

# flagship

Winter 2025



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL



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p28

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✉ [flagship@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:flagship@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

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City helpdesk: **023 9283 4092** or  
[cityhelpdesk@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:cityhelpdesk@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or  
[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/contactonline](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/contactonline)

Adult social care: **023 9268 0810** or  
[ASCoppdAdmin@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:ASCoppdAdmin@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

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

Council tax: **023 9268 8588** or search **council tax**  
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**recycling and rubbish** at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

Search **contact us** at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk) Watch meetings at  
[www.youtube.com/@PCC-DemocraticServices](https://www.youtube.com/@PCC-DemocraticServices)

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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 Monday 1 December 2025 until Saturday 28 February 2026. Offer not available 9, 10, 15, 24, 25, 26 December 2025 and 27 January 2026. Only valid for residents in PO1-PO6, plus PO7 if you pay council tax to Portsmouth City Council. Please check opening times before visiting.**

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 HERITAGE FUND



# Festive cheer and childhood memories

Here are just some of the great events at your museums this Christmas...

At **Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery**, families can meet Father Christmas in his magical grotto. The cost (including a gift) is £10 for the first child and £5 for each additional child (up to four children and two adults can attend in one slot). The grotto is open Saturday 13, Sunday 14, Friday 19, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 December. Places are limited so please book on **023 9283 4779**. And don't forget to check out the Christmas trail around the museum – just ask at the front desk.

Meanwhile, at **Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum**, visitors will be able to experience the sights and sounds of the author's famous story *A Christmas Carol*. Check **charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk** for details and dates.

An exhibition called *Fun, Fear and Familiarity: A Child's View of Second World War Portsmouth* is coming to **The D-Day Story**. It features people who were children between 1939 and 1945, filmed by University of Portsmouth students.

Joan is one local person featured in the exhibition. She grew up in Wingfield Street, Buckland, and in her interview she recalls Anderson shelters, going to school and playing in the gardens of bombed-out houses.

She says: "Most of the houses were bombed, and we used to jump over the back walls from one to the other. And then suddenly you've got someone screaming 'Get out of here'. And it was because someone was still living in there."

The exhibition is free and runs from Saturday 13 December until Monday 12 January. For more information, visit **thedaystory.com**



Top: Santa at Portsmouth Museum & Art Gallery

This picture: Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum



Joan



The Charlalas (pictured in Cosham with Santa) will return for high street parties this year

# Rediscover the magic of a Portsmouth Christmas

**Portsmouth is set to sparkle this festive season. From glittering street parties to festive markets and ice-skating under twinkling lights, there's something special for everyone.**

The countdown to Christmas begins with three magical nights of **high street parties** supported by Nation Radio. Southsea kicks things off on 20 November, followed by Cosham Carols on 21 November, and a spectacular city centre celebration on 22 November.

Across the three parties expect festive lights, music, and special guests including EastEnders legend Shaun Williamson (aka Barry), the ever-vibrant Rustie Lee, Pompey panto favourite Jack Edwards, stars from Portsmouth Football Club, the Salvation Army brass band and, of course, Father Christmas himself.

Also launching on 22 November is the **Christmas Market** in Commercial Road, open daily until Christmas Eve. Set around a traditional German biergarten

serving bratwurst and glühwein, the market is a festive treasure trove of stocking fillers. On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays enjoy pop-up events, fresh produce and unique gifts from local traders.

In Southsea, **festive weekend markets** from Love Southsea and Hampshire Farmers' Markets offer a perfect opportunity to discover gorgeous gifts and delicious food from independent businesses. Whether you're shopping for artisan crafts or gourmet goodies, these markets are a celebration of Portsmouth's creative spirit.

On Saturday 6 December, there's a **small business taster** market on Commercial Road. As part of Small Business Saturday, local makers and online sellers will showcase exclusive products: some brand-new, others usually only available online.

For a truly magical experience, head to Guildhall Square for **Portsmouth on Ice** (22 November to 4 January). This real ice rink is fully undercover, ensuring fun whatever the weather.



Lights switch-on party in Southsea



New for 2025 are “tips and tricks” skating sessions for all abilities, including beginners. Plus, there are family-friendly slots, SEND sessions, and lively DJ nights. With hour-long sessions and freshly reconditioned ice, it's the perfect way to glide into the season.

Tickets start at £13.50, with family and concession options available. Skate aids are £6 per item. Book your session at [portsmouthiceskating.uk](https://portsmouthiceskating.uk) or call **0845 299 7991**.

As well as being festive and fun, these events help us to support our local businesses and encourage us to rediscover our high streets and shopping areas.

For a full daily programme of Christmas events go to [rediscoverportsmouth.co.uk/christmas](https://rediscoverportsmouth.co.uk/christmas)



## Winter fun for kids

HAF Fun Pompey's winter programme is back with all the bells and baubles to keep your 5-to-16-year-olds entertained through the Christmas school holidays.

Each activity is at least four hours long and includes a delicious hot meal.

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

For more information and to book, click on **HAF** at [www.pycportsmouth.co.uk](https://www.pycportsmouth.co.uk)



## Celebrating books

Once the festive season is over, local booklovers will start looking forward to Portsmouth BookFest.

It returns on 16 February and runs until 8 March, celebrating literature, creativity, and cultural milestones including Portsmouth100, the centenary of Peter Sellers, 50 years of punk and the 50th birthday of Central Library – plus workshops, family-friendly activities and talks from authors such as Portsmouth's Ben Aitken (pictured).

For more details search **Portsmouth Bookfest** online.



# out&about

★ NOVEMBER – 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](http://visitportsmouth.co.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](http://bit.ly/2bz13Sn)

## Getting there

Walking, cycling, riding a Voi, sharing a taxi or taking the bus can save money, boost your health and help make our air cleaner.

## ONGOING

### Tuesdays

#### Tech Support

Cosy Corner Café, Age UK, 1pm–3pm, £5 per hour. Digital sessions for all abilities and devices. Booking only: 023 9286 2121.

### First and third Friday

#### Coffee & Company

Cosy Corner Café, Age UK, 1.30pm–3pm, £2.50. 023 9286 2121.

### Second and last Friday

#### Veterans' Breakfast Club

Cosy Corner Café, Age UK, 10am–11.30am, £5–£6.20. 023 9286 2121.

### Second and last Sunday

#### Car Meet

Port Solent, 9.30am–12pm.

### Third Sunday

#### VW Camper Meet

Port Solent, 10am–12pm.

## NOVEMBER

### 16 Wedding Showcase

Square Tower, 11am–3pm.

### 19 Teach Portsmouth Jobs Fair

See p24.

