Love our parks!
Make the most of summer
See page 8

WIN – One of seven family tickets to Marwell Zoo
See page 16

WIN – One of four family tickets to Paultons Park
See page 31

IN THIS ISSUE

Fostering
Changing lives through care – see page 17

Bringing history to life
Remembering the First World War – see page 14
Welcome

From Councillor Roy Perry
Leader of Hampshire County Council

I was privileged to attend the recent 70th anniversary commemorations of D Day. It is important we honour all veterans who fought so valiantly for the freedom we enjoy today. In this edition of Hampshire Now we mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, reflecting on wartime memories in Hampshire (see Bringing history to life: stories from the First World War).

Looking to the future we want to ensure that Hampshire continues to be a great place in which to live, work and grow up. With significant investments in school buildings and extra school places, we are securing Hampshire’s high-quality education for future generations (see Schools: investing in children).

We are fortunate to have a host of countryside venues to enjoy including the county’s own Country Parks. In this edition we set out some of the investment plans which will ensure they continue to flourish, with the on-going valuable support of many volunteers.

Volunteers play an important role in our communities, making a real difference and enhancing the delivery of local services. Their efforts during the winter flooding were prime examples, demonstrating real resilience at a time of emergency. The aftermath of the flooding presents us with a challenge to get our roads and infrastructure back to the condition they were in before the wet weather. Nevertheless, we are doing all we can to secure the funding needed for the repairs (see Supporting community resilience).

To find out more about your County Council visit www.hants.gov.uk or call 0845 603 5638*. 

Inside this issue

4 News around Hampshire
What’s happening around the county

8 Love our parks
Make the most of summer

10 Community resilience
Helping communities help themselves

14 Bringing history to life
Stories from the First World War

18 Investing in schools
Meeting the demand for school places

20 What’s on
Ideas for things to do this summer

25 Keeping fit, making friends
Exercise classes and table tennis clubs for older people

26 Hampshire walk
Enjoy part of the Shipwrights Way along the Hayling Billy

28 Healthy living
Find out more about free NHS Healthchecks

30 Contact us
How to get in touch with the County Council

* Call charges apply, see page 30
News around Hampshire

Special needs reform

New ways of delivering services and support to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (known as SEN) will be coming into force nationwide from September 2014.

For the first time, children and young people with complex and severe special educational needs or disabilities will have an assessment and plan that includes their health and care needs, as well as their special educational needs. We have been trialling the new approaches in preparation for these changes.

The reforms place the child and the family at the heart of the assessment and planning of services, ensuring they are fully involved from the start.

Key changes include:
• The introduction of a new ‘birth – 25’ education, health and care plan (EHCP) to replace statements of special educational needs and learning disability assessments
• The introduction of optional personal budgets for some children and young people with special educational needs or who are disabled – see www.hantslocaloffer.info

We have worked closely with parents, carers and young people in Hampshire to shape these arrangements, and with our colleagues in the health services, to jointly plan and commission services and support for children and young people.

Sharon Smith, chair of Hampshire Parent/Carer Network (HPCN), said: “These are the biggest changes to the system to have taken place in the last 30 years. We have had a unique opportunity to try to influence the reforms which may be in place for the next 30 years. It will be a challenging time for both practitioners and parents as the new system beds in, but HPCN will continue working with the County Council to ensure that children, young people and their parents or carers are at the heart of planning and delivery.”

Children’s Services: ‘good’ with outstanding features

Our Children’s Services are ‘good’ with outstanding features – according to Ofsted inspectors.

The County Council was one of the first authorities to face a new, tougher, unannounced inspection process that places greater emphasis on positive outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

Overall inspectors found services to be ‘good’ for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers, while the adoption service was ‘outstanding’, as was leadership and governance across all children’s services.

Committed, highly ambitious leadership was credited for the consistent quality of services and improved outcomes for children and young people. The inspectors noted that the County Council is frequently at the forefront of good practice, evidenced by developments that are recognised nationally such as the Young Interpreter Scheme and the Wessex Dance Academy.

They also acknowledged the good, qualified, experienced social workers and children and family support workers; close partnership working and information sharing with Health, Police and Adult Services. This enables children and their families to get help at the right time and right level. There was also praise for the ‘exemplary’ work with schools and community groups for children from diverse minority ethnic groups.

To advertise your business in Hampshire Now please visit www.hants.gov.uk/advertising call 01962 845520 or email advertising@hants.gov.uk

Sounding Board: calling new members

We, and our partners Community Action Hampshire, would love to hear from people who currently use Adult Services, or who care for someone who does, to join our new ‘Sounding Board’. This is your opportunity to express your views in confidence, and shape the future of adult social care in Hampshire.

The Sounding Board is a ‘virtual panel’ set up to hear the views of people with experience of using Adult Services, including; older people, disabled people, carers, people with learning difficulties, those with experience of mental health problems, living with Autism or Asperger’s, living with Dementia, or with experience of sensory loss, as well as people who have accessed substance misuse services.

Sounding Board members will be sent regular surveys about key issues affecting adult social care services, such as how best to locally implement aspects of the Government’s Care Act. This means that the views of service users from all walks of life can be taken into consideration before plans are developed.

For more information contact Community Action Hampshire on 01962 857350 or send an email to info@actionhants.org.uk

Ukulele world record bid

Hampshire Music Service is attempting to break the world record for having the largest ukulele orchestra playing at the same time at a special event to be held later this week (Friday 18 July) at St Mary’s Football Stadium in Southampton.

Schools and ukelele players across the county have been invited to sing and play themselves into the world records – there will need to be more than 2,134 ukelele players taking part in the event.

Superfast broadband expands

The Hampshire Superfast Broadband programme will bring superfast broadband internet connections to an estimated 15,000 premises by the end of September.

Additionally, following a successful bid for £1 million of funding from the Government, up to an extra 4,000 rural homes and businesses in the New Forest and Test Valley will be able to benefit from access to superfast broadband between June and December next year.

BT and Virgin Media are rolling out superfast broadband to around 80% of premises in the county. Our programme is helping to address the gaps left out by the commercial rollout, extending the overall coverage to 90% of premises by the end of 2015 and reaching at least 95% by the end of 2017. We are also looking at ways to extend coverage beyond 95%.

Lt Col Peter Hayward-Broomfield, Chair of the Community Broadband Group in the New Forest, commented on the positive impact of faster broadband speeds in his area: “The successful bid will make a huge difference to those selected rural parishes, or parts of parishes, which are too small to be commercially attractive and in danger of being left in a communications desert. A good broadband service will have a significant impact on the ability to conduct business and is increasingly important in the delivery of social and public services.”

To find out more about the phases of the programme and new investments in your area, register your interest on our website www.hants.gov.uk/broadband

“The successful bid will make a huge difference to those selected rural parishes, or parts of parishes, which are too small to be commercially attractive and in danger of being left in a communications desert. A good broadband service will have a significant impact on the ability to conduct business and is increasingly important in the delivery of social and public services.”

