

flagship

Winter 2024



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

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Flagship is produced by Portsmouth City Council,
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✉ flagship@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

🔍 search for **Flagship** at www.portsmouth.gov.uk

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Contacting us

You may find our website www.portsmouth.gov.uk
is the quickest and easiest way to get information.

City helpdesk: **023 9283 4092** or
cityhelpdesk@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or
www.portsmouth.gov.uk/contactonline

Adult social care: **023 9268 0810** or
ASCoppdAdmin@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Children's social care and safeguarding: **023 9283 9111**
or **023 9268 8793** or mash@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Council tax: **023 9268 8588** or search **council tax**
at www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Parking: **023 9268 8310** or parking@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Recycling and rubbish: **023 9284 1105** or search
recycling and rubbish at www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Search **contact us** at www.portsmouth.gov.uk for our
A-Z contacts directory.

In-person appointments

The services below can arrange for you to speak to
someone in person at the Civic Offices. You need to make
an appointment, unless the issue is urgent, for example an
emergency homelessness application or other crisis. Before
making an appointment, we will try to save you a journey by
resolving your enquiry on the phone first. To make an
appointment call:

- › housing benefit and council tax support: **023 9283 4556**
- › council tax and business rates: **023 9268 8588**
- › housing needs: **023 9283 4989**
- › school admissions and family information: **023 9268 8008**
- › children's social care: **023 9283 9111**

All our services are available online and on the phone.

Payments

You can drop in at the Civic Offices to make a payment:
9am–4pm, Mon–Fri.

Cashiers are open 9am–1pm, self-serve payment machines
1pm–4pm.

Council meetings

To find out what's coming up search **council meetings**
at www.portsmouth.gov.uk Watch meetings at
www.youtube.com/@PCC-DemocraticServices

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- Companionship
- Palliative Care

Contact our friendly office team
to discuss your care needs.
Please call 02392 362222
or email Caring@bscare.co.uk

Recruiting now

Light up your family Christmas

Get your skates on again for Portsmouth on Ice, the real ice rink in Guildhall Square, supported by the Council.

The rink is here until 5 January, guaranteeing skating whatever the weather. Whether you're a seasoned skater or a wobbly beginner, there's a session for you. Families can enjoy dedicated family time, while those looking for a lively experience can hit the popular DJ night sessions. The rink is fully accessible for wheelchair-users during all sessions.

Tickets start at £13 for children and £15 for adults. Family passes, concessions, and season passes are also available, aimed at groups and frequent skaters. For tickets see portsmouthiceskating.uk

While you're in town, visit Commercial Road and check out the Christmas market, selling treats such as German sausages and glühwein, Christmas stockings and tree decorations. On Thursdays,

Fridays, and Saturdays the market offers even more, including fresh produce, gift ideas, clothes and seasonal products for a great Christmas. Feeling peckish? Relax in one of Portsmouth's new independent eateries, offering culinary adventures from around the globe.

In Southsea, pop into a festive weekend market from Love Southsea Markets or Hampshire Farmers' Markets for gorgeous gift ideas and delicious food from local businesses.

As the festive spirit takes hold, Portsmouth's high streets are aglow with dazzling lights, from the city centre to Southsea and Cosham – including Milton Market, Fawcett Road, Tangier Road, Copnor Road and North End. So shop local this winter to keep your pound in Pompey and reduce your carbon footprint.

For more local shopping ideas visit rediscoverportsmouth.co.uk



YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR COUNCIL

In this edition we've included figures that illustrate some of the work our teams do in the city.



50 things to do

If you've got kids under five, it can be tough finding new play ideas and things to do.

Our local website and app, called 50 Things To Do Before You're Five, is full of activities for families with young children. From outdoor discoveries in the woods, to exploring how sound changes in different places, to sharing stories and water play.

Find out more at portsmouth.50thingstodo.org



Festive food time

HAF fun this winter

Our HAF Fun Pompey programme is a treasure chest of amazing experiences for kids.

From 21 December to 5 January, Portsmouth will be buzzing with a range of activities for children to dive into. Each day comes with a delicious meal, so that's one holiday stress taken away from you.

If you qualify for income-related free school meals, grab your free tickets as soon as you can. There are also pay-as-you-go tickets too.

For more information and to book click on **HAF** at www.pycportsmouth.co.uk

Advertisements

40% OFF MUSEUM ENTRY



**Visit The D-Day Story including
Landing Craft Tank 7074**

Name:
Email:
Postcode:

One voucher per household, maximum of 6 people per voucher. Voucher only valid when purchasing tickets at the museum. Not available online and not to be used with any other offer or discount. No photocopies. **Voucher valid Sunday 1 December 2024 until Friday 28 February 2025. Offer not available 9, 24, 25, 26 December 2024 and 27 January 2025.** Please check opening times before visiting.

☐ Please tick this box if you would like to receive regular email updates about The D-Day Story. For full details visit thedaystory.com/flagship

thedaystory.com



HARBOUR CHURCH
SUNDAY 15TH DEC - @ 10AM & 3PM
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH PORTSEA

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
FREE FAMILY SHOW

BOOK TICKETS HERE
www.harbourchurchuk.org

Museums celebrate the Christmas spirit



There's a special festive experience for families at **Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum**, based on the author's famous story A Christmas Carol.

Visitors will follow a trail around the writer's former home, through rooms dressed to relate to scenes in the book. At the end of the trail there will be a sweet surprise, and there will be a chance to dress up in Victorian costume.

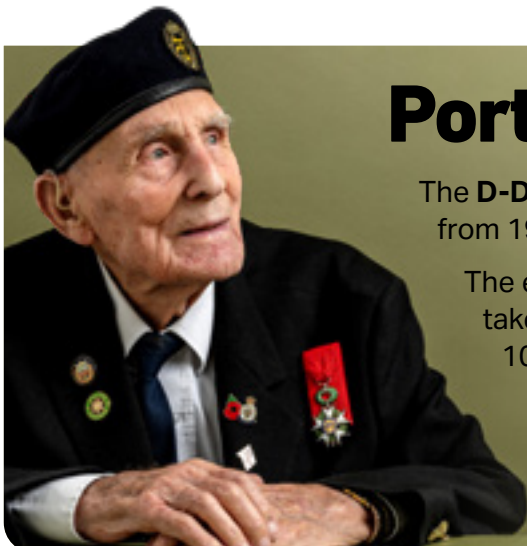
The trail costs £2 per person (£1 with our leisure card). It's open on Saturday 14, Sunday 15, Thursday 19, Saturday 21, Sunday 22 and Sunday 29 December, 10am-4.30pm (last admission 4pm).

Meanwhile, at **Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery**, families can meet Father Christmas in his magical grotto.

The cost (including a gift) is £10 per child and £5 for each additional child (up to four children and two adults can attend in one slot).

