

What's it like being a new Petersfield Town Councillor?

In May I was elected to be a member of Petersfield Town Council. For me, this was a complete leap into the unknown. I was a newcomer to local government and felt as if I was embarking on an exciting adventure. At the same time, I was somebody with preconceptions about bureaucracy and formality and not longing to be involved inside the red tape. Before the first meeting we heard from Neil Hitch, the Town Clerk. We were invited to come down to the offices, meet Neil and the other officers and hear about the work that the Council does. Everybody was very welcoming but it was hard not to feel uncomfortably ignorant as to the workings of local government at this bottom tier of the hierarchy. I wondered about who did what across the different layers of Parish/Town, District and County. Then I found out about associated authorities: South Downs National Park Authority and the Highways Agency. Before we'd even had our first meeting my mind was buzzing with all the new names, their acronyms and beginning to see who does what and how they connect. I was also both bewildered and impressed to learn about the many important projects that the Council is involved in. It was like discovering a whole other world going on behind the scenes in the town where I'd been happily living.

Then came the first full Council meeting. We were going to vote in our new Mayor. This was, luckily, the person who had beamingly welcomed me when I stepped into the council chamber for the first time as a councillor, saying how pleased she was to see another woman. Out of twelve of us, she and I are the only two women. In my very personal view, it would be lovely if more women were involved because the town council is all about looking after Petersfield and balancing the interests of different groups and individuals in a fair,

equitable and economical way. With the best will in the world, if there is no gender balance on council, how well are we reflecting Petersfield as a community? On the other hand every meeting I go to for my own party is dominated by men too and they are often the most voluble, articulate and confident – keen to put themselves forward. The other issue that leaps out at me is that we are skewed towards an older demographic and it would be tremendous if we could involve younger people. I think this is especially important now as many in my older generation think about the kind of world we have created for our young people and what we can do to protect their future. This is nothing new – I remember my own great uncle, who lived to be 97, saying how much he regretted the way in which his generation had messed up the world for mine.

The strongest impression I have after a few months in office is what a wonderful place Petersfield is and how many dedicated people are working together for the good of the town and its residents and visitors. Although I have links with Hampshire that stretch back into my childhood, I have only lived in Petersfield for five years or so. It has been a revelation to me that there is so much charitable activity and so many dedicated people from various interest groups contributing to a rich and varied cultural and social life. I am so proud to live here and feel I am making a tiny contribution to the wellbeing of the town and the protection of its unique natural assets, supported by fellow councillors and officers. It would be lovely if more people came to our meetings and had a look at and a say in the work we are doing.

Zoe Parker

Your Town Councillors

Peter Clist - St Peter's

8 Avon Close, Petersfield GU31 4LG
262312 peter.clist@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Public Halls

James Deane - Rother

2 Hoggarth Close, GU31 4YY
269072 james.deane@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes
Planning, Grounds, Town Development (reserve)

Lesley Farrow - Heath

42A Durford Road, GU31 4HA
261350 lesley.farrow@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Town Mayor

Steve Dewey - Heath

7 Bramble Road Petersfield GU31 4HL
266261 steven.dewey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Planning
Public Halls, Town Development

Peter Bisset - Bell Hill

15 Kennet Road Petersfield GU31 4LS
peter.bisset@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Grounds, Town Development

Jamie Matthews - Bell Hill

Hedgerows, Winchester Rd, GU32 3BN
233324 jamie.matthews@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Grounds, Planning, Finance and General Purposes, Town Development (reserve)

John Lees - Causeway

8 Barentin Way Petersfield GU31 4QN
john.lees@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Grounds, Public Halls

John Palmer - Bell Hill

2 Clarendon Close, GU32 3FR
750115 john.palmer@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Chairman of Town Development
Planning, Finance and General Purposes

JC Crissey - Ramshill

j.c.crissey@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Finance and General Purposes, Public Halls,
Town Development

Zoe Parker - Ramshill

zoe.parker@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Grounds, Finance and General Purposes

Michael George Watkinson - Causeway

102 The Causeway, GU31 4JS
266801
Deputy Mayor, Chairman of Public Halls
Planning, Halls, Finance & General Purposes,
Town Development (reserve)