### 20 Christmas Lights Switch-On

Palmerston Road, 5pm–7pm.

### 21 Christmas Lights Switch-On

Cosham High Street, 5pm–6.30pm.

### 22 to 4 Jan

#### Portsmouth on Ice

See p4–5.

### 22 Christmas Fair

St Luke's Church, 12pm–3pm.

### 22 Christmas Lights Switch-On

Commercial Road, 4pm–6pm.

### 22 to 24 Dec

#### Christmas Market

Commercial Road. See p4–5.

### 22 Toward the Unknown Region

St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, 7.30pm. Adults £20, children/students £2.50  
Portsmouth Choral Union with guests.

### 24 Disabled Carers Group

Carers Centre, 117 Orchard Road, 3pm–4.30pm. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

### 25 Low Girl & Picture House

Edge of the Wedge, 7.30pm, £12.

### 26 Amy MacDonald

Guildhall, 7pm, £43.70–£67.10.

### 26 Energy Bills Support

Switched On Portsmouth, Central Library, 10am to 2pm. See p28.

### 27 Carers & Cake

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

### 28 Rhythm of the 90s

Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £27.50.

### 29 Love Actually

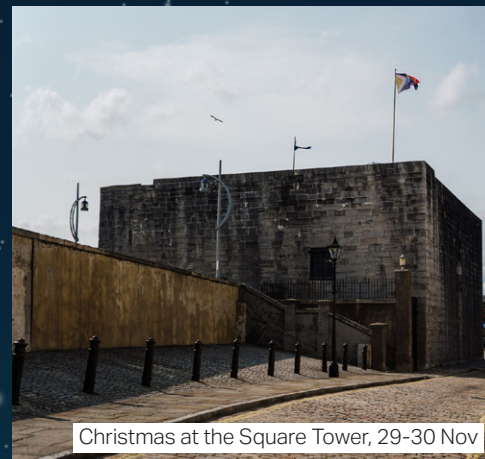
Film with live orchestra. Guildhall, 6.30pm, £40.80.

### 29 Serenades and Starbursts

St Mary's Church, 7pm, £5–£19. BSO Strings Ensemble.

### 29 Fell Out Boy & The Black Charade

Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £20.



Christmas at the Square Tower, 29–30 Nov

### 29–30 Christmas at the Square Tower

10am–4pm.

### 30 The Sandy Denny Project

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £20.

## DECEMBER

### 1 Memories of my submariner career

Guildhall, 1.30pm. Pompey Pensioners' Association talk.

### 2–5 Riverdance

Guildhall, timings vary, from £43.10.

### 5 Parent Carer Coffee Morning

Carers Centre, 117 Orchard Road, 9.45am–11.45am. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

### 5 The Remi Harris Hot Club Trio

Boathouse 5, Historic Dockyard, 7.30pm, £18.

### 5, 8 and 10 Sleigh Nights

Streets around Baffins Pond, 5pm–8pm. Donations welcomed for Baffins Pond Assoc.

### 6 Beach Clean

Meet Eastney Coffee Cup, 10am–11.45am. Southsea Beachwatch.

### 6 Small Business Taster Market

Commercial Road. See p4–5.

### 6–7 Festival of Christmas Market

Port Solent, 10am–5pm.



Christmas Ships, 6–7 and 13–14 Dec





Christmas Concert, 7 Dec

**6-7 and 13-14****Christmas Ships**

HMS Warrior, Historic Dockyard, 10am-4.30pm. Meet Santa and celebrate Victorian traditions. Free with valid Dockyard ticket.

**7 Christmas Concert**

St Mary's Church, 3.30pm, £15. Milton Glee Choir with RMA Band.

**8 Edwyrdian Tales**

Boathouse 5, Historic Dockyard, 7.30pm. Adults £15, conc £12. Ghost stories by Groundlings Theatre.

**9 Carers & Cake**

Carers Centre, 117 Orchard Road, 12pm-2pm. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

**10 St Agnes Fountain**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £23.

**11 Parent Carer Evening**

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

**11-2 January****Cinderella**

Groundlings Theatre pantomime. Boathouse 5, Historic Dockyard, timings vary. Single £20, family of four £68, table of 10 £160.

**13 Carols & Christmas Music**

St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, 7.30pm. Adults £20, children/students £2.50. Portsmouth Choral Union with Hampshire Youth Orchestra.

**13-14 and 19-21****Santa's Grotto**

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery. See p3.

**13-12 January****Fun, Fear and Familiarity**

See p3.

**14 Gerry Colvin Band**

Square Tower, 7.15pm, £20. [www.squarerootspromotions.co.uk](http://www.squarerootspromotions.co.uk)

**17 Christmas Carol Concert**

Port Solent, 6.30pm-7.30pm. Salvation Army Band.

**17 Big Fat Xmas Quiz**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £3. Annual Xmas quiz.

**18 Carers & Cake**

Community Kettle, Cosham, 10.30am-12.30pm. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

**19 Brave Rival**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £20.

**22 Last Night of the Xmas Proms**

Guildhall, 7.30pm, £15-£31. Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

**22-31 Cinderella**

Pantomime. Lens Studio, Guildhall, timings vary, £23.

**23 PopKids Christmas Wonderland**

Wedgewood Rooms, 12pm, £10.

**24 Let It Snow**

St Luke's Church, 4pm. Relaxed carol service.

**26 Boxing Day Car Meet**

Port Solent, 9.30am-12pm.

**27-29 Elf The Musical**

Guildhall, timings vary, £30-£57.50.

**28 Absolute Britney & Xtina Live!**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £20.

**JANUARY****3 Beach Clean**

Meet Eastney Coffee Cup, 10am-11.45am. Southsea Beachwatch.

**5 Pompey Pensioners' Assoc talk**

Guildhall, 1.30pm.

**8 Parent Carer Evening Drop-in**

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

**9 Parent Carer Coffee Morning**

Carers Centre, 117 Orchard Road, 9.45am-11.45am. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

**10 A Night of Bowie**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £18.

**13 Carers & Cake**

Carers Centre, 117 Orchard Road, 12pm-2pm. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

**17 Chris Moyles 90s Hangover**

Guildhall, 7.30pm, £34.35.



Brave Rival, 19 Dec

**18 Afs Connolly**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £15.

**22 Piano Pyrotechnics**

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall, 7pm, £15-£31.

**25 Boot Heel Playboys**

Western swing. Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £15.

**29 Carers & Cake**

Community Kettle, Cosham, 10.30am-12.30pm. SEND Butterflies South Coast.

**31 Icebreaker Festival**

Venues around Albert Road, from 12.30, £20. Local and up-and-coming bands.

