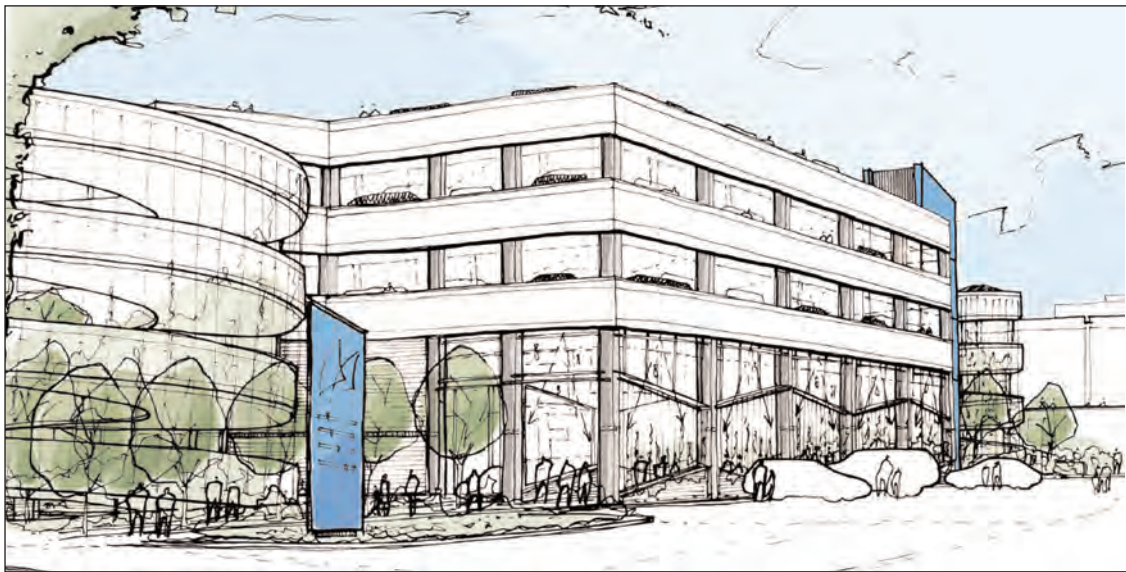


Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



Crowds thronged the town centre to greet former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to take part in ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of Britain's victory in the Falklands War. (Full story and more pictures on the back page)

Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss



New look: An artist's sketch of the rebuilt multi-storey car park and rear of Fareham Shopping Centre.

DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre.

Work on the project has started and Civic Way multi-storey car park closed on July 2 to allow for development of the new store and to replace the car park with an up-to-date parking facility.

The car park will remain closed for over a year and shoppers and visitors to Fareham town centre are being encouraged to use alternative parking such as Osborn Road (by the main Library) or Lysses car parks.

As a result of Civic Way multi-storey clo-

sure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper Shuttle bus service will operate from Lysses car park on Mondays and Saturdays (see details on this page).

Those using the service will receive a free refreshment voucher to be used in Bhs.

It is the first step towards bringing fresh retail outlets to the Shopping Centre.

With over 2,200 parking spaces still available in the town centre area, shoppers can still park and shop easily especially if they take advantage of the new shuttle service.

Although this may inconvenience some motorists who normally park in the Civic

Way multi-storey car park, the new development will make it very worthwhile for shoppers once the project is finished.

Councillor John Bryant said: "I look forward to the new Debenhams which is a useful addition to the town centre."

The store will cover 20,000 sq ft on two storeys.

It will include a fashion collection from Designers at Debenhams including Rocha, John Rocha and J by Jasper Conran and top fashion designer products.

- It will run for at least a year on the town's busiest days – Mondays (market day) and Saturdays.
- Shopper Shuttles leave every 15 minutes from 9am to 5pm.
- It is **free** to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.
- The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and Ferneham Hall.
- Short stay car parks at Osborn Road South and Quay Street will be extended.
- Watch out for details of the Christmas shopper park & ride scheme from the end of November.



WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Aromatic bins

To keep your wheelie bin free from flies and nasty smells put a few moth balls into a net and hang it on a piece of wire inside.

Whenever you open the lid there is just an aroma from the moth balls.

Bogus callers

Beware suspicious 'cold callers' knocking on your door.

Telephone calls have been received from someone claiming to be from the Council trying to arrange an appointment.

If you receive such a call or are contacted in person, call the police. Do **not** allow the caller into your property.

Action team

Fareham town wards residents are invited to the first meeting of the Community Action Team (CATS) in Fareham Methodist Church, Queen's Road on September 17 at 7pm.

Five CATS groups led by ward councillors were set up to offer residents the chance to find out what is proposed for their area and discuss grass roots issues.

Council officers, County Council, police, Primary Care Trust and the Local Strategic Partnership representatives will also attend.

Waiting restrictions

Lakeside and Funtley Road residents will be pleased that a waiting restriction order will be imposed for this area, but it may take a while as several other areas are awaiting orders.

Shield winners for most improved branch



MEMBERS of North/North West Branch committee were delighted to receive their shield for the best improved branch within Fareham Conservative Association.

