Welcome to the autumn edition of Fareham Today which contains articles on subjects as diverse as recycling, dog chipping, our children and young people’s plan and the dates for our first ever borough-wide Community Action Team meetings.

I very much hope that you find it an informative and enjoyable read, providing you with greater insight into the work of Fareham Borough Council.

I hope that many of you will have heard about the improvements we are bringing to the western end of West Street. Over the past few months a project team has been finalising the designs and sourcing materials for the improvements.

From this month you’ll see the area beginning to change as the first phase of physical works begins. Between now and the next edition of Fareham Today in December you should see some major changes!

We have wanted to make these improvements for some time now and these works will boost this end of West Street. Plans by the team have been very well received by the retailers in the area, who are looking forward to a better shopping environment.

The improvements will see the introduction of new paving and kerb materials, trees and seating areas, as well as street lighting. In addition, pedestrians will see improvements to junction crossings along the length of West Street.

It is expected that if the weather is on our side over the winter, the whole project will be complete by spring 2008.

If you want to find out more about what’s planned for West Street, visit our website www.fareham.gov.uk/weststreet

In addition to these improvements, work is also underway on the development of the new Desire by Debenhams store in the shopping centre. Set to open next summer and accompanied by other exciting retail outlets, these new stores will bring an even greater retail offer to the town centre.

Fareham Shopping Centre is already regarded by many as an excellent place to shop. But these two significant developments will make it even more appealing.

Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Councillor Seán Woodward

Computer generated impression of improvements to the western end of West Street
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Know a rip-off? Give us a tip off!
Contact the Benefit Investigations Team (in confidence), tel: 01329 824667, email: investigations@fareham.gov.uk or use our online form: www.fareham.gov.uk/benefits
Events

West Street, Fareham

Saturday 29 Sept 9am - 3pm Fareham Country Market
Saturday 6 Oct 9am - 2pm Fareham Farmers Market
Saturday 20 Oct Launch of October Family Fun - Jimmy Hendrix Tribute Band
Saturday 27 Oct 9am - 3pm Fareham Country Market
Saturday 3 Nov 9am - 2pm Fareham Farmers Market

Thursday 22 Nov 9am til late Special Markets begin every Thursday 'til Christmas
Saturday 24 Nov 9am - 3pm Fareham Country Market
Sunday 25 Nov 4:30pm Christmas Lights switch on
Thursday 29 Nov 9am til late Special Christmas Market
Saturday 1 Dec 9am - 2pm Fareham Farmers’ Market

For more information contact Fareham’s Town Centre Manager, Patricia Gray, tel: 01329 824474 or email: pgray@fareham.gov.uk
Events may change without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances.

Mayor of Fareham’s charity events

Thursday 13 September - “Tea and Talk at the Tower”
Jennie Raiment - Patchwork & Quilting. £3


Saturday 13 October - Barn Dance with “The Harvesters” - Portchester Community Centre - 7.30pm £7.50

Thursday 25 October - Dinner & Dance - HMS Collingwood Wardroom. Speaker Colin Potter - £45

Thursday 8 November - “Tea and Talk at the Tower”
Jan Tregidgo - Bobbin Lace - £3

Sunday 25 November - Sunday Lunch, Wallington Village Hall £10

Thursday 6 December - Portchester School Steel Pans and talk about their link school in South Africa. £3 adults; £1.50 children

Thursday 6 December - Carols around the Christmas tree. Westbury Manor at 4.45pm. Mulled wine and mince pies

Saturday 8 December - Hants Police Band concert, Holy Rood, Stubbington. 5.30pm-7.30pm. £7

Proceeds go to the Mayor of Fareham’s Chosen Charities for 2007/08: KIDS; Naomi House and SSAFA. For further details, please tel: 01329 310389 or email: ktrott@fareham.gov.uk
LetSelect, the Council’s choice based lettings scheme, is a new way of allocating social housing in the area. Since its launch in mid May, we have been advertising Council and housing association properties that have become available for new tenants to occupy.

To use the LetSelect scheme you must be registered on Fareham’s Housing Waiting List. Then using the case id and pin number that you receive on registering, you can express an interest in the advertised properties that are the right size for your household.

The property will then be offered to the highest placed applicant on the Housing Waiting List, who has expressed an interest. The position on the list of the successful applicant will then be displayed.

**How are the properties advertised?**
The best place to view information is via the council’s website www.fareham.gov.uk

More limited information can be heard on our 24 hour telephone messaging service, tel: 01329 824444.

**How can I express an interest in an advertised property?**
The best way to express your interest is via the website. If you do not have access to your own computer, free access is available at the libraries and at the Council’s civic offices.

When using the telephone messaging service you can speak to a Customer Service Advisor who can register an interest on your behalf.

**What if I can’t use a computer or telephone?**
The Council can register your interest in properties automatically. This can only be done for properties of the size, type and in the area that you tell us you want to consider. Therefore you may miss an opportunity to express an interest in a property that becomes available that you had not previously thought about.

Miss Hickish and her 2½ year old daughter Maddison at their new two bedroom ground floor flat in Foxbury Grove, Portchester.

**How long are the properties advertised for?**
The properties are generally advertised for one week, beginning at midnight each Tuesday and closing at midday the following Tuesday. You do not need to be the first to express an interest as the property will ultimately be offered to the highest placed applicant on the Housing Waiting List.

Miss Hickish (pictured above) and her two young children had been living in a one bedroom ground floor council flat in Linden Lea, Portchester. Through the LetSelect system the family now lives in a 2 bedroom ground floor flat in Foxbury Grove, Portchester.

