worthwhile. All profits are then ploughed back into village projects and to pay for next year's event. If you would like to join the committee please come and see us. It really is a great way to get involved and put something into the community. Whatever your skills, please get in touch.

The profits of previous Fairs have gone into many local groups and causes and this year a set of fabulous outdoor gym apparatus and Table Tennis table were installed in the Rec. Go down and have a go. It's great for losing those pounds especially after Christmas. A special note of thanks must go to Jan Croker of the RCVF and Steve Protheroe of the RCPC for their tireless work in organising these. The RCVF donation was helped along by those from HCC, EHDC and the RCA. Well done all! This year we would be glad for suggestions for Village projects this coming year.

Once again, thanks to all the visitors, stallholders and supporters for making the 2013 Fair a great event. The business community of the Village and surrounding areas always provide great support and everyone appreciates this. The weather was on our side once again and people of Rowlands Castle and surrounding area really do deliver. Well done to all! See you next year when hopefully the tradition of sunny days may continue!

End of an era for the Fountain Inn

by Ann Page

Monday 30th September marked the end of an era for the village of Rowlands Castle when Herbie Armstrong and his wife Lisa closed the doors on the Fountain Inn for the last time.

Charismatic Herbie has welcomed visitors to the Fountain Inn for the last 14 years, his friendly Irish manner would quickly put people at ease and soon he would be charming them with stories of years gone by when as a musician he played and sang with Van Morrison and more recently he appeared on Britains Got Talent. Herbie's connection to the music Industry brought live acoustic music on Tuesday and Thursday Evenings and also many famous faces over the years including Mick Hucknall to the village.

The Fountain Inn will remain open and trading the same for at least the next 6 months with Sandra at helm in the bar area with her equally warm welcome and big smile and The Taste of India will remain in the restaurant area providing an Indian dining experience and takeaway. They will also run the hotel accommodation. The music nights will also continue with many exciting sessions booked.

Rowlands Castle continues to provide a varied and diverse selection of Public houses with the Robin Hood a quality bistro pub/hotel with a special reduced price Fish and Chips on Friday takeaway service, The Castle a traditional pub and restaurant and the family pub and restaurant Harvester. There is something to suit everyone.

Lisa and Herbie are set to tour Europe for a while and to have a well earned rest. We wish them well for the future and hope they will return from time to time to entertain us with their stories and music.



Photo: Ann Page

Stansted

The deer of Stansted Forest

by Michael Prior

Wild deer are beautiful and fascinating animals and of the five species found in the British countryside two, fallow and roe are resident in Stansted Forest and a third, muntjac is occasionally seen. Roe, along with red deer are native to Britain, fallow were introduced by the Normans although there is now some evidence that they were here in the 1st century AD. Muntjac are recent colonisers having been either released or escaped from collections especially that of Woburn Abbey from around 1900.

Large deer populations can have very negative impacts on the habitats in which they live. Forestry and woodland management can be adversely affected by the eating of seedlings and coppice re-growth, the fraying of young trees when male deer mark their territory and the scoring or stripping bark from larger trees. In areas devoted to wildlife conservation deer

have been responsible for the decrease in certain woodland plants, especially orchids and the complete removal of the scrub layer in some woodlands, severely affecting populations of woodland birds such as nightingale. Farm and market garden crops are also regularly affected with sometimes severe financial penalties.

In the British countryside deer have no natural predators to keep their populations in balance now we no longer have bear, lynx and the wolf. This means that man now has the responsibility to ensure the numbers of deer are kept to a level where they are in balance with their habitat for the benefit of both the deer and other species and landscapes they interact with. In Stansted Forest this is carried out by highly competent stalkers using high powered rifles to ensure effective and humane despatch of animals. The number culled is determined by an annual plan updated by the Head Forester. All carcasses are processed, checked to ensure they are fit to go into the human food chain and kept chilled until they leave our larder



facility, the majority going to our regular game dealer but an increasing number to the Stansted Farm Shop.

Wild venison is a very lean and delicious meat, produced in an entirely natural manner and consumers can be reassured that they are supporting the sustainable management of not only these iconic creatures but the ecosystem in which they live. The deer of Stansted are easily observed by those disciplined enough to



get up early before the forest gets busy with joggers and dog walkers, move steadily and silently and thoroughly check out all areas ahead before moving on, you might only see the flick of an ear to start with before the rest of the animal is recognised against a backdrop of herbage. Remember the wind needs to be in your face so your scent is not taken into the areas ahead. Our management of the deer in the forest is underpinned by the desire to always regard them as an integral part of the forest ecosystem whilst keeping the negative effect of their presence to a minimum.

Stansted Park Farm Shop has just started a butchery selling venison from the estate, and meat and game from local farms. We have a range of seasonal produce including local award-winning cheeses, bread, jams and chutneys, fruit and veg.

Opening times Tuesday to Sunday 10am - 4pm
Butchery Thursday to Saturday 10am - 4pm

www.stanstedfarmshop.com

02392 413 576

Flooding

Report from the Flood action Group

by Julie James - Senior Emergency Planning Officer
Hampshire County Council

In 2012, we experienced both drought conditions as well as the highest levels of rainfall recorded. Flooding from high groundwater levels in Finchdean and Rowlands Castle started to occur mid December 2012 and did not subside until late March 2013. What residents may not appreciate is that the Flood Action Group (made up of local Flood Wardens from Finchdean and Rowlands Castle and members of the Parish Council itself) had re-established itself and started to liaise with partners from the Environment Agency; Hampshire County Council (Emergency Planning Unit and Highways) and East Hampshire District Council, 3 months earlier in September 2012. This group is not only a key valuable community asset within the Parish but acts as a point of regular liaison for the Local Authorities and Emergency Services during flood incidents.