To advertise your business in Hampshire Now please visit www.hants.gov.uk/advertising call 01962 845520 or email advertising@hants.gov.uk

Hampshire now www.hants.gov.uk
Waste matters – have your say

The County Council is reviewing its household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) and would like your help to plan the future service. We have been looking at different and innovative options for running the HWRC service, partly as a response to financial pressures and partly to ensure we have a modern, fit for purpose, and efficient service for the future. The consultation is an opportunity for people to have their say on potential changes to the service.

Six options have been identified to help reduce the cost to the Council Taxpayer. The options are:

• Reviewing the number, location and usage of HWRCs, and their suitability to effectively meet the needs of communities now and in the future
• Introducing measures to reduce the amount of trade waste wrongly disposed of at sites
• Accepting waste and recyclable material from small businesses for a fee
• Recovering the cost of disposing of DIY waste such as soil and rubble, plasterboard and asbestos, through charging. This type of waste is not classified as household waste, and is expensive to dispose of
• Reviewing our site opening times to reduce site management costs
• Working with charities or communities to increase reuse of furniture and other items to further reduce the amount we send to landfill.

Tell us your views at www.hants.gov.uk/recycling. Alternatively, paper copies of the consultation are available from district council offices and Hampshire libraries. You can also email hwrc.consultation@hants.gov.uk, or call us on 0845 603 5634 to receive a paper copy. The consultation ends on 22 August 2014.
Love our parks: make the most of summer

It’s Love Parks week at the end of July, so with the summer holidays approaching, why not get out and about with your family and explore the delights of our country parks.

In addition to the two famous national parks, South Downs National Park and New Forest National Park, our six parks attract more than 1.2 million visitors a year and are among the best in the country. It’s not hard to see why people are drawn to them. Each of the parks has something unique to offer:

The country park at Lepe with its coastal location is part of a world with its unique to offer:

Royal Victoria Country Park in Netley has parkland and a waterfront location. It was home to the largest military hospital in the world, which played an important part in caring for wounded troops during the First World War. The Chapel still remains.

Staunton Country Park at Havant is host to nationally important heritage parkland as well as an ornamental farm and gardens.

Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Petersfield, is a key gateway to the South Downs National Park with a wealth of trails and paths which can be explored on foot or by bike.

Titchfield Haven has international conservation designation. The Nature Reserve and coastal location has much to offer the keen bird and wildlife watcher.

Manor Farm and Country Park, on the edge of the River Hamble, was the site of BBC2’s Wartime Farm and provides a fantastic family day out. It was recently recognised by Visit England as a ‘Quality Assured Visitor Attraction’.

All six parks have been awarded the national Green Flag Award recognising their high quality. For summer events at the parks see our What’s on section or visit www.hants.gov.uk/country-parks

Passport to 365 days out

To make it easier for everyone to enjoy what Hampshire has to offer, we have produced an annual pass to nine of our most popular attractions, including Milestones Museum, our country parks and Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. The Culture-all Passport costs £75 and enables two adults and two children, or one adult and three children, 12 months free entry and free parking at some venues. Nearly all the attractions have cafés.

To buy one now, or find out more visit www.culture-all.co.uk

Attracting future generations

We know that a generation of Hampshire residents has grown up enjoying our six parks, with many volunteering their own time to help support them. That is why an investment package of just under £13 million over the next five years will be used to enhance facilities at the parks and make the most of their natural features. This is to help ensure they continue to be enjoyed by future generations, and remain at the heart of their communities. Making the most of the outdoors also brings physical and mental health benefits.

Getting the best from the glasshouses at Staunton, will bring its Regency history to life. At Lepe we are creating a new, state-of-the-art visitor complex that maximises its coastal location.

At Manor Farm we would like to build on the success of the Wartime Farm, extending it into the park, showcasing farming from the 1850s to the 1950s. At Royal Victoria Country Park, we will be creating new exhibitions and events in the Chapel to highlight the park’s history.

The South Downs National Park and the Forestry Commission are working with us to enhance Queen Elizabeth Country Park, giving better access to trails to explore the woods and downland. Finally, at Titchfield Haven, the café will be enhanced and the trails extended around the reserve.

Visitor information will be improved at each park, enabling people to understand the history, landscape and archaeology, like never before.

Have an adventure this summer!

Unleash your inner Robin Hood with archery or scale the heights like Spiderman by climbing and abseiling!

There’s no reason to be bored during the summer holidays when there are so many exciting activities to do at Hampshire’s outdoor centres.

From indoor skiing and snowboarding to windsurfing and canoeing, you will find plenty to keep the kids entertained this summer.

For details visit www.hants.gov.uk/outdoors

Tips for keeping healthy this summer...

Be SunSmart

When you are enjoying the outdoors in the sunshine – whether at country parks, by the coast or away on holiday – make sure you enjoy the sun safely: protect your skin from sunburn and keep yourself, and your children hydrated.

When the sun is strong or UV levels are high:
• Spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm
• Wear a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses
• Use a sunscreen with at least SPF 15. Use it generously and reaply regularly.

By taking a few precautions, you can prevent yourself from burning and reduce the risks of skin cancer. The best way is to use a combination of shade, clothing and sunscreen and drink plenty of water!

Drink plenty of water

It’s easy in warmer weather to become dehydrated. Your body will lose more fluid than you take in. In the UK it is recommended that adults should drink 1-2 litres (6-8 glasses of water) a day to replace lost fluids and prevent dehydration. A good rule is to drink enough fluid so that you’re not thirsty for long periods and to steadily increase your fluid intake when exercising and during hot weather.

You should drink extra fluid if you have any symptoms of dehydration, such as feeling thirsty and lightheaded, or passing dark-coloured urine. Babies may be dehydrated if: they have a sunken soft spot (fontanelle) on their head, have few or no tears when they cry, have fewer wet nappies, or are drowsy.

Find out more about being SunSmart at www.sunsmart.org.uk and dehydration at www.nhs.uk/conditions/dehydration

Hampshire now www.hants.gov.uk
Supporting community resilience

Hampshire, along with many other areas of the country, experienced the worst flooding in recent history. The County Council would like to thank communities for their patience and support both during the flooding and throughout the recovery phase.

With the help of other agencies including the Armed Forces and their Reservists, district and borough councils, the Environment Agency, local community groups, Police and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service we were able to keep the highways moving as best we could, and where the waters threatened to cut off transport routes, we worked with our contractors to build temporary elevated roads in Winchester and Litchfield.

On these pages we take a look at the aftermath of the floods, examining how communities can help to make themselves more resilient for the future, and looking at what is being done to repair Hampshire’s roads.

Make a plan

The winter rains have long gone but it is never too early to make plans to protect your own home for the future and to see how you can help your community in an emergency.

No one organisation has sole responsibility for all aspects of flooding, that is why our Emergency Planning Unit works closely with district and borough councils, emergency services, health authorities and other statutory agencies to ensure that Hampshire can respond in emergency situations which are beyond the capacity of the emergency services to tackle alone.

However, everyone has a role to play, and while many communities do already help one another in times of need, experience has shown that those who have spent time planning and making preparations for emergencies are better able to cope, and recover more quickly.

