



Picnic area hazardous

The bridle path was flooded with one foot of water with the rest of the area totally underwater by at least four feet by the Bug Hotel and new bench under the willow tree. BRAG volunteers were able to notify the relevant authorities that the cause was the culvert that goes under the canal which was completely blocked, making the flood water back up in the field ditches towards this area. A warning has been placed on the BRAG Facebook page that this area is now hazardous, especially for small children, as the risk of drowning is high, especially where the land dips towards the ditch. Also, the area (especially the path) will be covered in muddy silt, so slippage is very likely. BRAG would like to extend this warning to all readers of the Villager. Work to clear the blockage will take place when the flood water recedes so hopefully the weather will be on our side and remain drier.



A click away

You can now view and book your function room on Bowerhill Village Hall's new web site by clicking on www.bowerhillvillagehall.co.uk.

Clean for the Queen

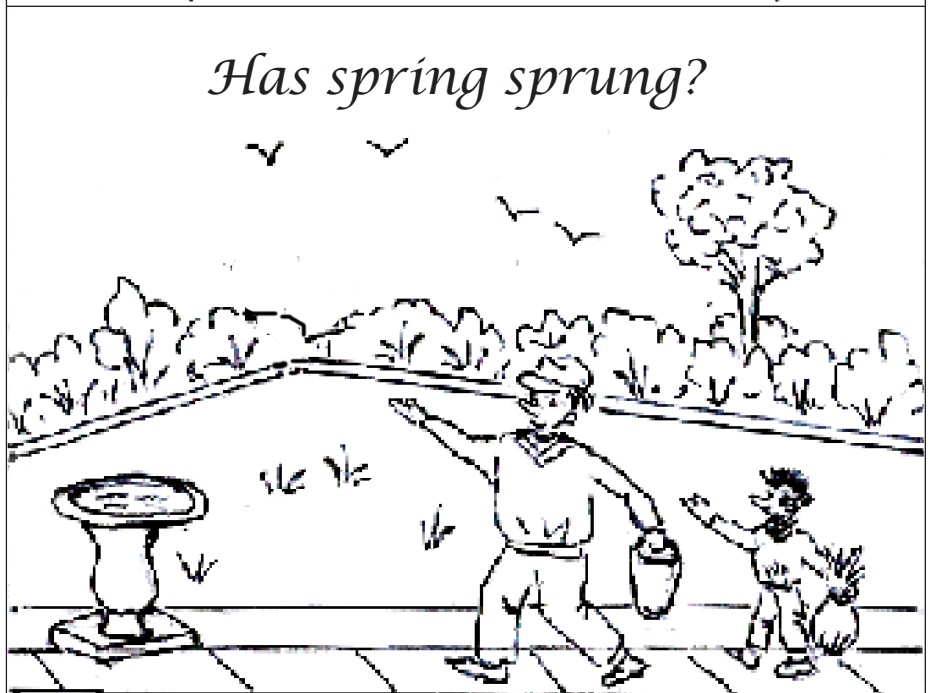
Bowerhill Residents Action Group (BRAG) is getting involved in the nationwide campaign to "Clean for the Queen" which is to have a community litter blitz to make the area where we live more beautiful as a run up to the Queen's 90th birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June 2016. More information will follow in next month's issue.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I can resist anything but temptation.

The Mole Strip

by Trish Youd



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Changes to Scheme

During the last 18 months as your Good Neighbour Co-ordinator I have been providing information and signposting for older people in the Melksham villages who need help to connect with local services and sources of support. Wiltshire Council has taken the decision that this provision will be delivered differently in the future, and the statement below explains this. I expect to be in post until the end of March, so in the meantime please feel free to contact me on 07541 353430. I hope to be able to provide more information about future arrangements in the March magazine. – Lise Griffiths

Wiltshire Council entered into a partnership with Community First in 2010, this partnership comes to an end in April 2016. The decision has been made not to renew this partnership but to work differently and facilitate local wellbeing through the county's area boards.

A Wiltshire Council spokesperson said: "Protecting those who feel isolated and lonely is a key priority for us. We asked older people what kind of services they felt should be available within their community and, based on this feedback, we have decided to provide this service in a different way.

"Our local area boards sit right at the heart of our communities and are ideally placed to provide and coordinate this new way of working. The new approach will build on the success of existing networks and links the area boards have. This will ensure local people connect with the resources and services they need to improve their wellbeing and help them remain independent within their community."

"We would also like to acknowledge the work that the Good Neighbour Co-ordinators and Community First have delivered over the last five years. This work has contributed significantly to our understanding of the support that vulnerable and older people across Wiltshire need."



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Bowerhill Beat

It is time for the first Bowerhill Beat report of the year and this month's edition includes reports going back before the Christmas break.

Our first report comes from the 17th November last year when two cars were stolen from Tangmere Close. Two adult males were stopped and located near Bristol with the vehicles; they were arrested and later charged in relation to the theft.

