



# In Touch

with our community

TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON – SUMMER 2005

**Council chiefs are livid at decades of broken promises**

## Hospital may be axed

**Closures leave Fareham's 110,000 population with just two small clinics**

**HEALTH bosses who promised Fareham would have its community hospital at Coldeast by 2009 are now saying the plan may be scrapped.**

Hampshire & IoW Strategic Health Authority forecasts a £3m shortfall in funding in 2007-09 and suggests either a further delay or pulling the plug.

Savings will be made by closing the remaining day care facilities at St Christopher's Hospital and Coldeast.

Blackbrook Maternity Home has closed and is unlikely to reopen.

Replacement of the 30-year-old Fareham Health Centre is also at risk because of the shortfall.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive member for health and environment, said: "This leaves Fareham, one of the largest boroughs in Hampshire, with only the small clinic at Highlands Road and the temporary Sylvan Clinic at Coldeast."

Council Leader Councillor Seán Woodward and Councillor Bayford said it was unacceptable and would mean

Fareham people having to travel to Gosport or St Mary's in Portsmouth for health services that should be provided locally.

Changes to Gosport's War Memorial Community Hospital and improvements to St Mary's Hospital and the new Havant Community Hospital will be unaffected.

The Government has let a contract to a private American-funded health care company for orthopaedic and ophthalmology surgery, 'walk in' centre, accident treatment centre and other services at St Mary's Hospital, plus some out-patient clinics at Havant.

These projects must continue as Government priority is to be given to the private company, causing further financial problems for Portsmouth Hospitals.

Councillor Woodward has written in the strongest terms to the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Hants Strategic Health Authority and Secretary of State for Health advising that any proposal to delay or abandon Fareham's community hospital will not be accepted by the residents of the Borough.

Similar letters have been sent to County Health Scrutiny Committee Chairman Councillor Ray Ellis, who is supporting us, and Fareham & Gosport Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Bayford attended the Strategic Health Authority and F & G Primary Care Trust meetings and argued that the



community hospital must be progressed in the interests of Fareham residents and those in Winchester-Whiteley and border areas.

Later this month, Fareham MP Mark Hoban is meeting the Primary Care Trust to renew his call for the hospital.

He said: "Local people will be let down if the new hospital does not go ahead. I am convinced that it is necessary."

### WHAT THEY PROMISED AND NOW THEY CAN'T DELIVER

Fareham's hospital would be operational to match the opening of the new, extended QA Hospital by April 2009. Phase 1 would offer:

- Enhanced maternity unit with birthing pool
- Beds and day care centre for the elderly
- Consultant out-patient suites providing about 25,000 appointments a year
- On-call facilities for GPs
- Physio/occupational and speech therapy
- Diagnostic services including X-Ray

The Health Authority was confident a later phase would provide an accident treatment centre to serve the Western Wards of Fareham, Whiteley, Bursledon, Lowford and Hedge End. The 25-acre site has room for expansion.



**We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time**



## WARD NEWS BRIEFS

### Toucan crossing

Concerns over the perils of crossing the A27 near the junction of Titchfield Park Road will soon be resolved.

The County Council will build a dual toucan crossing there. Work should begin before Christmas and finish early in 2006.

Traffic speed to and from St Margaret's and Segensworth roundabouts will be reduced to 40mph, 75m of anti-skid surface leading into the crossing will be laid and warning signs erected.

### Twitch report

Bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts can enjoy excellent views of Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve from a new vantage point overlooking the River Meon and adjoining marshes.

The new hide is a wooden structure providing visitors with shelter and seating. It was built by Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service with donations totalling £3000.

### Holiday buses

New bus service 200 connects Southampton Parkway and Eastleigh with Marwell Zoo

It runs Sundays and Bank Holidays all year and Mondays to Fridays in school holidays. Popular open-top New Forest tour bus service will run daily until September 4.

It starts and ends at Eastleigh bus station and makes four circuits of the New Forest at two-hour intervals. A special ticket allows you to hop on and off.

## Pressure for footpath repairs bears fruit

**RELENTLESS pressure by local councillors over the state of footpaths is bearing fruit.**

Latest repair work carried out by Hampshire Highways was in Lyndale Road and Southampton Road.

Councillor Keith Evans said improved direction signs to Abshot Community Centre were being placed

at six locations either side of the mini roundabout at Abshot Road/Warsash Road.

