

**Havant Literary Festival
2013**

16th September

Meeting with Tim Dawes

How long has the literary festival been running and who is involved?

The literary festival has been running for the past 6-7 years with support from local businesses, schools and colleges, libraries and The Spring plus many volunteers giving time and commitment.

Why have a literary festival and who benefits from this event?

The festival is all about the arts not just books, it encourages the local community to get involved and try something new offering workshops on book writing, acting painting, drawing, singing and poetry as well as an opportunity for organisations such as book clubs, libraries local theatre groups to network.

Bench and Dynamo put on walks and shows displaying character acting around the borough encompassing Havant Town, Leigh Park, and Warren Park bringing history to life. There are competitions with winners having their work show cased.

This event attracts people in to Havant from surrounding areas that may not normally visit there for benefiting the local economy. Hotels and guest house have increased bookings during the event

How is the festival funded?

The Festival receives some small amounts funding from Portsmouth Water, local gym and small business, fund raising events all so take place. The festival is advertised in the local area by leaflet drops as well as a web site, main funding comes from ticket sales.

How is Havant borough Council involved?

No money comes from the council other than through the community fund to buy things like display boards that all of the community can use if needed. Havant Borough Council offers advice and support by giving officer time enabling the festival to be enjoyed by all its visitors. The festival would not be able to go ahead without this support.

Cllr Mrs Caren Tarrant

Waterlooville Classics Car Show

6 July 2013

How many cars / bikes? 32 Classic Cars
17 Classic Motorcycles
33 Harley Davidsons
17 Classic American Cars

How many visitors? Approx. 2000

Reaction from shops/ businesses

Visited in favour: Super Drug
Timpsons
Pam Purred Pets
Phones4U
Rowans
Café Havana
Wetherspoons

Visited not in favour: Emily Nails

Is This Event Popular? Yes

Is it good for your business?

Those in favour: OK but no real increase. Also, businesses at the top of the street see much less benefit than those lower down.
Can events be less localised?

Those not in favour: No. Significantly less business because the event is located down the street so we have a very low footfall during the event.

Would you like to see more or less street events?

Those in favour: More please

Those not in favour: Depends on the event

Have you any ideas for future events?

- Bands but Music Festival was all week and was a bit overpowering
- Community Events / Fun Fair
- Street markets, food markets

**Leigh Park Festival
2013**

10th September

Interview with Cllr Faith Ponsonby

Who's Idea and how did the Festival start, who is involved?

The festival started approximately 13 years ago when the Neighbourhood Forum raised funds to hold a Christmas Grotto. The Leigh Park Traders Association is now involved.

The festival is a free event that is held on Stock Heath Common over the second bank holiday in May. It is supported by Havant Borough Council Portsmouth City Council and Asda, as well as funds from Comic Relief which has bought Gazebos that can be used free of charge for other events in return for help and support at the festival fund raising events are held throughout the year as well as prize draw events.

There is also a Face Book page that has been set up with information about the event.

Havant Borough Council give permission for the event to go ahead as well as supplying equipment and officer time to help with the planning and organising of signs road closures and security.

Why hold a Leigh Park Festival? What do the residents get from this? What does Havant borough Council get from this?

The residents get a free event that engages the local and surrounding communities, bringing people into the borough that is clearly supported by Havant Borough Council that show cases the business and the facilities on offer in Havant Borough.

What would happen if Havant Borough Council were not involved?

Permission for the event would still need to be given more fundraising would have to take place to buy equipment. Havant Borough Council provides office time to help with the organising and planning the event making it a safe and enjoyable event for everyone, without this support the event would not be the success that it is.

How do you know The Leigh Park Festival has been successful?

Success is measured by the numbers that attend 5-600 people a day approximately feedback that they give and by those that want to get involved with organising or having a stand, comments can also be left on the Face Book site.

Cllr Mrs Caren Tarrant

**Emsworth Horticultural Show
2013**

10th September

Interview with Cllr Faith Ponsonby

How did the Horticultural show start? Who is involved?

The show is run by the Emsworth Horticultural Society it has been running for 90 + years it's a Summer show held over the August bank holiday. It started as an opportunity for residents to show and sell the produce that they have grown or made.

How are funds raised? How is Havant Borough Council involved?

Through ticket sales £3.00 each by sales of produce, stall holders and events through the year. There is a free park and ride to the show which is funded by takings. It's also an opportunity for other organisations to advertise by having displays.

Havant Borough Council gives permission for the event to take place, as well as providing the electricity and water supply through generators, fencing, and litter bins.

How do the residents and Havant Borough Council benefit from this event?

It's a good value or money community event that caters for all ages and abilities attracting visitors from outside of the borough as well as local people.

What would happen if Havant Borough Council was not involved?

The cost of the admission ticket would have to rise as well as charging for the park and ride service. Enough funds would have to be raised throughout the year to pay for the equipment needed to make the event safe and enjoyable.

Cllr Mrs Caren Tarrant

**Waterlooville Business Association (WBA)
2013**

30 September

Rosemary Wilson. Chairman. 023 9225 2123
Janet Johnstone. Secretary. 023 9225 9738

The WBA has a very good and comprehensive web site through which they promote and market Waterlooville businesses. The group was founded in 1996 and they started the street Market in 1998. The Bray Assc organises produce markets.

The WBA appreciate that events are popular and increase footfall but could HBC assist with ideas?

Problems:

- They are very short of funds – aren't we all?
- The Boulevard has no street lights and is scruffy. This is private property so not covered by HCC. Could HBC stir up the landlords?
- Apparently, the new Band Stand is a disaster from the design point of view. Not popular with locals.

Car Parks are seen as an issue.

- The Car Parks at Albert Rd & Wellington Way charge £1 per hour.
- The Retail park is free but a long way from the shops.
- Dukes Walk Car Park is free if you spend £5 in the shops – good idea!

Positive aspects

1. Sainsbury might be coming to Waterlooville. This will give a big boost to the local businesses
2. M&S Food is coming. To be located at the JJ sports site.

Summary

WBA is a proactive and go ahead organisation. Despite the low morale among the local businesses at present, with a bit of imaginative help from our HBC team, the future is looking up. I emphasised that help from HBC would be in the form of assisting with organising and motivating, not financial.

I was asked to note that Richard Shaw, 07766313500 (richardshaw@solentcc.org) was responsible for organising the recent successful Waterlooville Fete.

**Ink World, Market World
2013**

27 September

Terry Jordan of the Havant Business Group interviewed

This is not an ideal time to scrutinise the Havant Group in that many retailers are in a state of flux due to the proposed redevelopment of Market Parade.

All retailers within the affected area are under notice to quit and the landlord has stated that there will be no retail premises in the development, only restaurants, cafes and leisure activities (Wetherspoons, Slug & Lettuce(?) Costa etc.).

The current retailers are adamant that if more is not done to find alternative premises, Havant will lose many businesses as a result. They have been offered site on the upper floor of the Meridian (seen as a slow death), and site in Park Parade. Neither are seen as attractive.

Ink World has been told to vacate by 15 August 2014.

Terry believes that the Landlord is looking at four levels of rented apartments for his income with income from the ground floor businesses as the cream on the top if they succeed.

Looking at other areas of the Havant Business Group membership, most see the following as problem areas.

- Absentee Landlords: these are seen as not interested, failing to carry out maintenance and not responding to problems.
- Businesses rates are unrealistic
- Too many Charity shops

Finally, the overriding feeling from the businesses is that they need more support from the Council.