



# InTouch

FAREHAM SOUTH – Winter 2020

## All-change at Fareham Station with plans to double rail services

**PLATFORMS at Fareham rail station could be adapted to take longer trains.**

It is suggested in a 114-page document produced by Network Rail and Solent Transport as part of a plan to double the number of train journeys in the area.

Network Rail aims to boost passenger numbers by running 4 trains an hour between Portsmouth and Southampton and 2 an hour between Portsmouth and Eastleigh.

It would involve making changes to Fareham Station by restoring what is known in railway language as a bi-directional through platform for the current bay Platform 2.

This would enable fast trains to overtake stopping trains, making



Photo: Tim King

timetables more flexible.

Currently, Platform 1 is the up-platform for services to Southampton, London Waterloo and Cardiff; Platform 3 is the down-platform for services to Portsmouth, Brighton and London Victoria.

Platform 2, which ends with a set of buffers (pictured), is rarely used unless late-running services are terminated there, but it was formerly the main up-platform and Network Rail's plans would re-open it as a through line.

Welborne has land reserved for a rail station to ensure no planning decisions could prevent it. A 2017 Network Rail report confirmed a station was feasible when funding became available.

## Police commissioner candidate visits as Council cracks down on job rule

**DONNA JONES, who hopes to be Hampshire's next Police and Crime Commissioner, toured Fareham South.**

Her visit to the ward, blighted for years by drugs pushers and anti-social behaviour, coincided with the Council's appointment of two more enforcement officers.

It's their duty to patrol the Borough hot spots to deal with everything from anti-social jobs to issuing parking tickets and there



are now 8 of them.

The first appointments (pictured) from Venture Security were made for a trial period last year after residents and traders complained

drug taking, drunkenness, begging and rough sleeping was rife in the town centre.

The Council will also install 13 high quality CCTV cameras to make sure the area is covered 24/7.

Councillor Geoff Fazackarley, pictured es-



corting Donna, highlighted the problems.

The former Conservative leader of Portsmouth City Council said: "Local people told me they want more police on the streets and an increase in

the visibility of the police to make communities safer.

"These will be my priorities as your Commissioner. By working with community groups and your local councillors together we can reduce crime in Fareham."

## Pandemic emergency budget rules out council tax rise

**AN EMERGENCY mid-year budget to manage a predicted £1.1m shortfall caused by the Covid-19 pandemic was agreed by the Council**

Fortunately, years of careful attention to finances by the Conservative-run Council means the shortfall can be met from reserves without hiking up council tax.

But the hole in the budget will have to be plugged by charges for services such as coastal car parks and green waste collection.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "We have been prudent with our reserves for a number of years, so have a strong financial standing, but this will still have a very

significant impact on what we can and cannot do for the rest of the year and for many years to come.

"Most residents are surprised the Council delivers all services for just £3 per week."

Before the pandemic, the Council's medium-term financial strategy predicted a funding gap of £1.5m over four

years.

Plans were in place to overcome the shortfall, but indications are that the pandemic will widen the gap considerably, putting Council services at significant risk.

A 16% council tax rise of £23 would cover the £1.1m funding gap, but has been dismissed as an option.



# NEWS ROUND

## Top Scouting honour for Peter

Scouting's highest honour – Silver Wolf - has been awarded to Fareham resident Peter Moody.

It marks his 40 years of dedication to the Scouting Movement and voluntary service across Hampshire.



Peter, who said he was honoured to receive the award, held several roles in Fareham East District and then as chairman of Hampshire County Scouts.

The award was presented by Major General Alastair Bruce OBE, Governor of Edinburgh Castle and Hampshire Scouting Ambassador; and Commander Martin Mackey RN, Hampshire Scouts County Commissioner, in September.

## Grants available for good causes

County Councillors Peter Latham and Fred Birkett remind everyone in Fareham Town Division that they receive annual budgets of £8,000 each to be allocated to local projects.

Legitimate groups, but not individuals, can apply to them for a grant by completing an on-line application form available on the HCC website.

The scheme runs until the end of February 2021 and they will consider any applications.

Contact Peter or Fred on the telephone numbers below for more details.

## Seaside parking charges

If you do like to be beside the seaside you'll have to feed the meters to park there in future.

Until now, Fareham Council has been the only South Coast authority not to charge for coast parking.

But serious financial challenges caused by the Covid pandemic drastically reduced income and the charges should bring in about £400,000 annually

It's proposed that from next year, they will affect car parks at Hill Head, Portchester Castle Passage Lane and Shore Road, Warsash and Swanwick Shore. Consultations begin next month.