The grotto is open every Saturday and Sunday in December, until Sunday 22 December, with slots from 10.10am to 3.30pm.

Places are limited for both museum experiences, so please book on 023 9283 4779.



Portraits of veterans on show

The **D-Day Story** has a free photo exhibition of Second World War veterans from 19 December to 18 January.

The exhibition, *The Lucky Ones Grow Old*, features portraits by Matt Sills taken during D-Day 80 anniversary week this year. Opening times are 10am until 5pm (last admission 4pm).

Pictured here is John Dennett, who joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and helped bring LST 322 (a landing ship, tank) from the US. His ship went to Sword Beach on D-Day to offload troops and heavy equipment.

out&about

★ DECEMBER – MARCH ★

All the **highlighted** events are free

Lots more going on...

There isn't room here for all the things to do and places to visit in Portsmouth. You can find out more at visitportsmouth.co.uk – the definitive listing for events and activities, for residents and visitors. If you have an event to promote, or want more information about something listed on the website, call us on **023 9282 6722** or email vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

To keep in touch with things to do around the city, sign up to our monthly Visit Portsmouth e-newsletter. Go to bit.ly/2bz13Sn

ONGOING

Until 31 December Dick Whittington

Panto, Kings Theatre.
www.kingsportsmouth.co.uk

From 14 December Guernonprez's Legacy

Exhibition. Portsmouth Natural History Museum, Tuesdays–Sundays, 10am–4.30pm. See January 30.

Until 5 January Portsmouth on Ice

Guildhall Square, see p3.

Until August The Quietness of Feeling

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, Tuesdays–Sundays, 10am–4.30pm. Haughton and The Arborealists.

First Mondays

Portsmouth Pensioners' Assoc
Monthly meetings. Guildhall, 1.30pm.

First Mondays You Are Not Alone

Bereavement support group, 10am–11.30am, City Life Church, 85 Tangier Road.

Third Mondays Refired

Group for retired men, 10am–11.30am, City Life Church, 85 Tangier Road.

Tuesdays

Tea and Tech Support

Bradbury Centre Café, 1pm–3pm, £5 per hour. Digital sessions covering all abilities and devices.

Wednesdays

Not Forgotten

Senior citizens friendship group. 12.30pm–2.30pm, City Life Church, 85 Tangier Road.

Thursdays

Thursday Art Group

Becket Hall, Cathedral House, 9.30am–12pm and 12pm–2.30pm. £5 per session or both for £7. With Portsmouth and Hampshire Art Society.

Thursdays

Love Family

Babies, parents and toddlers group. 10am–11.30am, City Life Church, 85 Tangier Road (not half-term).

First and third Fridays

Coffee and Company

Bradbury Centre Café, 1.30pm–3pm, £2.50. Includes tea or coffee and a slice of cake.

Second and last Fridays

Veterans' Breakfast Club

Bradbury Centre Café, 10am–12pm, £5–£6. Includes tea or coffee top-ups.

Second and last Sundays

Car Meet

Port Solent, 10am–12pm.

DECEMBER

5-31

Rapunzel

Family panto. Groundlings Theatre, timings vary, £17–£58.



Dick Whittington, until 31 Dec

7

Beach Clean

Meet at the Coffee Cup, Eastney, 10am–11.45am. Organised by Southsea Beachwatch.

7-8

Festival of Christmas Market

Boardwalk, Port Solent, 10am–4pm.

7-8, 14-15 and 21-22

Christmas Grotto

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, 10am–4.30pm, £10. See p4-5.

8

Christmas Concert

Milton Glee Choir. Guildhall, 3pm, from £13. With Royal Marines Assoc Concert Band.

10

Carers and Cake

Carers Centre, Orchard Road, 12pm–2pm. SEND Butterflies South Coast. Unpaid carers welcome.

12

Parent Carer Evening

Drop-in, Landport Community Centre, 5.45pm–8.30pm. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

13-5 January

Beauty and the Beast

Family pantomime, New Theatre Royal. Times vary, from £10.

14

Santa's Visit

Baffins Pond Assoc compound, 12pm–1.30pm and 2.30pm–4pm, £3 per child.

14

Carols and Christmas Music

St Mary's Church, 7.30pm. Adults £18, children/students £2.50. Portsmouth Choral Union and Castle Primary School Choir.

14-15, 19, 21-22 and 29

Christmas at Dickens' Birthplace

Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum, 10am–4pm. Christmas Carol-themed trail. See p5.

15

Christmas Spectacular

Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines. Guildhall, 2.30pm, £29.75.

15

Family Christmas Concert

Portsmouth Light Orchestra. Buckland Community Centre, 2.30pm. Raffle and a cuppa (donations welcome).



Carols and Christmas Music, 14 Dec



Concert Season 2024/25
Portsmouth Guildhall



Last Night of the Christmas Proms Friday 20 December 7.30pm

A hamper full of Christmas musical goodies and all your favourite orchestral treats from the BSO with pianist and singer extraordinaire Joe Stilgoe

bsolive.com 01202 669925

15 Lake of Lights

Rowans Hospice in-memory event.
Canoe Lake, 5.30pm–7.30pm.

18 Carols on The Boardwalk

Port Solent, 6.30pm.
See www.portsolent.com

19–18 January

The Lucky Ones Grow Old

D-Day Story, 10am–4pm.
Photo portraits of veterans.

20 Brave Rival

Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £18.

20 Last Night of the Christmas Proms

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.
Guildhall, 7.30pm, £19–£31. With
singer and pianist Joe Stilgoe.

21 Smash the 80s HardDrive

Rifle Club, 7.30pm, £12.

21 The Magic of Motown

Guildhall, 7pm, £42.55.

21–5 January

Winter Animal Footprints

Portsmouth Natural History
Museum, Tuesdays–Sundays,
10am–4.30pm, £1. Follow the trail
to pair the animal with the footprint.

26 Boxing Day Car Meet

Port Solent, 10am–12pm.

JANUARY

4 Beach Clean

Meet at the Coffee Cup, Eastney,
10am–11.45am. Organised by
Southsea Beachwatch.

9 Parent Carer Evening

Drop-in, Landport Community
Centre, 5.45pm–8.30pm.
SEND Butterflies South Coast.

10 Parent Carer Coffee Morning

Carers Centre, Orchard Road,
10am–12pm. SEND Butterflies
South Coast.

14 Carers and Cake

Carers Centre, Orchard Road,
12pm–2pm. SEND Butterflies South
Coast. Unpaid carers welcome.

17 Uptown Joel

New Theatre Royal, 7.30pm, £27.50.

19 Showman & Coole Bluegrass

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £15.

23 Audiobook Reading Group

Cosham Library, 2pm–3.30pm.
Friendly group for those with
visual impairments.

23 Viennese Whirls

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.
Guildhall, 7pm, £19–£31.
J Strauss, Brahms and Berg.

