

Fareham wins Iron Lady's heart in Falklands commemorations



Crowds thronged the town centre to greet former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher when she came to Fareham to take part in ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of Britain's victory in the Falklands War. (Full story and more pictures on the back page)

Free bus shuttle to ease Shopping Centre revamp parking space loss



New look: An artist's sketch of the rebuilt multi-storey car park and rear of Fareham Shopping Centre.

DESIRE by Debenhams is coming to Fareham and will be a flagship store in the revamped Shopping Centre.

Work on the project has started and Civic Way multi-storey car park closed on July 2 to allow for development of the new store and to replace the car park with an up-to-date parking facility.

The car park will remain closed for over a year and shoppers and visitors to Fareham town centre are being encouraged to use alternative parking such as Osborn Road (by the main Library) or Lysses car parks.

As a result of Civic Way multi-storey clo-

sure, from Monday July 2 a free Shopper Shuttle bus service will operate from Lysses car park on Mondays and Saturdays (see details on this page).

Those using the service will receive a free refreshment voucher to be used in Bhs.

It is the first step towards bringing fresh retail outlets to the Shopping Centre.

With over 2,200 parking spaces still available in the town centre area, shoppers can still park and shop easily especially if they take advantage of the new shuttle service.

Although this may inconvenience some motorists who normally park in the Civic

Way multi-storey car park, the new development will make it very worthwhile for shoppers once the project is finished.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "I look forward to the new Debenhams which is a useful addition to the town centre."

The store will cover 20,000 sq ft on two storeys.

It will include a fashion collection from Designers at Debenhams including Rocha, John Rocha and J by Jasper Conran and top fashion designer products.

- It will run for at least a year on the town's busiest days – Mondays (market day) and Saturdays.
- Shopper Shuttles leave every 15 minutes from 9am to 5pm.
- It is **free** to all shoppers who use Lysses long-stay car park.
- The Shuttle bus picks up and drops off at Lysses car park and Ferneham Hall.
- Short stay car parks at Osborn Road South and Quay Street will be extended.
- Watch out for details of the Christmas shopper park & ride scheme from the end of November.

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

Relieved

Residents are relieved after Fareham planners rejected a scheme to replace 75 Burrige Road, Burrige and kennels behind it with three large detached houses.

Councillor David Swanbrow argued it would be contrary to countryside policies.

Officers also agreed a plan to replace the existing house with a bigger one would be out of keeping with the area.

Mast protest

Mobile phone giant O2 withdrew its application to site a mast at the corner of Botley Road and Swanwick Lane after representations from Councillors David Swanbrow and Seán Woodward.

After meeting councillors, O2 is reviewing its options whether to renew the application or seek another site.

Burrige makeover

Fareham Council's Executive agreed to a major refurbishment at Burrige Recreation Ground.

It follows consultations with the 310 households in Burrige whose residents strongly supported improvements to the community centre, tennis courts, changing rooms and car park.

Burrige and Swanwick Residents' Association backed refurbishing the existing facilities at a cost of £450,000 rather than a smaller new build facility for about £650,000.

It is hoped work will be completed in the first half of 2008.

Shovel me timbers! Iron Duke's crew clear for action



SAILORS from HMS Iron Duke turned to with vigour to help clear out silt from a stream at Holly Hill Woodland Park.

The Type 23 frigate was refitting in Portsmouth Navy Base and one of the officers was looking for ways to keep

his crew happy, so he contacted park ranger Mark Trigwell.

The 17 volunteers then attacked the lakeside rhododendron north of the bridge, which they cleared, revealing a pleasant area of soil and large rocks, resembling a Japanese Zen garden.

Fears over tower loss

WIDESPREAD concern over plans by the owners of Locks Heath Shopping Centre to demolish the landmark clock tower brought 400 residents flocking to a public meeting in the Community Centre.

It was called and chaired by Councillor Seán Woodward, Executive Leader of Fareham Council, and attended by Western Wards councillors, directors of shopping centre owners Stockland Halladale, their architects, the shopping centre manager and planning chiefs.

Plans include several new shops, a KFC drive-thru restaurant and turn-



Packed: Residents turn out in force at the public meeting. Inset: the tower

ing the area behind the clock tower into a disabled car park. There were fears the car park would have a time limit and no free parking, and that the Council's proposal for a public swimming pool and private fitness facility would be lost.

