

# East Boldre *and beyond* e-newsletter

01 December 2025

Hello Everyone

This month's newsletter includes some local news about Christmas events and the usual monthly police report in our Neighbourhood Watch section. Please don't forget to send in your notices and advertise your events in this free newsletter. And please tell your friends about it or forward a copy to them. They can request a copy on the village website using the link above.

## East Boldre Christmas Show 2025

Archie Kitcher is organising the popular East Boldre Christmas show again this year, after its success last year when this cookery and craft competition raised over £1000 for the Oakhaven Hospice Trust.

Whether you enjoy baking or are artfully crafty there is a range of categories for you.

It will be held on 13th December 2025 at East Boldre School Fields, Main Road, East Boldre, SO42 7WT.

- Entry forms must be submitted by 6pm, 12th December
- Exhibits must be delivered to School Fields between 10:30 and 12 pm on Saturday, 13th December.
- Everyone is welcome to the prize giving from 2:30 pm on the day at School Fields to discover this year's winners.
- There will be refreshments and a raffle with fabulous prizes kindly donated by the event's local sponsors.

For more information and to enter please pick up an entry form from Chapel Stores, Chapel Lane, East Boldre, SO42 7WP

### Cookery Classes

1. 3 Mince Pies
2. 3 Shortbread Biscuits
3. 3 Flapjacks
4. 3 Sausage Rolls
5. 3 Gingerbread Biscuits
6. 3 Savoury Scones
7. Traditional Christmas Cake
8. Chocolate Yule-Tide Log
9. Cranberry Sauce

### Craft Classes

10. A Christmas Tree Decoration
11. A Christmas Card
12. A Table Decoration
13. A Christmas Wreath

### Children's Classes – 12 years and under only

14. A Christmas Card
15. A Christmas Tree Decoration
16. 3 Christmas Decorated Biscuits

**£1 for each entry in each class**

**COOKERY & CRAFT COMPETITION**

**Sat 13th Dec 2025  
At East Boldre School Fields**



**EAST BOLDRE**

**★ CHRISTMAS SHOW ★**

**★ All proceeds will go to Oakhaven Hospice Trust ★**

**★ Raffle with fantastic prizes ★**

**★ Entry drop off between 10:30am and 12pm ★**

**★ Show opens at 2:30pm for refreshments ★**

**★ Pick up an entry booklet from**

**Chapel Stores, East Boldre ★**

**★ For further information, please contact  
Archie Kitcher: [archiekitcher@gmail.com](mailto:archiekitcher@gmail.com) ★**

## Overall Competition Prize

Luxurious Dinner, Bed and Breakfast Stay  
for Two at The Montagu Arms Hotel!



All are welcome to join our festive prize giving at  
School Fields at 2:30pm for refreshments and a  
raffle with fantastic prizes, including:

3 course lunch/dinner for two at The PIG  
Afternoon tea for two at The Montagu Arms Hotel  
Meal for two at The Turfcutters  
Free MOT from Martin's Garage  
Local Wines from New Forest Fruit  
Lymington Pink Gin from 820 Spirits  
Honey Hamper from The Noble Bee  
Gift set from New Forest Botanics  
Box of chocolates from Beaulieu Chocolate Studio  
Gift Voucher from Fairweather's Garden Centre  
TWININGS Tea Hamper  
Champagne  
And many more...

**THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!**

## Supporting Oakhaven Hospice Trust

**Christmas Carol at St Paul's Church**

# St Paul's East Boldre



## Christmas Carols & Christingle Saturday 20th December at 3:30 PM

*All-age-friendly service featuring your favourite Christmas Carols and Christingle Oranges covered in sweets!*

### Services at Beaulieu, Exbury and East Boldre Churches

For full details of Church Services at Beaulieu, Exbury and East Boldre, [go to the Beaulieu Churches website](#).

**Oakhaven Treecycle:**  
Recycle your Christmas tree and help Oakhaven Hospice



Book now to recycle your Christmas tree and help your local hospice!

This Christmas, Oakhaven Hospice is introducing a new initiative. From Thursday 8th to Monday 12th January 2026, Oakhaven Hospice's 'Treecycle' volunteers will be collecting Christmas trees from homes and taking them to be recycled.

In this inaugural year, the initiative will cover the SO41, SO42, SO45 and BH25 postcodes, and the hospice plans to roll the scheme out to other local postcodes the following year.

Book your Treecycle today! Visit [www.oakhavenhospice.co.uk/treecycle](http://www.oakhavenhospice.co.uk/treecycle) to book your real Christmas tree collection online and make a suggested donation of £15, which will help Oakhaven to provide vital hospice care services to local patients and their families. One of the team will be in touch nearer the time to confirm which day your collection will take place, along with instructions for the collection (which of course includes removing your decorations!)

Hannah Davies, Community Fundraiser at Oakhaven Hospice, said, "We are delighted to introduce Treecycle, a new fundraising initiative that helps our local community to recycle their Christmas trees, whilst raising vital funds for the Hospice. Many thanks to our Treecycle headline sponsor, Heppenstalls, and associate sponsor, New Forest Escapes, whose generous support has enabled us to start Treecycle.

