



Gosport Borough Council

A Housing Services Production

At Your Service

NEWSLETTER FOR TENANTS AND LEASEHOLDERS

Winter 2016 Edition

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Welcome to the Winter edition...

Residents
Approved

Credit: kasabubu Pixabay



GOSPORT
Borough Council



WHEN CONTACTING THE COUNCIL...



It is important to us that we connect you to the correct department or person when you contact us.

Please always remember to take a note of the department that you are dealing with or the name of the officer who has contacted or visited you. Please find below some useful numbers for Housing Services.

Tenancy Management Team

If you are a Council tenant and need to speak to your Housing Officer or a member of the Tenancy Management Team, please call 023 9254 5665.

Income Recovery Team

If you need to speak to someone about your rent account please call 023 9254 5207.

Older Persons Services

If you live in Sheltered Accommodation or need to speak to someone about your 'lifeline pendant' please call 023 9254 5453.

Housing Advice Team

If you are not a Council tenant and want to speak to someone because you are threatened with homelessness or need to find accommodation please call 023 9254 5476.

Temporary Accommodation Team

If you are not a Council tenant and are living in temporary accommodation allocated by the Council please call 023 9254 5586.

Housing Needs Team

If you are on the Housing Waiting List or have a query about the Choice Based Lettings scheme please call 023 9254 5682.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Town Hall will close for Christmas at 5pm on Friday 23rd December 2016 and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

If you need to contact the Town Hall in an emergency during this time please telephone **0800 028 0835** where our 'out of hours' team will be able to direct you to the right person.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

2016 has been a year for great change, seeing both Gosport and Portsmouth venture into new territory, with a shared housing management structure taking shape over the past few months. I'd like to thank you all for your support as we've entered into this new phase following the partnership agreement agreed in June.

Bringing both authorities together to provide a housing service which benefits both areas has been something new for us all, and a huge amount of work has gone into creating a resilient and sustainable housing service for the future of Gosport.

The benefits this has brought in sharing knowledge, experience, and practice between us have been substantial, and we're committed to maintaining a housing service based in Gosport and doing our best to provide a high level of service to tenants.

I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As our services continue to develop and evolve, I hope you'll join me in looking forward to 2017 and all that it may bring.

Best wishes,

David

David Williams
Chief Executive



HOUSING REVIEW

As you will be aware from updates in previous issues, we are reviewing our housing service to make sure it properly caters to all of our customers' needs and gives us a resilient platform to build from.

In November we presented proposals to the Housing Services teams and began a consultation with them. We'll know the outcome of this in late January 2017. We have also presented the proposals to Members, stakeholders and tenants from the Customer Opinion panel.

The current proposals are a result of our ongoing process that has involved a lot of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, who have helped shape the plans. They involve restructuring teams and changing a number of roles to work more generically across a wider range of services providing you with a single point of contact.

Whilst there is a reduction to the overall size of our department this is not intended to reduce the level of service provided to you as tenants, leaseholders and residents in Gosport. Should the proposals go ahead we will do everything we can to minimise the impact on teams and support them as they move into different or new roles.

All of the core housing services are retained and will continue to be based in Gosport with a Head of Housing Service.

The changes we're proposing have focussed on how to deliver a better level of service with more of a focus on your needs whilst also reducing costs.

Part of the proposals will be to share some services, for example Energy services with Portsmouth City Council, this won't have any impact on the interaction you have with our services. It would just be a behind the scenes arrangement similar to a number the council already has with nearby authorities, such as our environmental health services provided by Fareham Borough Council.

We will continue to keep you updated as the review progresses and if you have any questions at all about what is happening please do not hesitate to contact the Resident Involvement Team either on Freephone 0800 328 6958 or 023 9254 5686.

Seasonal wishes

James Hill,
Housing Services Manager

Taking Housing Forward



Change Programme



YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Our Housing Officers regularly carry out estate inspections. If you want to accompany your Housing Officer on an estate walkabout in your area, please call 023 9254 5665 or email housingofficers@gosport.gov.uk

We actively encourage our residents to report any issues to us.