If you wish to join the Housing Waiting List please contact the Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
SNAP Dance Nights

Say No And Phone or SNAP dance nights have been running regularly in Fareham since 1999. They were initially set up by local Police Officers to provide a safe environment for young people between the ages of 11 and 16, to have a good time away from the dangers of alcohol and drugs. They also offer a great point at which agencies, such as the Fire Service, can pass on information which will make young people safer in their day-to-day lives.

SNAPs are held on one Friday night every month, with the exception of a summer and Christmas break. Tickets for the nights cost £5 and need to be pre-booked at the Ferneham Hall box office, as the events are regularly sold out. Up to 800 young people from across the area regularly come along, attracted by the opportunity to meet with their friends, dance to the latest tunes, take part in competitions and support budding local stars who take to the stage.

The dance nights are staffed by uniformed Police Officers, official security staff and a team of loyal volunteers who give up their valuable Friday nights to make sure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience. Without the hard work of all those involved (including Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire Fire Service, Ferneham Hall, St John’s Ambulance, the trainee hairdressers at Fareham College and local parents) the SNAPs could not run.

It’s a little known fact that all profit made from SNAP nights is ploughed straight back into funding local activities for young people. Over the past five years SNAP dance nights have raised £29,000, contributions from which have paid for a youth football tournament and equipment for Sea Cadets, among many projects.

Forthcoming SNAP Dance Nights
21 September, 12 October, 2 & 30 November - doors open 7pm

For more details visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/fernehamhall or tel: 01329 231942.

To find out more about how SNAP is run, funding for youth projects and becoming a volunteer, email: jacqueline.wild@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or tel: 0845 045 45 45.
Fareham Children and Young People’s Plan - What is it all about?

Across the United Kingdom Local Strategic Partnerships have been set up and in Fareham we’ve called ours ‘Networkfareham’. The work is carried out in small groups, one of which is for Children and Young People (CYP).

The new CYP plan sets out how everyone involved with children and young people will work together to improve the lives of under 19s in Fareham.

The plan was written by a group of organisations, all members of the CYP, who’ve listened to young people and their families and taken on board what they think needs improving; facilities or services.

The group has now prioritised a list of nine themes.

• Parenting - Co-ordination and promotion of support so that no parent feels stigmatised
• Home-School Link Workers - Explore the use of workers and support on-going work
• Feeling safe - Encouraging children and young people to attend relevant forums to address this issue
• Participation - Encourage agencies to listen and to establish mechanisms for messages to come through
• Children with disabilities - Increase leisure and play opportunities and holiday provision for children with disabilities
• Transport - to support Hampshire County Council (HCC) work in this area
• Reduce Bullying - Re-enforce the schools’ policies and support parents with positive action

• Young Carers - Influence HCC for a universal service and continue support for young carers locally with a named teacher in every school
• Leisure and play opportunities - understand what is available and promote what is working

For more information tel: 01329 824405 or visit: www.hantsfish.org.uk/hantsfish
Established seven years ago, the Countryside Ranger Service is responsible for the management and development of 180 hectares of countryside throughout the Borough. Much of this work is achieved in partnership with a dedicated team of volunteers.

Natural open spaces in Fareham are very special as they’re often the only opportunity to escape from the stresses of modern living and allow people to interact with wildlife on their own doorstep. It’s imperative that our countryside is safe for the public to enjoy but also that it continues to survive as a haven for wildlife. We consider our open countryside to be an important asset both for the local environment and the personal health and well-being of our residents.

Countryside rangers have an extremely varied workload, from habitat management, wildlife protection and promotion, to large scale landscape enhancement schemes. They lead, supervise and train volunteers in a wide range of skills and outdoor crafts. Public events and educational packages are a speciality and many schools have benefited from the team’s involvement in improving school grounds and development of educational facilities. The team also provides an advisory service for council officers and members of the public.
Key Countryside Projects

Holly Hill Woodland Park
(South & South East in Bloom: Best Country Park Award, 2005/06)
A beautiful example of a 19th century villa landscape created to take advantage of the scenery and setting close to the River Hamble. Of particular interest is the elaborate rock work, much of which is synthetic pulhamite. Historically there are also connections with the landscape designer Edward Milner and possibly Sir Joseph Paxton. Consequently the site has significant heritage value which requires sensitive management, restoration and enhancement. Work is also under way to develop Holly Hill as cultivation area for rare trees and shrubs for future generations, following on in the great Victorian tradition of landscape grandeur.

Holly Hill achieved best country park in the South and South-East England in Bloom awards for the last two consecutive years and aims to build on that success with Green Flag and Local Nature Reserve status for this and a number of other sites. In February, Holly Hill appeared on ‘River Walks’ with Charlie Dimmock.

Warsash Common
A superb urban common which has developed naturally from previous land use, into a site with a unique flora and fauna. Biologically rich, this substantial site is one of the core nature conservation sites in the western wards, noted in particular for its reptiles.

Whiteley Woods
This important ancient and semi-natural group of woodlands provides an extensive natural open space. High forest and coppice management along with glade and ride creation assists species mobility between woodland compartments.

We’re currently planning a woodland demonstration, utilising traditional woodland crafts and techniques.

Tips Copse
A recently acquired pocket of ancient woodland, Tips Copse is an invaluable ‘breathing space’ in the heart of Stubbington. With some spectacular examples of old oaks and a springtime carpet of bluebells, this woodland is an enchanting place to explore. Plans for future improvements to the copse are in progress and we’ll be looking to form a Friends’ Group for the site. If you’re interested in being involved and helping with future conservation of this or other sites in Fareham then the Rangers would be happy to hear from you.

