



# minstead mail

a newsletter published by the Minstead Parish Council  
to inform and consult

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*Welcome to the November 2013 edition of Minstead Mail! As in recent months it will be augmented by the weekly Parish Council eNewsletter every Sunday evening which will contain up to date news and information that may be of interest. Please let us know by the preceding Friday evening if you wish to spread information round the Village, or at any time if you wish to be added to the Parish Council's e-mail address list, by contacting the Parish Clerk, any Parish Councillor or by e-mailing [minsteadpc@googlemail.com](mailto:minsteadpc@googlemail.com).*

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The Parish Council wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It continues to meet formally every month, usually on the first Monday. The Agenda is displayed a few days in advance on the PC Noticeboard near the Shop and there is always an opportunity for public participation at the start of each meeting. In addition one or more Parish Councillors can normally be consulted informally in the Village Shop on some weekend mornings or in the Trusty Servant most Fridays between 6 and 6.30 pm. The Council is keen to support the views of the Community when appropriate and should always be the first port of call when considering a planning application.

Amongst its wide-ranging activities this year the Council has:

- done what it can to maintain and improve parish footpaths and bridleways, obtaining funding when possible
- part-sponsored the provision of a temporary fence in Church Lane to protect hedge re-growth from grazing
- obtained funding to install some cycle racks adjacent to the Village Green
- continued to press the various responsible authorities to repair and maintain our roads and clear blocked highway drains
- sponsored the development of an improved Village website (more details to follow)

## **WINTER CAR PARK AND ROAD CLOSURES**

The Forestry Commission has advised that, amongst others outside our parish, the car parks at Hazel Hill, Ocknell Pond, Brockishill Green, and Minstead Road will again be closed from 1st November 2013 to 31st March 2014. See more at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf6-6g3bm2>. In addition NFDC has applied for temporary closure of a number of roads in the Village for repairs and surface treatment (Operation Resilience) and the Parish Council will do its best to ensure adequate warning is given once the detailed programme is available

## **VILLAGE LUNCHES**

As usual, Village Lunches will take place during the winter months this year (October to April) at the Trusty Servant at 12.30 on the 3rd Tuesday: 19 November, 17 December, 21 January, 18 February, 18 March and 15 April. Everyone is welcome! It is an opportunity to meet local people and chat over lunch. Choice of meals at £6 or choose from standard menu. If you need a lift please phone Polly (8081 2375).

## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH EVENTS THIS SEASON**

- Sunday Nov 17th at 9.30, Holy Communion and the deadline for bringing a shoebox of gifts for Operation Christmas Child.
- Nov 30th 6.30pm, 5 4 50 Candlelit Concert.
- Dec 1st 9.30, Service of the Five Candles – a service unique to Minstead to celebrate the beginning of advent.
- Dec 22nd 4pm, Service of Lessons and Carols
- Dec 24th 4.30pm, Crib Service for all ages and at 11.30pm, Midnight Mass.
- Dec 25th 10.30, All Age Worship. Always something different to help us remember why we celebrate Christmas.
- Dec 29th 10.30, Service of Worship and Music.

Regular events appear in the Benefice news sheet and on the Church Noticeboard.

## **CAROLS ON THE GREEN 21ST DEC**

Christmas Carols on the Green will start at 6pm on Saturday 21st December outside the Trusty Servant. Father Christmas is expected arrive on his horse drawn Sleigh at 6.45pm. Mince pies and mulled wine will be provided by the Trusty Servant. Mums and Dads please hand in clearly labelled presents to the Trusty by lunchtime on 21st.



## BEAT SURGERIES

As most are aware, there have been a few thefts and attempted thefts in our area recently which may be a symptom of the darker evenings. As well as making sure your main property is secure you are advised to take extra care to lock your outbuildings, sheds and motor vehicles. Advice and information is included in the monthly beat report which can be seen on the PC Noticeboard by the Shop, on the Village website and is attached to the appropriate eNewsletter. Monthly Beat surgeries are held at the Village Shop on the first Wednesday of every month from 9.30 am to 10.30 am. This is a good opportunity to discuss any issues of concern informally with our local police. Alternatively you can email [fordingbridge.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fordingbridge.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk). As ever, if you see a crime being committed ring 999 and for any other incident or suspicious activity ring 101.

## CYCLING IN THE NEW FOREST

The New Forest National Park Authority has recently won funding of £3.57million from the Dept. for Transport to encourage family friendly cycling in the New Forest. This will be match funded by £2.2million from the private sector and local authorities. Their plans include:

- a new cycle hire/information hub by Brockenhurst Station
- Boris Bikes for the Forest
- pedal buses to local centres and attractions
- new signage to link New Forest cycle routes with those outside
- a grant scheme for improvements to cycle facilities

This scheme is due to be fully up and running by March 2015 so things should start to happen fairly quickly. We strongly suggest that anyone interested should read the additional information and bid documents on the NFNPA website at [http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20105/sustainability/282/family\\_cycling\\_experiences](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20105/sustainability/282/family_cycling_experiences). Meanwhile, as have many other New Forest Councils, Minstead Parish Council has written to all the various authorities involved in staging the recent Wiggle New Forest 100 Sportive event in early October strongly expressing the concerns of the community about the lack of prior information, the number of participants and their failure to follow agreed guidelines. This event has undoubtedly damaged the cause of cycling in the New Forest and it is hoped that any future events will be properly managed to take full account of their impact on other users of the Forest.

