Foreword

Many of you will be feeling the ill-effects of the recession. It seems to have occupied the media headlines for months now and for many of us the realities are all too apparent in our everyday lives.

Fareham Borough Council is not immune to the financial issues that prevail and I want to assure you that we have been working hard to tighten our belts too. Much work has been done and will continue to be done to ensure that the investments we have continue to remain as safe as possible.

In addition, a team of officers has been tasked with reviewing services and making improvements that will create both cost and time efficiencies. The team has already looked at Ferneham Hall and as a result of broadening the show programme, restructuring fees, and stopping some of the less popular events, Ferneham Hall’s financial performance has improved by £135,000 per annum.

We are looking at the way we purchase goods and services and have joined forces with other Councils in some areas such as vehicle replacements to achieve better value. Alongside cost control we are always seeking ways of generating income wherever feasible from things such as advertising and sponsorship.

We are also seeking to ensure that any efficiencies we make are translated into real savings. The Government expects us to make efficiencies equivalent to 9% of our budget and we are confident that we are already well ahead of the game.

We have a track record of delivering efficiencies; over £2m of efficiency savings were delivered between 2005 and 2008 without cutting services and this allowed us to keep the Fareham portion of the council tax at one of the lowest in England.

While nothing in the current economic climate is assured, you may remain in no doubt that we will continue to keep your Council Tax as low as possible, will continue to make savings, and constantly search for new income streams. We strive to deliver the best possible services at the lowest possible cost for the residents of the Borough of Fareham.

Sean Woodward
E29 million environmental improvement scheme is now up and running to help better protect sensitive waters in the south of England. The scheme at Peel Common Waste Water Treatment Works, which serves approximately 250,000 people in Fareham, Titchfield, Hamble and Gosport, is one of the six Southern Water sites being upgraded across Hampshire and West Sussex, ensuring that the water released back into the environment meets the most stringent standards in the country.

The Environment Agency has identified the Solent as one of the areas where nutrients in the water are too high. The nutrients increase plant growth into algal bloom, which reduces the amount of oxygen in the water causing creatures, such as fish, to die. By reducing the levels of nutrients in the water, the water quality in the area will be significantly improved.

Keeping the Peel Common ‘Pong’ at bay
Using a combination of natural elements like bark, woodchips, seaweed and seashells to line the water filled tanks, has proved to be a successful natural odour filter. Feasting bugs live on seaweed and wood in the tanks which treat the gas, hydrogen sulphide, that causes the smells. The gas is sucked away by fans before going through carbon filters back into the atmosphere.

The nutrient removal process
As part of the improvement plans, Southern Water has upgraded existing waste water treatment works (WWTWs) so that they can treat up to 4,604 litres per second. The nutrient removal process requires the sewage to stay in the tank for about 7½ hours. This gives time for the bacteria to have contact with nutrients in the waste water, helping increase the amount of nitrogen removed.

Smell Sensors
The Peel Common Works is fitted with solar powered monitors on the four corners of the site to help determine the levels of odour on the site. These monitors check and record the levels of hydrogen sulphide so if a complaint is made, records can be referred back to and if necessary, further action can be taken to implement more odour reduction schemes.

For more information on CATs or how to apply for funding please visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/cats or email: cats@fareham.gov.uk

Community Action Teams

CATs are evolving
Almost two years after we introduced the pilot Community Action Team meetings (CATs) across the Borough and after talking to residents, we’re making a few changes to make CATs work even better for you.

The principle of CATs will remain the same – they were established to give you the chance to have your say about local matters that concern you; to hear about new local issues; and to hear from our partners such as the police – but we want to improve the meetings to suit you.

How are CATs evolving?
• From June the original five CAT areas across the Borough will be increased to six, by splitting Fareham Town into two new areas to be known as Fareham North-East and Fareham South-West. The other areas will remain the same; Portchester, Crofton, Titchfield, and the Western Wards.
• Three meetings per area per year will be held, instead of the original four which was considered to be too frequent.
• The Executive Leader of the Council will attend one CAT meeting in each area per year to answer your questions.
• Meetings will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and will continue to be held at a range of venues across the CAT area.

Can I still apply for CAT funding?
The two funding streams, the Neighbourhood Initiatives Fund and the Clean and Tidy Neighbourhood Fund will both remain. These funds will be available for projects that you feel will benefit your community.

Dates for your diary
Summer 2009 CAT meetings
Fareham South-East
Wednesday 10 June
Fareham Methodist Church
Crofton
Tuesday 16 June
Holy Rood Church
Fareham North-West
Thursday 18 June
Oak Meadow Children’s Centre
Western Wards
Wednesday 15 July
Burridge Village Hall
Titchfield
Thursday 16 July
Titchfield Community Centre
Portchester
Wednesday 22 July
Portchester Community School
Stop smoking for good!
Quit4Life the NHS Stop Smoking Service offers free help and support and this is proven to be four times more successful than going it alone. Local weekly sessions are run by health professionals who are specially trained to help smokers who want to stop.