For further information about the Council’s Countryside Service or volunteering please contact Mark Trigwell, Countryside Officer, tel: 01329 824843 or email: parks@fareham.gov.uk
Men’s health awareness

Prostate cancer

The prostate is a small gland about the size of a walnut situated at the base of the bladder. It is only found in men and produces a protein called prostate specific antigen (PSA) which turns semen into liquid form.

Nearly 32,000 new cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed each year in the UK and it is the most common cancer amongst men. Although it’s rarely found in men under 45, incidence increases with age and is quite common in men over 80.

Cancer of the prostate is a serious disease but is often slow to develop. It’s an unusual cancer because in some men it affects only a small area of the prostate and grows so slowly it may never need treatment and does not cause symptoms. In others (usually younger men), it causes more symptoms and can spread outside the prostate (particularly to the bones).

Symptoms
Men with early prostate cancer may have no symptoms at all. Any enlargement of the prostate (cancerous or benign) can cause problems with passing urine. These problems include:

- passing urine more frequently
- waking from sleep to pass urine
- having to rush to the toilet urgently for fear of an accident
- weak stream with difficulty starting and stopping
- dribbling of urine after going to the toilet.

It is important to note that most men with these symptoms do not have prostate cancer. Non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate gland is very common, affecting over half of all men over the age of 60. Less common symptoms of prostate cancer include:

- blood in the urine or semen (rare)
- pain in the prostate (felt deep in the pelvis between the penis and back passage), and
- hip, back or leg pain (due to the spread of cancer to bones)

Diagnosis
Some prostate problems are more serious than others. If you’re concerned about your symptoms you should make an appointment to see your GP. They may give you a number of tests in order to make a diagnosis. Some of these tests may be carried out in the surgery or you may be sent to hospital.

Treatment
There are many different treatments for prostate cancer and deciding what is right is not always straightforward, as there’s a balance between treatment and side effects. Urologists often discuss individual cases with specialists in treating cancer (oncologists) as there are many issues to consider.

The type of treatment offered depends on the grade and stage of the cancer (how aggressive it is and whether it has spread outside the prostate), age and general health.

For further information visit:

Cancer Research UK at: www.cancerhelp.org.uk
or tel: 0800 2262237

The Prostate Cancer charity at: www.prostate-cancer.org.uk
or tel: 020 8222 7622

NHS Direct at: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
or tel: 0845 4647

Source: Cancer Research UK and NHS Direct
Testicular cancer

Cancer of the testicles is rare, but it’s the most common cancer in men aged 15-45. A simple, regular self-check could help you detect early signs of the disease. If you do notice changes, it’s important to act right away. With early treatment there’s a good chance there will be no further problems.

Self-check

It’s important for males to check their testicles regularly (from puberty onwards and the best time is when in the shower or bath).

• Hold your scrotum in the palm of your hand and feel the size and weight of the testicles (It’s quite common for one to be larger than the other or hang lower).

• Feel each testicle and roll it between your thumb and finger (it should feel smooth).

• You’ll feel a soft, tender tube towards the back of each testicle (this is normal and is called the epididymis).

Warning signs

The early signs of testicular cancer are usually obvious and easy to spot.

You may have one or more of the following:

• a hard lump on the front or side of a testicle
• swelling or enlargement of a testicle
• an increase in firmness of a testicle
• pain or discomfort in a testicle or in the scrotum (the sac that holds the testicles)
• an unusual difference between one testicle and the other

Other warning signs may include:

• a heavy feeling in the scrotum
• a dull ache in the lower stomach, groin or scrotum

If you notice anything unusual then you should go and visit your doctor as soon as possible.

Testicular cancer is almost always curable if found early and early detection means simpler, more effective treatment with fewer side effects.

For further information visit:

Cancer Research UK at: www.cancerhelp.org.uk
or tel: 0800 226237

NHS Direct at: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
or tel: 0845 4647

Source: Cancer Research UK
Dogs

Check and Chip

Micro-chipping of dogs is one of the quickest ways of getting any lost dog back home. The process is simple; a small microchip, the size of a grain of rice, is inserted between the animal’s shoulder blades by a small injection. Once chipped the animal has its own unique identification number, which along with the owner’s details is logged on a national database.

When a stray dog is picked up, it’s scanned by the local authority officer, RSPCA, vets or animal welfare organisations etc. If a microchip is found and the details are correct then the owners can be contacted to arrange the quick and safe return of the dog. Microchipping is permanent, even if a collar comes off ownership can be verified, although having a microchip does not replace the legal requirement to have a collar and tag.

We’re running ‘Check and Chip’ days in September, for you to bring your dog along to be microchipped or to check that the details on an existing chip are correct. Cost of microchipping is £18 (£10 for those in receipt of Income Support or Job Seeker’s Allowance).

Lost or found a dog?
Please contact us, tel: 01329 236100 ext 2402 during office hours or tel: 0800 374485 outside office hours* (17:15-22:00hrs weekdays & 09:00-22:00hrs weekends/bank holidays)
*Only use out of hours service to report a lost or stray dog or to collect a stray dog you have picked up

Local Development Framework

Public consultation

We’d like you to get involved in helping to shape a number of Local Development Framework documents this autumn. The documents include a strategy for the Borough as a whole (the Core Strategy); identifying new development sites and protection of important uses in the Borough (Site Allocations); a strategy and framework for Fareham Town Centre (the Fareham Town Centre Area Action Plan); and a development brief for the site of Coldeast Hospital, Sarisbury.

It’s anticipated that the consultation for the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and the Area Action Plan will take place during December 2007 and January 2008, with consultation for Coldeast Hospital in October and November 2007. The consultation events will include meetings, exhibitions, workshops and online information.

