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## MINSTEAD MAIL

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Please see our village website at [www.minstead.org.uk](http://www.minstead.org.uk)

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Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of Minstead Mail in 2016!

It is being delivered to all households in the Parish but is particularly for those who do not use the internet. If you do use email, please sign up to receive our weekly Parish Council e-newsletter, sent out every Sunday evening. This contains updated village news and information. Contact [minsteadpc@googlemail.com](mailto:minsteadpc@googlemail.com) with your email address to receive it. We are always interested in the views of our parishioners so please do contact the Parish Council about any matter concerning our village.

### FORTHCOMING and REGULAR EVENTS

**Beat Surgeries** – An opportunity to meet your community police officer in the Village Shop from 9.30-10.30am on the first Wednesday of each month.

**Parish Council Meetings** – You are welcome to attend the meetings starting at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month in The Surgery Room within the Village Hall.

**Village Lunches** – Enjoy meeting other residents in The Trusty Servant for lunch at 12.30pm. Every third Tuesday during the winter months. (16<sup>th</sup> Feb, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> April).

**Church Events – Coffee/lunch with the Vicar** – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 12.30-1.30pm at All Saints' Church. **Mothering Sunday** 6<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am with posies, music and prayers. **Discussion group** in church Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 4.15-5.15pm to include tea and cake.

**Clean for the Queen – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March.** Please join us in the national project in celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Litter picking! We will start from Minstead Village Green at 10am where you will be supplied with bags and grabbers!!! Bring your own gloves. Please contact Polly Osborne if you are willing to help. (02380 812375).

**Junior Minstead 39<sup>th</sup> Pantomime 'Constellation Wars - The Battle for Christmas'** – The children in the village are busy rehearsing in preparation for their two performance dates: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets will be available from the Village Shop.

**Minstead Study Centre** – A varied weekly programme including 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 'French Bread Making' and 27<sup>th</sup> February 'Woven Hazel Fencing Workshop.' For more details for these and other events, please tel 02380 813437 or see Minstead Study Centre website.

**Clocks Change** – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March. They will go forward.

**Local History Group** Meetings are in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. Details on the village website or contact Steve Cattell 02380 813574.

**WOW** – (Women on Wednesday) meetings in the Green Room of the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. Contact Sylvia on 07831 142245 or see village website.

**Minstead Bell Ringers** – Would welcome one or two new members, with or without previous experience. Just enthusiasm and a commitment to practice is all that is required to join this sociable club. Contact Peter Bennett 02380 812358 or see village website.

**Minstead Social Club** – Within the Village Hall providing regular events and sports tournaments. Contact Lorna telephone 02380 813052 for more information.

### VILLAGE SHOP AND TEA ROOM

Winter opening times (Feb/March) are Mon-Fri 8.30am–4pm, Sat & Sun 8:30am–4pm after which they return to the later closing time of 5pm.

A wide variety of grocery products are available as well as a deli counter, displaying local cheeses, cakes and pies.

Specialty bread from Long Crichel organic bakery and New Forest Preserves and honey.

(New) The tea room is now also serving jacket potatoes and light lunches.

For further information, ring 0790 9528870 / 023 8081 3134 or visit the Village Shop website.

### THE TRUSTY SERVANT PUB

The pub has a delicious and varied menu available from Monday to Saturday from 12pm – 9.30pm and on Sundays from 12pm-9pm.

Please see the website [www.thetrustyservant.co.uk](http://www.thetrustyservant.co.uk) or telephone Mark or Laura on 02380 812137 to book a table and to find out more about their special events.

During February's Valentines Weekend there will be some sharing specials evenings and in March there will be:

Pie Week (7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March) and

Mark's General Knowledge Quiz (Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March).



## UPDATE ON MINSTEAD DEFIBRILLATOR

Minstead Parish Council took delivery of a defibrillator in January 2016 which was seen at the recent training organised by the council. We are awaiting the arrival of the storage cabinet and as soon as it is available it will be put in place. It is by very kind agreement of Debbie and Duane that the defibrillator will be situated on the wall under the porch of the Trusty Servant Pub. It will be in a yellow box, powered electronically, keyless and available to anyone who has need. The unit is 'smart' and will talk the operator through each stage of its application.

Staff from South Central Ambulance Services trained twenty people in the Village Hall in January on how to recognise collapse and how to resuscitate individuals with and without the assistance of a defibrillator. If there is sufficient demand, we will organise further training sessions for residents. Please advise us if you feel you would be interested in further training dates. Generous donations from our County and District Councillors have started the fund raising, however the Parish Council needs to raise a minimum of £1,381.75 to fully purchase the defibrillator and storage cabinet. To ensure the success and maintenance of the project we are aiming in excess of this to enable us to pay for: an electrician to hard wire the cabinet, regular training for residents and to fund the ongoing servicing of the product including the replacement of disposable equipment within it. We will be organising fund raising events later this year and will keep you posted on the balance. If you have any fundraising ideas, we would love to hear from you. Also, if you have any questions about the defibrillator please do not hesitate to contact us through the Parish Clerk.



