

Rowlands Castle Association

A group of approximately 15 people are gathered outdoors on a gravel path, surrounded by dense green trees. They are dressed in various styles of rain gear, including jackets, hoodies, and boots. One person in the center holds a large, multi-colored umbrella. The scene suggests a rainy day event or a group meeting.

Winter 2011

Village Magazine

www.rowlandscastle.com

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Village Magazine Winter 2011

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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: Not even the wettest July day in memory could dampen the spirits of the first Landscape Character Assessment walk. For the full story—and the sunny version—see pages 7-9.

Photo: Mark Seaman

Rowlands Castle Association

It's your voice that counts

by Catherine Billam, Chair, RCA

We had another excellent fireworks display and bonfire night this year (Page 6). Many thanks to all those who helped make it a success. For the second year, we gave complimentary entry to the fireworks to our magazine deliverers. It's a small way of saying thank you to them. We are currently short of a deliverer for the top half of Redhill Road. If you can help us by delivering magazines three times a year please email me chair@rowlandscastle.com or give me a call. It's not very onerous and it really helps.

A lot is happening in the village at the moment, including the planning proposal for the Keyline site and the application for the Shell garage to sell alcohol. There have been packed Council meetings and over 250 people responded to the Keyline questionnaire.

Some people have asked what is the RCA position on the various applications. We have chosen to focus on communicating what is happening – through the Grapevine, this Magazine, the website and involvement in activities like the Keyline questionnaire. We support and encourage the high level of community involvement we see. On most of the current issues, there are a variety of views in the village and within the RCA Committee. We would rather provide a channel of communication to help people to come to their own conclusions, than take an entrenched position. It's your voice that counts.

On a lighter note, we are preparing for our 40th anniversary next year, and we want to track down past Committee members to complete our records. Were you on the RCA Committee between 2003 and 2009? If so, can you let me know: chair@rowlandscastle.com. Tell me what years you were on the Committee, and who else was on at the same time.

I hope that you have a great festive season.

Catherine Billam



Kevin Connell
9241 3857



Sharon Broom
9241 3592

A very warm welcome to the two latest Villagers to join your RCA Committee, Kevin Connell and Sharon Broom (pictured left.)

We are currently seeking someone to deliver the Magazine three times a year in Redhill Road. If you can help, please contact me by phone or email.

Rowlands Castle Association

Your RCA Committee



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RCA Fireworks Night

Record attendance for Fireworks night

by Richard Milton

The bonfire night fireworks display organised in the Recreation Ground by the RCA was another huge success this year with record attendance. A crowd estimated at more than 2,000 people came from Rowlands Castle, Finchdean, Dean Lane End, and Forestside as well as from Horndean, Havant, and Hayling Island. Selstar mounted their usual spectacular fireworks display. And the event raised over £6,000 which means, after costs, there will be a surplus which will go to Village organisations. Our sincere thanks go to the many people who helped make the event such a success, including Keyline, Caroway, AVS Fencing, and all the Villagers who volunteered their help.



Above: volunteers build the bonfire under the direction of Bonfire Meister Alan Ayres. Below: a record crowd of more than 2,000 people saw the bonfire lit and watched the fireworks display.

Night Photos: Mark Seaman



Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment progress

by Alan Drinkwater

The Rowlands Castle Landscape Character Assessment Group (seven local residents) is making progress in drafting an assessment of the Parish, which will culminate in a Landscape Character Statement, a draft of which will be published on the RCA website. A public meeting will be held for residents to make their comments. The draft will then be considered by the Parish Council, East Hampshire District Council, South Downs National Park and the Forestry Commission. A final draft will be written for approval by the Parish Council and subsequent publication to all households.

In addition to the short survey conducted in the spring. (See Page 8), the Group took a table at the Village Fair to meet residents and launch a walks programme. It has now conducted five much appreciated walks to view and discuss the local landscape. Each walk attracted between 21 and 33 walkers. The Group has held helpful discussions with the Landscape Officer from EHDC, and the Community and Landscape Strategy Officers from SDNP. It has benefited from funding from the Parish Council, RCA, and HCC, with further applications pending.

On 17th October the Group led a discussion at a joint meeting with the W.I. and Historical Society. It is also holding meetings with managers or officers from significant land holdings in the Parish, including farmers, officers from the Forestry Commission and Staunton Park managers— which may lead to public briefings for residents by these ‘custodians of the countryside’.

Lastly, the Group will shortly launch a photographic competition. Residents will be invited to submit photographs in four categories: ‘Vistas & Views’, ‘Enjoyment of the Countryside’, ‘Wildlife’ and ‘Favourite Buildings, Structures or Objects’. The photographs will be judged by an invited panel of three residents, with prizes of £25 and £15 awarded for first and second photos in each category.

LCA walkers gather on The Green for Walk 5—in rather better weather than Walk 1!



To find out more about the LCA Group and its work, please contact any of its members: Alan Drinkwater, Sandra Hodgetts, Peter McDowell or Chris White.

Landscape Character Assessment

LCA survey results echo Parish Plan

by Alan Drinkwater

A Landscape Character Statement prepared by the local Community lets local people decide what is important in their local landscape – both countryside and villages – and how they would like it to look in the future. It will ‘inform the planning process’ and may be adopted as an official document by our local planning authority.

The East Hampshire LCA of 2006 stated that two landscape character types cover the Parish: ‘Chalk Downland Mosaic’ in the north, and ‘Wooded Claylands’ in the south. At a more local level, the Group is proposing seven sub-types: three in the north and four in the south. Roughly speaking, the northern ‘Downland’ is in the new South Downs National Park, while the ‘Claylands’ are outside, and subject to a different planning regime.

The last issue of the RCA Magazine included a questionnaire from the Group. Only 48 households returned the questionnaire (compared with 311 households in the previous Parish Plan survey of 2007). Nevertheless, the responses were helpful, and the LCA Group would like to thank those residents who did reply.

Part 1 asked questions which allowed comparison with the same questions in the Parish Plan survey of 2007. Refreshingly, the results were very similar. 92% of respondents said they felt overall satisfaction with the Parish as a place to live, compared with 94% in the Parish Plan. 72% feel that the Village environment is the most important thing about the Parish (78% last time), while 70% said Access to the countryside (70%) and 66% cited The Village Community (56%). Every respondent agreed that ‘the countryside around the Parish is important to me’ (99%). Only 6% felt the countryside around the Parish had changed for the better (0%), 34% felt it had changed for the worse (20%) and 49% felt things had not changed (53%).

Part 2a invited residents to list the ‘Icons’ or positive features in the landscape, in a priority order. Features included the ‘countryside’ the ‘Strategic Gap’; ‘shops, services and local amenities’; ‘buildings or sites’, and ‘individual icons’ such as the King’s Stone, Deer Leap wall or road finger posts.

Part 2b comprised the ‘Issues’ or negative features and attracted 110 comments. These were again allocated to categories. Some 18 comments were made about ‘development’ including ‘sprawl’ and ‘housing creep’. 22 comments were about ‘traffic and speeding’, 13 about ‘parking’, 19 about ‘signing’ and 6 about ‘buildings, structures and facilities’.

Part 3 was an invitation to make general comments ‘about landscape and village features’. Some 46 comments were made, both constructive and critical.

The results will be included in an appendix to the LC Assessment which will appear on the RCA website later this year. Your comments and views are welcome at every stage of the preparation of the LC Assessment. Please feel free to contact the Co-coordinator and other members of the Group.

Alan Drinkwater—Co-ordinator, Landscape Character Assessment Group
Email: alan.drinkwater@btinternet.com Tel: 02392- 412066

Rowlands Castle Parish Photography Competition

1st Prize £25 2nd Prize £15

In each of Four categories:

VISTAS & VIEWS

WILDLIFE

BUILDINGS & OBJECTS

RECREATION

Take a photo within the Parish for inclusion
in the Rowlands Castle
Landscape Character Statement

Send your photo(s)
with Caption, Location, Name, Contact number
To Sandra Hodgetts, 42 The Green
By 31st January 2012



Landscape Character Assessment

Some sad sights in Rowlands Castle

by Peter Stitson

During the Summer, Heather and I had the good fortune to be told of the forthcoming walks being organised by the Parish Landscape Assessment group. This activity will enhance the Parish Plan published a few years ago and is being compiled by Alan Drinkwater, Peter Mcdowell, Chris White and Sandra Hodgetts with specialised support from various experts.