24 Boyzlife

Guildhall, 7pm, £37.30–£51.25.

26 Taf Rapids Stringband Bluegrass

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £15.

30 Guernonprez's Legacy (talk)

Portsmouth Natural History Museum,
7pm–8pm, £2.50. The collection
of HLF Guernonprez, 1858–1924,
held by the museum, includes fossils,
plants, invertebrates, taxidermy and
birds' nests.

30 Ed Byrne

New Theatre Royal, 7.30pm, £36.50.

30 Carers and Cake

Community Kettle, Cosham,
10.30am–12.30pm. SEND
Butterflies South Coast.
Unpaid carers welcome.

31–1 February

Sleeping With Beauty

Adult pantomime. New Theatre
Royal, times vary. From £25.

FEBRUARY

1 Beach Clean

Meet at the Coffee Cup, Eastney,
10am–11.45am. Organised by
Southsea Beachwatch.

2 AD Scruffs Bluegrass

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £15.

5 An Evening of Arsenal Legends

New Theatre Royal, 7.30pm,
from £42.

6 Parent Carer Evening

Drop-in, Landport Community
Centre, 5.45pm–8.30pm.
SEND Butterflies South Coast.

7 Charles Dickens' Birthday

Charles Dickens' Birthplace
Museum, 10am–4pm. Small service
and free museum entry.

7 Parent Carer Coffee Morning

Carers Centre, Orchard Road,
10am–12pm. SEND Butterflies
South Coast.

10 Jenny Don't & The Spurs

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £15.

11 Carers and Cake

Carers Centre, Orchard Road,
12pm–2pm. SEND Butterflies South
Coast. Unpaid carers welcome.

15 John Bishop

Guildhall, 7pm, £31.50–£51.80.

16 You Me At Six

Guildhall, 7pm, £57.60.

18 Rude Science

Science show with TV's
Stefan Gates. Guildhall,
11am, £18.55–£20.80.

18–9 March

Portsmouth BookFest

Various venues, times and prices.
See librariesandarchives.portsmouth.gov.uk

19 Mineral Day

Portsmouth Natural History
Museum, 10am–4.30pm.

19 Sing-a-Long-a-Encanto

Film. New Theatre Royal, 2pm,
from £16.

19–21 Winter Nature Craft Activities

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery,
10.30am–12pm and 1.30pm–3pm.
Winter botanical, tree and wildlife
art (painting, drawing and crafts).

20 Kids Club

The Boardwalk, Port Solent,
10am–4pm. See www.portsolent.com

20 The Roller Boys

New Theatre Royal, 7pm, £25.

22 The Eras Experience

Taylor Swift tribute by Xenna.
New Theatre Royal, 7pm, from £24.



John Bishop, 15 Feb

22 Jason Donovan
Guildhall, 7pm, £39.65–£57.05.

23 The Arborealists
Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery,
2pm–4pm. Talk from Tim Craven of
The Arborealists group.

23 Fish
Guildhall, 7pm, £54.70–£57.60.

27 Audiobook Reading Group
Cosham Library, 2pm–3.30pm.
Friendly group for those with
visual impairments.

27 Carers and Cake
Community Kettle, Cosham,
10.30am–12.30pm. SEND Butterflies
South Coast. Unpaid carers welcome.

27–28 Far From the Madding Crowd
New Theatre Royal, times vary,
from £22.50.

MARCH

1 Beach Clean
Meet at the Coffee Cup, Eastney,
10am–11.45am. Organised by
Southsea Beachwatch.

1 Singing Workshop Day
Passion Music with Will Todd.
Portsmouth Grammar School,
2pm–6pm. Singers £22.

1 Queen Extravaganza
Guildhall, 7pm, £24–£56.45.

6 Symphonic Dances
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.
Guildhall, 7pm, £19–£31. Sibelius,
Shostakovich and Rachmaninov.

6 Parent Carer Evening
Drop-in, Landport Community
Centre, 5.45pm–8.30pm.
SEND Butterflies South Coast.

7 Parent Carer Coffee Morning

Carers Centre, Orchard Road,
10am–12pm. SEND Butterflies
South Coast.

8 Dr Rangan Chatterjee
Guildhall, 7.30pm, £43.10.

9 Carter Sampson Band
Square Tower, 7.15pm, £16. See
www.squarerootspromotions.co.uk

11 Carers and Cake
Carers Centre, Orchard Road,
12pm–2pm. SEND Butterflies South
Coast. Unpaid carers welcome.

13 Corporate Quiz Night
Village Hotel, Cosham, 7pm,
£120 + VAT per team. Networking
and quiz in aid of Rowans Hospice.

13 How to Beat Scammers
With TV's Nick Stapleton.
New Theatre Royal, 7.30pm, £28.

15 Litter Pick
Baffins Pond Assoc compound,
10am–12pm. Litter-pickers provided.

16 The Hooten Hallers
Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm,
£17.50.

Advertisement

A Christmas Wish...

**Saturday 23 November —
Sunday 5 January**

Discover the magic of Christmas and join Santa's elves on a festive adventure at Fort Nelson. Follow the trail and have a go at sorting presents, preparing reindeer food, plus lots of other magical activities.

FREE ADMISSION
Book your tickets now
www.royalarmouries.org

ROYAL ARMOURIES
FORT NELSON | PORTSMOUTH | PO17 6AN

Ill enough to miss school?

It can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school or nursery when they're unwell. But it's really important that children are in school as much as possible, so they can reach their full potential in life.

Missing a lot of school because of ill health can have a big impact on your child's education. It may also affect their confidence and make them feel socially isolated or nervous about going back to school.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know your child won't be in and give them the reason.

Go to **www.what0-18.nhs.uk** to find out which illnesses should keep your child at home. Click on **Should my child go to school/nursery today?**



Start something rewarding

Find jobs, training and opportunities in education at the Teach Portsmouth Jobs and Opportunities Fair at the Guildhall on Wednesday 26 February, 10am–2pm.

Around 24 exhibitors including schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, training providers and Portsmouth City Council services are set to welcome you.

Sign up to taster sessions, visit the jobs board and watch useful presentations. For more information, go to **www.teachportsmouth.co.uk/jobsfair**



Maddie Long, 2023/24 scholarship recipient

Image by Karen Bornhoft

Score £9k for a degree course

The University of Portsmouth and Portsmouth Football Club have teamed up to offer a £9,000 scholarship to a student under 25 who lives in the Portsmouth area.

They must be either the first member of their family to progress to higher education, or have a household income of under £35,000.

They will receive £3,000 in each of the three years of their undergraduate studies, while also getting the opportunity to gain valuable work experience with the football club.

To find out more go to **port.ac.uk/pfcscholarship**

**YOU CAN
COUNT
ON YOUR
COUNCIL**

We provided **16,205**
Holiday Activities and Food
(HAF) sessions last year.

