

NEWS IN BRIEF

Too many barbers not enough hair to go round, claims salon owner

IBM middle-manager found to be ‘faking job’ for 15 years

Short film society mounts exhibition of still photographs or ‘very short films’

Museum archive accused of making up history

High Street busker fined for inferior cadenza

Twyford man dies of terminal boredom

Student LGBT body elects new ‘Chair Thing’

Sofa shop must end sale ‘really must end’ say customers

Cinema refurb to include one single mega-waterbed

SCREEN enthusiasts will today be excited by the news that the local ‘art’ cinema at Winchester is to upgrade its services again.

In a move designed to attract a younger, more “sharing” audience, the cinema is removing its previously installed sofas and seating in favour of one wall-to-wall, 70ft x 90ft, water bed.

The venue is setting its sights on an ambitious plan to enhance the cinema experience with customers being able to recline, relax, loll and spread out at will on a water bed specially commissioned from a local bouncy castle manufacturer.

Manager Monty de Niro said: “Individual seats are so old-fashioned. Why share with one person when you can share with the entire audience? By bringing all our customers together and allowing everyone the opportunity to slump next to everyone else at the same time we’re doing what we can for a ‘sharing’ economy. And with tickets at a reasonably priced £35, that means mostly our economy.”



Cinema: Now a truly immersive experience

The new upgrade now projects films onto the ceiling and viewers have the choice to ignore it entirely while chatting, flirting, sexting and having tactile fun with their neighbours, while enjoying freshly prepared ciabatta and Chilean Merlot

“We just throw in the organic brownies and some gluten-free popcorn and let it all kick off” explained de Niro. “Just like the ball pool down at the leisure centre.”

Winchester station voted smuggest of all

By our Station Correspondent Leif Sontheline

Winchester’s friendly station has been voted Smuggest in the Land in a new survey published in the Smugday Times. Station Manager Mr. F. Controller, said, ‘this is great news for Gordon the Blue Engine, who has always maintained a thoroughly smug outlook towards trucks and luggage and shunts them around at will when the fancy takes him. It’s recognition for his free-spirited ‘take it or leave it’ attitude’.

A spokesperson for Slow Wet Trains, who was questioned as to why he had won the award said ‘get off our property you slimy bald git’.



Gordon the blue engine recognised for his free-spirited ‘take it or leave it’ attitude.

Cathedral to get ‘much needed’ re-modelling

FOLLOWING our award winning investigative scoop of top secret council plans in the last edition of Smug, Winchester Cathedral, originally founded in 642, is at long last to get a make-over with a radical architectural ‘vision’ that’s attracting not a little controversy.

A consortium of local award-winning architectural firms presented their designs over a year ago for an ambitious re-modelling of the historic site and now town planners are nearing agreement.



TV’s Macleod “Knock it down.”

TV’s celebrity architect Kevin Macleod from ‘Grand Designs’ is an enthusiastic supporter:

“It’s about time too” he said. “Let’s face it, the cathedral is just a big old empty church and a bit of a medieval eyesore, frankly. It could do with bringing into the 21st century.”

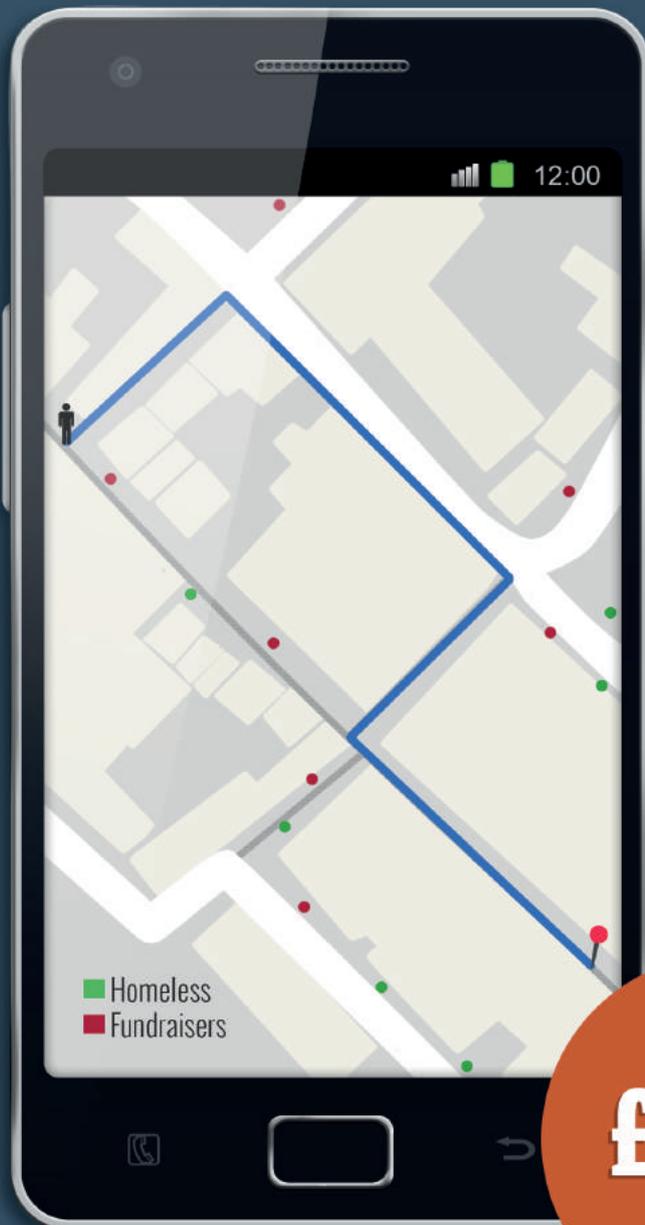
Council planners are however expecting the new design will meet strong local resistance and a consultation and public meeting is scheduled later this year in the Guildhall where water cannons will be stationed.