Our Emergency Planning Unit is here to support your efforts to devise a local action plan, and help you area become more resilient and prepared for out-of-the-ordinary situations like flooding.

The value of planning at community level cannot be under-estimated, something Steve Protheroe, Chairman of Finchdean and Rowlands Castle Flood Action Group knows only too well.

Pulling together

“Everyone pulled together,” said Steve (above). The community was affected by flooding in the winter of 2012/13 and knew the importance of having a plan in place. With the support of our Emergency Planning Unit they reviewed their plan, made some changes, set up an email alert system and mapped possible vulnerable points.

“If you haven’t got an action group in place then get one,” said Steve. “It makes such a difference. As local people you know the problems in your area and you are best placed to understand and anticipate them, and how best to solve them.”

During the flooding this winter, the community was called into action doing anything from washing towels and making cups of tea, to organising more specialist help from builders, electricians and carpenters. “We tried where possible to be as self-sufficient as we could, only contacting agencies such as East Hampshire District Council or the County Council if there was a real problem. We realised there were many areas affected by the floods and some much worse than we were.

“Having a plan in place made it easier for those agencies to support us. We had just one point of contact for them which helped them coordinate their support and response to us. Everyone rose to the challenge really well. We had superb support from the Police, East Hampshire District Council and the County Council’s Emergency Planning Unit and Highways Team. We were always on their radar which gave us confidence to deal with things ourselves.”

What can your community do?

• Identify local risks, resources and vulnerable groups
• Initiate a crisis management group to provide a point of contact and determine priorities and represent the community
• Use local resources to help in the response, by providing support to emergency services
• Help those who are vulnerable by providing care, support information or practical help
• Maintain communications within the community, and with your district or borough council
• Manage the response of community and other voluntary organisations
• Assist with community recovery
• Stockpile sandbags or know where to get them
• Encourage landowners to keep ditches and waterways clear.

For ideas on how to put together an action plan for your area see www.hants.gov.uk/community-resilience

Repairing Hampshire’s roads

In the aftermath of the wettest winter on record, we are undertaking a massive programme of repair to the worst of the damage on Hampshire’s highways.

The sustained wet weather, plus the impact of flooded roads, underwater for long periods of time, has meant that the planned maintenance programme for the year has needed to be reprioritised.

The full extent of the damage to Hampshire’s 5,280 miles of road caused by the winter weather, only became known once all the waters had subsided. We have tackled the worst flood affected areas first, concentrating our repair efforts on emergency defects and safety work.

You may have seen the ‘Pothole Buster’ signs on Hampshire roads, as 80 ‘gangs’ of workers – 60% more than usual – have been tackling emergency repairs, deploying extra equipment which has been brought in, such as jetpatcher machines, to make effective and speedy repairs to potholes on our roads.

In addition to day-to-day maintenance, there are locations where extensive planned structural maintenance repair work is needed, for example in areas particularly damaged. There are also sites where drainage improvements are needed to avoid future flooding of the road.

The repair bill is likely to be around £36 million, and this may rise to take account of damage to river bridges and structures. The cost does not include flood alleviation schemes which are needed in some areas.

Hampshire has initially been allocated £11.5 million by the Government to repair structural damage to roads. However, with our repair bill likely to rise further, it will be a challenge to get our roads back to the condition they were in before the flooding. Keeping Hampshire moving remains one of our priorities.

To report a problem on our roads go to www.hants.gov.uk/roads
ONE LOAN - ONE LENDER

Lower your Loan with United Savings and Loans.

Too many pieces to your Pie?
Replace all your existing loans with one affordable loan from us.

✓ Competitive rates
✓ No late payment fees
✓ No hidden charges
✓ Flexible decision making
✓ Here for local people

Local lending for people like you.

United Savings & Loans Credit Union
www.unitedsavingsandloans.co.uk

NEW LOAN RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term (yr)</th>
<th>APR %</th>
<th>Nominal Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>6.99% +</td>
<td>8.99% +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>7.99% +</td>
<td>9.99% +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>8.99% +</td>
<td>10.99% +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call us today
023 9282 7980

Hampshire now www.hants.gov.uk

BRAND NEW SHOWROOM NOW OPEN

To Celebrate we have some Scorching Summer offers!
Opening times 10 to 5
 Monday - Saturday.

Making memories for a lifetime

With more than 146 licensed venues, we are able to offer a wealth of flexibility and choice, alongside high quality service and a truly unique celebration.

Brendoncare Social Clubs in Hampshire
You’re more than a member, you’re a friend

Have a cuppa. Have a chat. Try a new activity. Enjoy a club outing.
Brendoncare has a variety of clubs across Hampshire from social dues to quiz clubs. Our clubs have a mixture of activities including country renewals, guest speakers, entertainment and excursions outings. We now have clubs in Gosport and garden centre.

Call us on 02392172372 or visit us at Brendoncare in any club. If you would like to know more about joining us as a member or helping as a volunteer, we’re happy to hear from you.

Supported by Hampshire County Council
www.hampshire.gov.uk/registration

Ideal Window Solutions - Often copied, never surpassed!

We are Conservatory Courtyard and Veranda Specialists...

Any size, any style, composite front door fitted inc VAT
£995

Any size, French doors
£1195

ANY SIZE

Plant & Deck Composite Doors
£1795

Plant & Deck French doors
£1595

Includes integral blinds in each clear

FREEPHONE 0800 731 8761
www.idealwindowsolutions.co.uk

Visit our Showrooms at Market Road, Chichester & Port Fareham, Newgate Lane

Hampshire now www.hants.gov.uk
Bringing history to life: stories from the First World War

Through costume.
The story of women in the War

Our Discovery Centres, which tells

the History Wardrobe show touring

use Newman Court Day Centre, and,

and older residents of the town who

Warren Junior school in Basingstoke

project involving pupils at Hatch

Brockenhurst, an intergenerational

the creation of an Anzac Trail at our

Winchester we will be showcasing

On 4 August in the Great Hall in

start of the First World War. Here, we

4 August marks 100 years since the

diary of Captain Lewis John Mead

Wancourt comes from the handwritten

rest of us.

him and silently joined the

man in the platoon to fall was

searching for a target. The first

…their machine guns rattled

away, and men began to fall.

Still we kept on darting from

shell hole to shell hole, vainly

searching for a target. The first

man in the platoon to fall was

the runner, a lad of 18. Seeing

this the unfortunate lad’s brother,

hastened to him, turned him over,

carefully examined him, kissed

him and silently joined the

rest of us.

That moving account of battle at

Wancourt comes from the handwritten

diary of Captain Lewis John Mead

who served with The King’s Royal

Rifle Corps.

4 August marks 100 years since the

start of the First World War. Here, we

take a look at the stories behind some of the fascinating items from the War at Hampshire Record Office.

On 4 August in the Great Hall in

Winchester we will be showcasing some of the activities and events at our museums and other venues which commemorate the First World War. Events and activities include: the creation of an Anzac Trail at our Tile Barn Outdoor Activity Centre in Brockenhurst, an intergenerational project involving pupils at Hatch Warren Junior school in Basingstoke and older residents of the town who use Newman Court Day Centre, and, the History Wardrobe show touring our Discovery Centres, which tells the story of women in the War through costume.

