

Dear friends,
Happy New year to you all. I wonder what will happen in the world, and in all our individual lives in 2016? If you have made some New Year resolutions I hope that by the time you read this they are all still in place. We make decisions for our lives throughout the years but the beginning of a New Year can seem like a new chapter in a book which gives a fresh start. The changes we want to make need to be realistic if we are to have any chance of fulfilling them. I will be dress size 4 by the end of the month will not happen, but this year I will eat more sensibly has a chance of success.

As many of you know after much thought and prayer I have decided that it is time for me to retire. It is not a decision I have made easily but I do believe that God is saying that the time to take things a little slower has come. I will be retiring after Easter some time during April.

It was in 1999 when I had just left theological college, that I was asked to see if I would like to come to All Saints Denmead and serve my title curacy. This seems in some senses a very long time ago and yet time seems to have flown by. I have now been your vicar for nearly ten years and I have loved every minute of that time. It has been a wonderful and very fulfilling time of my life – and to echo the words that John Herklots used in the card he sent me on my arrival: 'All Saints is the most wonderful Parish in the area'.

Over the next few months I will be with my clergy colleagues putting in place plans to make the transition from the end of my ministry to the time when a new Incumbent arrives as smooth as possible. With Rev Sandie our associate priest, and the retired priests. David, Stuart and John all taking more active

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roles, the pattern of services and the pastoral work will continue.

Please pray for us as we plan in the next months, and also pray that the person God wants to come and lead All Saints is hearing God calling them.

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Change happens all of the time and I we know that the disciples of Jesus found it very difficult when he was arrested, crucified. They became lost souls for a while but God did not leave them. With the resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, they became the apostles who spread the good news to all in their world.

Is our Lord calling you to new things in 2016? Is he wanting you to change direction, to volunteer to do more in the work of the church in Denmead or to spread his love to others in any other ways?

I will be praying for you all as the year progresses and I hope you will pray for me in the new chapter of my life following our Lord.

With love in Christ

Sandra



Messy Church resumes for the New Year on **Saturday 16th January 3.30pm** in the Church Hall.

The afternoon includes stories, craft, singing and tea. All families welcome.

For further information call Sandra, the Vicar, 9225 5490

All Saints Church Services

Sunday 3rd January Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
6.00pm Healing service

Sunday 10th January Baptism of Christ

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am. Family Praise
6.00pm Sung Evensong

Saturday 16th January

3.30pm Messy Church Celebration in church hall.

Sunday 17th January 2nd Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
6.00pm no Informal Service

Sunday 24th January 3rd Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion
6.00pm Sung Evensong

Weekly Thursday Communion at 11am. A Said Prayer Book Communion Service. Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily at 8.30am and 5.00pm respectively.

The Church is open for private prayer. If you wish to light a candle, there is a candle stand in the Sanctuary of the Chapel of Healing and Unity.

Healing Service

The next healing Service is at 6pm on Sunday 3rd January. This gentle reflective service is for all who want to receive the Lord's healing love for physical, mental, emotional or spiritual healing. Further information contact Vicar 9225 5490

Denmead Home Visiting Group

If you are lonely, sick or housebound or would just like someone to visit you we have a confidential visiting team and one of our members would willingly come, visit and spend time listening to you. Please phone us on 9226 8757.

If the answerphone is on leave a message and we will phone you back.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The Church of the Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle
356 London Road,
Waterlooville,
Hampshire PO7 7SR
Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Bidgood,
(023) 9226 2289
frkbidgood@hotmail.com
www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk

MASS TIMES

Saturday Mass

Vigil: 6.15 pm

Sunday Masses

10.30 am Children's Liturgy

6.30 pm Folk Mass

Please refer to Newsletter for weekday Mass times.



RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:30 pm (or by appointment)

Monday 9.30 am

Hi Everyone!

Happy 2016!

January is the special month for reflecting on Christian unity, and a key element of ecumenism is the 'Churches Together' approach to being united in faith.

This is a commitment by each church and denomination to deepen fellowship with others without losing what makes each different. The aim is to work towards a greater visible unity. This works at a local, regional and national level.

At a local level it fosters co-operation between the churches both in terms of common worship and common action. Catholics and other Christians in Denmead are especially privileged to have an active and fruitful Churches Together group. For many years now the covenant or agreement between Anglicans, Baptists and the Roman Catholics has been a reality in this local community.

