

YOUR BOROUGH



A touching tribute to a well-loved queen - see page 5

A free publication provided by Havant Borough Council - Issue one, July 2023



In this issue:

- Link Up Youth Hub provides new opportunities
- Playgrounds refitted across the borough
- Regeneration in Havant town centre underway

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Hello... and welcome!

I'm delighted to welcome you to the first edition of Your Borough - a magazine which will highlight some of the many things happening - as the title says - in your borough!

The world is a busy place, and it's very easy to not appreciate what is happening on your doorstep - whether visibly or behind the scenes. The borough of Havant is a vibrant, constantly changing place with a lot to offer; it is perhaps no surprise to know there's a constant stream of conversations, dialogues and investment into the borough - be it socially or economically.

I'm delighted to see in this issue this wide-ranging progress being reflected in the articles - from taking pride in our children's play areas to breaking ground regeneration in Havant town centre, it is heartening to see the ambition, drive and heart of the borough and its residents.

I hope you enjoy this new publication, and welcome your feedback on how it should evolve over time. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts; just email me at alex.rennie@havant.gov.uk. In the meantime, enjoy learning more about your borough!



Councillor Alex Rennie, Leader of Havant Borough Council

Safer Streets Fund provides additional reassurance for women and girls

Following a successful partnership bid of £733,551 last summer, Havant Borough Council - along with four other Solent local authorities - has invested in a number of projects help tackle anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls. Funding comes via the Safer Streets Fund - a government initiative designed to reduce crime across England and Wales by providing Police and Crime Commissioners with funding to implement situational crime prevention measures.

Work is on-going throughout the summer, but highlights in the borough include our Community Safety Partners Motiv8 delivering dedicated youth support work to challenge anti-social behaviour, offer support, and provide outreach activities.



Partnership work with other authorities includes:

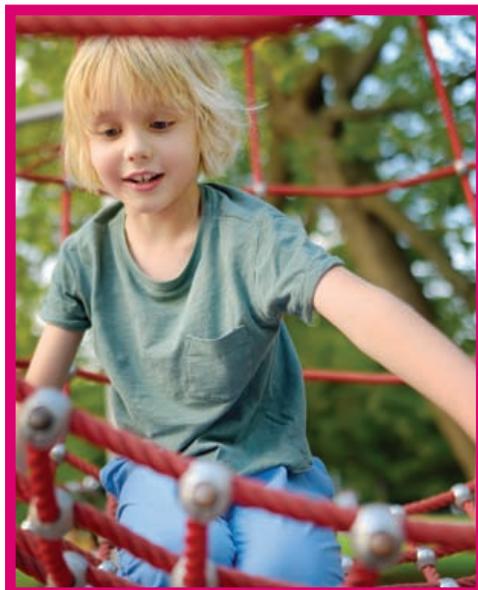
- 436 participants receiving Community in Motion – 'Positive Bystander' training, providing those working in the Night Time Economy key skills regarding awareness and reduction of Violence Against Women and Girls, and also how to be a positive bystander within the community.
- 11 schools signed up to the 'Mentoring in Violence Production', giving young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes and beliefs that underpin gender-based violence in society..
- Survey work underway for the 'With You' project working directly with women in the sex industry to ensure that they are supported.

It's play time!

Recognising the importance of play for children - both in terms of physical and mental health - Havant Borough Council has invested in a programme of works rolling out to rejuvenate and improve play areas across the borough.

Working in close partnership with local resident groups and securing funding from a number of sources, play areas have been targeted for refurbishment. Furthermore, local residents have informed the nature of the refurbishments, engaging with the council online to provide their thoughts, perspectives and aspirations.

In the last two years, extensive refurbishment has taken place in Emsworth Park and Jubilee Park, Waterlooville. Public consultation has also recently closed on refurbishments in:



- **Bidbury Mead, Bedhampton**
- **Spencers Field, Emsworth**
- **Front Lawn, Leigh Park**
- **Eastoke Corner, Hayling Island**
- **Springwood, Waterlooville**

The views of residents have been critical in informing how children will use and enjoy the revitalised play areas; for example the refit of Bidbury Mead and Front Lawn play areas will now consider accessible play equipment and additional picnic tables and bins in their refit as led by popular demand.

To follow - or to take part in - on-going consultation on future play area refurbishments, visit havant.citizenlab.co. To view the many play areas and Multi-Use Game Areas (MUGAs) in the borough, visit www.havant.gov.uk/play.