Before the flooding.....

The initial meetings enabled us as a multi agency group to identify what some of the bigger issues may be during a flood incident and how we could mitigate and reduce the impact to residents.

One of the very first actions was to highlight on a map where problems had previously occurred as a result of flooding and allocate responsibility to the rightful owner. Responsibility in Finchdean and Rowlands Castle can be summarized as follows:

Environment Agency	Main Rivers (The Lavant)
Hampshire County Council	Highways and all statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
Major Land Owners	Land through which watercourses pass
Network Rail	Land owned by Network Rail adjacent to the railway line

Flooding

Each of the above have a responsibility in ensuring that water can run without being obstructed, which may involve ditch clearance, gully clearance of drains on the Highway, cutting back of fences that were obstructing the path of water etc. The Flood Action Group engaged very early on with all landowners and stakeholders to ensure as much of this work was carried out before the groundwater reached a level to cause flooding. Sadly – not all landowners fulfilled their responsibilities which resulted in members of the Flood Action Group having to clear ditches on Christmas Eve to avoid an emergency!

Working with Hampshire County council, the Flood Action Group were able to provide us with important information on any “vulnerable” residents within the community so that we could provide timely assistance if needed. A request was made in an earlier edition of the Parish magazine for any residents that felt they may need assistance in a flood emergency. Whilst anybody can become vulnerable in an emergency, we will always prioritise those that we know may need additional assistance (such as the elderly and very young).

In recognition of the efforts made by the community in preparing for flooding, Hampshire Highways made pallets of sandbags available to residents which were stored at the George Public House, Finchdean. Whilst this is not a statutory responsibility for HCC (residents living in areas prone to flooding are responsible for protecting their own property); the work of the Flood Action Group saved many residents the task of having to source their own sandbags – and dispose of them afterwards.

The Environment Agency provided very comprehensive “Groundwater Briefing Notes” with accompanying graphs to show the rising levels. In addition to this “warning and informing” role, the Environment Agency undertook ditch clearance work at the rear of the George



Flooding

Public House and were also regularly monitoring any assets that required maintenance.

Notice boards were displayed on the access gates to Comley Hill - warning leaseholders of the potential impact of the flooding to their animals so that they could make early provision and arrangements with others to ensure the wellbeing of their animals during the flooding where access would be compromised by flood water.

During the Flooding.....

Whilst many were enjoying the festivities, the Flood Action Group continued to liaise with HCC and EHDC, monitoring groundwater levels and ensuring that the general well being of the community was a priority. This included the request and negotiation of portable toilets that were provided to a small number of residents as an exception.



The Flood Action Group will continue to work with residents to ensure that those with private waste water drainage are more resilient in the future. The flooding was very localized and I am sure that many readers will recognise the locations where the pictures in this article were taken! Hampshire County Council closed Woodberry Lane Bridge to traffic - although some pedestrians still chose to brave the flood water at their own risk. The flow of water across the bridge can gather pace very quickly and anybody choosing to walk this route should bear this in mind!

After the Flooding...

In June, a multi- agency debrief of the groundwater flooding in Finchdean and Rowlands Castle took place to enable all responders and the

Flooding

Flood Action Group to share any shortcomings and lessons learnt. The Flood Action Group also met recently in September to ensure all arrangements are in place should this happen again. Your Flood Action Group is also working very hard to ensure that landowners are fulfilling their responsibilities ensuring any regrowth and blockages affecting the flow of water is maintained and kept to a minimum.

Residents of Finchdean and Rowlands Castle are very fortunate to have such a proactive and responsive Flood Action Group and should take great comfort in knowing that whilst groundwater flooding cannot be prevented, they will work alongside professional partners to reduce the impact on residents making the experience of flooding less traumatic for those affected.

On a positive note, The Envi-



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

Flooding

Environment Agency is pleased to report that groundwater levels are currently in the normal ranges for this time of year following a very dry summer! However – if the situation changes (you may recall we went from a drought to very high levels within a matter of months last year following a very wet summer), EA information in the form of “Groundwater Briefing Notes” is incredibly valuable and informative in helping residents to prepare themselves and their property.

More information will be made available from your Flood Action Group if this becomes a future concern.



Due to the risk of groundwater flooding in Hampshire the Environment Agency has developed 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:

SSDEnquiries@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>

Macmillan Coffee Morning

by Alison Chapman

I would like to express huge thanks to everyone who came along to support the Macmillan Coffee Morning at The Meeting Place, Church on the Green, on Saturday 28th September. I am indebted to family, friends and neighbours who baked and brought along cakes (including very new friends from the Widley Branch of the Clandestine Cake Club), to Anne from the Church, for her enthusiastic support of the event and who tirelessly made tea and coffee throughout the morning, to Chris from our local Londis shop who donated all the milk and the staff at Ditcham Park School who enthusiastically consumed the excess of cakes and helped to boost the fund.



I am absolutely thrilled that the final total raised was £400 – THANK YOU THANK YOU. My Dad, Vic Fletcher, was a resident of the village from just after the second world war until his death from cancer on 31st October 2012. His wife Marjorie, my sister Liz and his grand-daughters Victoria and Charlotte, all still love and miss him very much. Macmillan do fantastic work supporting families facing Cancer and we know that the money raised will be put to good use by this amazing Charity. With love and thanks to you all.

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1st Rowlands Castle Scouts

Scouting in Rowlands Castle

by Nicci Lucas

According to Bear Grylls the Chief Scout:

“Two things matter in life: following your dreams and looking after your friends.”

This is what I love about Scouting. It's about doing great things, loving and enjoying the great adventures and helping others to do the same.'