**31 Come and Sing with Portsmouth Choral Union**

Portsmouth Choral Union. St Jude's Church, 2pm-6pm, singers £17.

**FEBRUARY****1 Hannah White**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £15.

**2 Pompey Pensioners' Assoc talk**

Guildhall, 1.30pm.

**7 Beach Clean**

Meet Eastney Coffee Cup, 10am-11.45am. Southsea Beachwatch.

**11 Tōru Takemitsu**

London Sinfonietta. 7pm, £12-£25.

**16 The Fratellis**

Guildhall, 7pm, £43.70-£45.45.



The Fratellis, 16 Feb



16 to 8 March

**Portsmouth Bookfest**

See p3.

16-20 **Marking Portsmouth Landmarks**

Drop-in craft sessions. Museum & Art Gallery, 10am-12.30pm. £2.50 per child, Leisure Card holders £1.

19 **Kids Club**

Port Solent, 11am-4pm.

20 **Kirsten Adamson & The Tanagers**

Square Tower, 7.15pm, £16.  
www.squarerootspromotions.co.uk



Steve Knightley, 6 Mar

21 **Mus3**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £15.

24 **Corpus Delicti & Fake Empire & Curl**

Wedgewood Rooms, 7pm, £22.

**MARCH**

1 **Miranda Sykes & Hannah Martin**

Square Tower, 7.15pm, £18.  
www.squarerootspromotions.co.uk

2 **Pompey Pensioners' Assoc talk**

Guildhall, 1.30pm.

5 **Birds of Central & South America**

Talk, Fratton Community Centre, 7pm. £3 for non-members.  
Portsmouth Hispanic Society.

5 **Classic FM Hall of Fame**

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.  
Guildhall, 7pm, £15-£31.

6 **Steve Knightley**

St Luke's Church, Southsea, 7pm, £23.  
www.squarerootspromotions.co.uk

7 **Beach Clean**

Meet Eastney Coffee Cup, 10am-11.45am. Southsea Beachwatch.



Diversity, 24-25 Mar

19 **Mahler's Fifth**

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.  
Guildhall, 7pm, £15-£31.

20-21 **Fishville**

Boathouse 5, Historic Dockyard, 7.30pm, £5. Groundlings Theatre with National Theatre Connections programme.

24-25 **Diversity**

Guildhall, 6.30pm, £40.80-£55.40.

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Scan the QR code or visit **hartfordcare.co.uk/hartford-court**





# What to recycle for a greener Christmas

Here's a guide to what kind of Christmas waste goes where:



## Home recycling bin

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



## Carrier bag on top of the recycling bin

- ✓ **broken Christmas lights**



## Clear bag on top of the rubbish bin

- ✓ **dead batteries**



## Household waste and recycling centre

- ✓ **broken Christmas lights**
- ✓ **artificial trees** (if it can't be dismantled and put in the home rubbish bin)
- ✓ **real Christmas trees** (or see page 12 for home collections)



## Home rubbish bin

- ✓ **old tinsel and baubles**
- ✓ **wrapping paper containing plastic, shiny patterns, glitter etc.**
- ✓ **artificial trees (if they can be dismantled)**



## Plastic banks across the city

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

Not sure which bin to use for an item?

Check at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/whatbin](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/whatbin)

Recycling bank full? Please call **023 9284 1105** or email [recyclingandrubbish@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:recyclingandrubbish@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)



## Garden waste? Leaf it Out!

Have you joined Leaf it Out, the Council's garden waste collection scheme?

You can spruce up your garden with no more messy trips to the tip and let us take care of your leaves, grass clippings, hedge prunings and tree cuttings.

Collections are every two weeks. We take your garden waste to specialist facilities near Basingstoke and Winchester for composting.

An annual subscription for a 240L garden waste bin is £70. Or an annual subscription for garden waste sacks is £78.

To sign up or to renew your subscription, call **023 9284 1105** and select option 4. Or you can sign up or renew online via the waste portal at

[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/leafitout](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/leafitout)





# Your 2025-26 recycling collection dates

| Monday Week 1 |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|
| December      | 1  | 15 | 30 |
| January       | 12 | 26 |    |
| February      | 9  | 23 |    |
| March         | 9  | 23 |    |
| April         | 6  | 20 |    |
| May           | 4  | 18 |    |
| June          | 1  | 15 | 29 |
| July          | 13 | 27 |    |
| August        | 10 | 24 |    |
| September     | 7  | 21 |    |
| October       | 5  | 19 |    |
| November      | 2  | 16 | 30 |

| Monday Week 2 |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|
| December      | 8  | 22 |    |
| January       | 6  | 19 |    |
| February      | 2  | 16 |    |
| March         | 2  | 16 |    |
| April         | 13 | 27 |    |
| May           | 11 | 25 |    |
| June          | 8  | 22 |    |
| July          | 6  | 20 |    |
| August        | 3  | 17 | 31 |
| September     | 14 | 28 |    |
| October       | 12 | 26 |    |
| November      | 9  | 23 |    |

| Tuesday Week 1 |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| December       | 2  | 16 | 31 |
| January        | 13 | 27 |    |
| February       | 10 | 24 |    |
| March          | 10 | 24 |    |
| April          | 7  | 21 |    |
| May            | 5  | 19 |    |
| June           | 2  | 16 | 30 |
| July           | 14 | 28 |    |
| August         | 11 | 25 |    |
| September      | 8  | 22 |    |
| October        | 6  | 20 |    |
| November       | 3  | 17 |    |

| Tuesday Week 2 |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| December       | 9  | 23 |    |
| January        | 7  | 20 |    |
| February       | 3  | 17 |    |
| March          | 3  | 17 |    |
| April          | 14 | 28 |    |
| May            | 12 | 26 |    |
| June           | 9  | 23 |    |
| July           | 7  | 21 |    |
| August         | 4  | 18 |    |
| September      | 1  | 15 | 29 |
| October        | 13 | 27 |    |
| November       | 1  | 24 |    |

| Wednesday Week 1 |    |    |    |
|------------------|----|----|----|
| December         | 3  | 17 |    |
| January          | 2  | 14 | 28 |
| February         | 11 | 25 |    |
| March            | 11 | 25 |    |
| April            | 8  | 22 |    |
| May              | 6  | 20 |    |
| June             | 3  | 17 |    |
| July             | 1  | 15 | 29 |
| August           | 12 | 26 |    |
| September        | 9  | 23 |    |
| October          | 7  | 21 |    |
| November         | 4  | 18 |    |