There's a lot-tery to celebrate!

The **Havant Borough Community Lottery** has just celebrated its fifth birthday, and the considerable benefits it has brought to a number of local charities and community projects.

More than **£213,000 has been raised** for over **100 good causes** in the borough - from girl-guiding to social welfare, to food banks and community radio, the lottery has raised valuable funds that directly benefit local residents - whilst offering the chance to win some fine prizes as well!

A ticket costs just £1, and 60% of every ticket sold goes directly to local good causes. With a maximum £25,000 weekly jackpot possible for those taking part - plus frequent bonus prizes such as an iPhone included - the lottery offers a fun way to support activities and causes in your local community.

For more information on the lottery, visit www.havantlottery.co.uk.



The Spring

Summer at the Spring!



The Spring is a small place where big things happen. This summer you can visit “Havant’s cultural venue” for a broad range of events, great coffee, creative workshops, or just come and hang out. We like to think we offer Great Experiences for Everyone.

Some summer highlights for 2023



Open exhibition “Terrain”

Tuesday 25 July –
Saturday 9 September
FREE

Each year we hold an Open Exhibition. The work is selected by a panel of artists, curators and industry experts.

This year, for the first time, the exhibition is open to children!



Summer Soul: South Coast Soul Revue

22 July 8:00pm
£20

South Coast Soul Revue brings you classic and contemporary tracks and we guarantee you’ll be dancing your socks off to their set; all fronted by outstanding male and female vocals.



This Flight Tonight: The Songs of Joni Mitchell

19 July 2023 8:00pm
£20

An intimate acoustic tribute to the music of Joni Mitchell. Featuring songs such as ‘Both Sides Now’, ‘Big Yellow Taxi’, ‘Woodstock’ and many more.



An Audience Without Jake Thackray

28 July 2023 8:00pm
£14

The show will include performances of many of Jake’s most popular songs – Bantam Cock, Sister Josephine, On Again! On Again! – as well as some ‘lost treasures’



Summer Intensives Workshops

With Making Space

A series of intensive short courses for adults.

Work with specialist tutors this summer, and try something new.

- This Land, Its Flora and Fauna - Pastels
- Illustrate a Book Cover
- Sculpting an Animal from Clay
- Silver Clay Jewellery
- Make Your Mark: an Exploration of Mark-making and Stitch

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thespring.co.uk

Havant Park gains a poignant sculpture

Strong winds from Storm Eunice in February 2022 led to a mature London Plane tree falling in the corner of Havant Park - thankfully without harming anyone. Originally planted on the corner of Elm Road and Park Road North around 1910 by the Headmaster of Havant Council School (now Fairfields Infant School) with the help of his pupils, efforts were made to ensure this once impressive tree would not be forgotten.

In partnership working, Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council organised for a substantive part of the tree to be kept in Havant Park. Removing the limbs and roots of the tree, it was moved close to its original site and the children's playground.

Decided the best use of the tree would be as a bench sculpture to both commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her passing in September 2022, children from Bosmere Junior School were invited to draw what they would like to see carved into the trunk.

Acclaimed chainsaw sculptor Christopher Bain was commissioned to undertake this important, emotive project. Working with the shape of the tree, Christopher was able to incorporate a number of elements into his work, including:

- The Queen's insignia, and the date of her reign.
- A corgi - the monarch's favourite dog.
- A swan - famously, all swans in England and Wales are owned by the reigning monarch.

Find out more about Christopher Bain's work at www.thechainsawsculptor.co.uk, or visit Havant Park to see the sculpture for yourself!



What is a London Plane?

The London Plane tree was created by chance by famous English botanist John Tradescant the Younger in the 17th century, when two trees in his collection - an Oriental Plane and the American Sycamore - cross-pollinated. Occurring in his London nursery, the tree became popular in London from the late 18th century, and is now seen throughout the capital, along streets and in parks.

Support for Ukraine

Critical support for Ukrainian families currently residing in the borough continues afoot - providing advice, support and opportunities to network and enjoy some down-time.

A programme of activities have been implemented by Havant Borough Council to help Ukrainian families - and their hosts - throughout the year. Regular drop-ins provide opportunities to access support to both meet day-to-day needs and help mental well-being, provided in close partnership with organisations such as Citizens Advice, Rural Refugee Network, The Spring, Staunton Country Park and more. From English language lessons to exercise and fitness classes, a concerted effort is providing the best possible support when it is most needed.

