

THE MINSTEAD ENQUIRER

ISSUE NO 4 / JULY 2026



GARDENERS' WORLD AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM

PICTURE PERFECT

Out and About
at NFDO



MY AUTISM

Silas: What it's like
to be Me

CHERRY ADVENTURE

Final Blooms of the
Cherry Blossoms



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**Meet the news team: Robert, Silas,
Lucy, Caitlin and Richard**

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER SPECIAL

This issue marks two years of Minstead Enquirer special editions. We're also introducing an updated news team: Georgie, Robert, Caitlin, Richard, Lucy, and Silas.

This issue is full of things we love and want to share with you. We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed creating it!

The News Team Journalists

A VERY CHERRY ADVENTURE

By Lucy



**'In Japan people often confess
their feelings to their crush underneath
the cherry blossom tree.'**

Lucy's favourite fact about cherry blossom
trees and why she loves them.





Although the flowers were nearing the end of their season, we were thrilled to discover new ceramic stock at the Furzey Café.

In the spring, we enjoyed a delightful cherry blossom walk to witness the final blooms at the arboretum at Furzey Gardens.





We found some adorable chopstick rests, which would make a charming addition to your table setting, all at a fantastic price of £2.50.

Minstead Pottery
Chopstick Rests
£2.50 each

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

There are 3 differences to spot,
can you find them?



Answers

1.

2.

3.

ON OUR DOORSTEP: A TRIP TO SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S GRAVE



By Robert



Richard



ARTHUR CONAN Doyle was famous for being the creator of Sherlock Holmes, the detective from Baker Street, London. His sidekick is called Dr Watson. He is known for smoking a pipe and wearing a deer stalker hat.

He wrote *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. He developed this story during a trip to Cromer in Norfolk and while researching in Devon. You will find his grave towards the boundaries of the church, as a compromise between the Church of England and his spiritual beliefs.

True or False:
Arthur Conan
Doyle wore
asbestos
underpants?



BEAULIEU GARDENERS' WORLD

An interview
with Tim

By Robert



Silas



Richard



Caitlin





Robert: Tim, how did you enjoy putting up the design for the garden?

Tim: Ah we had so much fun putting all the plants in and the house up. It was just a really organic process and we just went with the flow.

Silas: What did you enjoy most about the whole garden?

Tim: The best thing obviously was winning platinum and best border of 2026. But other than that, the whole process from imagining what we were going to create, to doing the planning sessions, buying the plants and putting it all together.

Richard: Did you look around the vehicles and cars?

Tim: I didn't have time, I was so busy with the garden and talking to the public, we didn't get a chance to look around the motor museum, maybe next time.

Caitlin: What have you been doing there Rhianne?

Rhianne: We've been helping Tim and the team making the plants look nice and making sure they stay alive and talking to the people that come round. We were very pleased with what we got.



Robert: Did anything not go to plan?

Tim: Yes actually, we initially planned out some wild garlic in our garden, we ordered the bulbs ages ago, but they never arrived and not naming the companies name, they eventually sent us some bulbs the green, but they were all rotten. We planted them up but couldn't use them in the garden, they would have been a lovely addition. But when we re-build the garden here at Furzey Gardens we will have the wild garlic. We will have to do some wild garlic pesto.



Tim: What was your favourite plant?

Robert: They were the Foxgloves.

Georgie: Do you think there was anything missing from the garden?

Matt: A live steam model railway.
Or a fire breathing dragon.

Georgie: What was your favourite plant?

Tom: It was a Corydalis.

Georgie: I heard there was a 'hairy moment'?

Tim: When we were taking the cottage off the crewcab, it was just a bit awkward. The cottage was hard to handle as it's a weird shape, we had to kind of get under it and Tom almost got squashed in it.

Richard: Will you do it again?

Tim: (long pause) ... No comment!



JUNE HEATWAVE

In June, Minstead joined the rest of the country in a heat wave crisis! Temperatures went up to a whopping 36.6 degrees Celsius; the hottest June temperature recorded for the area.



How did we cope?

People ensured they followed safety advice like wearing suncream, hats, sunglasses, drinking plenty of water and staying out of the sun between 11am and 3pm.

'I loved it,
I'm a sun
worshipper'
Richard

'I got two fans
in the room to
circulate the air, but it
was still so hot we went
to the art trail to stay
cool under the trees'
Robbie

'It was tough,
I ran through
the sprinklers
at Furzey'
Hannah

BREAKING NEWS... FURZEY GARDENS SHUTS!