To find out more, or to be notified when details of the consultations become available, please contact the Planning Policy Team, tel: 01329 236100 or email: planningpolicy@fareham.gov.uk
Community Action Teams - dates announced

A new way to ensure your voice is heard is coming to Fareham this autumn when the first ever Community Action Team meetings begin. These special community based meetings will give you, the residents of the Borough, the chance to hear first hand about the projects and development in your area - not only from the Council but from our other public sector partners like the police.

This month we’ll be holding the first meetings at community venues near to you. The Borough has been divided into five areas - Portchester, Fareham town, Crofton, Titchfield and the western wards to ensure there’s a meeting close to you. You’ll find the dates on this poster:

At the meetings there will be plenty of opportunities to tell us what you think about your local area - particularly what you like, but also what needs improving.

The agenda for the September meetings is as follows:

- Welcome and introduction
- Ward profile information
- Police presentation
- Feedback
- Group work
- Part 1 - missing information
- Part 2 - 3 top priorities
- CATs bids
- Any other business
- Date of next meeting

Meetings will be held four times a year in each of the five areas, with the next ones being scheduled for January 2008. The exact dates and times will be published in every edition of Fareham Today - which is scheduled to arrive in the two weeks prior to every CATs meeting.

So the message is – come along and find out more about your own neighbourhood, learn about what new projects, plans or developments will be taking place and tell us more about where you live.

There’s even the chance to bid for funding of a project in your own neighbourhood through the CATs bidding process. A £100,000 budget has been set aside to fund community initiatives and the CATs meetings will be an ideal place to make your suggestion!

For more information visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/cats email: cats@fareham.gov.uk or tel: 01329 236100
Would you like to help a child affected by civil wars, natural disasters and extreme poverty by sending them a gift filled shoe box for Christmas?

Operation Christmas Child is an annual project that enables caring individuals, families, schools, churches, businesses, and other organisations to fill ordinary shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, sweets, and other gifts for needy children around the world. Last year 1.24 million shoe boxes were sent from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, Internally Displaced Persons camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods.

It may be small but your gifts in a shoe box could be the first Christmas present a disadvantaged child has ever received. Your shoe box will make a child feel special and valued. Choosing gifts and then filling and wrapping a shoe box is a fun and rewarding activity for all the family, especially when you know these gifts are going to be used and treasured.

Please include the following:

**Toys** - something to love
- bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument, (for boys - trucks and cars, for girls - doll, clip-on earrings, make-up or hair accessories) etc.

**Educational supplies** - something to do
- felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, colouring book, note pad, picture/puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.

**Hygiene items** - something to use
- toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of wrapped soap, flannel etc.

**Other items** - something to eat or wear
- sweets (sell-by date to be at least March of following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

Please don't include the following:

**Food** - chocolate, crisps, biscuits, tinned food or cakes (or any other food)

**Medicine** - medicines or vitamins of any kind

**War related items** - toy guns, soldiers or knives

**Clothing** (other than listed above)

**Fragile items** - glass containers; mirrors

**Liquids of any kind** - including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols

**Dangerous items** - marbles or sharp objects - scissors or razors

**Novels**

**Anything of a political or racial nature**

What to pack?

All items should be new. Please include items from each category below and please make your box both fun and educational.

How to pack your shoe box

1. Find an empty medium sized shoe box (18cm x 30cm x 13cm). Wrap the lid and box separately in wrapping paper.
2. Decide if your gift is for a boy or girl. Cut out the boy or girl label, tick the appropriate age and stick it to the top right on the outside of the wrapped lid. Secure the label with sticky tape.
3. Fill your box with gifts
4. Please enclose £2 or more in an envelope (or online at www.samaritanspurse.uk.com) towards distribution, transport, processing and promotion.
5. Please secure the lid with an elastic band, and do not seal the box as it will need to be checked to ensure it meets Customs requirements.

Please take your gift filled shoe boxes to Sarisbury Green United Reform Church from 4th to 20th November, Monday to Friday 10am-5pm. If you’re unable to drop the box off between these times, please contact, tel: 01489 572718.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child, visit: www.samaritanspurse.uk.com
Exciting times for health services in Fareham and Gosport

Much is going on with health services in the Fareham and Gosport areas at the moment. Progress is being made on plans for the new Fareham Community Hospital. Hampshire Primary Care Trust is currently looking at how the services will fit into the site. These include outpatients for various acute specialities; maternity service; assessment and treatment facilities for older people with mental health difficulties. A rehabilitation department and an elderly medicine assessment and treatment centre. In addition there will be a primary care centre which will be used at certain times for minor procedures by Fareham GPs.

Many residents in Fareham use health services in Gosport and the remodelling of these has now entered a new phase. It’s been a busy summer for some of the health services in Gosport as they move to temporary accommodation in time for construction work to begin at the War Memorial Hospital. It’s expected that the remodelling of the Hospital and Gosport Health Centre will have started by the beginning of September. The work is being undertaken by Hampshire Primary Care Trust so that outpatient services and the Accident Treatment Centre can move from the Royal Hospital Haslar to the War Memorial Hospital in the summer of 2009.

For more information visit: www.hampshirepct.nhs.uk or contact Fran Buxey, Project Manager tel: 023 9224 8851 or email: fran.buxey@ports.nhs.uk
Fareham’s recycling rate is up by 10%. For the year to March 2007, we have recycled 38.32%, compared to 28.31% the year before (Apr 2005-Mar 2006). This is great news and puts us just below the government target of 40%. Please keep up the excellent work.

Our policy for collecting refuse and recycling
We’ve recently updated our refuse and recycling policies and a leaflet (shown below) advising you about these has been sent to all households. If you haven’t received one or would like a full copy of the policies, please contact our Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100.
What's changing?