| Wednesday Week 2 |    |    |    |
|------------------|----|----|----|
| December         | 10 | 24 |    |
| January          | 8  | 21 |    |
| February         | 4  | 18 |    |
| March            | 4  | 18 |    |
| April            | 1  | 15 | 29 |
| May              | 13 | 27 |    |
| June             | 10 | 24 |    |
| July             | 8  | 22 |    |
| August           | 5  | 19 |    |
| September        | 2  | 16 | 30 |
| October          | 14 | 28 |    |
| November         | 11 | 25 |    |

| Thursday Week 1 |    |    |    |
|-----------------|----|----|----|
| December        | 4  | 18 |    |
| January         | 3  | 15 | 29 |
| February        | 12 | 26 |    |
| March           | 12 | 26 |    |
| April           | 9  | 23 |    |
| May             | 7  | 21 |    |
| June            | 4  | 18 |    |
| July            | 2  | 16 | 30 |
| August          | 13 | 27 |    |
| September       | 10 | 24 |    |
| October         | 8  | 22 |    |
| November        | 5  | 19 |    |

| Thursday Week 2 |    |    |    |
|-----------------|----|----|----|
| December        | 11 | 27 |    |
| January         | 9  | 22 |    |
| February        | 5  | 19 |    |
| March           | 5  | 19 |    |
| April           | 2  | 16 | 30 |
| May             | 14 | 28 |    |
| June            | 11 | 25 |    |
| July            | 9  | 23 |    |
| August          | 6  | 20 |    |
| September       | 3  | 17 |    |
| October         | 1  | 15 | 29 |
| November        | 12 | 26 |    |

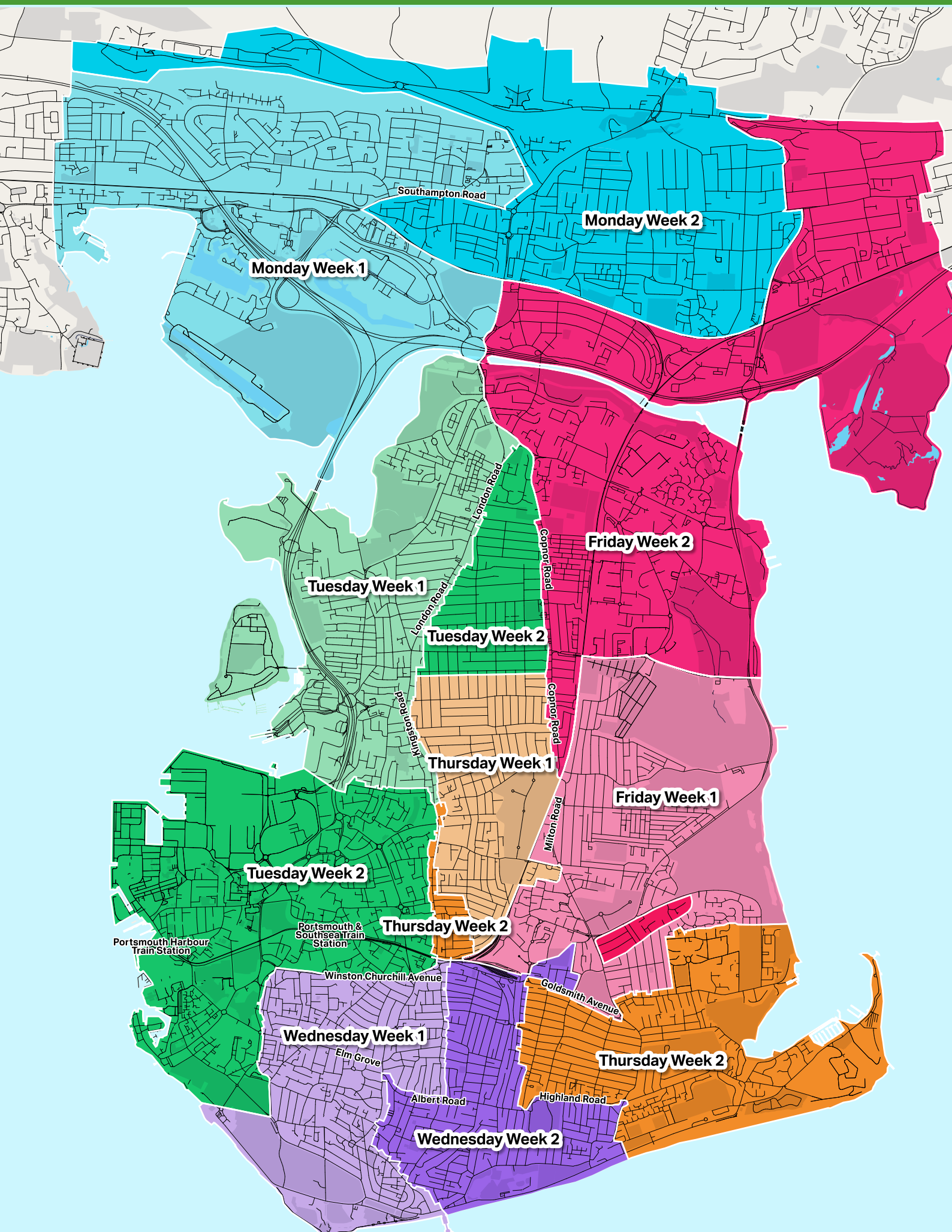
| Friday Week 1 |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|
| December      | 5  | 19 |    |
| January       | 5  | 16 | 30 |
| February      | 13 | 27 |    |
| March         | 13 | 27 |    |
| April         | 10 | 24 |    |
| May           | 8  | 22 |    |
| June          | 5  | 19 |    |
| July          | 3  | 17 | 31 |
| August        | 14 | 28 |    |
| September     | 11 | 25 |    |
| October       | 9  | 23 |    |
| November      | 6  | 20 |    |

| Friday Week 2 |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|
| December      | 12 | 29 |    |
| January       | 10 | 23 |    |
| February      | 6  | 20 |    |
| March         | 6  | 20 |    |
| April         | 3  | 17 |    |
| May           | 1  | 15 | 29 |
| June          | 12 | 26 |    |
| July          | 10 | 24 |    |
| August        | 7  | 21 |    |
| September     | 4  | 18 |    |
| October       | 2  | 16 | 30 |
| November      | 13 | 27 |    |

Highlighted dates are changes due to the festive season – see page 12. 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/bags) is collected weekly, while your green recycling bin is collected every two weeks.

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

Please report any missed bin within two working days. You can call **023 9284 1105** or go to our online waste portal. To open the portal, search **missed bin** at **www.portsmouth.gov.uk**. You can also check your collection dates and the status of your collections on the portal.