The sessions offer advice on nicotine products and help to get this medication on prescription. You’ll also be able to share experiences and tips with others stopping at the same time. You won’t be left to manage on your own once the session ends as the service has advisers who can be contacted by phone at convenient times.

To find out more about Quit 4 Life sessions in Fareham contact, tel: 0845 602 4663, text: QUIT to 60123 or visit: www.quit4life.nhs.uk. Smokers can also get help and support from their family GP and many local pharmacies now offer stop smoking support and advice.

Exercise Referral Scheme
The Exercise Referral Scheme was initially launched as a pilot scheme in January 2008 and has received over 250 referrals with 83% of patients reporting on improved confidence and 75% reporting on having more energy.

The scheme is open to Fareham residents only who already have a pre-existing or health risk condition and can benefit from exercise or those at risk through a non-active lifestyle. Residents with the following conditions are eligible to be referred: High Blood Pressure, Type 2 Diabetes, Obesity, Asthma, Depression, Anxiety, Stress, Osteoarthritis, or COPD. Patients are encouraged to discuss being referred to the scheme with their GP as criteria conditions do apply and referrals are only accepted from referring GPs.

For general information about the scheme, please contact the Exercise Referral Team at Fareham Leisure Centre, tel: 01329 233652 or email: fareham-er@slm-ltd.co.uk

Older People’s Directory
This spring, we’re launching an Older People’s Directory ‘Wonders of Wellness’ guide. This provides information and offers support to older residents to promote and help them to live independently.

The guide is made up of 5 sections including Health & Well-being, Getting Out & About, Housing & Benefits, Getting Active & Involved and Who Can Help?

Pick up your copy from Fareham’s Citizen Advice Bureau, Age Concern Fareham, Shopmobility or at your local GP’s surgery. Alternatively, if you’d like a guide sent to you or if you just require more information, please contact the Community Development Officer, tel: 01329 236100 ext 2463.

Walking to Health
Fareham’s Walking to Health Scheme is approaching its 5th anniversary and to date 431 walks have taken place with over 7,768 residents attending them. The scheme has in total 30 different walk routes across the Borough, ranging in ability and length, all lead by our fully trained volunteer walk leaders. New 30 minute walks have recently been introduced on the last Friday of every month from the Leisure Centre at 10.30am.

If you’d like to join our mailing list to receive an information pack and regular updates about the latest walk groups please contact, tel: 01329 236100 ext 2392 or email: communityinfo@fareham.gov.uk

Chairobics
Seven enthusiastic Seated Exercise instructors have now been trained and are providing seated exercise to music ‘Chairobics’ sessions in various venues across the Borough.

The sessions include movement to music that aims to improve your mobility, strength and flexibility, whilst providing a fun, enjoyable and sociable way to increase your physical activity levels.

If you’d like to know more about the sessions and where they’re being held, please contact the Community Development Officer, tel: 01329 236100 for more information.

Countdown...
looking ahead to the opening of the new Queen Alexandra Hospital
www.porthosp.nhs.uk

Look out for our supplement in the summer edition of Fareham Today

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk Website www.fareham.gov.uk
Urban Regeneration

Redevelopment of Broadlaw Walk Area

We’ve been working with Portsmouth Housing Association and the local community of Broadlaw Walk to develop the regeneration of the area.

Designed and built in the 1960s, Broadlaw Walk in Bishopsfield Road, provided the local community of Fareham South with a mixture of retail, office and residential units. However, in recent years there’s been a drop in the number of residents using the facilities resulting in many flats, offices and shops being boarded up.

Thanks to nearly 200 residents giving their views on the future of Broadlaw Walk, the design and planning of the project is now taking shape. The development now has full planning consent and is set to provide 6 new retail units and a community facility, with 56 two bedroom flats on the floors above. The 6 retail units will include a McColls which will continue to provide a Post Office and a community facility, with 56 two bedroom flats on the floors above.

Although works are underway for the development of Broadlaw Walk, PHA will be speaking to the community again before completing the final part of the project. The Homes & Communities Agency has agreed funding of £3,780,000 for the first phase of the development.

For further information regarding the regeneration of Broadlaw Walk, contact Malcolm Stevens, tel: 01329 824473

Extended Services

How the service works across our community

The idea of extended services came from the Government’s commitment to reduce child poverty and champion the ‘Every Child Matters’ (ECM) agenda. It aims to unlock the potential of every child and young person, provide support to ensure success in their adult lives and make our communities a safe and happy place for our children to grow up in. By 2010 all primary, secondary and special schools are expected to offer a full range of extended services. But what does extended services offer?

