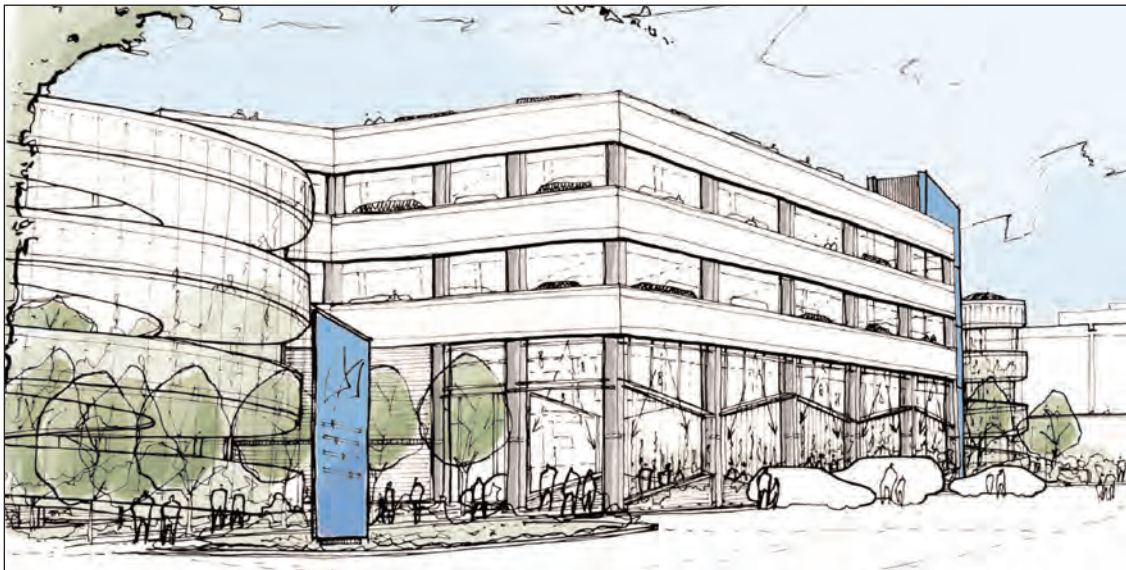


## Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



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 Ernest Crouch 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**

**Bench seats**

Six timber benches which usually stand in Portchester Precinct are being repaired.

Councillor Nick Walker said residents had complained to him about their condition.

Replacement slats are on order for three of the oak circular benches and all surfaces will be treated.

**Composting**

Downend Green composting site liaison panel will meet on September 14.

It is not a public meeting, but several residents are members of the panel and monitor problems of smell and noise from the site.

**Police liaison**

An introductory meeting with Sergeant Samantha Dunlop and her Neighbourhood Policing Team of six police officers was encouraging.

The team met four of Portchester's councillors to get to know each other and to analyse Portchester's community problems.

Police and councillors discussed the incidents and places that cause concern.

Debate centred on how to ensure that young people were able to meet their friends and make the most of their leisure without being anti-social or being unnecessarily harassed by police action.

Routine communication between police, councillors and public was also on the agenda.

Further meetings are planned.

**Parking complaints lead to yellow lines extension**

**PARKING** restrictions are to be extended in two areas after complaints from residents.

There have been problems at the junction of Beaulieu Avenue and Portchester Road, where Fareham Council has approved widening the 'no waiting' area.

There will also be further restrictions at West Street, Portchester.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said: "As part of the low cost safety scheme on the A27 Portchester, the Council has agreed the implementation of waiting restriction at the junction of Portchester Road and Beaulieu Avenue."

There is a similar parking problem in neighbouring Birdwood Grove where residents have been demanding similar restrictions.

However, Councillor Crouch said there were no plans at present to extend the 'no waiting' restrictions to that street.

He added: "A great deal of work has been done on the A27 in recent times to ease traffic congestion and make the road safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians."

"Changes at the Delme roundabout have been successful for both move-

**On the way...**



**Beaulieu Avenue: Restrictions will ease problem.**

**Not yet...**



**Birdwood Grove: Still awaiting 'no waiting' move.**

**Harry plunges in to help CAB support group**

**THIRTEEN-year-old Harry Randall took the plunge to help launch a fundraising organisation, Friends of Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau.**

Harry, whose mum Karen Randall is the Fareham CAB manager, raised £205 with a sponsored swim.

