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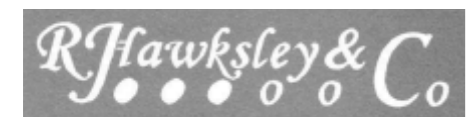
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Local News



The Fleet Bus now goes to Farnham too

Thank you to everyone who's helped make the Fleet Bus successful. Countywide Buses extended their trial period in the hope that numbers would grow.

Now they've decided to extend the daytime service to Farnham, calling at Crookham and Crondall on the way. It's also been renumbered as the 71.

This is Yateley's only connection with the railway to London, so please keep using it!



Myra Billings says:
"Keep using it to keep it."

Minley Road Roadworks Warning!

The County Council are carrying out two major road maintenance works on Minley Road over the next few months.

The first is on the stretch to Fleet. This is to rectify drainage problems and the road will be closed for several weeks.

The second will be on the stretch to J4a of the M3. This will start soon after the first is finished and will last several months. For most of the time there will be traffic lights, but the road will be closed at night on occasion, with diversions in force.

New entrance road for Blackbushe Metals - old back roads to go

Agreement has been reached between Hampshire County Council and Blackbushe Metals that two old back access tracks across Yateley Common will be dug up in return for a new, shorter, access road at the front of the site.

This will significantly reduce impact on the Common. It is also good news for those who live close to the northern route, who didn't relish the prospect of lorries using this track again.

This decision follows protracted legal action between Hampshire and Blackbushe Metals. It may take some time before the new road is finally built.



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YATELEY WEST

SPRING 2007

FOCUS

News and Action from your local Liberal Democrats

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SEE INSIDE FOR:

- Tory County closes Care Homes while spending £40m on Council HQ *P2*
- Sorting out Hart DC *P2*
- Lib Dems Fight Crime *P3*
- Local News *P4*

Chaos!

Yateley's Lib Dem councillors are pressing Hampshire to sort out many problems with the works at Church End Green.

The contractors moved off site and left a trail of chaos behind them. Mudbaths instead of grass, road and pavement surfaces that were worse than before and many serious concerns about safety issues.

The list of problems is endless, but most serious are the road safety issues. The project was supposed to improve safety - we will not rest until these concerns are properly addressed!



Cllrs David Simpson and Myra Billings highlighting one of several mudbaths!

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Recycling Rates Soar!

Recycling rates in Hart have soared over the past few months.

Between April and September 2006 an average of 25.8% of all household waste was recycled. In December that had jumped to a massive 36.9%.

Now that we all have our glass bottles and jars collected from our doorsteps, the amount of glass collected has also jumped from an average of 115 tonnes per month from bottle banks alone to a whopping 282 tonnes from bottle banks plus home collections in December.



The January glass tonnages should be dramatic too, as most Christmas bottles could not have been collected in December as there are only three working days between Christmas and New Year!

These are early days, but all the signs are that the ABC (Alternate Bin Collection) waste collection system is already making a big difference.

April to Sept 2006	Dec 2006
25.8%	36.9%

Overall waste recycling is up by 11%

April to Sept 2006	Dec 2006
115 tonnes	282 tonnes

Glass recycling is up by 145%

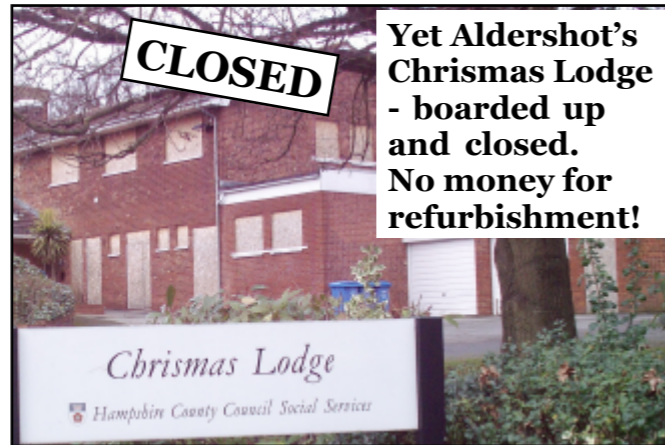
All-Year-Round Service and Action!

Tory Hampshire closes Care Homes while spending £40m on Council HQ

Local Tory priorities are totally wrong! £40m was found to do up their Winchester ivory tower. Yet residential care homes are closing! Four have already gone. Caring for our most vulnerable should be a top priority in any civilised society.



£40m was found for Ashburton Court - the Tory County Council HQ!



Sorting out the Tory Chaos at Hart Council!

After eight long years the Conservatives lost their stranglehold on Hart last May.

Hart Council's new Chief Executive has produced an independent report on the council entitled "Facing the Future".