Scouting in Rowlands Castle has been running for many years offering young people fun, friendship and excitement, by providing an enjoyable and attractive

scheme of development training. This training progresses from the young inquisitive (and often boisterous) six year olds with Beaver Scouts, followed by the curious Cub Scouts (8 -10 ½ years) which prepares them for Scouts (10 ½ -14 yrs.) We aim to offer these youngsters the opportunity to partake in fun and challenging activities, , experience everyday adventure, encounter unique experiences and give them the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities.

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, who support the Scouts in a wide range of roles from working directly with them, to helping manage a Group, to being a charity Trustee. Rowlands Castle troop has been gradually built up over the



1st Rowlands Castle Scouts

years, however most recently we have been under the watchful eye of Ian Hawke and his wife Mandy from Haying Island 3rd Scouts who have been a great support and directed us over the last couple of years helping us to build upon the successful troops that we have today. It is now my turn to take the lead as Group Scout Leader and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian and Mandy for all their help and support.



We would also like to thank the Rowlands Castle Association for their recent donation to the scout group allowing us to purchase some new camping equipment, including weekend tents and cooking equipment. This will give the scouts the opportunity to progress with their wild camping in local woods (prior permission granted at agreed sites) allowing them to gain the necessary skills whilst having fun, expressing their creativity and experiencing the wider world. The photos below were taken in September on their first outing having purchased this equipment. Thank you RCA!!

If anyone would like some further information on Scouting in Rowlands Castle then please do give me a call on 02392 412543

Gardening Club

Gardening Club visits Chidmere and Ryman gardens

by Elizabeth Hall, Chairman

The Gardening Club is growing well – we now have 61 members. We meet monthly at the United Reform Church Hall, except in July and August when we go on a private visit to a garden locally. This summer, on a beautiful July afternoon, 36 of us visited Chidmere Gardens at Chidham. The 15th century house and garden borders the 5-acre Chidmere Pond. After a tour of the garden with the head gardener we sat by the pond for tea and cakes.



Photo: Ryman Gardens

The August evening visit was to Ryman at Apuldram. This garden surrounds another 15th century house and possesses lawns, avenues of black poplar, and rose and vegetable gardens designed by the owner

At each meeting we invite a speaker on garden-related topics; this year topics have included bees, plants for the shade, the fruit garden, garden design, and friends and foe in the garden. We try to solve gardening problems, identify plants, and exchange topical tips. All the meetings are advertised on the village noticeboard, and visitors are warmly welcomed



Photo: Chidmere Gardens

Shopping with style at St John's Primary School - plus win a free makeover by Yvette Mindell

Put Thursday 21st November in your diary now. Back by popular demand, St John's Primary School PTA is hosting a Christmas Shopping and Beauty Night, from 6.30 to 9.30pm at St John's School, Whichers Gate Road, Rowlands Castle, PO9 6BB.

We've invited over 25 companies to host a stall and goods on offer include jewellery, gifts, home-wares, books, beauty products, bags, scarfs, food and cards...a fantastic range of goods to buy the perfect Christmas present and indulge yourself.

Hand, Feet & Nail Treatments are going to be provided by local beauty therapists The Pamper Shed. All are very reasonably priced and leave you plenty of time to chat with your friends over a drink and stroll round the stalls. (No needs to pre-book treatments but turn up early to get your slot or email us at fair@stjohnspta.com if you do want a set time).

And on top of that we've invited Award Winning Personal Style, Colour & Image Consult Lesley Wrangmore from CMB-Solent who is going to treat 2 lucky winners to a mini-makeover live on stage.

To complete the evening, we've got a licensed bar and refreshments on sale. So get together with your friends and come and indulge yourself.

Tickets for the night cost just £5 (£3 for children Year 5 and upwards) and include a glass of wine or soft drink plus a strip of raffle tickets to win some great prizes that night.

If you would like a chance to win your very own mini-makeover on the night (make-up & style advice) then buy your tickets by Friday 15th November to enter our free prize draw.

Tickets can be bought in advance from St John's School office, playground or by emailing us at fair@stjohnspta.com (Tickets will also be available on the door).

All money raised by the PTA will go towards school fundraising projects. See our website www.stjohnspta.com for more details.

St John's School

St John's Primary School and The Rowans by Debbie Cornish

As a school we are often asked to join in with community events, singing, dancing etc. So when we were approached to join in with the 'Meerkat Project' at the Rowans we were very excited at the prospect of being involved. A lot of our work in primary schools is concerned with how we deal with everyday issues – learning good manners, how we treat each other and how we make a difference to each other's lives.

When we sent the permission letter home to our parents for this project we had a 100% positive response. Everyone has a very high regard for the work carried out at the Rowans and parents were happy that their children could be part of the work you do. Life is always a mixture of happy and hard times and I'm sure that all the children involved have gained an insight into how we can make the tough times in life a little less tough and by sharing these times it makes us all stronger to deal with difficulties that might occur. I would like to thank the staff and patients there for their warm welcome, to our school and hope that our partnership can continue in many ways into the future.

The article below has been written by two boys in Year 6. We are hoping to take our ukulele group to perform later this term. James Arnold from Year 6 was so moved by the work at Rowans that he will be doing a sponsored swim on 21st November. All donations welcome.



St John's Visit to the Rowans Hospice by Tom Gorringe and Samuel Langdown

On the 16th of October 2013 half of the Year 6 pupils from St John's school went to visit the day-care patients at Rowans Hospice. They were taking part in the Schools project which had been launched at the hospice the year before. When they got there they were introduced to the day-care patients then were partnered up with one of them. At first they made their partners badges and their partners made them badges. "It was really fun meeting the patients and using the badge machine!" said Caylee.

Over time the patients and children made quite a bond, showing their artwork, singing and all different things. They decorated butterflies and dragonflies and painted the scenery together. "It was really nice to make the dragonflies with the patients because it meant we could talk about things whilst having some fun."