Extended services offers a variety of activities depending on what local people ask for. Some of the services on offer include:

- Affordable Ofsted-registered childcare - from 8am to 6pm, 48 weeks a year.
- Breakfast clubs – a healthy meal to start the day, ready to learn.
- After-school clubs – such as homework clubs which offer a quiet place to work, where pupils get the support they need.
- Holiday clubs – run by local organisations, where children can try new activities, stay safe and active.
- A rich menu of activities for children up to the age of 14 (or up to 16 if they have special educational needs) such as sports, computers, music, art, model making and cookery clubs

And for adults:

- Family learning where children can learn alongside their parents, grandparents or guardians
- Information sessions for parents and carers when children move onto primary or secondary schools.
- Confidential parenting and family support for anyone who wants it. This includes parenting courses to give parents that extra ‘toolkit’ in preparation for dealing with any problems that may arise.
- Facilities for community use such as sports halls, computer or adult courses in English, Yoga or holiday French.

How does it work?

Working alongside local authorities and other statutory and voluntary organisations; schools have consulted with pupils, parents, and the local community to find out what activities they want established. Between them they can provide what local people really want. As Fareham has a rich offering of facilities, schools are asked to share the facilities they have with the community - so if it can’t be offered on the school site, it can usually be sourced nearby.

How much does it cost to parents?

Some services and activities are free - such as education outside school hours (eg homework clubs). However, parents may be asked to pay for other activities such as childcare during school term and some activities such as music clubs and museum trips. Schools will always try to keep costs as low as possible and charges will vary depending on the activity.

If your family is on a low income you may be able to get some extra help with paying for childcare, such as the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit. Call the Tax Credits Helpline, tel: 0845 300 3900 or visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits

Who wins?

Although extended services is in its early stages, research shows that these services can help benefit children in many ways. They can improve a child’s concentration and behaviour, group activities can help with self-confidence and develop relationships and sports can help with health.

Getting involved

You can influence what happens at your child’s school. By telling them what services you’d like to see, you can really make a difference to what’s available for you, your children and your community.

Go along, take a look and have your say!

If you’d like more details about extended services in Fareham, please feel free to speak to Susie Higgs (Extended Services Coordinator), tel: 01329 223155 (24hr answer phone available) 07814 307012, or email: shiggs@farehamaction.org.uk

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customservices@fareham.gov.uk Website www.fareham.gov.uk
Business News

Boost your business

We hope that your business will continue to thrive in these challenging times, providing a stable base of employment and income. However, many new and existing companies in Fareham could benefit by recognising the role that business support can play in helping them through the difficult months ahead. There are currently over 3000 schemes available across England, offering a range of choices for local businesses.

Choosing the support you need

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is implementing the Business Support Simplification Programme. The programme aims to eliminate duplication to ensure businesses have an easy way to access the support they require under the new ‘Solutions for Business’ programme. The programme covers areas such as advice on business start-up; developing business skills; business coaching; design; exporting; grants for investment; innovation services; finance for business; research and development; and resource efficiency and the environment.

This will be available through Business Link and funded centrally by Government to provide free services to local businesses. In development; and resource efficiency and the environment.

Business Link helps local businesses set their goals and priorities, improve their performance, realise potential, maximise profits through efficiencies and facilitate growth while minimising risks. This practical advice is available to all businesses regardless of industry sector or size. Remember, businesses that use professional business support are more likely to succeed in today’s climate.

Solutions for Business

The Solutions for Business programme was launched in October 2008 and all products will be available by March 2009.

For more information please contact Business Link, tel: 0845 600 9006, email: info@businesslinksotheast.gov.uk or visit: www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast

Business Link

Business Link is a national service, managed regionally, and delivered locally.

Have you got yours yet?

Fareham Leisure Card offers discounts of between 5% and 50% on a whole range of leisure activities; now from 42 outlets in and around Fareham. You can use your Fareham Leisure Card at:

Ambush Paintball and Laser Tag
Ammesia, the Hair Fitness Centre
Andark Diving & Water Sports
Bathroom World Fareham Ltd - NEW
Berbridge House Bed & Breakfast
Blue Reef Aquarium
Body Fusion - NEW
Cameron Flights Southern Ltd
Clever Cats (mime, music and movement)
Crofton School of Shotokan Karate - NEW
Cuts and Clobber - NEW
Direct Electrical
Earnley Butterflies and Gardens
Fareham Leisure Centre
Farmer Palmer’s Farm Park
Fernhem Hall
Go Bowling
Gosport Horse-Drawn Carriages
Gosport Ice Rink
Hangroves Cycles - NEW
Interior Home Touches - NEW
Kitesurf UK
Liquid Logistics and Earth Events Ltd - NEW
Luckett’s Travel
Manor Farm Country Park - NEW
Mean Valley Cycle Hire
Mid Hants Railway Watercress Line
Naze Indian Cuisine
Passionflower Florists - NEW
Portsmouth Greyhound Stadium
Razzamatazz
Royal Victoria Country Park - NEW
Royal Victoria Railway - NEW
Solent Nurseries
Sports & Remedial Massage
St Margaret’s Nurseries
TGF Activities Ltd
Team Sport Indoor Karting
The Oakleaf Brewing Company Ltd
The Royal Navy Submarine Museum
Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve - NEW
Wickham Vineyard

The card costs just £5.50 per person (*£5.75) £13 for a family membership (*£13.65) £3.80 for a student card (*£4) or FREE to eligible residents on a low income and is renewable annually. (Please see the terms and conditions on the back of the application form.