You can report a housing communal area repair to our repairs contractor Kier in the following ways by:



- Telephoning free phone number *0800 028 0835
- Reporting emergency repairs (including boilers) 'out of hours' on free phone *0800 028 0835
- Texting non urgent repairs on 07786 204386
- Emailing non urgent repairs to gosport.repairs@kier.co.uk
- Clicking on the Kier repairs app. This can be downloaded via Apple, Android or Blackberry app stores; once you have downloaded the app register with passcode 1789.

You can report any grounds maintenance issue such as grass cutting and street cleansing to Streetscene by:



- Telephoning free phone number *08000 198 598
- Emailing streetscene@gosport.gov.uk

Any issues with debris in road, pedestrian crossings, pot holes, street lamps and traffic lights can be reported to Highways by:



- Logging onto www.hants.gov.uk/highways

**Calls from a BT landline will be free. Calls from other operators and mobile providers will be charged at their standard rates.*

CONTACTING THE POLICE

You should call 101 to report a crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response.

For example,

- Your car has been stolen.
- Your property has been damaged.
- You suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood.
- To report a minor traffic collision.
- To give the Police information about crime in your area.
- To speak to the Police about a general enquiry.

You should always telephone 999 when it is an emergency.

For example,

- When a crime is happening.
- Someone that is suspected of a crime is nearby.
- When there is danger to life.
- When violence is being used or threatened.



Patch 1 – Anglesey (Ash Close and Baronsmere), Bridgemary South, Christchurch and Town-WLW estate

Rachel Seymour - rachel.seymour@gosport.gov.uk

023 9254 5275

Patch 2 – Brockhurst, Forton and Leesland

Roz Weaver - roz.weaver@gosport.gov.uk

023 9254 5356

Patch 3 – Lee on the Solent and Town

Carol Leader - carol.leader@gosport.gov.uk

023 9254 5359

Patch 4 – Privett and Rowner & Holbrook

James Sibley - james.sibley@gosport.gov.uk

023 9254 5522

Patch 5 – Bridgemary North, Elson and Peel Common

Syed Haque - syed.haque@gosport.gov.uk

023 9254 5273

Patch 6 – Anglesey (Clayhall area) and Bridgemary South

Helen Wort - helen.wort@gosport.gov.uk

023 9254 5275

FLY TIPPING CLAMPDOWN

Gosport Borough Council has new powers to combat fly-tippers, using on-the-spot £200 penalty notices.

Enforcement Officers have handed penalty notices to fly-tippers including someone dumping a mattress in Bridgemary and someone leaving topsoil in the Alver Valley Country Park east car park.

If a penalty notice is paid within 10 days the fee goes down to £120. If it is not paid at all, fly-tippers could end up having to attend court, where fines are unlimited.

Fly-tipping can be reported on 08000 198598 or streetscene@gosport.gov.uk

YOUR OPINIONS DO COUNT

We would be interested to find out what you think about the 'At Your Service' newsletter. To help us improve the quality of the newsletter please complete the questionnaire on the back page of this edition.





New garages in Gosport

MORE NEW GARAGES

New garages have been built in Chale Close and Osborn Crescent to replace the 25 garages in Chale Close and 17 garages in Osborn Crescent that were demolished due to their poor condition.

In addition to the demolition and rebuild, the sites have been improved by carrying out various repairs to the forecourt and surrounding areas. The overall result provides a great improvement to the general area and the new garages are proving very popular.

If you are interested in renting a garage you will need to complete a Garage Application form which can be obtained from the main reception at the Town Hall. Garages are advertised through the Choice Based Lettings system and can be viewed via www.gosport.gov.uk/gosportchoice.

You can bid online or complete a bidding card (which is available in the Town Hall by the notice board). The garages are advertised on a Thursday and you have up to 12 noon on Monday to bid. Garage prices range from £12.67 per week inc VAT for one of the older style garages to £14.32 per week inc VAT for one of the newer ones. Council tenants are exempt from paying VAT which means that they will save between £2.09 per week to £2.69.

For more information about garages please contact Lorna Bond on 023 9254 5572.



HOW DID WE DO?

Following any planned improvements or repairs to your home and as part of our commitment to improve our customer satisfaction, an independent company called M.E.L. Reseach may telephone you on behalf of Gosport Borough Council to find out how satisfied you are with the various aspects of the repairs services you received.

