

CONSERVATIVES – Over two decades of outstanding civic service



# InTouch

LOCKS HEATH – Summer 2020

## Volunteers answer the call just as they did 80 years ago

**UNLESS you are in your 80s you will have experienced nothing like it in your lifetime.**

In summer 1940, the RAF fought almost down to the last Spitfire and Hurricane to drive the Luftwaffe from our skies.

Eighty years on another Battle of Britain began, only this time the outcome against an unseen enemy is not yet in our sights.

But the national spirit that led us to victory through the dark days of World War 2 surfaced again when an army of volunteers and professionals answered their country's call.

Fareham Council Leader Seán Woodward summed up local reaction: "We have lived through very difficult and unprecedented times. Council services have been stretched along with family budgets.

"Services that we all took for granted had to cease while the priority was to deliver the lifeline services such as refuse collection, environmental health, social services and education.

"There have been some fantastic examples of support throughout our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People have tirelessly helped to put together essential parcels and activity packs, delivered items to shielding residents, collected food donations, picked up prescriptions or just been amazingly good neighbours.

"Many hundreds of people in need have been helped across the



Acts of Kindness volunteers are using one of the business hangars at Solent Airport@Daedalus provided free by the Council.

Borough and it is right that your Council should express thanks to them all."

It was a privilege to add his signature to Mayor Pamela Bryant's on hundreds of letters thanking all the Fareham volunteers who stepped up through the COVID-19 pandemic to help their community.

They include Acts Of Kindness Community (Solent), Waypoint Church, Citizens Advice Fareham, AFC Portchester, One Community and Portchester Community Association.

If you know of any unsung heroes we may have missed, we'd like their names and a brief description of their efforts.

You can get a nomination form at [www.fareham.gov.uk/thankavolunteer](http://www.fareham.gov.uk/thankavolunteer)

### BORIS REWARDS KERRY'S ACTS OF KINDNESS



Kerry Snuggs, leader of Acts of Kindness, was presented with a Points of Light Award from Prime Minister Boris Johnson by Fareham MP and Attorney General Suella Braverman.

## How we helped over 100 small businesses to stay afloat

**CRIES for help for businesses, industry and a host of other organisations flooded in from all corners of the UK.**

But not all benefitted from Government schemes, including many in Fareham.

So the Borough Council hopes Discretionary Business Grants will make all the difference to those struggling with property-related costs.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said so far over 100 small businesses across the Borough had received grants up to

£10,000. Applications were invited last month and this round of the scheme is closed. A total of £1m has been paid out.

Types of business which have been helped include small manufacturing firms, businesses located in shared offices, dentists, a podiatrist and a nail bar.

"This funding will be a lifeline for businesses which had slipped through the net for Government support during the pandemic," he said.

Electronics business Lee Godbold Ltd

based in Fareham Innovation Centre received a share of the funding.

Managing Director Lee Godbold said: "We were at a loss how to manage this unprecedented situation.

"I'd especially like to thank the Borough Council for approving our application for the Discretionary Business Grant funding which kept us up to date with our payments to Fareham Innovation Centre."

The Council also gave market traders at Fareham and Portchester £2,500 each.

**Almost England's lowest district council tax – thanks to CONSERVATIVES**

**NEWS ROUND**



**Gas canisters found**

Police were called to the area around Abshot Community Centre after complaints of anti-social behaviour.

Youngsters had been intoxicating themselves with NOS canisters, dozens of which were found on the surrounding green.

Councillors visited the site and found empty NOS canisters, which are highly dangerous when the gas is ingested.

Anyone witnessing suspicious activities should contact the police immediately.

**Garden waste solution**

Green waste has piled up during lockdown as many residents worked in their gardens.

Although recycling tips are now open and the Council collects one green waste bag each fortnight free, it is necessary to book a slot at the tip.

Councillor Susan Bayford says there is an alternative and you can buy disposable bags for extra green waste, costing £40 for 25 bags (including delivery) or £10 for 5 bags from the Civic Offices.

"There is no restriction on the number of these bags that can be put out on collection days," she said.

Call 01329 236100 or order on line at [customerservicecentre@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:customerservicecentre@fareham.gov.uk)

**Emergency budget meeting**

Fareham Council's finances have taken a massive hit through the Covid-19 pandemic and are still falling.

An emergency budget meeting will be called in September.

Over £300,000 was lost in car parking revenue in 3 months.

Estates officers have been trying to work out leases with commercial tenants struggling to pay rents.

This, plus loss of income from both Leisure Centres, has contributed to the losses.

Services are beginning to resume, but it's estimated income could be over £1m below forecast levels.

**Renal unit opens at Community Hospital**

AFTER many years of planning, the renal home therapies unit opened to patients at Fareham Community Hospital in May.

Our thanks go to the Rotary Club of Locks Heath who funded the window and to other local charities who have generously donated.