Training for the Front

Frank Huggons, an accountant by

trade, signed up for four years in 1914, aged 23, and served in the 15th County of London Battalion, London Regiment, Civil Service Rifles. In 1917, he undertook training at Hazeley Down camp in Twyford, just outside Winchester. Some of his papers from this time have been temporarily loaned to Hampshire Record Office by his granddaughter, Pam Fisher, who lives in Kings Worthy.

Pam came across the items of family history in her father’s attic in Hove, Sussex, after his death in 2003. Her grandfather had never spoken of his experiences in the War but Pam was struck by the detail and clarity of the notes her grandfather had made.

The collection is a fascinating insight into the training of men who would lead others into battle at the Front. There’s a text book on map reading and military drawings, copies of exam papers in military law and exercise books, in which Frank made meticulous notes on a host of things relating to warfare. These include: how to give orders, calmly with decision, loud and with pause; and how to dig trenches.

Frank lists the pros and cons of

digging a trench on the forward

slope of a hill. The advantages,

according to Frank, are: ‘Moral

feeling of superiority over

the enemy; great powers of observation

both for your artillery and your

infantry; and concealment of

reinforcements. However, it balances this with one, important, disadvantage: ‘You will be clearly

seen by the enemy

who can easily shell you.’

His orderly notes give just a hint of

the horrors of war. Frank survived

the War and was demobilised in

July 1919.

‘I don’t think his generation talked

about the War – there were too many bad memories for them,’ said Pam.

“I thought it was fascinating that

his notes were so beautifully written

and when I realised he’d done officer

training so close to where I now live

it was that connection with the past

which struck me most. I went walking

and discovered the memorial to the

officers who trained at Hazeley Down:

the shapes of the earth banks in the

fields there suggest the lines of huts in

which they lived.

‘I think it’s so important to

preserve material like this

and to make it available to others to see – it is part of

our history.’

Remembering Hampshire’s War Horses

Since Michael Morpurgo’s book War Horse was brought to life so vividly on the stage and on film, there has been a fascination with the role that horses played in the First World War.

One of those was ‘Coal-Box’, a German pony who strayed into the lines of the 2nd Battalion King’s Royal Rifle Corps at La Clyte, near Mount Kemmel, Belgium, in 1914. He served with the battalion in France and Belgium and returned to Portsmouth at the end of the War, eventually dying in Ireland in 1921.

Hampshire played its part in training horses for the War. The Army Remount Service was established in 1887 to provide animals for military service. It played an important role in the Boer War but faced its major challenge in 1914 with the outbreak of the First World War. Through the War, it dealt with more than a million horses and mules, with around 140,000 being handled by the Romsey Remount Depot, at Pauncefoot Hill on the south-western outskirts of Romsey.

Romsey War Horse Memorial Project plans to honour the horses with a statue by local sculptor Amy Goodman, which will be erected in the town’s Memorial Park. It is one of many projects that received funding under our Hampshire Commemorates grants programme, receiving £2,000. The statue will be unveiled in spring 2015 – one hundred years after the opening of the camp.

Dissenting voices

Not everyone supported the War. There were many who held pacifist ideals and a quick scan of the Winchester Prison logs held in Hampshire Record Office show that a number of young men were held there for disobeying lawful orders. Men like 19 year old Basil Bunting, a Quaker, who was committed in April 1919 and sentenced to one year and one month. The sentence was later commuted by the Army Council to 140 days.

Being held in Winchester prison did not mean the men ended their dissent. While in prison a newsletter was compiled by conscientious objectors. The ‘Winchester Whisperer’ as it was called, was written on toilet paper and kept hidden from warders and contained articles, sketches and poetry submitted by the inmates.

For further information visit www.hants.gov.uk/ hampshirecommemorates and

www.hants.gov.uk/archives or visit the Voices of the First World War Record Office Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/VoicesWW1

Letters were welcome To help morale during the First World War, soldiers were encouraged to write letters to friends and family in Britain, but most decided it was better to leave out the horrors of trench warfare. 12.5 million letters were sent to the Western Front every week, with letters taking only two or three days to arrive from Britain.

The Women’s Land Army

Around three million British men fought in the First World War but British women played their part too. The German naval blockades threatened the country’s food supply and with the men away fighting the War, women were encouraged to work the land to help produce more food and enable the country to be self-sufficient. The efforts of the Women’s Land Army were crucial and thousands of volunteers flocked to sign up as a result of posters like the one above. By 1918, there were 20,000 ‘land girls’. The work was physically hard, with many working from dawn until dusk. The work was paid and for many it was a liberating experience, opening up male-only roles to them. In 1919, the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act was brought in which made it illegal to exclude women from jobs because of their gender.

Hampshire now www.hants.gov.uk
Fostering: changing lives through care

Moving words from Alison, 18, who has lived with her foster family in Hampshire for the past four years. They show what a difference fostering can make to a young person who is unable to live with their own birth family.

Children are fostered for a variety of reasons, and in most cases it is a temporary solution while their own family is supported, to enable them to return home.

Hampshire has a range of fostering opportunities – both short and longer term – and we offer a package of training and support to people interested in becoming foster carers.

Call 0845 6035620 to find out more. In the meantime read on to see why one of our many dedicated carers fosters children...

One big happy family

Trina and Alan are very proud of their girls, all five of them, and Trina makes no distinction between her two birth daughters, Hannah, 19 and Bethany, 11, and Tiffany, 12, Shernice, 15 and Alison, 18, whom they foster.

“Being with a family who have time for me, support me and care about me has been so good. When I came to live with them I found it hard to trust people and school wasn’t important to me. But thanks to their support and being part of a caring family they helped me get over that.”

Trina, who has been a foster carer for the past eight years and lives in Gosport admits that a household of six women can sometimes be lively.

“They all love life so it’s not often quiet. It has its ups and downs but it’s so enjoyable. I can’t imagine not doing what I do. Though there can sometimes be a battle for the bathroom, “she laughed.

Having such a busy household isn’t easy but Trina says they make it work because they are 100% committed to ensuring all the girls have the opportunities they should. “We make one to one time for all of them. Seeing their development and achieving things is the best reward. Hannah and Alison have university places. It’s a big step for both but for Alison it’s great to see.”

With Trina’s guidance and support Alison has thrived. Trina said she couldn’t have been a carer without the support of her own family, friends and her family placement worker.

“They have all been brilliant. Family and friends know we come as a whole bundle – the Big Family! Caring for children who are closest to my daughters’ ages has helped. As well as Alan and I supporting the girls, they all support each other.”

The family do a lot together and Trina says it’s often the simple things the girls enjoy such as walking the dog, beachcombing or just being together as a family. They make use of the Hampshire County Council’s country parks and as a family. They make use of the Culture-all Passport to get into the Council’s country parks and other offers which they can access as fostercarers. 

“Children don’t need lots of money spent on them, “ said Trina. “What they need is people around them who are patient, loving, supportive and will fight for them if they need anything.”