Due to the heatwave, Furzey Gardens had to shut to ensure people stayed safe. As well as Furzey shutting, no one was allowed to work outside in the sun. Instead, people were able to do art or watch films indoors. Water fights broke out in the courtyard and many people brought in their own fans to stay cool.

As it was so hot many people chose to stay home to keep cool, making for a very quiet few days at New Forest Day Opportunities.

What should we do if another heatwave happens?

- Cancel all sessions and have a giant water fight with everyone instead
- Bring back the ice bucket challenge
- Get a massive blow-up pool for people to use
- Ice creams, ice lollies, ice coffees, milkshakes and slushies for everyone!
- Get a walk-in freezer to cool down in
- Get more parasols for more shady areas
- Air conditioning in the workshops
- Have siestas like in Spain and Italy
- Have Day Opportunities at night instead.



STAY SAFE IN THE HEAT

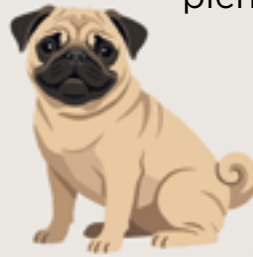
H2O TO GO:

Take a bottle of cold water with you



PETS:

Watch out for hot pavements & provide plenty of water



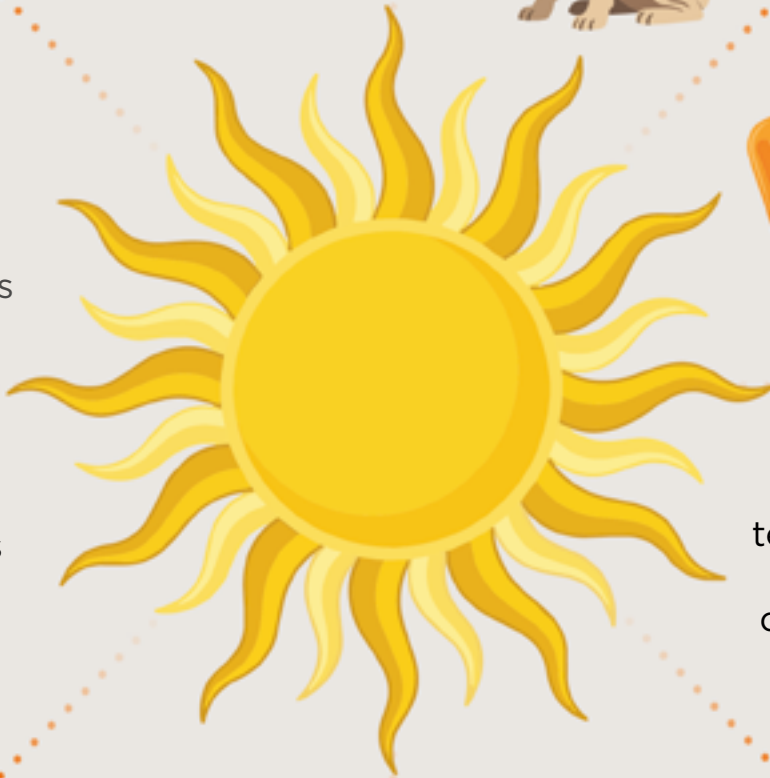
ENJOY:

Cold foods & fruits which are refreshing & contain water



BE COOL:

Make use of fans or air-conditioners to stay cool



OUTDOORS:

Limit strenuous outdoor activities



AVOID:

Alcohol, coffee, tea and salty foods which can make dehydration worse



CLOTHES:

Wear light-coloured loose fitting clothing



SHADE:

Wear a hat, or use an umbrella



MY AUTISM

By Silas



AUTISM IS a condition not an illness. It makes me annoyed when American politicians say it's an illness. I've got a cleverness about me, which is I know dates and birthdays. Some normal people don't know about dates, but I remember.

I have an Autism card which means if something happened, I could show people, like being on a bus or if I was lost.

Some Autistic people know about lots of things which makes them really good on subjects.

I like my routine, here's what it looks like:

On Saturdays I like going out on buses, going to different places. I prefer independent cafes - not Costa or Starbucks - and I like getting a cup of tea and a cake, my favourite is carrot cake. I like coming to Minstead in the week and the sessions I do here.

