

## Update from Hampshire County Council – June 2023

### **Historic Hampshire records go online in next phase of Ancestry® partnership with County Council**

Baptism, burial and marriage records spanning 400 years of history are now available online due a partnership between Hampshire County Council and Ancestry®. The records will be available to Hampshire residents for free via public libraries and Winchester's Record Office. Prominent Hampshire residents featured in the collection include Florence Nightingale, Jane Austen and Thomas Lord

Dating back to the 16th century, parish records are some of the longest running records available and are some of the best resources to use when tracing family roots.

The Parish Records are now available on Ancestry®, which covers over 400 years of Hampshire's history. These records hold so much insight about the ancestors of people from Hampshire and will be a great tool in finding out more about the lives they lived.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230526HistoricRecordsAncestry>

### **Hampshire communities receive climate change action boost**

More communities across Hampshire can be empowered to take positive action on climate change over the next three years, thanks to almost £0.5million of National Lottery funding awarded to the Greening Campaign, with support from Hampshire County Council



Following a successful bid, and in partnership with the County Council, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Southampton University, £495,000 of funding will allow The Greening Campaign to work with more communities to make meaningful changes to tackle climate change. This could include improving the energy efficiency of people's homes, reducing CO2, reducing waste, reusing and repairing, being more sustainable through locally grown produce, and providing green spaces for wildlife to thrive.

The Greening Campaign is a structured process, guiding communities to act on climate change and biodiversity locally. Guidance, based on experience gained from working with over 200 other groups across the UK, provides a blueprint for success for each step of the

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way, starting with motivating people in the community to get involved, through to making it fun and rewarding.

The Campaign works in rural villages and towns and with Parish and Town Councils, residents' associations, and libraries to also support communities in deprived areas.

For more information and to book a place visit Events – [www.greening-campaign.org](http://www.greening-campaign.org)  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230510GreeningLot>

### **Learn as you grow - new courses to support Hampshire families throughout the years**

Families in Hampshire can now access free online courses to help parents and guardians build their confidence and better understand the behaviour, development and mental health of the child or young person they are supporting

Hampshire County Council has partnered with the 'Solihull Approach' – a recognised resource for families designed by psychologists and professionals – to fund the courses, which are tailored to different ages and stages of a child's development, from pregnancy to teen years and beyond. Through a series of interactive sessions, the Solihull Approach courses provide advice and practical tips aimed at anyone caring for a child or young person, including parents, guardians, foster carers and grandparents.

There are different challenges at every stage of looking after a child or young person. It is important that parents and carers are supported throughout this journey to build their resilience and to meet their child's needs as they continue to change and grow over time.

As well as families, professionals working with children can also benefit from free courses focusing on understanding trauma, attachment and brain development.

Visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/solihullapproach> for more information and details of how to register for free, unlimited access to the courses.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230522solihullapproach>

### **Councillor Patricia Stallard elected Chairman of Hampshire County Council**



The County Council's chain of office has passed to Councillor Patricia Stallard who has been elected as Hampshire County Council's new Chairman

Councillor Stallard who represents the Winchester Southern Parishes electoral division on the County Council was elected to the position at the Annual Meeting of the Authority on Thursday 18 May 2023.

### **County Council to urge more support for Hampshire families struggling with the rising cost of living**

Hampshire County Council has pledged to further press Government for more support for Hampshire families with school-age children, in the face of escalating living costs

At the Authority's AGM today (18 May), a formal motion was passed unanimously acknowledging the impacts of ongoing cost of living pressures facing families, particularly

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relating to school meals and children's uniforms. In a planned letter to the Minister of State for Education, the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, will press Government for a review of the national eligibility criteria for free school meals, to give more children the opportunity to access a healthy school meal needed to fully develop and flourish. Hampshire's MPs will also be urged to lobby Government on this issue.

As schools are responsible for their own school uniform policies, the County Council also committed at the meeting to actively remind all Hampshire schools of statutory guidance in relation to keeping down school uniform costs. This includes minimising the need for branded items, and ensuring clothing is available from suppliers which have evidenced their value for money. In addition, those who don't already have a uniform exchange scheme are encouraged to set one up.

Hampshire residents concerned about their finances are encouraged to visit the 'cost of living and money worries' advice page on the Connect to Support Hampshire website - which signposts to a wide range of local and national support and advice services. Further information is available from the County Council's Help with the Cost of Living web pages, which contain advice and information about a range of issues from debt management and finance support to mental wellbeing.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230518costofliving>

### **An extra £14 million to help support Hampshire households with the cost of living**

Hampshire County Council has announced plans for how £14.2million of additional funding will be used to help local households struggling with the cost of food and energy prices. The funding is an extension of Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) until the end of March 2024.



In a change to previous HSF rules, the County Council has now been able to allocate up to £200,000 of funding to provide locally-based food and energy advice services, alongside practical help with costs.

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The funding allocations also include:-

### Hampshire-wide grants

- £880,500 to Citizens Advice to support households with utility costs;
- £800,000 to support the community pantry network;
- £500,000 in grants for organisations supporting vulnerable residents across Hampshire;
- £440,000 to the Environment Centre to provide guidance and support to households on energy-related issues;
- £361,000 to organisations supporting unpaid carers;
- £240,000 to extend the community wellbeing service for vulnerable older people.

### Community grants

- £800,000 in community grants for locally based organisations to support residents.

### Grants to District/Borough Councils

- £3,441,870 to provide food vouchers;
- £1,001,000 to support with exceptional housing costs.

### Grants through education settings

- £2,845,622 for schools, colleges and early years settings to offer support at their own discretion to families most in need of help.

### Hampshire County Council social care support

- £460,000 in direct fuel support to vulnerable adults;
- £715,000 in food vouchers to foster carers and connected carers;
- £177,400 to supply food vouchers to care leavers.

The connect4communities website brings together information on the Household Support Fund and the Department for Education-backed Holiday Activities and Food programme for children during school holidays. The site includes further details both for households seeking help and organisations looking to deliver support.

The site is currently being updated with the latest news and details. Information on applying for community grants will be added when available.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230511-hsf4>

Cllr David Drew

Test Valley Central Division, HCC