Everybody enjoyed their time there and in the end they produced a wonderful piece of work. It was a big picture of nature with trees, swans, dragonflies hanging from the ceiling and so much more wonderful things.

"The art project at the end looked really amazing and I would like to do something like that again." said Elliot. At the Opening Ceremony the children sang a song that brought tears to the eyes of the patients and parents that had come to watch. "The cakes were brilliant!" said Maya.



Photos: St John's School visit to The Rowans Hospice.

Rowlands Castle Women's Institute

We just get bigger and bigger!

by Rona Musker, President, Women's Institute

I am delighted to report that the Good Causes the RCWI are championing this year are the RVS Luncheon Club which does sterling work every Thursday in the Parish Hall and the Rowlands Castle Youth Football Club. We feel it is really important to support both age groups and so far fund-raising is looking good.

Members have enjoyed many varied excursions over the past few months. In August we had a wonderful visit to Bletchley Park, with so much World War II history to take in. It was lovely to be joined by so many husbands and friends. For many it brought back memories of family members who had worked in code breaking but who had only learned about it in later years.

Many of us had a fascinating visit to Jane Austen's house in Chawton in early September. It was my first visit but several members who had been some time ago remarked on how well the house had been developed and how many more artefacts and documents were on display. We then took the Jane Austen theme on in our beautiful presentation at the superb Flower Festival at St John's Church.

Other events included another fun evening doing 10 Pin Bowling; a lovely walk from Prinsted to Chidham with a delicious pub lunch at "The Old House at Home"; and mind-stretching Scrabble sessions. This is in addition to our regular meetings of the Craft Club, the Book Club, the Book reading Group, and French classes.

We continue to have an excellent season of talks at our monthly meetings - our October speaker, Phil Packer was truly inspirational. After sustaining spinal cord damage in the Army, this veteran has walked the Marathon on crutches in 14 days, climbed the 3 Peaks and done a 2012 mile walk around the UK to raise money for his own charity: BRIT (British Inspiration Trust). Based in Chichester, he has got a huge number of CEOs of various organisations to support him and he hopes in the next 2 years to set up a Centre where young mentally and physically handicapped people

Rowland Castle Women's Institute

can come to reshape their lives. Phil said to me that he would like to keep in touch with us - I said that I would like to invite him back to tell us how he is getting on in 2 years' time - which will be the National WI's Centenary year.

Looking forward to next year we'll be having a Coffee Morning in the Church on the Green on Friday January 24th 2014 as our final money raiser for the Good Causes so do please put this date in your diary - come and bring your friends.

The picture on the right was taken at the St John's Church Flower Festival. It shows the Jane Austen themed display created by members of the WI.

Although a little early, it is my only opportunity on behalf of RCWI to wish everyone in the Village a very Happy Christmas.



Photo: Ann Mitchell and Pam Winn with the WI display at the St John's Church Flower

Rowlands Castle Painting Society

A very productive summer by Terry Devaney

This year the weather has been mostly clement, with members of the Society enjoying some lovely days out in a variety of locations across the region. The picnic painting days out were well attended with the exception of a visit to Portchester Castle when conditions were too wet to sit out in. This visit was rearranged for the following week, which was the last outdoor painting meeting and the members basked in glorious Autumn sunshine. What a great finish to another Summer of painting outside. A big thank you to Gill Dollery our Principal, who has worked hard to organise the outings. We are also very grateful to Nicky Verrecchia, a resident of Rowlands Castle for taking on the role of Vice Principal.

The Society is now meeting in the Parish Hall, Links Lane, Rowlands Castle for a programme of meetings full of variety to keep all the artists busy and involved. At the time of writing this, we are a member down, we hope not permanently, Pat Pond who has been a popular member of the Society is currently in hospital, having been quite ill for several months. We wish her well.

The meetings are held on Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm (Life drawing) and on the alternate Tuesday there is a workshop from 2pm to 4pm followed by an evening demonstration by a visiting artist 7.30pm to 9.30pm. These are open to the public who are welcome to attend, there is a fee of £2 to non-members. Members can also look forward to the



Christmas Party, always a great evening, with a Holiday painting competition and a Christmas card competition with a lovely buffet and refresh-

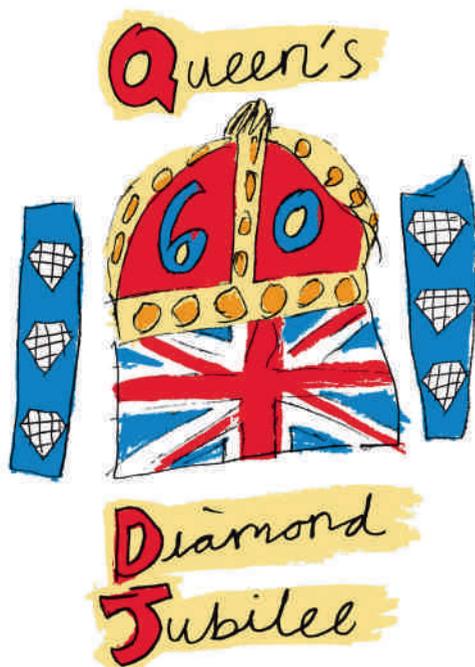
Rowlands Castle Painting Society

ments provided. The Spring Exhibition and Sale takes place on the 15th and 16th March 2014 and is an excellent opportunity for the artists to showcase their work.

Rowlands Castle Painting Society membership is open to all regardless of ability. It has much to offer, bringing like-minded people together to pursue a common interest in Art. For anyone wishing to know more about this friendly Society or who may wish to join please visit www.rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.org.uk.



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.