Pensioners: don't



Thousands of Portsmouth pensioners could be entitled to pension credit, but haven't applied for it. They could be missing out on as much as £3,900 a year.

That extra money – around £300 a month – could make a big difference this winter.

Are you one of the people who haven't applied for pension credit?

If so, we're here to help. One of our friendly cost of living advisors can have an informal chat on the phone with you, to see whether you might be able to claim. If we think you can, we can also arrange for someone to help you with the application.

Call us on our cost of living helpline, **023 9284 1047**. We're open weekdays, 9am–5pm (closes 4.30pm on Fridays).

If you think your mum or dad or your grandparents might be missing out, encourage them to get in touch.

Who's eligible for pension credit

If you're single

- › You must have reached state pension age and have a weekly income of less than £218.15.

If you have a partner

- › You'll be eligible if you've both reached state pension age, or one of you is getting housing benefit for people over state pension age. Your joint weekly income must be less than £332.95.

If your income is higher

You might still be eligible if you have a disability, you care for someone or have housing costs. If you reached state pension age before 6 April 2016 and have savings, you can check if you're eligible for the savings credit part of pension credit.

Other ways to apply

If you'd like to find out more about pension credit or would like help applying for it, the best plan is to call us on **023 9284 1047**.

Or, you can:

- › go to **www.gov.uk** and search for **pension credit**
- › call the national pension credit helpline on **0800 991234**

You can search online for the **pension credit calculator** to check if you're eligible.

You can call us for an initial chat before you have all your details ready. But to apply through **www.gov.uk** or the national helpline, you'll need your NI number and details of your bank account, income, savings, investments and pensions (and your partner's if you have one). Plus details of mortgage payments, ground rent and service charges.

miss out on cash



Julie Summerhill, left, from the Council's cost of living team advising Mavis Patterson at the Portsea Community Hub



Samantha Massey, left, from the Council's cost of living team advising Rose Clark at the Portsea Community Hub

Winter fuel payment

Only people on pension credit or another qualifying benefit will get the national winter fuel payment this year. It's £200 if you're aged 66–79 and £300 if you're 80 or over.

If you apply for pension credit before 21 December and ask for payment to be backdated for three months, you'll also qualify for the Government's winter fuel payment this year.



YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR COUNCIL

We helped **2,048** people through our cost of living helpline in 2023/24.

Our payment for older people

Older residents on low incomes who'll miss out on the Government's winter fuel payment might still be able to get the same £200 or £300 allowance.

This is because the Council has stepped in with a special one-off payout to help lower-income pensioners adjust to losing the Government's payment this winter.

Who's eligible

Portsmouth residents of state pension age who get either housing benefit or council tax support, but not pension credit or one of the other qualifying benefits for the Government's winter fuel payment.

How to apply

Go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk and search **older persons energy payment**. If you need help applying, call our cost of living hub team on **023 9284 1047**.



Cost of living support for all

When money's tight it's good to know help is out there.

Household support fund

This winter we are offering exceptional hardship payments for people in severe financial hardship, supermarket food vouchers for low-income families, and one-off energy cost payments for certain groups of people. For full details go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk and search **household support fund**. The household support fund is funded by the UK Government.

Cost of living advice

Our helpline and online information hub have advice for all ages around coping with essential costs, health and wellbeing, jobs, money, housing, and applying for hardship funding.

The helpline is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm (closes 4.30pm Fridays) on **023 9284 1047**, or go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk/cost-of-living-hub

Energy advice and support

For help reducing energy bills, including free advice and referrals to energy-saving schemes, call Switched On Portsmouth on **0800 260 5907** or go to www.switchedonportsmouth.co.uk

Warm spaces

We're again offering hot drinks in all nine of our libraries over the winter, as well as in other community venues. Find free activities in our libraries on the Official Portsmouth libraries Facebook page, at librariesandarchives.portsmouth.gov.uk or by popping into your local branch.



Monitor your energy use with a smart meter

It's time to get smart

Smart meters can help put you in control by tracking what you're spending on energy.

Portsmouth resident Liam told us: "Since getting our smart meter, we've really been able to keep an eye on the energy we're using, and cut back by simply turning off lights. We're saving money."

Benefits of smart meters include:

- › You can see what your energy use is costing in near real-time.
- › They make your bills easier to predict.
- › You get accurate bills, not estimates.

Ask your energy supplier for a smart meter. You'll find contact details on your bill. Eligibility may vary. See www.switchedonportsmouth.co.uk/smartmeters

**YOU CAN
COUNT
ON YOUR
COUNCIL**

We gave energy-saving advice
to **1,541** people last year.



Beans mean tasty and cheap meals

Beans are affordable and good for you. Give black beans, kidney beans or pinto beans a try, or their cousins lentils and chickpeas. Here's just one great recipe, which serves two to three people...

Ingredients

- ✓ 2 tbsp olive oil
- ✓ 1 large onion, finely chopped
- ✓ 1 tbsp smoked paprika
- ✓ 400g can chopped tomato with garlic
- ✓ 400g can mixed beans, drained and rinsed

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, then fry the onion for five minutes until it begins to soften.
2. Add the paprika and cook for a further minute, then stir in the tomatoes and half a can of water. Simmer gently for 10 minutes until thickened and glossy.
3. Tip in the mixed beans and cook for a further two minutes to heat them through.
4. Spoon into warm bowls and serve with soured cream and toasted ciabatta slices, drizzled with olive oil.

Recipe and image from Good Food (Immediate Media)
www.bbcgoodfood.com



Being a good neighbour

Winter can be difficult, especially for people who are older or live alone. A kind word from a neighbour can make a world of difference.

Here are some tips for looking out for your neighbours:

- › Give them your phone number in case they need help.
- › Pop in for a chat over a cuppa.
- › Offer to help with shopping or to cook a meal.
- › Pay attention to anything out of the ordinary – bins not put out, post not collected, not seeing them outside, lights not on in the evening, or a cold house.
- › If they're lonely and would like support, there's information on groups and activities at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/social or our independence and wellbeing team are on **023 9284 1762**.

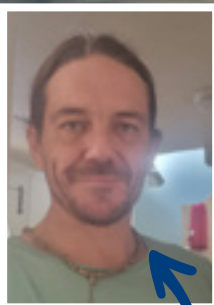
If you have serious and immediate concerns about a neighbour, you should always call **999**.

**YOU CAN
COUNT
ON YOUR
COUNCIL**

Our adult social care helpdesk handles **1,433** calls a month.



A healthier you in 2025



Thinking about a New Year's resolution? If you need to stop smoking or lose weight, our wellbeing team can help.

Chris, 43, from Buckland (pictured), decided to quit smoking with his mum Dawn, who'd been struggling with COPD and angina.

