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# MINSTEAD MAIL

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

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## Welcome to the January 2015 edition of Minstead Mail and a Happy New Year to all our readers!

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. 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.

## 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 until April 12.30pm at the Trusty.

Quiz night on the third Wednesday of every month 8.30pm at the Trusty.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Annual Parish Assembly in the Hall (Green Room)

Fri 20<sup>th</sup>/Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March Junior Minstead pantomime

## ICY ROADS

The recent cold spell caused ice to form in some places on our roads and at least one incident when a vehicle overturned (thankfully, no serious injuries). The Parish Council has urged HCC and local property owners frequently over several years to clear ditches, culverts, drains, bunnies etc to try and reduce the places where water spills out on to our roads in wet weather, with the potential to freeze in cold weather but there remain many places where this still occurs. Grit bins are located near most of the more hazardous places but as their precise positions are subject to approval by the Verderers they are not always in the best place.

If you live near one and have a few minutes to spare then spreading a bit of grit around in freezing conditions would make our roads safer and help you warm up! Meanwhile, everyone is warned to be extremely careful when driving, riding, walking and even spreading grit on our roads in freezing conditions.

## VILLAGE SHOP

Normal opening times in January, February and March will be Mon–Fri 8 am–4pm Sat & Sun 8:30 – 4pm. For further information ring 023 8081 3134.

## 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, participating 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.

## JUNIOR MINSTEAD PANTO

Junior Minstead is putting on its Annual Pantomime

**Dracula - the Vampire that bites back!**

Gothic meets slapstick as the children of Junior Minstead provide a hilarious alternative to the traditional pantomime with Dracula.

Let's just say it's something to get your teeth into...!

Come and join in the "Fang-tastic" family fun!

In the Village Hall

**Friday 20th March 2015 7.30pm**

**Saturday 21st March 2015 7pm**

## NFDC PARKING CLOCKS FOR 2015 NOW AVAILABLE

Annual short stay clocks (1 January – 31 December 2015) are now available and the cost remains at £20. They can be purchased online at [newforest.gov.uk/parkingclock](http://newforest.gov.uk/parkingclock), by phoning customer services on 023 8028 5000 or by visiting:

- Lyndhurst Community Centre
- any council information office
  - any council leisure centre
- Visitor Information Centre, Lyndhurst
  - Brockenhurst Post Office
  - Burley Post Office
- St Barbe Museum, Lymington

## **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

This year's Annual Parish Assembly will be held in the Village Hall Green Room on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to hear about the work of the Parish Council over the last year and to meet Councillors informally afterwards, when there will be bread and cheese and the bar will be open. In addition, our Community Police Officer, PC Rob Morant, will explain some of the changes which are taking place in the Constabulary including Hampshire Alert (see over) and will answer questions. Please give this community event your support!

## **THE TRUSTY SERVANT**

The Trusty continues to provide a range of attractions for local people, including a Village Lunch on the third Tuesday of each month (until April), a quiz on the third Wednesday of each month and a number of other special fun events. Keep an eye on the weekly newsletter, ring 023 8081 2137 or visit the [Trusty website](#).

## **COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS NEEDED!**

The Southern Central Ambulance service is in need of additional volunteers to become Community First Responders. You will be trained to respond to and deal with serious medical situations and you will be providing a valuable contribution to your local community. To find out more contact the local group coordinator Graham Reeve on 02380282866 or visit [www.southerncentralambulance.nhs.uk](http://www.southerncentralambulance.nhs.uk).

The sooner treatment starts the better it is for the patient and because community responders answer calls in their own neighbourhood they usually arrive on scene before the ambulance. These seconds and minutes save lives!

## **VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall AGM will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and will be an opportunity for villagers to meet the Hall Management Committee, hear about activities for the past year and see plans for the refurbishment and modernisation of the kitchen and Green Room and for sanding and resealing the main floor.

## **ROAD REPAIRS AND SPEEDWATCH**

The Parish Council is very aware of the poor state of repair of some of our roads and continues to liaise with HCC to get edges and potholes repaired. Progress has been disappointing over the last few months but we shall continue to press for an increased level of maintenance. Meanwhile, a number of Community Speedwatch volunteers have been working with the police to monitor traffic on Lyndhurst Road (C151) and Stoney Cross (C17). The sites used checked the speed of 1284 vehicles in total. Of these 1284 vehicles, 648 were found to be above the speed limit which equals to 50.4% that were speeding above the speed limit by more than 1 mph. However 240 vehicles were speeding by more than the police guidelines which resulted in letters being sent to the registered keepers of the vehicle informing them that they had been recorded speeding and that their details were recorded. These 240 vehicles represent 18.6% of the total of 1284 vehicles checked. There were 9 vehicles that were recorded twice during the year which represents 0.7% of the total of 1284 vehicles checked. The highest recorded speed in a 30 zone was 42 mph on Lyndhurst Road. The highest recorded speed in a 40 zone was 73 mph on the C17; there were 38 vehicles recorded at speeds of 55 mph or more and of these 10 were recorded above 60 mph. The average speed for the year was 28.4 mph in a 30 zone and 41.1 mph in a 40 zone