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There are plenty of examples of co-operation and common Christian witness in Denmead. Our three churches share devotional events during Lent, including the popular 'Lent Lunches', the annual Good Friday Procession and the 'DABS' children's week in August.

Unity, in this violent and divided world, is a precious thing, so give thanks that in our small way here in Denmead, we are contributing to a greater understanding between people of different traditions.

Fr. Kevin



Over £2000 raised by the Christmas Bazaar

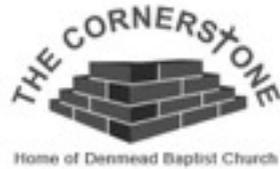
A wonderful time was had by helpers and visitors at the Church Bazaar held on Sat Nov 28th. It was a very festive occasion, with many stalls, delicious refreshments and a visit from Santa in his grotto. The Bazaar was opened by Anne, an Ambassador from Rowans Meerkats, a charity which is part of the Rowans Hospice and provides help and support for children and young carers affected by a family member with cancer.

A very BIG thank you to everyone who helped, or donated food and gifts for the stalls and especially those who purchased from the stalls – over £2000 was raised which will be distributed between Rowans Meerkats, a small charity called 'Go With The Flow' and some sent out to our link church in Ghana for their Mission House.

Thank you – from All Saints home and overseas group

PS – a date for your 2016 diary – next year the Bazaar is on Nov26th.

A thousand visitors a month can't be wrong!
Come and experience for yourself our spacious and comfortable



Cornerstone Community Lounge

An ideal venue for a variety of occasions:

- Hold your celebration or corporate events here. Hold your class or interest group meeting.
- Choose from a delicious menu to suit your requirements and budget. Or just come in and visit us to see what we have to offer. Why not pop into our cosy coffee shop and ice cream parlour.



Treat yourself and your family to hot and cold beverages, freshly made hot or cold snack, Italian Gelato or a slice of cake. Our friendly staff will be happy to serve you.

Denmead Baptist Church is a small, friendly fellowship who have worshipped in the village since 1717. In 2014 we purchased the Mead End Public House, to convert it to a community centre. Since then we have found that our facilities are very popular with many groups and individuals.

Our Sunday services are informal and incorporate a worship band, children's activities and Bible based teaching for the adults and young people. We enjoy social times and together have worked hard to enable The Cornerstone to be established.

Our regular activities are listed on our website at:
www.denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk

Contact us via E-mail at admin@denmeadbaptistchurch.org.uk

Telephone on 023 9307 8372

Visit us at 22 Mead End Road, Denmead, PO7 6PZ, for more information.

Table Top Sale

A **Table Top Sale** will be taking place in the Church Hall, on the morning of Saturday 19th March 2016, in aid of the Church Sanctuary Guild Flower Fund.

If you would like to book a table for your own personal sale, or for your charity or organisation, please contact Carolyn Keyzor on 023 9235 1209 or e-mail keyzors2@ntlworld.com.

Large tables will cost £10, small tables, £5. Refreshments will be available throughout the morning.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year's service will be held in All Saints' Church, Denmead, on Friday, 4th March 2016 at 7.30pm.



It has been prepared this time by the Christian women of Cuba and the theme is 'Receive children. Receive me.' It will stress that everyone is a child of God and all are equally worthy of our love and respect.

As always, the service is open to all - men, women and children, of all denominations - to come and share in worship that encompasses the entire world in one day, starting at sunrise in the island of Samoa in the Pacific Ocean and continuing till sunset off the coast of American Samoa, some 35 hours later.

Do come and join us at this special world-wide service.

Denmead Village Association

A meeting was held on 20th November when the Chairman Peter Ambrose spoke of the progress of the Denmead Neighbourhood Plan. The Advisory Group formerly the Steering Group were making sure that the developers and planners were keeping to the Denmead Village Plan. All the members thanked Mr Ambrose for all the work he and the Steering Group had done in the last four years.

The speaker Mr Jim Watson spoke of his life with the Metropolitan Police as a Superintendent and also with Scotland Yard. He had many

tales of the sieges in London and life in the police force.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 15th January with the history of Widley in bygone days with Andrew Perrin.

All residents are welcome to attend. The membership fee is £2 a year which is payable to Mrs Janet Nobes, 8 The Smithy, Denmead PO7 6YS Telephone 023 92 255981.

I also have available for sale the Denmead History Books, notelets and tea towels showing views of Denmead.

