In this issue:
• Art in the Park
• Nominate a local hero
• Christmas events and news
• Christmas panto 2012
A Christmas message from the Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham

As Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham 2012/13, Carole and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Fareham has been our home for the last 40 years, so we are extremely proud to be representing Fareham as Mayor and Mayoress this year.

And what a year this has proven to be so far! It is certainly one that will go down in history, and remain in the hearts of many. We are very fortunate to have witnessed several extraordinary events taking place this year such as the Mayoress abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower, the Citizen of Honour awards, Fareham hosting the South and South East in Bloom awards for the very first time, and of course the Olympic torch relay. Over 20,000 people came to watch the torch travel through Fareham, and to cheer on the torch bearers along the route. Our sincere thanks go out to all who joined us on the day, and especially to those who volunteered to help, and made the day run so smoothly.

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported our chosen charity – Wessex Heartbeat. The charity committee has been working very hard to arrange all sorts of charity events, and we’ve still got lots to look forward to, including the Hampshire Police Band concert, the Annual Charity School Prom, Valentine’s dinner, a trip to Highclere Castle and the Mayor’s Charity Ball.

A big thank you and congratulations are due to Matt Wakefield and his team for their unwavering efforts and success in the South and South East in Bloom competition. Fareham in Bloom has once more inspired beautiful displays to spring up throughout the Borough, and we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing them. We were also very impressed by the two new sculptures the countryside team commissioned from important but sadly, decaying trees in Mancroft Avenue and Holly Hill Woodland Park. They’ve captured the imagination of residents across the Borough, so make sure you take a look!

With our very best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Dennis Steadman and Mrs Carole Steadman
Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham 2012/13

Join our e-panel and help improve services!

If you live in the Borough and are aged 18 or over, you can comment on topics relating to Fareham Borough Council and our partners online. Just click on the e-panel link on www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation
Contents

2 A Christmas message from the Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham
4 Christmas Info Point
5 Read it. Report it. Comment on it.
6 Community news
8 Events for your diary
10 Do you know a local hero?
12 A year to remember
13 Bringing People and Parks Together
14 Art in the Park
16 Defending our Coastlines
17 Meet the family doctors who will help shape Fareham’s future healthcare
18 Local Support Scheme for Council Tax
19 Community Action Teams
20 Cinderella
21 What’s on at Ferneham Hall
22 Your Councillors

An audio version of this magazine is available on request from the editor and online at www.fareham.gov.uk/ferhamtoday

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Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection times

There will be some changes to the day your bin is emptied over the Christmas period. The table below shows when your bin is due to be emptied (the information can also be found on the card we delivered to you during the autumn, or by visiting www.fareham.gov.uk/recycling). Garden waste collections are suspended from 17 December 2012 and will resume on Monday 14 January 2013 (inclusive).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usual collection day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24 Dec</td>
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<td>Fri 4 Jan</td>
<td>No change – Fri 4 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 7 Jan</td>
<td>No change – normal refuse &amp; recycling collections resume on 7 January</td>
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</table>

The first bus will leave Fareham College at 9am and the last bus will leave Ferneham Hall at 5.30pm. Just turn up and jump on, there will be a bus roughly every 15 minutes. Both the bus journey and the parking at Fareham College are FREE.

Free Christmas Park and Ride service for Fareham

Once again we’re running a FREE Christmas Park and Ride service from Fareham College to Ferneham Hall (just to the rear of Fareham Shopping Centre). It’s really easy, just park at the College and jump on a bus that will take you almost to the door of Fareham Shopping Centre. When you’ve finished shopping return to the same stop and it’ll take you right back to your car. A great way to avoid the town centre traffic and do your Christmas shopping hassle free.

The FREE Christmas Park and Ride service will run on the following days:

- Saturday 8 December
- Saturday 15 December
- Wednesday 19 December
- Thursday 20 December
- Friday 21 December
- Saturday 22 December
- Sunday 23 December
- Monday 24 December.

Christmas tree recycling

We will collect your real Christmas tree for recycling. Just put the tree out with your garden waste when the service resumes. It’s easiest if it’s not chopped up; just leave it beside your garden waste sack. Maximum trunk diameter 10cm, one tree per property.

Visit our website www.fareham.gov.uk for:

- Details of any service changes due to adverse weather conditions
- Information on what to recycle
- Find your collection day
- Report a problem.
Do you want to have your say, help to make changes in your community, make new friends and have fun? Why not join the Fareham Youth Council. FYC is a group led by young people for young people. They seek to represent young people’s views, and discuss local projects and topics concerning the youth in Fareham.

