



# In Touch

with our community

SARISBURY – AUTUMN 2010

## Royal seal of approval – now let's go for hospital extension

**THE PRINCESS ROYAL** formally opened the hospital for which Fareham had fought for over a quarter of a century on October 21 - Trafalgar Day.

Now, another battle is starting to get the promised extension to upgrade it.

"I very much hope that we will not need to wait another 25 years for this.

"The land is available and we will ensure the powers that be in the NHS do not forget about us.

"The facility now opened at Coldeast is state-of-the-art and a very good start on bringing medical facilities to Fareham which has seen only closures in recent years – Blackbrook Birthing Centre and St Christopher's Hospital being two examples," stated Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward after the Royal visit

Phase 2 will include a birthing unit, minor treatment centre and some GP beds.

Fareham is the only area predicted to meet the 250 per year births to make a birthing unit viable.

Hopefully, a GPs' out-of-hours surgery run from Coldeast will also come about.

The Royal visitor was greeted by Fareham Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Brian and Susan Bayford, Councillor Woodward and other civic dignitaries.

The Mayor was involved with the planning of the hospital and has often stated

that one day he will write a book on the saga of progressing the hospital to completion.

After receiving a bouquet from six-year old Chloe Garrett, who has Downs syndrome and attends the hospital, Princess Anne toured the building and met staff and patients.

Before unveiling the plaque, she said such facilities were much needed and were effective because of the total dedication of the staff.

Princess Anne then went to Fareham College where she opened a new sixth form centre and talked to staff and students.

Councillor Woodward said he was delighted the Princess had opened the new hospital and the college wing.

"Something like 1,000 students leave Fareham every day to go to other educational establishments to study for A-levels.

"It is great that we now have a good facility within the borough again," he added.



Princess Anne unveils the plaque to officially open Fareham's £14m community hospital.



Welcome: Council Leader Seán Woodward greets the Princess, watched by Mayor and Mayoress Councillors Brian and Susan Bayford and other VIPs.

## Labour's legacy: Inevitable staff cuts and fight to keep down council tax

**MORE Fareham Council staff face losing their jobs after the Chancellor's drastic spending review cuts.**

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward laid the blame squarely at the last Labour Government's door.

"These are Labour's cuts, it is the legacy they left us in May. Interest payments on their debts are £122m per day. This is unaffordable and the consequences are inevitable.

"I do however make this pledge to our residents – we will do everything we can not only to preserve the services that are important to you, but to continue to minimise any council tax increase."

Fareham's Conservative Council has honoured its pledge not to raise council tax above the inflation rate for many years and was aiming for another zero increase in 2011/2012.

"This means that we will continue to look at every opportunity to increase income while delivering high quality services.

"The culture of trying to achieve more for less is embedded in Fareham which is why we can offer good services with one of the lowest council taxes in England while receiving the lowest level of government grant."

The precise cuts will not be known until December, but the figure is even greater than the 25% the Council had expected,

equating to about £1.37m.

Councillor Woodward stated: "It is clear that, in an organisation where most of the spending to deliver services is on staff, reductions in funding of this nature can only result in significant job losses.

"The Council will have reduced manning levels by 17% over the last two years from over 500 to little more than 400 and may well need to go even further.

"While the priority remains to preserve front line services, reductions of this nature can only stretch those services. We are relying firmly on residents' surveys to inform us what services are the highest and lowest priority and, therefore, able to be reduced."

We keep *In Touch* throughout the year - not just at election time

**WARD NEWS BRIEFS**

**Grants available**

County Councillor Seán Woodward has £10,000 available for grants to local community groups. So far this year he has helped:

- Sarisbury Infant School PTA play & learn Area £2,000.

- Friends of Holly Hill Woodland Park work group training £1,000.

If your organisation could benefit from a community grant, then contact Councillor Woodward without delay.

Grants must be used for specific items which are likely to benefit the organisation and the community.

**More buses**

First Bus has improved the 28 service from the end of October.

It re-scheduled the route with a re-timed service running hourly between Whiteley, Locks Heath and Fareham with fully accessible low floor buses.

Good news for bus users, but be warned - use it or lose it!

**Governors wanted**

There are vacancies for governors at Brookfield School and Whiteley Primary School.

County Councillor Seán Woodward appoints governors to a number of schools in his Sarisbury Division on behalf of the local education authority.

If anyone is interested in being appointed to this invaluable community role, then please contact Councillor Woodward at: sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk

**New minibus provides lifeline for Western Wards needy**



**A HUGE fund-raising effort has bought a new 13-seater minibus for use by CommuniCare in the Western Wards.**

The County Council contributed £5,000 and Fareham Council £2,000 towards the £33,750 cost.

CommuniCare has provided a transport service for 46 years for needy people who don't qualify for help, giving the more vulnerable a

frequent link to the outside world.

The new vehicle has a passenger lift for the disabled and will provide a lifeline for the elderly and infirm in the Western Wards.

It runs around 750 journeys a year, taking people to weekly lunch clubs at Sarisbury Green Community Centre and Warsash Victory Hall, on shopping trips to the Locks Heath, Fareham and

Whiteley shopping centres.