After contacting the team, Chris and Dawn met with wellbeing practitioner Alison weekly, for three months. Alison arranged patches and free vape kits and they quit smoking.

"It's been great support, highly motivating," says Chris. "Alison's just been amazing."

"My breathing's better. My taste buds have come back, my sense of smell too. My fitness levels have changed immensely, so I can do a lot more than what I used to."

Contact the team at www.wellbeingportsmouth.co.uk or call **023 9229 4001**.



Standing against violence

More venues around Portsmouth have signed up to be safe spaces and help tackle violence against women and girls.

Staff at these venues have been trained to:

- › create a welcoming environment that's as safe as possible
- › spot and deal appropriately with perpetrators
- › believe and support people who experience harassment or abuse

The venues display a We Stand Together badge in their window. For a list of participating businesses go to www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/westandtogether If you're a venue that wants to take part, contact streetprojects@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Offering help for language classes

Do your children go to a class after school or at the weekend to help them with their home language? Or do you run a language class for children in your community?

We're hoping to find out about local classes, to see if we can offer support.

Please call **023 9273 3130**.



FosterPortsmouth

Our caring foster community



Kevin and Vicki, foster carers

Are you a foster carer who's considering moving to a different agency or service? Foster Portsmouth can offer you the right tools, training and support, and a close-knit fostering community – all you need to give a child a better future.

Our efficient, accelerated transfer process takes as little as six weeks. And if you already have a child you're caring for, we'll work with your current agency and council to ensure everyone is fully supported.

Transferring is a big decision. Try an initial informal chat to see if Foster Portsmouth is right for you.

"Foster Portsmouth feels like a family at times. Their support package and variation of placement types suited us better as a family, and the social workers are worth their weight in gold."

Vicki and Kevin, foster carers.

Find out more:

📄 foster.portsmouth.gov.uk/transfers

☎ 0300 1312797

✉ info@lafosteringse.org.uk

📘 fosterportsmouth



Domestic abuse: new online help

There's a new online hub to support people experiencing violence, and their friends and family. It can also help people who think they're at risk of abusing their partner or becoming violent.

Find the Safer Together Hub at **safertogetherhants.co.uk**

Domestic abuse can be about controlling someone's mind and emotions, as much as hurting their body. Men and women can be victims.

Look for signs of:

- › bullying, threatening or controlling behaviour
- › control of money
- › being cut off from family and friends
- › physical or sexual abuse

Mental health chat online

If you need support for your mental health, you can now chat online with our team.

The mental health hub team are available Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, on **0300 123 6621**, or by using the chat service at **www.mentalhealthinportsmouth.co.uk** from 9am to 5pm.

The Portsmouth Mental Health Hub is the first point of call for anyone 16 or over who's struggling with their mental health, or if you know someone who needs help.

A cleaner and greener city

Here are some of the ways we're working to help to keep Portsmouth tidy and safe.

YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR COUNCIL

- We've removed more than **200** incidences of graffiti since the start of 2024.
- We investigate **600-700** reports of unauthorised waste each month.
- We remove an average of **12** tonnes of fly tipping a month.
- Latest figures show that in 12 months we issued **419** penalties for littering and fly tipping and carried out six prosecutions.
- So far in 2024 we have issued more than **500** warnings to people leaving their bins out and removed bins at more than **230** properties.

If you want to report issues such as dog fouling, litter, fly tipping, graffiti or anti-social behaviour, contact us on safecleantidy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or **023 9284 1105**.



Community wardens Chris Bastock (left) and Kevin Bazen remove graffiti

Free fun and family support

Family life and parenting can be difficult at times, and it helps to have someone to turn to and somewhere to go.

From midwife appointments to stay-and-play sessions, our free family hubs have all the support you could need, under one roof.

We have hubs in Buckland, Milton, Northern Parade, Somerstown and Paulsgrove. Plus, there's an online hub with free online sessions and information. Go to www.portsmouthfamilyhubs.co.uk to find out what's on and to book sessions.

Each hub has a family hub champion who can give advice and help you find support. You can pop in to speak to them or arrange a time to meet.

Jen, our Buckland champion, says: "One of the best parts of my job is seeing parents' happiness and confidence improve with every visit."



20 years of walking and talking

So many people tell us how our wellbeing walks have changed their lives – helping them to feel less lonely and make new friends.

The walks, which started in 2004, now take place seven days a week at places across the city, for all kinds of abilities.

Friends Lesley Milner and Paula Nicholls have been part of our wellbeing walks for 19 years between them, and are now walk leaders.

Paula remembers her early days of walking. "People were very good at remembering your face, which was nice. They welcomed you. It's a really nice bunch of people.

"They often say they come for the social side as much as the walking. They like being outdoors, but it's mixing with a group."

Lesley says: "We had a lady who lost her partner recently and she met one of the other walkers, who'd lost her husband. They've made a good friendship. Just by coming on a walk, they've found something that's going to help them both."

Find out more about wellbeing walks and other social activities for adults:

- go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk/social
- email iwt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
- call 023 9284 1762



YOU CAN
COUNT
ON YOUR
COUNCIL

We have **375** walkers taking part in wellbeing walks.

Walking friends Lesley, left, and Paula

SEMH support on tour

If you have a child with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, come to a coffee morning at Central Library on Tuesday 3 December, 10am to 12.30pm.

Held by Portsmouth SEND Local Offer, events like this give families a chance to meet professionals and community groups, and get support and advice.

More events are planned. For more information, go to www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/ontour



Your 2024-25 recycling collection dates

Monday Week 1			
Dec-24	2	16	31
Jan-25	13	27	
Feb-25	10	24	
Mar-25	10	24	
Apr-25	7	21	
May-25	5	19	
Jun-25	2	16	30
Jul-25	14	28	
Aug-25	11	25	
Sep-25	8	22	
Oct-25	6	20	
Nov-25	3	17	

Monday Week 2			
Dec-24	9	23	
Jan-25	7	20	
Feb-25	3	17	
Mar-25	3	17	31
Apr-25	14	28	
May-25	12	26	
Jun-25	9	23	
Jul-25	7	21	
Aug-25	4	18	
Sep-25	1	15	29
Oct-25	13	27	
Nov-25	10	24	

Tuesday Week 1			
Dec-24	3	17	
Jan-25	2	14	28
Feb-25	11	25	
Mar-25	11	25	
Apr-25	8	22	
May-25	6	20	
Jun-25	3	17	
Jul-25	1	15	29
Aug-25	12	26	
Sep-25	9	23	
Oct-25	7	21	
Nov-25	4	18	

Tuesday Week 2			
Dec-24	10	24	
Jan-25	8	21	
Feb-25	4	18	
Mar-25	4	18	
Apr-25	1	15	29
May-25	13	27	
Jun-25	10	24	
Jul-25	8	22	
Aug-25	5	19	
Sep-25	2	16	30
Oct-25	14	28	
Nov-25	11	25	