## GRIT BINS

After the recent icy weather, we have been asked by a few residents about the provision and use of the grit bins. These contain mainly salt and are sited by HCC in strategic locations in Minstead selected by the Parish Council for use by the community in severe and icy weather. They are available on a self-help basis and will be refilled by HCC when requested. In severe weather HCC salt roads on a priority basis and our local roads around Minstead will only be dealt with once the more heavily used routes have been salted. It is down to us all to attend to our roads if ice is forecast. We have been told the best way to spread the gritted salt is with a shovel. Large quantities are not needed to lower the freezing point and "melt" the ice. Approximately one shovel full spread evenly is sufficient for 10 -15 metres of road. Spreading this sparingly is not easy but hopefully the message that only a few shovels full will do the job and will not be too off putting to any who undertake the work. We would encourage residents who live near a grit bin to arrange to get together to share the workload where possible. Further information can be found by visiting <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/weather-on-roads.htm> or phoning 0300 555 1375.

## FENCE AND CATTLE GRID MAINTENANCE

All New Forest residents are advised to make sure their fences are fully stock-proof and to ensure cattle grids are clear of rubbish. In spring animals are likely to try and eat the lush grass growing in private gardens and fields which grows quicker than on the Forest. If your boundary is not stock-proof, you may wake up to find a herd of cows or ponies on your lawn! It is the responsibility of property owners to fence out legally depastured stock so you are advised to check your boundaries and make sure they are secure. During winter cattle grids can often fill up with debris and that can encourage animals to try and walk across them.

## ROADS

The Parish Council is in regular dialogue with the various authorities about the poor state of the roads and verges around the Village. Whilst we shall continue to work on your behalf, it would certainly help to prioritise Minstead if all road problems are reported by everyone who can do so by visiting the HCC website: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/roadproblems.htm>

## WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

*The following contribution is from one of our longer standing residents. It may help put the current inconvenience of work on parts of our water main into perspective:*

“Mutter, mutter, grumble, grumble – the Water Board are putting in new pipes, closing roads, traffic lights, one-way traffic and for fifteen weeks; the disruption, the chaos the inconvenience. This was not how the village reacted in the early fifties when piped water first came to Minstead. Then the trenches for the metal pipes were dug by hand and

many of the labourers were prisoners from Winchester presumably when “hard labour” was just that and it didn’t infringe on Human Rights. I seem to remember the whole process took one heck of a long time but we didn’t mind because at long last we were going to be able to turn a tap on in our own house and pure water was going to come out of it. Gone would be the daily slog of fetching your water from the dip-well which in the winter was slightly cloudy and definitely gritty and in the summer tinged with green with an odd something swimming around. We had to boil all water that was going to be drunk all year round as the supply had been condemned before WW2. I remember rinsing my hair in water taken from the water butt which fell from the thatch. Cold and refreshing I was told, well it was definitely cold! There was a whole network of wells down through the village which I presume had been used for centuries but we were all very glad to see them go. I was very pleased to see water coming out of my taps. Those ‘good’ old days are a pure figment of the imagination if you have had to live through them.”

### MINSTEAD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Parish Council would like to invite you to attend our Annual Assembly on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March which will take place in the Green Room of the Village Hall. Start time is 7.30pm so please arrive in time to take your seat. It is an opportunity for you to let us know how we can best represent you and we will be providing cheese and bread afterwards. We look forward to welcoming you.

### PLEASE DON'T FEED THE PONIES!

Although most will know, it is worth a reminder that we should not put food out for forest ponies, however well-meaning. It encourages the ponies to hang around waiting to be fed and interrupts their normal foraging patterns. This leads them to take greater risks with traffic and potentially suffer from colic which can result in the uncomfortable death of the pony.

### MICROCHIPPING YOUR DOGS

Just a reminder – From April 6<sup>th</sup> it will become illegal for a dog NOT to be microchipped with owners facing possible £500 fines if they fail to comply. It will help to make it easier to re-unite dogs with their owners but it is a new law that many are unaware of.

### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Bill Andrews	Cllr Steve Cattell	Cllr Helen Bennett	Cllr. Alan Ferguson	Cllr. Georgina Hough
Tel: 023 8081 3349	Tel: 023 8081 3574	Tel: 023 8081 2358	Tel: 023 8081 3838	Tel: 023 8081 4652
Chairman	Vice Chairman	peterandhelenb@	alanandfionaf@	georgichough@
cmpbill@gmail.com	steve_cattell@hotmail.com	btinternet.com	btinternet.com	ymail.com
Cllr. Richard Taylor	Cllr Dawne Wakelin	Mrs Polly Osborne (Clerk)	HCC Cllr. Keith Mans	NFDC Cllr Diane Andrews
Tel: 023 8081 2451	Tel: 023 8081 4353	Tel: 023 8081 2375	Tel: 01590 641262 or	Tel: 023 8081 3349
taylorr01@aol.com	dawnewakelin@gmail.com	clerk@minstead.gov.uk	020 7670 4302 keith.mans@hants.gov.uk	diane.andrews@newforest.gov.uk