On Fridays I go to a group with Bea. I recently went on a hovercraft, it was quite noisy but good. Sunday is a family day, I sometimes go to see my mum's grave.

Sometimes it's frustrating like when I talk to new people. I think it makes me nervous. It's hard to be in relationships, it would be nice to meet someone one day, meet someone who understands Autism.

I can't do my shoelaces, I find it hard. So, I wear shoes with no laces on as it's easier. I do not like wonky pictures on walls, they should be straight really.

And that's what it's like to be me.



Rhododendron in bloom in the lower garden



MINSTEAD TRUST'S 40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!



To celebrate Minstead Trust's 40th birthday we had a summer celebration which included an amazing Pirate Performance from Robbie and his performance groups as well as a picnic on the top field and two cakes to celebrate the occasion.

Everyone came to watch the brilliant performance, and we even welcomed some people from Portsmouth Day Opportunities.



SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

A performance worth its weight in gold!

The performance group worked very hard and have been rehearsing for their pirate performance since Easter. Groups have been making props such as pirate hats, swords and even decorations for the trees around Minstead.



'Everyone should experience being part of the performance group'
Silas



HOW HAS MINSTEAD TRUST GROWN IN THE LAST 40 YEARS?

Minstead Trust has been growing and evolving every day for the past 40 years. This includes supported living, Day Opportunities in both the New Forest and Portsmouth, and social enterprises.

All these services help the people at Minstead Trust experience a variety of sessions and allow them to choose which activities to take part in.



Explore. Discover. Relax.



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SESSION AT MINSTEAD AND WHY?

Lucy:

'Wellbeing is my favourite because Elizabeth is kind, fun and entertaining.'

Silas:

'I like performing arts because I love performing and drama.'

Richard:

'I like art because I love to draw.'

Robert:

'Working at Furzey Gardens Cafe is my favourite because I'm doing a job.'



Two naughty pirates ... walk the plank!

HOW TO BE NICE TO YOURSELF AND OTHER PEOPLE

By Caitlin



FOR YOURSELF:

- Do not do stuff to harm yourself
- I like to make a cup of tea and watch tv
- Sunbathing is good for you if you wear suncream
- Cuddles with my guinea pig make me feel happy
- Going for a walk to Testwood lakes



TO OTHERS:

- Don't hit people
- Saying hello in a nice way or asking to shake hands
- Talking to your friends
- Giving them space if I'm grumpy



Biscuit - my Guinea Pig

ROYCE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

A collection of pictures I took on my phone from around Minstead

HI, MY name is Royce and I go to New Forest Day Opportunities. My favourite sessions are woodwork and maintenance, which means I see lots of places around the Trust. When I am out and about, sometimes I see nice pictures and it comes into my head that I should take a picture of that. I am proud that I have become more confident. I am proud to be half Jamaican. I am happy that my seizures are almost gone; I haven't had them for years now, and I am healthier now.





Peacock Butterfly
on Buddleja



Snow on the Steps



Burnet Moth
on Dahlia



Japanese Maple



Buddleja with
Dappled Light



Porcelain Fungus

CRAFTED EARTH STUDIOS

We're really pleased to share some photos and an update from New Forest Day Opportunities.

OUR CRAFT workshops at New Forest Day Opportunities have now come together under one shared brand: Crafted Earth Studios, helping us better showcase the amazing work being created across our workshops.

We hope you enjoy the photos and finding out a little more about Crafted Earth Studios:

www.crafted-earth.org.uk



QUIZ ANSWERS

Spot the Difference:



Tree, chopsticks, and sushi!

Arthur Conan Doyle:

True or False: Arthur Conan Doyle wore asbestos underpants?

Answer: False



ENJOYED OUR NEWSPAPER? SUPPORT US!

We hope you enjoyed reading our newspaper and seeing what can be achieved by people like us when we are given a chance.

Here are two ways you could support us if you would like to.

1 INVITE THE NEWS TEAM TO COVER A STORY

Do you have an interesting story for us?
Perhaps you own a business or run a group
we could visit? We would love to do more
reporting on local things.

Just email us via

marketing@minsteadtrust.org.uk

and you could be in the next edition!

2 PUT AN ADVERT IN OUR NEXT SPECIAL EDITION

We have space for businesses to put
adverts in our next Enquirer, you would
be supporting us to be journalists and
raise money for the Enquirer.

To find out more just email

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