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Shop our local hidden gems! ocal. Egh. Park Gate. Portcheston

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A message from the Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Seán Woodward

Welcome to the winter issue of Fareham Today. The cover story for this issue is the launch of our exciting Live Love Local campaign. I'm passionate about our Borough and Live Love Local is all about highlighting what our local businesses have to offer.

The campaign is a platform for those stores which give our high streets their unique character, from butchers and bakers to pet shops and pampering. The pandemic has been tough for local businesses - Live Love Local aims to celebrate and support them. Turn to page 4 to see how you can get involved.

On another note of celebrating our local assets and boosting the economy, I'm delighted that the Fareham Live project is now set to restart. The project will see the dated Ferneham Hall transformed into a modern entertainment and arts venue, with facilities for the whole community. Head to page 6 for details of the next steps in this project.

The last 18 months have been challenging for so many. One of the things that has lifted my spirits throughout the pandemic has been seeing the way people and organisations stepped up to help and support those in need. Our Covid Heroes award scheme was created to recognise and celebrate these groups and individuals take a look at the worthy winners on page 7.

Speaking of winners, we also have news of this year's virtual Fareham in Bloom winners in this issue. I think you'll agree we have some very talented green fingered residents (page 10).

It was such a pleasure to see the town centre buzzing for our Christmas lights switch on recently. Last year's event had to be cancelled due to Covid, so it was great to see families back enjoying our traditional festive countdown and activities (see photos opposite).

For many of us, 2021 has been another tough year but, as this issue shows, there have been highlights too and there is plenty to be optimistic about. As always, if you have any questions or ideas about how we can continue to improve our Borough, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sean Woodward



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Fareham Borough Council

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Thank you to everyone who came along to Fareham Town Centre to join in the festivities at our Christmas lights switch on.

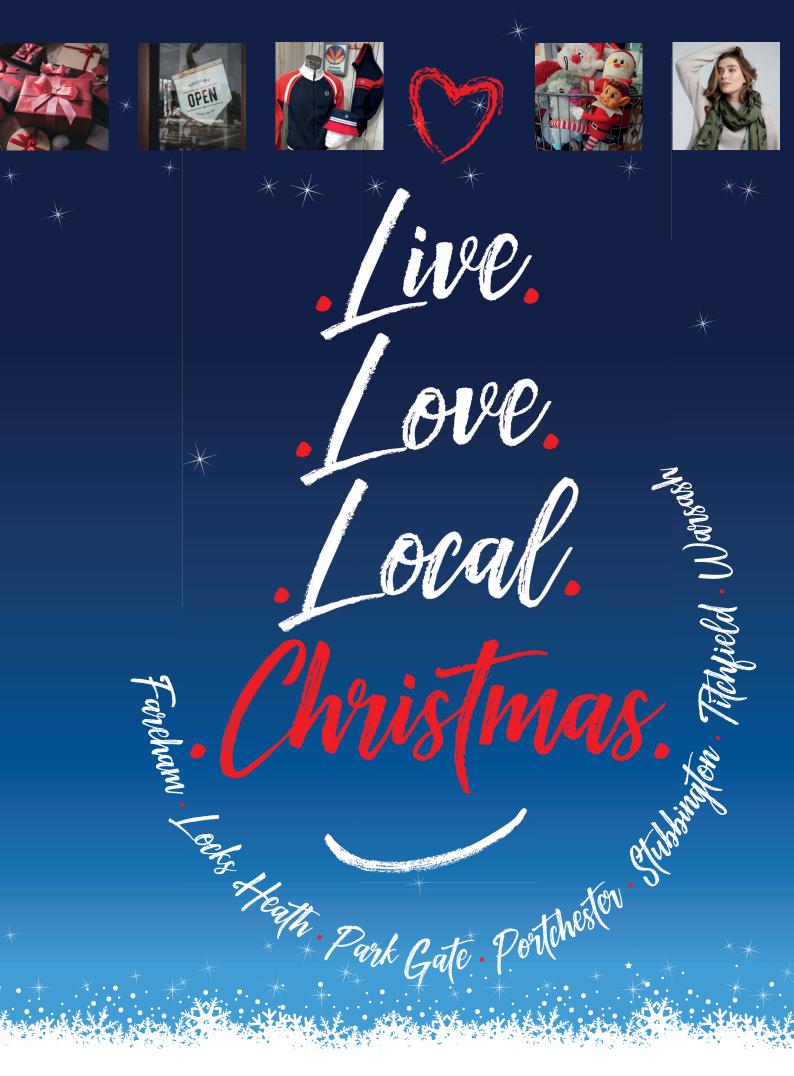
This year's Victorian circus themed event was extra special with thousands of people joining the festivities.