During the last year a team of CommuniCare volunteer 'taxi's took 577 people to hospital and 698 to their local GP surgery or medical centre.

**•Photos:** First passengers welcome their new transport and (right) County Councillor Keith Evans and Council Leader Seán Woodward at the handover.



**Holly Hill volunteers' major role in Britain In Bloom success story**



**Judgement day:** (left to right) Volunteer Dave Munday, FBC Countryside Officer Mark Trigwell, two Britain in Bloom judges, volunteer David Redwood and FBC Horticultural Development Officer Matt Wakefield taking the walk that led to Holly Hill winning a silver gilt in the Countryside Park category.

**FAREHAM'S success in Britain in Bloom was in no small way due to all the volunteers who work enthusiastically across the borough.**

This enthusiasm is particularly evident in the group of volunteers known as the Friends of Holly Hill Woodland Park.

Over the past ten years the group has managed this jewel in Fareham's countryside crown under the direction of FBC ranger Mark Trigwell, and their efforts were recognised in the Britain in Bloom judges' report.

They said: "Holly Hill Woodland

Park, with its very enthusiastic and hard working team of volunteers, is a real asset to the borough.

"The attractive and informative interpretation boards and leaflets give excellent guidance to the visitor.

"It was pleasing to see so many of the local community enjoying the park on the day of the judging tour."

The park is very popular with both local people and visitors from outside the borough.

Sarisbury Councillor David Swanbrow said: "Fareham is lucky to have such enthusiastic volunteers at Holly Hill."

**Cricket club collects more silverware off the pitch**

**THEY had a great season on the cricket field but success extended the other side of the boundary.**

Sarisbury Athletic CC added a silver gilt medal to their trophies (see Page 3) in the community floral display category of the Fareham in Bloom competition.

Hazel Oliphant is pictured below receiving the award at the club's Allotment Road ground from Councillors David Swanbrow (left) and Seán Woodward.

They said: "Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club has had tremendous success both on and off the cricket field.

"This award is great testimony to their community spirit."





## Committee agrees to bids to enhance River Hamble

THE River Hamble Harbour Management Committee has considered projects to improve the river and its environs to be funded from the Asset Enhancement Reserve.

After wide consultation, projects recommended to the Harbour Board for detailed bids include:

- Improvement of safety signage on public slipways

- Improvement of tender storage afloat and ashore, including access to the water and a possible extension to the public jetty at Hamble

- A project to provide more school and youth club visits to the river

- Possible repairs and improvements to the Warsash to Swanwick footpath, particularly where its deterioration is affecting the sites of special scientific interest.

Committee chairman County Councillor Seán Woodward said: "It is important that we obtain the best value for any investment in improving the river for all to enjoy.

"I am keen that we work in partnership with other bodies who may be able to provide funding for these works."

## Sarisbury triumph in Rose Bowl cup final drama

Club's development of home-grown talent offers choice at extra cover

**SARISBURY Athletic Cricket Club goes from strength to strength, and this season has been particularly good.**

It has over 300 members from across the Western Wards, of whom half are under 15s which allows the club to field 6 colts teams with the youngest players under 9 years old.

Playing and moving up together each year helped the club's under-15 A team to be unbeaten league champions this year – a great change from when they came together as under-11s and rarely won a game.

These players regularly join the adult teams and, unlike many similar clubs, Sarisbury retains the interest of its youngsters and moves them into its 5 senior teams, offering wider selection.

Senior teams enjoyed a remarkable year. The 1st XI was promoted to the Southern Premier League in 2008 and continued to perform well; other teams also consolidated their promotion.



**It's ours:** Captain Matthew Journeaux receives the trophy from Hampshire CCC's director of cricket Tim Tremlett.



**Celebrations:** It's all smiles for the winners including scorer Penny Hammond.

Winning the Southampton Evening Cricket Cup at the Rose Bowl in front of a lively crowd was the highlight.

The club has put much resource

into improvements at their Allotment Road ground and is grateful for the support of Fareham Council, which provided new practice nets.

Despite some vandalism, the nets have been well used and play an important part in developing players' skills.

Councillor David Swanbrow said: "It's a wonderful example of a club working with the Council and providing entertainment, enjoyment and team spirit for youngsters and adults."

## Those autumn leaves show second new tree has taken root

**MANY residents were sorry to see the old horse chestnut tree on Little Green, Sarisbury chopped down last year.**

It was diseased and becoming a danger so it had to go. It was replaced with a tulip tree in a joint effort by Sarisbury Residents' Association and Fareham Council, but that tree died.

Another was planted and is thriving, so autumn seemed a good

time to invite the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Brian and Susan Bayford, to mark its replacement.

The Mayor cut a ribbon round the tree at a ceremony attended by members of the association and Sarisbury Councillors Seán Woodward and David Swanbrow.

Association chairman Stephen Allen presented the Mayor with a cheque for his charity fund.