## NEW HOTLINE CARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS

Hotline cards and window stickers designed to encourage responsible dog walking in the New Forest have been unveiled. They have been produced by the New Forest National Park Authority in collaboration with the New Forest Dogs Forum and are designed to help keep the forest clean of dog mess, protect Forest animals and birds, and provide a safe and considerate environment for everyone. For further information see [http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/news/article/494/new\\_hotline\\_cards\\_for\\_responsible\\_dog\\_owners](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/news/article/494/new_hotline_cards_for_responsible_dog_owners) or contact Sion Donovan on 01590 646639 or [sion.donovan@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:sion.donovan@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library stops at Seamans Corner from 3 to 4 pm on the first Tuesday of every month and by the Village Green between 10 and 10.30 am on the third Saturday of every month. For further information ring 0845 6035631 or 01329 T225391 or see <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library>

## COUNCIL TAX CONTRIBUTION

All those of working age, who currently receive local Council Tax Support (formerly Council Tax Benefit), may have to pay a minimum 20 per cent towards their Council Tax bill in future when New Forest District Council makes changes to its support scheme in 2014. Currently, the minimum contribution is 8.5 per cent. Council Tax Benefit was abolished by the government at the end of March 2013 and all local councils have had to replace it with local Council Tax Support. At the same time, government funding to provide this support has been cut by around £1 million in the New Forest meaning the new scheme cannot be as generous. Without making changes to the local support scheme, the loss of funding would result in either reductions of local services or higher Council Tax. Decisions on the way ahead are imminent and all affected will be informed as soon as practical.

## ANIMAL TRAFFIC DEATHS

Now the clocks have gone back the NPA and the Verderers are urging drivers to take extra care when driving across the New Forest this winter in a bid to halt the startling rise in pony and cattle road deaths. There have been 48 animal traffic deaths so far this year, up to 30 September, an increase of 20 per cent compared to the same period in 2012. During winter's shorter daylight hours animals will be even more vulnerable. If you witness or are involved in an accident involving a pony, donkey, cow, pig or sheep, call the Police (999 for an emergency or 101 if it's not an emergency). Animal emergency hotline cards also give you the numbers to call if you see sick, injured or distressed animals. Cards are available from Garages, Local Information Points as well as our Village Shop and the Trusty Servant. To stock the cards contact the New Forest NPA at [enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk). For further information see <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/news>

## DON'T FEED THE PONIES!

Everyone is reminded not to put food out for forest ponies. Food dumped on verges, however well-meaning, encourages the ponies to hang around waiting to be fed and interrupts their normal foraging patterns; it encourages them to take risks with traffic that they might otherwise avoid; and, most importantly, it can KILL them! Ponies do not 'share' food! A bucket full of apples will be eaten by the dominant mare and can easily cause colic and a slow, painful death. If you have excess apples either give them to a neighbour, put them on your compost heap or dispose of them as garden waste.



## MINSTEAD PLAYERS 15TH AND 16TH NOVEMBER

By kind permission of Samuel French Ltd, our local Players will present a very short one act play by David Tristram *Joining the Club* and his much longer one act play *Last Tango in Little Grimley* plus Interval Entertainment in Minstead Hall at 7.30pm on 15th and 16th Nov. Tickets : £7 (£4 for under 18s) from Minstead Village Shop or on the door. Enquiries to: Berry Stone 023 8081 3719. Warning This play contains scenes which may shock or even offend!! Minstead Players bear no responsibility for any injuries caused by an excess of laughter.

## TRUSTY SERVANT CORNER

**Friday 15th November Man vs Food** Ultimate Burger Challenge - come and be the ultimate food eating champion with the challenge of a 32oz Burger, Fries and a Milkshake. Just £20 to enter and all proceeds will go to Charlotte's I Believe I Can Fund of Hope.

**The next Quiz** will be held on Wednesday 27th November and the special guest host is Nick Parker from the Shop.

**Thursday 28th November Game Supper Evening** – come and enjoy a 4 course Game Supper at the Trusty for £20 a head. Menus available from the Trusty.

**Friday 13th December Charity Race Night** details to follow.

The Trusty is still taking bookings for **Christmas Parties** and has a few spaces left for Christmas Day.

## Regular Events

**Monday** is Curry Night– curry for 2 for £20, a selection of meat and vegetable curries, bombay potatoes, rice and chapatis.

**Tuesday Night** is 2 fish and chips for just £15!

**Thursday** is Steak Night – 2 steaks and a carafe of wine for just £25!

## Your Parish Council

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