He is pictured handing over a cheque to Karen and Fareham MP Mark Hoban, who is patron of the Friends and congratulated him on his effort.

The CAB is a charitable organisation established in 1942, located on the

second floor of Fareham Library, giving free, confidential and practical advice on a whole range of matters that affect the well-being of residents.

Expert advice is given on finance and debt, tax and benefits, housing, employment, health, relationships, legal matters and consumer problems such as faulty goods.

There have been 46 accidents – five serious – on this stretch east of Delme roundabout over the past three years.

6,500 clients were aided last year, mainly by trained volunteers. Fareham Council supports the CAB with its annual budget.

If you would like to volunteer your services, ring Fareham 237121.



**No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, promises Council**

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

Nor will the Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the extreme measures practised in some parts of the country.

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 parties understand it is essential in the interests of the environment and energy saving to encourage and increase recycling."

"Some opposition parties will promise to make changes, but once in power and faced with the realities, 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.

After problems experienced during the 2006 heatwave, a food waste composting system immune to rats, flies and smells is being tested by volunteers.

Problems were not caused by the change to collection rotas, but the high temperatures in which flies and maggots breed within 24 hours.

Tests proved that Jeyes fluid or similar dripped around the top of the wheelie bin deters flies and counteracts smells.

## New CATs team offers Portchester people chance to express their views

AN EXCITING initiative for Portchester residents to make their views known starts on Friday, September 28 with the first meeting at the Parish Hall at 7 pm.

Five Community Action Teams (CATs) have been set up across the Borough and this meeting will involve the five Portchester councillors and officers from Fareham Council, with representatives from Hampshire Police, the County Council, the Primary Care Trust and the Local Strategic Partnership.

Councillor Nick Walker, who will chair it, hopes it will make a difference. "These meetings will offer residents the chance to meet the people providing the local services.

"They will give you an opportunity to find out at first hand about proposals that are being considered within Portchester and to tell us what's good about where you live and what needs improving.

"It will also be an opportunity to discuss issues that affect people on a very local level."

The Council has set aside £100,000 annually and each CATs team can bid for up to £5,000 to the Council's Executive for small local projects which would not normally be funded.

## Residents win a rethink for affordable flats plan



**Robinson Court:** The Council wants to build affordable flats here.

**A DEPUTATION of residents objecting to a Council plan to build a block of four flats at Robinson Court, Portchester has led to a rethink.**

Fareham's target, in partnership with its preferred housing associations, is to build 100 affordable homes annually.

A survey was carried out in the spring to identify small pockets of Council-owned land that might be developed. Robinson Court was originally a play park, dis-

mantled some years ago.

The plans were debated by the Housing Tenancy Board, chaired by Councillor Ernest Crouch, who said the deputation of neighbouring residents gave an excellent presentation.

Residents' and members' views resulted in Portsmouth Housing Association deciding to rethink the project.

Residents have been informed and will be consulted if there are any new proposals tabled.

## Householders warned about cold callers

**BEWARE '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.

## New letting scheme offers wider choice base

**LET SELECT, the Council's choice-based letting scheme is now up and running.**

Applicants to the waiting list are banded in relation to their circumstances and need.

Available properties will be advertised by website, notice boards, plasma screen, text and telephone and will include detailed descriptions and a photograph.

Councillor Ernest Crouch says expert help is available to applicants who might have difficulty receiving the advertised list.

Anyone registered can apply for a property advertised, although a 'label' on the property will show which bands will be given preference among those interested.

There are, of course, checks and balances to ensure that allocations are made fairly.

# PORTCHESTER 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.

### ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

.....  
.....  
.....

Your name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode.....

Tel ..... Email .....

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

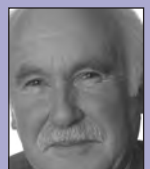
### WARD COUNCILLORS

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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 14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN. Telephone: 01329 233573 email: mail@markhoban.com**

# 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).