**Photo:** Stephen Allen, the Mayor and Mayoress, and David Swanbrow and Seán Woodward.

## SARISBURY & WHITELEY CONSERVATIVES

We are very active with social and political events and membership drives. If you would like further details, to join us, or to help in any way such as distribution of *In Touch* newsletters in your road, please contact your ward councillors.

### WARD COUNCILLOR Sarisbury & Whiteley



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**MARK HOBAN**  
Your man in  
Westminster



Last month's Spending Review was a major milestone towards restoring the nation's finances.

When we came into office in May and looked at the books, it was clear the last Labour Government had gone on a binge with the nation's credit card.

We had to take big decisions to confront our debts, set out a clear plan to rebuild our economy, reform public services and put our welfare state on a safer footing.

We chose to spend your money on the most important priorities - health care, education, national security and the infrastructure that supports our economic growth.

The Coalition Government decided to protect the budgets for the NHS and schools, which will get more money every year - over and above inflation.

Money is short, but we have been able to spend to help support growth. We are investing in roads, railways and green energy projects, and also in our science base and workers' skills with a record number of adult apprenticeships.

To afford this we had to find savings elsewhere - like waste. We will ruthlessly cut government cost so money is spent on front line and not in the back office.

We also had to make some tough decisions on welfare. The current systems trap millions on a lifetime of benefits and it costs the rest of us dear. We will create a welfare system that supports people into work and is affordable for those who pay for their taxes.

Decisive action now is the only option that will tackle the legacy left by Labour, put our public finances on a firm footing and provide a stable platform for growth.

**•Contact Mark via his office:**  
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# Seven golds in a row! Fareham grows from strength to strength

**PARKS staff and volunteers are in seventh heaven after Fareham again emerged victorious in the South and South East In Bloom contest.**

Several other awards, not least a silver gilt medal for the Borough's first appearance at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom ceremony in Birmingham, crowned seven years as regional top town.

At the South and South East ceremony in Gillingham, Fareham won a gold medal, was overall winner in the Champion of Champions and gained the Hampshire Life Award for highest marks in the county.

Judges were impressed by the quality of the town's parks, landscape, green environment and community involvement.

Portchester memorial gardens gained a gold in the Best Commercial/Landscape class, Holly Hill won a silver gilt in the Countryside Park category and Westbury Manor gardens, entered for the first time, also won silver.

But it didn't stop there. Co-ordinator Heather Scott won an Outstanding Contribution award for services to the community.

Six RHS Neighbourhood Awards recognising the efforts of local communities went to residents of Burnham Wood, Fareham Allotments Association, The Wild Bunch at Warsash, Friends of the Sensory Garden, residents of Eleanor's Wood and Northern Junior Community School, Portchester, which also won gold and was overall regional winner in



the Schools' Category.

This year, the RHS issued 'Your Neighbourhood National Certificate of Distinction' Awards and again Fareham was prominent, with Heather Scott, from Northern Junior School, being honoured with the RHS Britain in Bloom School Award and FBC's Horticultural Development Officer, Matt Wakefield, winning the RHS Britain in Bloom Community Champion Award.

"These are exceptional results, proving the hard work of Fareham's gardeners, our dedicated volunteers, the Parks and Open Spaces and cleansing teams really is to the advantage of all residents," said Councillor Connie Hockley, Executive Member for Community.

**•Pictured:** The Mayor, Councillor Brian Bayford, and Matt Wakefield receive the Silver Gilt Award for Large Town/Small City from Alys Fowler, a presenter on BBC TV Gardeners' World programme.

## Strategic plan vital to keep developers at bay

**FAREHAM is poised to adopt a vital part of a plan that will control development for the next 16 years.**

But the Core Strategy must be ratified at the Council meeting on November 18.

Councillor David Swanbrow, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment, stressed:

"If we do not, it will open the way for developers with land holdings all over the Borough to start building urban extensions where they are not wanted and without any infrastructure, adding to the severe problems in some areas."

The Core Strategy is the basis for the rest of the plan and until that has been approved by the Planning Inspectorate, Fareham must rely on saved parts of the Borough Local Plan Review,

which dates from June 2000.

The Government has made several changes to the planning system already, including axing the South East Plan.

This was mostly good news, but it had caused confusion as some people believed councils could simply stop much needed development.

However, councils are expected to stick to what they inputted to the South East Plan, but not the changes the Labour government imposed.

So the proposed Strategic Development Area north of Fareham is no longer tied to the South East Plan figure of 10,000 homes, but can be downsized.

Fareham has applied for ECO town status which could attract extra government funding.

The former HMS Daedalus

and Coldeast sites feature strongly in the Core Strategy.

Daedalus proposals aim to keep the airfield for general aviation and to encourage aviation and marine-led employment.

Any building must not unacceptably diminish the strategic gap between Fareham and Gosport.

The aim at Coldeast is to preserve the mansion and associated buildings and to provide sports pitches, allotments and a new cemetery while retaining much of the open space and woodland.

The plan should go to the Planning Inspectorate early in 2011, followed by a public inquiry starting in May and the inspector's report in the autumn.