There were five walks around various areas of the Village which I'm pleased to say showed us some areas which were completely foreign to us, despite our forty years of living in the village. Many topics were addressed and highlighted during the walks the most disappointing to me being the impact on our environment of "fly tipping".

I have taken some pictures which I would like to share with you and I'm sure you will all be equally shocked at the blatant nature of this most unsatisfactory anti- social behavior.



Sad sights: A plastic chair and wooden pallets dumped in The Holt; refuse on the Gold Course footpath; debris dumped in Stanssted Forest neat Woodberry Lane. Just three of eight equally dismal dump sites photographed around the Village.

Photos by Peter Stitson

Roman Glass in Finchdean Road

by Mark Seaman

I went on the field walk organised by the Rowlands Castle Association and the Historical Society. We were looking for prehistoric flints, of which I found one. However I also found some Roman Glass. At first sight it appears like a stone with an iridescent sheen. However on holding it up to the light, it is possible to see it is transparent with a green colour.

Afterwards I found out that the iridescence is caused by weathering, and only very ancient glass forms the layers to cause this effect. It indicates that there were Roman villas in the area.

However glass was very common in Roman times. Today we deride things made of plastic as common. Would you invite friends round to dinner and give them plastic cutlery? The Romans felt the same way about glass. The lower classes used glass whilst the upper and middle classes used gold and silver. It was considered an insult to serve your guests wine in glass goblets or beakers. So I'm afraid the Roman villas were probably lower middle class!

Piece of a Roman glass vessel found by Mark on the fieldwalk.

Photos: Mark Seaman



Amateur archaeologists gather at The George in Finchdean in search of prehistoric flints.

This year's fieldwalk was an impromptu get together of interested Villagers, organised by Magazine editor, Richard Milton, RCA Chair Catherine Billam, and Historical Society Secretary, Paul Marshman.

A similar event is being organised for August 26 2012, so if you're interested in local archaeology put the date in your diary now and watch the RCA Noticeboard for confirmation nearer the time. Contact either Richard Milton on 9241 3292 or Paul Marshman at 9241 2028.

St John's Churchyard survey

Grassland Survey of St. John's Churchyard by Suzie Lockyer

The churchyard at St John's, Rowlands Castle is a special place for biodiversity with over 60 plants and many accompanying bumblebees and insects as well as a much-used garden of remembrance and active churchyard. This is a quick survey to list the plants found in the grassland and indicate its value for conservation. The list was made just before cutting in early summer and more species are likely to be found in the future. The grassland is a relict of old grassland, full of grass and wild flower species. The very large Oak tree is a landscape feature with a mini-woodland habitat beneath. Oak trees can support up to 200 types of insect and the base of the perimeter hedges support more plant species.

A large variety of plants have developed in this grassland perhaps because of the different stone used in the graves giving pockets of more alkaline and more acid soils. For instance the Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Birds-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), identified by the "Y-shaped" hairs on the leaves under a hand lens, indicate a more limey or chalky alkaline soil where these occur. Whereas the Cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and possibly Field Woodrush (*Luzula campestris*) and particularly Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) indicate a slightly acid soil. Most of the species indicate a dry soil, one example is the prevalent Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*). The plants indicate it to be an old meadow or pasture, a historical remnant of grassland dating back to when grasslands were traditionally managed for hay by cutting or grazing creating the matrix of lots of different species.

One old grassland indicator found is Betony (*Stachys officinalis*) which was noted in



May in the sward but found in abundance flowering in August with Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*). These were growing together in the area between the newer graves and the compost heap at the south end nearest the war memorial.

The Oak tree is probably over 150 years old and forms a very special feature. This forms a mini-woodland habitat of plants. There are a lot of Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) and some Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepia*)

St John's Churchyard survey

which are all ancient woodland indicators. There are Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides* species). Bulbs have been added for a spring display.

The areas adjacent to the hedges are a valuable habitat with some different species. These include Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*) and Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) at the base of the east hedge which is on a bank and west facing.

A total of 7 species of butterfly have been seen so far. There were many Common Blue butterflies and the flowers in the grassland have attracted a lot of bumblebees.

While no rare species were found, it is of biodiversity value to find so many species of grassland, hedge and woodland plants in a small area which has been traditionally managed with cutting and without the addition of fertilisers and weedkillers. The National Vegetation Classification done on one area of the grassland indicated it to most closely resemble an MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus*-*Centaurea nigra* grassland. This type of grassland is becoming increasingly rare due to agricultural improvement although it is still widespread. Churchyards are a place where fragments of this type of grassland still exist. There is estimated to be less than 4000 hectares of MG5 in the UK. (Crofts and Jefferson, 1994) To have trees and hedges adjacent to such grassland is also of value to insects and birds. If allowed to flower the plants would attract more butterflies, bumblebees and other insects. Once the grassland was flowering seven types of butterflies were seen and many grasshoppers and bumblebees. The grassland is an old grassland with just over 40 species around the graves and additional species in the base of the hedgerow and under the oak tree. There are several ancient woodland species such as Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), and Wood Vetch (*Vicia sepia*) under the Oak tree making this of value. There were many bumblebees, as expected in a flowery meadow and one bumblebee nest was seen in one of the holes. The uneven topography creating microclimates of warm and cooler slopes allows more plant variety and insect habitat. Allowing the grass to grow longer has attracted a lot of grasshoppers and other insects.



Rollies Toddler Group

Rollies going strong after 25 years

by Anita King

Rowlands Castle Community Toddler Group (Rollies) has been running for over 25 years and provides a valuable service to residents of Rowlands Castle and the surrounding areas. We welcome children from birth to 4+ years of age and it's not just mums who come along, we see dads, grandparents, childminders and nannies too.

We meet 10 to 11.30am on Tuesdays, during term time in the large Parish Hall and have use of an enclosed garden at the rear of the hall. Attending a new group can be daunting for many people and we aim to provide a warm welcome to newcomers.

Children settle in quickly and enjoy the wide range of toys provided to support childhood development through creative, physical, imaginative and manipulative play. We have a separate baby soft play area. Thanks to the Rowlands Castle Fete committee's generous donation of £350 we were able to purchase some lovely new toys this year.

Children and grown ups have the opportunity to get creative with a different craft each week and can enjoy using a variety of tools and materials, including some that are edible! We have a 'Paint a Pot' event twice a year, and make Christmas decorations to adorn the Christmas tree on the green.

We hold a number of events throughout the year including the Rollies Christmas Party. The group traditionally meet at the Christmas tree on the green to sing carols and hang our decorations, then on to the hall for refreshments, games and a visit from Santa Claus. Many thanks again to the Rowlands Castle Association who funded last year's Christmas party.

Rollies is a non profit making group and is run on a voluntary basis by the parents and carers that attend the group. We have a committee of 6 members who organize and oversee the running of the group and funding is through a small entrance fee of £2 per family, per week. This includes refreshments for adults and children as well as all craft materials.



Why not come along to one of our sessions, just turn up on the day or, for further details about specific events contact Anita on 02392 412312

A New Year date - for your Diary

Rowlands Castle Association Quiz Night!

$E=MC^2$

~~Gordon Brown~~
Dave Cameron!

Portsmouth FC

Mickey Mouse?



**Saturday
February 4th**

Bikeability comes to St John's school

by Carla Butcher

Back in the summer months of June, some of you may have seen groups of children in high-viz jackets standing on roadsides or cycling around Rowlands Castle.

So what were we up to? It was year 6 pupils from St Johns Primary School taking part in the Bikeability scheme. The course was run by me, Carla Butcher, National Standards Bikeability Instructor and assisted by Jon, Accredited Community Safety Officer, Hampshire County Council and funded by Havant and Waterlooville Schools Sport Partnership with a grant from the Youth Sport Trust.

During our trips round the village, local residents and passers-by came out to talk to the children, enquiring what we were doing. Everyone was very positive and thought it was good to see the children doing some exercise, in the fresh air and rain, learning a valuable life skill. Thank you to all the considerate car drivers and the understanding residents of the local roads we used. Bikeability is Cycling Proficiency for the 21st Century, designed to give the next generation, the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads.

One of the principal differences is that training takes place mostly riding on-road so that trainees, whether children or adults, learn how to interact safely with other road –users. Through the development of their skills and understanding, the children should now be able to make journeys safely to school, to visit their friends or just enjoy riding their bikes for fun. All the children that were out on the road with us had already passed their level 1. This taught the children how to do a basic bike check to ensure the bike is roadworthy and then they all completed some fun exercises on the playground to test their basic skills and bike control.