Councillor Woodward said: "The meeting was amazingly well attended showing the real con-

cerns of residents in Sarisbury a b o u t aspects of Halladale's proposals.

"I urge all concerned people to respond to the planning department's consultation when the plans are submitted and to make sure that their ward councillors receive copies of their letters."



No 'chip and bin' for Fareham, says Council

MICROCHIPS will not be secreted in Fareham residents' wheelie bins.

Nor will the Borough Council implement 'pay as you throw' or any of the extreme measures practised in some parts of the country.

Councillor Brian Bayford, executive spokesman for streetscene, said:

"Effective waste management is not a political issue, as all political parties understand that it is essential in the interests of the environment and the saving of energy to encourage and increase recycling.

"Some opposition parties will promise to make changes. When in power, faced with the realities and costs, this promise cannot be met."

At 42%, Fareham now has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire, exceeding the Government's 40% target for 2006-07.

The target for 2010 is set at 50%.

Council installs CCTV to catch countryside vandals



FLY TIPPERS who couldn't care less about the environment have been using Glen Road, Swanwick as a dump.

But Fareham Council moved rapidly to remove their rubbish and is now working with all the landowners to find a way of stopping access for the dumpers.



Bunding work (above right) has been undertaken and it is now proposed to consult on erecting lockable bollards to prevent access to Glen Road from the Sarisbury end from a point after the existing houses.

Sarisbury Councillor Seán Woodward said: "This lovely area of countryside is being

constantly despoiled by fly tippers.

"We have also erected CCTV cameras so if there is any repetition the culprits will be identified and prosecuted.

"I am grateful to the landowners for their co-operation so that we can secure the area while still allowing them access."

Developer is called to account over buffer zone failings

A VIGILANT Burridge resident has brought a developer to book for failing to comply with conditions for a green buffer zone.

The 40m buffer zone between Caigers Green and the Persimmon development north of Dickens Drive, Whiteley should have been planted with young trees, but was too small and being used for storing building materials.

"This was a surprise as in early March Persimmon said the planting had been completed," said Councillor David Swanbrow who, with Kim Hayler, from the Council's Development Control Department and arborist Paul Johnston, met a company representative on site.

In some areas, the trees had not been planted properly and a lack of care had led to a high mortality rate.

The width of the planting area at the northern end was much less than it should be. Part had been turned into an earth bank and car park. Elsewhere, building materials and equipment had been dumped.

Persimmon promised to measure the buffer zone accurately and then agree a plan to redress the situation with a target date for re-planting in November. Mr Johnston will advise on the best ways to plant and protect the trees.

Sun smiles on Sarisbury Fayre



Just one cornetto: Lucy Swanbrow takes a cooling break from her stall which raised £600 for charity.

THE WEATHER smiled on the annual fayre held on Sarisbury Green on June 9.

Stands were manned by Lions Clubs who always support the event well, Sarisbury Residents' Association who ran a successful tombola and the Friends of Holly Hill Woodland Park who demonstrated wood turning using a pole lathe.

There was the usual dog show and other entertainment in the centre, but the big attraction was a giant pink inflatable bouncy slide and a colourful stall selling plants, cakes and books to raise money for various projects including a recycling scheme in Tanzania.

It was run by Lucy Swanbrow, daughter of Councillor David Swanbrow, helped by her mother and friends, and her cousin who was visiting from Tanzania and who manages the projects for which Lucy raises funds. She raised over £600.

County gives £10,000 grants to communities

VOLUNTARY organisations and community groups are to benefit from a new grants system being put in place at Hampshire County Council.

Every county councillor is to be allocated a budget of £10,000 to use to provide grants to help fund initiatives that benefit the area they represent.

Conservative County Councillor for Fareham Sarisbury Seán Woodward said: "The County Council recognises the vital role voluntary organisations and community groups play in helping us deliver services to Hampshire residents.

"By giving each councillor a budget, they can use that knowledge to benefit local people through providing grants for community initiatives."

Details on which groups will be eligible and how to apply are available at www.hants.gov.uk/grants

Organisations can apply by requesting an application form from Councillor Woodward or by downloading a form from the website.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals, political parties or groups affiliated to a political party or from lobbying organisations.

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.

ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

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.....
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Your name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Tel Email

Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

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Our man in Westminster



By **Mark Hoban**
MP for Fareham

ONE OF the biggest issues in my post bag is tax credits. Figures released in May showed in the year to April 2006 that 900,000 families received less than they were due and 1.9 million received more than they were owed – one in three claims made end up with someone getting the wrong amount.

In 2005-06, there were 2,500 cases of overpayment of tax credits in Fareham. As I know from the cases I have dealt with, this causes hardship and heartache for claimants and their families.

There are other problems with the tax credit system. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned that the tax credits suffer from the highest rates of error and fraud anywhere in Government, and complained that the Treasury has "still not developed an adequate response to the unacceptable levels of fraud and error in the scheme".

Genuine claimants and those who check the claims made find it extremely difficult to understand how the system is meant to work. A more straightforward system would lead to fewer under and over payments and lower levels of fraud.

We must look at how the system is run. No one disputes that for those on low incomes there is a need for additional financial support.

We must ensure that claimants understand the link between their family circumstances and earnings and the amount of tax credits they receive. I am fed up with getting letters from the Tax Credit Office that do not explain clearly why an overpayment has been made to a constituent. If I am fed up, how much more angry and frustrated must families feel? There should be a much clearer breakdown of the calculation of how much people are entitled to so that it is easier for people to see why they have overpaid.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown must show he understands the concerns of families; so his first task must be to sort out the problems his system has created.

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Parade of emotion for the architect of victory in the Falklands

THOUSANDS packed the town centre to cheer **Baroness Thatcher** when she came to **Fareham** to unveil a memorial arch to those she sent to war in the **Falklands 25 years ago.**

Britain's first woman Prime Minister, who led the country in its darkest hour since World War 2 to liberate the islands from the Argentine invaders against all the odds, told a woman in the crowd:

"History will remember for ever the brave who achieved so much."

She cut a blue ribbon with Mary Fagan, Hampshire's Lord-Lieutenant, to declare the arch open.

In a day charged with emotion and pride – and sadness for the 255 British and 649 Argentinians who died during the 74-day conflict in 1982 – veterans still bearing the mental and physical scars marched past the 81-year-old 'Iron Lady' and civic dignitaries.

Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines and a guard from HMS Collingwood exercising their freedom right to march with fixed bayonets, the parade was followed by a drum-head service in West Street to remember fallen comrades.

The 81-year-old former Prime Minister belied her age as she walked through the town centre, meeting veterans and talking to the crowds.

She was greeted by Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward, newly elected Mayor Katrina Trott and Deputy Mayor Ernest Crouch, who was first elect-



Marching in memory: Heads held high, medals glinting, Falklands veterans salute their leader in war.

ed to Fareham Council on May 3, 1979, the day Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister.

She did not make a speech, but made the remark above to 54-year-old Cheryl Hennell, of Old Turnpike, as they chatted.

Mrs Hennell said: 'My husband served during the war. It was a tough time for everyone but she led the country so well.'

David Walters (72), of Highlands Road, who also met Lady Thatcher, said: 'Not since Winston Churchill had the country seen anything like the courage shown by Margaret Thatcher. She may be ageing, but she still has a presence like no other.'

Councillor Woodward said: "The arch commemorates the sacrifice by these men, many of whom were connected to Fareham. Residents here lost fathers, husbands and sons – they paid the ultimate price to defend British citizens."

The Council commissioned the £25,000 arch to commemorate all who lost their lives in the war.



Lest we forget: Baroness Thatcher cuts the ribbon at the memorial

Council offers chance to public to air views

AN INITIATIVE designed to ensure the Council understands community needs will start in Fareham in **September.**

Five Community Action Teams (CATs) led by ward councillors, will be set up to meet across the borough.

The CATs meetings will be held from 7pm to 8.30pm and the local venues are:

Titchfield – Wednesday, September 19 at Titchfield Community Centre

Western Wards – Tuesday, September 25 at Sarisbury Green Community Centre

Executive Member for Service Performance and Improvement, Councillor Trevor Cartwright, said:

"These neighbourhood meetings offer our residents

an excellent opportunity to find out about developments we're proposing for their communities, as well as discussing local issues.

"It will give us the chance to hear from the public and for them to hear from us and, hopefully, make a difference."

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