## **TRANSPORT**

The [community transport bulletin](#) from HCC mentions the conclusions of the passenger transport review carried out earlier this year. The only change affecting Minstead, as far as we can see, is that the time you can start using your bus pass is going to change from 09:00 to 09:30 on Monday to Friday from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

## **A STRATEGIC CYCLING NETWORK**

Following a petition in the Village in 2013 and the discussion at the last Annual Parish Assembly in March, the Parish Council has prepared a proposal for a strategic cycling network in the New Forest so that both locals and visitors cyclists can cycle safely between major settlements, specifically Cadnam to Lymington via Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst. Please visit the [Village website](#) to read more and give your support by contacting any of the addressees to whom this proposal has been sent. These are listed on the last two pages of the [main proposal](#). Many thanks to Councillor Richard Taylor for all his hard work in putting this proposal together.

## **GENERAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS**

The General Election on 7<sup>th</sup> May will also see the four-yearly elections for New Forest District Council and for all 37 Towns and Parish Councils in the New Forest. If you would like to stand for election to Minstead Parish Council you can do so if you are aged 18 or over and are either listed on the electoral register for Minstead or have worked or owned or were a tenant of a property within the Parish or have lived within 4.8 kilometres of it at least 12 months preceding nomination. You can find out more from the [NFDC \(Electoral Services\) website](#), by phoning 023 8028 5445 or by contacting the Parish Council Clerk. This is an interesting, responsible and worthwhile job which does not take up much time and which contributes greatly to our Community.

## **POLICE MATTERS**

For the time being Beat Reports will continue to be circulated separately and posted on the PC noticeboard. However details of crimes and incidents of note are now being put out over the internet via Hampshire Alert and this system will soon replace the Beat Report. To sign up to receive Alerts please go to [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk) or contact the beat team for more information. If you do not use the internet but would like to be informed of serious crimes and incidents in your immediate vicinity you can either

get a friend to register your phone number on line or call 07554 775473 yourself. This service is intended to enhance information exchange and will not be a substitute for our regular beat surgeries or the 999 (emergency) or 101(less urgent) services.

### **SAFER NEW FOREST SECURITY PRODUCTS**

The Safer New Forest Partnership sells a variety of security products to help keep you safe at home and outdoors. For example, a fluorescent yellow cover for your rucksack, ideal for cyclists or children walking home from school in the dark, costs just £4. For £1 there's also a high-visibility armband with flashing LED lights to be worn over a jacket sleeve to make sure you or your child are seen in the dark which is ideal for schoolchildren, runners, cyclists and anybody who needs to be seen on dark mornings or evenings. You can keep your shed, garage, store or other outdoor valuables such as patio heaters safer with a toughened padlock with a built-in alarm that will deter any burglar and which costs only £10. The safer New Forest products are on sale at NFDC information offices at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst; Lymington Town Hall; Hythe; Gateway, Ringwood; Fordingbridge; and Totton.

### **HITTING THE COLD SPOTS**

Thanks to funding from its Rural Development fund, HCC is offering extra support to tackle fuel poverty in the rural areas of Hampshire. As well as the standard level of support available through Hitting the Cold Spots, HCC recognises that those residents living in the rural areas of Hampshire can face added challenges. Hitting the Cold Spots can help individuals and families throughout the Hampshire County Council area with practical support and detailed advice including visits from skilled Advisors. This can lead to the provision of emergency heating, access to funding for repairs and replacement heating or hot water systems as well as small grants to help cope with winter emergencies. Hitting the Cold Spots will also provide practical support with debt, financial advice and benefits as well as assistance with switching energy providers. For further information see [www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots](http://www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots) and for advice contact the Hitting the Cold Spots Advisor on Freephone 0800 804 8601 or email [staywarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:staywarm@environmentcentre.com)

### **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Bill Andrews	Cllr Steve Cattell	Cllr Helen Bennett	Cllr. Mark Bridle	Cllr. Alan Ferguson
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