One of the main changes introduced is a charge for new and replacement garden waste sacks and refuse bins (recycling bins will continue to be delivered free). From Monday 1 October there will be a charge of £5 for each garden waste sack, and £30 for refuse (green top) bins.

In the last six months there have been over 12,000 requests for new or replacement garden waste sacks and 700 for refuse bins. This is well over the normal rate expected for breakage or loss due to reasonable wear and tear. Because ‘free’ bin and sack replacement costs have been paid for by all Council Tax payers, these charges are being introduced to ensure that only bins and sacks which are required are ordered.

If a refuse bin breaks when we empty it, we’ll replace it free of charge.

As part of our continued commitment to recycling, blue top recycling bins will continue to be free of charge. There will continue to be no charge for emptying garden waste sacks, however please note we are only able to empty Fareham Borough Council garden waste sacks and wheeled bins.

Please put your house number or name and post code on your garden waste sacks and bins with a permanent marker or stickers, which are available through contacting the Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100.

If you’d like an additional (free) blue-top recycling bin, please contact us. You can also request smaller 140 litre bins if you prefer them.

Useful contacts
Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100
customerservicecentre@fareham.gov.uk
waste@fareham.gov.uk
www.fareham.gov.uk/recycling
Department of Customer Services, Fareham Borough Council,
Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7PU
A Day in the Life...

of a Sheltered Housing Officer
by Irene Armstrong

As a Sheltered Housing Officer for Fareham Borough Council I’m based out on site at Lincoln Close in Titchfield Common. My role is to check daily on all the elderly residents, arrange medical help or assistance as necessary, liaise with outside organisations and family members and keep accurate records of on-going events.

7.45am I arrive on site and head into my office which is in the main communal hall. I check the Day Book. There don’t appear to have been any overnight emergencies or call outs requiring our Mobile Sheltered Housing Officer’s attention. I telephone our Control Centre in Chichester for confirmation of this and to advise them I’m now on duty for the day and returning the scheme back on site. I can now liaise with the cleaner, Angela, who has been here since 7.00 am.

8.00am I log into the computer checking for any new emails and to prepare several scheme files in readiness for today’s entries.

8.15am The weekly testing of the fire alarms in the hall, assisted by Angela. I firstly telephone Chichester Control Centre to inform them it is about to happen, and only a test. All is well; the alarms are in loud working order. I now log this into the Fire Register, and I’ll enter it onto the computer file later today.

8.25am Into the kitchen, time to set up in readiness for today’s weekly Residents’ ‘Club’ Coffee Morning.

9.00am I head outside now on my visits to check the residents in all 40 flats, making sure everyone is well. I’ve already spoken to two of them who were out walking their dogs earlier. This is a slightly rushed morning, aiming to be back in time for the Coffee Morning.

10.00am Back into the hall, time for a cup of coffee. I’ve several general weekly announcements to pass on to the residents. I’m also collecting payment from them for their fish and chip supper which is included in our Social Race Night arranged for this Saturday evening in the Hall. We start our raffle and a chat. Half way through, the Communicare Bus arrives to take some of the ladies to the Locks Heath Centre for their shopping. It will bring them back around 12 noon.

11.00am I’m back outside again, to carry out the water flushing in some unoccupied flats. This is required to eliminate the chance of any possible risk of the Legionella bacteria being allowed to form while the water remains unused.

11.15am Returning to my office, I now settle down to complete the daily registers and commence the required computer work, which involves filling in today’s entries relating to the residents into my Day Book and logging regular test information into appropriate files.

11.50am A new resident is here for admission into her new empty flat to measure for carpets, curtains etc. I head back outside to unlock the flat for her.

12.00 noon Back to my office to continue with the computer work.

12.30pm A contractor arrives on site in response to the urgent maintenance problem I reported earlier. I head outside again to have a quick chat with him and the resident involved.

12.40pm Lunch time. Cup of tea and my sandwiches. I sit quietly in the hall for this (well sometimes!!). The new resident pops back at 12.50 to say she has now finished measuring in her flat and I can now lock up again. I quickly lock up then continue with my lunch.
1.15pm Lunch finished, I head outside to water the patio flower pots and freshen the water in the bird bath. I try to keep the immediate garden area looking at its best and help support the residents in readiness for the Fareham in Bloom judging. We were the overall winners last year in the Local Authority Sheltered category, collecting a beautiful crystal vase as silver medal winners (shown below). The residents take a lot of pride in their gardens and all work wonders to create such beautiful colourful surroundings.

1.30pm As I am returning to the hall, I’m summoned urgently to a resident’s flat. There is a medical problem requiring discussion and I give some quality time to help ease the situation.

2.20pm I’m back in the office. I now have to log this medical entry into the Day Book and amend the confidential records. I then have two maintenance requests I received earlier to email to our maintenance section.

3.20pm I’ve just taken a telephone call from a lady enquiring how she should go about getting her elderly mother into Sheltered Accommodation. I’ve given her information on the different levels and types of schemes we can offer and she will now make contact with the Housing section for an application form.

3.50pm Security check in the Communal Hall, prior to making contact with the Control Centre to advise them my shift is just about over and the scheme is in their hands until the morning.

4.00pm Lock up and time to go home.

For more information on sheltered housing schemes visit: www.fareham.gov.uk

Democracy

Have You Registered Yet?

Each year the Electoral Registration Officer must produce a list of names and addresses of people eligible to vote in local and parliamentary elections. This is called the register of electors and it is the basis of our democracy in this country, so an accurate register is very important.

You should have received a form through your letterbox asking you to confirm the names of all those eligible to vote in your household. If you haven’t returned the form yet, please do so without delay. The information asked for on the form is required by law.