Christmas Fair

by Charlotte Butterworth

As a relative newcomer to the Rowlands Castle NSPCC Committee I've been overwhelmed over the past 3 years by the passion and support that exists in our village for this worthy cause. It's hard to say exactly when the RC village committee was formed but there has been a small band of dedicated supporters who have given up their time to arrange a number of fundraising events every year for a significant period of time.

After so many years the committee is still going strong and the group continues to organise fairs, quiz nights and entertainment evenings for the benefit of both the village community and the charity. This year is no exception. The Rowlands Castle NSPCC Christmas Fair will be taking place on Saturday 7th December in the Parish Hall from 1100 until 1330. St John's School choir will take to the stage to sing some seasonal tunes and Father Christmas will be dropping by to say yo ho ho! There will be lots of stalls with some low cost Christmas gift ideas and an opportunity to grab a warming cup of soup and piece of cake. We look forward to welcoming the whole village to this fun event.

We are always looking for new members to join our committee or just to help out with baking, assisting at special events or donating items that help us to raise funds. If you are interested in helping out in any way please contact Charlie Butterworth from the RC NSPCC Village Committee



Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

on 02392 410186.'

Funding helps Castle United Football Club Grow the Game

by Stephen Crooks-Secretary Castle United

Grassroots football in Rowlands Castle was given a helping hand in the summer following a £2,000 Grow the Game grant, from the Football Foundation and a £315 grant from East Hants District council "approved by you" scheme to enable Castle United Football Club to field an Under 18 team for the first time in it's history for the current 2013-14 football season. The Grow the Game scheme run by the Football Foundation has awarded 874 separate grants worth around £4.2m to grassroots football clubs. Analysis of the monitoring and evaluation so far predicts that this will result in the creation of 3,791 brand new football teams competing in FA-affiliated leagues, 72,872 new players participating each week and 10,959 new qualifications or courses being completed. The key strength of Grow the Game is that its participation increases are sustainable rather than transient. Its grants create a solid infrastructure of teams and newly-trained coaches in which new people can start playing the sport, rather than simply providing temporary activity sessions, which are vulnerable to drops in participation once the programme ends.



Photo: Castle United under 18s

Stephen Crooks, the Club Secretary, said: " the two grants from the football foundation and the EHDC "approved by you scheme" has enabled us to enter a team in the previously forgotten age group into the Mid Solent Football League this season. By working with Hampshire Football Association and the Parish council we were able to secure these two grants which will increase participation for lads aged 16 to 18 in the village as well as support further football development within the club. Stephen continued " this age group has the biggest drop out of participation in the sport and as a club we have long identified this as an important area of the club to ensure a pathway from youth to adult football which previously didn't exist in the club"

Castle United U18's play their home games on Saturday mornings at the recreation ground and welcome support from the village at these games. If any one would like to come and have trials to join or simply want to find out more then please contact Tim Godfray the team coach who is FA Level Two qualified on 07854511913 or by email at tim_godfray@hotmail.co.uk

DACD (Rowlands Castle) Cricket Club

A season of two halves?

by Jonathan law

The second half of the season saw a turnaround in our performances on the field, though not before suffering comprehensive defeats to the Singh XI and Petersfield CC. The Petersfield game took place at the Heath on what felt like the hottest day of the summer and playing against some very good league players we suffered a 182 run defeat. This however spurred us on to a run of midweek victories over Sweaters, Raymarine and Skulking Loafers. The home game against Sweaters was notable for the first six hit out of the recreation ground.

Our annual trip to Lord Wandsworth School to play Harvesters saw a massive shift in fortunes during the game. After Harvesters raced to 118-1 after only 15 overs, the introduction of spin duo Dave Richardson 5-12 and Martin Frankland 2-6 saw them bowled out for 138 after 22 overs. A century 2nd wicket partnership between Colin Lord and Martin saw DACD ease home to win by 7 wickets.



As we moved into August the weather was still set fair and after a much narrower defeat to Petersfield in the return fixture, DACD set off on a run of 6 wins in the next 7 games. Highlights included a hat-trick for Meredydd Hughes against MCC, our first win against Emsworth for a number of years, and an unbeaten 50 for Tim Dix against BAE Systems in his first season with the club.

As the season drew to a close we hosted Sway at home where an unbeaten century by Tim Barton and an opening spell of bowling by retired civil servants Russ Phillips and Jon Law which reduced Sway to 19-4 saw DACD run out winners by 13 runs. A good result against a very handy opponents.

DACD (Rowlands Castle) Cricket Club

After our indifferent start to the season the final playing record reads P 30 W 13 D 1 L 16, with only two games cancelled due to the weather.

The end of season groundwork, re-seeding the square, has taken place and our awards dinner will be taking place at the Bat and Ball in November followed by a close season trip to Prague. Indoor nets are currently being organised for January through till April and our pre-season fund raising quiz will take place at the Parish Hall probably in March.



Watch out for more information on the Grapevine next year.

Under 5s Children's Christmas Party

Sunday 22nd December at 3.30-5.30pm.

St John's Hall

Magic Mikey, Father Christmas, Party food

Put it in your diary now

Don't miss out.

The Church on the Green

How many Church people does it take to change a light bulb?

by Jackie Whitehead (church member)

Just one but a few are bound to say they preferred the old one!

“Let’s try something new” is a phrase that sends chills to the heart of most church congregations. Well, the Church on the Green has tried something new and so far it has all been rather successful. Cafe Church has arrived and it takes place on the morning of the third Sunday of each month in the Meeting Place, from 10.15 to 11.15. It involves a more relaxed way of meeting, with food and drink available throughout the hour (never a bad thing) and good opportunity to relax and get to know each other.