There was a whole day of family fun, including festive stalls, live music, circus workshops, Christmas craft activities, face painting and reindeer. There were also funfair rides, street performers and delicious festive treats to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

The crowd cheered as the lights were switched on by the Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham and Father Christmas.

Circus performers entertained the crowds throughout the day, there was a fancy dress competition and a very special Greatest Showman circus finale to delight spectators.

















Live Love Local this Christmas & beyond

We're really excited about our new Live Love Local campaign, organised with retailers across the Borough to get our high streets and village centres buzzing in the run up to Christmas.

We know the last 18 months have been tough for our local businesses and we are delighted to highlight the crucial Live Love Local message, designed to help our independent traders rally against competition from online and out of town shopping.

The Live Love Local website www.livelovelocalfareham.co.uk is packed with great content showcasing what our fantastic local traders have to offer in the run up to Christmas and beyond. A social media campaign is also keeping shoppers up to date with what's available on their doorstep.

The excitement is building as shops create fantastic window displays showing off all sorts of unique gifts

and seasonal local produce, and our Christmas lights switch on with gift stalls, reindeer, entertainers, fun fair rides and a spectacular finale helped get us all in the festive mood.

One positive thing to come from Covid was seeing how much people appreciated their local shops and traders as being a vital part of the community, and it's crucial we keep that support going.

There are so many fantastic independent shops and businesses right on our doorstep, and we believe this Live Love Local message is reinforcing that important community feeling.

We are pleased to fund this campaign through the European Regional Development Fund and there is still plenty of time for our community to back their local traders in the run-up to Christmas and into the New Year.



Shopping locally for gifts and finding something special for someone you love is so much more personal than shopping online – and it supports your local economy at the same time.

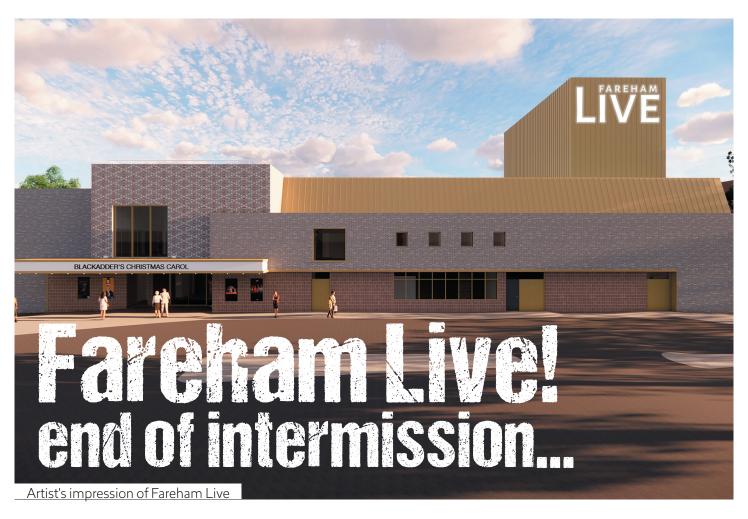
Live Love Local photo frames

are circulating in local stores so traders can encourage customers to shop local via their social media. Shoppers will be in with the chance of winning a hamper full of goodies from local traders worth £150 when they share their photos with the hashtag #livelovelocalfareham.

A wander into town to work through your Christmas list and catch up with friends brings festive cheer to traders and shoppers alike, and once you discover the benefits that only shopping local can bring, you'll hopefully Live Love Local long after the festive season is over.