Phil Shaw - Ramshill

22 Madeline Road GU31 4AL
phil.shaw@petersfield-tc.gov.uk
Planning, Town Development, Grounds, Public Halls

Visit our Web site at www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Neil Hitch clerk@petersfield-tc.gov.uk **Festival Hall enquiries** festival@petersfield-tc.gov.uk

The Town Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EA **Telephone: 01730 264182** Fax: 01730 231164

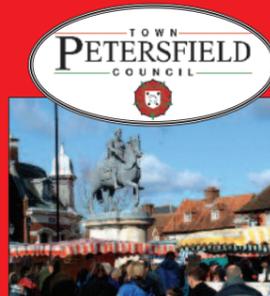
Reception and Telephone Enquiries 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday Bookings taken for Town/Festival Hall and Avenue Pavilion

PTC NEWS

The Quarterly Newsletter from Petersfield Town Council

November 2019

Edition Number 57



A Message from the Town Mayor

The bank stabilisation project will at last start at the beginning of 2020 weather permitting. Our contractor will be Five Rivers who sent their project managers to the Secrets of the Heath. The girls came with the plan of what was intended and we were very impressed with their proposals. We were also at the Summer Festival with our very recognisable gazebo, this time conducting a survey about the future of the Festival Hall.



We also look forward to taking the remainder of our contracted grounds-work in-house and will then be totally independent by September 2020.

I can't believe that we are over one third of the way through this council year already, and our thoughts are now with Christmas and the Christmas Light Switch on Friday 22nd November. Christmas is a time for families to get together, it is also a time of great sadness for those who are on their own. With the shops full of Christmas decorations and gifts and the media full of Christmas programmes it is difficult for those left at home alone with just their memories. It is a time when it's too easy to forget the solitary relative living far away.

This year the main subject of my Christmas appeal is to join with the Salvation Army in making sure that each person living on their own is not alone. We intend to raise funds in order to buy a small hamper of useful items to give to these people on their own. I'm asking you to help this year on two counts. One is to let me know discreetly names and addresses of individuals who you think might like a hamper and we are welcoming donations towards this appeal.

Last time you were more than generous with my appeal at Christmas for wellies and sleeping bags which we delivered to one of the immigrant camps with the help of Petersfield Post. We are also fortunate, despite the mayhem which has gone on in Parliament, to live in a country where we are able to protest on any subject without reprisal.

I wish you all whatever religion or belief you hold greetings of the season and I still say as we are a Christian country I am free to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Town Council Annual Report

The Town Council Annual Report has now been published, and is available from either the Town Hall or the Town Visitor Centre. This report provides you with reports from the Annual Town Meeting at the close of the civic year 2018-2019, as well as providing reports on some of the associated organisations, presentation of awards and information regarding projects that the Town Council is working on.



Christmas Light Switch On 2019



Last year, more shops than ever before remained open for late night shopping during our Christmas Light Switch On event. On Friday 22nd November this year we are hoping to spread even more festive magic!

The evening will start at 5pm with live entertainment from local schools and groups. The Salvation Army band hope you'll join in with a few Christmas Carols, before we ask the Town Mayor to take to the stage and start the all-important countdown!

We hope you'll stay a while with us for food, drink and late night shopping until 8pm.

Keep an eye on social media to find out more!

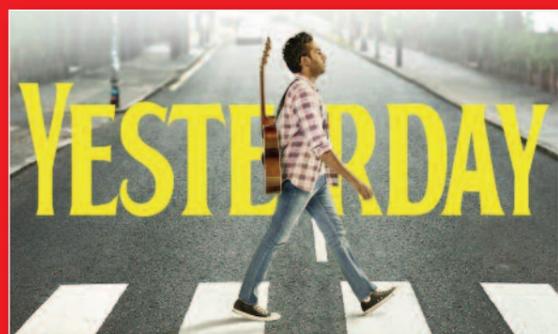
NEW
**SAVOY
CINEMA**

The New Savoy Cinema
is proud to be presenting
the following films:

Tuesday 26th November

2.30pm and 7.30pm

YESTERDAY (12)



Tuesday 3rd December

RED JOAN

Doors open at 2pm for 2.30pm Showing (12)



COLETTE

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm Showing (15)



Tickets are £5 and available from The Town Hall, One Tree Books and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/thefestivalhall

VE/VJ Day in 2020

A number of events are currently being looked at so that Petersfield Town can suitably commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces, Allies and Civilians. Leads are Cllr Mrs Lesley Farrow, Cllrs James Deane and John Crissey. All of who would be interested to hear from individuals any ideas and assistance they can give. Key dates are 8 May 2020 for VE Day and at a time in late August or early September 2020 for an Allied Victory Event (VE and VJ). There will be a number of organisations probably 'doing their thing' and Petersfield Town Council would be happy to maintain an Event List for publication in the Annual Town Guide and on its website.