We then moved out onto quiet roads and looked at managing road junctions, riding positions and, to gain their Level 2 award, they had to demonstrate an understanding of safe riding strategy. There is also a Level 3 award that can be done later on that covers roundabouts and more complicated roads. Even though we had a few heavy showers, and all got a bit wet it did not dampen the children's spirits and they all participated with much

enthusiasm. A majority passed their Level 2 awards and received their badge and certificates, presented by Mrs P-H in assembly.

If you need some professional training or would like to know more about Bikeability then please contact Carla Butcher. Email: carla.louise@sky.com



Rowlands Castle Painting Society

A productive summer for painters

by Terry Devaney

It has been another productive and interesting Summer for the members, who enjoyed visiting different locations across the region for their Picnic/Painting days out. The weather as usual, was not always clement but that didn't dampen the artists' spirits. Gill Dollery and Elizabeth Rogers organised the different venues, the summer outings certainly catered for all interests.

Bob Payne, Gill Dollery, Ann Webber and Jeannie Hadwen exhibited their work at the annual Rowland's Castle Summer Fair, which was a good opportunity for members of the public to get to know about the Society. Jeannie Hadwen has been particularly successful this year winning three very prestigious awards, the Patchings Artelier interactive award, the Marwell International Society Best British Wildlife award and the Josephine Majella Mixed Media award.

Towards the end of the outdoor painting days, Peter Foster held a workshop in the Parish Hall on acrylic painting using a palette knife, this was well attended and proved to be very popular. Members are now meeting in the Parish Hall as the new Winter programme is now underway. The Society is open to all and welcomes new members regardless of ability. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays between 2pm and 4pm there is a workshop, followed by an evening Demonstration by a professional artist this runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. On Intermediate Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm, there is a Life and Portrait drawing session.

The next big exhibition and Sale of work will take place in the Spring of next year. If



you are interested in what the society has to offer, please come and join us and meet with like-minded people.

The annual subscription is £25.00.

More details of the Society can be found on the website: rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.org.uk or to join ring the membership secretary Ann Webber on: 02392412599.



St John's Church

Welcoming our new Vicar

by Daphne Youngs

It came like a bolt from the blue - the news took us all by surprise. (A pleasant one, I hasten to add.) Barely into our interregnum following Dennis Lloyd's retirement, we were suddenly told that we had an imminent appointee as Associate Vicar, who had already spent some years working within the village. In July the church was full for his Licensing Service, where the Area Dean and the Arch Deacon officiated, and he was welcomed by members of the church and the wider community (see photos). Rev Trevor Filtness runs a business in the village, above Hall's garage. He and his wife Rosemary both met when in the Navy, but it was only a few years ago that he became ordained in the Anglican church, and has since been part of a team at Farlington. He is a self supporting Minister, neither living in the Rectory nor receiving a salary, as he has a full time job already.

Despite his busy workload, he has thrown himself into the life of St John's with enthusiasm and verve, losing no time in visiting the school and inviting the children to call him 'Trev the Rev', getting to know as much as he can and as many people as he can within the village. He is generally taking both the 8 am and the 10 am services with just one Sunday a month off. We have to encourage him to pace himself! He is blessed with both a booming voice and a good sense of humour. Do come and meet him!

The summer included our own version of Songs of Praise. No, we did not have the BBC cameras here, but we did have a sold out Cream Tea in the Church Centre first, and it was lovely to see so many old friends and new. The Songs were requested by different members of the congregation and included many favourites. Each was introduced by its nominee, which

made for some poignant stories. Interspersed throughout the singing were readings from a variety of different

Bible translations, including the Cockney Version (strictly more a paraphrase than a translation) which was so ably read in a true Cockney voice by our inimitable mimic Graham Mitchell that it was hard to refrain from clapping. Even Klingon had a look in, to the joy of the



St John's Church

two Star Trek fans in the audience. It was great to have so many from around the village enjoying it with us. Harvest was celebrated with a difference this year. Instead of bedecking the church with masses of fresh flowers and produce - although it still looked beautiful - we focussed on collecting non perishable food stuffs for distribution amongst the poor and needy via the Food Bank, run by the Beacon Church in Havant.



Archdeacon Trevor Reader, Area Dean Jonathan Jeffery, Rev Chris Abott, Readers Peter Raley, Zoe Skinner and Mary Close; Church Wardens Lizzie Graddige and newly-appointed John Skinner, with Rev Trevor Filtness (centre).

Photos: Emma Youngs

About 1.5cwt of non perishables - 243 items - were collected. Fresh produce also was welcomed with delight by the Two Saints organisation who run a canteen near St Mary's hospital catering for the 'homeless, jobless and hopeless'. At Trevor's instigation we are going to continue to collect for the Food Bank on a regular basis. He has had experience of working alongside some extreme poverty, seeing mothers who go without food in order to feed their children. Astonishing though it may seem in our welfare society, there are still some who slip between the gaps and go hungry in modern Britain. A special collection for the East Africa Crisis raised nearly a thousand pounds, and after a Harvest Supper in October, there was also a whip round which raised funds to buy furniture for a family in Kabbubu, Uganda, where they have only beds, but no table or chairs. Approaching Christmas, plans are afoot for another Christmas Tree Festival. This will run from Thursday December 8th to Sunday 11th, and the designated charity to benefit this year is the Hampshire Air Ambulance. Opening Service will be at 7.30 with the Bishop of Portsmouth in conjunction with Hampshire Air ambulance. On December 9th at 2pm is the School Christmas Service and at 7.30 pm Havant Light Opera. On 10th from 10 - 5 is a Christmas Market and at 7.30 pm Quiz Night with Ploughman's supper. On Sunday 11th. At 7.30pm is a Concert by Highbury Youth Band. The Tree Display is open for viewing from 10 - 5 Friday and Saturday; 12 - 5 Sunday. Entrance £1 and festival brochures are available from the office. **Tickets for the concerts are £5 from the Church Office (023 9241 2964); for the Quiz Supper £7 from the Office or from Carol on 023 9241 2321.**

Local History

Mr Diddy, Mr Bone and Mr Knapp by Paul Marshman, Secretary, Historical Society

Pinning down the exact boundaries of the area that today we call Forestside is not as easy as it seems. In the Nineteenth century, Dean Lane End was called Forest Gate, and Forestside was the name given to the stretch of road past Drews Farm and South Holt Farm up as far as Diddy Bones Knapp. The area that today we call Forestside was then known as Northwood.

Forestside Church, called Christ Church, was built in 1856 when a new ecclesiastical parish was formed from parts of Up Marden, Racton and Stoughton. The school was built soon after, in 1857, both church and school founded by Charles Dixon of Stansted House – a noted benefactor throughout the area.

One of the new church's first ministers was John Hawker, who a contemporary calls "a fascinating preacher". Hawker must also have been ambitious because he found his church "not sufficiently large for his congregation". He thus left St John's Redhill (that is, Rowlands Castle, of course) and came to Forestside.

Centre of village life was The Robin Hood pub (pictured). It was only when the pub was closed in the 1960s that the Railway Hotel in Rowlands Castle was able to change its name to the Robin Hood we know. There was also a village stores and post office, and letters franked "Forestside" are a collectors item.

The purchase of the land and farms by the Clarke-Jervoise Estate in 1807 led to the growth of the area and it was probably about this time that the name Northwood was dropped. Nonetheless, Northwood was a hamlet with a manor house. Around 1580 it be-

The Robin Hood pub in Forestside closed down in the 1960s—and Rowlands Castle inherited the name.

longed to the Earl of Arundel and by 1687 to a Gentleman of Stoughton, when it comprised a manor house, barns, gardens and orchard of about 380 acres. About 135 acres of this original estate was the area bought by the Clerk-Jervoise estate in 1761.

Space precludes me from mentioning other Forestside oddities including the vinyard, the oil well or the Shoe Lady. And Diddy Bones Knapp? Diddy's Farm was taken over by a Mr Bone, who did not stay long, and a Mr Knapp took over.



1st Rowlands Castle Scouts

Fun, adventure and achievement for Scouts

by Ian Hawke, Group Scout Leader

So, why do over 40 (and growing) children put on their Scout Uniform each week? Independent of section or age range, there are three main elements that make up each meeting all linked together within a structured programme. First is fun. No matter what we do, if we do not make the activity enjoyable then the young people will not stay in the movement. Fun comes from a number of factors including variety, organisation, the opportunity to take on responsibility, working in teams, but mainly from doing something different.