The aims of Fareham’s Youth Council are to:

• Consult with young people on a range of issues
• Raise these issues with the key decision makers in Fareham
• Represent the youth of Fareham at a local and Hampshire level
• Listen to the views of young people
• Voice young people’s options
• Help to improve the facilities in Fareham for 11–19 year olds
• Challenge the stereotyping of young people.

Meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month from 4–5.45pm at the Civic Offices in Fareham.

To find out more or get involved, contact FYC via email: yc@fareham.gov.uk or via the Fareham Youth Info page on Facebook.

West Street footway consultation response

In the last issue of Fareham Today we published a plan of the proposed improvements to the footway on the north side of West Street (the railway station end) and asked for comments. We received 76 completed surveys – 49% of the responses were positive and 20% were negative. The remainder were neither positive nor negative but asked a question about the improvements.

We also met members of disabled and access groups on-site, and a number of concerns were raised. In particular the safety of the junction at Grove Road was raised, the restricted space in the bus shelter area and the lack of seats in this section of West Street. The proposals are being considered subject to detailed Highway investigations of minor footway widening in the bus shelter area, and the provision of a new seat. The pedestrian crossing point at the Grove Road junction will be improved subject to site constraints. It has been deemed impractical to provide a light controlled pedestrian crossing at this location.

A detailed design of the scheme will start shortly. Plans to start work on site in spring 2013 have been decided upon in order to avoid disruption in the town centre during the busy Christmas and New Year holiday period and winter weather.
Local boys dream of Olympics

Hazel Craik from Fareham, mother of two BMX racers, needs your support. Her two sons Ethan and Lucas aged nine and seven are both exceptionally talented BMX racers. They have been racing since they were four years-old and have consistently been at the top of their groups. Ethan is the National Champion and Lucas ranked second in the Nationals.

Last year at the age of eight, Ethan competed in the World BMX Championships in Copenhagen, on behalf of his country. Out of 108 riders in his group, he ranked sixth overall.

Next year the World Championships are in New Zealand. Therefore Ethan and Lucas are desperately looking for help with funding, sponsorship, or donations in any form to enable the boys to pursue their BMX dream of one day competing at the Olympics.

If you think you can help in any way please get in touch hcraik06@aol.com

Fareham’s reading group needs you!

Do you relish a good read and lively chat? Fareham’s reading group is looking for new members. The group meets at 5.30pm in Fareham library on the first Thursday of every month. The informal, friendly atmosphere makes it a great way to meet new friends and expand on the sort of books you would normally read.

Visit the library or email fareham.lending@hants.gov.uk for more details on how to join. If you’re interested in joining the reading group but can’t make that time, please still get in touch as new groups can always be set up once sufficient people can attend regularly.

Shop ‘til you drop charity Christmas fair

West Hill Park School in Titchfield invite you to join them on Saturday 24th November, 10-4pm for their charity Christmas fair.

There will be 50 stalls with a wide variety of quality products, a silent auction and an array of hot snacks and afternoon tea in the Bistro. Younger visitors may enjoy seeing Father Christmas in his Grotto!

Free parking is available, the entrance fee is £3 for adults and free for children. All entrance fees are donated to charity.

This year the Christmas fair is supporting Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, the Child Bereavement Charity and Bliss.
Are your heating bills going through the roof? If they are, much of the heat you are paying for could be going the same way. Hitting the Cold Spots, a Hampshire County Council scheme funded by the Department of Health, can help you to keep in the heat you are paying for and advise you on other ways to keep warm this winter.

The scheme’s two experienced advisors, Sheryll Mondey and Wendy Shone can visit you at your home to offer practical advice on how to keep your home warm and reduce your energy bills. This includes:

- Offering funding assistance to help you pay for heating or hot water system repairs and replacement to those of a pensionable age, or those aged 55 and over who are in receipt of a disability related benefit.
- Offering urgent support with alternative heating measures (electric oil-filled radiators) if you are without heating.
- Organising free loft clearance so that insulation can be installed.
- Helping you to organise boiler or other heating appliance servicing and repairs.
- Helping you to switch your energy provider or tariff so you can make savings on your energy bills.
- Being with you when the work is undertaken at your home.

Support through the Hitting the Cold Spots project is available to anyone over the age of 18 who either owns or privately rents their home. To contact Sheryll and Wendy or to get free advice and information please contact the Environment Centre office on 0800 804 8601 or email staywarm@environmentcentre.com

Fareham Leisure Card – Have you got yours yet?

