

MINSTEAD MAIL

Volume 4, Issue 1 A Newsletter published by the Minstead Parish Council to Inform & Consult October 2014

<http://minstead.org.uk/>

Welcome to the Autumn 2014 edition of Minstead Mail! It is being delivered to all households in the Parish but is particularly for those who do not use the internet. It will continue to be augmented by the weekly Parish Council eNewsletter every Sunday evening which will contain more up to date news and information that may be of interest. The Minstead community website <http://minstead.org.uk/> also contains further information about village events, news, the Parish Council, organizations, amenities and services. For any queries please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor directly.

A GREAT SUMMER IN MINSTEAD!

Congratulations and thanks to Peter Bennett for organising this year's highly successful Fete on Saturday 16th August and to all the helpers and stall holders involved for their hard work. £970 was raised which was a magnificent effort by all! In addition to various mad games there were stalls with bric-a-brac, loom band demonstrations and of course an amazing number of books! Various events were held including a raffle, bagatelle, a coconut shy and a fantastic cake stall where the entries for the Great Minstead Bake Off competition were sold. A church stall offered a restful place for everyone to relax while the added attractions at the Trusty Servant, including a bouncy castle, face painting, a beer festival and a hog roast all contributed to a most enjoyable day.



Splat the Rat



The Human Fruit Machine



The sun shone (for once!)

This year's Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show on 6th September was another outstanding success thanks to all those who contributed exhibits and to all the hard work by the Committee and other helpers. There were 553 entries, 145 of those being from 43 local young people. The Judges again remarked on the high quality of the exhibits from such a small village as Minstead. A great many teas were served and the whole occasion was greatly enjoyed by all. A special note of thanks goes to Mrs Janet Mitchell, the Hon Secretary whose tireless efforts, knowledge and experience made the Show such a wonderful and memorable event.



OUR VILLAGE SHOP

Congratulations to Jan and Nick Parker and their hard working team of cheerful helpers who have drawn in record numbers of visitors to sample the excellent coffees, teas and other fare on offer. In addition the Shop also provides for local needs with fresh fruit and vegetables, local cheeses, cakes and pies, fresh locally-made cakes, and breads as well as your milk and newspapers. They are already planning to offer the usual special Christmas order to meet your needs over the festive season. Normal opening times remain Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat & Sun 8:30-5pm until the end of the year, reducing in Jan, Feb & March to Mon-Fri 8 am-4pm Sat & Sun 8:30 - 4pm. For further information ring 023 8081 3134.

THE TRUSTY SERVANT

Congratulations also to Duane, Debbie, Jenny and their team for organizing so many successful events at the Trusty this summer. So successful have they been that the Village centre has on occasions been reduced to almost a complete standstill by the number of vehicles parked in the vicinity, some with rather less care than others! This autumn sees a number of further events including the traditional village lunches and monthly quizzes on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of every month respectively. See the

various noticeboards, the weekly eNewsletter and the community website for further details of these and other events or ring 023 8081 2137 or visit the [Trusty website](#).

VILLAGE HALL

The Hall is a very popular location for a wide range of activities and events. It is licensed to 240 people, has full disabled access and toilets, kitchen, bar, central heating, good quality décor and lighting with a modern wooden floor and PA system. It has proved to be a very successful wedding and private party venue as well as an excellent location for dances, family gatherings, meetings, concerts, children's parties, quizzes, bingo etc. All users will appreciate the work done to considerably enlarge the Village Hall car park so that there is now little need to park in the road. Ring 023 8081 3143 or email minsteadhall@btconnect.com for bookings and further information.

THE SEASON OF SLASH AND BURN

As the season of slash and burn is upon us once more all who own hedges along our roads are reminded that they are responsible for cutting them back and keeping them clear. If hedges are badly neglected then the matter can be referred to Hampshire County Council who may ultimately carry out the necessary work and will pass the bill to the landowner. There are a number of different ways of disposing of your hedge cuttings including shredding and composting as much as possible or taking them to the local recycling centre or putting them out for collection in the Council's green garden refuse sacks (these are available for purchase from the Council's Customer Services on 023 8028 5000). However if you are planning a bonfire please remember that it is not friendly to smoke out your neighbour and you may be creating a health hazard. A bit of thought and care about the time, the location and the weather conditions can minimise any unpleasant side-effects. Ultimately, if bonfires are causing a nuisance then legal proceedings may result. For further information including how to make a complaint ring the NFDC Environmental Protection Section on 023 8028 5411.

DITCHES

If you own land adjoining a watercourse, you have certain rights and responsibilities. In legal terms you are a 'riparian owner'. A watercourse is any natural or artificial channel through which water flows, such as a river, brook, beck, or mill stream. Some of your responsibilities include: maintaining river beds and banks; allowing the flow of water to pass without obstruction; controlling invasive alien species such as Japanese knotweed. Also, the riparian owner is usually the owner of roadside ditches. Even if a ditch is outside the property boundary, ownership remains with the adjacent landowner as riparian owner. It does not make any difference that the road drains into the ditch/watercourse.

For further information visit the [HCC website](#).

