

Archaeological haul found beneath school

IN a rare find already being called the “Egyptian tomb of South-East England”, local archaeologists have managed to uncover centuries of abuse buried under the grand Winchester College chapel (built 1382), on the northern side of the school grounds. The reams of scandals, cover-ups, and damaging traditions were found in surprisingly good condition, having been painstakingly preserved by the school archivists of the time, right up to the present day.

Researchers eagerly presented their findings at an impromptu press conference last week, but were cut short after an anonymous donation from ‘a concerned and powerful local’ stopped anyone from showing up.



“Egyptian tomb of South-East England”

Winchester City Council threatens SMUG with high court injunction

WINCHESTER City Council has threatened SMUG with a High Court injunction following magazine journalists viewing a controversial, unpublished report commissioned by the Council - one that investigated the arithmetic result if the number two is added to the number two.

It is believed that the document was completed in early 2017, but the Council has, thus far, failed to make it public. As a result, Winchester City Council has been accused of secrecy and a lack of transparency.

A Council spokesman has, however, denied the allegation. “We believe in free speech and transparent governance,” the spokesman explained to SMUG.

“The report, however, suffers from serious flaws in procedure, and on questions of basic arithmetic, such as this, we believe that it would be wrong for conclusions to be made public until all outstanding issues have been resolved.”

A typical Wintonian told SMUG, “I don’t see what all the fuss is about. Anyone can guess the report’s conclusions - you only have to put two and two together. Mind you,” he added, “I hope they publish the thing soon. I’m looking forward to reading all the juicy details.”

SMUG has received countless letters of support from many of the editor’s relatives and close friends.

The controversy continues.

High Street chains reclaim business lost to market stalls



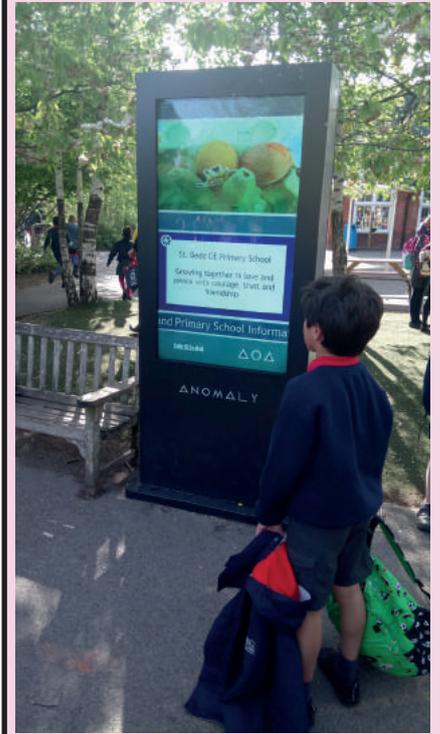
Transnational stalls to be set up in front of street based competitors

NEWS IN BRIEF

HOMELESSNESS crisis solved as churchgoers pray guilt away

YOUTH initiative run by middle-aged social workers, somehow fails

GIANT mobile phones installed in Winchester primary schools following parent complaints that children not getting enough screen time.



FOR YEARS, stores up and down the High Street have been forced to suffer as lines of food vendors, artisan furniture makers and people-trying-to-get-rid-of-soap block shop entrances and siphon away citizens’ spare cash before they’ve had a chance to spend it indoors. But no longer. Transnational companies like Holland & Barrett, Starbucks, and Natwest – sick of playing the underdog to their rickety car-boot-table oppressors – are fighting back amidst calls to ‘Stop Stalling’ and reclaim the high street from the undeserving.

A local initiative will see these giant corporations take back business – from vendors who sell entirely different products – by setting up their own, smaller market stalls in front of their street-based competitors.



Coffee beans overtake pound

MUCH has been made of British sterling's falling value in the face of economic uncertainty and a looming exit from the European Union. For the entrepreneurs out there, however, it offers a golden-roasted opportunity – and businessmen are scrambling to invest in coffee beans as the cost of a local latte soars above the pound. With espressos, cappuccinos, and other identical drinks with different names costing up to 600% of their combined ingredients, it's never been a better time to buy at the source and rip off coffee-drinking locals.

“Some would call it exploitation”, said one local barista, very familiar with the needless hiking of prices for what is essentially flavoured hot water. “But managers have to protect their overheads. How else are they meant to (under)pay staff?”

“If it makes you feel better, it's no worse than the deal Ethiopian farmers are getting.”



Unfair-trade?



Suited and booted

Local sports Team climbs league tables

Winchester louts cheered from the sidelines as their hometown's embezzlement and accounting fraud sports team, the Winchester Tax-Dodgers, shot to the top of national rankings after a heated face-off with nearby rivals the Hampshire Prosecutors.

The teammates, dressed in their iconic three-piece sports kit, found trouble near half-time with a series of a undeclared expenses and budgetary promises that went nowhere near the goal. They thankfully pulled through to a strong victory after some expert evasive manoeuvres.

Budget cuts in tourism sector

WITH a gloomy economic forecast and the council coffers tighter than ever, a savvy Tourism & Heritage committee have unveiled their latest attempts to cut costs and profit off town history: revamping the world-famous Round Table of Arthurian legend, currently housed in the Great Hall in central Winchester.

Taking its place will be a more cost-effective Semi-Circular table, in a more modest Good Hall, in Basingstoke.

