



The **Seafront** newsletter 2026

Welcome to our 2026 Seafront Newsletter, sent to you during our 100th anniversary year of city status. The newsletter aims to keep you informed on the programme of activities returning to the seafront this year. We hope the information will allow you to plan accordingly and make the most of the opportunities the events programme brings to the city.

We realise there may be disruption at certain times but hope you understand the importance of these events for Portsmouth. They offer exciting opportunities for residents to enjoy a high-quality range of sport, culture and leisure on their doorsteps. Furthermore, they make the city a more attractive place for visitors, generate revenue for local businesses and provide employment for local people.

If you have any questions, please contact us at seafront.services@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or 023 9282 2251.

Sail GP

SailGP's fast and furious racing returns to Southsea seafront for the Emirates Great Britain Sail Grand Prix | Portsmouth on July 25-26.

The seafront will transform into a spectacular race stadium over the event weekend with a bustling on-water presence bringing the action right up close! Tickets:

sailgp.com/portsmouth.

There will be some closures of the promenade during the build and the event itself, but we are trying to keep these to a minimum. The organisers have advised there will be no Bring Your Own Boat tickets for this event.



Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day returns to Southsea Common on Saturday 20 June. It will honour all who serve or have served in the British Armed Forces. It's an occasion to celebrate those who give or have given their all to our nation, featuring military parades, music, military vehicles, parachute jumps and a whole lot more. This year there's even the opportunity to be part of a special moment to commemorate Portsmouth's centenary year...keep your eyes peeled for more details coming soon.

Beach huts

Beach huts are available to hire throughout the year at both Lumps Fort, next to Canoe Lake and at the Eastney end of the promenade on a weekly basis. They are equipped with a fridge, kettle, patio table, deck chairs and windbreak. Four huts are wheelchair accessible. Don't miss our out of season offers. Find out more at: **portsmouth.gov.uk/beach**

Kite Festival

This year our most colourful family friendly event returns to Southsea Common, at a later than usual date of 12-13 September. As ever, flyers from across the world will bring Portsmouth their fantastic aerial displays and brighten the skies for all to see.



Credit: Solent Sky Services

Discover The D-Day Story

Discover the history of the momentous events of 6 June 1944 at The D-Day Story. Step onboard LCT7074, explore the museum's collection and marvel at the 83 metre Overlord Embroidery.



Southsea Food Festival returns

One of the South's biggest food festivals, returns on the 4 – 5 July packed with delicacies from some of the best food and drink producers in the area.

Celebrating its 18th anniversary, this popular event highlights Portsmouth and Southsea's vibrant food scene. It takes place in the heart of Southsea, forming a vibrant hub of activity around Clarendon Road, Palmerston Road, Osborne Road, and Avenue de Caen. It will feature live music, family entertainment and demonstrations on the kitchen stage and is part of a programme of activities to support small businesses in the city.





Award-winning Victorious to return after record charity donations and economic boost

With the sparkling Solent as its backdrop Victorious isn't just about the music – among the many stages you'll find tons of festival food, street performers, and pop-up-entertainment, as well as a huge kids arena filled with FREE activities. Big acts this year include Richard Ashcroft, The Black Keys and Kasabian!

A record £173,484 was donated to charities and local good causes in 2025, as well as driving £159m into Portsmouth's economy.

Victorious has continued its mission to showcase the city's talent across the country; Road to Victorious, a competition aimed at bands in the PO postcode and this year Victorious has been recognised at The Live Awards – winning Major Festival of the Year.

For more on Victorious in the Community and how to get involved, as well as travel details and tickets, visit victoriousfestival.co.uk

Southsea Coastal Scheme update

The promenade between Speakers' Corner and South Parade Pier closed in March 2026 so the Southsea Coastal Scheme can continue building essential sea defences. Work is expected to be complete by May 2027. A short section of Clarence Esplanade at The Dell will also be closed at this time, with a walking and cycling diversion. There will be traffic management to keep vehicles at a safe distance from the work, but the road will stay open in both directions.

The closed area near Southsea Common is expected to open this spring with its new raised road protecting the sea views. The road will become one-way from east to west. The reduced traffic along the seafront will in turn reduce congestion and pollution and to improve safety will be reduced from 30mph to 20mph.



Portsmouth 100

Over eight roaring weeks, Portsmouth will come alive with a pride of lion sculptures, each uniquely designed by talented artists and inspired by the spirit of our vibrant city.

The trail will include an app to download and 'unlock' each lion to find more information and rewards. Don't miss the pride coming to the seafront area!

Live at the Bandstand

Back this summer with free live music most weekends from 23 May to 2 August at its seafront home as well as venues across the city. Local promoters will bring a range of musical genres, while our Saturday Stage opportunities will offer local arts and community organisations to use the stage on several Saturdays throughout the summer.

Please check the event Facebook page: **@LiveAtTheBandstand**, or find out more at **visitportsmouth.co.uk**.

Car boot sales

Declutter and hunt for new treasures at our weekly car boot sales from Sunday, 5 April, initially on Castle Field and then at Duisburg Way from 19 April. See our Facebook page for more details **@PSCarBoot** or on **visitportsmouth.co.uk**. All profits go to local charities and good causes.