Fareham Leisure Card offers discounts between 5% and 50% on a range of leisure activities, now from 45 outlets in and around Fareham.

The cards cost just £6.50 per person, £15.20 for a family membership, £4.60 for a student card or free to some residents on a low income and are renewable annually. Please see the Terms and Conditions on the back of the application form.

To join the scheme, pick up a leaflet and application form from Fareham Leisure Centre or Ferneham Hall.

Leisure Card Officer on 01329 824894 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For more information about the Fareham Leisure Card or if your company would like to be part of the scheme, please contact the

Nancy Irene Algie, resident of Fareham for 50 years, has recently celebrated her 100th birthday. To mark the occasion the Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Dennis Steadman and the Mayoress, Mrs Carole Steadman attended a special celebration at St John the Evangelist Church, St Michaels Grove, Fareham.
Events for your diary

November

Friday 9 November
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

Thursday 22 November
Festive Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

Friday 23 November
SNAP Dance Night
Ferneham Hall
Time: 7pm–10.30pm

Saturday 24 November
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

Sunday 25 November
Switch on of Christmas Lights
Fun family activities for all to enjoy.
Location: West St, Fareham
Time: 11am – 5.30pm (Lights switch on will take place at 4.30pm)

December

Daily throughout December (weather pending) – Festive Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

Saturday 1 December
Fareham Farmers’ Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–2pm

Sunday 2 December
Nature’s Christmas
A family event focusing on nature’s own Christmas delights. With an easy walk around the beautiful surroundings of Holly Hill
Meet on open space on Barnes Lane car park, Sarisbury Green
Time: 12noon–3pm
Tickets: £4.50 per person
Dress: Warm clothes for the weather and waterproof shoes. A notebook and pen may be useful

Thursday 6 December
Mayor’s Charity Tea Party
Speaker: Susan Healey – Charles Dickens
The Mayor’s Parlour (Fareham Borough Council Civic Offices)
Time: 2.30pm
Admission: £3 per person

Friday 14 December
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

Saturday 22 December
Fareham Farmers’ Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–2pm

Sunday 23 December
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm
January

Saturday 5 January
Fareham Farmers’ Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–2pm

Friday 11 January
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

Saturday 26 January
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

February

Saturday 2 February
Fareham Farmers’ Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–2pm

Thursday 7 February
Mayor’s Charity Tea Party
Speaker: David Luckett – Pulheim Twinning
The Mayor’s Parlour (Fareham Borough Council Civic Offices)
Time: 2.30pm
Admission: £3 per person

Friday 8 February
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

Friday 8 February
SNAP Dance Night
Ferneham Hall
Time: 7pm–10.30pm

Saturday 23 February
Hampshire Country Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–3pm

March

Saturday 2 March
Fareham Farmers’ Market
West St, Fareham
Time: 9am–2pm

Thursday 7 March
Mayor’s Charity Tea Party
Speaker: Hearing Dogs with puppy
The Mayor’s Parlour (Fareham Borough Council Civic Offices)
Time: 2.30pm Admission: £3 per person

Key

Parks events – Book in advance.
Tel: 01329 221342
Email: farehamtie@tourisme.com

Town Centre events – for further information please contact the Town Centre Manager, tel: 01329 824474

Fareham Farmers’ Market – Locally reared produce

Hampshire Country Market – Home baked goods for sale

SNAP Dance Night – SNAP alcohol and drug free dance nights for 11 to 16 year olds. Tickets: £6 (tickets must be booked in advance, please call Ferneham Hall box office 01329 231942)

Mayor’s Charity Tea Parties – For further details please contact the Mayor and Mayoress on 01329 285667

Website: www.fareham.gov.uk  •  Facebook: www.facebook.com/farehambc  •  Twitter: @FarehamBC
Do you know a local hero? Someone who helps others without asking for something in return? The annual Citizen of Honour Awards celebrates local people who make a difference to the lives of us living in Fareham.

If you know someone who deserves to be honoured, you can nominate them in one of the three age categories for the 2013 award:

- 4-11 award: Honours bravery, selfless acts, coping with difficulties or disabilities
- 12-18 award: Honours regular community or voluntary work and providing on-going care
- Over 18 award: Honours voluntary and community work

Our 2012 winners:

**Lewis Gamblin**
**Young Citizen of the Year (4-11 year olds)**
Lewis bravely raised the alarm when his mother suffered an epileptic seizure.
Lewis receiving his award from HRH The Princess Royal.