The committee has now started working on forthcoming social events

and political discussions as to how the local area can be improved.

If you are interested in joining any of the functions please contact either Councillors John and Pam Bryant on 01329 281427 or the Conservative Association office on 01329 822646.

Everything in the garden will be lovely for elderly who can't cope

A PILOT scheme has been launched in parts of Hampshire to help the elderly who cannot cope with their gardens.

It will be run by the Beneficial Foundation, thanks to funding from Hampshire County Council's Older People's Wellbeing Team (OPWT).

In a survey, 77% said the main reason they moved from their own home was because they could no longer look after their garden.

The County Council recognises the importance that people place on maintaining their independence, but at certain times this can be hard to manage and often leads to the garden becoming overgrown, making them targets for unscrupulous traders.

Councillor John Bryant said: "This is a wonderful project which will not only maximise the wellbeing of older people, but also provide a fantastic opportunity for people with learning disabilities to learn new skills and become fully inte-

grated in the community."

The project has been given £20,000 by the OPWT and the remaining £8,000 cost will be raised through an individual charge of £10-£15 to each person and will cover a member of staff and two trainees, who will carry out tasks such as cutting grass, hedges, weeding and strimming.

Criteria to refer people to the project:

- Over 65 years old
- Living either alone or with a partner of a similar age, who is also finding it hard to cope with the garden
- Must not live in a housing association scheme or similar, where they already pay for garden maintenance.
- Living within the defined area of the project.
- Needing some assistance with their garden for a limited time and advice on low maintenance gardening.

For more details log on to:

www.hants.gov.uk/communications/mediacentre/mediareleases

No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, promises Council

MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham residents' wheelie bins.

Nor will the Borough Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the other extreme measures practised in some areas.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive spokesman for streetscene, said: "Some newspapers, taking examples of bad practice elsewhere, have exaggerated the problems and suggested that voters should support any opposition party offering to change the service."

"Effective waste management is not a political issue, as all political parties understand that it is essential in the interests of the environment and the saving of energy to encourage and increase recycling."

"It is accepted that some opposition parties will promise to make changes. When in power, faced with the realities and costs, this promise cannot be met."

At 42%, Fareham now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, exceeding the Government's 40% target for 2006-07. The target for 2010 is 50%.

Park Lane venue for young people's activities day

FAREHAM'S community officers have joined police and Hampshire Youth Service's Outreach Team to provide a series of events around the Borough to improve relationships with young people.

One of the events will take place in Park Lane Recreation Ground from 4pm to 9pm on August 1 when an area will be fenced off within the park Young people

aged 11-19 will be welcome.

Activities include skate boarding tuition, climbing wall/circus skills, music tent including disc jockeying skills and live music.

Noise levels from speakers will be monitored throughout by the co-coordinator and any complaints from residents will be responded to immediately by reducing the levels.

Councillor Pam Bryant said: "I

hope the young people living in Fareham North and its surroundings will find it an interesting and enjoyable experience.

"Activities for each event will be developed by local people so it has its own style."

"All aspects of safety will be addressed together with support from the police to ensure that the young people attending the event cause minimal disturbance."

Town centre CCTV review bid to catch the criminals

DETECTING and preventing crime in the town centre is to be given top priority with a review of CCTV.

Businesses have enough on their plate without chasing shoplifters or putting in claims for damage.

Councillor John Bryant said: "Shoppers are more likely to visit centres where they feel safe, and both the police and Fareham Council are keen to keep crime rates low to show we're doing our jobs properly."

To help this, the Council's Community Safety Team will this summer be researching all CCTV systems in use in the town centre.

Businesses will be sent a questionnaire asking if they have cameras and if so what they cover.

The team plans to use the information to determine from where supporting evidence can be gathered if a business or shopper is the victim of crime.

John and Arthur get to the seat of the trouble



ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour issues affecting Park Lane Recreation Ground were discussed at a recent meeting of the Joint Agency Group.

Councillors John (pictured left) and Pamela Bryant visited the site with Council officers and the police and it was decided to remove one of the benches near the boundary with Colenso Road which will hope-

fully reduce disturbance to residents.

Officers are also looking into the possibility of installing lighting near the Skate Park.

Executive Member for Public Protection Councillor Arthur Mandry (pictured right) attended the meeting and is looking into further areas that may assist in making the park an attractive area for everyone.

County Council dishes out £10,000 grants to benefit communities

VOLUNTARY organisations and community groups are to benefit from a new grants system being put in place at Hampshire County Council.

Every county councillor is to be allocated a budget of £10,000 to use to provide grants to help fund initiatives that benefit the area they represent.

The grants will be available to initiate a project, contribute to a community based project that might otherwise be vulnerable, or to make a local organisation a grant for a one-off item of expenditure such as new equipment, but not for running costs.

The £780,000 for members' grants will be in addition to the other budgets the County Council has aimed at supporting voluntary organisations and community groups.

County Councillors John Bryant and Ray Ellis said: "The County Council recognises the vital role that voluntary organisations and community groups play in helping us deliver services to Hampshire residents.