Recent highlights include a networking event - with tea, biscuits and even pizza included - through to a craft workshop providing hands-on creative activities and a chance to wind-down.

For those interesting in finding out how they could help Ukrainian families in the borough, visit www.havant.gov.uk/support-ukraine.



Let us recycle your garden waste...

Don't struggle with ditching your hedge clippings, grass cuttings, leaves and branches - leave the hard work to us!

Call **023 9244 6023** to sign-up or visit

www.havant.gov.uk/gardenwaste



Brent House provides welcome temporary housing provision



Left: Councillor Gwen Robinson meets Two Saint's new Chief Executive Richard Gammage.



Left and above: Comfortable, well equipped housing is provided, as well as shared areas for meeting other people.

Safe, secure, temporary housing can provide a real lifeline to individuals, families and the vulnerable, so it was with a considerable sense of achievement that the newly refurbished Brent House opened in Leigh Park this spring.

Comprehensively re-developed over a five year period by the charity Two Saints, the property now provides 29 much-needed temporary homes with support, for single people and families. In partnership with the housing association VIVID, Havant Borough Council, Lloyds Bank

and many other contractors eager to support the venture the facility is now a critical asset for the borough and an excellent base from which to find permanent housing. Dedicated staff from Two Saints also provide vital support helping clients with the practicalities of securing permanent homes.

At the launch event for Brent House, Councillor Gwen Robinson said "I'm delighted to be a part of the official opening of Brent House. Working in partnership, Two Saints and Havant Borough Council will strive to support

those residents who have found themselves experiencing challenging and difficult times. This invaluable asset will provide security and a safe space for those in need, whilst working in tandem with the council in securing permanent homes for its residents. Brent House is an inspirational resource which will provide life-changing opportunities to our residents, and I welcome the many benefits it will provide."

For more information on Two Saints and Brent House, visit www.twosaints.org.uk.

Watching out in Waterlooville...

Working closely with local businesses in Waterlooville town centre, Havant Borough Council is installing four re-deployable CCTV cameras to help address anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the town. £25,000 of funding from the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund was secured to fund the project.

Engagement with local residents highlighted anti-social behaviour in the town centre was one of their key concerns. Additionally, local businesses had highlighted crimes such as shoplifting and vandalism were not being consistently reported.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary have previously faced difficulties due to the lack of direct evidence of those responsible; the CCTV coverage will both provide valuable evidence for the police and also act as a deterrent.

The CCTV is just one part of a suite of activities undertaken in the town centre - other recent actions include youth outreach to over 200 young people provided by the charity Y Services, the successful use of drone cameras to capture trespassing on rooftops by the police, and collaborative work by the Business Crime Reduction Partnership.



New chief executive for a re-invigorated council

Following a vigorous recruiting process, Havant Borough Council has a new chief executive - Steve Jorden. With a successful track record in managing customer-facing services, organisational change and delivering substantial regeneration and development projects, Steve's considerable expertise will be put to good use in the borough.

Prior to taking up the role at Havant Borough Council, Steve worked with many other local authorities including district councils in Devon and Worcestershire. More recently Steve worked with Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council, where he oversaw their decoupling as a partnership.

With a firm commitment to support the borough's local communities, Steve will be



supported by an almost entirely new Executive Leadership Team, who will provide the drive, skills and experience to deliver on the council's refreshed corporate strategy and its three over-arching goals of Wellbeing, Pride in Place and Growth.

For further detail on the new management structure, visit www.havant.gov.uk/management-structure.

Link Up Youth Hub

The borough is home to the Link Up Youth Hub - a careers information, advice and guidance service for young people aged 16 – 24. This invaluable service was made possible through partnership working between the Department for Work and Pensions and Havant Borough Council.

A wide range of support is available regarding employment, apprenticeships, volunteering, education and gaining new skills - all ably provided by the Link Up Youth Hub team. They provide tailored support to young people accessing their service, nurturing and advising where necessary.

Accessible online, by virtual appointments and by phone, the Link Up Youth Hub also offers friendly and informal face-to-face support Monday to Friday (10am to 4pm) from the Front Lawn Community Hub in Leigh Park.

To find out more, visit www.linkupyouthhub.co.uk.