In it he describes how last year's Conservative budget left the Council spending £1.5m more than its income - a sure path to bankruptcy which means that major budget savings are needed!

He also states that the council is inefficient, with top-heavy management.

The new Lib Dem-led administration has already been at work sorting out some of these problems.

New dust-carts are now collecting waste far more reliably, top management posts have already been thinned down (with one fewer director and four fewer service heads) and recycling figures are already shooting up!

There is much more to do before the Tory chaos has been fully sorted out. All councillors (apart from the Conservatives) are now working together for our area.

Working for Hart
12 Liberal Democrats
+5 CCH (Church Crookham)
+2 Independents

The problems being tackled are enormous:

- Missed bin collections were at crisis levels. Can anyone name any other council in the country that got itself into this state?
- Many good staff who could have helped sort out this mess left during the Conservative regime.
- The Tories admitted the Council was close to bankruptcy. So councillors are now tackling these problems with very little money for solutions.

Sadly, the Conservatives just sit on the sidelines and snipe.

Sulking & Sniping
16 Conservatives
+No-one else

It will take time to sort out such major problems, but a lot has already been done and all councillors (apart from the Tories - who refuse to join in) are united in their determination to repair the damage and get Hart Council back to providing good services and value for our money!

We must make sure that local Tories never get their hands on power at Hart Council again!

Lib Dems Target Crime!

Liberal Democrats can cut crime. This is the message that Lib Dems are telling people in Hampshire and across Britain. And where our approach has been put into action it has a record of success.

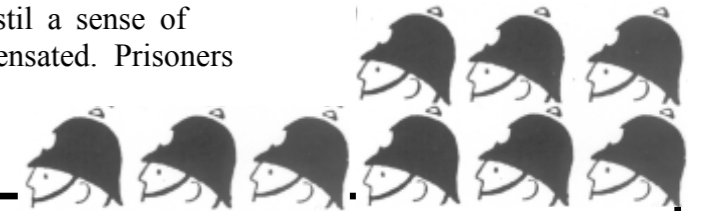
- ✓ In Liberal Democrat run Liverpool, the Council has slashed domestic burglary by 24%
- ✓ In Lib Dem run Newcastle, violent crime is down by 12%



There are 5 steps to a safer Britain:

- 1. More police on patrol.** Don't waste billions on useless ID cards, redirect that money to expand our overstretched police.
- 2. Take back our town centres.** It is unacceptable that members of the public fear crime on our streets. By amending the Licensing Act we can let communities close pubs and clubs that cause trouble.
- 3. Make sentences mean what they say.** Life should mean life. But that need not mean more prisons if we also create Public Service Sentences which punish non-violent criminals by giving them rigorous community work. This will be more productive and a more effective deterrent.
- 4. Compulsory work and training in prison.** Prisoners who don't receive education or training are three times more likely to return to crime. Yet currently well over half receive no training at all. Lib Dems would make education and training in prison compulsory to equip offenders with skills that make it less likely that they will return to crime when released.
- 5. Better compensation for victims – paid for by prison work.** By making prisoners do work for a real wage we can instil a sense of responsibility, and ensure that victims are properly compensated. Prisoners will, literally, pay for their crimes

Liberal Democrats will cut crime!



More Police for our Local Streets!



Here in Hampshire, County Councillor Adrian Collett is already doing something about it!

Adrian was appointed to Hampshire Police Authority (HPA) several years ago. HPA is a body which oversees the Police and sets their budgets.

Members of the HPA recognised Adrian's financial skills and elected him chair of Finance 3 years ago.

Since then, under his stewardship, HPA has agreed three budgets in a row which all increase the number of Police and PCSOs on our streets. This is despite dreadful under-funding from Government!

- ✓ 206 extra Police Officers are being recruited.
- ✓ 70 existing Police Officers are being taken off backroom work and put back onto our streets for frontline policing.
- ✓ The number of PCSOs is being increased from 26 last April to 333 this April.

PCSOs are **Police Community Support Officers**. Their job includes tackling anti-social behaviour like vandalism, graffiti and gangs hanging around intimidating people, etc.

Together all of these extra Police Officers and PCSOs will be used to create **Neighbourhood Policing Teams** in every part of Hampshire.

Here in Yateley and Blackwater, there will be 7 Police Officers and 4 PCSOs dedicated to looking after our Neighbourhoods. These are on top of the car-based teams (who respond to 999 emergencies), detectives, scenes of crime officers, etc., etc.

Taking Action – Getting Results!

YOUR YATELEY WEST LIBERAL DEMOCRAT FOCUS TEAM

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Contact any member of the Focus Team with any local problem or to find out more about the Liberal Democrats