If you ask a group of young people what they view as an adventurous activity, you will get a range of answers. However the common theme is something that the individual views as “risky” and “challenging” for them. Scouting provides the opportunity for young people to stretch and test themselves in a safe and structured environment under the guidance of qualified instructors.

Rafting (shown here) and climbing are just two of the activities at a Camp attended by members of the Rowlands Castle Scout Group held in June 2011.



As well as adventure and achievement at Scout activities, there is always room for fun!

Photos: Ian Hawke

In Scouting we understand that achievement is very much an individual thing. Some viewed the climbing wall as something to scramble up (safely!), whilst for others you could see the real challenge they faced to overcome their reluctance to make it to the top.

We recognise achievement with the awarding of badges, whether these be for hobbies, completing challenges aimed at stretching the individual’s ability and knowledge, year badges that show how long they have been an active member of Scouting and the Chief Scout’s Awards, the top award that they can gain in each age section.

If you’d like to find out more about what we do then please call Ian Hawke, Group Scout Leader on 023 9246 2786.



St John's School

All the fun of the fair

by Francesca Wade-Palmer

Years 5 and 6 from St John's CEC Primary school had an exciting start to their DT topic on Fairgrounds when they visited Hollycombe Steam Fair one bright day in October. Later this term Years 5 and 6 will design and create their own fairground – in miniature of course - so what could be better than a day out at a real fair!

The Fairground topic enables children to gain an understanding of how mechanisms work, using belts and pulleys, and to learn more about control using electricity and an electric motor. Visiting Hollycombe really helps children's appreciation of mechanisms because, unlike most modern fairs and theme parks, the mechanisms of each ride at Hollycombe are clearly visible.

The Hollycombe Steam Collection is the largest traditional Heritage Fairground in Britain, and includes a fully working steam fairground, narrow gauge and miniature steam railways. The collection is run by volunteers who keep the Edwardian Fairground working as it did a century ago.

The late John Baldock, who had purchased the Hollycombe estate in 1951, had developed a love of steam power from an early age. He began to purchase steam engines when they started being sold for scrap. By the 1960s he had started saving traditional fairground rides before the beautifully decorated rides and organs, and their engines were lost forever.

The resulting collection is unique

The Children really enjoyed their talk about the history of fairgrounds by a Hollycombe Steam volunteer especially when he took them on the Golden Gallopers and asked them to look up and see which particular pole and joint was making their horse go up and down. In another demonstration the children



were shown the fundamentals of how steam is used as a controllable force to move engines and wheels.

Other than the Golden Gallopers, which were a particular favourite with everybody including accompanying adults, children had the opportunity to experience the Steam Chair-O-planes, Hall of Mirrors and Steam Operated Haunted House. The children's favourite however – despite or perhaps because of its sickmaking ability – was the Steam Neptune Yacht which was a forerunner of today's Pirate Ship.

In addition we had a train ride, steam driven of course, through part of the lovely Hollycombe Estate.

Years 5 and 6 duly returned to St John's exhausted and happy and, importantly, brimming with ideas for their own Fairground ride!

Years 5 and 6 learn something about steam power and how their grandparents used to have fun, on a school outing to Hollycombe Steam Fair. All the rides were saved from scap by John Baldock.



Gardening Notes

Get ready for Winter

by Pat Carter

Now is the time to tidy up your garden for the Winter. And your bulbs should have been planted! Rake up all the leaves and compost them. Lawns should hopefully not need cutting again until next Spring – although at the time of writing we are still getting some very mild weather.

Give the lawn its Autumn feed, and make sure you clean the mower before storing it away until next year. It is advisable to try to Winter dig your vegetable plot and borders when the weather is dry. The frost and cold will break up the soil and kill off some of the bugs.

Don't cut your penstemons, grasses and hydrangeas down yet – wait until Spring as the plants need a little protection during the cold months. Plant out roses in a mixture containing bone meal and peat. Autumn prune climbing roses and Virginia Creeper. Reduce height of hybrid-floribunda roses by one-third to prevent wind rock. Plant fruit trees and bushes. On sunny days, ventilate your greenhouse.

I was invited to photograph a Victoria plum tree which had been blown down in April and had split right through the trunk. In August, however, the branches on the ground were covered in beautiful large plums!

Start planning your garden in the Winter months and get ahead by Spring!

This Victoria plum tree was blown down in April—yet by August the fallen branches were covered with beautiful Victoria plums!

Photo Pat Carter



Saint John's

Christmas Tree Festival 2011



You are warmly invited to come and see our spectacular display of decorated Christmas trees at St John's the Baptist Church, Rowlands Castle, from the 9th to the 11th December, 2011.

Nearly 30 local organisations will be taking part and displaying their own individually designed masterpieces. The Festival opens at 7.30 pm on Thursday 8nd Dec with a service in conjunction with Hampshire Air Ambulance and will run until Sun 11th Dec.

All visitors are welcome to view the tree display - open from 10am - 5 pm on Friday 9th and Sat 10th, and 12 pm - 5pm on Sun 11th. Admission is £1 - and Festival brochures can be obtained from the Parish Office (tel: 023 9241 0111).

EVENTS PROGRAMME

Thursday 8 Dec	7.30pm	Opening service with the Bishop of Portsmouth
Friday 9 Dec	2.00pm	School Christmas Service
	7.30 pm	Concert by Havant Light Opera*
Saturday 10 Dec	10 am-3 pm	Christmas market
	7.30 pm	Quiz night with Supper*
Sunday 11 Dec	7.30 pm	Concert by Highbury Area band *

* Tickets are available either from the Parish Office (023 9241 0111) or by calling Carol on 023 9241 2321 Tickets cost £5 for each of the concerts, & £7 for the Quiz supper

St John the Baptist Church

120 Redhill Road, Rowlands Castle, Hampshire PO9 6ED

Tennis Club News

Successful season on the tennis courts

by Mark Cooter, Chairman RCTC

We have had a successful season at the tennis club. We have seen an upsurge in the numbers attending the twice weekly Club Nights, the junior and adult coaching has been as popular as ever, and the club competitions culminated on the Finals Weekend on 10 & 11 Sep. Some 60 or so people played, watched or umpired over the weekend and the weather was considerably better than forecast, so we were able to complete all the scheduled matches.

We traditionally celebrate the end of the summer season with a social event at which the tournament winners are presented with their trophies. This year the Presentation Evening was held on 14 October in the small Parish Hall.

Our mixed doubles team won its last match of the season (by a resounding 9-0!) and finished second in Portsmouth & District League Division 3. (Alright, it's not exactly the Premier League, but it's not bad for a little village club!)

Over the winter the club has entered a number of teams in local leagues and, due to popular demand, we are trying to continue club sessions this year over the usually closed season on Saturday afternoons, from 2 to 4 (or later if the light holds!). There will be a published timetable on the web site showing the match/ social tennis schedule. One court

Mixed Doubles finalists, Richard Ainscow, Gill Clarke, Jane Whitaker, Matt Bennett.

is always available for public use during the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bookings and payment for use can be made through The Castle Stores on The Green. For membership enquiries contact Membership Secretary, Michelle Harpur on 023 9241 413566 Email: membership@rctc.co.uk

For general enquiries check out the web site www.rctc.co.uk or contact: Club Secretary, Alan Best on 01243 389443



Come and support your football team! by Stephen Crooks, Secretary Castle United

Castle United is a chartered status football club. Building on last seasons double success of achieving promotion from division 2 and winning the Havant Sunday Football League Junior cup, the club is running two teams in the Havant Sunday League this season.

The first team are in the 1st Division whilst the newly formed reserve team will be competing in the third division. Both teams consist of mainly 16 - 24 year old players who have come through our youth set up with the odd older player thrown in to add their knowledge and experience.

All of our Home games are played at Rowlands Castle recreation ground on Sunday mornings and we always welcome spectators from the village to come and support the club.

Last season, Castle United Football Club achieved a double success – winning the Havant Sunday League for 2010-2011 and achieving promotion from Division 2.



Building on last year's success, the Club is fielding two teams this year—the First Team pictured above, and the Reserve Team (below).

Good Neighbours

How Good Neighbours lend a hand by Ian Hewitt, Chairman, Good Neighbours

First, a very big thank you to Sonya Teale who has chaired the village Good Neighbours group since David Clegg's untimely death in 2004. Sonya has been an untiring source of encouragement and leadership to the committee, helpers and co-ordinators and we are enormously grateful for all she has done for the organisation. Although she has handed over chairmanship of the committee she continues as a volunteer. Thank you, again, Sonya.