*Prices from 1 April)

Joining the Fareham Leisure Card scheme couldn’t be easier, simply pick up a leaflet and application form from either Fareham Leisure Centre or Ferneham Hall.

Fareham Tourist Information Centre

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Fareham Tourist Information Centre is holding two competitions open to the public; an Adult Photographic Competition to find photos to use in a 2010 Fareham Calendar (entries for the photographic competition should be received by the end of March 2009); and a competition for children to design a Tourism Brochure for Fareham (entries for Tourism Brochure should be received by end of April 2009).

A special celebration weekend has been arranged for Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May, when the entries for both competitions will be on display and the winners announced, together with a number of ‘yet to be announced’ attractions.

Fareham TIC, which opened in 1984, was originally based in Ferneham Hall for 8 years before moving to Westbury Manor Museum in 1992. The centre offers visitors, residents and people relocating here a wide range of information about the area; the opportunity to book theatre trips; coach holidays; excursions; accommodation; and tickets for local events; as well as selling gifts, books, maps and guides.

If you’d like to contact Fareham Tourist Information Centre, tel: 01329 236100 email:utherland@tourismse.com

Customer Service Centre tel: 01329 236100 email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk Website www.fareham.gov.uk
Summer will be ‘luscious in lemon’

Fourteen years of Fareham in Bloom continues to provide a diverse range of community engaging activities, with many people helping us to improve the environment for those who live, work, travel through and visit the Borough.

Last year saw the Borough receiving its fifth consecutive category win with another Gold medal for the south and southeast of England. Such an accomplishment can only be achieved through hard work, whether it be from the people who give up their time to help us run our events programme or the ‘in Bloom’ team who volunteer year round to coordinate all the activities and the community gardening competition.

Autumn saw the launch of the Luscious in Lemon theme with thousands of bulbs given to brighten local communities across the Borough with yellow leaved trees given as part of the tree adoption scheme. To continue this, the summer season will see the Borough’s colour schemes for the troughs, baskets and bedding displays bubbling with shades of yellow, lemon and gold which should be stunning!

Do you have a real stunner?

Do you have a garden that really stands out from the rest? We would love to see it. Each year we see an amazing selection of gardening, courtyards and floral displays as an increasing number of residents enter the annual competition.

All entries are judged during the first two weeks of July on individual merit with awards of Bronze, Silver, Silver Gilt and Gold. These will be awarded at a gala presentation evening to be held at Fareham Hall in September.

To enter, simply complete the application form (left) and return it to: Fareham Borough Council, Parks & Open Spaces, FREEPOST, Fareham PO15 7TB or fill in an online form at www.fareham.gov.uk at a gala presentation evening to be held at Fareham Hall in September. To book an event please contact: Fareham Tourist Information Centre, West Street, Fareham. Tel: 01329 221342, 9.30am - 5pm

Events programme 2009

Your ‘cut out and keep’ events calendar of the year’s parks and countryside events around the Borough.

To book an event please contact: Fareham Tourist Information Centre, West Street, Fareham. Tel: 01329 221342, 9.30am - 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am - 4pm Saturdays. The guide can also be viewed at www.fareham.gov.uk/parks

Sat 4 Apr - Cowboys and Indians come to Holly Hill - The annual Easter extravaganza through the beautiful woodlands of Holly Hill.
Location: Meet at the Holly Hill Woodland Park main car park, off Barnes Lane, Fareham Green.
Time: Start 12noon - last entry at 3pm.
Tickets: £5 per child. Numbers limited to 300. This event is always a sell out so book now!
Dress: dependent on weather but waterproof shoes recommended. Fancy dress is optional.

Sat 25 Apr - Front Gardens Made Simple - Creative front garden makeovers.
Location: United Reform Church, Osborn Road South, Fareham. Next to Sensory Garden.
Time: Start 11am. Duration approx 3hrs.
Tickets: £4 - limited to 40 places.

Sun 19 Jul - Gardens Open Day
Visit seven Fareham in Bloom gardens.
Time: 11am - 6pm.
Tickets: One £3.50 ticket for all gardens.

Sat 3 Oct - Hail the Conqueror! It’s our annual tournament of Conker bashing.
Location: Meet at the Holly Hill Woodland Park main car park, off Barnes Lane, Fareham Green.
Time: 2pm start. This event is organised by the Friends of Holly Hill. To book, tel: 01329 310290.
Tickets: £1 for enrolment payable on the day. Refreshments will be available on the day.

SCHOOL’S OUT
Wild about Wednesdays Activities for the long school holidays.

Time: 1pm - 4pm. Tickets: £5 each.
Wed 29 Jul - Creature Comforts An afternoon of ‘back garden wildlife’.
Location: Sensory Garden, Osborn Road, Fareham.