We took a report of graffiti that took place in Kingfisher Drive on 2nd December where someone wrote 'Hello' on someone's fence panel. This thoughtless act is not exactly the abusive or offensive graffiti which can upset the general public, but you have to consider the time and effort it takes for someone to have to clean this up.

We have taken a few reports of criminal damage and anti-social activities within Catalina Court. Between the 23rd and 28th December, a Ford Mondeo was deliberately scratched along the side of the car. Then again between the 6th and 8th January, a Mercedes Benz was damaged by the same method whilst one address had its door, fence and gate spray painted. Then between the 15th and 16th January, a Nissan Micra

had its car doors deliberately scratched and tyres slashed. These criminal acts of damage have caused a degree of concern and uncertainty within the residents around this area. There does not appear to be any explanation that can be given as to why the vehicles in this location have been targeted so frequently, and Melksham Neighbourhood Policing Team are keen to hear from anyone who may have any information about these offences.

On the 4th January, Police took a report of milk cartons which had been delivered to Bowerhill Primary School being thrown across the road causing a mess. The school itself did not actually start back until the following day and therefore the milk that had been delivered was not collected as per the norm by the school staff.

Sometime between the 5th and 10th January we had a report of an attempted break in to a caravan parked up in Barnes Wallis Close. A window was forced open by the offenders who did not appear to gain full entry to the caravan itself, and nothing appears to have been stolen. Around the same time and area of Bowerhill, we have taken a report of a garage belonging to a property on Mitchell Drive being broken into on two separate occasions. The first happening between the 8th and 9th January overnight when a fleece blanket was removed, and the second occurred a few days later, again overnight between the 11th and 12th January when some music albums were stolen.

Police are also investigating a series of events that took place across Bowerhill

by PC Barry Dalton



overnight between the 15th and 16th January. We took reports of Melksham Oak School being broken into, cars being damaged in Belvedere Road, and vehicles being interfered with at Turnpike Garage and around that location. Police later arrested an adult male who has been released pending further enquiries.

Our last report is of further damage caused to a Vauxhall Astra that was parked up on Halifax Road which had its bonnet and wing mirrors damaged sometime overnight between the 15th and 16th January. At present it is not known if this report is linked to those above, in which the male has been arrested, so we ask anyone who may have information about any of these offences to call the Police.

If you have any information on any of the incidents reported above then please contact the Police using the following::

Contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team by phoning 101 or via e-mail melkshamnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

www.wiltshire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

These schemes are an excellent way to keep in touch with the Police and are vital in feeding us with the information we need to do our jobs. If anyone is interested in setting up or joining an existing scheme then do get in touch with PC Barry Dalton or Sue Horton on 01225 707514.



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Warming up Wiltshire!

Do you struggle to keep your home warm or worry how you will afford your energy bills this winter?

Contact Warm & Safe Wiltshire for free, impartial advice about keeping your home warm, using your heating system, understanding your energy bills and making energy saving improvements. Advice can be given through home visits as well as over the phone. Home fire safety checks can also be organised in partnership with Fire and Rescue for eligible residents. Homeowners or privately-renting tenants in Wiltshire with a suitable property can now have cavity wall insulation installed in your home, free of charge – helping to make your home warmer and cheaper to heat.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from speaking to a trained energy advisor, then get in touch.

Call 0300 003 475 or email them at warmandsafe@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Volunteer for Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight's volunteers help keep the organisation running, everything from website maintenance to assisting the fundraising team to helping on Christmas market stalls. There is an opportunity for everyone in volunteering; any skill can be put to good use.

Now more than ever they need the support of volunteers as the organisation goes from strength to strength and continues to grow.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who would be, call 01380 723682 for more information about the variety of different roles ranging from admin assistants to supporting one of their activity clubs.

Volunteer Coordinator for Wiltshire Sight, Tina Stone, said, "The new year is the perfect time to start volunteering and giving something back. People are making new years resolutions to try something new or to help others, so why not donate your time to a very worthy cause? Wiltshire Sight has opportunities for all skill sets and really appreciate any extra help we are given."

For more information, please telephone the Wiltshire Sight team on 01380 739113 or email info@wiltshiresight.org.

Send submissions for a story to:
bowerhillvillager@blueyonder.co.uk
Or ring Digger on: 700487

Though we can withhold your identity at your request, you must include your name, address and phone number.

DEADLINE FOR March 2016 is Friday, 12 February 2016, noon.
No items considered after this date.