**Patrick Stewart**
**Young Citizen of the Year (12-19 year olds)**
Patrick gives a voice to the views of young people in the Borough through his work at the Youth Council and has been very supportive of his family since his brother suffered a serious accident.

**Suzanne Clifton**
**Citizen of the Year (18+ year olds)**
Suzanne is a founding member of Broadlaw Community Space and has been an active volunteer over the years.

**Jenny Robinson**
**Citizen of the Year (18+ year olds)**
For over 20 years Jenny has been helping blind and partially sighted people and is a major fundraiser for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.
Honour someone (4–11, 12–18, or 18+) who has given help to their local community. Nominate using the form below or online at www.fareham.gov.uk/citizenawards

Nomination Form

Nominee's name: __________________________________________
Nominee's address: ________________________________________
Nominee's tel no: _________________________________________
Nomination category: [ ] 4–11 years [ ] 12–18 years [ ] Over 18 years (Tick one box only)
Reason for nomination: ______________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Your name: ________________________________________________
Your address: ______________________________________________
Your email: ________________________________________________
Your tel no: ______________________________________________

Nominations should be with us by 31 January 2012. Please return completed forms to:
Citizens of Honour, Fareham Borough Council, FREEPOST, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7BR
NB. Only successful applicants will be contacted.
What a year 2012 has proven to be; with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, a whole range of cultural and sporting events, activities and taster sessions for people to enjoy.

The Diamond Jubilee and London 2012 Games will be remembered throughout the Borough, and Fareham certainly got involved – whether it was at a street party, a Diamond Jubilee ‘Have a Field Day’ community event, or watching the Olympic Torch Relay when it passed through Fareham on Sunday 15 July. The torch relay drew an estimated 20,000 people who came out to line the torch’s route – those special events will now live in the memories of all those who got involved – so a big thank you for joining us.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games have ended, but have succeeded in inspiring the nation. So it’s now an ideal time to get involved in a local sports club or activities – whether you’re participating, coaching or volunteering – there are a whole range of clubs and groups available in and around Fareham. If you or your family would like to find out more about a nearby club or facility then please visit www.sporthampshire.co.uk or for volunteering opportunities please contact Fareham Community Action www.farehamaction.org.uk

Prefer the great outdoors? Then why not visit one of Fareham’s four recently protected Queen Elizabeth II playing fields. These sites are now permanently protected playing fields as a lasting legacy to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The sites include Bath Lane Recreation Ground in Fareham, Wicor Recreation Ground in Porchester, Allotment Road Recreation Ground in Sarisbury and Seafield Park Recreation Ground in Hill Head.
An outstanding year

This year, Fareham had the honour of hosting the South and Southeast England awards presentation on 13 September at Ferneham Hall, in which almost 400 people from around the region gathered for a celebration of the year’s success.

Fareham received six gold awards, giving the community recognition for its outstanding work towards Fareham in Bloom, and the Bringing People and Parks Together campaign which aims to acknowledge the efforts made by the people who help to sustain the horticultural and environmental excellence.

The Borough received a remarkable 16 awards, and for the third consecutive year Fareham also received the Hampshire Life award. Award winners for individual park entries include Holly Hill Woodland Park, The Sensory Garden, Westbury Manor and the Civic Gardens.

Big congratulations go to Portchester Memorial Gardens who achieved Silver Gilt in the Commercial Landscape category, and Portchester Northern Community School who achieved Gold and overall Hampshire winner for their outstanding schools grounds and educational gardens.

It’s your neighbourhood

The campaign ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’, run by The Royal Horticultural Society recognises small community-led groups who care for their local green spaces. This year we were delighted to be able to support eight Borough entries, six of whom received a level 4 Thriving award.

Fareham in Bloom

More than 130 local awards were presented by the Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham, Councillor Dennis Steadman and Mrs Carol Steadman, during the annual Fareham in Bloom community gardening awards ceremony on 14 September. The evening was kindly sponsored by Luckett’s Travel, Fareham Shopping Centre, Portchester Memorial Gardens and St Margaret’s Nurseries.

Diverse planting

Our seasonal spring and summer floral displays provide stunning effects across parks and highways to help diversify our planting across the Borough. A great deal of planning and attention to detail goes into providing and maintaining the displays, and as such we are fortunate enough to receive great praise from residents.

