

COASTLINE

*A FREE newsletter proudly delivered to you by Gosport Borough Council
Winter 2022*

**Rubbish
and recycling
calendar**
back page



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100 years of our borough

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Coastline is going digital

This is the last printed edition of Coastline, as we're moving to an email bulletin format.

This will save money, which can be reinvested elsewhere; support our goal to make Gosport a greener place; and enable us to get topical news to you more quickly.

The Coastline e-bulletin will have bite-sized news articles and links to more information online.

You'll need to register online to receive it – please go to www.gosport.gov.uk/subscribe or scan the QR code to the right.

You can also keep up with the latest news by:

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Following our social media:

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Delivery of your Coastline

We do our best to make sure Coastline tells you about upcoming events in good time. However, industrial action at Royal Mail, our distributor, was announced after we scheduled this edition. We have worked to avoid possible delays to the delivery, but there are circumstances out of our control. We apologise if your copy is late.

Fun and colour to welcome Christmas

Gosport's big Christmas lights switch-on is planned for Saturday 26 November, with family fun and activities in Lawrence Square from 9am.

Stage entertainment starts at 2.30pm. A special feature at 4pm will be the arrival of the Brouhaha carnival parade, postponed from September out of respect for the Queen. Stars from the New Theatre Royal panto *Sleeping Beauty* will switch on the lights at 6pm with Father Christmas.



Chester the panto jester

The new Gosport Museum and Art Gallery will celebrate its official opening from 12.30pm to 6pm. Until 4.30pm it will host the Give it a Go festival, where visitors can try creative activities.



Brouhaha carnival costumes

Lee-on-the-Solent's High Street switch-on is at 6.30pm on Friday 25 November. Attractions include the French Market, on from 9am until late.

For more details and more festive events, go to www.gosport.gov.uk/christmas

GOSPORT 100



Special souvenir section

Gosport is celebrating 100 years of official borough status, with its own mayor and a charter approved by the king. We hope you find these eight pages, picking out some key moments in a century of change, interesting and enjoyable.

Go to www.gosport.gov.uk/gosport100 for more information about anniversary events and how to offer a contribution to the Discovery Centre's oral history archive.

Find out more about the fascinating heritage of our borough at www.gosportsociety.co.uk or www.gosportheritage.co.uk or search Wessex film and sound archive at www.hants.gov.uk

We are very grateful to Hampshire Cultural Trust, who supplied the photos in these pages, unless stated otherwise. Special thanks to Wendy Redman and Matthew Lambert. Thanks also to Cllr Richard Earle, Fraser Hicks and the Gosport Society.



Celebrating a centenary

The first mayor, Jesse Lee, outside the Town Hall with councillors and staff in 1922, on the day an official charter made Gosport a borough

November has been chosen as the focus of the Gosport 100 celebration, as the first meeting of the new Gosport Borough Council was on 4 November 1922.

One of the first acts of the new council was to present the mayor, Jesse Lee, with a ceremonial borough mace, carved from the mast of HMS Victory. Local artist Martin Snape was paid three pounds and three shillings for designing the borough's seal – still the basis of the council logo today.

Commemorative events this month include an exhibition at the Display Space in the newly-renovated Gosport

Museum and Art Gallery from 22 November to 3 January. This has been created with the help of more than 400 local schoolchildren, who took part in workshops prompting them to portray what Gosport means to them.

Your Coastline may arrive in time for you to plan a visit to the Town Hall for an open day on 19 November, from 10am to 4pm (last entry 3pm), with a historical exhibition and a chance to meet the Mayor, view the civic silver and enjoy refreshments.

More information at www.gosport.gov.uk/gosport100

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<p>Fareham Methodist Church Kings Road (off West Street) 5.30pm & 7pm Tel: Liz 07801 826573</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY Elson Hedca 4pm & 5.30pm Tel: Rebecca 07794 805752</p>	<p>Fareham St John the Evangelist Church 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm & 7pm Tel: Liz 07801 826573</p>	<p>Bridgemary St Matthew's Church 9am & 10.30am Tel: Claire 07884 368836</p>	<p>Gosport The Fareport Building, St Vincent College 8am, 9.30am & 11am Tel: Rebecca 07794 805752</p>
<p>TUESDAY Gosport Gosport Borough Football Club 7.30am, 9am, 10.45am, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7pm Tel: Lisa 07799 338454</p>	<p>Rowner Nimrod Community Centre 5.30pm & 7pm Tel: Keith 07871 176386</p>	<p>Gosport The Fareport Building, St Vincent College 5.30pm & 7pm Tel: Rebecca 07794 805752</p>	<p>Catisfield The Scout Hut, Blackbrook Road 9am & 10.30am Tel: Colette 07727 872528</p>	
		<p>Bridgemary St Matthew's Church 7.30pm Tel: Claire 07884 368836</p>	<p>SATURDAY Rowner Nimrod Community Centre 7.30am & 9am Tel: Keith 07871 176386</p>	

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touching hearts, changing lives

Memories of leisure time

Many Gosport people have fond recollections of local cinemas, including the Ritz, and of spending lazy summer days at the outdoor swimming pool. Or did you prefer a bit of boating at Walpole Park?