Similar ventures include halving the budget for education, health and most local services, while hoping things don't go tits-up.



The new semi-circle table

THE GOLDEN DAGGER PRIZE

Finding a creative use for all those unmonitored security cameras, SMUG are offering a prize for the best crime drama filmed on CCTV. Previous winners include:

- The Great Justice Jewellery Heist**
- The Great Train Robbery** (customer buys season ticket)
- The Great Council Tax Fraud** [that's enough greats – Alfred]

YOUR SAY

Nominate your candidate for the prize and win the chance to get a free copy of the next issue of SMUG. No need to send in CCTV footage.
Send to: editor@smugwinchester.com

SLOW WET TRAINS

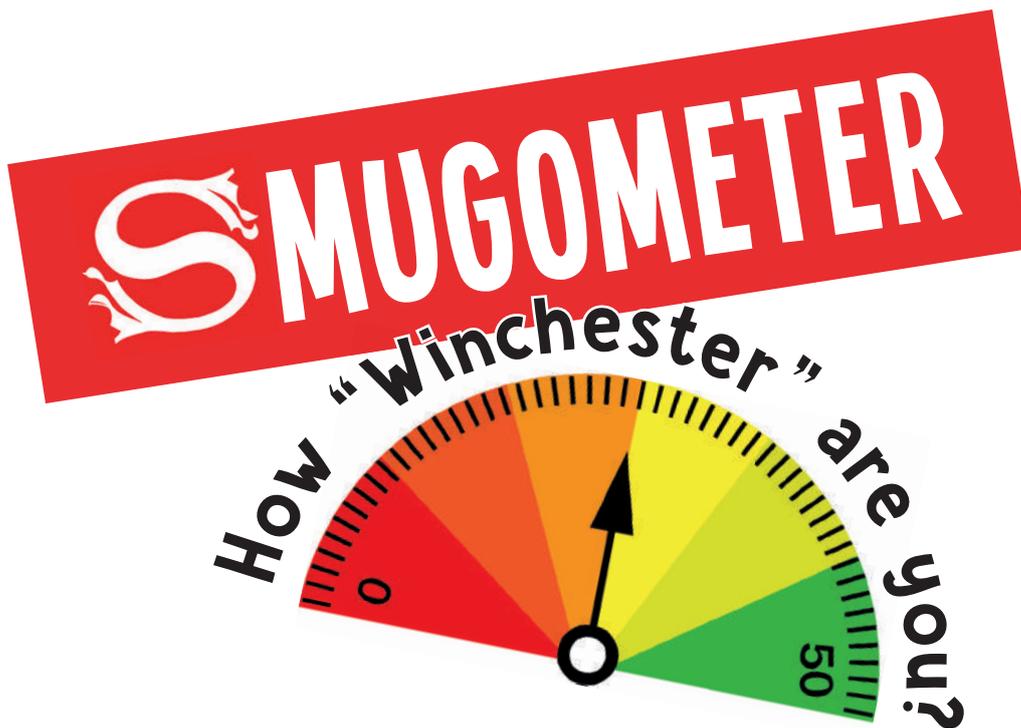
BSE WORRY

There is consternation in the rail community this month, as an outbreak of BSE, or Bovine Strikebound Electric-trains, could possibly spread from the Southern Trains area. The main issue seems to be an argument over who should wipe the toilet seats after use.

There is a suggestion from the unions that this traditional job will be taken over by robots – or botbots, after the bit of the anatomy most affected. M. Francois Controllee, Head SWT Botwiper, said: “don't arse me, I know nothink”.

OVERHEARD in WINCHESTER

“I'd love to see my son in Hamlet at the Theatre Royal, but totally dependent on what time my flight from Seville gets in”



1. IT'S THE WEEKEND AND YOU FANCY A DRINK. WHICH ESTABLISHMENT DO YOU CHOOSE?

- a. The Gaol House because there's nothing like a pint at 8am on a Sunday morning
- b. The Black Boy as you think it's cool to be seen drinking with a stuffed donkey
- c. The Wykeham Arms as you enjoy getting served by a young man in a tie

2. IT'S SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND YOU'RE STROLLING DOWN THE HIGH STREET WHEN A CHUGGER CATCHES YOUR EYE AND APPROACHES YOU.
YOU REACT BY:

- a. Head butting them
- b. Pretending you already give 10% of your salary to the charity in question
- c. Walk straight past while pretending to look at your phone

3. YOU'RE OUT WITH THE DOG ON BADGER FARM (OR TURD COMMON AS IT'S NOW KNOWN) WHEN YOUR COCKER SPANIEL LAYS A HUGE DOG'S EGG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PATH AND YOU REALISE YOU'RE OUT OF POO BAGS. WHAT DO YOU DO?

- a. Ask another dog walker for a bag and clean it up
- b. "Stick and flick" it into the undergrowth
- c. Ignore it - it's Badger Farm, not St Giles Hill!

4. YOU RECEIVE AN APPLICATION FOR NEW HOUSING ESTATE ON EMPTY PLOT OF LAND NEAR YOUR HOUSE. WHAT DO YOU DO?

- a. Ignore it, "never mind, we need more houses"
- b. Contest application (NIMBY)
- c. Contest application whilst submitting application for an underground car park as Alfie needs a playroom in the attic