Wednesday Week 1			
Dec-24	4	18	
Jan-25	3	15	29
Feb-25	12	26	
Mar-25	12	26	
Apr-25	9	23	
May-25	7	21	
Jun-25	4	18	
Jul-25	2	16	30
Aug-25	13	27	
Sep-25	10	24	
Oct-25	8	22	
Nov-25	5	19	

Wednesday Week 2			
Dec-24	11	27	
Jan-25	9	22	
Feb-25	5	19	
Mar-25	5	19	
Apr-25	2	16	30
May-25	14	28	
Jun-25	11	25	
Jul-25	9	23	
Aug-25	6	20	
Sep-25	3	17	
Oct-25	1	15	29
Nov-25	12	26	

Thursday Week 1			
Dec-24	5	19	
Jan-25	4	16	30
Feb-25	13	27	
Mar-25	13	27	
Apr-25	10	24	
May-25	8	22	
Jun-25	5	19	
Jul-25	3	17	31
Aug-25	14	28	
Sep-25	11	25	
Oct-25	9	23	
Nov-25	6	20	

Thursday Week 2			
Dec-24	12	28	
Jan-25	10	23	
Feb-25	6	20	
Mar-25	6	20	
Apr-25	3	17	
May-25	1	15	29
Jun-25	12	26	
Jul-25	10	24	
Aug-25	7	21	
Sep-25	4	18	
Oct-25	2	16	30
Nov-25	13	27	

Friday Week 1			
Dec-24	6	20	
Jan-25	6	17	31
Feb-25	14	28	
Mar-25	14	28	
Apr-25	11	25	
May-25	9	23	
Jun-25	6	20	
Jul-25	4	18	
Aug-25	1	15	29
Sep-25	12	26	
Oct-25	10	24	
Nov-25	7	21	

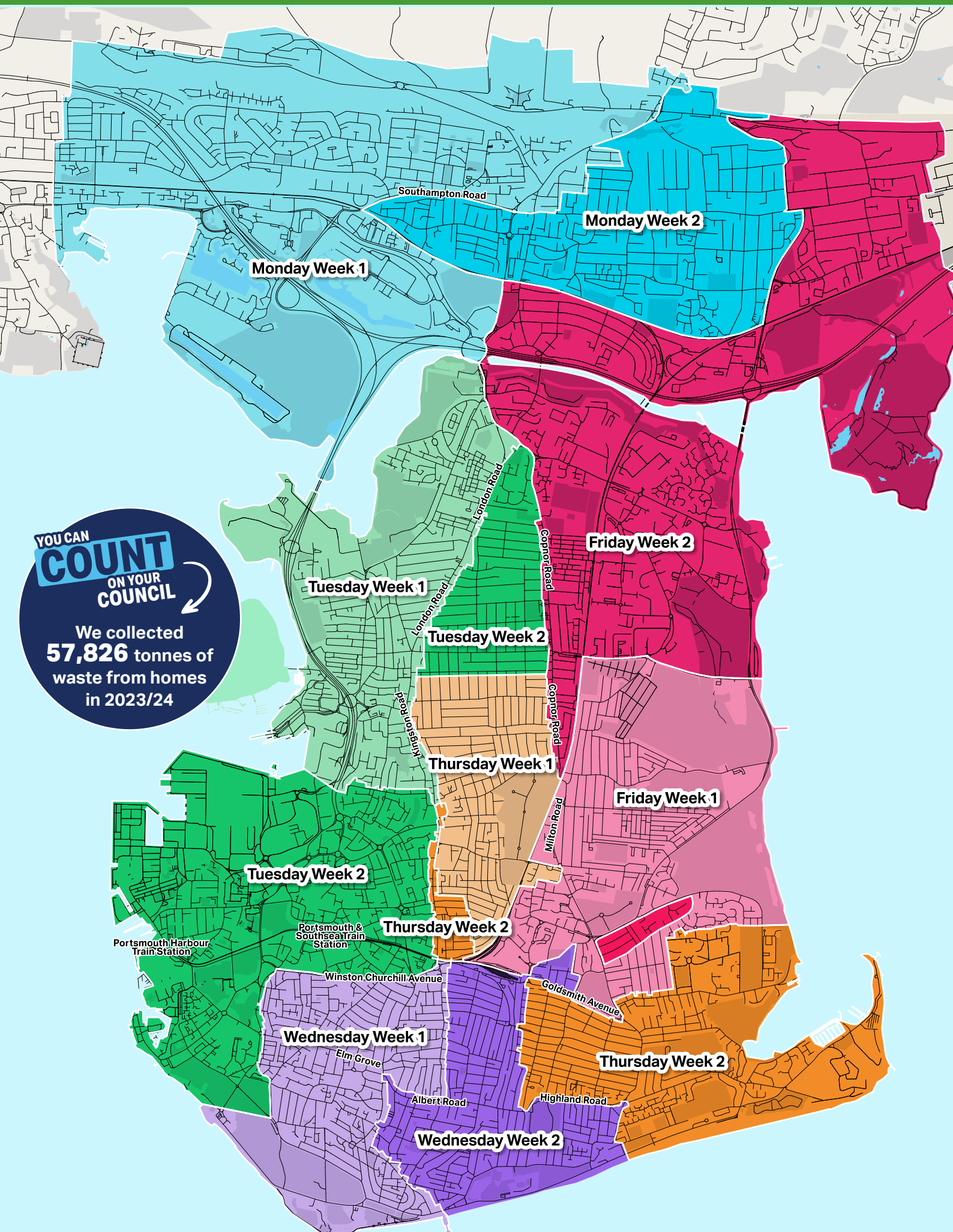
Friday Week 2			
Dec-24	13	30	
Jan-25	11	24	
Feb-25	7	21	
Mar-25	7	21	
Apr-25	4	18	
May-25	2	16	30
Jun-25	13	27	
Jul-25	11	25	
Aug-25	8	22	
Sep-25	5	19	
Oct-25	3	17	31
Nov-25	14	28	

Highlighted dates are changes due to the festive season, see page 20. Please use the map opposite to find out your collection day and collection week, then cut out and keep your own calendar. Remember, your rubbish (black bin/bag) is collected weekly, while your green bin recycling is collected every two weeks.

If you live in a flat and use communal bins, collection days may vary.

You can report a missed bin on the same day after 3pm and within two working days. Search **missed bin** at www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Check your collection dates at any time at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/waste



Christmas and new year collections



There will be changes to your rubbish and recycling collections. Food waste will be collected with your general rubbish as usual.