The home therapies unit comprises two



The Community nurses are also based in the Fareham Community Hospital.

teams of nurses who manage patients dialysing at home on two different types of renal dialysis.

There is a haemodialysis room and a peritoneal dialysis room. In both cases, community-based nurses visit home therapy patients for their ongoing care.

**Youth support carries on**

Y SERVICES furloughed all paid staff except Lorna Danter, Phil Eades and Dawn Tracy, who continued to support young people across Fareham.

Dawn Tracy has been running a group for LGBTQ young people online via Zoom.

Lorna Danter (pictured) has been working one-to-one with young people, supporting the most vulnerable and running a weekly online club for those who would have attended the Genesis Youth Project.

Phil Eades liaised with local police undertaking street-based work to address anti-social behaviour and worked with young people to ensure that Covid social distancing and guidelines are adhered to.



**Volunteers clear up after the litter louts**



VOLUNTEERS set out on a windy day in July to collect rubbish that had been discarded around the teen shelters behind the shopping centre and in the woods surrounding it.

Council workers regularly empty rubbish bins and collect discarded items but there is not enough time for them to rummage around in the woods.

Councillor Susan Bayford, who joined the team, said: "We found many bottles, a couple of broken wine glasses, bits of balloons, cans, pizza boxes, crisp and sweet packets and numerous other items."

"Some of these litter pickers and others are out regularly tackling this situation and we owe them our sincere thanks for helping to keep our local areas clean and tidy."

"We all wish for a cleaner area but it is up to us all to ensure that we either take our litter home or that it is safely disposed of in a bin."

PHOTO (l to r): David Basson, Nigel Watts, Andy Fry, Susan Bayford, Tina Maggs, Michael Hill

**Magnificent response to challenging times**

KERRY SNUGGS, founder of Acts of Kindness (Solent), recently welcomed Councillor Susan Bayford to the hangar at Solent Airport which has been provided by Fareham Council rent free over the past months.



Susan said: "This has been a major effort, ably supported by an army of fantastic volunteers."

"Demand for food parcels has rocketed over past months and the public has been generous in supporting this first-class effort to help those who are in need."

Susan was proud to support AOK as one of her charities when she was Mayor in 2018/19.

AS PART of Age Concern Hampshire, Lockswood Day Care Centre was closed on March 23, but care and services continued to provide support for older people.

Susan Bayford said this included wellbeing calls, support for unpaid carers or those with dementia or other conditions, home visits with 2m distancing, food and prescription deliveries to older people who are shielding and a help line.

She said: "I and my ward colleague, Keith Evans, were very appreciative of the support given by the centre to older people in the community during the pandemic."

PHOTO: Gill Warnock, centre manager Mandy Rowlands and Carolyn Warner.



LOCKSWOOD Community & Sports Association had to close in March.

Office manager Bev Colborne and chairman of trustees Ray Randall worked extremely hard setting up plans for the eventual reopening, for which the Government gave permission from July 25.

One Community Fareham has provided welcome advice to the centre, and cleaners Marion Craig and Nikki Wilkes (pictured with Susan Bayford and Bev Colborne) ensured the building was thoroughly cleaned from top to bottom.

The popular library reopened on July 6 with measures in place to ensure that staff and public stay safe.



**Church gives a beacon of hope**

WAYPOINT Community Church has been a beacon of hope to people affected by the pandemic.

Church member Claire Johnson (pictured) said there was an increase in poverty in the Western Wards due to small businesses closing.

Waypoint has been receiving donations of food and money and the Council gave a £5,000 grant for the cause.



The church did not want to step on the toes of Acts of Kindness who already offer a food bank service,

**Locks Heath gymnasts funding appeal**

YOUNG Locks Heath gymnasts are trying to raise £5,000 towards a new training base.

Covid-19 restrictions mean Eclipse Gymnastics members have been banned from using three local school halls.

And with no events or subscriptions to bring in cash since lockdown began in March, they have been forced to find an alternative training venue.

Junior coach Lara Davis (17) said to build or rent a suitable premises would allow them to resume training.

She and fellow gymnasts set up a GoFundMe webpage to try to raise £5,000 for starters. So far, they have nearly £1,500 towards their target when we went to print.

The Community Interest Club needs premises at least 6m high to practise acrobatics, but members hope premises can be found to include other youth activities such as dance and karate and children with disabilities.

To donate, go to [gofundme.com/f/eclipse-gymnastics](https://gofundme.com/f/eclipse-gymnastics).

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**COME AND JOIN US**

If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to attend social and political events or help by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Locks Heath Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please phone Susan Bayford on 01489 577772.

**WE SERVE YOU ALL**

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to every one in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

**Cemetery extension consecrated**  
AN EXTENSION to Holly Hill Cemetery will provide 350 more burial places and 240 plots for ashes.

It was consecrated by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Rev Christopher Foster, in an ancient ceremony which had to take place with the minimum number of participants during the lockdown.

It cost the Borough Council £300,000 and the grave space should last 30 years, with first burials in the autumn.