Janet Nobes Treasurer

Bereavement Group

There is a monthly 'Tea and Friendship' afternoon for anyone recently bereaved. This is an informal time when people can meet others, have tea and make friends. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month between 2-4pm in the church hall.

For more information please phone the Church office 9226 8757 or Merrill Partridge 9226 6159.

ASC = All Saints' Church	Contact	B.Wright, 9223 3248
CH = Church Hall	Contact	B.Wright, 9223 3248
HR = Heath Room	Contact	S.Thomas 9235 5993
MH = Memorial Hall	Contact	Mr R Bainbridge MBE, 9225 6132
OS = Old School (Community Centre)	Contact	Tony Daniells, 9224 7947
PC = Denmead Parish Council	Contact	

D = Daily
W = Weekly
F = Fortnightly
M = Monthly
Events occurring Daily and Weekly
are only mentioned once - i.e. in the
first week of the month.

Please note:

- The times stated here may be the times for which the halls are booked. Please check other publicity for the times of the event.
- To ensure the correct details are shown for your organisation's event included in these Diary pages, please email your meeting times and details to Gill Barge (denmeadbarges@aol.com) or send them to her at Fairview, School Lane, Denmead PO7 6LY. Thank you.

Fri	1	CH	Hampshire Ramblers	2.00-5.00pm	
Sat	2	HR	Councillor's Surgery	10.00-Noon	M
Sun	3	HR	Confirmation Class	4.00-5.00pm	W
Mon	4	CH	Zumba Fitness Class	9.30am	W
			Breathe Again	11.30-12.30pm	W
			Slimming World	5.30 & 7.30pm	W
			Slimming World	5.30 & 7.30pm	W
		MH	TS Alacrity	6.45pm	W
		OS	Smart Fitness-Circuit Training	9.00-10.00am	W
			Mumbaba -	9.30-10.30am	W
			-Parents/Carers & Tots Singing Group		
			Mumbaba	9.30-10.30am	W
			Smart Fitness-Circuit Training	6.00-8.00pm	W
			Table Tennis	7.00-9.00pm	W
			Denmead Bridge Club	7.00-10.00pm	W
		SHQ	Merlin Cub Pack	6.30-8.00pm	W
			At the Forest Of Bere - Denmead Knit & Bitch	7.00-9.00pm	W

Village Diary

		All abilities are welcome		
Tue 5	CH	All Join in Together (Mums, Carers & Tots)	11.00-Noon	W
		3 rd Denmead Brownies	5.45pm	W
	HR	Coffee & a Chat (& Thurs)	9.30am-Noon	2xW
	MH	Denmead Pre-School - Wednesday	9.00-3.00pm	D
		Archery	7.00pm	W
	OS	Old Schoolhouse Preschool - Friday -	9.00-3.00pm	D
		The Old Schoolhouse Creative Play - For Under 5s	9.30-11.00am	W
		Tuesday Pilates Class	5.30-7.30pm	W
		Body Focus	7.00-8.00pm	W
		Downland Singers	7.45-10.15pm	W
		Denmead Brass Band	8.00-10.00pm	W
	SHQ	Busy Bees Preschool Mon to Thurs	9.00-12.00pm	D
		Spitfire Scouts	6.30-8.30pm	W
Wed 6	CH	Pilates	10.00-11.00am	W
		2 nd Denmead Rainbows	4.15pm	W
		1 st Denmead Brownies	5.45pm	W
	BC	NOAH'S ARK - Parent, Carers & Toddler Group	10-11.30am	W
	MH	Denmead Afternoon WI	2.00pm	M
	OS	Zumba Gold	9.30-10.15am	W
		Table Tennis	10.00-Noon	W
		Denmead Art Group	10.00-Noon	F
		Tai Chi	1.30-2.30pm	W
		Tai Chi	1.30-2.30pm	W
		Patchwork Pals	3.00-6.00pm	W
		Smart Fitness-Circuit Training	6.00-7.00pm	W
		Breakaway Quilters	7.00-10.00pm	W
		Parish Council –Planning	7.30pm	