Wed 12 Aug - If You Go Down to the Woods Today - Discover the wilds of this beautiful woodland.
Location: Meet at the Holly Hill Woodland Park main car park, off Barnes Lane, Fareham Green.

Wed 19 Aug - The Tide is High! A day at the beach looking at life beneath the ocean waves.
Location: Meet at Salterns Park main car park, off Salterns Road, Hill Head.

SAT 31 Oct - Happy Halloween!
The annual makeover to get your kids dressed and ready for the big night.
Location: Northern Junior Community School, Richmond Rise, Portchester.
Time: 12noon - 3.30pm.
Tickets: £5 per child. Numbers limited to 150, so book early. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Dress: Fancy dress optional. Age guide 5-12 but older will be allowed.

Step outside

Our ever popular events, organised in partnership with the Fareham in Bloom volunteers, are set to bring another year of fabulous occasions in Fareham’s parks and countryside sites encouraging people into the great outdoors.

The new parks’ events guide aimed at developing an awareness of the Borough’s parks, woodlands and countryside is now available from the Fareham Tourist Information Centre, Fareham Shopping Centre, community centres, libraries, the Civic Offices and at www.fareham.gov.uk
Making a complaint

Complaining about Council Services

Whilst we aim to provide you with high quality services at all times, we recognise that sometimes our services may not have been of the standard you expected. Here’s a guide on what to do if you’d like to make a complaint.

In the first instance please contact the person you’ve been dealing with to explain the problem or if you don’t have the name of someone at the Council please contact our Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100; email: customerservices@fareham.gov.uk or write to Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7AZ.

If your complaint is not resolved, the Council will follow its corporate complaints procedure which will involve consideration by a senior manager, and if necessary, an independent investigation by a manager from another service area. A copy of the full procedure is available on our website: www.fareham.gov.uk together with a complaint form you may wish to complete. (These documents are also available from the Customer Service Centre).

Where there is a formal right of appeal, for example if your application for planning permission is refused, you will be expected to submit a ‘formal appeal’ rather than using the complaints procedure.

Complaining about a Councillor

When they’re elected, Councillors agree to abide by a code of conduct. A copy of this is available on the Council’s website or on request from the democratic services team, tel: 01329 236100 or email: democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk

If you wish to complain that a Councillor has failed to comply with the code of conduct, your complaint will be referred to the Standards Committee of the Council. You’ll need to provide certain information to allow your complaint to be properly considered. The Standards Committee has approved a form for this purpose which is available at www.fareham.gov.uk. Alternatively, please contact the democratic services team.

Concessionary travel

The National Bus Pass

The English National Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme was introduced last year and has been very popular throughout England. The popularity in Fareham has meant that we expect to reimburse bus operators for 1.3m journeys during 2008/09 at a cost to the Council of £1.5m.

We have seen a massive growth in the number of applications for bus passes rising from 7,500 in 2006 to 19,300 today. Fareham currently offers the choice of two different types of travel concession to eligible residents.

Either:

A National Bus Pass

- Offered to residents who are aged 60 or over (blue pass); or aged 5 or over with qualifying disabilities (yellow pass).
- Free off-peak local bus travel on local buses anywhere in England. Free off peak travel is from 9.30am until 11pm Monday to Friday and all day weekends and bank holidays.
- There is no fee for the initial bus pass, however from 1 April 2009; there will be a charge of £10 to replace lost bus passes.

Or, Fareham travel tokens

Fareham will be implementing a new token scheme, replacing the National Travel Tokens. From 1 April this year a new type of travel token will be issued for use in Fareham registered taxis and Dial-a-Ride only.

- Tokens are offered to residents who are aged 16 years or over, with qualifying disabilities and unable to use a bus.
- Token holders will be provided with a photo identification card to be used with the tokens.
- Existing token holders will receive information regarding the new scheme and how it affects them before their renewal date.
- From 1 April, there will be no charge for the concession, which will be renewed annually on 31 March.

For more detailed information and application forms please visit: www.fareham.gov.uk A to Z, ‘Concessionary Travel’; email: travelconcessions@fareham.gov.uk or tel: 01329 236100.

* From 1 April 09, Fareham pass holders will no longer be able to travel free from 9am until 9.29am and from 11pm until 12.59am, Monday to Friday.
A day in the life...

of the Mayor’s Personal Assistant

By Kimberley McCarthy

As the Mayor’s Personal Assistant, my job is unique because every May I get a new boss; when Councillors elect the Borough’s new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. As the Queen’s representative in the Borough, the Mayor attends over 400 engagements during his/her time in office, in addition to the numerous civic events that I organise including the Civic Service, Mayor Making (see page 22 "Did you know that...?" feature) and Remembrance Sunday.

8.45am I log onto my PC to check my emails and I also check telephone messages from the previous evening. I get quite a few online enquiries for the Mayor’s attendance at all sorts of events, from Rotary dinners to school speech days. I respond to one from an organisation asking if the Mayor can attend a lunch and send them a form to be filled in which asks various questions from “what time would you like the Mayor to arrive” to “does the Mayor need to make a speech”.