If you do not want to take part in these surveys or would like further information, please contact Sam Downing on either freephone *0800 328 6958 or 023 9254 5686.

*Calls from a BT landline will be free. Calls from other operators and mobile providers will be charged at their standard rates.



WHAT IMPROVEMENT WORK HAS B

At the mid point (30th September) of the current 2016/17 financial year we have:

- Installed 55 new kitchens
- Installed 73 new bathrooms
- Rewired 23 properties
- Installed new central heating to 93 properties (consisting of 44 full installs, 35 boiler replacements and 14 radiator replacements)
- Installed 40 composite doors
- Carried out 51 disabled adaptations (consisting of 29 level access showers, 17 over bath showers and 5 stair lifts)

Disabled Aids

Due to the high demand to carry out works required to adapt our properties for a medical need, we decided this year to increase the budget to try and reduce the waiting list. As a result we have made real progress in improving the turnaround times. In March 2016 we were taking about 18 months, from medical referral to the actual work being carried out. This turnaround time has now been reduced to just 10 months. We are not stopping there; we hope that this waiting period will reduce even further and may even be cleared by the end of March 2017.

However, we are aware there are some concerns with the time it takes for an Occupational Therapist to complete their assessment before we are passed any instruction to carry out work. We are currently working with the local team to find new ways of reducing the overall timescales experienced by our residents.

Replacement roofs

Once the work to replace the roof at Hove Court is completed we hope to start a further roof before the end of March 2017. If this work goes ahead, this will most likely be 18-22 Chester Court. Residents that are affected will be notified nearer the time.

Upgrade to Hove Court

The extent of the works were to improve the overall thermal efficiency of the block by upgrading walls, replacing a leaking roof and where possible the windows too. Works started just before April 2016 and are progressing really well. We should have the work completed by the end of December.



Hove Court roof undergoing repair

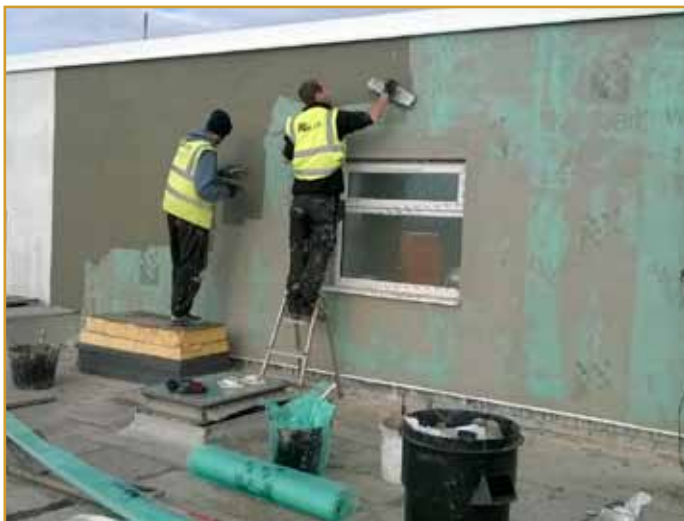


Completed roof at Hove Court

External wall insulation

Insulation work to low level blocks will continue once the works are completed at Hove Court. This will include the flats at Glebe Drive in Peel Common and Elmore Avenue in Lee on the Solent.

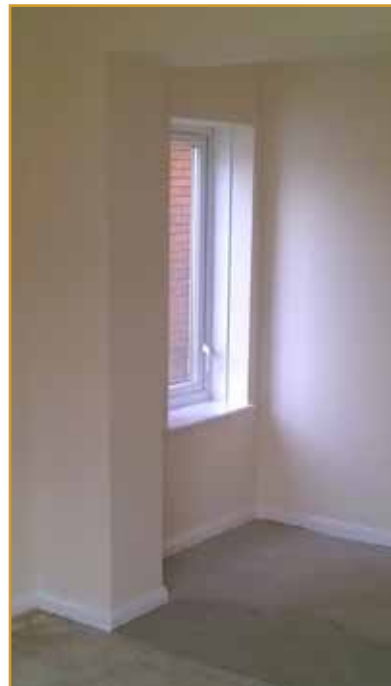
BEEN CARRIED OUT IN YOUR AREA?