If you think you have what it takes to foster – a sense of humour, patience, a willingness to learn and adapt, energy and flexibility – we’d love to hear from you. To find out more visit www.hants.gov.uk/fostering
We are investing around £149 million to create 8,000 additional primary school places over the next three years with a significant number ready for this September.

Some of these places will be in brand new schools while others will be in existing schools which we have enlarged and enhanced, ensuring pupils and staff across Hampshire, have the best possible teaching and learning facilities.

From September, all children in their first three years of school will be entitled to free school meals thanks to the introduction of the universal free school meal offer. This is expected to increase the number of meals served by more than 20,000 a day across Hampshire. The County Council has a planned investment programme to support schools to accommodate an increase in the province of school meals. The move will enable the neighbouring Church Crookham Junior School to expand its buildings currently occupied by the Infant School. It’s a win-win solution for both school communities.

The smart, purpose-built accommodation comprises nine classrooms, associated offices and admin areas will complete the school, along with a range of outdoor learning and play resources, including climbing and balancing equipment.

Another first is the building of a brand new primary school, Berewood, in Waterlooville, which will be run as an Academy, under Government rules for new schools, by the University of Chichester Academy Trust.

Here is a preview of some of the work underway to provide new and improved facilities from September.

Exciting projects include the creation of 420 primary school places at The Westgate School in Winchester to make it an “all through school” catering for pupils aged from 4 – 16. This will be the first school of its kind in the county.

Another first is the building of a brand new primary school, Berewood, in Waterlooville, which will be run as an Academy, under Government rules for new schools, by the University of Chichester Academy Trust.

Here is a preview of some of the work underway to provide new and improved facilities from September.

“Growing together, learning together”
Two projects totalling more than £6 million in Fleet are interlinked. The development of housing at the former Queen Elizabeth Barracks has led to an increased demand for school places. As a result, Tweseldown Infant School pupils and staff are looking forward to moving into their brand new school in September. Their move will enable the neighbouring Church Crookham Junior School to expand its buildings currently occupied by the Infant School. It’s a win-win solution for both school communities.

The smart, purpose-built accommodation comprises nine classrooms, associated offices and admin areas will complete the school, along with a range of outdoor learning and play resources, including climbing and balancing equipment.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

To maintain some of the natural habitat and wildlife on the urban site, a pond has been planned and bat boxes will be fitted to the new building. The current car parking will be moved to the rear of the school so that one of the key new features can be created - a new, welcoming entrance courtyard, developed in consultation with the school. Headteacher Ben Dixon explains:

“The entrance to the school is a very important aspect for us – we want people to feel welcome, safe, curious and inspired from the moment they come in. It represents our philosophy and connects our school community to the wider community. We are all very excited by the changes taking place at our school.”

Improvements have already been made in some of the existing teaching spaces to enable the school to take an extra class of reception age pupils.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

To maintain some of the natural habitat and wildlife on the urban site, a pond has been planned and bat boxes will be fitted to the new building. The current car parking will be moved to the rear of the school so that one of the key new features can be created - a new, welcoming entrance courtyard, developed in consultation with the school. Headteacher Ben Dixon explains:

“The entrance to the school is a very important aspect for us – we want people to feel welcome, safe, curious and inspired from the moment they come in. It represents our philosophy and connects our school community to the wider community. We are all very excited by the changes taking place at our school.”

Improvements have already been made in some of the existing teaching spaces to enable the school to take an extra class of reception age pupils.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

“Growing together, learning together”
Two projects totalling more than £6 million in Fleet are interlinked. The development of housing at the former Queen Elizabeth Barracks has led to an increased demand for school places. As a result, Tweseldown Infant School pupils and staff are looking forward to moving into their brand new school in September. Their move will enable the neighbouring Church Crookham Junior School to expand its buildings currently occupied by the Infant School. It’s a win-win solution for both school communities.

The smart, purpose-built accommodation comprises nine classrooms, associated offices and admin areas will complete the school, along with a range of outdoor learning and play resources, including climbing and balancing equipment.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

To maintain some of the natural habitat and wildlife on the urban site, a pond has been planned and bat boxes will be fitted to the new building. The current car parking will be moved to the rear of the school so that one of the key new features can be created - a new, welcoming entrance courtyard, developed in consultation with the school. Headteacher Ben Dixon explains:

“The entrance to the school is a very important aspect for us – we want people to feel welcome, safe, curious and inspired from the moment they come in. It represents our philosophy and connects our school community to the wider community. We are all very excited by the changes taking place at our school.”

Improvements have already been made in some of the existing teaching spaces to enable the school to take an extra class of reception age pupils.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

To maintain some of the natural habitat and wildlife on the urban site, a pond has been planned and bat boxes will be fitted to the new building. The current car parking will be moved to the rear of the school so that one of the key new features can be created - a new, welcoming entrance courtyard, developed in consultation with the school. Headteacher Ben Dixon explains:

“The entrance to the school is a very important aspect for us – we want people to feel welcome, safe, curious and inspired from the moment they come in. It represents our philosophy and connects our school community to the wider community. We are all very excited by the changes taking place at our school.”

Improvements have already been made in some of the existing teaching spaces to enable the school to take an extra class of reception age pupils.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

To maintain some of the natural habitat and wildlife on the urban site, a pond has been planned and bat boxes will be fitted to the new building. The current car parking will be moved to the rear of the school so that one of the key new features can be created - a new, welcoming entrance courtyard, developed in consultation with the school. Headteacher Ben Dixon explains:

“The entrance to the school is a very important aspect for us – we want people to feel welcome, safe, curious and inspired from the moment they come in. It represents our philosophy and connects our school community to the wider community. We are all very excited by the changes taking place at our school.”

Improvements have already been made in some of the existing teaching spaces to enable the school to take an extra class of reception age pupils.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

To maintain some of the natural habitat and wildlife on the urban site, a pond has been planned and bat boxes will be fitted to the new building. The current car parking will be moved to the rear of the school so that one of the key new features can be created - a new, welcoming entrance courtyard, developed in consultation with the school. Headteacher Ben Dixon explains:

“The entrance to the school is a very important aspect for us – we want people to feel welcome, safe, curious and inspired from the moment they come in. It represents our philosophy and connects our school community to the wider community. We are all very excited by the changes taking place at our school.”

Improvements have already been made in some of the existing teaching spaces to enable the school to take an extra class of reception age pupils.

The landscape will be transformed with new play areas, outside classrooms, play areas and new hard court. The addition of synthetic turf over the sports field to ensure it can be used all year round, will complete the transformation.