Sheila Johnson (Chief Coordinator), Jill Hewitt (Coordinator & Volunteer) and Ian Hewitt ((New) Chairman) recently attended the Hampshire Good Neighbours AGM in Winchester – a most interesting day.

The Good Neighbours Support Service is funded (mostly) by Hampshire County Council and the NHS and administered from the diocesan offices in Portsmouth. At the AGM, Mary Mitchell, County Coordinator reminded us that each group is independent and entirely run by volunteers. In 2010/11 there were over 120 groups with 3,599 registered volunteers who between them completed 108,156 tasks throughout the county.

These included: transport to hospitals, GPs or medical appointments (approx) 50 per cent, transport to lunch clubs 23 per cent, transport to shops, libraries, visit relatives etc, 12 per cent, coffee mornings, afternoon clubs etc 6 per cent. Other tasks included dog walking, collecting library books, gardening, sitting for carers, small errands, home repairs

The village Good Neighbours group, including Finchdean & Dean Lane end has 9 coordinators and 35 volunteers who, last year carried out 268 tasks for 35 clients

A NHS nutritionist gave a most interesting talk on food for elderly people. Her message was quite simple: many elderly people just do not eat enough! While most people eat too much, with obesity and diabetes as major problems, many of today's elderly (the silent generation who endured the war and post-war rationing) are conditioned to eat 'healthy' and 'lite' foods of low calorific value. Debbie's message was that cakes and puddings are good for you. (According to Chairman Revd Nick Ralph, everyone's face lit up at these words.) If we, as Good Neighbours volunteers, shop for clients, then we should try to ensure that they have a sufficient energy foods such as good puds, custard, milky drinks etc. NHS workers have found that many elderly get unnecessarily tired because they just do not eat enough. It certainly runs counter to our culture of calorie-conscious diets and slimmers' meals – food for thought ...

We had a most helpful presentation on the Analogue to Digital switchover of TV channels to take place in our area next March. All households should get letters about it; there are plenty of avenues for getting help.

Nick Ralph came up with an interesting statistic on Social trends; this year and next, 2011 & 2012, are the two years when more people, the post-war Baby Boomer generation,

Good Neighbours



born just after the war, will reach retirement age than ever again. More people with lots of energy still, and more time on their hands.

More volunteers are needed Some of our volunteers have been doing it since the scheme started in the village 22 years ago. Regrettably, some have retired due to age (reaching 80), infirmity or moving away and a few more volunteers would really help

Being a GN volunteer is easy. It need take only 1 hour per month and is always entirely at your convenience. **For more details please contact Sheila Johnson (023 9241 2705) or Ian Hewitt (023 9241 2941)**

And Lastly – if you know of anyone who may need help - for example, with: Transport to hospital, or library, or to go shopping? Collection of a prescription? Transport to a club or social event? Some company for a chat, or to play a game? Walking a pet, or any other neighbourly activity? **Then please remind them of our help line 0845 519 6641 and ask them to give at least 48 hours notice (if possible) of their need – particularly at weekends**

Girl Guiding

Glad we could help!

Here at the Village Magazine we're always pleased to hear if the publicity we've given Village organizations has been successful. A case in point is the Girl Guides and Brownies which had ceased to operate in Rowlands Castle. As a result of the article in the Summer edition of the Magazine, 2nd Rowlands Castle Brownie Pack has now reopened and will be meeting in term time on Thursdays from 5-6.30pm. 2nd Rowlands Castle Guides meets in term time on Thursdays 6.15-7.45pm.

For for information about either unit please contact Jane: tel: 023 9259 5280, email: girlguiding.horndean@ntlworld.com

Domestic heating advice

Cutting costs on the plumbing front

by Nic Radcliffe

In this issue I want to tell you about a couple of new ideas in the plumbing and heating world, and a cunning plan to get the most out of a government incentive.

The first new product fixes two problems with ordinary water softeners. As you probably know, we are in a hard water area. Until now, water softeners have needed topping up with salt - one customer estimated he spent £30 a month on salt - and the softened water wasn't drinkable so you'd need a separate feed from the mains to go to the kitchen tap. Now there's a new water softener that doesn't need topping up with salt and most importantly produces water that is drinkable. The manufacturer even claims it's good for you. So if you've ever thought of having a water softener, I'd say this is the time.

The second new idea I want to talk about is for boiler condensing pipes. I'm sure many of you had problems last winter with your condensing pipes freezing up and subsequently your boiler stops working right when you need it most. Well fear no more, there is now a

Nic Radcliffe: two new ideas can save on your plumbing and heating bills this winter.

new product called a 'trace heater'. It is a small wire that fits to the condensing pipe with a thermostatic sensor. When the temperature drops down cold enough the wire heats up just enough to stop the water in the pipe freezing and keep your boiler going even in the snow.

Now for a story from the front. A customer has had PV solar panels fitted free from the government. His agreement with the provider is that in return for the power generated he gets free electricity during the daytime. Unfortunately, being out at work all day, he hasn't really been benefitting as much as he would like.

Our cunning plan however has been to fit a timer to his immersion heater to heat his hot water tank during the day for free! He's been very happy in the reduction in his bills.

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



Why exercise can help beat arthritis

by Juliette O’Hea

Did you know that there is a World Arthritis Day every year? This year it was on October 12th. Here are some further facts that you might find interesting about Arthritis.

There are 200 different types of arthritis. Examples include *osteoarthritis (OA)*. OA can be broken down into primary OA (with an hereditary component) and secondary OA (a result of increasing age, over use and injury) *rheumatoid arthritis (RA)*. RA affects the joints in a different way, inflaming the soft tissues around them. Pain and swelling often starts in the hands and feet. *ankylosing spondylitis (AS)*. AS is predominantly a spinal arthritis but it can affect other joints too.



Extra bone formation can result in the joints fusing together.

Whatever arthritis you have, it can be diagnosed by your GP or rheumatologist who will take a thorough history, look at your affected joints, and take blood tests and x-rays. You will then be referred to a physiotherapist for an assessment and advice.

Some arthritic conditions have a hereditary component but most do not. Arthritis can start at any age. Did you know that there are approx 12,000 children with arthritis and around 27,000 people under 25 with arthritis in the UK?

Pain, restriction of movement and fatigue are the most common symptoms. At the moment, there is no cure for arthritis. However, there are many ways of treating the symptoms of arthritis. There is also much you can do to protect your joints and keep mobile with medication and self-management techniques, such as taking regular exercise (eg attending an exercise class, swimming, nordic walking) and by maintaining a healthy diet.

Some useful contacts

Arthritis Research UK www.arthritisresearchuk.org

Arthritis Care www.arthritiscare.org.uk

National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society www.nass.co.uk

Juliette O’Hea, Chartered Physiotherapist lives in Rowlands Castle and runs arthritis exercise classes in the locality. She can also advise you on a 1:1 basis in the comfort of your own home. email: physio@arthritisfirst.co.uk tel: 02392 413885/07974 238787

Church on the Green

A fresh approach to Christmas

by Ken White, Presiding Elder

The Countdown is well under way! The number of shopping days until Christmas is getting less and less. This is the period when we are asking ourselves “How on earth am I going to fit everything in?” Maybe, just maybe, we are also wondering where the money will come from to pay for all the extras. Whether you anticipate the annual festival with foreboding or pleasurable expectation here are some great opportunities to capture the true spirit of Christmas.

Our 2011 Christmas celebration kicks off on Wednesday December 14th at 7.30.pm. The Portsmouth City Band has been giving our celebrations a rousing start for 39 years! This year is no exception. Admission is free but each year we take up a collection for Neuroblastoma. Some years ago one of the young band members was taken ill with this malignant cancerous tumour that develops from nerve tissue and occurs in infants and children. That young lad is now a grown man and still playing a musical instrument although not in this area but we still collect for this very worthy cause.