Wall insulation being applied at Hove Court



Finished wall insulation at Hove Court



Gloucester House plans and adaptations



Gloucester House before



Gloucester House showing completed extension work

Sheltered Scheme upgrade

Planning and preparation work has been carried out in readiness to upgrade Gloucester House. This work will start in the New Year and will be a similar standard to our other sheltered schemes that have been recently upgraded.

Two flats within Gloucester House have recently been extended to increase the size of the bedrooms. These flats have previously been hard to let due to the size of the bedrooms. It is hoped that the extensions will ensure that the properties are more popular and don't remain empty for long periods of time.

MONEY UPDATE

NEW LOWER BENEFIT CAP – WILL YOU HAVE TO PAY MORE RENT?

A new lower benefit cap was introduced on 7th November 2016.

For working age households (ages 16 – 64) the Department for Work and Pensions will be addressing your total welfare benefits to see if Housing Benefit should be reduced.

Certain households are going to be exempt from the cap. For further details please visit www.gov.uk/benefit-cap

Currently, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and our housing service are identifying households that may be affected. The DWP and the Councils Benefit Team will be writing to those identified. It is likely those households with three or more children will be affected.

The best way to see if the cap will affect you is to go to www.gov.uk/benefit-cap-calculator and enter your details; should your household circumstances change then you will need to check again.

NEED HELP?

For more help and advice about how to manage a potential increase in rent then please contact the Income Recovery Team on 023 9254 5207.

COUNCIL TAX HELP

As household budgets become tighter following various welfare reforms, more people are finding themselves struggling to meet bills like Council Tax. Changes in April 2017 to Council Tax Support schemes are likely to further reduce help for people of working age, meaning increased bills.

If you are struggling to pay your Council Tax bill then it is worth seeking support early. If you would like to claim Council Tax Support, please claim it online at www.gosport.gov.uk or telephone 023 9254 5325.

DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT

Local Authorities are given money each year to help residents pay their rent where Housing Benefit does not cover the rent in full. These payments are called Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and to be eligible, you must be receiving Housing Benefit or receiving Universal Credit with housing costs. You cannot get DHP if your rent is met in full by Housing Benefit.

DHPs are intended as a short-term measure whilst you are taking active steps to resolve your housing issues. DHP may be made to make up all/part of the shortfall in Housing Benefit for a limited period. All circumstances will be considered including:

- The shortfall between Housing Benefit and the rent.
- Any steps taken to reduce the rental liability.
- The financial and medical circumstances of the household.
- Income and reasonable expenditure of the household.
- Any savings or capital.

The decision to award the DHP is made by the benefits team. If you disagree with the decision you can ask them to look at it again, but you do **not** have the right to appeal.

For more information about DHP please contact the Benefit Section on 023 9254 5325.

CHANGES TO BENEFITS FOR THOSE WITH CHILDREN

From April 2017 the government is planning to make changes to limit allowances within Child Tax Credit/Housing Benefit.

This will affect new claimants with more than two dependent children, and current claimants with two or more dependent children, who have more children after April 2017. There will be some exemptions from this rule.

Full details regarding these changes are yet to be published by central government, as soon as we have more information we will share it.

MONEY UPDATE

SUPPORT WITH WATER BILLS

This financial year, Portsmouth Water can now reduce your water bill to £75.28 by placing you on their new Social Tariff.

You may qualify for this tariff if your gross household income is £16,105 a year or less.

This figure excludes the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payments
- Attendance Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Support
- Pension Credit

The new tariff will be applied from the date of application and successful applicants' details will be passed to Southern Water. They will also place you on their Essentials Tariff which provides a 25% reduction on the annual bill.

For more information, please contact Portsmouth Water on 023 9249 9666 or Southern Water on 08452 720845 or Freephone 08000 270 363.



The graphic is a colorful advertisement for HomeSwapper. At the top, there is a thumbs-up icon inside a house shape, followed by the text 'HomeSwapper' in a large, stylized font. Below this is a purple banner with the text 'The biggest and best way to swap your home!'. The background features a landscape with houses, trees, and people. A speech bubble says 'It's free to join!' and another says 'Find your new home!'. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the text 'Join for free today at www.homeswapper.co.uk'. The central text reads 'Join 500,000 social tenants on www.homeswapper.co.uk'. Below this are several statistics: '25m' (improved per month), '90%' (of users), '200,000 live adverts' (More than any other swapping site!), '20,000 messages' (are sent every single day), '43,000 multiswaps created', '390,000 users each month', '40,000 matching emails' (are sent to our users every single day), and 'More than 5000 new members every week'.

