



minstead mail

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

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Welcome to the April 2014 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 us via the new Minstead community website <http://minstead.org.uk/> which also contains further information about village events, news, the Parish Council, organizations, amenities and services. Alternatively you can contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor directly.

PARISH COUNCIL ROUND UP

The Parish Council 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 on our website page. 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.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Parish Annual Assembly took place on Wednesday 19th March in the Green Room. The Chairman welcomed 31 members of the public and went on to review the activities of the Parish Council over the previous year covering the fabric, roadways, hedges, ditches, planning, community and traffic issues. The financial position was summarized by the Clerk who said that the precept would remain unchanged this year at £9,500. Hampshire County Councillor Keith Mans and NFDC Councillor Diane Andrews both made reports and a number of issues were discussed. The draft minutes of the meeting can be seen on the village website (see above).

A31 - RUFUS STONE JUNCTION

Following a survey in February, the Highways Agency is in discussion with SSE Castle Malwood about possible closure of the gap which provides the A31 U-turn and access to the Rufus Stone. Because of the possible adverse impact on the community the Parish Council is pressing hard for involvement in any informal or formal consultation and will keep everyone informed of developments.

SPEEDWATCH

Minstead Speedwatch for 2013 surveyed 1527 vehicles on the C17 and Lyndhurst Road. 664 (43.4%) of these were found to be above the speed limit if only by 1 mph. Of all the 1527 vehicles surveyed only one person offended 3 times. The highest speed recorded in a 40 mph zone was 63 mph. The highest speed recorded in a 30 mph zone was 42 mph. If you are interested in taking part in Speedwatch please contact Dee Faulkner-White (faulknerwhite@btopenworld.com).

CYCLING FOR RESIDENTS

At the Annual Assembly on 19th March representatives from the NPA and Forestry Commission spoke about Minstead's petition for safer cycling for residents, which had attracted 127 signatures. Both explained the difficulties of providing alternative cycle routes with so many competing claims on the use of land within the National Park. Regrettably HCC, which has overall responsibility for the provision of cycle routes, was unable to attend. While the NPA is concerned with sustainable transport it has limited powers but tries to liaise with stakeholders, feed in ideas and support relevant projects. It is hoped that such organizations will continue to press HCC to give greater priority in providing safer cycle routes for residents.

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.

FENCE AND CATTLE GRID MAINTENANCE

The Verderers have asked New Forest residents to fully stock-proof their fences and ensure cattle grids are clear of rubbish. In the spring animals are likely to try to eat the lush grass growing in private gardens and fields which grows quicker than on the Forest. If your fence 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 to make sure they are secure. Cattle grids also require regular attention. During the winter they often fill up with debris and that can encourage animals to try to walk across them.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 17th May Minstead Study Centre Family Day
- 20th-22nd June Trusty Servant Sausage and Cider Festival
 - 9th July Minstead Golf Day
 - 19th July Minstead Training Trust Open Day
- 15th-17th August Village Fete and Trusty Servant Beer Festival
- 6th September Village Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Show

For details about these and other events visit

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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Regular events appear in the Benefice news sheet and on the Church Noticeboard. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on 23rd April including the election of PCC members and Churchwardens. A recent PCC meeting clarified the use of the money raised by the 5-4-50 campaign. All money raised will be allocated to the Unrestricted Fund which is used at the discretion of the PCC, unless the donor expressly wishes otherwise.

NEW BELL RINGERS WELCOME

The bell ringers at Minstead would welcome one or two new recruits. The ringers are a friendly group who meet to practise once or twice a week in addition to ringing for church services and to mark significant occasions. Bell ringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit - it is well within the capabilities of most people and does not require physical strength or musical ability, just enthusiasm and practice. The initial learning takes several weeks, after which a recruit can usually begin to ring with the rest of the band. Some ringers consider it to be their contribution to church life, others do it purely for pleasure.

If interested, please contact Peter Bennett (8081 2358) or Polly Osborne (8081 2375).