Normal collection day	Changed to
Wednesday 25/12/2024	Friday 27/12/2024
Thursday 26/12/2024	Saturday 28/12/2024
Friday 27/12/2024	Monday 30/12/2024
Monday 30/12/2024	Tuesday 31/12/2024
Tuesday 31/12/2024	Thursday 02/01/2025
Wednesday 01/01/2025	Friday 03/01/2025
Thursday 02/01/2025	Saturday 04/01/2025
Friday 03/01/2025	Monday 06/01/2025
Monday 06/01/2025	Tuesday 07/01/2025
Tuesday 07/01/2025	Wednesday 08/01/2025
Wednesday 08/01/2025	Thursday 09/01/2025
Thursday 09/01/2025	Friday 10/01/2025
Friday 10/01/2025	Saturday 11/01/2025

Garden waste: collections paused for two weeks.

- › Last collection in 2024: **Friday 20 December**
- › Collection resumes in 2025: **Monday 6 January**

Bulky waste: collections paused for four weeks

- › Last collection in 2024: **Tuesday 17 December**
- › Collection resumes in 2025: **Tuesday 14 January**

Regular healthcare waste collections:

- › **Friday 27 December**
- › **Thursday 2 January**
- › **Wednesday 8 January**

Know your bin times

Please **put your bins out by 6am** or you risk missing your collection. Your crew may start as early as 6am or change their route to adapt to roadworks or to avoid extreme weather. You can put your bins out from **7pm** the evening before collection day.

Once empty, please **bring your bins back in by the end of the day**. This keeps the streets accessible and clean for everyone. If your bins are left out, we may take them away or give you smaller ones.



Leaf it out

Sign up to our garden waste collection service and save yourself a trip to the HWRC when disposing of your real Christmas tree.

Yearly subscriptions start at £70. Go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk/leafitout



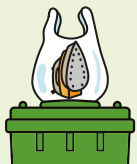
Recycle right for a greener Christmas

If you're unsure which bin to use for your Christmas waste, here's a guide:



Home recycling bin

- ✓ **cardboard**
- ✓ **plastic bottles** (no other plastics)
- ✓ **greetings cards** (remove ribbons, batteries, and sections with glitter)
- ✓ **metal tins/cans, including empty sweet tins**
- ✓ **paper** (including wrapping paper without glitter, plastic, shiny patterns etc)
- ✓ **aerosols**



Carrier bag on top of the recycling bin

- ✓ **electrical items including broken Christmas lights**



Household waste and recycling centre

- ✓ **broken Christmas lights**
- ✓ **artificial trees**
- ✓ **real Christmas trees**



Home rubbish bin

- ✓ **old tinsel and baubles**
- ✓ **wrapping paper containing plastic, shiny patterns, glitter etc.**



Plastic banks across the city

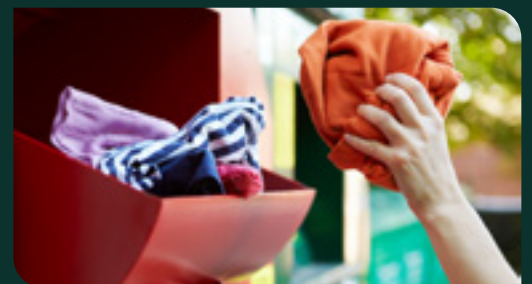
- ✓ **empty plastic tubs for sweets and chocolates**

Not sure which bin to use for another specific item?
Check at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/whatbin

Real Christmas trees

Real trees can be recycled and turned into chippings for parks. Cut them up and put in your garden waste bin or take them to the household waste recycling centre (HWRC) where you can dispose of them for free. To book a slot, search **hwrc** at www.portsmouth.gov.uk or call **0300 555 1389**.

Don't leave your tree on the pavement or with your rubbish, as it won't be collected.



Textile bank top tip

If you can't fit a bag of clothes into a textile bank, you can take the clothes out of the bag and put them in loose. Please don't leave items around the banks – this is fly tipping. If the bank is full, please contact us: recyclingandrubbish@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or **023 9284 1105**.

Cleaner energy, cleaner air



The port

Portsmouth International Port is planning a spring start for its Sea Change system, which will allow ships to plug into clean electric energy while alongside. This will reduce the carbon output of the port and its customers and improve air quality in the city.

Work to prepare for installation is under way. This includes excavation to lay a 600m-long, 33-kilovolt cable underneath the port's vehicle lanes, so the system on the berths can be hooked up to the electricity supply.

Sea Change will enable up to three ships to charge their batteries at once, meaning they can switch off their engines while berthed and run on electricity while entering and exiting the harbour.

**YOU CAN
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ON YOUR
COUNCIL**

Our port is number **1**. It was Port of the Year at the worldwide 2024 Seatrade Cruise awards.

Impression of how the lido will look



Making a splash

If you've walked past Hilsea Lido recently, you'll have seen a hive of activity. We're renovating it as part of the Hilsea Lines project to improve the area, which has been enabled by funding from the UK Government.

We've been working with consultancy company Mace, and contractors Beard, on this complex project. The pool will be reinforced and relined, with brand new filtration equipment installed. New changing and shower units will also be brought in.

A tenant is being sought to run the lido, and they'll work with us on the future restoration of the lido buildings and the Blue Lagoon.

The lido is set to reopen in summer 2025, the year it celebrates its 90th anniversary. Find out more at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/hilsealido



The lido in its heyday



Impression of new bike lane and one-way road on Southsea seafront



Print firm points the way

T-shirt and garment printing firm IM-Press Printing is the second company to move into our new enterprise centre, which supports local businesses to start up and grow.

City Buildings, in Commercial Road, is our fourth enterprise centre. It offers affordable office space with flexible lease terms and a programme of business support. By creating a vibrant community of entrepreneurs, we can revitalise the area and support our local economy.

For more information go to portsmouthenterprisecentres.co.uk



Update on new coastal defences

The latest stage of the Southsea Coastal Scheme is now under way between Blue Reef Aquarium and the Hovertravel terminal, with work expected to finish by summer 2026.

During construction, Clarence Esplanade and the promenade will be closed and a diversion will be in place for pedestrians and road users.

When re-opened, the area will have traffic changes designed to improve road safety, including:

- › a one-way system westbound for cars with a single carriageway and a 20mph limit instead of 30mph
- › a 2m-wide buffer strip between the parking and a new 3m-wide two-way cycle lane
- › some areas of parallel parking, although echelon (angled) parking will remain

Meanwhile, the final phase of the North Portsea Coastal Scheme, at Ports Creek, is under way and planned to be completed in December 2025.

Visitors can still get to Foxes Forest on the southern side of the moat. The footbridge next to the railway line, further east along the creek, will be closed for the duration of the work. Diversions are in place.

Some minor landscaping work along the Eastern Road has meant the Langstone Harbour viewing car park has been partially fenced off. As Flagship went to press, it was expected to re-open this December.

Easier, faster bus trips

We're making bus journeys easier with a range of improvements.

Buses are now equipped with audio-visual screens to announce and display upcoming stops. Plus, we're upgrading bus stops to make them more accessible for all.