"By giving each councillor a budget, they can use that knowledge to benefit local people."

Details on which groups will be eligible and how to apply are available at www.hants.gov.uk/grants

They can apply by requesting an application form from John Bryant or Ray Ellis or by downloading a form from the grants website.

Individuals, political parties or affiliated groups, or pressure groups cannot apply.

Preparing Hampshire for the Mediterranean climate

SHADES of the Mediterranean may be the norm in buildings of the future in Hampshire.

The county's Climate Change Commission was told white buildings, domed roofs and wide shady streets that are characteristic of

the Mediterranean may be needed to adapt to higher temperatures.

The Commission was set up to examine how Hampshire can become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Councillor John Bryant said: "The county faces several challenges when it comes to making sure its infrastructure and built environment is effective in the hotter drier summers and wetter winters that could become the norm."

FAREHAM NORTH & NORTH WEST CONSERVATIVES

We are very active with social and political events and membership drives. If you would like further details, to join us, or to help in any way such as distribution of *In Touch* newsletters in your road, please contact your ward councillors.

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Your man in Westminster



**By Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham**

ONE OF the biggest issues in my post bag is tax credits. Figures released in May showed in the year to April 2006 that 900,000 families received less than they were due and 1.9 million received more than they were owed – one in three claims made end up with someone getting the wrong amount.

In 2005-06, there were 2,500 cases of overpayment of tax credits in Fareham. As I know from the cases I have dealt with, this causes hardship and heartache for claimants and their families.

There are other problems with the tax credit system. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned that the tax credits suffer from the highest rates of error and fraud anywhere in Government, and complained that the Treasury has "still not developed an adequate response to the unacceptable levels of fraud and error in the scheme".

Genuine claimants and those who check the claims made find it extremely difficult to understand how the system is meant to work. A more straightforward system would lead to fewer under and over payments and lower levels of fraud.

We must look at how the system is run. No one disputes that for those on low incomes there is a need for additional financial support.

We must ensure that claimants understand the link between their family circumstances and earnings and the amount of tax credits they receive. I am fed up with getting letters from the Tax Credit Office that do not explain clearly why an overpayment has been made to a constituent. If I am fed up, how much more angry and frustrated must families feel? There should be a much clearer breakdown of the calculation of how much people are entitled to so that it is easier for people to see why they have overpaid.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown must show he understands the concerns of families; so his first task must be to sort out the problems his system has created.

**•You may contact Mark via his office
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Parade of emotion for the architect of victory in the Falklands

THOUSANDS packed the town centre to cheer **Baroness Thatcher** when she came to Fareham to unveil a memorial arch to those she sent to war in the Falklands 25 years ago.

Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who led the country in its darkest hour since World War 2 to liberate the islands from the Argentine invaders against all the odds, told a woman in the crowd:

"History will remember for ever the brave who achieved so much."

She cut a blue ribbon with Mary Fagan, Hampshire's Lord-Lieutenant, to declare the arch open.

In a day charged with emotion and pride – and sadness for the 255 British and 649 Argentinians who died during the 74-day conflict in 1982 – veterans still bearing the mental and physical scars marched past the 81-year-old 'Iron Lady' and civic dignitaries.

Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines and a guard from HMS Collingwood exercising their freedom right to march with fixed bayonets, the parade was followed by a drum-head service in West Street to remember fallen comrades.

The 81-year-old former Prime Minister belied her age as she walked through the town centre, meeting veterans and talking to the crowds.

She was greeted by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, newly elected Mayor Katrina Trott and Deputy Mayor Ernest Crouch, who was first elect-



Marching in memory: Heads held high, medals glinting, Falklands veterans salute their leader in war.

ed to Fareham Council on May 3, 1979, the day Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister.

She did not make a speech, but made the remark above to 54-year-old Cheryl Hennell, of Old Turnpike, as they chatted.

Mrs Hennell said: 'My husband served during the war. It was a tough time for everyone but she led the country so well.'

David Walters (72), of Highlands Road, who also met Lady Thatcher, said: 'Not since Winston Churchill had the country seen anything like the courage shown by Margaret Thatcher. She may be ageing, but she still has a presence like no other.'

Councillor Woodward said: "The arch commemorates the sacrifice by these men, many of whom were connected to Fareham. Residents here lost fathers, husbands and sons – they paid the ultimate price to defend British citizens."

The Council commissioned the £25,000 arch to commemorate all who lost their lives in the war.



Lest we forget: Baroness Thatcher cuts the ribbon at the memorial

£1.3m boost to brighten the drab end of town



SHOPKEEPER Mark Bizley discusses plans for a facelift for the tatty end of West Street with Councillor John Bryant.

Traders and shoppers have welcomed the £1.3m regeneration project to provide new pavements, trees, seats and street lighting.

There will also be improvements to junction crossings for pedestrians along the whole of the Golden Mile.

Councillor Bryant said: "It will benefit everyone and hopefully make this part of

town vibrant with shoppers all year."

Planning is under way, with work due to start this autumn and completion next summer. The bid for the money was organised via the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

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