		SHQ Concorde Cub Pack	6.30-8.00pm	W
		Church Car Park Mobile Library	1.30-4.00pm	W
		At the Forest Of Bere - Denmead Knit & Bitch	10.00-Noon	W
		All abilities are welcome		
Thu	7	CH Jiggly Wigglers	10.00-11.00am	W
		Keep Fit	2.00pm	W
		1 st Denmead Rainbows	4.15pm	W
		2 nd Denmead Brownies	5.30pm	W
		CH & HR Guides & Rangers	7.00pm	W
		HR Coffee & a Chat (& Tuesdays)	9.30-Noon	2xW
		MH Badminton	7.30pm	W
		OS Zumba	9.30-10.30am	W
		Table Tennis	9.00-11.00am	W
		Senior Citizens' Lunch Club	12.30-1.30pm	W
		Citizens' Advice Bureau	1.00-3.00pm	W
		Rimor Fitness	5.30-6.30pm	W
		SHQ Bere Forest Beavers	6.15-7.30pm	W
		The Cornerstone - Denmead WI Belles Meeting	7.30pm	M
Fri	8	CH Mother & Toddler Group	9.30am	W
		Chair Exercises	2.00pm	W
		Youthmove	5.15-6.15pm	W
		OS U3A Art Class	10.00-Noon	W
		Denmead Drama	4.00-7.30pm	W
		Denmead Dogs at Play	7.00-8.00pm	W
		Rose Dog Club	7.30-8.30pm	W
		SHQ Vulcan Scout Troop	7.00-9.00pm	W
		Phoenix Explorers	7.00-9.00pm	W
Sat	9	OS Southern Arts Academy Dance Class	9.45-11.15am	W
Sun	10	MH Archery	9.00am	W
		Karate	5.00pm	W
		OS Denmead Brass Band Juniors	9.15-10.15am	W
		Denmead Brass Band	10.30-12.30am	W
Mon	11	HR Church Hall Committee Meeting	7.30pm	
		At The Forest of Bere The Royal British Legion	8.00pm	M

Village Diary

			Meeting - Hambledon & District Branch		
			Contact 02392261428		
Tue	12	CH	Exercise After Stroke	2.00-3.30pm	F
			Gold Star Dancing	8.00-9.00pm	W
		OS	Denmead Evening WI Craft Evening	7.00-9.00pm	M
			At the Chairmakers Waterlooville Probus Club	Noon-3.00pm	
			Monthly Lunch & Talk.		
Wed	13	CH	Meet & Eat	12.30pm	M
			British Koi Karp Society	7.30pm	M
		MH	Floral Workshop	7.30pm	M
		OS	Creative Quilters	10.00-Noon	F
			Parish Council- Main Council	7.30pm	
Thu	14	UR	Exploring Christianity	7.30pm	W
Fri	15	CH	Denmead Village Association	7.30pm	
Sat	16	CH	MESSY CHURCH	3.30-5.30pm	M
			see main notice for details		
Tue	19	HR	Mothers' Union	7.30pm	
		OS	Denmead Reading Circle	2.15-4.15pm	M
Wed	20	CH	Flower Club AGM	2.00pm	M
		OS	Parish Council – Amenities	7.30pm	
		MH	Denmead Evening WI	7.30pm	M
Sat	23	OS	FILM NIGHT	7.30pm	M
			Tickets £5		
Mon	25	HR	Koi Karp Committee Meeting	8.00-10.00pm	
Wed	27	HR	Deanery Mother's Union	9.30-12.30pm	M
		OS	Parish Council –Planning	7.30pm	
			White Wings House Golden Years Club	2.00pm	M
			- Contact 023 92261428		
Sat	30	CH	SAVE THE CHILDREN JUMBLE SALE	AM	

Denmead Community Centre

Community Learning and Development - Starting in January 2016.

- French lessons
- Painting in Watercolours
- Creative Writing
- Water Colours
- Mandarin lessons

For more details see visit Community Learning and Development on our website or contact the Centre

New Group starting in January, Tuesdays 1900 – 2000, Body Focus, a fitness class that provides an all over body conditioning - aerobic for the heart, lungs and strength for the skeletal muscles finishing with a long relaxing all over stretch.

Denmead Community Centre Book Exchange / Library. The Centre has a large selection of both fiction and non-fiction books which are available for exchange or for a small donation.

If you would like to receive our new electronic newsletter detailing the events and activities held at the Community Centre, just visit our website www.denmeadca.com and click "join the email list".

From the Registers

Funerals

15th December Joyce Jane Robinson age 95 yrs

Denmead Afternoon W I

After our birthday in November we had a fairly quiet month. We visited South Downs College for lunch and had a stall at the Horticultural Society's Craft Fair.