Let me be quick to say, it is not trendy and it is not a fad. Many churches are trying new and different ways to remain relevant in a changing world, the Church on the Green is one of them. Cafe Church will not be replacing more traditional worship, this still takes place on other Sundays, but it has become a lovely extra to church life and one which explores new dimensions of worship with time to chat and discuss. Truly, a breath of fresh air.

So, here we are, Rowlands Castle United Reformed Church or The Church on the Green or the pretty little building at the end of the village with the clock tower that never tells the correct time, whichever you like. We are here, we’re a happy bunch and we are delighted to serve Rowlands Castle Village and it’s people. Please feel free to come and try Cafe Church or any other meeting, we would love to see you.

“The Church is not a gallery for the better exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.”

-Proverbs from a Plymouth Pulpit

Any enquiries to: www.church-on-the-green.org.uk

St John's Church

Flower Festival and Upcoming events by Revd Trevor Filtness Vicar of St John's

Our major event of the summer, except for my appearing in the pillory in School and at the Summer Fair, was our Flower Festival in celebration of 175 years of the consecration of St John's Church in 1838. We also took the opportunity to tie this in with the bi-centennial of the publication of *Pride and Prejudice* as George Austen, Jane's nephew, was the Rector of the Parish for over 40 years. However the main thrust of the celebration was to mark the 175 years of witness and worship since the consecration and to give thanks for what is yet to come.

It was a tremendous event. A huge thank you to all those who supported, donated, or visited and of course all the superb flower arrangers. We have included some photos to remind you of the beauty of the event.

The proceeds were divided between The Rowans Hospice and the mission of the church. This formed a timely boost to funds as we are facing a costly re-design of the church roof to keep the frequent torrential down-pours on the outside of the church!

One outcome of the Flower Festival was that we were able to put together a simple 'History Leaflet' for the church to add interest for visitors. This is of course only one view of the full history of St John's Church and we would be grateful if anyone has any other points of interest or corrections we could put into the leaflet.

You may remember that I was appointed to the non-stipendiary post of Associate Vicar in late July 2011. I am very pleased to say that the Bishop has announced that he will licence me as part time Priest-in-Charge on 11 December. In simpler terms, I will now be the official Vicar and will move into the Rectory early in January 2014.

It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to be in Rowlands Castle as Associate Vicar for two years and to be able to continue is a very real joy. Thank you all for making me feel so very welcome; Rosemary and I are very much looking forward to living in the village.

On a final note, Christmas is coming, so I take this opportunity to let you know of our main Advent and Christmas Services:

Sunday 1st Dec at 6pm: Advent Sunday Candlelit Praise Service with Advent readings and traditional hymns. This is an atmospheric service as candles are lit throughout the



St John's Church

church. Note that this is not the carol service.

Sunday 8th Dec at 3pm in the Church Centre: Christingle Service. This year this now traditional service will take the form of a 'Messy' Christingle involving lots of activities and fun for youngsters, enjoying a variety of crafts, making Christingles, singing songs and tea!

Sunday 22nd Dec at 6pm: Traditional Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve: 6pm: Carols Around the Tree, a fun family service with carols and an 'Instant Nativity Scene'. I hope this year to have some more surprises! A fun way to help use up those pre Christmas Day energies!

Christmas Eve 1130pm: Traditional Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10am: Family Holy Communion

With every blessing

Trevor

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Domestic Heating News

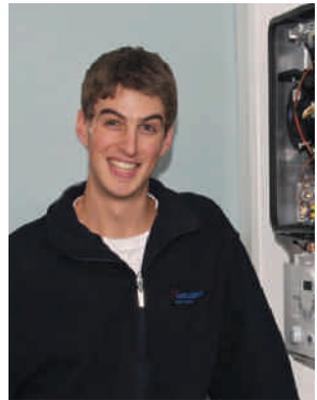
Some helpful tips for autumn

by Nic Radcliffe

We are moving into autumn as I'm writing this, so summer will have well and truly ended as you read this. This is a busy time for heating engineers across the land as boilers that have sat dormant all summer are being asked to fire up, and some are struggling.

I have three items to mention in this issue including one money-saving tip. Unfortunately, the first topic is prompted by a customer who had a fire caused by a badly maintained boiler. Luckily no-one was hurt but it is a good reminder of the importance of keeping gas appliances properly maintained. The industry body, Gas Safe, found in their recent survey that across the UK as many as 1 in 3 gas fires and 1 in 11 boilers are unsafe. Scary! You can now check online and see how many unsafe gas appliances have been lurking in your area. Just go to www.staygassafe.co.uk and type in your postcode. The good news is I've checked the site and the figures are reassuringly good for Rowlands versus the surrounding areas.

The second item is about water usage. I hear from more of my customers that they are switching to a water meter. However most of them are telling me that their water costs are going up rather than down. So it seems to be a good time to mention a new type of shower head that can save water and give a better showering experience all in one. The science behind it is that the head mixes tiny air droplets with the water to force it out of the head much faster, giving you extra power and saving you water at the same time. The Energy Saving Trust who recommend these new heads suggest savings of up to £120 per year can be made. You can easily fit this head yourself. Just go to www.ecocamel.co.uk for more details.



And finally, several of my more technically-minded customers have been asking about heating and hot water controls that can be controlled via their PC or smart phone. The idea is that you can switch your boiler on when you're out and return to a warm home or hot shower. I have now found one available from a reputable manufacturer that I would recommend. To take a look just visit www.salus-tech.com

It's that time of year again!

by Marge Harvey

The last few months have been very busy for me, both at East Hants and at Hampshire. At East Hants we are waiting for the Government Inspector to look again at our Joint Core Strategy which will determine how we decide on planning applications and how many houses will be built in all areas.

Rowlands Castle has been allocated 250 houses, some of which have already been built, so we have been looking at where they can go. We already have a few sites that have been put forward, but for one reason or another most of them are not suitable in my eyes, so that will be something that the Parish and I will have to fight.