9.30am I have my first coffee of the day; sometimes (if I’m lucky) made by one of the Mayor’s attendants, if they’re in the office at that particular time. The Mayor has two chauffeur/attendants who job share and look after him and all aspects of the Mayor’s parlour and surrounding area. My desk faces pictures of the 34 past Mayors of Fareham and they all watch over me whilst I work on the menus, place cards and table plan for the dinner party being held in the parlour tonight.

I talk to the Mayor’s attendants about the requirements for this week and any shopping that may need to be done.

2pm I start on the list of engagements produced each week, which includes the details of all the engagements the Mayor and Mayoress will be attending, giving dates, times and other information such as what to wear. When completed, I send it to one of my colleagues to check, then take copies of all the information for the Mayor’s attendants and send copies to the local media.

10.30am the Mayor (Cllr Ernest Crouch pictured above) arrives and we have a cup of tea, before I open and deal with any post that’s come in. There are various invitations to be looked at, the diary checked and letters sent to accept or regretfully decline each engagement. If the Mayor’s unable to attend a function, then I ask the Deputy Mayor to attend instead.

The Mayor and I work on some thank you letters for several functions attended within the last couple of days and finish by deciding on the table plan for the dinner party.

1.15pm lunch

3.30pm I have some invitations to send out for guests to come to the parlour for some more dinner parties, so I produce them and then give the flowers in the parlour a quick tidy up.

At the end of the day, I make sure the parlour is locked up securely and go home.

There’s a variety of free events happening over the next few months in Fareham Town Centre. Whether you’re into getting fit, a lover of good food, mad about music, gardening or vintage transport, there will be something to inspire and delight you.

**Dates for your diary**

**Saturday 7 March, 4 April, 2 May**

Fareham Farmers Markets

Up to 40 stalls selling the best of locally grown produce

**Saturday 28 March, 25 April, 30 May**

Fareham Country Markets

Freshly baked cakes, homemade jams, plants and more

**Saturday 21 March**

Come to Fareham town centre between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 21 March to find out more about how to improve your lifestyle. Health and fitness experts will be on hand to discuss:

- free health checks
- free fat analysis
- Demonstration of LA Fitness equipment
- Advice on how to give up smoking
- Free lung age testing
- Advice on Boots Pharmacy Weight Loss Programme
- Vitamins and dietary supplements advice
- Free skincare advice

Boots in Fareham Shopping Centre is offering free weigh-ins during the fortnight plus some trial vitamins. Saturday 7 to Saturday 21 March

**Saturday 9 May and Saturday 13 June**

Gardeners’ Fairs

Due to popular demand, 2009 sees the return of this favourite event where you can buy from local nurseries, chat to the growers and learn about how to join a local horticultural society. Plus, Fareham Division Guides will be on hand to help you carry your plants to the car.

**Saturday 20 June**

Rock ‘n’ Roll Reunion II

If you missed the first Rock n Roll event last year, here’s another chance to admire classic and vintage motorbikes from a range of local owners’ clubs.

**April is Music Month**

There’ll be music in West Street from 12noon to 2pm every Monday and Saturday throughout April (includes Easter Monday).
We want to hear from you

Your chance to win £100

Fareham Today is delivered right to your door four times a year to keep you informed about Council services. We feel it’s important to review the magazine regularly to make sure the format and content are up-to-date with the readers’ needs. Please tell us what you like and what you want to see more of, and in return, we’ll enter you into a prize draw to win £100.

Name ___________________________ email/phone number ___________________________
(this will only be used to contact you regarding the prize draw)

Postcode ___________________________

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<tr>
<td>Do you read every issue of Fareham Today?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much of Fareham Today do you read?</td>
<td>All of it</td>
<td>Some of it</td>
<td>Most of it</td>
<td>Hardly any of it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fareham Today is published four times a year. Do you think this is:

Too often
Not often enough
About right

What features do you most like to read?

Parks & Open Spaces
Community Safety
Town Centre events
Ferneham Hall listings
Local Development Framework
Recycling
Community Action Teams
Did you know that?
A day in the life
Health

Is there anything else you would like to see included in the magazine?

Are you aware that there is an on-line version of the magazine? (www.fareham.gov.uk/farehamtoday)

Yes | No

Do you think Fareham Today should include advertising?

Yes | No

What is your main way of finding out about Council services?

Fareham Today | Local radio | Website | Local newspapers | Leaflets | Other |

If other, please specify ___________________________

Do you have any other comments to make about Fareham Today magazine?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

* The personal information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and used only for the purposes of administering the prize draw. To be entered into the prize draw for the chance to win £100, you must be over 18 years of age, supply your name, postcode and either a phone number or email address that we can contact you on. One entry will be drawn at random on Tuesday 14 April 2009 and the winner will be notified.