Creating a wild flower meadow

This season ‘Going Wild’ was launched as part of Fareham in Bloom, with the aim of planting wild flower meadows in green spaces across the Borough.

The first of these meadows was planted in Bishopsfield Road, which burst into bloom at the end of July with a stunning blaze of colour and encouraging butterflies, moths and bees to flourish in the area.

Three further sites will be sown this year across Portchester, Titchfield and Fareham South, and we look forward to seeing them ‘Going Wild.’

For further information on In Bloom, Community Horticulture and Parks Events please contact: Matt Wakefield, Horticultural Development Officer, 01329 236100.
Unique tree sculptures have been created in the Borough to commemorate the loss of two important trees, after discovering decay in the trunks.

Urban area trees

Trees in urban areas sometimes have to be removed prematurely to protect people and property. Natural processes in trees such as disease and decay may increase the risk of failure in stems and large branches if left unchecked.

Two prominent trees were recently identified for removal because defects were found in the main trunk. These defects were caused by decay and old age. Rather than fell and remove the trees, council officers and ward councillors decided to leave a sufficient part of each trunk and commemorate both trees as public art. To do this, the Council commissioned Isle of Wight chainsaw artist Paul Sivell, to tackle both trees to produce two unique sculptures.
The trees

The magnificent mature Oak at Mancroft Avenue open space in Stubbington, is estimated to have stood on this site for at least 150 years. The majority of the crown and large branches were removed to leave the trunk and base of the main limbs as a stable structure – the twin trunks and contorted limbs provided an exciting opportunity for carving.

The second tree, a mature Corsican Pine situated on one of the islands in the main lake at Holly Hill Woodland Park, was a 25 metre giant which had dominated the skyline for decades. The loss of this particular specimen was a huge blow to the Council’s tree and countryside teams. The main trunk of this tree was long and straight allowing a striking 6 metre section to be retained.

The transformation to art

In preparation for the carving, local school children from Crofton Junior School and Sarisbury Infants School were invited to produce sketches with a wildlife theme. The children rose to the challenge and produced some fantastic designs that were interpreted and incorporated into the artist’s work.

During the carving work passers-by regularly stopped, fascinated by the work in progress. The result is two magnificent sculptures for local people to enjoy that provides a fitting tribute to two very important trees.

In addition to these sculptures, the Council has an annual planting programme of new and replacement trees. Both the oak and the pine have been replaced with new trees nearby.

Go along and visit the sculptures – you’ll be amazed at what can be done with a tree stump!
Fareham Borough Council and Gosport Borough Council are working as part of the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership to develop a coastal flood and erosion risk management strategy.

This strategy provides essential protection to over 4,300 properties. If there were no coastal defences in place, these properties would be at risk from an extreme tidal flood event (typically occurring once every two hundred years).

Approximately 80% of the strategy’s coastline is currently defended using a mix of hard defences, including groynes, promenades, sea walls and revetments. The protection offered by these existing defences is highly variable with some defences in poor condition and likely to fail before too long. In addition, the number of properties at risk will increase significantly over the next 100 years as sea levels rise.

The aim of the strategy

The strategy will identify options to manage flood and erosion risks over the next 100 years, and propose priority schemes to increase the protection of the most vulnerable areas in the short term, whilst ensuring that other important assets such as the environment are not compromised. It is important for the strategy to account for the amenity and economic value of the coastline and the key urban areas for commerce, recreation, tourism and fisheries, and to consider and involve all users of the shoreline.

The strategy’s coastline

The strategy protects the Gosport and Fareham coastline, which covers a 50km stretch of the Hampshire coastline from the mouth of River Hamble to Portchester. It is an environmentally sensitive area that hosts internationally important habitats, plants and wildlife.

There are numerous landfill sites and other potentially contaminated sites located along the coastline that are at risk of coastal flooding and erosion over the next 100 years – this could result in water pollution incidents.

Key urban areas within the strategy are also at risk of flooding and coastal erosion. These include Gosport Town Centre, Fareham (Lower Quay), Portchester, Alverstoke, Forton, Hill head, Lee on the Solent and Solent Breezes.

How can you get involved?

We want to hear your comments and thoughts on what interests you along the coastline in the strategy area and what issues you may have. Please visit our website to fill in a feedback form: www.escp.co.uk/strategy
Six GPs have been elected by colleagues across Fareham and Gosport to head the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group – as part of the biggest re-organisation in NHS history

The government wants to give GPs and other clinicians a far greater say in how NHS budgets are spent, because they are the people who best understand their patients’ needs.