The first week in December made up for our quiet November; We welcomed the Spirit of the South ladies choir to our monthly meeting, They came festively dressed in red tops and entertained us with seasonal music and carols which put us in the Christmas spirit. After tea and biscuits the institute were visited by Father Christmas and Rudolph who distributed the presents given in the Secret Santa. Thank you Margaret and Angela for keeping us amused as you went round the room.

The competition for a handmade Christmas Card was won by Janet Pearce with Joan Elliott second. The flower competition was won Joan Elliott and Joan Downing was second.

The month continued with the Group Carol Service at St Wilfrids Church in Cowplain. Each institute took part and gathered together for tea, coffee and mince pies. It is always a pleasure to meet old and new friends from other institutes.

The following afternoon sixteen members visited the Kings Theatre for the pantomime, complete with ice cream during the interval. The afternoon was a great success especially as the majority of the audience were schoolchildren. We once again were able to use the Communicare minibus, thanks to Philippa.

This month we start the New Year with a timely visit a by Terri Bryant who will demonstrate gentle chair exercises: some members attend Terri's weekly class and can assure other members it will be a fun afternoon and not too strenuous. The competition is for a fun health limerick.

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We extend a warm welcome to all ladies to our meetings which are held on the first Wednesday in the month at the Memorial Hall. The meeting is from 2pm to 4pm

The meeting includes a talk or demonstration on a wide range of subjects so there is something for all tastes and interests. If you are new to the village or recently retired WI is the ideal place to make new friends or renew old acquaintances. If you are not free during the day the Evening Institute would welcome you to their meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (except December when it is the 2nd Wednesday).

We wish you all a Happy New Year and a peaceful and prosperous 2016.

Joan Downing (9226 5458)



Denmead Evening WI

Our November meeting entitled "Tax, Care and other Inheritance Robbers" was very thought provoking as our speaker explained the various schemes available to organise our finances according to our wishes and plan for the future.

December was another busy month as we firstly enjoyed a Christmas Meet & Eat lunch at the White Hart, complete with crackers, hats and balloons. The next week we participated in the Bere Forest Group Christmas Carol Service at St Wilfrids church in Cowplain where one of our members read a bible reading.

Our December meeting was held a week earlier than usual on Wednesday, 9th, when we were entertained by Bishops Bells playing handbell music with audience participation. This put us

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all into the Christmas spirit and was much enjoyed by everyone. Afterwards we shared an American Supper and a Secret Santa dip and wished each other a very Happy Christmas.

At our January meeting on the 19th we welcome Denise Quinney, a Historical Interpreter, who will present her 'Cabinet of Curiosities' and will be dressed for the period.

We will also be celebrating the New Year with an evening meal at the Harvest Home on 26th January.

Our monthly craft evenings are currently suspended for the winter months but will recommence in March. Watch this space...

Since 1915 the WI has taken action on a wide range of topics that matter to women and their communities, from Farm-gate Milk Prices to More Midwives, and Care not Custody (inappropriate detention of people with mental health problems). Each year members countrywide have the chance to put forward issues that they want the National Federation to raise awareness about. In this way the WI makes a real impact on local, national and global issues. Our 2014 campaign was 'Time to Talk about Organ Donation'. For 2016 a total of 79 resolutions were submitted and narrowed down to a shortlist of 8 against which we are now asked to cast our vote. The selected resolution will be discussed and voted on at the AGM next June. See more at: <https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/current-campaigns-and-initiatives>.

The WI offers women the opportunity to make friends, learn new skills, and campaign on wide-ranging issues. Why not make a New Year Resolution to give us a try and see what we are all about. You would receive a very warm welcome. We meet at the Memorial Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. For more information see www.thewi.org.uk

Irene Woodings

CAB

Q. I think my neighbour has been scammed and I'd like to support her when she reports it, the trouble is neither of us are sure who we should be contacting.

A, Scams are schemes to con you out of your money. They can arrive by post, phone call, text message or email, or from someone coming to your home. It's very distressing to be caught out by a scam. But it's important to report it to try and stop the scammer striking again

If you've lost money because of a scam report it to Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre. You can report the scam through their website or by phone. You can also forward scam emails to them. You will need to provide as much information as possible, for example any names or other information about the scammer; dates and details about how the money has been lost or how you were threatened.

If you've been threatened with physical violence on your doorstep, you can report this to the police.