Other footpaths being reconstructed include the link between Hewetts Rise and Pitchponds Road.

"Many other areas need reconstruction, but these are a good start," he said.

## Titchfield 'Ground Force' team gives village green a makeover

**CHARLIE and her Ground Force team couldn't have done it better.**

But it took more than a day to give Titchfield village green the smart makeover, which was completed earlier this year.

The project was led and the design drawn up by a local community group, the Titchfield Village Trust, supported by a development contribution on work undertaken to the building next to the green.

The work involved removing the concrete path at the back, increasing the grass area and replacing the turf

with a good weed-free variety

The sycamore tree in the corner was pruned and all the ivy removed.

Well-chosen shrubs to provide all-year-round colour were planted and the shape of the borders changed.

Both Titchfield Councillors, Connie Hockley and Francis Devonshire, were enthusiastic supporters of the task.

On completion of the ground works, the new green was formally opened by the then Mayor, Councillor David Swanbrow.



Picture postcard: Titchfield's green and pleasant focus

## Be a school governor and help to improve children's education

**FANCY becoming a school governor?**

It's a chance for those with spare time to put something back into the community, says County Councillor Geoff Hockley.

"School governors must have an active interest in education. After all, we want the best education for our children and grandchildren.

"They must also be able to commit their time, energy and personal skills to an effective involvement in school life."

To help them in their role, formal training is provided.

Governors can be appointed from the community by the Local Education Authority and from among parents and staff.

Subject to disqualification regulations, anyone over 18 can apply to become a school governor.

Phone Geoff Hockley on 01329 297365 if you are interested.

"There is no obligation whatsoever, but if you don't ask you'll never find out," he added.

## Find out about the work of a councillor

**AN invitation to learn about the work of councillors has been given by Geoff Hockley.**

"Every edition of *In Touch* asks for expressions of interest from residents who would like to join the Conservative Party or become involved in some way.

"I would like to extend this and invite people who would be interested in learning more of the work of a councillor, perhaps with a view to becoming one," he said

Regardless of political persuasion, the important thing is an interest in Fareham and, or the County, and a desire to become part of their ongoing improvement.

"I shall be delighted if you're a Conservative but don't worry if you are not. It's about people; their politics is of secondary importance," he added.

## Hampshire crime falls

**DESPITE newspaper and TV reports that crime is out of control, the chances of becoming a victim in Hampshire are small and getting smaller.**

Overall crime in the county for 2004-05 is down 3.1%, says County Councillor Geoff Hockley

When it comes to burglary, vehicle crime and robbery Hampshire is second in the national detection league with 45,831 crimes detected and 57,303 people arrested.

# Titchfield's new representative in Winchester

**NEWLY** elected County Council member for Fareham Titchfield, **Geoff Hockley**, has promised to work hard for the electorate, regardless of whether they voted for him or not.

Thanking those who voted Conservative in May, he said:

"Let me assure you I will put considerable effort into working for all of you, regardless of political persuasion and will be available whenever needed."

He has been appointed to the following committees, which he hopes will help residents in Titchfield and Titchfield Common:

- Environment Policy Review
- Children's Services Policy Review (formerly Education)
- River Hamble Harbour Management
- Hampshire Schools Organisation
- Fareham Road Safety Council
- Fort Nelson Liaison Group



**Geoff Hockley:** "I'll work for all."

Solent Transport Strategy  
Fareham Museum Joint Management Committee and the Titchfield part of Titchfield Haven.  
Full details of the work of these Committees can be found on the Hampshire County Council website. [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)  
Geoff can be contacted on 01329 287365

## Call for new radio mast screening

**VODAFONE** is pursuing an application to install a radio base station and post at the Abshot Road / Warsash Road junction next to Little Abshot Road in front of the wooded area.

The site is to provide 3G coverage for the residential areas of Abshot, east Fleetend, west Titchfield and south Locks Heath.

It will comprise a 1.4m high equipment cabinet and a 15m high pole with top shrouded antennas.

Councillor Keith Evans has written to the agents asking for sympathetic colour to the equipment cabinet and some vegetation screening.

## Having a ball to remember Nelson

**FAREHAM Conservatives' main social event this year will be a "Trafalgar Ball" to be held in Ferneham Hall on Friday, September 9.**

We are delighted that David Cameron MP (a potential candidate for Leader of the Conservatives) is our speaker.