Please send your completed survey by 9 April 2009 to: The Editor, Fareham Today, Communications, Fareham Borough Council, FREEPOST, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham PO16 7BR.
If you’d like to complete the online survey, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation

If you’d like to take part in regular consultation about a wide range of topics, you can register online to be part of the network/Fareham ‘e-panel’. For more information, visit: www.fareham.gov.uk/consultation

Community Volunteering

Volunteering: A rewarding way to spend your time

Volunteering takes many forms; from running a club for young people to conservation work or visiting an older person to driving a mini-bus. Whether you share your skills with others or learn new ones, as a volunteer, you provide vital support for other members of your community. In many cases volunteers help smaller organisations stay afloat.

Not only that, becoming a volunteer and committing to share some of your time can be extremely rewarding.

To find out more about volunteering across the Borough, contact: Fareham Volunteer Centre, tel: 01329 223140, email: enquiries@farehamvolunteers.org.uk or visit: www.farehamvolunteers.org.uk

New home for Fareham Community Action

Fareham Community Action, the local charity that helps other charities and community groups, has now relocated to splendid new offices in West Street, Fareham.

FCA’s database of 450 voluntary and community organisations in the Borough, includes Dial-a-Ride, Shopmobility, Homes Help, etc. It provides information and advice so that groups can focus on their main activity and keep the bureaucracy manageable. A wide range of support is available including funding opportunities, training, volunteering, model policies and constitutions, guidance about who to contact and much more.

If you’re a member of a local community or voluntary group, check out their website to find out more about how they can help your group develop and in turn how your group can help grow community spirit.

You can even get involved in a networking lunch or forum - the ideal opportunity for you to get your messages across to the public authorities and to other voluntary sector people.

You’ll find more details at: www.farehamaction.org.uk

Fareham’s Citizens Advice Bureau makes a difference

Last month the newly-refurbished Citizens Advice Bureau re-opened its doors on the second floor of Fareham library. Relying heavily on the services of volunteers - in advisory, trustee and non-advisory roles, the Citizens Advice Bureau offers support, advice and guidance on debt, housing, bankruptcy and other community issues and concerns.

The CAB prides itself on providing free, confidential, impartial and independent advice to anyone who makes contact and they’ve been doing so in Fareham for over 65 years.

If you’re experiencing difficulties, you can contact the Bureau in person, tel: 08444 772232 or you can visit: www.farehamcitizensadvice.org.uk

To find out more about volunteering across the Borough, contact: Fareham Volunteer Centre, tel: 01329 223140, email: enquiries@farehamvolunteers.org.uk or visit: www.farehamvolunteers.org.uk
Recycling

Trade waste

A new service to help businesses dispose of their waste and recycling responsibly has been introduced across the Borough of Fareham. Waste Savers can offer weekly, fortnightly or monthly collections of both normal waste and recyclable materials.

Prices start from as little as £2.25 per week if your collection is monthly and the service is provided locally by our experienced waste carrying teams.

The Waste Savers price you are quoted is the actual price you pay, with no hidden extras. It covers bin rental, waste collection and disposal and the issue of a Waste Transfer Note, which enables you to meet your legal requirements.

For an information pack on Waste Savers, contact Fareham Borough Council's Customer Service Centre, tel: 01329 236100 or email: wastesavers@fareham.gov.uk

Garden Waste Collection Service

As most of you will already be aware through our letter to householders sent in February, Fareham Borough Council will be making changes to the garden waste collection service from April. The service was introduced in the autumn of 2005 following the move to alternate bin collections. It was intended that Fareham's garden waste collection service was cost-neutral.

This was the case until a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) review took place in September 2007. This review determined that the weight being lifted by crew members was too high; it found that this could be as much as 20 tonnes per day per crew.

As a result Fareham Borough Council was required to bring in additional crew members to ensure the weight being lifted by each crew member was reduced to three tonnes per day. This in turn has increased the cost of the service.

At January’s Executive meeting it was decided that whilst it is not a statutory requirement for us to do so, we will continue to collect one sack of garden waste fortnightly from households in the Borough. This will be at no extra charge for the service.

However, if you regularly have more than one sack of garden waste and you want us to collect this too, you’ll need to buy some disposable garden waste bags from Fareham Borough Council. These are available at a cost of £20 for 25 bags and are the only additional bags we will collect. Once purchased, you can use these for garden waste as you wish, whether you put out one additional bag or a number of bags after a busy weekend in the garden.

Alternatively, if you don’t want to have second and subsequent bags of garden waste collected, you can take it to any Household Waste and Recycling Centre or you may wish to try home composting (for more information visit: www.recyclenow.com/compost).

Please be aware that you should not put garden waste in your refuse or recycling bins.

Fareham has had 35 Mayors since becoming a Borough in 1974. Twelve have been women and three have served as Mayor more than once (the current Mayor, Councillor Ernest Crouch was also Mayor in 1990/91; Councillor Mrs Dorothy Ekins OBE in 1978/79 and 1988/89; and Councillor Roger Price, JP was Mayor in 1982/83 and again in 1999/2000).