HomeSwapper
The biggest and best way to swap your home!

Join 500,000 social tenants on
www.homeswapper.co.uk

25m
improved per month
up 25% in January 2016

90%
of users

200,000 live adverts
More than any other swapping site!

20,000 messages
are sent every single day

43,000 multiswaps created

390,000 users each month

40,000 matching emails
are sent to our users every single day

More than 5000 new members every week

Join for free today at www.homeswapper.co.uk

'PAY TO STAY' POLICY PLANS DROPPED

The government announced on 21st November that they have decided not to proceed with the 'Pay to Stay' scheme.

As part of the summer budget 2016/17 it was announced that the discretionary 'Pay to Stay' scheme would become compulsory for council tenants, and that a new lower income threshold would be introduced.

The scheme meant that Council tenants with a household income over £31,000 (or over £40,000 in London) would have to pay a market or near market rent.

It was thought that more than 70,000 households would have been affected by these changes, pushing tenants' annual rent up by more than £1,000 per year.

The change in policy is a result of a public consultation into the 'Pay to Stay' scheme in which Council leaders and charities were concerned about the plans.

CHRISTMAS WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION TIMES

There will be no changes to the days that refuse and recycling collections will take place in the weeks starting Boxing Day and New Years Day. The collection crews will be working on the Bank Holidays so please ensure your wheeled bins are out for collection in their normal location by 7am on your usual collection day.

All waste and recycling collection calendars have been delivered by Urbaser. Should you not receive a copy through your door for 2016/2017, please visit www.gosport.gov.uk/sections/environment/streetscene/waste-management/ to print off your own calendar, or contact Streetscene on free phone 0800 198 598 to request a copy.

CHRISTMAS RECYCLING TIPS

Christmas is always such a busy time of year, but please don't forget to think 'green' as much as you can. Over Christmas, to help the environment, why not give a gift token for a special treat or buy recycled gift cards and wrapping paper. Try to avoid presents with excess packaging, and choose reusable gift bags to reduce waste, and save time! You could also try to complete the recycling loop by buying recycled goods wherever possible. The future of recycling ultimately depends upon there being a market for recycled materials.

Christmas food shopping can be overwhelming, but with the help of the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign you'll be writing a shopping list and cooking correct portion sizes to save money and waste, and using up your Christmas leftovers in no time! Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for lots of recipes and advice.

When the festive season comes to an end, why not have a green New Year too, and make a resolution to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as you can in 2017. Remember you can dispose your Christmas cards and cardboard packaging, paper, plastic bottles, food tins and drinks cans in your household recycling wheeled bin.

While we collect as many items as we can, there are certain things it is important you **don't** include in your green wheeled bin:

- Please don't include any polystyrene or plastic packaging (i.e. food trays, selection box trays, packaging for toys and games, other plastics) in your green bin. The only plastics that we can recycle at present are plastic bottles.
- Please don't include glass or textiles and shoes in your green bin – these cause problems at the sorting facility, but can be recycled at your local recycling bank; along with shoes, books, CDs and DVDs.
- Please don't recycle your gift wrap as it is often layered with plastic and foil which cannot be recycled – the actual paper content is usually very low.
- Please don't include sweet wrappers, crisp packets, cellophane, shrink wrap or foil.

If you have extra recycling, just place this out in a cardboard box or clear sack beside your bin on the first recycling collection after Christmas Day **only**.

For information and advice on any of the above articles please contact Streetscene on either 08000 198 598 or email streetscene@gosport.gov.uk or visit www.gosport.gov.uk/streetscene.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS

Once again the Council will be collecting real Christmas trees **FREE** of charge, and sending them for composting. Just place your tree (in one piece and without any decorations) on the boundary of your property so that it is clearly visible from the road, before 7am on your garden waste collection day which falls between 9th and 13th January 2017. For more information or to find out your garden waste day please contact Streetscene, on 08000 198 598 or visit www.gosport.gov.uk/streetscene.