Aged 16-24? We are here to help you take **YOUR** next steps towards employment.



The Link Up Hub provides 16-24 year olds living in the borough of Havant with wide-ranging support to develop new skills and secure employment. Support on offer includes:

- Writing your CV
- Applying for jobs
- Attending interviews
- Finding training courses
- Getting back into education
- Building confidence and skills
- Health and wellbeing
- Gaining Work Experience
- Training and upskilling

For more information about our locations, opening hours and to refer yourself, email: linkuphub@havant.gov.uk



Exciting regeneration project underway in Havant town centre



Concept art for the redeveloped Bulbeck Road site highlights its possible use for town centre living.



Work has begun as part of Havant Borough Council's ambitious plans to regenerate the heart of Havant town centre. A key site at the heart of the town centre is to be redeveloped to help kick-start Havant's considerable potential.

The Bulbeck Road car park is an under-used resource owned by the council that doesn't make best use of its town centre location. £1.65 million of grant funding was secured from the Department for Levelling Up & Communities and its Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 in November 2022. The funding which will be used to demolish the existing car park and create a site for the future development of new housing in the heart of the town centre.

Although yet to be finalised, previous research has highlighted the practical use of the site for housing. Indicative modelling suggesting the site is capable of providing 91 high-quality town centre flats, sensitively landscaped into their

surroundings with public realm improvements and built to the latest environmental standards.

An experienced local company - Hughes & Salvidge of Portsmouth - have been secured for the demolitions work. Once preliminary surveys of the site are complete, an extensive recycling regime will be followed with the demolition of the car park. Elements include recycling 100% of recovered metal and the segregation of plastics, polystyrene, glass, fibreglass and plasterboard for recycling where appropriate. Concrete, bricks and masonry will be taken from the site to be crushed, with the car park's concrete base compacted in situ to backfill on site. Surplus material will be taken for re-use elsewhere.

This project is just one part of an ambitious regeneration vision - not just for Havant, but the borough as a whole. For more information, visit www.havant.gov.uk/regeneration.

Investment in cycling and walking connects Havant better

Having secured funding from the government's Transforming Cities Fund and up to £500,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy support from Havant Borough Council, Hampshire County Council have begun work on improving connectivity between Havant town centre, Havant and South Downs College (HSDC) and the north of the town.

The improvements will provide safe, convenient and direct off-carriageway travel for cyclists and improved facilities for pedestrians, including such features as:

- Two-way segregated travel, providing wider footways for pedestrians with a separate cycle track.
- Upgraded pedestrian crossings, and pedestrian/cyclist priority on select roads.
- Narrowing of Elmleigh Road to slow traffic and discourage HGV traffic.



Ecological and environmental considerations have been at the forefront of the project; the works will replace any trees and hedges felled as part of the project and recommends planting of bulbs, wildflowers and mixed grasses to improve ecological diversity.

The project - which started in May - is expected to be completed by the New Year. For more details, visit www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes and search for "Elmleigh".

Dedicated experts to help Hayling and Waterlooville regeneration plans

Havant Borough Council have now employed two regeneration officers to tackle issues in Waterlooville town centre and Hayling Island. The officers are going to support regeneration through short term and long term interventions. This includes looking at enhancing the appearance of these areas and looking at parking regimes. The council are also looking at longer term plans for strategic development as well as other measures.

The new Hayling Island officer will work with a variety of businesses and organisations in partnership to secure local improvements. The council have secured funding from the UK Skills Fund that will help deliver disabled access to the seafront, and Changing Places funding to make seafront public conveniences accessible to the disabled. The council are also looking at ways it can improve play areas near the beach. They will also look at other areas of development along the seafront and will engage with local residents shortly to discuss some of these plans.

The council are working with businesses and landowners in Waterlooville to get views on how we can improve the appearance of the town centre and return it to a place residents can be proud of. The council are also carrying out a formal master planning exercise to guide the regeneration of the town centre. Residents, businesses and other stakeholders will be invited to give their views on what they'd like to see in the town, with details on how to get involved released soon.

New Mayor of Havant takes up her role

The position of Mayor is one of the most ancient offices in British history, but its role, importance and public perception have changed considerably through the centuries.

Councils can have a civic Mayor, Lord Mayor or Chairman depending on the status of the area. The borough is entitled to have a mayor, after receiving its borough status in 1974.