Meanwhile, there are now 62 zero-emission electric buses and new red bus lanes, making bus journeys even faster and even better for the environment.

There are also new bus ticket options, making it easier to switch between bus companies like First Solent and Stagecoach with just one ticket.

The Pompey Ticket range includes the:

- › Pompey Hoppa90, for 90 minutes of travel
- › Pompey Group, which offers unlimited day travel for up to five people
- › Pompey NightOwl, for easy travel after 7pm

There's also a new SolentGo ticket, the Greater Portsmouth Travelcard, available to buy online or direct from the driver. This ticket allows interchangeable and unlimited travel on First and Stagecoach buses in Portsmouth and beyond.

With this travelcard passengers can now travel for work or leisure between Portsmouth and Emsworth, Horndean, Bishop's Waltham, Botley, Fareham, Gosport and Hayling Island. Daily and weekly tickets are available, which cost £7.50 and £30 respectively, and are designed to take people where they need to go, with convenience in mind.

The Greater Portsmouth Travelcard allows unlimited travel in the extended area, and you can tap on, tap off with your ticket, or use your mobile phone app. It has been developed by a partnership that includes local bus companies and councils.

Go to **travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/public-transport** for more information.

Safer, greener streets

We're making changes to roads and pathways to make it safer and more convenient for everyone to walk, cycle or take the bus.

Upgrades on Lake Road include a dedicated westbound bus lane and protected cycle paths, making travel smoother and more efficient for all road users. Walking and cycling routes will be safer and bus priority measures will ease congestion and help keep buses running on time.

We're also improving safety for people on foot by installing crossings at key spots like Victoria Road North, near the mosque. Where there's enough space, we're also planting trees and adding other greenery to make streets more pleasant and welcoming.

These improvements are part of our efforts to build a healthier, more sustainable transport network that benefits the entire Portsmouth community.

For more information on this and similar improvement projects, go to **www.sehrt.org.uk/schemes**



: just the ticket



Top tips for the winter

Winter's here, and we've got some ideas to help your journeys stay safe.



Cycling or Voi scooting

- ✓ Wear bright or reflective clothing.
- ✓ Ensure front and rear bike lights are working.
- ✓ Watch for slippery wet leaves.
- ✓ Use waterproof, warm gear.
- ✓ Adjust speed on Voi rental e-scooters or e-bikes to suit the weather.



Driving

- ✓ Check all vehicle lights before setting off.
- ✓ Ensure your windscreen is fully defrosted.
- ✓ Avoid clothing that limits your vision or movement.
- ✓ Allow extra stopping distance on wet or icy roads.
- ✓ Keep an eye out for others, especially people on bikes or crossing the road.

Park & Ride: now even easier

Park & Ride is so handy if you live in the north of the city and you're heading into town. You don't have to think about finding a city centre parking space, and by using the service you're helping to reduce traffic and improve our air quality.

Park & Ride has been updated with a fresh, vibrant look, with clearer passenger information. And you can now pay easily using the First Bus app. Frequent travellers can save time and money with flexible ticket options: just buy or top up your Flexipass or Smartcard via the app and enjoy fares starting from just £2 per day. You can also buy day tickets from the driver or through RingGo.

Follow Park and Ride Portsmouth on Facebook or check parkandride.portsmouth.gov.uk for updates.

**YOU CAN
COUNT
ON YOUR
COUNCIL**

Our park and ride
had **255,000**
passengers last year.



Charging ahead

We're putting in more on-street charge points for electric vehicles, using more than £4m from the UK Government.

More than 300 new charge points will be installed for us by established operator Zest, complementing recently reactivated charge points across the city. Three rapid chargers have also been added at All Saints car park.

These improvements, along with electric buses, Voi rental e-scooters and e-bikes, are part of our commitment to cleaner air and easier green travel options for everyone in Portsmouth.

Car club cuts costs and traffic

Since the city's Enterprise Car Club started in September 2023, its members have travelled more than 55,000 miles.

The club, set up with the Council, offers people an affordable way to get around without owning a car. It also helps reduce traffic. Each club car could replace up to seven private cars.

All vehicles come with insurance and breakdown cover.

There are cars available at eight locations across Portsmouth, with more to come soon. Discounted memberships are also available.

Find out more at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/carclub



Our Council of Sanctuary pledge

The Council has pledged to work towards accreditation as a Council of Sanctuary. This follows a unanimous full council decision in March.

Council of Sanctuary is an accreditation from the City of Sanctuary umbrella organisation which provides co-ordination and support for networks of community groups supporting people seeking sanctuary.

In 2019 the Council endorsed City of Sanctuary's vision of creating a welcoming, compassionate and inclusive culture across every part of society and the pledge signing is a symbol of that.

The aim is to improve our engagement and participation with people seeking sanctuary who have been assigned to the city by legitimate asylum or resettlement programmes managed by the Government's Home Office.

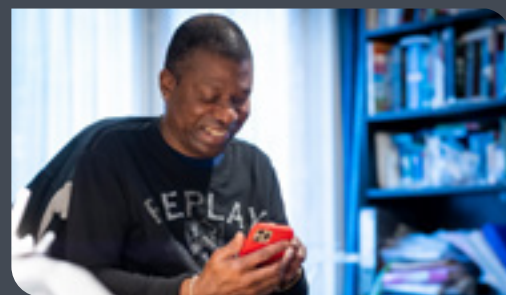
It will see us act as a co-ordinator of services – both in the community and the Council, to improve communication, share knowledge and experience, avoid duplication and make the best use of citywide resources.

How people arrive in Portsmouth

When people are going through a Home Office application process or are legally allowed to remain in the UK, the Government allocates a place for them to live. These placements are dispersed across the country and are managed on behalf of the Home Office by contractors. Councils are not involved in placements or determination decisions or allocations. Some people are placed in Portsmouth, and it is these people that City of Sanctuary and Council of Sanctuary will support.

YOU CAN
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ON YOUR
COUNCIL

Last year we housed
281 people who
would otherwise be
street homeless.



Council tax: go online

You get your other bills online, so why not your council tax? Switching to online takes minutes and means you can manage your account easily, when you want to. Sign up by going to **www.portsmouth.gov.uk** and searching for **viewing your bills online**.

A little help caring for your little ones

Download the **Healthier Together app** for instant advice on common childhood illnesses.

It will guide you on how to look after your child at home when they're poorly and where to get help when you need it.



Find us online at www.what0-18.nhs.uk



Think Pharmacy First for minor illness



Your local pharmacy can now treat, and offer prescription medication when needed, for seven common conditions:

Shingles - 18 years and over

Sore throat - 5 years and over

Infected insect bites - 1 year and over

Earaches in children - 1 to 17 years

Sinusitis - 12 years and over

Impetigo - 1 year and over

Uncomplicated urinary tract infection (UTI) in women 16 to 64 years