Good news for fans of live entertainment! Work on Fareham's new community arts and entertainment venue is set to restart after being on pause due to the pandemic.

The multi-million pound project will see Ferneham Hall replaced with a new facility to be called Fareham Live.

The Council has agreed to increase the budget for the transformation works, from £12.57m to £13.35m. This will allow for an increase in construction costs, and higher costs in the entertainment industry as it recovers from the impact of Covid-19.

Fareham Live will be a thriving community arts and entertainment venue, offering something for everyone.

Operators BH Live will run Fareham Live on the Council's behalf. We can't wait for it to open its doors!









TIME TO PLAY!

As part of our five-year improvement programme we've updated eight more of our play areas over the last six months, investing a total of £200,000.

Improvements vary from site to site – but each one has had new equipment, new surfacing (where needed) and new paintwork.

Before going ahead, we gave local residents the chance to contribute their ideas on how the facilities could be improved, helping to ensure we got the best options.

Dore Avenue Play Area, Portchester

Burridge Play Area

Longacres Play Area, Titchfield Common

Newtown Play Area, Portchester

Salterns Play Area, Hill Head

Clydesdale Play Area, Whiteley

Metcalfe Play Area, Stubbington

Locks Heath House Park Play Area

We'll be asking for your feedback on the next round of improvements in the spring. For more information visit www.fareham.gov.uk/playareaimprovements

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Celebrating our COVID Heroes

We are delighted to announce the winners of our COVID Heroes Awards.

The awards were created to recognise the people and organisations who went above and beyond to help others during the pandemic. There were three categories and the winners are...

Adults

Julie and Clint Sexton
Sean and Caroline Whelan
Richard Marrington
Bev Shelsher
Helen Osborn

Young people

Kaelem Cull William Doyle

Organisations

1st Fareham Scout Group Fareham Meon Rotary Club Richards News One Community

WELL DONE EVERYONE!



As the fireworks season approaches, the night sky will be lit up with firework displays.

With all the sparkle, it's easy to forget that fireworks can be dangerous if not used correctly and responsibly. This advice will help everyone to stay safe while celebrating.

Using fireworks at home?

If you decide to use fireworks at home, here's how everyone can stay safe.

Only buy from licensed sellers

Check before you buy. Make sure you buy fireworks from a licensed retailer, both in-store and online. Do not buy fireworks from unknown retailers on social media sites. It's illegal for anyone under 18 to buy or carry fireworks.

Store fireworks safely

Store fireworks in their original packaging. Lock them away from children and animals. Keep fireworks dry and away from sources of heat or ignition.

Check your timings

Did you know that you can't let fireworks off between 11pm and 7am? The only exceptions are Fireworks Night, when the cut-off is midnight, and Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year, when it's 1am.

Be considerate

People and animals may be affected by fireworks. Let your neighbours know in advance if you're planning on using any fireworks. Be mindful of where you site fireworks to minimise disruption.

Look after pets

Cats and dogs should stay inside. Give small animals who live outside lots of extra bedding and nesting material to burrow in.



Read all the instructions

The box of fireworks will tell you important things like how far away people need to stand back once the firework is lit. If you don't understand the instructions and warnings, don't use the firework.

Dispose of fireworks safely

Ensure that fireworks are out, soak them in water overnight, then put them in a rubbish bag and in the bin.

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Which fireworks can I use at home?

Category information can be found on the label.

Category F1, F2 and F3 fireworks are on sale to the general public. Consumer fireworks will fall into either category F2 or F3 depending on how much of a **safety distance** is required. Check you have enough space to safely use a firework before you buy. Always follow the Firework Code.

Go to www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law for more advice



Green fingered residents scoop Fareham in Bloom prizes!

We're delighted to announce the winners of our virtual Fareham in Bloom 2021 competition.

Residents with a passion for gardening were invited to enter the competition by submitting a photo online. We received nearly 160 entries in total, with some stunning spaces and gorgeous gardens on display. We think you'll agree the winners are fabulous!



For more information about Fareham in Bloom and to see the winning entries online, head to: www.fareham.gov.uk/inbloom

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