If your name is not on the register of electors, you’ll not only lose your vote, but may also risk being refused credit, mortgage facilities or a loan. If you’ve not received a form or have any query about registering, please contact the election services office (see contact details right).

Planning to move house?

If you move house, make sure you register your new address as soon as you move in. This is not an automatic process, even if you register for council tax, as there are different legal requirements that apply.

Members’ allowances

Councillors are entitled to receive allowances in recognition of the time they give to their work in the community and to reimburse expenses they have incurred in carrying out their council duties. All councillors are entitled to a basic allowance and some may also receive a special responsibility allowance in recognition of their more onerous role. Full details of the allowances paid to councillors are available on request, tel: 01329 236100 or email: democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk Information about the scheme is also available on the council’s website: www.fareham.gov.uk.

Code of Conduct

On 22 June, Fareham Borough Council adopted a revised Code of Conduct for Members. If you’d like to view the revised code, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk or the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7PU.

For further help and advice, please contact Election Services at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7PU, tel: 01329 824587, or email: electionservices@fareham.gov.uk

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
Reducing carbon dioxide emissions

How well are we doing in Fareham?

Scientists have identified that carbon dioxide (CO$_2$) which is emitted during the combustion of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal) is a key greenhouse gas that can affect the Earth’s climate. The UK’s 21 million homes produce up to 30% of the country’s CO$_2$ emissions as a result of the energy used for providing heat and light and powering electrical appliances.

In 1995, the Government passed the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) and since April 1996 all local authorities have been required to identify and implement measures which would lead to a 30% improvement in energy efficiency within the housing stock.

What have we achieved?

We take this challenge very seriously and have been working in partnership with other local authorities in Hampshire; organisations in the power supply and energy efficiency industry; as well as the local community. These have enabled us to help households adopt the changes necessary to make their homes and daily lives more energy efficient, whilst reducing their fuel bills.

During the past ten years, we’ve organised a number of promotional campaigns and worked closely with fuel utility companies on the various Home Energy Efficiency Grant Programmes. These have enabled 1,800 local households to install a range of measures including cavity wall and loft insulation and replace inefficient boilers; all at a reduced cost.

We have also promoted the Government funded Warm Front Scheme, a programme aimed specifically at those households in receipt of certain benefits. 2,267 qualifying households have received a grant to install insulation and in many cases, repair or replace their heating system.

As a result of the actions taken and improvements made by local households, we have been able to calculate that Fareham’s CO$_2$ emissions have been reduced by over 14% in the past 10 years. Projections indicate that we’ll achieve a 22% reduction in CO$_2$ emissions by 2011 and that by 2016, a 30% reduction will be achieved.

The Government is currently reviewing the role that local authorities play in helping local residents to reduce CO$_2$ emissions and we are awaiting further direction. In the meantime, we’ll continue to work with our partners to provide local households with the help and information required to make energy efficiency savings.

Further advice about the benefits of making our homes and lives more energy efficient and the financial schemes available to help make the necessary changes, is available on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk

If you wish to discuss your energy efficiency needs and the options available in more detail, please contact the local office of the Environment Centre, tel: 0800 512012 (Mon-Fri, between 9am and 4.30pm).

Thank you to all those householders who’ve helped reduce the CO$_2$ emissions over the past 10 years and let’s all continue to work to reduce our carbon footprint.
Affordable housing programme

We’re pleased to announce that we’ve exceeded our target to provide 100 new affordable dwellings in the Borough. 103 homes were provided in 2006/07 to rent from a housing association, with the nominations made from the Council’s waiting list. With a further 13 homes provided to help local people to acquire a share in their own home, through the low cost home ownership initiative.

We’re keen to help local families to buy their own home, particularly during a period where house prices continue to rise and affordability for first time buyers becomes increasingly difficult. The Council works closely with the ‘HomesinHants’ team at Swaythling Housing Society, to ensure that local families have the opportunity to access the housing market through the Government’s Homebuy scheme.

Stephen and Sarah Collins (pictured right) had been struggling to buy a house for some time. With their son Joshua’s cerebral palsy uppermost in their minds they needed somewhere better suited to his needs. They’d been living in a 1 bedroom house with a spiral staircase so it was difficult to move Joshua around. Having looked without success for an affordable house with the ability to make alterations for their son, Stephen and Sarah applied to ‘HomesinHants’.

Fareham Borough Council in partnership with Swaythling Housing Society developed several low cost homes for first time buyers on Portchester Road. The family was able to purchase a 40% share of a 3 bedroom house, with the remaining 60% owned by Swaythling Housing Society.

A monthly rent is charged by the Housing Association on the equity that they own, as well as Mr and Mrs Collins making regular mortgage payments on their share. In future years, Stephen and Sarah will have the option to purchase further shares and eventually to achieve outright ownership of their home.

These arrangements made purchasing a home affordable and the family were delighted when they also received news that the Council’s going to provide them with a grant towards adaptations for Joshua to help meet his changing needs as he grows.

Further information on our affordable housing programme and housing waiting list, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk or tel: 01329 236100. For low cost home ownership enquiries please contact Swaythling Housing Society, tel: 023 8062 8000 or visit: www.homesinhants.co.uk

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk
What we achieved in 2006/07

Moving forward in Fareham

Taking Fareham forward to a brighter future for all is at the heart of the work of Fareham Borough Council. This special four page feature is taken from our recently published annual report. It looks at what we’ve achieved in Fareham over the past year. If you want to read the full annual report, you’ll find it on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk

Our work is focused around seven corporate priorities and these are listed below. Much of what we do goes unnoticed - such as our 17 strong team of people who work hard to keep the Borough’s streets clean, the people behind them who work to educate about dropping litter and those who are there to fine people who uncaringly drop their rubbish wherever they like.