Serving the Borough as the Queen’s representative for a year from May to May, the new Mayor is elected in by his/her fellow Fareham Borough Councillors. A traditional ceremony is held at Ferneham Hall, where the retiring Mayor’s last act is to present the Borough’s Citizens of Honour with their medals and congratulate them for their achievements.

The full Council formally nominates a chosen councillor to become the next Mayor of Fareham, he/she is then voted for by fellow councillors and the civic party retires to disrobe. The new Mayor returns in the robes and chain and takes their place on stage and is sworn in as the new Mayor of Fareham.

The Deputy Mayor is also nominated and sworn in. Generally speaking, the current Deputy Mayor usually becomes the next Mayor but nothing is definite or official until the nominations and voting have taken place. The retiring Mayor will then give a speech, normally highlighting various occasions in their year of office. The Mayor is always referred to as Mayor, whether male or female and addressed as Mr or Madam Mayor. If the Mayor is female and has a female Consort she is referred to as Mayoress, and if the Mayor is female her ‘companion’, whether male or female, is referred to as Consort.

The mace is a symbol of the authority of the Mayor and is carried in front of the Mayor on all ceremonial occasions, such as Mayor Making (as you’ll see from the photo of the procession above) and at official occasions such as meetings of the full Council. The Borough’s mace is to a modern design and is made up of a wooden shaft made out of lignum vitae, a hard, dense and durable wood (translated as ‘long life’; ‘wood of life’; ‘tree of life’) with a head and embellishments of silver and gold-plate. It carries the Borough’s Coat of Arms in enamel and is approximately 1.2 metres (4ft) in length.

The mace was made by Officers and Ratings of HMS Collingwood and was presented to the Borough on 9 April 1974.

The current Mayor of Fareham (2020/09) is Councillor Ernest Crouch, who also served as Mayor in 1990. The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Ruth Godrich, who was Mayoress to her husband, Councillor Mike Godrich, when he was Mayor in 1995/6.

See page 16 ‘A day in the life of...’ feature to find out about the role of the Mayor’s Personal Assistant.
### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 14</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Pro Fusion presents: Menace to Move</td>
<td>£12 (U16/Over 60s £8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 17 -</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Fareham Musical Society presents: West Side Story</td>
<td>£12, £10 (U16s/Over 60s £10.50, £8.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 21</td>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society</td>
<td>£4, concessions £3, family 2+2 £10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>The Mayor of Fareham’s Charity Ball</td>
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Information and tickets from Cllr Mrs Bryant, tel: 01329 281427 or The Mayor - Cllr Crouch, tel: 01329 232995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Price Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 28</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Symphony Orchestra</td>
<td>£16.50, £14, £11, £6.50 (U16s £1, Students ½ price)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 29</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Showaddywaddy</td>
<td>£18.50 (£17.50 Leisure Card)</td>
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### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu 2</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Joe Brown</td>
<td>£20 (£19 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 4 - Thu 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fareham Stage Dance Festival</td>
<td>6 days £30 (U16s/Over 60s £15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10 - Sun 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fareham &amp; Gosport Easter Festival</td>
<td>£20 all seated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Show of Hands</td>
<td>£20 all seated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 11</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain</td>
<td>£20 all seated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 12</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Mike McGoldrick Big Band</td>
<td>£20 all seated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15 - Sat 18</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Gosport Gang Show</td>
<td>Wed £9, Thu £10, Sat £11 Th &amp; Sat matinée £7</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For prices and details of the Friday Gala Night, please contact, tel: 0845 224 5108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 25</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Fareham Philharmonic Choir &amp; Orchestra</td>
<td>£12.50 (U16s £2, Over 60s £10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 28 - Sat 2 May</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Gosport Amateur Operatic Society</td>
<td>£9.50 (U16s/Over 60s £7.50 Students £5)</td>
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### May

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 4 -</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Allo, Allo</td>
<td>£23 (£22 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6</td>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Gervase Phinn</td>
<td>Wed matinée £19 (£18 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 12</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>£15.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 15</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Cream of Clapton - Eric Clapton Tribute</td>
<td>£15.50 (£14.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 16</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Havant Chamber Orchestra</td>
<td>£16.50, £14, £11, £6.50 (U16s £1, students ½ price)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 21</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Masters of the Musical</td>
<td>£17.50 (£16.50 Leisure Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 28</td>
<td>19:30</td>
<td>Derek Acorah</td>
<td>£18.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 online visit: www.fernehamhall.co.uk

Something to celebrate? Ferneham’s Ferneham Hall is here to make sure your dinner dance delights, your party’s perfect and the only blues on your wedding day are worn by the bride. We offer two rooms which can cater for parties from 20 to 250 and our experienced customer service staff will guide you through your celebration so all you have to do is enjoy yourself.

Call now on 01329 824864 and get ready to party!

Ferneham Hall is also a popular venue for meetings, training days, exhibitions and theatrical productions.