# Christmas and new year collections

Rubbish and recycling collections run as normal on 24 December, then change as shown below. Food waste will be collected with your general rubbish as usual.

| Normal collection day      | Changed to                 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday 25 December 2025  | Saturday 27 December 2025  |
| Friday 26 December 2025    | Monday 29 December 2025    |
| Monday 29 December 2025    | Tuesday 30 December 2025   |
| Tuesday 30 December 2025   | Wednesday 31 December 2025 |
| Wednesday 31 December 2025 | Friday 2 January 2026      |
| Thursday 1 January 2026    | Saturday 3 January 2026    |
| Friday 2 January 2026      | Monday 5 January 2026      |
| Monday 5 January 2026      | Tuesday 6 January 2026     |
| Tuesday 6 January 2026     | Wednesday 7 January 2026   |
| Wednesday 7 January 2026   | Thursday 8 January 2026    |
| Thursday 8 January 2026    | Friday 9 January 2026      |
| Friday 9 January 2026      | Saturday 10 January 2026   |

## Garden waste: *suspended for two weeks*

|                                                       |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Last collection of 2025:<br><b>Friday 19 December</b> | First collection of 2026:<br><b>Monday 5 January</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|

## Bulky waste: *suspended for three weeks*

|                                                        |                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Last collection of 2025:<br><b>Tuesday 23 December</b> | First collection of 2026:<br><b>Tuesday 13 January</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

## Healthcare/clinical waste collections

|                                  |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday<br/>24 December</b> | <b>Wednesday<br/>31 December</b> | <b>Wednesday<br/>7 January</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|

## Bin deliveries

|                                                          |                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Last deliveries of 2025:<br><b>Wednesday 24 December</b> | First deliveries of 2026:<br><b>Monday 12 January</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|



## Free Christmas tree collections

If you have a real Christmas tree, we'll collect it free of charge in January only. There will be two opportunities to have your tree collected. Make sure you put your tree outside the front of your property on one of your two designated collection days. Check your collection days at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/christmastrees](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/christmastrees) or call **023 9284 1105** and select option 4. The day may be different to your normal rubbish and recycling day.

Or, a real tree can be cut up and put in your garden waste bin. Or you can take it to the household waste and recycling centre (HWRC) at Port Solent. Remember to book a slot.

# Free support for parents

**Raising children isn't easy, but there's help available. Our family hubs are there to offer free, expert support.**

## Children 0–5

Visit your local family hub for newborn advice, parenting courses, playgroups or emotional wellbeing support. We're here to help, whether you want a chat, a group session, or one-to-one support. There are also special groups for dads, young mums and families with extra needs.

## Children 4–18

We also have online courses that offer practical help with everyday parenting. Choose from one-off advice sessions or longer courses. We can offer support with childhood anxiety or emotional wellbeing, and with managing harmful behaviour. Support is also available for separated parents and families with children who have special needs. You can sign up for these free online courses at [inourplace.co.uk/portsmouth](https://inourplace.co.uk/portsmouth) (use code PARENTSUPPORT). They're available in different languages.

For more information search **Portsmouth family hubs** at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk) or email [parentingservice@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:parentingservice@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)



Posed by models

# Health and care nearer home

Residents will have easier access to health and care support thanks to a new scheme to be tried out in Portsmouth.

People will be able to get care closer to home, with NHS and community services available in neighbourhood health centres. The aim is to prevent unnecessary trips to hospital and avoid people being passed around the system.

The next step for the Council and the NHS will be to involve local communities in shaping the plans.

Follow the **Health and Care Portsmouth** Facebook page for updates.



## I'm so grateful for Safe at Home

If you live alone, that doesn't mean you have to be alone in an emergency.

Safe at Home is a Council service which offers discreet alarms and sensors that connect you to help, 24 hours a day.

Whether you've had a fall, feel unwell, or just need reassurance, it's simple, reliable, and gives peace of mind to you and your family.

One user said: "I'm so grateful for Safe at Home. I'm 95, partially sighted and suffering with arthritis, but I'm comforted to know I can rely on their services."

Go to [wearesafeathome.co.uk](https://wearesafeathome.co.uk) to learn more.



# COST OF LIVING: DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE



## If you're struggling to make ends meet, then support is available this winter.

Help includes three household support fund schemes funded by the UK Government:

**Exceptional hardship scheme:** This reopens in January for households in extreme financial hardship. You can make applications for one-off payments for essentials like food, energy bills, fridges, freezers, furniture and vehicle repairs. You must have household earnings below a certain level and not have had a payment in the last six months.

**Family vouchers:** Open from around mid-December, this is for families whose children don't get means-tested free school meals, so didn't get a voucher from their school during the autumn term. Vouchers are £30 per eligible child, and you'll need to apply.

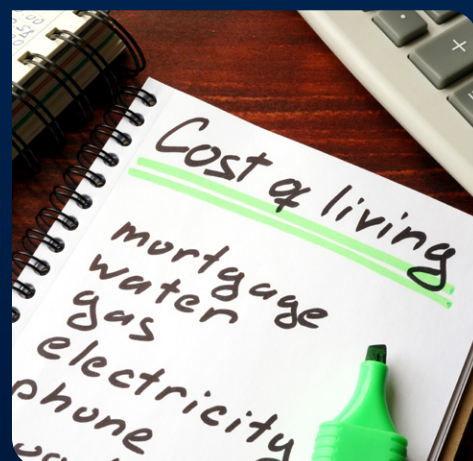
**Utilities payment scheme:** This is due to reopen in December, to help people with rising energy and water bills. We're offering payments of £150 for eligible single households and £200 for couples and families. This scheme is open to low-income households who are more affected by the rising cost of utilities. Find the details online (see "How to apply" above).

Due to limited funding, applications for these schemes may have to close early if demand is high.

## How to apply

The easiest way to find details of these schemes and to apply is to go to **[portsmouth.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](https://portsmouth.gov.uk/householdsupportfund)**

If you need help applying, you can call us on **023 9268 8010**.



# More support this winter

**Warm home discount:** This government scheme gives a one-off £150 discount on electricity bills if you're on a low income. It's automatically deducted from your bill, but you must be receiving the guarantee credit element of pension credit, or be on a low income with high energy costs. For more details go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search **warm home discount scheme**.

**Winter fuel payment:** For people of state pension age. The government has changed the rules this winter so more pensioners will receive a payment of £100 to £300, depending on circumstances. For more details go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search **winter fuel payment**.



## Free advice on money matters

We're offering information and advice on cost of living issues to all Portsmouth residents.

Go to [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/costoflivinghub](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/costoflivinghub) to find advice on boosting your budget and making your money go further. From the hub you can click on our cost of living blog. Read the latest on the government's changes to disability benefit and what you need to do, find free activities for your family, and discover other ways to make your money go further.