KEEP WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER

Every year, your landlord, Gosport Borough Council (GBC) is required by law to carry out an annual safety check on its gas fittings within your home. Not only does this help to keep you and your neighbours safe by picking up any possible problems or gas leaks but also makes sure that your heating is in tip top condition for the winter period to keep you warm and snug. An added bonus is that a properly serviced boiler will save you money by being more efficient.

Your responsibility as a tenant is to ensure that you allow our 'partner' gas maintenance contractor, Kier Services access to your home to carry out the annual gas safety check of gas fittings, pipework, flues and the servicing of the boiler.

Failure to allow 'reasonable access' for the gas contractor to carry out the annual gas safety check is potentially putting your own and neighbouring households at risk. It is also a breach of your tenancy conditions. If you do not allow 'reasonable access' within the prescribed timescale we will, with the Council's legal powers, force entry and gain access to carry out the necessary gas safety checks.

In the last three years, 22 people in the UK have died and nearly 1,000 injuries have occurred following gas issues.

If you receive a letter from Kier to arrange your appointment please do not ignore it, if the date they have offered does not suit you please give Kier a call and they will happily make an alternative appointment.

Telephone Kier on 0800 028 6958 or email gospport.repairs@kier.co.uk

Be gas safe... Don't leave it to chance.

**If you smell gas telephone
0800 111 999 without delay.**

GOSPORT INFO FEST

The third annual 'Joint 55+ Info Fest & Winter Warmth Event' organised by the Council and the Gosport Older Persons Forum, took place on Friday 21st October at Thorngate Hall. The event was hailed a success by all who took part and attended.

Visitors to the event were able to get information and advice from a wide range of organisations and groups, including advice on keeping warm and well, how to access support, learning and leisure activities, legal matters and more. Our Housing Older Persons Service and Streetscene were at the event all day providing advice and taking enquiries.

Whilst having a relaxing cup of tea, visitors were also treated to an array of demonstrations to encourage them to consider joining groups or activities including chair based exercise, shortmat bowls, Zumba Gold, yoga, tai chi and a choir. It is estimated that up to 600 visitors came to the event as the Gosport Older Persons Forum served 850 cups of tea!

This event is a great advert for Gosport Borough Council and their partners. There was an excellent range of stalls with more than 50 exhibitors which attracted over 500 visitors on the day. The feedback from stall holders and visitors alike has been extremely positive with one stall holder commenting *'the event has gone from strength to strength'*.

55+
INFO
FEST

WINTER
WARMTH
EVENT



Visitors enjoying the INFO Fest



WHAT'S ON



SEE WEBSITE for offers today!

Join today

Weight Watchers & Hampshire County Council are working together & are delighted to invite you to join Weight Watchers for

12 weeks for free

To find out if you qualify for FREE, use the checklist below

I have a BMI of 30+ (If you don't know, we can help)

I am 18 or above

I want to lose weight for my health

CALL NOW to complete the next step

0345 602 7068

Quoting WWRS095 / leaflet

FOR ALL YOUR LOCAL MEETINGS
weightwatcherslocal.co.uk



CYCLE SAFETY EVENTS

Gosport Community Safety Partnership has organised two Cycle Safe Events in December. The team will be inside Halford's store in Gosport on Wednesday 14th December from 12.00 to 14.00 and Saturday 17th December from 10.00 to 12.00.

Bring along your bike on either of these days to get them coded for free! For further details please visit www.safergosport.co.uk



SEAFIELD COMMUNITY HOUSE



The SeafIELD Community House is situated at 61 Old Road.

A warm welcome waits anyone who is interested in the following events that take place there.

- Sunday club for children under 11 on Sunday afternoon, 3pm to 4pm
- Model club early Monday evening
- Tuesday Children's Homework club for those at school - help is available for those needing it
- Tuesday evenings Pinkz group for young teen girls
- Lunchtime Wednesday over '60's Lunch Club'
- Thursdays from 10am to 12noon there is help for those new to or struggling with computers
- Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon a free "Coffee, Cake and Chat" (donations welcome)
- Fridays there is a craft club for women, between 10am and 12 noon

The house may be hired out for birthday parties, Christmas meals, dancing practice etc.