To maintain some of the natural habitat and wildlife on the urban site, a pond has been planned and bat boxes will be fitted to the new building. The current car parking will be moved to the rear of the school so that one of the key new features can be created - a new, welcoming entrance courtyard, developed in consultation with the school. Headteacher Ben Dixon explains:

“The entrance to the school is a very important aspect for us – we want people to feel welcome, safe, curious and inspired from the moment they come in. It represents our philosophy and connects our school community to the wider community. We are all very excited by the changes taking place at our school.”
July

Daily until 2 September
10.30am
Summer Holidays at Staunton
Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 5HB
Small charge for crafts and activities
Visit the Park and celebrate the summer with crafts, trails and animal encounters. All children must be supervised by an adult.
023 9245 3405
www.hants.gov.uk/staunton

Daily until 21 September
Photography of the Year
The Gallery, Winchester
Newcomers, Winchester, SO23 8SB
FREE
World-renowned exhibition wildlife photography of the year on loan from the Natural History Museum in London, featuring 100 awe-inspiring images, from fascinating animal behaviour to breathtaking landscapes.
0845 603 5631
www.hants.gov.uk/wdc

Daily until 2 September
10am – 5pm or 6pm
Rise of the Dinosaurs
Marwell Zoo, Colden Common, Winchester, SO21 1JH
Child £15 Adult £19 (includes voluntary donation) buy online to avoid the queue
Young adventurers will be enthralled by a park-wide invasion of awesome dinosaurs as they come to life with amazing animatronics. There’ll be roaring, a free dinosaur explorers adventure trail and a T-Rex talk. You may even meet a ‘living’ velociraptor in their dinosaur show during school holidays. Take the bus from Eastleigh train station and get 10% off admission!
01962 777407
www.marwell.org.uk/dinosaurs

26 to 27 July
11am – 4pm
Manor Farm Summer Fete
Manor Farm and Country Park, Pylands Lane, Bursledon, SO31 1BH
Normal farm admission price
Join the Manor Farm team for a weekend of summer fun with traditional games, activities and stalls such as ‘splat the rat’ and a coconut shy.

25 to 27 July
Winchester
Science Festival
Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB
Various prices
Events over the weekend range from science, music and comedy to hands-on workshops, with plenty of entertainment and free family events. Visit www.winchesterscifest.org for details.
01962 873603
www.hants.gov.uk/wdc

August

5 August to 11 January
Soldiers’ Journey
Milestones Museum, Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG
Normal admission price
Soldiers’ journey from home to war. A family experience in the streets of Milestones Museum, join Tom and Emily’s journey through the war years as they investigate a suspected German spy, make friends with a cavalry officer and his horse, and learn about our allies from the Empire.
01256 477766
www.hants.gov.uk/milestones

29 July
11am – 1pm
Butterfly Walk
Lepe Country Park, Lepe, Exbury, Southampton, SO45 1UZ
£5.50 per person, booking essential
Learn to identify Lepe’s butterflies on a guided walk, binoculars can be borrowed or bring your own. An indoor illustrated talk will replace the walk if the weather is bad.
02380 899108
www.hants.gov.uk/lepe

2 to 3 August
10.30am – 5.15pm
Gilbert’s Games & Country Fair
Gilbert White & The Oates Collections, Selborne, GU34 3JH
Reduced admission charges:
Adult £7.50, Child £2.50, Under 5s FREE
Fun and games for all the family this Summer at Gilbert’s Games in Selborne. Take part in traditional 18th century games and pastimes all weekend including: Aunt Sally, croquet, ferret racing, stool ball, regency dancing, lacemaking and melon rolling! Reduced admission charges all weekend.
01420 511275
www.gilbertwhitewhose.org.uk

9 August
10.30am – 4.30pm
Alton’s Anglo-Saxon Festival
Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, High Street, Alton, GU34 1BA
FREE, donations welcome
Weorod will be joining us to recreate a host of demonstrations illustrating the day-to-day life of the Anglo-Saxons.
01420 82802
www.hants.gov.uk/curtis-museum

13 to 14 August
10.30am – 12.30pm
Marvellous Myths and Legends
SEARCH Hands-on Centre, Gosport Discovery Centre, 50 Clarence Road, Gosport, PO12 1BU
Child £3. Accompanying adults FREE. Children aged 8+ can stay without an adult on completion of a consent/contact form. Booking essential.
023 9252 3463
www.hants.gov.uk/search

2014

GosFest 2014
Walpole Park, Gosport, PO12 1ER
Adult £2 per entry (13 years+), Child £1 (5-12 years), OAP £1, Under 5s FREE. Unlimited entry 4 day ticket £10 (advance only).
023 9378 7613
www.gosfest2014.com

Fun and games for all the family this Summer at Gilbert’s Games in Selborne. Take part in traditional 18th century games and pastimes all weekend including: Aunt Sally, croquet, ferret racing, stool ball, regency dancing, lacemaking and melon rolling! Reduced admission charges all weekend.
01420 511275
www.gilbertwhitewhose.org.uk

7 to 10 August
Thurs 5.30pm – 11pm
Fri, Sat, Sun 12.30pm – 11pm
GosFest is the biggest community festival in the South. 4 days of live entertainment with over 60+ bands and acts, extra family features on the Friday afternoon, DJ showdown Saturday and tribute tastic Sunday close. Stalls to shop and a great range of onsite caterers. Something for everyone at affordable prices.
023 9378 7613
www.gosfest2014.com

All the details for Marvellous Myths and Legends can be found on the GosFest 2014 website.

Stuck for something to do? Showcases are our monthly e-newsletter packed with ideas for things to do. www.hants.gov.uk/showcase

The boxed listings are paid for by advertisers. To advertise your event in Hampshire Now, call 01962 845520 or email advertising@hants.gov.uk
18 August, 10.30am

The Science of Dr Who
Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Festival Place, RG21 7LS
£6 per person, booking essential

Aliens and time machines, Cyborgs and Daleks, utopias and killer computers: take a journey through the fantastic worlds of Doctor Who. With raps, facts, and lots of laughs.
01256 478670
www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc

30 August. Gates open at 6.15pm for concert at 7pm

Family Summer's End Picnic with Firework Finale
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey, SO51 0QA
Adult £15.95, Child £8 (early bird discount if booked before 31 July: Adult £12, Child £6). Buy 9 tickets get the 10th FREE!
Join us for our annual Summer’s End Picnic. Enjoy children’s entertainment, an 80 piece orchestra playing music from Mama Mia, High School Musical and the Beatles. The evening ends with a spectacular firework display.
01794 369318
www.hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens

September

13 September, 11am – 4pm
Tudor Day
Basing House, Barons Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 8AE
Normal admission price

Our popular Tudor Day returns with a variety of Tudor-themed things to see and do, including falconry, Tudor music and dancing, and the chance to meet some Tudor characters.
01256 463965
www.basinghouse.org.uk

October

2 October
Nik Kershaw – The Me, Myself and I Tour: A Solo Retrospective
Ashcroft Arts Centre, Osborn Road, Fareham, PO16 7DX
Adult £20, Concessions £19

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of his first chart success, Nik performs songs from his impressive career. A rare opportunity to see the man described by Elton John as “the best song writer of a generation.”
01329 223100
www.ashcroft.org.uk

2 October, 8pm
Beverley Craven
The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, 56 East St, Havant, PO9 1BS
£19

BRIT-award winner Beverley Craven comes to The Spring performing her new songs live alongside timeless classics such as Promise Me, Holding On and Woman To Woman.
023 9247 2700
www.thespring.co.uk

November

30 November, 10am – 5pm
Traditional Bread Making
Minstead Study Centre, School Lane, Minstead, SO43 7GJ
£65 per person, includes lunch

Come along to this bread making master class where we will be rolling up our sleeves again and getting stuck into producing wheaten sourdough, croissants and two different roll doughs.
023 8081 3437
www.hants.gov.uk/msc

Key

Parking
Free parking

Free event
Disabled access

Catering
Dogs welcome

Baby changing facilities
Honouring Hampshire’s good neighbours

The good deeds undertaken by 70 unsung heroes from across Hampshire have been recognised in our Good Neighbours Awards – Young and Old.