A warning given earlier this year about space hardware likely to fall out of the sky was nothing compared to what happened to a group of shepherds working out in the fields at night! I am sure most of us know the rest of that story and have witnessed a number of different versions of it performed by excited and eager young people. “Who left the door open?” is the title of our celebrations this year and sets the theme for our Christmas services. It is a fresh approach to this well loved story with traditional readings and carols. Please come and join us either on Christmas Eve at 11.30. pm. or on Christmas Day at 10.15.am or on both occasions. Each of these services will last for 45 minutes only. In the mean while it is a pleasure for me to wish the producers and everyone reading this magazine a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

St Michael's Church

For all Roman Catholics in the Rowlands Castle area, your parish is served by the church of St Michael and All Angels, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park. We now have a new parish priest, Father Paul Leonard who was previously a priest in Southampton. Father Joe has now left and moved to a Parish in Fareham. Masses at St Michael's are held at 6pm on a Saturday and 10am on a Sunday.

If you wish your child to attend a Catholic School, the parish is served by St Thomas More's Roman Catholic Primary School, Hooks Lane, Bedhampton. PO9 3DR.

PTA plans fund-raisers for 2012

by Sue Arnold, Chair, PTA

At the start of a new school year, St John's PTA has been busy planning its fundraising events for 2011/12. Over the past 3 years we raised money for our School Library which is now completed and the school are very proud of its latest addition.

We are now concentrating on raising money for the development of the outside area of the school, which is also part of St John's School Improvement Plan. Sadly, our Deputy Head teacher, Sue Miness passed away earlier this year and it was her wish for the PTA to help fund and oversee the implementation of play equipment for the older children of the school. A big thank you goes to all friends, family and colleagues of Sue who have already donated generously to the play equipment fund. We hope to add to this over the next year through various fund raising events with the aim of getting the play area built by the end of this academic year. A fitting tribute to a very sadly missed teacher.

Our first fundraising event for this year is a Bingo Evening on the 11th November. This will be open to families from the school and village and promises to be fun for everyone. We will also be holding a Burns Night on Sat 28th January. This follows on from the success of a Burns Night held 2 years ago which was great fun. You can also support us at the NSPCC Xmas Fair, running the very popular Chocolate Tombola. We now have our own PTA Website, so if you would like any more information on us or the events we will be holding, please visit us at www.stjohnspta.com or come and see us at the school office.

Garden Club

Move for Garden Club

by June Halford

The Rowlands Castle Garden Club continues to flourish but regretfully we are moving from the Parish Hall to larger premises next year. From 18th January 2012 onwards we shall hold our monthly meetings at the Church on the Green, where we will have two rooms, enabling us to use the larger hall for our talks but also have the luxury to spill out into the adjoining smaller hall for refreshments and plant sales. We meet on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm from September – June for a full programme of garden related talks and occasional plant sales. The new Meeting Place is still right in the heart of the village, so look out for our programme and posters in the bus shelter and come and join us.

Contact June Halford 02392 412674 junehalford@gmail.com

Montessori School



Thumbs up from Ofsted

Our Nursery School has now been open since 26th April 2011 and we are delighted with the support and response we have received to date. The newly decorated small hall is perfect as our bright and airy classroom and all new parents that visit comment on its warm and welcoming feel. The large notice boards supply the perfect backdrop for displaying our children's art work, which has received positive feedback from other hall users. The large, fully enclosed garden has been greatly improved with new fencing and solid, secure new gates. The children have created a growing area with a raised vegetable bed and many flower filled pots which the children love to water. Our greatest achievement to date is the result of our Ofsted Inspection, we are extremely proud to have been allocated the grade of 'Good' for our first report. Very positive observations regarding our children's Learning and Development were very satisfying but our favourite comment must be 'Children squeal with delight as they dig up the carrots they have grown' The full report is available to read on our website www.villagemontessori.co.uk . Our numbers are steadily growing as word spreads throughout the local community and we have already started a waiting list for those wanting places in 2012. If you would like further information please **email Miss Jenna or Miss Jessie at village.montessori@yahoo.co.uk or ring Miss Jenna on 07825290124**

Karate

Christopher Thompson, one of England's foremost exponents of traditional karate, established a club at the Parish Hall in Rowlands Castle since September 2010. Karate was initially geared for adults only, but over the last 20 years it has become extremely popular with youngsters, and now has international championships specifically for junior members. Traditional karate is an art which develops extreme fitness and confidence, as well as self-discipline and is practiced worldwide by all ages, male and female. Chris, who started his karate training in 1969 in London, has taught all over the world and has established his group in Ireland, Spain, Norway and the USA. He is the author of several books on karate and also produced several DVDs. He moved into this area in the late 1980s, continuing to teach all over the UK and Europe. Attracting members from as far afield as Alton and Petersfield, Rowlands Castle is becoming a well established club. The club is now looking for new members of all ages. **Please contact Chris Thompson on 023 92453923. Website: www.btka.org.uk**

THE CHILDREN
OF ROWLANDS CASTLE
ARE INVITED TO THE R.C.A.

**CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

**FEATURING
MAGIC
MIKEY**

ON SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

16.00 - 18.00

AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL,
ROWLANDS CASTLE

Please bring a present clearly labelled
with the child's name

Contact Nicci Lucas on 07970259664
for more information and tickets

£1 per child (suitable for 0-6 year olds)

Horndean Musical Society

Start of an exciting new season

by Irvin Draycott, Hon. Treasurer

The 57th Season of Concerts presented by the Horndean Music Society opened on Thursday, 6th October, 2011, but before I comment on the performances planned for the new season I must make reference to the highly accomplished and enjoyable performances that gave the Society such an outstanding season last year. We are fortunate indeed to be able to attract such a rich pool of musical talent. I think that our members can also claim some credit because a number of last season's performers commented that they enjoyed playing to such a receptive audience. We will no doubt strive to maintain this reputation. Once again our Committee has attracted a number of last seasons performers to join us once again. These include Carey and Ivor Humphreys, Cathy Mathews and her String Quartet, The Meon Piano Trio, Anemos Wind Ensemble, Blendworth Brass Band and Peter Rhodes with his talented students from Southdowns College. In addition there will be debut performances from the "Kaleidoscope" Palm Court Trio, the Havant Light Opera Choir and an evening of Harp Music to complete the programme.

This impressive array of musical talent gives the prospect of another enjoyable and entertaining programme of musical events, clearly a light that should not be "hidden under the proverbial bushel". It would be helpful if readers could make it known to any of their music loving friends that these performances are open to them at an exceptionally reasonable price. As the Society's Hon Treasurer I am of course interested in the income from the concerts but I can assure our many music lovers that they will derive value from the music far in excess of the entry fee. Full details of the Concert Season, October 2011 – July 2012, will be available shortly on the RCA website. The Season will include some 10 concerts held in the Blendworth Church Centre, Blendworth Lane, Horndean on first Thursdays, except August and September. I look forward to seeing you there.

1st December The Christmas Concert.
Kaleidoscope The Palm Court String Quartet

5th January 2012 The Monington Trio
Karen Kingsley – piano Robert Blanken – Clarinet
Sue Anne Emerson – Cello

2nd February 2012 Piano duet, Eunice Pike – Piano
Mikhail Lezdkan – Cello
1st March Havant Light Opera John Butt and the HLO Choir.

For the 2011 – 2012 season members will pay £5.50 at the door, visitors £6.50
Membership subscription £3.00 Refreshments are available at the intervals

Speedwatch scheme 'hits the streets'

by PCSO Debbie Neesham

We are now proud to announce our 'Speedwatch' scheme has officially 'Hit our streets' with local volunteers targeting roads where we have received many speeding complaints. Groups of 3 equipped with a clip board and a speed monitoring device which can record speed of on coming traffic up to 130ft away, the device also shows up the speed of the vehicle so the driver can see it. Volunteers will record the details of speeding drivers and pass on these details to ourselves. Police will then send out advisory letters and/or visit the motorist at there home address. This is to educate the drivers initially and make our roads a safer place. If we continue to receive reports of speeding vehicles in our local area, The South of Butser beat officers who have just been trained in using speed guns will carry out further enforcement in the Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle area.



PCSO Debbie Neesham and Sgt Gavin Parkes man one of the first Speedwatch sites to go operational.

We are still looking for volunteers to take part in Speedwatch and are also asking local residents to contact us if you have any locations you would like to see the 'Speedwatch' team on. **Contact southofbutser.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or call 0845 045 45 45 and leave a message for the South of Butser team.**

PCSO 13377 Neesham, South of Butser , Waterlooville SNT , 0845 045 45 45

Successful fund raising for Rowans Hospice

Havant Support Group for Rowans Hospice held another highly successful Jumble Sale in the Parish Hall in October, attracting more than 170 people and raising more than £700 for the Hospice. The Group's golf day at Rowlands Castle Golf Club raised £810.56. A date for your diary is the Xmas arrangements afternoon on Thursday 1st December, demonstrated by Mrs. Christine Evans at St Johns Church Hall at 2.30pm. Tickets are £8.00 to include refreshments and the chance to win a Xmas Hamper

Enquiries to: Mrs. Jan Thomsett - Chairperson: Havant Support Group
Tel: 01292-412016 e.mail: jathomsett@aol.com

Womens Institute

Not all Jam and Jerusalem! by Sonya Teale, Rowlands Castle WI

What is your Image of the WI: Jam and Jerusalem and a slightly stuffy atmosphere or the Calendar Girls?