Call **023 9284 1047** for our cost of living helpline. It's open weekdays 9am–5pm (closes at 4.30pm on Fridays). Closed on bank holidays.

Or you can use Advice Portsmouth, who offer free, independent and confidential advice on our behalf. They can help with topics including benefits, debt, jobs, family issues and housing. There are drop-in sessions at 11 Kingston Crescent, North End PO2 8AL.

You can also call **023 9279 4340** or go to [www.adviceportsmouth.org.uk](http://www.adviceportsmouth.org.uk)







Tamara with husband Menno

# Help a young person find their feet

**You could be a young person's inspiration as they take their first steps into adult life.**

When they've been in our care, some young people need help as they make the transition to living independently. By joining our team of supported lodgings carers, you'll provide accommodation and a minimum of 10 hours a week care for one of these young people.

You'll help them build confidence and develop everyday practical skills such as budgeting, washing, cooking, and applying for work, training or education.

Each young person has a social worker for support, and carers receive excellent training and development, 24/7 advice, and competitive fees and allowances. You can carry on with work, part or full-time.

Tamara, one of our supported lodgings carers, says: "You're providing a young person with a secure base as they make their way in the world."

To find out more call **023 9283 4071**, email **fostering@portsmouthcc.gov.uk** or go to **foster.portsmouth.gov.uk/supported-lodgings**

## Tackling abuse and violence

We can all do our bit to help combat abuse, sexual violence and harassment. Here are just two ways you can stand up and get involved.

The Safer Together Hub offers free training to help you spot and stop abuse. More than 30 venues have joined the hub's We Stand Together scheme, and now residents can get involved, with its Positive Bystander scheme. Learn simple, safe ways to speak up when something's not right. Go to **safertogetherhants.co.uk** and click on **Making a Difference Together**.



On White Ribbon Day, 25 November, you can wear a ribbon, speak up, and start changing attitudes. See **www.whiteribbon.org.uk**

The Council is White Ribbon accredited, which means we're working to stop violence against women and girls and make Portsmouth a safer, more respectful place for everyone.





Special  
four-page  
pullout



**PORTSMOUTH**  
1 9 2 6 – 2 0 2 6

# A CENTURY OF PRIDE, A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITY

**Join us in 2026 for a year-long celebration marking 100 years since Portsmouth was officially granted city status. Everyone is invited to help mark this historic milestone – a time to reflect, have fun and look forward.**

This special pullout section is a taster of the year to come. Turn over for a visual journey through the decades. Then, on the final page, learn more about what's coming up and how to take part.

## Portsmouth100 events confirmed

|                                                                                        |                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 January</b><br>Portsmouth100 launch                                               | <b>July to August</b><br>The Pride of Portsmouth lion trail                               |
| <b>January</b><br>Portsmouth100-themed Shaping Portsmouth conference                   | <b>Autumn</b><br>Your Museum, Your Stories exhibition from Portsmouth Museums             |
| <b>22 March</b><br>Centenary civic service at Portsmouth Cathedral                     | <b>November</b><br>Portsmouth100 fireworks display                                        |
| <b>9 May</b><br>Music in Portsmouth presented by Portsmouth Cathedral at the Guildhall | <b>November</b><br>Portsmouth100-themed We Shine festival presented by Portsmouth Creates |

Find out more and get involved

**[www.portsmouth100.co.uk](http://www.portsmouth100.co.uk)**



# Through the years:

## PORTSMOUTH IN THE 1920s



Left: Hilsea Lido opening. Centre: The council chamber in 1926 when Portsmouth gained city status  
Right: Sailors on board HMS Neptune cheer King George V as his yacht passes

## PORTSMOUTH IN THE 1950s



Portsmouth airport in 1953

## PORTSMOUTH IN THE 1960s



Woman's Mirror magazine beach fashion show, 1960

## PORTSMOUTH IN THE 1970s



## PORTSMOUTH IN THE 1990s



The Queen with heads of state during the D-Day 50 commemorations, 1994

## PORTSMOUTH IN THE 2000s



Harry Redknapp and his Pompey players tour the city after their FA Cup victory in 2008



# a century of pride

PORTSMOUTH IN THE

## 1930s



Work under way on the Highbury estate

PORTSMOUTH IN THE

## 1940s



Left: A party in Cumberland Road, 1940 Above: Welcoming King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, 1947

PORTSMOUTH IN THE

## 1980s



The D-Day Story in 1984, the year it opened (as the D-Day Museum)



Left: South Parade Pier on fire, 1974 Above: Portsmouth International Port under construction in the mid-70s

PORTSMOUTH IN THE

## 2010s



Celebrating the centenary of Charles Dickens' birth, 2012

PORTSMOUTH IN THE

## 2020s



Skateboarder at the new-look Speakers' Corner





**THE PRIDE OF  
PORTSMOUTH**

# The pride of Portsmouth is growing...



**As we plan to celebrate 100 years of city spirit,  
we want to give you a preview of what's next.**

You may have already spotted a colourful lion called Leonardo Da Pompey, by artist Louise Braithwaite, in Southsea Library's window. He's there until 25 November.

He's pictured here – one of a pride of lions set to become a powerful symbol of our Portsmouth100 story next year.

Louise is well-known for her vibrant paintings of Portsmouth landmarks and scenes. Now we're calling out to other local artists, as well as those from further afield, to bring the rest of the lions to life for a Pride of Portsmouth trail.



**Would you like to design one of  
Portsmouth's iconic lions?**

For more information on submitting  
your artwork or details about the trail,  
go to **[www.prideofportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.prideofportsmouth.co.uk)**

It's going to be truly special.

## Be a part of the story

Whether you've lived here all your life or just joined the journey, Portsmouth100 is about you. Get involved in upcoming events and help shape the next chapter.

Are you planning something special to mark 100 years of Portsmouth as a city in 2026? Or are you celebrating a 100th birthday that year? We'd love to hear from you. Whether it's a personal milestone or a community celebration, share your plans with us by emailing **[portsmouth100@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:portsmouth100@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)**

Go to **[www.portsmouth100.co.uk](http://www.portsmouth100.co.uk)** to find out more and get involved.



# Small steps to a happier family



Our wellbeing and mental health are not just about how we feel. They're also affected by what we do.

There are five areas we can focus on to make a big difference to health and happiness in our families.

- › **Take notice.** Remind yourself to take notice of your thoughts and feelings, and whether or not they're difficult to manage.
- › **Give.** People who are kind, help others and give their time are more likely to say they're happy.
- › **Be active.** Many people find physical activity helps them maintain positive mental health.
- › **Keep learning.** Learning something new can help you feel happier and more focused.
- › **Connect.** Talking to other people can have a positive impact on our wellbeing.