"We're also very grateful to Moles Country Stores, Everton Nurseries, Agars Nursery, Redcliffe Garden Centre and Fairweathers Garden Centre, all of whom are helping us to promote Treecycle to customers when they purchase their Christmas trees."

It is thanks to the generosity of volunteers that Oakhaven will be able to provide the 'Treecycle' service. Already several individuals, groups and local businesses have stepped up to volunteer their time and the charity welcomes more volunteers! If you would like to volunteer for Oakhaven Treecycle, please contact Hannah on [fundraising@oakhavenhospice.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@oakhavenhospice.co.uk) or call 01590 677773.

All funds raised by Oakhaven Treecycle will help to fund Oakhaven's day-to-day running costs, which last year amounted to £9 million. With only 11% of funding covered by the NHS, your local hospice relies on kind donations, fundraising, gifts in wills and income from its charity shops and home care provider, Oakhaven Care Ltd, to cover the remaining 89% of costs.

## Neighbourhood Watch

### Police CyberCheck Tool.

Please explore the Police CyberCheck Tool using the link below.

This is a free, mobile-friendly tool created by the South East Cyber Crime Unit. It gives you step-by-step actions to improve your cybersecurity in priority order.

### [Police CyberCheck Tool](#)

#### **Beware of winter fuel payment scams**

Between April and September 2025, Action Fraud has received 2,790 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payment scams, with victims reporting losses totalling over £27,000.

Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically. You do not need to do anything. If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam.

#### **Amazon Won't Call You - Stop! Think Fraud**

We've received a number of reports from residents of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight stating they've been defrauded after answering the phone to someone purporting to be Amazon.

Amazon say: It's ok to hang up.

If you received correspondence regarding an order you didn't place, it likely wasn't from Amazon. Visit Your Orders to review your order history.

If you receive a suspicious phone call from someone claiming to be from Amazon, be alert if they:

- Ask you for payment over the phone or outside of the Amazon website. Examples can be performing bank transfers, e-mailing credit card details, or sharing gift card details. They might even offer you a refund you do not expect.
- Try to remotely access your device by asking you to install an app, or to share a One-Time Password (OTP) you received.
- Ask for your Amazon password, personal sensitive information like credit card information, or bank account number to unlock your Amazon account. Do not share your personal sensitive information if the request is suspicious.
- Create false emergencies by claiming your Amazon subscription is expiring or unauthorised purchases were made on your account, pressuring you to act immediately. Scammers will try to trick you into sharing One-Time Passwords (OTP) they claim will verify your identity or stop suspicious charges.

Remember: legitimate Amazon representatives will never ask for OTP codes over the phone. If you receive such a call, hang up and contact Amazon directly through the official website or app.

Important: We will never ask for your bank card details or any other confidential information.

For more information about how Amazon communicate with you, and to report Amazon-related fraud, [click here](#).

#### **Local Beat Report**

Hello and welcome to the November 2025 Beat Report for the New Forest Heart area. Your team is PC 24901 Mark ROBERTS and PCSO 14495 Richard WILLIAMS.

In December we will be at the Bramshaw Village Stores at 8am and outside the Post Office in Bartley at 9am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> but if this is too short notice for you, email PCSO Williams with any questions you might have. We will also be in the Lyndhurst Community Centre between 10am and midday on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December during the village's fun day and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> join us at the Happy Cheese in Ashurst with the Ashurst and Colbury Neighbourhood watch team from 11am and then opposite Tesco in Brockenhurst from midday. And finally, you can join us in the Lyndhurst Parish Council Offices at the back of the Community Centre on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> again from 11am.

Our Beat Surgeries last for 30 minutes, unless demand is high of course, but as we always say if you can't come to any of these meetings you can always call or email us, but to report a crime or any anti-social behaviour dial 101 or go the Hampshire and IOW Police website. Of course if it's an emergency always call 999.

Are you a member of a local group or organisation that would appreciate a visit from the new Forest Heart team to discuss the latest Scams and Frauds that are doing the rounds and how to best avoid becoming a victim. We've put together a 45 minute talk with some great advice and hints and tips so if you would like us to come and visit you and your group email [richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk)

In the build up to Christmas we generally see an increase in the number of burglaries both to houses and sheds, garages and outbuildings and so far this month three houses have been targeted. Thieves managed to get into properties in Emery Down and Ashurst and stole several items, and an attempt was also made on a house in Minstead but on that occasion the thieves were caught in the act and fled. All three incidents happened during the day and in the case of the Minstead attempt the family was at home.