At the 65th Birthday of Rowlands Castle WI in May, the subject of our talk was 'History of Belly dancing', superbly demonstrated by Mrs Jane Piggott, wearing authentic costume. In September, we had the 'A History of jazz and jazz icons' with musical illustration. Shortly before it opened, a project manager gave an illuminating presentation on the Hindhead tunnel. Some of our members walked through prior to the road traffic.

Among other activities we have had outings to Chichester Festival Theatre and Kingston Lacy and the WI's own college, Denman.

Subgroups within the WI include Book Club, Drama, Embroidery, Scrabble, Craft and French Conversation. Meetings are held on a regular basis.

This year, the National Federation of WI (our overall body), has a 'Love your Libraries' campaign. It urged every member to take out a library book during September and to sign a petition for the continuation of local libraries.

Activities are not all serious! We have celebration lunches and cream teas. Last month, we had a very special tea to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs Marjorie Neate. She was presented with a beautiful birthday card, embroidered by Hazel Bee, and an album of photos covering her WI activities

Marjorie Neate celebrates her 100th birthday and 47 years membership of the WI. The RCA adds its congratulations to the many Marjorie received..

over her 47 years of membership, including the ceremonial planting of three trees on the Green. In reply to a toast, she gave a review of the years that she considered vintage for the WI and chose the 1960s. Throughout the year, we raise money for a local charity. This year we have two - Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Air Ambulance and Heartbreak House in Southampton. Usually, a sum in the region of £1000 is achieved. No, we are not a stuffy organisation but outgoing, forward looking and we have a keen sense of humour. New members always welcome.



Your views sought on Footpath 13

by Sam Darragh



Greetings, In the last few months I have been successful in getting some works accomplished around the parish, including the new hand rails and extra parking spaces in Kings Way off Manor Lodge Road. This was achieved after responding to local requests to make existing parking spaces safer. The double yellow lines have also been installed around the corner of Links Lane by the golf course, the Parish Hall and by The Green to improve safety around those corners.

I have been in discussions with the Parish Council and Hampshire County Council's Countryside team regarding access to the footpath in Wellsworth Lane (footpath 13). In brief, it has arisen that there is historical evidence that it is of a higher status than a footpath and that the path used to curve slightly, rather than a straight line. Since 2009 the County Council and the landowner have been discussing a way forward and one idea is to make it a bridleway with gates to prevent motorized vehicles and make the official path a straight line. Whilst no one has publically objected to the straight line being adopted, I am interested to hear parishioners thoughts on the rights of users using this path. The controversial decision is whether horse riders should have access and I would like to hear from anyone with an opinion or evidence to support either argument.

I have been monitoring the changes to opening times in library services. I understand that most residents use the Library in Waterlooville which is not changing however there are some reductions in service to the Library in Horndean and in Havant. This, coupled with the reduction in the number of mobile libraries sets a worrying trend. Although small reductions they equate to a gradual erosion of a much valued service.

Many residents have contacted me regarding the closure of Durrants Road, I have been working with the Highways office and the Police to ensure that the diversion had as little negative impact as possible, especially on Prospect Lane. Although frustrating as it is for it to be closed so long it is comforting to know that it is being done to prevent future flooding which has been so devastating in the past.

Finally I have donated funds from my County Councillors Budget towards the Rowlands Castle Landscape Character Assessment Group. This group plans to build upon the Parish Plan and the Visual Design Statement by conducting a Landscape Character Assessment. This will be used as a reference in future planning and can help protect areas, views and natural features of our landscape.

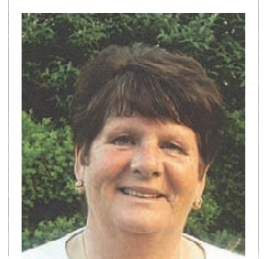
Please feel free to contact me

Sam Darragh

County Councillor Catherington (Horndean and Rowlands Castle)

Sam.darragh@hants.gov.uk 02392 592072

Let's fight against urbanisation by District Councillor, Marge Harvey



Dear Residents

As I write this article I am recovering from receiving a complete new knee which seems to be going well. I am aware of the pressure on our village for building more houses and depleting our green spaces and with the Oaklands development yet to be built, Keyline application now in, Keydell still to decide if they are going to appeal and now a crematorium right next to the Spire hospital, which is partly in Havant and partly in Rowlands Castle.

Let's first start with the Oaklands development. We still haven't received a full plan for this and until we do, we are not sure exactly what we are getting. Next is Keyline, the plan is now in and they would like to build 43 houses on the site. I have been to a site visit and there are many things that need to be addressed before this can be decided. First is the affordable housing. The developer does not wish to put any on the site, but as we found out with the Oaklands appeal, the government inspector said that as we are in the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) 40 per cent *must* be affordable. The developer says that the viability study will show that they cannot afford to put these homes there. My feeling is that if a large owner like Travis Perkins cannot afford to do this then why have we insisted on Oaklands doing it? This village *must* provide at least 25 affordable homes in the next 20 years and if we cannot get them here, then there isn't much chance of getting them anywhere else without more development, which I believed we will not need to do.

The only other thing that I am worried about is that the developer would like to give an amenity area and playground which is outside the settlement policy boundary, so that they will not have to give any money to the village for the open space that we already have to maintain. It really seems to me that the developer wants to be able to build and not give anything back to the village for the privilege. Do you think this is right?

Although I managed to get the Keydell application refused at East Hants, I hope that if and when they go to appeal that you will all come out to the appeal and show the Inspector that we, as a village, do not want Whichers Gate Road urbanised, and that there is no need for this Nursery to come to Rowlands Castle.

Lastly is the Crematorium that the Cooperative would like to build in Bartons Road. I will go to the meeting and will reserve my judgment until I see the full plans, but I will push for a public consultation in Rowlands Castle, because if this is built, then the traffic will, once again affect our village, as it will probably go along Whichers Gate Road.

The last item that many of you are now aware of is the license at the Shell garage. The neighbours and in fact, the Parish Council were not aware of this until it was almost too

District Council News

late. I am really, really, upset about the way this was handled and hope that the Parish Council will vote to go to appeal over this. It was decided that the garage is a convenience store, which we all know in the village, and people outside the village that I have spoken to about this also know, that it is primarily a petrol station, and if this had been decided on that fact, then this license would not have been passed. We now have to get evidence that this is the case, so if you are asked, then please make it your business to answer. Hopefully, the Parish Council will make the correct decision on behalf of the village.

As most of you will have read in the press, East Hants have moved to a single planning committee and I am not part of that committee, because I am already on more than 5 very busy committees, so everyone had to do something. This does not mean that I cannot try to protect Rowlands Castle. It actually means that I can speak openly from the start of any application without fear of being thrown off the committee for making up my mind before the debate and I can still sit at the table and debate the issues and try to persuade the committee, which was my role before, but it does mean that I cannot vote, but if I do my job properly, then that will be all that is needed.

The last thing to tell you, and I am sure that you will have read this in the press also, is that the government wants to reduce the number of MP's and as Meon Valley was the last constituency in, then the boundary commission want to abolish it.

The boundary commission would like to put us with Havant!!! Not something that I relish and indeed I will fight this one, because we are a rural area and Havant is urban and I worry that the next move will be to take us from East Hampshire Authority and put us completely with Havant. That would mean that we could lose the gap between us and Havant and it would probably be filled up with more housing, making it an urban sprawl and we would lose our identity as a village. I know that that is the worst scenario but if it seems logical to me, then I am sure that someone else will also see this.

I know that there is a lot to digest in this article, but please feel free to call me if there is anything that is not clear to you.

Hope you all have a very happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.