Councillor Sean Woodward said: "Holly Hill Cemetery is a beautiful, peaceful setting. In common with the existing cemetery the graves will not be available for pre-purchase thereby ensuring the cemetery's life is extended as far as possible."

PHOTO: A poignant moment during the consecration, with Councillor Woodward (right) The Bishop and his Diocesan Registrar Miss Hilary Tyler are the only participants.





## £30bn plan to create jobs and support jobless

I know that many people in Fareham are anxious about the future as we emerge from Coronavirus.

People are worried about losing their jobs. As a Government, we will not just accept this.

Our Plan for Jobs, worth £30bn, is about supporting people to find the jobs that are out there, creating new jobs through investing in infrastructure and housing and finally protecting jobs by revitalising hard-hit sectors upon which many jobs depend.

Whether it is the Jobs Retention Bonus Scheme, the temporary VAT cut for tourism and hospitality sectors, the Eat Out to Help Out scheme, temporarily scrapping stamp duty on all homes under £500k, the new Green Homes Grant or creating hundreds of thousands of new fully subsidised jobs for young people through the new £2bn Kickstart scheme, I am optimistic that there will be opportunities for all as we embark on the next phase of recovering from the crisis.

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# Suella

## BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



Our Plan for Jobs provides a wide-ranging package of measures to support everyone in protecting their incomes at this very challenging time.

From July 15, the Government cut VAT for hospitality, accommodation and tourism businesses in Fareham from 20% to 5% until January 12, 2021.

We have also launched the new Eat Out to Help Out scheme – giving people up to 50% off meals out, encouraging you back into restaurants, cafés and pubs.

Anyone who eats at a participating business, Monday to Wednesday during August, can receive the discount on food and non-alcoholic drinks, up to a value of £10 per person.

Businesses can claim the money back



Celebrating the reopening of this Titchfield café with ward Councillor Tiffany Harper.

from the Government weekly, receiving funds within 5 working days.

We are also creating new jobs by temporarily scrapping stamp duty on all homes under £500,000 until March 31, 2021. Everyone in Fareham buying a main home will see their tax cut, saving up to £15,000. Nearly 9 out of 10 people buying a main

home will pay no stamp duty.

We will also provide £2bn to allow people to apply for a voucher to fund at least two thirds of the cost of upgrading the energy performance of their homes, up to a maximum of £5,000. Low income households will be eligible for up to 100% of Government funding, up to £10,000.

This will reduce energy bills by up to £300 per year and help to save carbon.



Hook Lake: A popular walk

A STRATEGY to manage and compensate for erosion and loss of inter-tidal habitats has been sanctioned.

East Solent Coastal Partnership (ESP) proposes a project to evaluate all options and aims to produce a viable remedy.

Hook Lake, Warsash, comprising 44 ha (108 acres) of grazing land and reed marsh has been identified as a potential key area for compensating habitat.

Meantime, the County Council's Coun-

## Protecting paths and habitats

tryside Service is undertaking 3 phases of work to improve the Hamble Causeway between Warasah-Swanwick, which floods at spring tides.

**Hook Lake:** Councillor Keith Evans said the Environment Agency was legally obliged to mitigate against the losses or replace them with new lands.

Agency policy is not to replace coastal defences which are in serious decline, but to create protected new habitats.

He said the project fell within the Borough Council's strategy to protect and enhance the environment and a comprehensive management structure would be set up to include all interested parties.

It won't cost Fareham a penny and will be fully funded by the Agency and the ESP.

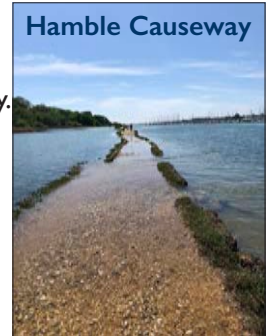
**Hamble Causeway:** Council Leader

Seán Woodward said it was critical to repair the Hamble Causeway.

Phase 1 (Universal Marine to Crableck Lane) completed but needs a few repairs.

Phase 2 (Crableck Lane to Chinese Bridge) includes installation of rock rolls, repairs where water is scouring the bank and overtopping the path.

Phase 3 (Chinese Bridge to Pink Ferry terminal) received external funding and will be carried out in 2021 to include a new circular route.



Hamble Causeway

## First families move in to start Council's new social housing programme

PHASE 1 of the programme to step up building of new council homes is complete.

Families have moved into 5 new properties at Oak Tree Close, off Bridge Road, Sarisbury, this month, reducing the waiting list.

Two 3-bedroom properties are being provided at the most social rent of £500 pm with the remaining 2-bedroom homes at an affordable rent of £700 pm.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "There is a growing need for afford-

able housing in Fareham, and delivering these homes was one of our key priorities for 2020."

The former Scout Hut site in Montefiore Drive, Sarisbury Green is being redesigned to accommodate 9 shared ownership flats.