The £21000 that I asked for as a planning gain for the Parish Hall has been made available to them and with the help of the Parish Council, the kitchen has been refurbished, chairs and tables have been bought and the floor has been refurbished, plus a repair to the roof.

I have also been given a devolved budget of £3000 to be used in Rowlands Castle for projects that need help. I have already given money, again to the Parish Hall for them to buy cups and saucers, plates and cutlery, so that they can offer the hall for rent on the same basis as other halls in the village, but if you have a project that needs some funding, then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

The Parish Hall is close to my own heart as it is where Dave, my husband and I met at the youth club and where we held our wedding reception, so it is so good to see that it is being brought back to its best for its 100 year celebration next year. The planning application for the parking spaces for Links Close has now been approved and we just have to wait for Radian to get their act together and actually do the work, so watch this space!! As you know, this has been around for some years and it will be great to see it finally happen.

Apart from the devolved budget that I get to spend in my ward of Rowlands Castle, I also get a devolved budget of £8000 from Hampshire to spend in my division, which includes Horndean and Rowlands Castle, so again if there is something that needs some funds, then please contact me.

I have already funded some projects in Horndean, including the gates for Merchristoun Hall and the drama group for their production this year and money towards the garden project at St Johns school. As you can see, it doesn't need to be a certain type of



County Council News

project, it can be used in many ways, so please let me know if you have something that needs money and I will do my best to help.

As far as Hampshire is concerned, it has been quite a learning curve for me and there were some schemes that had not been solved, I had to get on board pretty quickly, but I have managed to solve one problem in Horndean that has been around for almost 12 years and by the time you read this, it will have been completed.

There are many problems in Horndean that I am working on at the moment and I have also been working on schemes for Rowlands Castle, which include resurfacing of roads and footpaths and problems with drainage and other health related issues. The most interesting thing about my job at both authorities is that they are both very different and only cross over when it comes to health, but both compliment each other in many ways. I really think that I can help Rowlands Castle more by being at both authorities so I am happy!!

At the Community Engagement Committee that I sit as a member for EHDC, we are working on a couple of projects at the moment, one of which is Autism, as this seems to be a growing problem and we are going to hold a seminar and try to get some answers as to why it is a growing problem and what can be done to try and help.

The other committee that I sit on is the Oak Park steering committee, part of which has been completed with the official opening taking part in September this year, even though it has been operational since December last year. The next part is to get a plan passed for Extra Care Housing which is a project that gives older people a chance to live in a flat and remain independent but with support from all agencies. This has been very successful in many areas and I visited the one in Gosport, where they have a long waiting list and was very impressed. It enables people to remain independent, but with lots of support.

So, I do hope that this goes ahead and along with the houses and small hospital wards for people to go to to be assessed to see if they need to actually go to hospital, or can be treated locally, or after being in hospital, they can go there to make sure that they are ready to go home. This is called step up and step down beds and if this is successful, should free up some hospital beds for people who really have to be in hospital. So, as you can see, I am quite busy, but I do really enjoy all of the work that I do and if there is anything that I can do to help in any way, please contact me and I will do my very best to do so.

I hope that you all have a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and please don't forget that you can contact me at home, on line or at my surgery. Marge.

Rural Businesses

by George Hollingberry MP

Rural businesses are having something of a renaissance in Hampshire with a trend for more local produce and services really starting to make its presence felt in our villages.

This upbeat forecast is perhaps just a little reversal in the inexorable decline of the rural community over the last 100 years and it is something I care passionately about and I do my best to champion both locally and in Parliament.

Before the Great War, most people would have found everything they need within their own village but urban centres became predominant and now we think nothing of a trip into Portsmouth and Winchester to buy goods while the cottage industries have all but disappeared. Or have they?

Over the last decade, I have started to detect a bit of a welcome change in our attitudes. I am not saying for one moment that we are going to return to a traditional village life with every community having a butcher or a candlestick maker, but local is once again on the menu - albeit in a 21st century way.

As an example, about a month ago I visited the award-winning Upham Brewery near Bishop's Waltham. Upham is one of the fastest growing breweries in the South of England and plans to create up to 500 jobs in the next couple of years - many in the Hampshire countryside. The firm has seen its sales increase by more than 120% since its launch as a microbrewery with a real ethos that the best place for it to do business is in the rural community - something it may not have considered worthwhile just ten years ago. Upham's story is a familiar one being repeated up and down the country as local business and small family firms tap into this resurgent desire for local produce.

Specialist farms and village shops are thriving thanks to this rediscovery of a taste for traditional fare aided by the Internet and rural superfast broadband - now so vital to the countryside. And don't forget low tech initiatives like farmers' markets and the impact they have had.

Even the decline of the village pub - which was always seen as inevitable - is beginning to slow. In places like Denmead, a campaign is underway to save the Fox and Hounds and restore it to its former status as a village hub rather than to see it redeveloped for houses. If the campaign is successful, I very much hope to have rural surgeries there.

Our area is also dotted with innumerable plant nurseries, small holdings and agri-businesses which are acting as the engine for and benefitting from this boom in demand for rural supplies.

I am delighted to see our firms benefitting from this upturn in demand. Long may it continue.

Local Council News

Calling all Dog owners and/or Keepers Supplied from EHDC by Lisa Walker

Rowlands Castle seems to have become the target of irresponsible dog owners over the summer, although the problem of dog fouling is more long-standing in the Parish. Of particular concern is the Recreation Ground off Links Lane, though other areas of the Parish have also suffered similar problems.

East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) does carry out occasional patrols in the area but it is often difficult to catch offenders ‘in the act’.