Marge

Parish Council News

Council is seeking to make economies by Parish Council Chairman, John Pickering

Regrettably, this article must commence with a note of disappointment and concern at the continuing vandalism in the village. Most notably, this applies to the damage to The King's Stone and also to the War Memorial at the top of Redhill Road. Attempts by one or two public spirited residents to overcome the adverse effects have been negated by further damage. The costs of repairing such monuments are high and will impact heavily on what the Council can afford to provide in other ways for the village. Please let the police know of any such vandalism. The Parish Council will give full support to the police in bringing those responsible to justice.

As will be widely known, the Keydell planning application for Mays Coppice Farm was rejected by one vote at EHDC Planning Committee. At the time of writing, there has been no response by the applicant, though we continue to explore some issues in case of further moves. By the time this letter is read, the Council will also have advised EHDC on the planning application to build some 43 homes on the Keyline site. It seems that both advantages and disadvantages may be identified for this proposal. The paperwork is substantial and particular thanks are due to Cllr Bill Wilson for leading our review. We were disappointed that, despite clear expressions of concern, the Shell garage at the top of Whichers Gate road was granted permission, by EHDC Licensing Committee, to sell alcohol (subject to certain restrictions) between 6 am and 10 pm every day. The critical ground leading to this was the finding that the primary use of the site is as a convenience store. So now we know!!

The Boundary Commission has proposed revisions to the local constituencies for national elections. The overriding criteria have been to lose 50 constituencies overall and to achieve greater equality of population size in each constituency. The proposals currently under consideration would see the disappearance of the Meon Valley constituency despite only having been established in time for the 2010 general election. Under the proposals, Rowlands Castle would become part of the Havant (and Emsworth) constituency. Horndean would become part of the Fareham constituency while Clanfield and Finchdean would be joined to the East Hampshire constituency. The Parish Council feels that Finchdean has a greater affinity with Rowlands Castle than with Clanfield and is suggesting that, for both District Council and national election purposes, Finchdean should be linked again with Rowlands Castle. We are emphasising that if, for national electoral purposes, Rowlands Castle becomes part of the Havant constituency, its separate identity, reinforced by the Havant Gap, must be preserved.

Following the resignation of Mrs Jennie Hanman in June, the Parish office has continued to be very well served by Mrs Claire Locke. We all owe her more than words can express for her contribution over this challenging time. I have particularly appreci

ated her loyalty, hard work and concern to ensure that all actions are properly taken and carefully thought through. Claire has been assisted by Lynne Tremlett who was an excellent colleague and now by Jonathan Law who is giving some help with the load until our new Clerk arrives.

Miss Lisa Walker is to be our new Clerk and will commence her work with the Council on 9th November. She moved to the village last year and has extensive experience in commerce and central government. She has a degree in English and Drama and has been actively involved in drama and music all her life. She currently uses her theatre training to coach corporate clients and private individuals on their presentation and communication skills, while also helping children prepare for school interviews. While Lisa settles into the role, we anticipate she will work a minimum of 15 hours a week. This will then be reviewed to establish whether we need more hours. Claire will continue to provide the two days a week which is her regular (and preferred) commitment to us.

In response to public request, we will hope to open the Parish office to members of the public on four mornings per week, from mid-November. However, I am sure it will be recognised that a single room office is not conducive to work on other aspects of the Council's responsibilities if there is a continuous flow of visitors!

The Council is seeking to achieve economies wherever possible. One such area concerns the charges to the Council for telephone and internet. These have been reduced significantly by renegotiating the tariff.

Unfortunately, some of the play equipment at the recreation ground has had to be temporarily withdrawn, for health and safety reasons. It seems this may be a consequence of past inadequate repair and maintenance. Our thanks are due to Alan Craggs for getting to grips with this and thereby helping to reduce the risk of a serious accident in the future.

Alan continues to press ahead with the proposals for refurbishment of the pavilion. This is an important priority for the Council, but we need to be clear as to the likely capital and running costs of the refurbished pavilion. Indicative estimates suggest that the total cost to deliver the present plans would be of the order of £225,000. Total funds available at present towards this amount to just over £42,000, including £32,000 earmarked by EHDC. Contrary to views expressed in some quarters, we are advised by EHDC there is no short term risk of losing those funds. Alan is pursuing additional funding possibilities, particularly in the sports and leisure sector. Voluntary labour may help to reduce the actual outlay, but it is clear that further work is needed to ensure we can balance the costs of the work with the funding and other resources that we can bring together for this purpose.

There are currently vacancies for three Parish Councillors, one of whom would formally represent the Finchdean Ward. Please consider whether you could bring something to the varied and interesting work of the Council. All enquires about such possibilities should be made to the Parish Office, please.

May I close by wishing you all the joy and hope that Christmastide brings and a healthy and rewarding 2012.

John Pickering

Parish Hall Management Committee

First open day a success by Alan Craggs, Chairman, PHMC

The Parish Hall has suffered a major setback caused by the Parish Council relocating their offices to commercial premises. Whatever the rights and wrongs of their move, it has resulted in a very significant increase in their costs, and a reduction in our income of 13.69 per cent.

When the management committee first came together, we simplified our charges, which in most instances resulted in a reduction in the sums being paid by our users. Since then we have held our charges at the same level and had planned to do the same in the coming year.

As I was able to report in the last issue of this magazine we have been making a modest profit for some time, all of which has been reinvested in the Hall. We have also absorbed the dramatic increases in fuel costs, 50 per cent + over the last three years, and as we were able to report in our AGM significantly increased our footfall and user satisfaction. All of this has now been put at risk.

To increase our charges by 13.69 per cent would be to sound the death knell for a number of our users and we cannot contemplate such action. The committee are now looking for other sources of income and have written to Mr Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council's finance committee, asking for a contribution to the running costs of the hall commensurate with the funding they have taken away. We await his response.

It should be borne in mind that every penny that comes to the Hall is a direct benefit to this community, whereas the money spent by the Council on private accommodation is lost to a private company. It's your Parish Hall, so please ensure your views are known to the Council.

Regarding the legal situation, I can not make any comment at this time other than to welcome the findings of the investigations into the allegations made by the previous Council. Despite the above we have not been standing still wringing our hands.

Unbelievably the outside of the hall was redecorated three years ago but because of the poor condition of the render on the walls it was beginning to look shabby. A team of our dependable volunteers leaped into action and have brought it back to its former glory. Special thanks go to the usual suspects. Kathy Malloy led the charge with her usual gusto, closely followed by Colin Mason, Bill Wilson, and the girls from the Montessori school. We were joined for the first, but we trust not for the last time, by Mike Coomb who lives opposite the hall and is a constant source of help and advice to myself and the Committee.

We are very fortunate to have the services of David Symonds, our Vice Chairman who has made such a big difference since he joined the committee a few months ago. David has led so many of the improvements to the hall including the fitting out of the small hall. We certainly could not have made the progress we have without him.

We were all very concerned when David became ill with a serious cardiac condition,

which struck while he was sailing his yacht to France. In the true Nelson spirit he got himself, Judith and the boat home safely before taking himself off to hospital. The good news is that following the fitting of a pacemaker, David is on the mend and I am sure you will all want to join us in wishing him a full and complete recovery.

We held the first of our open days on the 25th of September. The purpose of these events is to allow the public to come and meet the organisations who use the Hall and in some instances try their activity for themselves.

Short matt bowls was very popular and the Badminton club, while not able to play, none the less enjoyed a lot of interest. We also had demonstrations of Karate which was spectacular and the RCAD entertained with a reading. It seems that all the organisations including the painting society, W.I. and the historic society met a number of prospective new members.

It is our intention to hold these open days once or twice a year and as this year, we will open them up to other organisations in the village who do not use the Hall such as the Scouts and Guides, and the gardening club who have outgrown us and with our best wishes will be moving on in the New Year.

The very exciting news is that there will soon be a photograph club in the hall and if this is of interest to you give us a call and we will pass your details on to the person organising the club.

Christmas is just around the corner and this is a very busy time at the Hall with parties, Children's nativity and a performance from RCADs. Again we will be decorating the outside of the building which was so popular last year and providing the Christmas tree in the Hall. We are running the Hall for you and welcome any suggestions how we can make it better, why not take the opportunity to drop in for a chat? As always the coffee is hot and free. It only remains for me to express my personal thanks to the committee for all their hard work in the past 12 months. Let's make 2012 a bumper year. A Joyful Christmas and successful New Year to you all..

Kindest regards
Alan Craggs



Two of the numerous organisations who participated in the first open day.

Photos: Pat Carter

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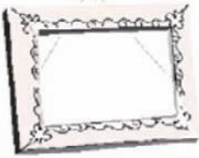
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