Find out more at [mentalhealthinportsmouth.co.uk/backtobasics](https://mentalhealthinportsmouth.co.uk/backtobasics)

Posed by models



## Children away from home

Do you know a child who isn't living at home?

Are they sofa-surfing or staying with a family friend after a row at home? Or is their parent studying or working away?

If they're staying with someone who isn't a close family member for more than 28 days, this could be what we call "private fostering". You must let us know so we can keep the child safe and well, and offer support.

To talk to us about private fostering:

Call **023 9268 8793**

Email [privatefostering@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:privatefostering@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Go to [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/private-fostering](https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/private-fostering)

Posed by models



## Tackling homelessness

If you're at risk of homelessness, we can help you talk to your landlord or family so you can stay at home. Or we can help you get financial or other practical support so you can find a new home. We can also help if you're experiencing domestic abuse or are at risk of it. Our team is on **023 9283 4989** or pop into the Civic Offices (Monday to Thursday 9am–5pm, Friday 9am–4pm).

We have outreach workers who find rough sleepers and offer support. If you'd like to donate clothes and tinned food to our rough sleeping hub, please call **023 9283 4188**.



# I feel so much better now I've quit

**If you stop smoking, you can improve your mental wellbeing – and so much more.**

People who smoked notice a lift in their mood when they quit – like Gillian from Fratton. Her life improved in lots of other ways too.

"I wanted to stop due to my health issues and for my family," she says. "My food now tastes better and I feel so much better in myself."

Here's what happens when you quit:

- › After 72 hours, you'll breathe better and have more energy.
- › From six weeks you'll feel mental health benefits such as reduced anxiety, depression and stress.
- › Every week you can save around £38 – close to £2,000 a year.

Gillian stopped smoking with our wellbeing service, which offers free, friendly and convenient support over the phone or face-to-face.

Call **023 9229 4001** or see [www.wellbeingportsmouth.co.uk/quit](http://www.wellbeingportsmouth.co.uk/quit)



Gillian from Fratton

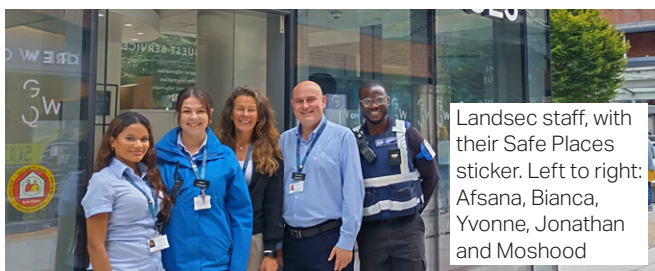
## Safe places to turn to

The Safe Places scheme helps people who may feel anxious, lost or in need of reassurance while out and about.

Participating businesses put a Safe Places sticker in their window, offering a quiet, calm space and support if needed. You can find local Safe Places at [www.safeplaces.org.uk](http://www.safeplaces.org.uk)

Landsec, the owner of Gunwharf Quays, is a Safe Places member. "We want every guest to feel safe and welcomed when they visit," says Landsec's Yvonne Clay.

Would your organisation like to register as a Safe Place? See [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/safeplaces](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/safeplaces)



Landsec staff, with their Safe Places sticker. Left to right: Afsana, Bianca, Yvonne, Jonathan and Moshood

## Be aware of rogue traders

Local residents are being targeted by rogue traders who pose as builders, roofers or repairers. These scammers often start with small jobs before increasing costs, and use urgency, emotion and charm to get their way.

Be wary if someone asks for money upfront or if they don't have ID. If you feel threatened, call **999** immediately.

For non-emergency concerns, call **101**, email [trading.standards@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or contact Citizens Advice on **0808 223 1133**. Also email trading standards for a free "no cold calling" sticker.

Make sure neighbours, especially vulnerable ones, know the risks. For more tips on spotting fraud, search **Stop! Think Fraud** online.



# Group can help carers of people in addiction

**Rebound is a group that offers compassion and empathy for anyone caring for a loved one in addiction.**

Pat Darvill has been finding support from the group since it started. She says: "From my very first meeting I felt a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. To be in the company of others, who really understood how I felt, brought immense relief."

Pat's son struggled with addiction for many years and sadly died from an overdose aged 37.

She recently became chair of Rebound, when Lyn Evans, its founder, retired. Pat says she hopes her experience will help others, and that this will be a fitting legacy for her son.

To anyone who's uncertain about attending, she says: "Come along and just listen. There's no pressure. There's no compulsion to join in."

Find out more at **[reboundgroup.org](http://reboundgroup.org)**, email **[enquiries@reboundgroup.org](mailto:enquiries@reboundgroup.org)** or call **07912 626623**.



Pat Darvill

## Nominate a school superhero

We want to celebrate staff who go above and beyond in local schools.

So please give us your nomination – whether they're a teacher, member of the support staff or a headteacher.

Charlotte Bleach, a teacher at Redwood Park Academy, was recently recognised with her team for their outstanding support of pupils with complex needs.

"I'd like to thank the family who nominated us," she said. "It was genuinely uplifting to be recognised for the work we do."



Charlotte Bleach

Go to **[teachportsmouth.co.uk/nominate](http://teachportsmouth.co.uk/nominate)**

## Dog scared of fireworks?

Bonfire night has been and gone, but fireworks are now part of other celebrations too, especially New Year's Eve.

That's why the Council's stray dog kennels are urging dog owners to try Sounds Scary – a free online therapy guide from the Dogs Trust.

The guide includes downloadable firework sounds and a step-by-step training plan that gradually helps to desensitise your dog to loud noises.

Find out more at **[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/dogkennels](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/dogkennels)**

You can also support the kennels by making a donation – see the above web page for details.





# Helping you find a job and keep it



**Many people struggle to find a job because of a health condition or a disability. Or maybe there are barriers such as caring responsibilities, homelessness, substance recovery or being a care leaver.**

If you have issues like these, then take a look at Connect to Work.

It offers up to 12 months of support to help you find and stay in meaningful work. If you're already employed but at risk of losing your job, you can get up to four months of support.

Portsmouth is one of the first cities in England to launch Connect to Work, working with the government's department for work and pensions.

To take part you must be 18 or over and either unemployed or at risk of losing a job.

Find out more: go to **[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/connect-to-work](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/connect-to-work)** or call **023 9281 5005**.

## A new career in education



Could you help educate children and young people as a teaching assistant or a member of a school support team?

Find out more at the Teach Portsmouth Support and Teaching Assistant Jobs Fair on Wednesday 19 November at Central Library, 10am–11:45 and 12pm–2pm.