Primary care trusts, which until now have held about 80% of the NHS budgets, are being abolished and replaced with clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group represents the 21 GP practices across the boroughs, and is set to replace NHS Hampshire – the county primary care trust – as the main planner and commissioner of health services from April 2013.

Dr Tan, who chairs the Clinical Commissioning Group Board, said: “Engaging with our patients will be central to everything we do.

“The frail and elderly agenda remains a huge challenge. A very big focus for us is dementia, concerns about mental health, and continuing that healthcare.

“But we hope to harness the enthusiasm and ideas of patients, the public and all our partners and clinicians to make very real improvements in people’s experience of health services, and in the positive impact these services have on lives.”

The CCG will be responsible for commissioning a range of health services from physiotherapy to mental health units and community clinics, to acute hospital services including Queen Alexandra Hospital, based in Cosham.

The work of most GPs will be unaffected, but some will play an active role in CCG business for a day or two each week, whilst continuing their duties as doctors. The CCG has made a number of improvements over the past few months including dermatology, heart, ear, nose and throat and gynaecology services.

The CCG also welcomes the Fareham Community Hospital as a great new facility for the area that will enable more patients to be seen locally.

Fareham practices are also at the centre of a successful project that has helped reduce needless trips to hospital by offering ‘near patient’ testing for patients suspected of having deep vein thrombosis or heart failure.

If you have any questions about the changes, or what they mean to you, please email Brenda.woon@nhs.net or visit www.farehamandgosportccg.nhs.uk/
Local Support Scheme for Council Tax

In a recent government announcement, it was stated that from April 2013, Council Tax Benefit will be replaced by a locally-run scheme called Council Tax Support.

So, how does this affect you?

Why is the Council Tax Benefit scheme being abolished?

The government is reforming the current Welfare System and as such, replacing Council Tax Benefit with Council Tax Support is one of the many changes that will be introduced over the next few years. The government has also introduced the Localism Act and much of this Act involves the government handing over control of budgets and decision making to local councils.

What the changes mean

Every district and borough council will have their own local Council Tax Support scheme, with its own eligibility criteria.

Fareham Borough Council currently spends around £5 million on Council Tax Benefit and this is currently paid for in full by central government funding. From April 2013, the amount of money councils receive to support residents who are unable to pay their Council Tax will be reduced by about 10%. Therefore, as well as having to create a local Council Tax Support scheme that is suitable for Fareham, we will also have to work within a reduced budget.

This shortage in funding means we may have to make some difficult decisions about who gets financial support and how much they will get. The government has set out that certain groups such as pensioners will be protected and should see no changes to their entitlement – however, it’s up to each council to decide on whether they will protect other groups and how to fund any extra protections.

The government wants councils to encourage people to find work, by making the system support them better when they move into work. So we have to decide on whether we need to change the current rules for claiming Council Tax Benefit in order to operate the new scheme at a lower cost. If a council decides to keep the current scheme and continues to assess people as it does now, then it may have to make cuts to other services in order to make up the 10% reduction in funding.

What considerations have been made?

The topics we have to consider are as follows:

• What sort of scheme is best for Fareham?
• Who should receive support and how much?
• How will residents apply for support?
• Does Fareham Borough Council want to join a common Hampshire scheme, develop our own and/or take elements from other schemes?
• What are the budgetary implications of any scheme that the Council wishes to adopt?
• Do councillors want to keep a discretionary fund to assist residents who have exceptional circumstances?
• What appeal process should there be?
• Are Fareham taxpayers prepared to fund any shortfall?

We went out to public consultation in October to seek the views and full involvement of the public in the design of the scheme. A decision, taking account of the consultation responses, will be made at a meeting of the Full Council (comprising all 31 elected councillors) in December 2012.

Timetable of events

• Draft scheme development: July–Sept 2012
• Changes to the draft scheme taking into account the results of the consultation and Equality Impact Assessment (EIA): November to December 2012
• Full Council meeting to adopt the draft scheme: January 2013
• Council Tax Bills issued: March 2013

We will continue to issue up-to-date information relating to Fareham’s Council Tax Support Scheme on our website www.fareham.gov.uk/benefits

If you have any queries about Council Tax Support, please email us at benefits@fareham.gov.uk

Have your say

Take a look at the suggested changes and find out how you can get involved at www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation or by phoning 01329 236100. The consultation will close at 5pm on Friday 20 November.
What happened at the last round of CAT meetings?