Music will be provided by "Nite Shift" (back by popular demand from last year).

There will be a drinks reception followed by a three course dinner supplied by award winning Royal Marine chefs.

Tickets are available at £45.00 each. Please telephone 01329 822 646.

# TITCHFIELD & TITCHFIELD COMMON 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

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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

Can I first of all thank you for your support at the General Election. I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability in Westminster and Fareham. There has been no let up in my work for you since the election.

In Westminster, I continue to battle on behalf of local people so that your voice will be heard by the Government. Since the election, I have questioned the Government on the plans to build an extra 80,000 houses in South East Hampshire over a 20-year period. I have been pressing them on the need for better infrastructure. Because of the work that I have done, ministers are aware of your concerns about the local health service.

The tragic events of Thursday 7th July are a reminder that Parliament, as well as tackling the needs of local communities, needs also to focus upon maintaining the security of our nation.

Whilst I am sure that there are lessons to be learnt from the attacks on London, we need to be clear about one thing, we should never give in to terrorists.

Not only should we not give in to their political demands, but we should continue to get on with our lives.

People planning to visit London during the summer holidays should go ahead.

Those in our community who work in London should continue to do so. Terrorists try to force us to change so standing firm in the face of their threat sends them a message that we will not be defeated.

•You may contact Mark via his office 14 East Street, Fareham PO16 0BN. Telephone: 01329 233573 email: mail@markhoban.com

# Celebrate a glorious day for Fareham

WRITE Saturday July 30 in your diary in red ink.

It's the day Fareham is planning a feast of celebrations to mark this momentous year for the borough and Britain.

It will be a day of rejoicing, commemoration, festivities, music and lots of fun. And fireworks.

So what are we celebrating?

Firstly, two national anniversaries – Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the end of World War 2 in 1945.

Appropriately, it's the 30th anniversary of the conferring of the Freedom of the Borough on HMS Collingwood, named after Vice Admiral Lord Collingwood, who took command of the British fleet when Nelson died.

Secondly, it is also the day when the prestigious Market Quay complex with its splendid new cinema will be officially opened, Cremer Mall, Vannes Parade and Pulheim Parade will be named and a cannon from the Trafalgar era loaned by Fort Nelson will be unveiled in West Street.

The day begins on a serious note, when Fareham Mayor Councillor Leslie Keeble and Executive Leader Councillor Seán Woodward will join Hampshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Fagan, in the formal commemorations.

Representatives from Vannes and Pulheim will attend and be particularly honoured later when they inaugurate the parades named after Fareham's twin towns in France and Germany.



Contrast in styles: The new Apollo and (inset) the former Embassy.



At 10 am, led by the Royal Marines Band, sailors from HMS Collingwood will exercise their right to march through the town with drums beating, colours aloft and bayonets fixed.

Then, the town centre will erupt into a cavalcade of fun all the way through the afternoon and evening, starting with the launch of 200 balloons.

There will be a balloon race, fairground rides, stilt walkers, jugglers, musicians and competitions provided by Ocean FM.

A French market will be in the precinct from July 28 - 30, offering the delights of cuisine from across the Channel.

During the day, collections will be taken to support local charity The Rainbow Centre, which is raising money for its new premises at Cams Alders and has also organised events for children.

And owners of the new Apollo Cinema have promised a special preview to mark its opening.

A firework display will bring down the curtain on what promises to be, in the words of Seán Woodward, "a glorious day for the town".



## New law will trim causes of hedge rows

**SHARPEN your shears and trim that hedge.**

High hedges that block views and steal the light have been the cause of numerous rows between neighbours.

Not any longer. Thanks to new legislation that came into force on June 1, if neighbourly attempts to solve problems are unsuccessful it is now possible to apply to the Council for enforcement action.

Residents will need to show evidence that several attempts have been made to resolve the problem and on payment of a small fee (not applicable to pensioners and those on benefits) an order can be served requiring action to reduce the offending hedges to a maximum of 2 metres (just over 6 ft).

A penalty of £1,000 and direct action by the Council to reduce the hedge(s) is possible if action is not taken.

There have been several problems recently in the area that have now been amicably resolved between neighbours when details of the new law were advised.

If you have a hedge problem contact your local councillor who will be pleased to advise.

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