Our seven corporate priorities:

• Protecting and enhancing the environment
• Maintaining and extending prosperity
• Creating a safe and healthy place to live and work
• Encouraging a balanced housing market
• Encouraging leisure for health and for fun
• Building strong and inclusive communities
• Being a dynamic, prudent, progressive and best practice council

Protecting and enhancing the environment

Recycling rates across the Borough are increasing and on three occasions during 2006/07 the Government’s 40% recycling rate was exceeded. We also have a new Behavioural Change Team to offer advice and guidance on recycling.

In January we began a twelve month trial of food waste digesters in 25 households in the Borough. The results of the pilot scheme will help us advise households on how best to dispose of their food waste, with a view to providing food waste digesters at a reduced cost.

We have significantly improved the speed of processing planning applications and are now in the top 25% of district councils.

In January we published an Environmental Sustainability Strategy with targets for improving sustainable living in the Borough of Fareham.

Last September Fareham Borough Council was awarded a Gold and overall winner in the south and south east final of the Britain in Bloom competition, and Holly Hill Woodland Park was granted a Silver Gilt and overall winner in the Best Countryside Park category.
Maintaining and extending prosperity

Fareham Borough Council is committed to maintaining and extending prosperity in the Borough. Our commitment to provide a quality retail and business environment, with good leisure and recreational facilities remains strong. To this end we worked collaboratively with Fareham Shopping Centre to bring Desire by Debenhams to the town and work has already begun on the new store.

At the same time we worked with other local authorities in the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) to secure New Growth Point status for south Hampshire. This brought with it a £1 million grant to improve the western end of West Street. Work on this project has begun with physical changes due to take place in the autumn and winter of this year.

We have been instrumental in establishing a Business Improvement District in Segensworth. The Business Improvement District status allows those businesses involved to improve their trading area by securing extra funding through increases in local business rates. This money is collected by the Council and ring fenced for the projects those businesses have identified.

Creating a safe and healthy place to live and work

Work to ensure Fareham remains a safe and healthy place to live and work is one of our highest priorities. In October last year we secured our first Accredited Community Safety Officers in the Borough. The officers are now providing cover seven days a week and are working alongside police, council officers, and other local agencies, to target hot spots for vandalism, anti-social behaviour, low level crime and fear of crime.

Our kennelling service for stray dogs was extended until 10pm providing a better service for residents finding or losing a dog.

A new team tasked with enforcing on-street parking regulations was introduced in April. They patrol Fareham’s streets to ensure drivers aren’t flouting parking restrictions – thereby making the Borough a safer place for us all to drive and park in.

We’ve been working closely with Hampshire Police on the 101 non emergency number. This new number, designed to free up the 999 system for emergencies, takes Hampshire calls into a central point and then reallocates them to the relevant organisation. For Fareham this means that we receive around 300 calls a month about things like vandalism, graffiti, noisy neighbours or fly-tipping.
Encouraging a balanced housing market

Creating a balanced housing market is an objective that is difficult for a local authority to achieve in isolation. To this end we are working with our housing association partners to bring more affordable homes to the area. In 2006/07 some 116 affordable homes were built, exceeding our target of 100.

We are also pleased to report that in April 2006 we were notified by the Housing Corporation that nine of our housing scheme bids had been successful and that over £5million had been awarded to the Borough to build 103 homes. A possible additional £6million may also be made available to build a further 177 homes.

The Council itself has also allocated almost £1.5million to increase the number of homes being built in the Borough.

We continue to work extremely hard on homelessness in the Borough. New measures have resulted in a dramatic drop in people reporting to us as homeless – from 219 in 2004/05 to 79 in 2006/07. These have included:

• Setting up an advice service to help people resolve issues and remain in their current accommodation
• Providing training in secondary schools to help young people become aware of the issue of homelessness and how to avoid it
• Providing an agreed referral process with Relate to access their mediation service

Encouraging leisure for health and for fun

Fareham Borough Council is also a key player in providing leisure opportunities for health and for fun in the Borough. Following extensive renovations, the newly refurbished Fareham Leisure Centre, now managed by SLM Ltd was formally opened in July 2006.

We completed and opened two further skate parks for young people in the Borough – one at Park Lane which opened in August 2006 and the other in Whiteley which opened in October 2006. This brings the total across the Borough to five.

In the last financial year we also gave £20,000 towards the £40,000 cost of extending and improving facilities at the Priory Park Community Hall, Locks Heath.

Ferneham Hall celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Its shows and events continue to be popular, with the 2006 pantomime Aladdin breaking box office records with an increase in sales of over £10,000. We’ve also invested in the venue, with a replacement ceiling that has dramatically improved acoustics.
Building strong and inclusive communities

We are committed to building strong and inclusive communities here in Fareham and have produced a Disability Equality Scheme that sets out our actions to improve access in the Borough for disabled residents and their families. In addition we also helped to establish a disability equality working group.

Our concessionary travel scheme, which was started in April 2006, has seen a dramatic increase in the number of residents taking up concessionary travel. Some 13,000 residents are now in receipt or travel concessions – almost 70% more than under the farepass scheme.

Our Customer Service Centre was officially opened in June 2006 and more and more service enquiries are now being looked after by the team there. Our aim is to make the centre an information hub for Fareham Borough Council services. As a result, customers calling the Council with several enquiries will have their questions answered in the one place.

Being a dynamic, prudent, progressive and best practice council

We strive to be a dynamic, prudent, progressive and best practice council - a council that listens to its customers and provides the services they want at the best possible price.