Seventeen sheds, garages and outbuildings were also targeted in November with Lyndhurst, East Boldre, Ower, Fletchwood lane, Ashurst Bridge and Woodlands the areas affected. Damage was also caused to a couple of other properties on Fletchwood lane where thieves tried and failed to get into a stable and container. Can we ask that you read through the following information, it's mostly common sense but it never hurts to have a refresher especially at this time of year when thieves are very active

#### **When Shopping:**

- Make sure your handbag is closed so a pickpocket would find it difficult to get into without you knowing.
- Never leave a bag unattended in a trolley, even if for a couple of seconds.
- Try to keep wallets in an inside pocket and out of sight from a potential pickpocket.
- Keep your PIN number confidential.
- When entering your PIN number at a terminal ensure no one can see you enter it.
- Try to pay for items on a debit card rather than carrying large amounts of cash. If this is not possible keep cash to a minimum.
- Before you leave your car, ensure all windows and doors are closed and locked.
- Avoid leaving your purchases and presents in your vehicle. If you must make sure they are not on display, store in the boot, and make sure the car is locked.
- Park your car in a well-lit car park, preferably one that's attended or that displays the Park Mark logo.
- Think about the item you are buying someone, are there any security products you could purchase to help them keep it safe? i.e. If buying a bike think about also giving an accredited D lock.

#### **At Home:**

- Don't leave Christmas presents in view of a window.
- If you are buying or receiving valuable gifts such as bikes, mobiles or electrical items register them for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) in doing so you will assist the police in returning your property should it be lost or stolen.
- Dispose of present packaging carefully as empty boxes left outside can advertise that you have goods inside.
- Refrain from keeping large amounts of cash at home.
- A secure home will reduce the chance of a burglary. Make sure windows and doors are locked every time you leave the house.
- Avoid leaving tools and ladders lying around that could assist someone get into your home.
- When you go out at night make it appear that someone is home. Draw the curtains, and leave a light on. You could always put a lamp or radio on a timer switch.
- Never allow people into your home unless you are expecting them or have made arrangements with the company beforehand.
- Never buy goods and services at the door or give away personal information.

### If you are going away:

- Check you have locked all doors, windows and skylights. If you have an alarm, ensure it is activated.
- Inform trusted neighbours and ask if they will keep an eye on your property for you and collect your post.
- Use timer switches on lamps and radios so it looks as though you are home. Signs of occupation help deter intruders.
- Remember to cancel any deliveries such as milk and newspapers.
- Don't mention you are away from your home on social media, post photos once you get back home.

Other thefts this month included a car and a motorbike from Woodlands, a Polaris ATV from Winsor and three expensive bicycles from garages in Emery Down and Ashurst Bridge. An electric bike was also taken from the back of a camper van in Lyndhurst, diesel from the vans being used to resurface the A35 at Ashurst, tools were stolen from a van in East Boldre and a purse from a car parked in the Millyford Bridge car park.

This month's Op Mountie session was another really quiet one. Op Mountie is our multi agency approach to reducing speed and animal accidents across the Forest and sadly this year there has been a rise in the number of animal accidents across the Forest. But at this month's session at Matley Wood and then Kings Hat we issued only one ticket to the driver of a works van for travelling at 51mph. The other three drivers we stopped were spoken to by our partners at Forestry England, the New Forest National Park Authority and the New Forest Roads Awareness Team about why the limit in the Forest is 40mph.

The Safer Roads Unit held its first speed enforcement session in the New Forest in November and the figures make very interesting reading. On the B3056 Lyndhurst to Beaulieu Road Station they stopped 3 vehicles with a disappointing 56 mph being the top speed. Then on the B3055 Stockley Cottage to Hatchet Pond Road they stopped 10 vehicles for exceeding the 40-mph limit and the top speed was a very disappointing 62mph. The Safer Roads Unit is committed to reducing speed across Hampshire and the Thames valley and its great news that they are now helping us in the New Forest

Stay Safe everyone and Merry Christmas

Your local Police team are:

[richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk) 07554 775469

[mark.roberts.24091@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:mark.roberts.24091@hampshire.police.uk) 07392 314340

## Dates for your Diary

### Music at Beaulieu

Tickets for all concerts except Glyndebourne can be bought online.

It is possible to buy tickets directly from the Ticket Office by calling 07770 859900 and on the day at the door, if the concerts are not sold out and subject to availability.

### Beaulieu and District Gardening Club

Membership is £10 per annum. Membership secretary Lynne Hubbard 01590 612408. Visitors to talks £4.

\* \* \*

6 December

Music at Beaulieu presents New Forest Choirs

Friday, 12th December at 7.00 p.m.

Boldre Parish History Society Speaker: Nick Saunders, "The Murder of Sheila Sutherland". Boldre Memorial Hall.

Friday, 9th January 2026 at 7.00 p.m.  
Boldre Parish History Society. An Archive Evening at Boldre Memorial Hall.

Friday, 13th February 2026 at 7.00p.m.  
Boldre Parish History Society. Speaker: Professor Emeritus Tony King, "Romans Along the Lymington River. New excavations in the Forest". Boldre Memorial Hall.

Friday, 13th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m.  
Boldre Parish History Society. Speaker: Sandy Shore, "The Life of a Crown Keeper in the New Forest." Boldre Memorial Hall.

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If you have not received this newsletter before and you think that it contains helpful information, please forward it to your friends. The more people who use it and contribute to it, the better it will be. By subscribing to this free community newsletter, you will always know what's going on in the village and you will receive important Neighbourhood Watch information without delay.

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