Left to right: boating at Walpole Park, 1960; borough swimming pool, South St, about 1966



Left to right: after the Blitz, WW2; the Ritz in 1999; interior, about 1999; demolition, 2001

Story of the Ritz

The Ritz Super Cinema opened in 1935 with *What Every Woman Knows*, starring Helen Hayes. After bombing in 1941 it was closed until 1958. It remained open until 1999 and was demolished in 2001.

A century of change

Snapshots from the last 100 years of our borough, with some insights into how it has changed and developed, decade by decade.



Air-raid precautions messengers at Privett Park, 1939

1920s

In an uncertain post-war economic climate, unemployed men were set to work on projects including converting the old cockle pond into Gosport's model yacht lake. An even bigger project was the reconstruction of the ferry esplanade, which resulted in the creation of the gardens now known as the Falkland Gardens in 1924. New housing estates at Forton, Brockhurst and Elson grew up rapidly and Woolworth arrived in the High Street. The opening of the War Memorial Hospital meant the very ill no longer had to be taken to Portsmouth. Gosport said goodbye to the tram, with the last service running at the end of 1929.

1930s

Lee-on-the-Solent was brought within the council's boundary in 1930. This added to the population of the expanding borough, which by 1939 had topped 50,000.

In the mid-30s, the town got its first double-decker buses. With the arrival of the Second World War in 1939, more than 3,000 children were evacuated to rural Hampshire.



AM Edwards general store, 147 Forton Road, about 1935



German POWs at Grove Road, about 1946

1940s

Bombing of the town started in August 1940, but the worst attacks came in early 1941. The end of 1943 saw preparations for D-Day begin to transform the harbour and Stokes Bay. In 1944, a week before D-Day, the last air raid on the town saw bombs drop near Holy Trinity Church, killing four people.

By the end of the war, enemy bombs had claimed the lives of 111 local civilians and three quarters of homes had been moderately or severely damaged. German prisoners were among the workers building the new Bridgemary estate, which won national praise on completion.



Old Town Hall, probably 1953

1950s

Gosport began to rebuild and transform. Historic moats were filled in, creating more space for a growing population.

New factories opened along the A32, including Cyanamid in 1958. In 1953, passenger rail services from Gosport stopped and in 1959 the floating bridge, which took vehicles across the harbour, made its last journey.

Also that year, work began to demolish the whole of the South Street area behind the High Street, creating Trinity Green.



VE Day party, Old Road, Seafield Estate

1960s

The town centre saw dramatic changes, including the creation of Mumby Road, and work started on a huge naval estate at Rowner. The old town hall and Thorngate Hall had suffered badly in the war, with the latter little more than a shell. The new Thorngate Halls were built in 1960, and later in the decade a new town hall opened on the site of the two former buildings. 1963 saw the building of the iconic Harbour and Seaward towers on the waterfront. St Vincent Boys' Naval Training School, formerly Forton Barracks, was closed in 1968, eventually to become St Vincent College.



Lee-on-the-Solent seafront with Lee Tower in the background, 1960

1970s

Alver Valley and the Wildgrounds became the focus of a preservation effort by the council. Bay House school, with about 1,800 pupils, became the borough's largest. In 1976, Holbrook recreation centre opened. Lee Tower, built on Lee-on-the-Solent seafront in 1935, was demolished in 1971. The old Connaught drill hall was also demolished, making way for a new library, which opened in 1973. The old Walpole Road library became the borough museum a few years later. The decade also saw the construction of the current town bus station.



Lee-on-the-Solent High Street about 1971

1980s

The decade opened with a new Haslar Bridge, capable of taking vehicles. The Falklands Conflict of 1982 involved huge numbers of Gosport people – serving with the Task Force or working to keep the military effort supplied. The borough's contribution was marked in 1984 when the Falkland Gardens were given their current name by PM Margaret Thatcher. In 1988, the High Street was closed to traffic for a six-month experiment. Priddy's Hard closed as a military facility.



Haslar foot bridge, known as Pneumonia Bridge, about 1973



HMS Hermes sails to the Falklands in 1982

1990s

Significant events included the final pedestrianisation of the High Street and the closure of Royal Clarence Yard and HMS Daedalus as naval establishments. Haslar Marina was built in 1993 to cater for a growing demand.