MOBILE LIBRARY

As far as we know our mobile library service will continue this year but like every other service provided by HCC it is subject to budgetary constraints. The more it is used the less likely it will be to be reduced or even cut altogether. The current 2014 timetable shows the following stops:

Minstead Car Park 1000-1030 Saturday 12 Apr, 10 May, 7 June, 5 July

Minstead Seamans Corner 1500-1600 Tues 22 Apr, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

There has been considerable interest in announcements that superfast broadband will be available in the village by the end of June this year. The coverage map shows that the whole of Minstead Parish should be included. The aim of the first Government Grant for superfast Broadband was to achieve 90% superfast coverage. The basis for choosing the dwellings to be connected is a financial one. BT OpenReach work out the number of dwellings connected to each main cabinet, calculate the cost to equip the cabinet with Superfast fibre, and thus establish a cost per dwelling. They then decide which properties it is viable to connect. There is now additional funding for Hampshire from DCMS (£7.69m), and HCC (£9.2m) as well as £1m from DEFRA for Test Valley and New Forest, to increase the superfast coverage to 95% by end 2017. For those of us who still may not benefit from this FTTC (Fibre to the Cabinet) upgrade (ie more than 1.5-2km wire-length from the enabled cabinet[s]) there are a number of self funded options available, but for the time being we suggest waiting until the end of June to see what is actually available then. At a recent meeting an undertaking (BT & HCC) was made that those outside the range to benefit from FTTC will be provided a minimum download speed of 2Mb/s. Superfast Broadband will not just happen - you will have to sign up for the service, once it becomes available, from one of the many providers and it will probably cost slightly more than your present arrangement. Once the cabinet[s] are "lit up" we shall be able to use one of the broadband checkers (such as <http://dslchecker.bt.com>) to see just what is actually available to each of us.

Visit <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/broadband.htm> to see the latest from HCC.

BANK CARD SCAM

Elderly and vulnerable members of the public have been receiving unsolicited telephone calls from criminals purporting to be from their bank or the police. The caller states that they have spotted a fraudulent payment on their card or fraudulent activity on their account. The caller gains the person's trust and explains that the bank will need to collect the card, or require them to withdraw large sums of money from their account. The victim is then advised to place their card (or money withdrawn) into an envelope to disguise its appearance. The criminal will then arrange a courier, taxi driver or similar to call to collect the envelope. The advice from Hampshire Police is if you have the slightest suspicion about a transaction of this nature, contact the Police immediately by telephoning 101 or 999 if it is an emergency. Please advise the victim that this may be a scam



THE PASSENGER TRANSPORT FORUM

HCC Passenger Transport has to save £1.25-1.5 million by 2015/16 due to cuts in support grant from central government and is reviewing passenger transport provision. This will cover all HCC subsidised bus services (including 6 Lynd-Soton, 11 Cadnam-Soton, T3/T4 Cadnam-Totton), Call and Go services, Taxi Shares, and the discretionary element of the bus pass (travel from 9-9:30 in the morning is currently funded by HCC). School transport is not included and every community should still have a service of some type after the review. Lyndhurst Neighbourcare is self funding (see below) so won't be affected. A consultation will take place from March to May before deciding what will be cut. Submissions can be made either by organisations, or individuals. Details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/transportconsultation2014 where consultation forms can either be downloaded or filled in online. If you, or someone you know, uses the services in question then you are advised to respond to the consultation or you may lose them! The last review of bus services in 2011 only produced 650 responses county wide.

LYNDHURST NEIGHBOURCARE

If you need assistance Lyndhurst Neighbourcare is available to help you. Volunteers provide transport for clients to medical appointments, including visits to dentists, opticians and podiatrists (chiropractors). They also take people shopping locally, collect shopping or prescriptions, though they always give priority to medical appointments if they are short of drivers. They are willing to help any people in need who live in Lyndhurst, Minstead, Emery Down and the surrounding villages. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and can claim expenses. They do not charge clients but invite the client to make a suitable donation depending on the length of the journey. If you have any queries about Neighbourcare, or wish to know more about their services and how they operate please ring the Voicemail number 0845 0945 818 and they will ring you back.

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