In May each year a new Mayor for the Borough of Havant is elected. The Mayor is selected from one of the borough's 38 Councillors and is officially voted in at a special meeting of Havant Borough Council at a ceremony called Mayor Making.

As well as representing the borough as its first citizen at local, civic and charitable events, the Mayor chairs council meetings and is politically impartial during their year in office.

This year Councillor Rosy Raines returned to take up her role as The Worshipful the Mayor of Havant, with Councillor Peter Wade elected as Deputy Mayor. Rosy was previously the Mayor in 2021/22. You can follow the Mayor on Facebook at [facebook.com/MayorOfHavant](https://www.facebook.com/MayorOfHavant).



Above: The large wooden mace which is used during ceremonies was made by apprentices of Westerly Marine, Waterlooville and was presented to the council on 3 April 1974 and is a symbol of the Mayor's authority.



Left: Each link in the Chain of Office has the names of past mayors, with the crest of Havant taking pride of place in the centre.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

If you would like to speak to someone about any local issues you may have, please contact your local councillor via the details below or by writing to them c/o Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, PO9 2AX.

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Key

-  Conservative
-  Labour
-  Liberal Democrat
-  Green Party
-  Independent

High Street Task Force offers future direction for Havant

Following a visit from the High Streets Task Force in March this year, a series of expert recommendations for the future of Havant town centre have been presented.

The High Streets Task Force is an alliance of place making experts working nationally to support the vitality of high streets, providing guidance, tools and skills to help communities, partnerships and local government take action to help their town centres thrive.

The task force visited initially to consider what was the main barrier to any future transformation of the town centre. They recognised the many strengths of Havant town centre which includes its strong cultural heritage, its enthusiastic communities, its strong independent shopping offer and its excellent connectivity.

Right and below: The retail offer of Havant town centre was explored in detail.



The report's key recommendation was in highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in delivering any town centre transformation and setting up a collaborative team to lead future action. Havant Borough Council welcomes the findings of the report, considering them an invaluable insight in unlocking the town's considerable potential.

For more information on the High Streets Task Force, visit www.highstreettaskforce.org.uk.

Council's commitment to the armed forces

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

Havant Borough Council has shown its continuing commitment by re-signing to the covenant and providing a suite of support including a dedicated Armed Forces Champion, a guaranteed interview scheme for veterans and a support network for employees who are veterans, spouses or reservists. To find out more visit www.havant.gov.uk and search for "covenant".



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Bargain activities to help you get fit and have fun!



Who can take part and how do I book?

Anyone over 18 with a physical or mental health condition - however mild – can take part. Get Up and Go is there to help people benefit physically, socially and mentally through friendly, informal activities. Booking is easy – just visit www.getupandgohavant.com to register.

Coastal Rowing Open Days

Six week rowing courses and **FREE** taster days to try your hand!

Check the website for the latest available dates

Price: **£25** for a six-week course

Multi-sports club*

Weekly activities at the Horizon Leisure Centre in Havant every Thursday at 2pm. Enjoy a wide range of fun activities - plus tea and coffee is on hand to keep you refreshed!

Price: First session is **FREE**, then **£2.20** a week. Carers are welcome and can attend for free.

Pilates at the Plaza!

Stretch yourself with mixed ability Pilates classes at the Public Service Plaza in Havant, held every Tuesday at 12pm-1pm and 1-2pm. Mats are provided.

Price: First session is **FREE**, and then **£5** a session.

Short walks at Staunton

Enjoy guided walks around a fine landscaped garden. These themed **FREE** walks take place at 10am on the following Tuesdays each month:

- 1st Tuesday** - Heritage walk
- 3rd Tuesday** - Flora and Fauna walk
- 4th Tuesday** - Sensory walk*

Prepare to be bowled over...

Discover bowling in a friendly, setting through free taster sessions and six-week courses held at bowling clubs across the borough throughout the year.

Visit our website to find out when – and where – the latest courses are being held.

First session is **FREE**, then **£2** per session.

Yoga

Seated classes are held Tuesdays at The Beacon in the Meridian Shopping Centre, **12.30pm**.

Hybrid classes (offering a seated option) are held every Monday at Waterlooville Community Centre at **11.15am**.

First session is **FREE**, then **£8** per session at The Beacon and **£6** at Waterlooville Community Centre.

* Events with this icon are dementia friendly, and suitable for those affected with dementia and their carers.