

MINSTEAD MAIL

JUNE 2019

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WELCOME TO THIS SUMMER'S EDITION OF MINSTEAD MAIL!

Since the last edition in November a new Parish Council has been elected and although it includes a great many familiar names it was the first election in Minstead for many years. A list of Councillors and their contact details is at the bottom of this mail and can also be found on the Village website. Additionally there is some very encouraging news about ultra fast broadband for a large part of the village, and work continues to see if it is possible for the community to provide a new village shop.

WHAT'S COMING UP

All the events that we know about are put on to the Village Website calendar and mentioned in our weekly eNewsletters. Highlights this summer include:

- The Village Fete which will be held on the Green on Saturday 10th August, the same weekend as the Trusty Servant's annual beer festival. Proceeds will be shared between the Church Tower Fund and the Community Shop Project.
- The 68th annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable show in the Hall open to the public from 2pm on Saturday 7th September.
- The New Forest Show from 30th July to 1st August.

VILLAGE NEWS

VILLAGE COMMUNITY SHOP

The Community Shop Working Group has focused on fund raising since the last report back at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 March. A village quiz was held, attracting 90 competitors, and raising £900. It was a lively evening and very encouraging to see so many turn out to support the shop project whilst enjoying themselves. Subsequently, we have run a Pop-up Cafe on the village green on the Saturday and Sunday of Easter weekend, on Sunday 5 May and on the late May bank holiday, raising nearly £700. The Pop-up Cafes have been well supported by both parishioners and visitors, helping people understand what we hope to achieve and viewing the illustrations of what the shop might be like.

We will be running Pop-up Cafes on the following dates: Sunday 23rd June, Sunday 28th July and Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th August (Bank Holiday w/e), from 10.00 - 15.00 on each day.

The Working Group, with the assistance from the Plunkett Foundation, a charity supporting community businesses that we have joined, has now applied to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to become a Community Benefit Society, i.e. a legal entity, which will allow us to apply for grants and, in good time, issue shares to the community to enable us to raise enough capital to set up the shop. Debbie Lewis, licensee of The Trusty Servant, has kindly offered us a storeroom in the pub to convert into the shop. We have reached agreement with her on how we can move forward leasing the storeroom. We have discussed our ideas for refurbishing the storeroom with NFNPA Planning and there appear to be no major planning issues, although we await formal confirmation.

We will be looking for volunteers to help strip out the storeroom in the near future. Please look out for a request in the Minstead eNewsletter or let us know via the shop email (minsteadcommunityshop@gmail.com) if you would like to help. We are also looking for professional assistance from an accountant to verify our forecasts for the shop finances and the costs of setting-up for the shop, and advice on book-keeping, etc. Again, please contact the shop on minsteadcommunityshop@gmail.com.

BROADBAND

The eagle-eyed will already have seen the special eMail announcing that the exercise to raise funds to pay for extending BT Openreach's provision of ultra fast broadband to as much of the village as possible, the Minstead Community Fibre Broadband Scheme (MCFBS), is now complete. This means that, subject only to the time taken by Openreach to complete the infrastructure installation, Fibre to the Property (FTTP) should be available to both the Wave 2 and the MCFBS properties in Minstead in due course. Many thanks to all for your participation in this fundraising exercise and particular thanks to Councillor Richard Taylor who has devoted two and a half years' effort to this project.

We will keep in close contact with BT Openreach and keep you informed about progress on the project. We shall also now start work to try to bring FTTP to those other areas of Minstead Parish that have not yet been addressed.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

We have recently completed a Community Resilience Plan for Minstead which has put systems in place to enable the Village to support the Emergency Services in the event of a significant incident in and around Minstead. Thank you to all of those who have volunteered to help in various ways, we will be asking you to reconfirm your availability to be called upon in an emergency for the next 12 months. Those who have not volunteered can also be added to the contact list if they wish to be involved. The Community Resilience Plan will be put on the Village website – see Emergency Plan - once we have the agreement of all the participants.

COLD CALLING AND SCAMS

Parishioners have been subject to some rather aggressive cold callers recently and the village has also seen thefts from storage units both in horse fields and buildings close to homes. While cold calling at peoples' properties is legal, if you feel really threatened because someone is forcibly trying to get you to pay for something to be done that you have not instigated the police encourage you to ring 999. Minstead currently has Church Close, Congleton Close, Football Green, London Minstead, Lyndhurst Road, Newtown Road and Seamans Lane in a No Cold Calling Zone, designated zone 846.

Telephone and internet scams are increasingly prevalent and insidious. There has been much in the press recently about false calls from the Inland Revenue and Banks. For example, individuals who have been caught out when their bank supposedly rings them and says there is a problem with their card and that it needs to be collected by taxi along with the PIN number so it can be replaced by the bank. Others have also been caught out when they have been drawn into an online relationship with a person in a far flung place who then claims he or she urgently needs money to pay for hospital costs for a

friend. Both these scams involved large amounts of money. In one bank scam case the criminals only had the card for a couple of hours but managed to remove over a thousand pounds from an individual's account.

Our Community Policing Team is very keen to work with parishioners to undertake preventative work with regards to thefts from buildings, spotting scams and managing cold callers and anything else you may feel makes you vulnerable. The Team is very keen to highlight the current scams and PCSO Richard Williams' SCAM BUSTING talks offer advice on how best to beat the scammers and stop yourself from becoming a victim of this type of crime. Or if you are a member of a group that meets regularly and are happy for him to use up ten minutes of your time let him know and he'll come to your next session. Email him at Richard.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or phone him on 07554 775469 and he'll arrange a visit..

If a company ignores a request not to call, it can be reported to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506 or there is a form that can be completed online by visiting the CAB website.:

<https://ssl.datamotion.com/form.aspx?co=3438&frm=general&to=flare.fromforms>

If you would like to display a cold calling sticker please email helenbennettpc@yahoo.com and she will arrange to put one through your door.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We shall do our best to continue with Minstead Mail two or three times a year as it is delivered in hard copy to all households in the Village and thus reaches those who do not use the internet. We shall also continue with the weekly eNewsletter. If you wish to receive this you should use the "Sign Up" facility at the bottom of the Village website's front page (www.minstead.org.uk). Once you have completed the sign up process (*you also have to respond to a confirmation email*) your details will be added to the list and we can then send you newsletters. If you have any queries do contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk and we shall do our best to answer them.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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