We had a good turnout with lively debates across the Borough as residents got to put their questions to the Executive Leader of the Council, Cllr Sean Woodward about their local communities.

Recent successful Community Fund bids

Stubbington Stroke Support Group received £429.98
The group was awarded funding to purchase a laptop and projector to use as a visual aid during group activities.

Solent Youth American Football Academy received £1,295
Portchester Pirates American Football Team has been awarded funding for the purchase of helmets, uniform and the design of a website.

Stars in the Sky Learning Disability Service received £2,502
The charity offers workshops to local children and adults with learning disabilities, and has received funding to help promote the workshops and purchase specialised equipment.

Abshott Community Centre received £1,100
Community funding contributed towards the purchase of a hearing loop for the community centre.

Lockswood indoor Petanque centre received £820
The centre has been awarded funding to pay for new petanque equipment and computer software.

Do you have an idea for a project that we could help with?

You can contact your local CAT chairman or officer to talk about the project. Please note, we can only support one-off capital costs e.g. purchase of equipment.

Do you have a topic for the agenda?

If you have any requests for an agenda item at a CAT meeting please contact your local CAT chairman or officer:

- Crofton – Cllr Arthur Mandry, Anna McCulloch
- Fareham Town – Cllr Dennis Steadman, Mark Dunning
- Portchester – Cllr Nick Walker, Richard Wright
- Titchfield – Cllr Tiffany Harper, Narinder Bains
- Western Wards – Cllr Michael Ford, Scott Mills

When are the next CAT meetings?

- Crofton – Wednesday 13 February 2013
  Holy Rood Church, Gosport Road, Stubbington, PO14 2AS
- Titchfield – Tuesday 26 February 2013
  The Malt Rooms, Titchfield Community Centre
- Fareham Town – Thursday 28 February 2013
  Ferneham Hall
- Portchester – Friday 8 March 2013
  Portchester Community Centre
- Western Wards – Wednesday 20 March 2013
  Locks Heath Free Church
Ferneham Hall presents

Anne Charleston will star as Fairy Godmother in this year’s magical Christmas Pantomime ‘Cinderella’ at Fareham’s Ferneham Hall.

Left at home by the ugliest of sisters, Cinders cannot go to the ball. However, with help from her magical Fairy Godmother and brilliant buffoonery from Buttons the most exciting night of her life is about to begin...

Jordan Productions, producers of the last three critically acclaimed and publicly popular pantos, are back for another year so you can expect a top quality Christmas extravaganza with a guaranteed mix of slapstick fun, magical effects, stunning costumes and a sensational live band.

Friday 14 December 2012–Sunday 6 January 2013
Box Office: 01329 231942  www.fernehamhall.co.uk
Details may be subject to change. For a full list of what’s on and how to book your seats, contact the box office on 01329 231942 or email boxoffice@fareham.gov.uk. Visit fernehamhall.co.uk or follow us on twitter @FernehamHall