To help us be sure we are on track, we have a vision for Fareham and a set of corporate objectives. These were developed following extensive consultation - with elected members, staff, residents, neighbouring local authorities, partner agencies and community groups. In January 2007, a new set of priorities was adopted by the Council for the Borough of Fareham.

As in previous years we have worked hard to set a Council Tax that is fair and reflects a below inflation increase. We achieved this once more in 2006/07 with a 1.9% increase in our share of the Council Tax – giving Fareham residents the 16th lowest Council Tax (when compared to 238 other district councils.).

Residents should also be encouraged that we are continuing to improve the speed and accuracy with which we process applications for Council Tax and housing benefits. We are in the top 25% of all district authorities for the time taken to process new applications and in the second 25% for processing a change in circumstances. In addition though, we are pleased that this hasn’t been at the expense of accuracy – with 99% of claims being processed accurately.

And on a final note, it’s important for us to say that each year we continue to work hard to provide excellent services to the people of Fareham. We hope this feature helps you to understand some of the work we do in your communities.
Dear Editor

I’ve just read the latest edition of Fareham Today - and what a good read it is!

I’m always interested in the recycling articles, as I am a keen recycler. You have said that polystyrene is not able to be recycled in this country. This can be so annoying as it takes up so much room.

I wondered if you might want to publish details of the Freecycle website? Freecycle is basically a medium of offering things that you have and don’t want or asking for something that you want that someone may have & are planning to throw away. I often need polystyrene for packing things, so I ask on freecycle if anyone has any.

It’s just an idea, but hope it helps.

Judith Burke (via email)

Thank you for your suggestion; we are happy to advertise any outlets for recycling that will help people throw less away. Freecycle is advertised on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk/recycling

Freecycle is a network made up of many individual groups across the globe. It’s a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (& getting) stuff for free in their own towns. The network provides an electronic forum to “recycle” unwanted items. One person’s trash can truly be another’s treasure!

How does it work?

When you want to find a new home for something - whether it’s a chair, a fax machine, piano, or an old door - you simply send an email, offering it to members of the local Freecycle group.

Or, maybe you’re looking to acquire something yourself. Simply respond to a member’s offer, and you just might get it. After that, it’s up to the giver to decide who receives the gift and to set up a pickup time for passing on the treasure.

The main rule: Everything posted must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages.

It’s a great idea to use Freecycle for getting hold of packing materials like polystyrene. It can also be used for bigger items like an old door you have removed as part of a DIY job, or the rocks from an old rockery you are removing as part of a garden makeover.

If you know of any other web sites promoting recycling, or other opportunities for people to get rid of things others may be able to use, please let us know.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Ticket Price Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Basin Street to Broadway</td>
<td>£16 (£15 Leisure Card, buy 2 - save £5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 20</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Elvis - An American Trilogy</td>
<td>£17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 25 -</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Fareham Musical Society presents:</td>
<td>£11 &amp; £10 (Tue only tickets €9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 29</td>
<td>(Sat matinée 14:30)</td>
<td>Fiddler on the Roof</td>
<td>(£U16/over 60s £9.50 &amp; £8.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 30</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Scottish Tattoo</td>
<td>£14 (£12.50 Leisure Card &amp; parties 10+)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OCTOBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 6</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Anthony Ferrero and the Moonlight Swing Band</td>
<td>£15 (10% discount for table of 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 7</td>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Circus Hilarious</td>
<td>£8.50 (£16s £7.50, 4 tickets £28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 9</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Jet Harris: Me &amp; My Shadows</td>
<td>£16.50 (£16s/over 60s £15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 16</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Moscow Ballet La Classique presents: Sleeping Beauty</td>
<td>£19.50 &amp; £17.50 (U16s £17.50 &amp; £14.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>One night of Queen - Gary Mullen</td>
<td>£16.50 (£15 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>The Alter Eagles</td>
<td>£13.50 (£12.50 Leisure Card, U16s/over 60s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 20</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td>£16.50, £14, £11, £6.50 (Students ½ price, children £1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 24 -</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Stage One Theatre Company presents: West Side Story</td>
<td>£8 (U16s/over 60s £6.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 27</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOVEMBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 1</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Call Up The Groups</td>
<td>£17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 6 -</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Gosport Amateur Operatic Society presents: Pirates of Penzance</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 10</td>
<td>Sat matinée 14:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 14</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>One night in Vegas</td>
<td>£16 (£15 Leisure Card, buy 2 - save £5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 15</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>The Ultimate Jimi Hendrix Experience</td>
<td>£15 (£14 Leisure Card)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 18</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Big Time American Wrestling</td>
<td>£10 (U16s £8, family 2+2 £30)</td>
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<td><strong>DECEMBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 1</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Symphony Orchestra</td>
<td>£16.50, £14, £11, £6.50 (Students ½ price, children £1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 2</td>
<td>14:30 &amp; 19:30</td>
<td>Band of Her Majesty’s Royal Marines</td>
<td>£15, £13.50, £12.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 7,</td>
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<td>Christmas Murder Mystery</td>
<td>£29.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 12 &amp; 19</td>
<td>19:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 8,</td>
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<td>Thu 13 -</td>
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<td>Thu 20 &amp;</td>
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<td>Fri 21</td>
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<td>Sat 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 6 Jan</td>
<td>Times vary</td>
<td>Christmas Party Night</td>
<td>£28.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Keith Harris, Orville and Cuddles</td>
<td>Prices vary</td>
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NB Details may be subject to change. For a full list of what’s on at Ferneham Hall and to book your seats, please contact the box office, tel: 01329 231942, email: boxoffice@fareham.gov.uk or to book online visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/fernehamhall