Drivers will have to pay £1 per hour up to a maximum of 6 hours between 10am and 6pm. A season ticket for £80 is proposed for regular users.

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## 'Crafty' move into the shopping centre

A COMMUNITY craft unit has opened in Fareham Shopping Centre and is proving popular.

Crafty Makery Hub is the idea of Shane Davies and Lesley Ralls, who were welcomed to the centre by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley (pictured).

It offers residents of all ages a chance to enjoy learning new skills while enjoying company in a safe and pleasant environment.



Councillor Bryant said: "While the charity exists due to grants from a variety of organisations, and is staffed by volunteers, a small donation towards the running costs is appreciated from those spending time at the unit."

A book of remembrance was opened for those wishing to write a poppy name tag for a fallen hero. Donations to the Royal British Legion will help as the annual Poppy Appeal was scaled down this year.

## He aims for a young approach



MALCOLM DANIELLS has been selected as Conservative candidate for Fareham South in next year's Borough Council elections.

He is a human resources professional working for a local charity and moved to Fareham 3 years ago.

He said: "I am passionate about the environment and improving the quality of life for all residents, and I hope to bring a fresh, young approach to the Council as well as being a strong voice for local residents."

He enjoys swimming, scuba diving, travelling, football and current affairs.

## 'Perfumeless' propagations presented in pixels

AVID Fareham gardeners didn't wilt under the Covid-19 pestilence.

Green fingers became keyboard nimble fingers as they desk-topped their entries in the prestigious South & South East England in Bloom competition.

Then they followed up with more digital displays in the Fareham in Bloom contest.

Judges never got a whiff of perfumes from the blossoms, but they marvelled at the megabytes of exhibits submitted in a virtual gardeners' world.

Two of the 4 independent entries in the South and South East competition – Portchester Crematorium and Portchester Memorial Garden – won gold awards.

Due to the pandemic, the Borough could not enter this competition in which it has won gold for 16 successive years.

For the first time in 25 years, Fareham in Bloom had to be judged on-line with judges' and public votes. There were 100 entries.

Thanks to St Margaret's Nurseries and Fareham Shopping Centre for donating the prizes.

Pictured (right) is 7-year-old Rose Roberts, from Osborn Road South, Fareham, who was the judges'



winner for her Kids' Corner entry.

### RESULTS

**Best Garden** Public winner – Elizabeth Quinn; Judges' winner – Dave and Pauline Coates.

**Grow Your Own** Public winners – Joseph Henderson and Michael Bartlett; Judges' winner – Melanie Gray.

**Commercial** Public winner – Ranvilles Infant School; Judges' winner – Crofton Anne Dale School.

**Something small** Public winner – Caroline Lopez;

Judges' winner – Hayley Tod.

**Community Floral Display** Public winner – Brett Wyld; Judges' winner – Judy and Arthur Tedore and residents of Burnham Wood and Tanglewood.

**Kids' Corner** Public winner – Skylar Playle; Judges' winner – Rose Roberts.



The Mayor, Pamela Bryant, presents their award to Burnham Wood residents.

## £12m arts venue won't go Live until 2023

FAREWELL Ferneham Hall ... HELLO Fareham Live.

But the curtain won't go up at the new £12m entertainments venue until 2023.

Its new name was selected by popular vote in which 49% of the 1,060 responses opted for the change.

It was scheduled to open in 2022, but opening had to be



put back 6 months due to the impact of the pandemic.

The Council decided to delay opening to review the financial

implications.

Executive member for leisure and community Councillor Sue Bell said the decision had to be made due to uncertainty in the arts and entertainments industry.

"It would be reckless for us to plough on without considering the impact of Covid-19," she said.

## Geoff helps raise £20,000



WITH Mary Fisher at the Moving On project Geoff Fazackarley helped raise £12,000 for Fareham children.

The charity helps those from 13 to 25 years old with counselling and encouragement.

Add the money he raised as one of his charities during his mayoral year and he has helped raise over £20,000 since his involvement with the Fareham-based charity.

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## Dedicated carers honoured with prestigious awards



TWO CARERS at The Fernes Care Home in Catisfield have won top awards for their dedication to patients.

Activities coordinator Rachel Anderson (pictured right) and deputy manager Emma Glanville were overwhelmed at being nominated by residents, their families and colleagues for South Region Barchester Care Awards.

Emma was voted Carer of the Year and Rachel won the Activities Coordinator of the Year Award.

Rachel, with 20 years' experience, said: "When the Covid-19 pandemic hit our country I felt that this social interaction was needed more than ever as our residents weren't able to see their families throughout this terrible time.

"We took the pandemic extremely seriously and took all the necessary precautions and are proud to say we are still Covid free.