2000s

Major projects got under way to mark the new millennium. Among these was a major redesign of the Esplanade, including the Timespace feature, and the Forton Lake Opening Bridge, also known as the Millennium Bridge. Gosport library reopened as the Discovery Centre in 2005. In April 2008, a heavy freak hailstorm, followed by torrential rain, caused huge damage to the Thorngate Halls. In 2009 the Royal Hospital Haslar finally closed.

2010s

One of the most notable events of this decade was the multi-million-pound regeneration of the Rowner area. Gosport Leisure Centre, a replacement for the old Holbrook centre, was completed in 2012. Brockhurst Gate retail park welcomed shoppers in 2019. In the same year, Gosport was chosen as a heritage action zone, with a major plan to revive the town centre.

2020s

The borough's bus station redevelopment project made important progress. In 2022 a county council plan to build a new transport interchange nearby was approved. The re-opening of Gosport Museum and Art Gallery, after renovation, was announced. And plans were revealed for the waterfront site at Daedalus. Meanwhile, regeneration of Priddy's Hard gathered pace.



Looking west on High Street, about 1985

A changing scene

Aerial pictures show how Gosport's waterfront has altered over the years.



The yacht Endeavour II is launched at Camper and Nicholsons in 1936



Taken about 1969



Taken 2018

Your borough news round-up

Green-fingered Gosport

Shore Leave Haslar, the project for veterans, picked up the Mayor's award for best overall entry in this year's Gosport and Lee-on-the-Solent in Bloom awards – as well as the community and neighbourhood award.

Other winners included:

- best newcomer – Chris and Isobel Moody
- best small back garden – Ray and Sharon Knipe
- best large back garden – Tina Holdaway
- best front garden – Margaret Sutherland
- best street – King Street

Meanwhile, Gosport has picked up a bouquet of awards in two contests – South and South-East in Bloom and the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood competition.



Margaret Sutherland's winning front garden

Skips scheme gets going

Our community skips scheme is under way, bringing skips to local neighbourhoods so residents can dispose of bulky household rubbish free of charge. It's running on a trial basis for six months. For more information search **community skips** at www.gosport.gov.uk

Memorial garden plan

Council Leader Cllr Peter Chegwyn has announced a plan to create a memorial garden in memory of Her Majesty the Queen. He said: "Many Gosport residents were deeply touched by the death of Her Majesty, who did so much for our nation. A memorial garden would provide a permanent reminder of how much she meant to us all."

Bright future for old cinema

The council has agreed a plan to buy the former Criterion cinema in Forton Road, with the intention of turning it into a multi-purpose film, theatre and live music venue. It was feared that the building could have been demolished and the site used for flats.



Donald Inall Associates

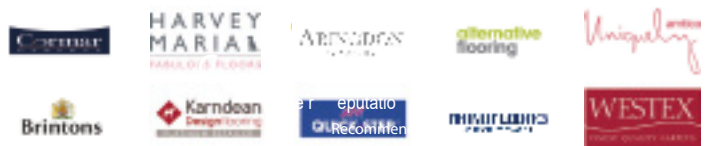
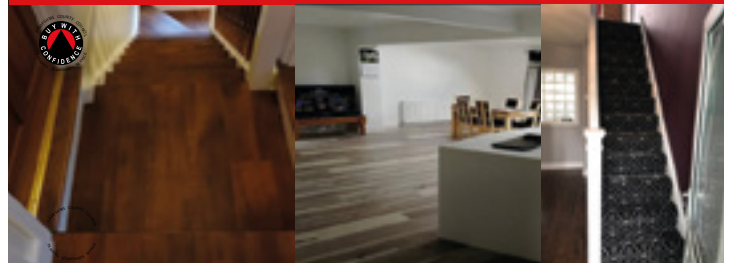
Protecting Stokes Bay

Councillors have agreed to make Stokes Bay a conservation area, to preserve and enhance its special character and help ensure any future development is appropriate.

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Rubbish and recycling collections 2022/2023

November 2022					December 2022					January 2023					February 2023					March 2023				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4				1	2	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3			1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	30	31				27	28				27	28	29	30	31

April 2023					May 2023					June 2023					July 2023					August 2023				
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September 2023					October 2023					November 2023				
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31				27	28	29	30	

Non-recycling (black bin) week

Recycling (green bin) week

Christmas tree collection
16 to 20 January.
Please contact StreetScene on
0800 198 598 to book yours.



Advertisement



*May the memories of those we love
shine brightly this Christmas*

A donation has been made to  **cashforkids**

Much love
Katy, Michelle and the team at Ruby Funerals x

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