Seafront Events Listing 2026

APRIL

Circus

27 March – 12 April, times vary,
Southsea Common

Portsmouth and Southsea Car Boot

5/12, 7.30am – 1pm, Castle Field
19/26, 7.30am – 1pm, Duisburg Way

Spring Creative Market

11–12 April 20, 10am – 4pm, Hotwalls
Studios

Funfair

30 – 4 May, Times vary, Southsea Common

MAY

Portsmouth and Southsea Car Boot

3/17/24/31, 7.30am – 1.00pm, Duisburg
Way

Race for Life

9/10, 10am – 4pm, Southsea Common/
Skate Park/Castle Field

*Road closures: Clarence Esplanade and
Avenue De Caen, from D-Day Car Park to
Pyramids Car Park*

Saturday Stage - Community Music

23/30, 1pm – 4pm, Bandstand Field

Live at the Bandstand

24/31, 1pm – 4pm, Bandstand Field

JUNE

Portsmouth and Southsea Car Boot

7/14/21/28, 7.30am – 1.00pm, Duisburg
Way

Live at the Bandstand

7/14/20/28, 1.00pm – 4pm, Various,
please check Facebook

D-Day Memorial Service

6, 11am, Opposite South Parade Pier
*Road closures: South Parade from the
junction with St Helen's Parade from
10.30am – 11.15am*

Portsmouth Pride

6, 11am – 10pm, Southsea Common
*Road closures: For parade from Canoe
Lake to Serpentine Road*

Falkland Memorial Service

14, 11am – 11.30am, Falklands Memorial,
Old Portsmouth

*Road closures: Broad Street, Old
Portsmouth*

Armed Forces Day

20, 10am – 4pm, Southsea Common
Road closures: TBC

Southsea Rowing Regatta

27, 10am – 4pm, Seafront

Saturday Stage - Community Music

27, 2pm – 5pm, Bandstand Field

Summer Creative Market

27/28, 10am – 4pm, Hotwalls Studios

Seafarers Service

28, 10.30am – 1pm, Old Portsmouth
*Road closures: High Street, Grand
Parade, Broad Street, St Thomas Street.*

JULY

Saturday Stage - Community Music

11/18/25, 1pm – 4pm, KGV/Victoria Park

Southsea Food Festival

4/5 July, 10am – 6pm, Palmerston Road
and surrounding streets

*Road closure: Avenue de Caen, Osborne
Road to Portland Road, Clarendon Road
to The Vale*

Live at the Bandstand

4/5/12/19/26, 1pm – 4pm, Various

Portsmouth and Southsea Car Boot

5/12/19/26, 7.30am – 1pm, Duisburg Way

Thai Festival

10/11, 10am – 7pm, Southsea Common

Sail GP

25/26, TBC, Southsea Common

Clipper Round the World Race Return

25/26 July, TBC, Solent & Gunwharf Quays

AUGUST

Beach Dubbin

2, 10am – 5pm, Southsea Common

Live at the Bandstand

2, 1pm – 4pm, Bandstand

PCC Museums Tudor Festival

2, TBC, Southsea Castle

Victorious Festival

28/29/30, 10am – 11pm, All seafront open
space

*Road closure: Clarence Esplanade,
Avenue de Caen, from Flood Gates West
to Jack Cockerill Way (including
footpaths on Southsea Common and
Castle Field)*

SEPTEMBER

Portsmouth and Southsea Car Boot

6/20/27, 7.30am – 1pm, Duisburg Way

Kite Festival

12/13, 10am – 5pm, Southsea Common

OCTOBER

Great South Run

17/18, 9am – 3pm, Seafront and citywide

Road closures:

*Clarence Parade, Avenue de Caen and
Jack Cockerill Way will be closed from
6am on Friday 16 October until 4pm on
Sunday 18 October. All seafront roads
and other roads along the race route will
be closed from 6am until the runners
have passed through on Sunday 18*

There are additional events organised
by Portsmouth City Council, groups
and individuals so please check
[visitportsmouth.co.uk](https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk) for more
details or for new events as they are
added. Please note that this
information is accurate at time of going
to print but is subject to change.

NOVEMBER

Fireworks

3, 4.30pm – 7.30pm, Southsea Common
*Road closures TBC in proximity of
Common*

RN & RBL Remembrance Sunday Services

8, 8am – 12pm, Southsea Common

Southsea Christmas Lights Switch On

19, 4pm – 7.30pm, Palmerston Road



Seafront and water safety

Our seafront rangers will be on
patrol again, working with our
community wardens to keep the
area clean and tidy, and reduce
anti-social behaviour. They'll
also guide people looking for
safe swimming areas,
designated barbeque locations
or the right places to walk dogs.
Please help keep the seafront
safe and clean by using the litter
and barbeque bins.

CCTV cameras are being
installed at Canoe Lake to
improve visibility and enhance
safety. They'll be monitored
24/7 alongside the rest of the
city's CCTV network.

We are pleased to confirm that
the RNLI lifeguards will be
covering two areas during July
and August, in front of Canoe
Lake and near St George's
Road at Eastney.