You can report a scam to Trading Standards. Remember you're giving

them vital information which they can use to help stop other people from becoming victims of the same scam. Some scams are criminal offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. This means that Trading Standards may be able to take criminal action against the scammers.

If you are a European visitor and think you have been the victim of a scam while in the UK, contact the European consumer centre based in your country to report it.

If you've been tricked into calling a premium rate number or sending a text to this kind of number, you can complain to Phonepay Plus. This is an organisation responsible for policing companies that use premium rate numbers. It can fine companies and may be able to help you get a refund.

Getting your money back - You can't always get your money back if you've been scammed, especially if you've handed over cash. If you've paid for goods or services by credit

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you have more protection and if you used a debit card you may be able to ask your bank for a chargeback.

Don't forget that If you've bought something in an off-premises sale, for example, on the doorstep, or by a distance sale, for example, over the internet, by phone or mail order you may have a 14 day cooling-off period during which you can cancel a contract.

Action Fraud Website:

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 2040.

For more information about scams, or contact details of your nearest CAB, go to the Citizens Advice public website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk – please note you can also use the webchat option in most enquiry areas during working hours.

'Copyright Citizens Advice. For the most up-to-date version, please visit their public advice site at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

***The charity for your community, –
Citizens Advice Winchester District***



Music For Under 5's....



All Join In Together is a music group for under 5s with their parent or carer. We meet at All Saints Church Hall every Tuesday at 11.15 - 12, during term time.

We do singing games, circle games and nursery rhymes, and everyone has the

chance to play lots of different instruments.

Come along, have fun, make friends and give your child a great start with their language skills and socialisation. We'd love to see you!

Taster Session is free – just come along.

Details from Chris – 023 9259 8068

Denmead Horticultural Society

There may not appear to be much going on in the garden but for the last few months bulbs have been putting down their roots ready to push up new shoots and burst into flower in Spring. With the unusual fluctuations in temperature some plants have decided to flower early and you may already have the odd daffodil or primrose out alongside the snowdrops. Whatever the weather we can now reflect on last year's successes and failures and plan for the year ahead so it is a good time to browse the seed catalogues and pick out a few new varieties to try.

If you are a vegetable grower the Hampshire Potato Days are worth a visit. This year they are on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 January and are held at the Testbourne Community Centre, Micheldever Road, Whitchurch, RG28 7JF, open from 10am - 3pm. There will be 120 varieties of potato available and you can buy tubers singly or in 2.5kg nets so it is a good opportunity to try something new. There will also be pea and bean seeds sold by the half pint, onion and shallot sets, stalls selling unusual edible plants, organic vegetable plants, heritage seeds, a seed swap table, talks and refreshments.

We don't have an evening talk in January so our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd February, 7.30pm at the Church Hall. Cliff Thompson will be presenting a travelogue on his visits to Patagonia in search of cactus. Now is the time to join the Horticultural Society as we have a full programme of talks on all aspects of gardening planned for the year – visitors (£2) and new members (£12) are always welcome to our meetings.

A Happy New Gardening Year to all.

Liz Williams (9226 9642)

Winchester District Council Up-date

We would like to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

At the Cabinet meeting in December it was proposed that there should be no increase in the Council Tax for the coming year 2016-17. It was also proposed that there would be no increase in Car parking charges in the Winchester City Council controlled car parks. The Cabinet also proposed a balanced budget for next year 2016-17.

North Winchester Flood alleviation scheme

The Cabinet looked at a proposed extension to the flood defences within Winchester. Over the past years properties within the Eastgate area of Winchester have suffered from heavy flooding, this has involved many Officers of the council undertaking emergency work alongside fellow officers from the County Council and the Emergency Services throughout Hampshire. The improved flood defences will ensure residents of St Bedes School and University

students will have more security where they live and work.

Review of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council Tax Benefit was replaced with a local Council Tax Reduction scheme from during 2013/14 and the result has been under review over the two years. The National welfare reform programme is on-going with significant changes being implemented currently and further changes are planned. The national roll out of the Universal Credit (UC), which has an impact on working age customers, started in February 2015. It is being rolled out slowly in phases with completion programmed for the end of 2020. UC was started in the Winchester District on 21st September for working single claimants who are receiving Jobseekers Allowance. Given the scale of welfare reform it is has been recommended that the current scheme, with a further increase in disregarded earned income, continues to be adopted for 2016/17.

*On behalf of Kirk Phillips, Mike Read and Patricia Stallard
Winchester District Councillors*