Discover training and employment opportunities in schools, academies and colleges across the city. You can even sign up to taster sessions to build confidence and experience before you apply.

For more details and tickets, go to **[teachportsmouth.co.uk/TA](http://teachportsmouth.co.uk/TA)**



## Tackling damp and mould

If your windows fog up most mornings or there's an ongoing musty smell, your home might not be ventilating well. Here are some tips to stop mould taking hold.

- › Open windows daily to let moisture out.
- › Use extractor fans when cooking or showering if possible.
- › Dry clothes outside if possible.
- › Wipe condensation from windows.
- › Leave space behind furniture for airflow.

Go to **[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/mould](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/mould)** for more advice.



# Shingle will help stop floods

**Work is under way to add around a million tonnes of shingle to the beach between the Pyramids and the Coffee Cup café in Eastney, as part of the Southsea Coastal Scheme.**

This will double the width of the beach and form part of the new sea defences, helping to reduce wave energy and prevent overtopping during storms.

Work is being carried out over the winter to minimise disruption, and the shingle placement is expected to finish by March.

Beach access between the Pyramids and South Parade Pier is now closed, with closures extending eastward from mid-November.

The promenade and local businesses remain open, though there are some road closures around The Dell.

Sections of beach will reopen gradually, from the Coffee Cup moving west, as they are completed.

The shingle comes from licensed dredging zones south-east of the Isle of Wight, chosen to avoid sensitive habitats.

See more updates at [southseacoastalscheme.org.uk](http://southseacoastalscheme.org.uk)



*Left: The trailing suction hopper dredger Gateway, which loads up with shingle and then deposits it where needed.*



*Above: Before and after images showing the larger beach. The red line is the normal high-tide mark.*

## HMOs: getting the housing mix right

We understand that houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) can offer good quality and affordable housing.

That's why we brought in additional licensing to make sure they're safe and nice places to live. And unlike many councils, we control new HMOs, preventing them from exceeding 10% of residential properties within a 50-metre radius.

We have a public register so you can check if HMOs near you are correctly licensed and approved. If you have a question, email [hmo.licensing@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:hmo.licensing@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or call **023 9284 1659**.

## Pop up shop success

Business dreams can turn into reality with the Portsmouth Pop Up shop scheme. Just ask fashion brand SP Collections. Owners Lubna Saleem (pictured, left) and her mother Shama Parveen (right) read about the scheme in Flagship, tried it out, and now have a permanent city centre shop. Portsmouth Pop Up is a low-risk way to test your idea, build a customer base and gain retail experience.



See [rediscoverportsmouth.co.uk/portsmouth-pop-up](http://rediscoverportsmouth.co.uk/portsmouth-pop-up)



# Bransbury Park: new play area on the way

**A new play area is coming to Bransbury Park, as part of our project to create a new hub for sports, swimming and healthcare. The current play area will stay open until the new one's ready. We expect this to be in early 2026.**

The new play area will be safe, fun, and accessible for all children, including those with disabilities. There will be a basket swing and trampoline for accessible play, plus springers and a seesaw with seat backs for extra support. Picnic benches will have space for wheelchair users.

We're using a soft rubber surface around the play equipment. Natural features will include sensory planting, wildflowers, longer grass and trees. A new train-themed play feature will be the centrepiece, and there will also be a zip-wire and a rotating swing.

Find out more at

**[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/bransburypark](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/bransburypark)**



## New lido operator

Sea Lanes, who run the National Open Water Swimming Centre in Brighton, will be the new operator of Hilsea Lido. They'll bring new features, including a sauna and pop-up food and drink outlets to complement the unheated pool. They'll also run the splash pool, which will stay free to use.

A £7.6m renovation, funded by the UK Government and led by the Council, is transforming the pool, filtration systems and surrounding areas. Sea Lanes aim to re-open the lido in early 2026. Find out more at **[hilsealido.co.uk](http://hilsealido.co.uk)**

## New youth hub for Stamshaw

Young people are set to benefit from a new youth hub in the grounds of Stamshaw adventure playground. As well as being the new home of the youth club, it will offer education and careers advice to young people who aren't in employment, education or training. We received £500,000 from BAE Systems to create the hub, which is set to open in early 2026.





# Local government reorganisation latest

In September we formally responded to the government's plans to reorganise councils. Our submission told the government that Portsmouth should be left alone, because we already have a single council that is financially stable and delivers strong local services to residents. This is backed by 82% of residents who responded to a survey we ran earlier this year.

The Government might force reorganisation on us, so we also said that if that happens, Portsmouth should merge with Fareham, Gosport and Havant to form a new, bigger council. This is supported by 61% of people who expressed a preference in our survey.

As Flagship went to print, we were awaiting information from the government on next steps.

Reorganisation is separate to the government's plans for Hampshire and The Solent to have a new strategic authority and elected mayor for the region which will bring new funding and powers from Westminster to our area.

Elections will take place in May for the new mayor.

For the latest, please go to [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk) and search **local government reorganisation** or **devolution**.

## Helping local projects

We've supported nearly 100 local projects with our Community Inclusion Grants since they started in 2022.

We helped projects supporting the idea of Portsmouth as a city with fair opportunities, where all feel welcome. These included groups supporting people with disabilities, armed forces veterans, disadvantaged children and the LGBTQIA+ community, plus a range of cultural groups.

The grants have now closed but HIVE Portsmouth can help community groups get funding. For more information email [grants@hiveportsmouth.co.uk](mailto:grants@hiveportsmouth.co.uk)



Fun at Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association's family summer celebration, supported by an inclusion grant



# WIN A £20 SHOPPING VOUCHER WITH SWITCHED ON PORTSMOUTH

Switched On Portsmouth has a team of energy experts who offer free support and advice about energy bills and keeping your home energy-efficient.

Now, they're also giving you the chance to win a £20 Love2Shop voucher. All you need to do is fill in an online survey and you'll be entered into a prize draw. Three winners will be picked at random. Just go to **[switchedonportsmouth.co.uk/feedback](https://switchedonportsmouth.co.uk/feedback)** by the closing date of 19 December 2025.

## GET HELP WITH ENERGY BILLS

Pop in to a drop-in session at the Civic Offices, 9am to 4pm. The next ones are on 3 December, 7 January, 4 February, 4 March and 1 April.

The team will also be at Central Library on Wednesday 26 November, 10am to 2pm, for Fuel Poverty Awareness Day. Stop by for support with your energy bills and get a free tea or coffee.

You can also call **0800 260 5907** or go to

**[switchedonportsmouth.co.uk](https://switchedonportsmouth.co.uk)**