Chris Auckland, a student involved in the project, said:

“We all get a lot of satisfaction knowing we have helped someone. It has opened up the world for the lady I help – she is delighted she can now confidently surf the internet and use email to keep in touch with people. I have also learned a lot about the area of India where she was brought up as she has shared a lot of interesting stories with me about her life.”

The project was among a whole host of good neighbourly acts which were recognised. Individuals who shop and garden for older people, those who support disabled young people to access activities in their communities, and a group of young people with disabilities who are helping to shape services, were among those celebrated.

The awards, which were created by Hampshire County Council in partnership with Age Concern Hampshire, Brendoncare Club Hampshire, Cares Together, the Good Neighbours Support Service, the Royal Voluntary Service (formerly WRVS), The Children’s Alliance and Community Development Facilitators, were hosted by the Chairman of the County Council, at a special ceremony in the Great Hall, Winchester in March.

Making friends, keeping fit

The benefits of exercise for general health are well-known but research has shown that for older people, taking regular gentle exercise can reduce the risk of falls and injuries by up to 50%.

Here we take a look at two ways older people in Hampshire are doing just that and having fun at the same time.

Staying steady and strong

Pat had been looking for a gentle exercise class that she could join but hadn’t found one, and then she read our article Fitness and Friends in the spring edition of Hampshire Now.

Thanks to that, she has joined the weekly Steady and Strong exercise classes at the Phoenix Centre, Pilgrims Way, Andover, jointly commissioned by the County Council and the NHS.

“I am quite active,” said Pat aged 67. “But going to a gym is a bit too much for me. I wanted something gentle, something more suitable for me. They are such a friendly group. It’s great.”

Adrienne who leads the classes puts everyone through their paces with a combination of seated and standing exercises aimed at increasing mobility, strength and balance. The class lasts around an hour and there is a nice supportive feel with lots of friendly banter. Afterwards they all enjoy a welcome cuppa and chat.

Anyone for tennis – table tennis that is!

There is one sound you don’t expect to hear when you step into a church – the distinctive sound of a table tennis ball as it pinged back and forth across the table. That is the sound which greets you if you step inside St Luke’s Church in Hedge End on Thursday afternoons.

Dick Fearne, 78, started the weekly sessions after attending a screening of the inspirational film Ping Pong: Never too old for Gold, at the County Council’s Ashburton Hall.

Dick loves the sport but he didn’t start the club just because of that. “I love any sport but at my age this is perfect,” said Dick. “You can do it come rain or shine. I like to get others involved, to get the exercise sure, but also for the fun of it. It’s suitable for all ages and abilities and we enjoy the social aspect of it.”

83 year-old John Whiteman, agrees. He said: “I enjoy coming along. You get to know people and you can have a laugh. It’s helped me with my fitness with all the bending and keeping my eye on the ball. It certainly keeps me active. Dick is my mentor. He keeps me on my toes. It’s good fun but I’ve not managed to beat him yet!” he laughs.

To find out more about Ping Pong events, including the annual event on 4 October, visit www.hants.gov.uk/betterbalance

Free Electric blanket safety checks

The County Council’s Trading Standards Service will be conducting free electric blanket safety checks again this autumn, supported by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, and local district and borough councils.

Electric blankets do deteriorate with age and wear. Most home fires caused by electric blankets are with blankets over 10 years old. The amount of use a blanket has had is not a good reflection of its safety.

only a check by a qualified engineer will highlight issues of concern. If you use an electric blanket, please make an appointment to have yours checked.

Our engineer will assess the age of your blanket and can advise on known risks which could make it unsafe.

It is advisable that any blanket which is over 10 years old is replaced with a new one.

The programme will commence on 29 September for three weeks at various venues across the county. Please telephone our designated number 01962 833 358 for information on dates, locations, and to make an appointment. Please note that this number is operated by a messaging service: leave your name and full telephone number and one of our team will ring you back. Call early to secure an appointment.

Wendy, 58, had a stroke three years ago which has left her with no movement in her left arm and limited movement in her left leg. Coming to the class has been a huge benefit: “It has really strengthened my leg and given me tremendous balance. It has also boosted my confidence. It’s done me the world of good. It’s good for anybody whose balance may not be as good as it used to be.”

Jacqui, 55 and Shirley, 67, (above) have both been attending the classes for the past three years, as has Jean who is 80. “I like the companionship,” she said. “Oh, and the exercise of course,” she adds with a twinkle.

To find your local class, visit www.hants.gov.uk/betterbalance or call 01962 846605

This is echoed by Gordon, 77, one of seven men who regularly attend the class. “It’s kept me mobile whilst means my children don’t worry about me and I can stay in my own home which is what you want, isn’t it.”

www.hants.gov.uk/betterbalance
Walk the Shipwrights Way along the Hayling Billy

About the Shipwrights Way
The Shipwrights Way is a new 50 mile long distance route linking villages and towns in east Hampshire through some beautiful countryside. Starting near Farnham, it runs southwards across the South Downs to the sea at Portsmouth and is now nearly all open. With the help of the Ministry of Defence, we are aiming to open the final section between Bordon and Liphook by spring 2015.

The Shipwrights Way can be separated into smaller routes which make good walks or rides in their own right. The route is open to walkers and cyclists throughout, and many sections are also open to horse riders.

The project is a partnership between the County Council, East Hampshire District Council, the Forestry Commission and the South Downs National Park Authority. We were pleased to work closely with Havant Borough Council on the section featured here.

Why ‘Shipwrights’?
During Tudor and Napoleonic times, huge quantities of timber, particularly oak, were grown at Alice Holt Forest (the beginning of Shipwrights Way) for use in shipbuilding. The route finishes at Portsmouth’s Historic Dockyard, home to many shipwrights over the centuries and now home to the Mary Rose, HMS Victory, and HMS Warrior.

Lots to see!
There is woodland, heathland, downland, coast, lots of beautiful views – and now 20 sculptures beautifully carved in Portland stone. Each sculpture tells ‘the story of the landscape’ providing a fascinating hint of the heritage and wildlife along the way, from the beautiful Nightjar to the Natterjack Toad, cocklesHELLS, butterflies, chalk pits, Roman pottery and a soldier’s knapsack.

More information
The website www.shipwrights.org.uk gives detailed maps and general information, including: path gradient and surface, what you’ll see along the way, places to eat, railway stations and other facilities. There’s also information on each sculpture, photos, films and audio clips describing the history and wildlife.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Point A
The walk starts at Havant station. Leaving the southern (town) side of Havant station, turn left along Waterloo Road and look for the rail crossing on the left where you join the Hayling Billy, a disused railway which is now a well-used gravel track, marked with the blue ‘Shipwrights Way’ signs. You will stay on this easy-to-follow track for nearly the entire route.