Secrets of the Heath

Petersfield Town Councillors and Friends of Petersfield Heath Chairman Richard Wharton meeting the public and taking questions at the South Downs 'Secrets of the Heath' Event. As well as details on the emerging update of the Heath Management Plan, the stand was displaying long awaited plans for the re-stabilisation of the banks and other major improvements to the Petersfield Lake. The improvements include better and safer nesting and nursing area for wild fowl, better 'swims' for fish and an enhanced boardwalk. A great deal of reed planting will also take place. Work commences in January 2020 depending on weather conditions. The plans and illustrations were very well received by residents of and visitors to the Town.



Petersfield Remembers – Petersfield will never forget

Right across the Nation in Towns and Villages, recent years have seen an upsurge of interest in Reflection and Remembrance of the sacrifices made by our own whether on or off the battlefield. Whether on land, at sea, in the air or on the Homefront – all are deserving of such recognition and our gratitude for their forbearance, fortitude and sheer dogged determination to get through those dark days so that those of today can enjoy their legacy. Petersfield has featured highly with this trend with most creditable and welcome records of attendance at our Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service.

For Petersfield in 2019 we look back on a number of events and occasions connected with the Great War from the restoration work on our War Memorial, unveiling of the Commemorative Stone for our VC – Lt Cdr William Loftus Jones who died in action at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 to our most recent addition of Private James Cooper to our War Memorial this very year. The surge in Remembrance is well matched by the surge in interest in Family History. One tends to feed the other so it would not be in very much doubt that more names will appear as history unveils itself further.

2018 saw the 100th Anniversary of the end of Hostilities (The Armistice) for World War 1. 2019 sees The Treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919 at The Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles. The Treaty of Versailles (French: Traité de Versailles) was the most important of the peace treaties that formally brought World War I to an end. The Treaty ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers.

As we approach 2020 we see a year which in some way connects the two World Wars of the 20th Century. First we acknowledge 10 January which is the 100th anniversary of the Ratification of the signing at Versailles. This is swiftly followed by two 75th Anniversaries those of VE Day (Victory in Europe) and VJ Day (Victory over Japan). Petersfield Town Council and other organisations of the Town are already setting out some plans for how our Town can further reflect.



Town Council to implement new Historic Sign Posts and Map Boards

As part of the redevelopment of Petersfield, the Town Council has agreed to spearhead the replacement of the Historic signs around the town, that were introduced in 1993. Some of these have become outdated and broken, and there is also a need to introduce additional signs that will provide information about other retail areas in the town, the location of external defibrillators, and provide an alternative route to the Heath. It is hoped that these will be erected sometime during the Autumn season.

As well as the Historic Signs, the Town Council have signed up with East Hampshire District Council to provide new Tourist Map Boards so that visitors to the town can find their way around the town's historic buildings and monuments, green spaces, retail areas, car parks and other places of interest. These will initially be installed in the Swan Street Car Park, Festival Hall Car Park and Main Car Park where the current boards are located, but it is hoped that these boards will be introduced to other key areas of the town where tourists in particular, would benefit from the information.

Petersfield Library



*Regular activities for
Children & Families*

Saturday Afternoon

Clubs – Drop in between 1pm & 4pm every Saturday for our weekly themed Board Games, Colouring, Craft and Construction Club.

Baby Play Time – Every Friday drop in between 9.30 & 11am for Babies up to 1 year.

Rhymetime – Every Wednesday at 2.30pm for babies & toddlers ages 0-2 years.

Toddler time – For pre-school children – Every other Monday 10.15am

Storytime for Under 8's – Every Saturday at 11am

Chatterbooks Club – Wednesdays (books & quizzes for 8-12 years)

Creative Writing Club – For ages 8-13 years – Wednesday 4.30pm

For more information please call into the library, find us on Facebook, check the website hants.gov.uk/library/petersfield-library or contact us on 0300 555 1387