PARISH COUNCIL & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council is here to represent Village opinion to the outside world and to carry out local tasks which would not be economic for larger authorities. Amongst its many functions it advises our Planning Authority, the New Forest National Park on planning applications in the Parish by providing vital background and local knowledge as well as making a recommendation on whether the application should be approved. This task is made much easier if the applicant discusses his or her proposals with the Parish Council in advance and this can be done either during the public session at the start at one of its meetings or less formally on a Friday evening or sometimes Saturday morning. For further information contact the Clerk on 023 8081 2375.

MINSTEAD SOCIAL CLUB

The Minstead Social Club continues to provide members with a wide range of amenities and activities, from playing a game of snooker or pool, to participation in bar games to simply enjoying a drink with friends. The club is proud of the quality of its local real ales and its drinks are very competitively priced. For further information, including membership, contact the Secretary on 023 8081 3052.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Our new website, <http://minstead.org.uk/> has been up and running for over nine months and seems to have met with general approval. It is intended to be a living resource for our community that is contributed to by lots of people to become an informative, intuitive and compelling destination for residents to use regularly. If you have any suggestions on how it might be improved or if you find any errors please let us know; and if you are responsible for maintaining one of the pages then please try and spend a bit of time keeping it up to date!

MAINTAINING OUR FOOTPATHS

Considerable work, partly supported by HCC Countryside Access, is being undertaken to improve and restore some of our footpaths:-

- No5, Church to Newtown Ford, has been opened up, had ditches and drains dug and will have new gravel topping laid shortly;
- No10, (actually a Bridleway) West from Canterton Green, has been opened up, cleared, had ditches formed and is awaiting completion work promised by HCC;
- No 15, (also a bridleway) C17 to Newtown, will be opened up, cleared and drained where necessary to assist drying.

NEW FOREST DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE (NFDIS)

NFDIS provides free, confidential, impartial, disability related information and advice for anyone of any age with any disability, their families and carers. It has fully trained Advisers to support disability related welfare benefit applications, and offers advice on anything related to living with a disability. NFDIS sells a range of new and lightly used mobility equipment and daily living aids

from its New Milton base which is open for personal callers or telephone enquiries on weekdays. Advisers visit venues monthly throughout the New Forest, including Lymington, Hythe, Totton, Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Lyndhurst. If you are interested in hearing more about this service or would like a speaker to talk to your group please telephone the Helpline on 01425 628750, email info@newforestdis.org.uk or visit the website www.newforestdis.org.uk.

NEW FOREST CYCLE EVENT ORGANISERS' CHARTER

This charter was developed in response to concerns from some local people that the increasing size and frequency of cycle sportive events could result in unacceptable impacts on the New Forest and its local communities. It is supported by cycling groups and local organisations and aims to help cycle event organisers minimise negative impacts and maximise the benefits so that their events are welcomed by all involved and affected. It is primarily designed for cycling events with 100 or more riders passing through the New Forest, but the underlying principles are applicable to all cycle events throughout the area. Event organisers are encouraged to adopt the letter and spirit of the charter wherever possible. However, the charter does not replace or detract from the Highway Code or Law, nor does it alter statutory regulations affecting cycle races and time trials which are governed by the Cycle Racing on the Highways Regulations 1960. The [New Forest Public Events and Safety Advisory Group](#) (SAG) acts as a central point of reference for New Forest District Council, Hampshire Highway Authority, Hampshire Constabulary, South Central Ambulance and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. See [the NPA website](#) for further information.

A DE-FIBRILLATOR FOR MINSTEAD?

The Parish Council is looking at the costs and options for providing a de-fibrillator in a suitable place for emergency use. If anyone has any ideas on the best place to locate it where it is secure but accessible then please let us know.

SEPTIC TANK REGISTRATION

The Environment Agency has recently updated regulations for registering septic tanks. In essence you either need to apply for a [permit](#) or qualify for an [exemption](#) in England if your home has a:

- septic tank
- small sewage treatment system (known as a 'treatment plant' or 'package plant')

For further guidance you should visit the [Environment Agency's website](#) or ring 03708 506 506.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- The following are known about at the time of going to print:
- Parish Council meetings on the first Monday of every month 7.30pm in the old surgery.
 - Beat Surgery on the first Wednesday of every month 9.30-10.30 at the Village Shop.
 - History Group on the second Tuesday of every month 8pm in the Social Club.
 - Village Lunches on the third Tuesday of every month 12.30pm at the Trusty.
 - Quiz night on the third Wednesday of every month 8.30pm at the Trusty.
 - Father Christmas at the Trusty Saturday 20th December from 6pm.

Keep an eye on the various noticeboards and visit the [website events page](#) to keep up to date.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Bill Andrews Tel: 023 8081 3349 Chairman cmpbill@gmail.com	Cllr Steve Cattell Tel: 023 8081 3574 Vice Chairman steve_cattell@hotmail.com	Cllr Helen Bennett Tel: 023 8081 2358 peterandhelenb@btinternet.com	Cllr. Mark Bridle Tel: 023 8081 4855 markbridle01@btinternet.com	Cllr. Alan Ferguson Tel: 023 8081 3838 alanandfionaf@btinternet.com
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