## November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6 November 7.30pm</td>
<td>Joe Brown</td>
<td>£25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9 November 7.30pm</td>
<td>Cream of Clapton</td>
<td>£16.50 (FLC £15.50, Under 16s £14.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 10 November 2.30pm &amp; 7.30pm</td>
<td>Chris Packham</td>
<td>£15 (FLC £14, Under 16s £10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 11 November 10.30am</td>
<td>Antique and Collectors Fair</td>
<td>Admission £1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 17 November 3pm</td>
<td>Everyone Active School of Dance - Musical Madness</td>
<td>Price TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 18 November 4.30pm</td>
<td>Bekims Stage Skool - Stars of Tomorrow</td>
<td>£12 (Under 15/Over 60 £9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20 November 7.30pm</td>
<td>Circus of Horrors</td>
<td>Price TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 22 November 7.30pm</td>
<td>The Stylists</td>
<td>£22.50 (FLC £21.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23 November 7pm</td>
<td>SNAP Dance Night</td>
<td>£6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 24 - Sun 25 November 7.30pm</td>
<td>KK School of Dance - Feel the Rhythm Revitalised</td>
<td>£11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 30 November 7.30pm</td>
<td>Silver Beatles</td>
<td>£17 (Under 16/Over 60 £12, Family of 4 £45)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 1 December 5.30pm</td>
<td>Bodyrox presents Sing a long Christmas</td>
<td>£15 (Under 16 £11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 2 December 2.30pm</td>
<td>Band of HM Royal Marines</td>
<td>£16, £15 &amp; £14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 9 &amp; Sun 16 December 7.30pm</td>
<td>Murder Mystery</td>
<td>Price TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14 December to Sun 6 January</td>
<td>Cinderella</td>
<td>Prices vary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 15 &amp; Thu 20 December 7.30pm</td>
<td>Christmas Party Nights</td>
<td>Price TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18 January 7pm</td>
<td>School Prom Concert</td>
<td>£7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23 January 7.30pm</td>
<td>Real Diamond</td>
<td>£18.50 (FLC £17.50, Under 16 £16.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 27 January 3pm</td>
<td>Ker Mel School of Dancing - Showtime</td>
<td>£10 (Under 16/Over 60 £9)</td>
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## February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 2 February 2.30pm</td>
<td>Sid</td>
<td>£11 (Family of 4 £40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7 February 7.30pm</td>
<td>That'll Be The Day</td>
<td>Price TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8 February 7pm</td>
<td>SNAP Dance Night</td>
<td>£6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9 February 7.30pm</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td>£20, £17.50, £14, £8 (Students Under 19 £1, Students over 19 half price)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 10 February from 10.30am</td>
<td>Antique and Collectors Fair</td>
<td>Admission £1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14 February TBC</td>
<td>Valentine's Day Event TBC</td>
<td>Price TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18 - Thu 21 February 7.45pm</td>
<td>Interalia Theatre - Blackadder</td>
<td>£10 (Under 16/Over 60 £8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 21 to Sat 23 February 7.30pm</td>
<td>Stage One Youth Theatre - Oklahoma</td>
<td>£10.50 (Under 16/Over 60 £9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 February 7.30pm</td>
<td>Moscow Ballet La Classique - Coppelia</td>
<td>£21 &amp; £22 (Under 16 £19 &amp; £20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1 March 7pm</td>
<td>SNAP Dance Night</td>
<td>£6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4 March 7.30pm</td>
<td>Irish House Party</td>
<td>£19.50 (Groups - buy 10 get 11th free)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8 March 7.30pm</td>
<td>Chas and Dave</td>
<td>Price TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Your Councillors

Key to groups:
- Conservative
- Liberal Democrat
- Independent

Fareham Council email: @ is followed by fareham.gov.uk

Fareham North

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cllrbryant@

Pamela Bryant
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pdavies@

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bbayford@

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Seán Woodward
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## Civic Offices

**Address:**
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## Warsash Ward

**Councillors:**
- **Michael Ford**
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  - mford@

- **Trevor Cartwright**
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  - tcartwright@

---

## Titchfield Common Ward

**Councillors:**
- **Sarah Pankhurst**
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  - [01489 887362](tel:01489%20887362)
  - spankhurst@

- **Jack Englefield**
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  - [01489 583284](tel:01489%20583284)
  - jenglefield@

---

## Titchfield Ward

**Councillors:**
- **Tiffany Harper**
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  - [01329 844074](tel:01329%20844074)
  - tharpere@

- **Connie Hockley**
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  - chockley@

---

## Hill Head Ward

**Councillors:**
- **Tim Knight**
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  - tknight@

- **Arthur Mandy**
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---

## Stubbington Ward

**Councillors:**
- **Kay Mandy**
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- **Jim Forrest**
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---

## Portchester West Ward

**Councillors:**
- **Nick Walker**
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- **Susan Bell**
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  - sbell@

---

## Portchester East Ward

**Councillors:**
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  - dnorris@

- **Roger Price**
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  - rprice@

- **Geoff Fazzackerley**
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  - gfazzackerley@

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## County Council email: @ is followed by hants.gov.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fareham Town</th>
<th>Fareham Town</th>
<th>Warsash</th>
<th>Titchfield</th>
<th>Sarisbury</th>
<th>Crofton</th>
<th>Portchester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **John Bryant**
  - 14 Highlands Rd, Fareham, PO16 7XL
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  - geoff.hockley@
| **Seán Woodward**
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  - sean.woodward@
| **Tim Knight**
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  - tim.knight@
| **Roger Price**
  - 49 Sissinghurst Rd, Portchester, PO16 9YB
  - [01329 280446](tel:01329%20280446)
  - rprice@

---

## MPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fareham</th>
<th>Gosport plus Hill Head and Stubbington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mark Hoban MP**
  - House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
  - [020 7219 3000](tel:020%207219%203000)
  - mail@markhoban.com | **Caroline Dinenage MP**
  - House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
  - [020 7219 3000](tel:020%207219%203000)
  - caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk |

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