"I enjoy doing person-centred activities and also activities that involve the whole home as I feel it's important to encourage social interaction."

Emma, who has been at The Fernes 4 years, said: "Residents have found it very difficult not seeing their families so we have all tried our best to make it a positive time, lots of phone calls and FaceTime calls have really helped keep the residents' spirits high, but we are also so proud to have kept the home Covid free.

"I have been so happy working here and love my role as a senior carer looking after all of the residents."

## Covid dims festive event

THIS year's Christmas lights ceremony in the town centre was dimmed by the new lockdown arrangements through November and early December.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Pamela Bryant and Louise Clubley, are sorry not to be involved with the usual town centre gathering for the start of Christmas in Fareham.

However, they switched on the festive lights virtually from their home to keep the town centre looking cheerful and give residents some Christmas cheer.

Sadly, the planned festive market over the weekend December 4 to 6 had to be cancelled, too.

## 4 InTouch with Westminster



### Billions more promised for 'second wave' support

Recent weeks have been challenging for all of us here in Fareham.

At the beginning of November the Prime Minister took the difficult decision to impose tougher restrictions throughout England to protect NHS capacity this winter and save lives.

As a member of his Cabinet, I know that this decision was not an easy one and very much a last resort given the scientific data and predictions of a 'second wave' possibly proving worse than the first one.

The Government has been clear that we will do whatever it takes to support you as the situation evolves.

That is why we extended the furlough scheme throughout November so that employees will receive 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

Business premises in Fareham forced to close have been able to receive grants worth up to £3000 per month and £1.1bn has been provided to local councils to enable them to support businesses locally.

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# Suella

## BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham



I WAS honoured to welcome the Education Secretary to Fareham College to officially unveil both the new T-Level teaching facilities at the Bishopsfield Road campus and the College's new Civil Engineering Training Centre in Lee-on-the-Solent.

T-Levels are a new two-year qualification for 16 to 19-year-olds, designed in collaboration with employers and businesses to prepare students for work, further training or study.

A 45-day industry placement is at the heart of each course to help young people develop relevant experience in pursuit of their desired careers.

Matched by funding from the Department for Education, Fareham College invested £1m into the new facilities to



Suella is pictured with College Principal and CEO Andrew Kaye and Education Secretary Gavin Williamson visiting Fareham College.

support T-Level courses.

It includes a simulated nursery environment for the Education and Childcare T-Level, and a state-of-the-art IT suite fitted with high-end gaming computers and a 9-screen video wall to support the Digital Production, Design and Development course.

The newly revamped Civil Engineering Training Centre will also support the careers of the world's future construction and engineering experts.

While bolstered by national funding, the project reflects the accumulative efforts of a pioneering collaboration between employers – such as Blanchard Wells – and Fareham College, and will equip civil engineers with the skills necessary to fulfil an increasing demand for regional infrastructure and housing.

## Centres win major revamps, then forced to close

TWO Borough leisure centres are to get multi million pound upgrades.

But both were hit by the second lockdown and forced to close for a month.

Work was due to begin this month on a 617 sq metre extension to Fareham Leisure Centre, followed later by improvements to Holly Hill Leisure Centre.

It comes after Everyone Active presented a winning sub-



mission for a 10-year contract to run both venues.

Executive members were impressed by the company's plans to invest in new facilities to help deliver more revenue.

The ground floor gym at



the Fareham centre will be extended, with new elevations to the roadside. Plus:

- Creation of internal splash pad to add to the swimming pool
- New reception counter and

refurbishment of the foyer

- New studio space and climbing area on lower ground floor
- Conversion of the squash courts to a soft play area

- Refurbishment of dry changing rooms and café area

At Holly Hill, a large pool store will be converted into a sauna and steam room and the foyer will be improved.

## Green waste collection charges to meet Covid cash shortfall

YOU WILL have to pay for garden waste to be collected from 2022.

The Council will impose charges to try to plug the hole in its finances caused by Covid-19 and loss of Government grants.

Until now, the Council has included green waste as part of its fortnightly bin emptying service.

It's used by 40% of households at an annual cost of £336,000.

But two significant impacts have forced a rethink:

1 Enormous pressures on our finances with loss of Government grants and loss of income from coronavirus changes.

2 A recent Hampshire County Council decision to cease sharing material recycling income with borough councils from 2021, which could result in a loss

of £400,000 income for Fareham.

The changes will be introduced in February 2022. Then, if you want your grass and hedge clippings collected, you will have to buy either a 140 or 240 litre wheelie bin at a cost of £16 or £17 in the first year.

On top of that, you'll have to pay an annual subscription charge of £50 or £60 for the Council to empty them.

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