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Regular Events in the Village Hall

Enquiries

*Sally Turnnidge 01225 707827
s.turnnidge@sky.com*

**The Village Hall is now
available all day on Saturdays**

• **Alzheimer's Support – Movement
For the Mind**

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month
.....10.30 am - 12.00 pm

Contact Annie Clayton 776481

• **Baby and Toddler Group**

Mondays 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Marie Anne Dubois 07595 293313

• **Beavers**

Fridays 5.30 pm - 6.45 pm

Ross MacKenzie bowerhillgsl@gmail.com

• **Bowerhill Busy Bees Patchwork**

alternate Fridays..... 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Contact Marilyn Mills 708600

• **Bowerhill Ladies Group**

3rd Tuesday from 7.45 pm

Contact Gill Ellis 704252

• **Craft Chat & Coffee**

Fortnightly Fridays.. 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Contact Jenny Butcher 353123

• **Cubs**

Thursdays..... 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Contact Sue Cook 766884

or David Smith 700899

• **PHAB Club**

Fortnightly Wednesdays..... 7.30 pm

Contact Val Akers 704632

• **Scouts**

Fridays 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Ross MacKenzie bowerhillgsl@gmail.com

Bob Whitting 07463 042324

bowerhillscouts@talktalk.net

• **Village Hall committee**

1st Tuesday of each month..... 7.30pm

• **Yoga**

Thursdays..... 9.30 am - 11.00 am

Contact Sara Cheesman 868001

http://www.sarasyoga.co.uk



Air Ambulance Visits Bowerhill

On Sunday January 10th not one, but two Air Ambulances attended an emergency in Bowerhill. One landed in Barnes Wallis Close and the second in a field off Brabazon Way. We understand the first was carrying paramedics and the second, a doctor to attend a lady who had collapsed at home.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance was established in March 1990 as a joint venture between the Wiltshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the Wiltshire Constabulary. They are a registered charity and rely almost entirely on public donations.

Update on proposed new home

Following the public consultation event held during August for Wiltshire Air Ambulance's proposed new home, the charity's Board of Trustees agreed to purchase its preferred site. The 12.6 acre site is on land at Outmarsh Farm, Semington (immediately south of Hampton Park West Industrial Estate).

The purchase of the land is subject to planning permission being granted and they submitted an Outline Planning Application to Wiltshire Council, which was registered at the end of November. The planning application – reference number 15/10766/OUT – can be viewed online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

The target date for a decision on the planning application is the middle of February 2016. If planning permission is granted, they plan to hold a public consultation event before submitting a Reserved Matters Planning Application to Wiltshire Council detailing the proposed layout and design of the site. They anticipate this public consultation event to be in the Spring (2016).

Mandy Clarke, chairman of Wiltshire Air Ambulance, said: "Our proposed new home would be a purpose-built, future-proof facility for our helicopter, aircrew and charity staff.

"The feedback we received during our public consultation was overwhelmingly positive and re-affirmed our view that the Outmarsh Farm site was our preferred lo-

cation. It is centrally located in Wiltshire, which would enable our helicopter to reach all parts of the county within 11 minutes."



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• Teresa Strange705700 *clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

Melksham Without Council Chair:

• Richard Wood.....793880 *richard.wood@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

Council Vice Chair:

• John Glover705798 *john.glover@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

Melksham Without Council Members for Bowerhill and Beanacre Ward:

• Alan Baines704916 *alan.baines@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

• Rolf Brindle.....07949 282220 *rolf.brindle@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

• Paul Carter.....703223 *paul.carter@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

• Terry Chivers.....07794 489506 *terry.chivers@wiltshire.gov.uk*

• Mike Mills.....708600 *mike.mills@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

• Pat Nicol.....703390 *pat.nicol@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

• Steve Petty.....791060 *steve.petty@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

• Mike Sankey.....971384 *mike.sankey@melkshamwithout.co.uk*

Wiltshire Council – Melksham Without South:

• Roy While704063 *roy.while@wiltshire.gov.uk*

Option 24/7

Wiltshire Council are consulting on how the residents of Wiltshire want them to save money on bus subsidies by offering six different options for removing funds by cutting Saturdays and/or Sundays and evenings, cutting most town buses and most rural services, or reducing daytime buses to every two hours.

For Bowerhill residents, this could mean that the first bus would arrive from Bath at around 9:30 am, with the last one coming back at around 16:30, Monday to Friday only. (Melksham to Bath counts as 271 and 272, x72, Hopper, and x76!)

Contrary to what Wiltshire Council is proposing, rather than looking at individual routes in isolation, the new Buses Bill heralds a system which looks at the network as a whole. You might have two buses an hour – every 30 minutes – from Bowerhill to Bath, with alternate services running via Atworth and via Corsham, extended to the Royal United Hospital in Bath. This includes buses in the early morning and evening too, and with week-end services continuing to run.

Please take a look at the website <http://option247.uk> where you can read about this. And please give your view by completing the questionnaire that is linked to the Council site. Forms are available at the library, and on some buses too, or you can call the Council on 0300 456 0100 and ask them to post you one.

BOWERHILL LADIES GROUP

Waitrose and Christmas

Neil and Tracy from Waitrose joined us in November for an interesting talk on the wines which Waitrose sell and information about the “My Waitrose” card. Tracy explained the loyalty scheme and brought with her some biscuits, and we enjoyed sampling these as well as tasting the wine.

We had our Christmas party in December at The Pilot. Unfortunately, two of our members had to pull out at the last minute due to illness but a good time was had by the rest of us. An excellent meal was followed by some good games.

We will be meeting in February and our AGM will be in March when we will be given our new programme.

If you are interested in coming along and/or joining us then please give Gill a call on 01225 704252 and she'll be happy to give you more information.

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