“Most owners clean up after their dogs these days,” explains Dave Griffiths, EHDC’s Environmental Protection Officer, “and it is only a small percentage who are irresponsible. So, being in the right place at the right time is a ‘needle in a haystack’ scenario. That’s why we need the help of members of the public.”

How you can help

Offenders need to be identified. Should you witness an owner failing to clean up after their dog in an area to which the general public have access, and you know their address, please report the incident to EHDC. The owner will receive a warning letter and information about the law; the source of the complaint will not be revealed.

Should the same person re-offend, EHDC will consider prosecution but, should this arise, all witnesses would need to submit a statement, and their identities could be revealed. Witnesses would need to state that you saw the dog defecate on public land and that the owner left the land without clearing up, give a description of the dog and the person walking the dog, where that person lives, give the exact time and date that the offence occurred, and be prepared to attend court if necessary.

Where a dog is loose without an owner or keeper present; fouling is still an offence if the owner is traced.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

The Act applies to all areas to which the general public have access, with the exception of agricultural land, commercial woodland, marshland, moors, heath, rural common land and carriageways with a speed limit over 40mph. Privately-owned land is included if the owner wants the Act in place, and if the

Local Council News

general public have access to the land; private gardens and drives are not included. Remember that leaving a bag of dog faeces on public land is not complying with the law unless it is placed in a bin.

Offenders caught by the Dog Wardens are issued with a fixed penalty fine of £50. Failure to pay the fine may lead to prosecution with a maximum penalty of £1000.

Guide dog owners are exempt from the law.

Contact

Please don't hesitate to call if you require any more information about the legislation. You can contact us on 01730 234319 during office hours, or Email: ehealth@easthants.gov.uk.

You can also find some information on our website

www.easthants.gov.uk ; just look up dogs in the A to Z





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Fracking

Fracking Awareness Meeting @ Sacred Heart Church, Waterlooville, on Wed Oct 23rd. by Jennifer Flintoft

Cuadrilla has been given permission for exploratory drilling in Markwell's Wood (Finchdean) in order to assess whether the area is 'suitable' for fracking.

Possible environmental impact of fracking:

1. Immediate impact.

Flares. These would be burning gases at the top of drilling rigs which may be up to 30m high, & would probably be visible from Rowlands Castle & certainly from Stansted Forest. They are also extremely noisy.

A huge increase in heavy lorries, & extra roads being built.

A large number of wells may be drilled in a small area.

The risk of blow-outs causing serious air pollution. This has happened in the US. Local fire brigades will not know how to deal with this situation. Wells can only be capped by experts who may have to be brought from a long distance away. It can take up to 2 days to cap a well. In the meantime local residents will not necessarily be evacuated. There appears to be no planning for this. The toxic chemicals in the air would include ethylene oxide & benzene, which would cause respiratory problems & are carcinogenic.

The production of radioactive radon gas. When radon undergoes radioactive decay it forms polonium dust which itself is radioactive. It would probably be dispersed by the wind throughout the local area, & would be carcinogenic if inhaled, as would the radon gas. Polonium is one of the constituents of tobacco & is one of the causes of lung cancer.

Fracking will use a lot of water. During dry spells the SE is often short of water & hosepipe bans may be enforced. Yet fracking firms will be able to access large amounts of water at a cheaper rate than domestic consumers. Further, much of the water they use will not be recyclable for domestic use because of the use of the highly toxic chemicals.

The effect on the value of houses. At the moment houses in our village are much sought-after because it is such a pleasant place to live. But no-one will want to move into an area where there is an ugly, smelly, noisy & possibly dangerous industrial site on our doorstep. Houses along the projected HS2 rail link have been unsellable for years. The same could happen in Rowlands Castle.

2. Long-term degradation of the environment.

The cutting down of ancient woodland which would take 2-300 years to restore, maybe more.

The wood would be exploited for about 10 years & the company would then move on leaving it ruined. They would be under no obligation to restore it.

Only 30-50% of the fracturing fluid is recovered, the rest of the toxic fluid is left in the ground and is not biodegradable. It may well seep into drinking water even if stored in 'safe' concrete containers, as eventually the concrete will crack or degrade. Once the company has left the site they will not monitor it. Cuts mean that local authorities will not be able to do this.

At the moment frackers are not allowed to drill under your house without permission. Fracking has been associated with earthquakes in Lancashire & in the US. In this area earthquakes are unlikely, but obviously subsidence is a risk. No insurance company will insure your house against damage caused by fracking. There are moves afoot to change the law so that fracking companies will not have to seek the landowner's permission.

There are also moves to change the law so that County Councils will not have the power to grant/refuse fracking licences: it will be a matter for the government.

It's not just a local problem: Energie Celtique have been granted licences for exploratory drilling over large swathes of the South Downs National Park. Incidentally, this French company is not allowed to operate in France where fracking has been banned. It has also been banned in Bulgaria because of public protest.

Fracking is a get-rich-quick scheme which will devastate huge areas of 'England's green & pleasant land' unless we protest about it.

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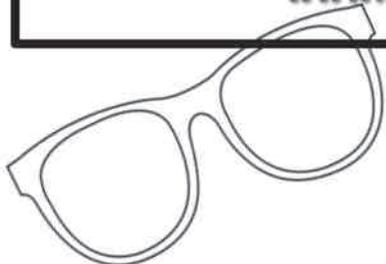
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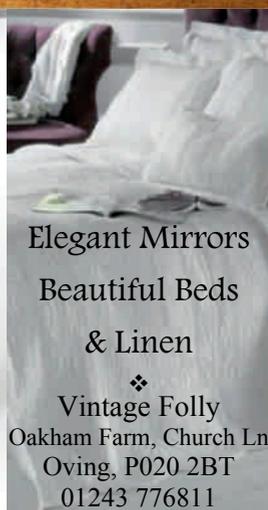
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