Although the house is managed by Alverstoke Evangelical Church these activities are open to all, whatever their beliefs.

For further details or to hire the house please phone Brian on 023 9252 3554.

WHITE RIBBON DAY

The Gosport Community Safety Partnership were at the Gosport Discovery Centre on Friday 25th November to raise awareness of domestic abuse in conjunction with the annual 'White Ribbon Day' event. Representatives from Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Y Services, Motiv8, and Southern Domestic Abuse were also present.

Contributions received from the purchase of an enamel white ribbon or wristband will be donated to Southern Domestic Abuse Service, which is the local domestic abuse provider for Gosport in partnership with Hampshire County Council. Southern Domestic Abuse Service's priority is to provide comprehensive and responsible services to meet the needs of women, children, young people and men experiencing domestic abuse, more information can be found at www.southerndas.org.

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour. These can include physical, sexual, financial, emotional and psychological abuse.

The Office for National Statistics reported findings from the 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) that 28.3% (4.6 million) of women and 14.7% (2.4 million) of men had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16.



Raising awareness for White Ribbon Day

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary report for 'Improving the police response to Domestic Abuse' noted that Domestic cases now account for 14.1% of all court prosecutions. The volume of prosecutions in 2014 rose to the highest level ever of 92,779; 92.4% of defendants were male and 7.6% were women and 84% of victims were female and 16% were male.

For any further information about the event, please contact Carly Perry, Community Safety Officer on 023 9254 5241 or email carly.perry@gosport.gov.uk.



FUTURE PLANS FOR GRANGE FARM

A garden centre could be coming to Grange Farm. This proposal is part of the latest plans for Rowner involving land to the north of Grange Farm.

Our ambition for Grange Farm is to develop it as the major gateway and visitor hub for the Alver Valley Country Park, incorporating a garden centre, a café, the 17th century village, access (with a permit) to the Wild Grounds nature reserve and direct access to Apple Dumping Bridge and the wider park.

Gosport Borough Councils' countryside team would move out of Grange Farm and the 17th century village would get a new visitor and staff facilities, under one roof.

The council is part of the Rowner Consortium, which has been overseeing the regeneration of the Rowner estate. The current phase is under way, with construction north of the Tesco superstore. For the next phase, the consortium is considering up to 40, two or three bedroom houses.

Councillor Stephen Philpott, who chairs the Councils' Economic Development Board said 'The regeneration of the area has been a big success, and the latest proposals also set to benefit the wider community.'

WHAT'S ON

SOLENT JOBS PROGRAMME – THIS IS THE CHANCE TO GET THE JOB THAT YOU WANT



Wheatsheaf Trust are running a new project called Solent Jobs Programme. This is a voluntary programme which has been set up to help people with recognised health conditions (such as anxiety, depression or a physical health problem) who has been out of work for more than two years.

What can Wheatsheaf offer?



- Voluntary programme – it does not affect any benefits
- Named employment adviser
- 1:1 support in all aspects of looking for work
- Offered help in all areas of their lives e.g. money, health, housing
- 1:1 support for interview preparation and at interviews
- Transitional Employment Programme to get back to work – a fund which Wheatsheaf can access (after other routes are looked at) which allows Wheatsheaf to pay the wages of a participant for up to 6 months between 16-25 hours with an employer.
- Voluntary work and work tasters
- 1:1 support in workplace if required
- Ongoing support for 12 months

For more information please contact Wheatsheaf directly on 023 9252 8084.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE AT YOUR SERVICE NEWSLETTER?

In the last edition we ask for your opinions on the 'At Your Service'. Below is a list of some of the suggestions that residents would like to see in the newsletter. Please tick your preference and return this form to the freepost address at the bottom of this page. Alternatively you can email your comments to rit@gosport.gov.uk.

Puzzles Word Searches Useful contacts Hints and Tips Prize Draws

Any other suggestions?

Thanks for taking part.

Please return your completed questionnaire to the address on the right, there is no need to put a stamp on.

Name:

Telephone No:



Gosport Borough Council is committed to equal opportunities for all.

If you need this document in large print, on tape, CD, in Braille or in another language, please ask.

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