Point B
Shortly before crossing onto Hayling Island, you arrive at Langstone, a picturesque waterfront community. Continuing southwards along the seafront, you arrive at the Historic Dockyard. Look out for the Second World War-era Mulberry Harbour sitting in the water north of the jetty, built on Hayling to assist the D-day landings. To avoid Ferry Road, walkers can choose instead to walk across the heath and along the shingle beach.

The Shipwrights Way path then continues after the ferry into Portsmouth, along the seafront, finishing at the fascinating Historic Dockyard – making a total of 12 miles, adding an extra five miles to your walk – with the option to return by train from Portsmouth Harbour to Havant.

Point C
This is an internationally important site for its wildfowl and wading birds – look out for Black-tailed Godwits and large flocks of Brent Geese in winter, and Oystercatchers on the Victorian oysterbeds at the northern end of the island. Here you can see the oyster sculpture.

Point D
Further south, look for the Little Tern sculpture, whose curved wing also commemorates the invention of windsurfing here in 1958 by local resident Peter Chilvers. The hedgerows along this route are also managed for wildlife, particularly butterflies in summer.

Point E
On reaching the Station Theatre, leave the Billy and cross over into Staunton Avenue. Here you have a choice about the onward route, either continuing along the route or catching the no. 30/31 bus back to Havant (leaving four times an hour Monday to Saturday, but less frequently on Sundays). Please check bus timetables here and check which side of the road to stand.

Point F
If you choose to walk or cycle on, you can continue on to the ferry, passing the Brent Goose sculpture and some colourful houseboats before arriving at ferry point. This marks the end of this featured section of the Shipwrights Way. Look out for the Second World War-era Mulberry Harbour sitting in the water north of the jetty, built on Hayling to assist the D-day landings.

More information: visit the website www.shipwrights.org.uk or www.haylingbilly50.co.uk for a history of this disused railway and information about the area’s wildlife. If you choose to walk or cycle on into Portsmouth, ferry crossing information can be found at www.haylingferry.co.uk. For information about public transport in the area, please visit www.myjourneyhampshire.com.
Free Health Checks

Been invited for your NHS Health Check and not sure what to do?

Health check invitation letters are being sent out, and if you receive one of these, we would encourage you to contact your GP surgery for a free appointment. One Hampshire resident who already knows the value of the check, as it identified a condition they didn’t know they had, said:

“Early stage diabetes was picked up at the check, so I will be changing my diet and have already seen a Dietitian for more advice. I am glad I had the check and my diabetes was found so early because this has given me a chance to make a difference to my health now.”

At your NHS Health Check you’ll be asked a few simple questions and offered a series of routine, straightforward tests that will help work out your risk of developing one of these diseases. The check usually takes about 20 minutes.

The test results will help your health practitioner talk to you about what can do to be healthy and continue to enjoy your life.

This may include suggestions on small changes to your diet and how much exercise to take. You may also be offered other treatments such as tablets to control blood pressure, along with links to free stop smoking services.

Visit www.hants.gov.uk/healthcheck to find out more about Hampshire’s Health Checks.

Get the kids moving this summer with Change4Life!

Summer is a great time for us all to get active. This year, Change4Life will help our kids do at least one extra burst of activity every day in safe and convenient places.

Finding activities to keep the kids busy and get going can seem a bit daunting during the school holidays. By joining up with the new campaign, Change4Life will provide fun suggestions that are easy to do, don’t require lots of equipment, keep your family occupied and get them moving in ten minute bursts.

Why ten minutes? Ten minute bursts of physical activity fit in with everyday life. It recognises that during the holidays it can be really hectic for busy parents and carers juggling caring for children whilst still working. It can be easy to let the kids spend time on the sofa over the summer, even though we know how important it is for them to be active. Your child may have already brought home from school information about how Change4Life can inspire all the family to be more active, and you may have already become involved. But if not, visit Change4Life at www.nhs.uk/change4life, to sign up and start joining in the fun!

Did you know...

As adults, we need to be active for 150 minutes a week, but kids need even more exercise.

Children over 5 years old need 60 minutes per day of physical activity that gets their heart beating faster than usual.

Under 5s need 180 minutes daily, which can be broken down into smaller chunks of energetic activity throughout the day.

Your Information

The Hampshire Health Record is an electronic summary record for people living in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.

The record stores information from GP surgeries, hospitals, social and community care teams in one place so that – with your consent – professionals can view it to deliver better care to you.

Your choice

If you are happy for your information to be stored on the Hampshire Health Record then you do not need to do anything. Please contact us if you would like a free copy of the information held about you on the Hampshire Health Record or prefer your information not to be stored on the Hampshire Health Record.
COMPETITION
WIN one of four family tickets to Paultons Park

Paultons Park is the theme park for families with more than 60 rides and attractions included in the admission price. NEW for 2014 are four exciting attractions! Including the beautifully hand-crafted Double-Decker Victorian Carousel, the action packed Robin Hood 4D Film, the woodland themed Wildwoods Restaurant and The Big Toy Shop. For further information, including a calendar of opening times and to book tickets online in advance to save money visit www.paultonspark.co.uk

We are giving away four family tickets to Paultons Park. To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question: How many new attractions have opened in this year? Send your answer to: hncompetitions@hants.gov.uk putting ‘Paultons Park’ in the subject box, or on a postcard with your name and address to Hampshire Now, Paultons Park Competition, PO Box 311, Winchester, SO23 5DS. The closing date is 31 August 2014.

Terms and conditions apply. Four winners will each claim one ‘family of four’ tickets (2 x adults and 2 x children under 12). Tickets are valid for one visit before 31 September 2014. This prize can not be exchanged for cash. This competition is only open to residents who live in Hampshire, excluding those areas covered by Southampton or Portsmouth. Each of our Household Waste Recycling Centres can see up to 1,000 vehicles per day and offer prime advertising space for local businesses.

View our media pack and rates at www.hants.gov.uk/advertising or contact the advertising team at advertising@hants.gov.uk or phone 01962 845520.

Want to reach new customers? Advertise your business with us
Our advertising opportunities offer you a greater reach than any other providers in Hampshire. Reach over 545,000 homes, three times a year, via our flagship residents’ magazine, Hampshire Now.
Our popular website, Hantsweb, attracts half a million unique visitors per month, and features a vast range of pages to suit advertisers. Each of our Household Waste Recycling Centres can see up to 1,000 vehicles per day and offer prime advertising space for local businesses.

‘Our family foster because we enjoy welcoming people and sharing new experiences with them.’

‘Call now to find out more about fostering with Hampshire County Council’

www.hants.gov.uk/advertise
Home to the UK's Only Peppa Pig World

Paultons Family Theme Park

New for 2014!

The Double-Decker Victorian Carousel

Robin Hood 4D

Plus

The Big Toy Shop

Paultons Park, Nr Romsey, The New Forest, Hampshire, SO51 6AL. Call 023 8081 4433.