A CAD model of the exciting new design

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BEYOND SATIRE

Drop-down menu Winchester Cathedral's Box Office

Personal Details :
(mandatory fields are marked by *).

* Title	✓ Dame
* First Name	Lady
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Mobile	Miss
* E-mail	Mr
* Retype E-mail	Mrs
	The Dowager Lady
	Mr
	Mrs
	Miss
	Ms
Address Details	Councillor
* Address 1	Doctor
Address 2	Judge
* Town / City	Lady
Country	Lord
* Postal Code	Professor
	The Revd

Resident Parking Zones Q and R in Tower Street



“...there is often a perceived notion that some zones are better catered for others...”

Transport Planner, Winchester City Council

Winchester primary school parents mocked by answering machine message

PARENTS from a primary school in Winchester were left ‘dumbfounded’ by the recorded message options left on the school answering machine between 7pm and 9am on the first day of the Spring term.

The sarcastic message presented callers with a list of options that outlined a range of possible complaints about school services and teachers. The options imply that all calling parents or guardians are intent on blaming the school for any problems rather than being willing to take at least some responsibility for the education and behaviour of their own children.

Said one indignant parent, “The message is not just an insult. It’s slanderous. I have a good mind to take the school to court.”

A spokesperson from the primary school claimed that the school was not responsible for the message and that the staff at the school only found out about it after receiving a barrage of complaints via email. In a apology to parents, the school published the following statement. “This school does not share the opinions expressed in the answering machine message. The message is NOT the work of a teacher or group of teachers who are fed up with being blamed for children struggling to keep up, nor did the staff vote unanimously to record the message on the school answering machine.”

When asked about how the message came to be on the school answering machine, a spokesperson claimed to be just as much in the dark as everybody else: “We can only assume that the phone was sabotaged by a prankster who had broken into the school.”

SMUG can confirm, however, that no crime was reported to the local police, fuelling suspicions that it may have been an inside job.

It has since been discovered that an almost identical message, whose author is unknown, has been falsely associated with many schools in many countries, the most recent being Maroochydore High School school in Queensland, Australia.

Now, for the first time, the message really has been recorded on a school answering machine. In Winchester!



Outgoing message reportedly left on primary school answering machine.

Hello! You have reached the automated answering service of your school. In order to assist you in connecting to the right staff member, please listen to all the options before making a selection:

PRESS 1

To lie about why your child is absent

PRESS 2

To make excuses for why your child did not do his work

PRESS 3

To complain about what we do

PRESS 4

To swear at staff members

PRESS 5

To ask why you didn’t get information that was already enclosed in your newsletter and several flyers mailed to you

PRESS 6

If you want us to raise your child

PRESS 7

If you want to reach out and touch, slap or hit someone

PRESS 8

To request another teacher

PRESS 9

To complain about school lunches

If you realize this is the real world and your child must be accountable and responsible for his/her own behaviour, class work, homework and that it’s not the teachers’ fault for your child’s lack of effort: Hang up and have a nice day!

If you want this in another language, move to a country that speaks it.



YOUR SAY

If you spot anything that is ‘beyond satire’ we would love to hear from you: editor@smugwinchester.com

Contributor’s details can be withheld from publication on request.



YOUR SAY

If you were one of the parents to listen to the message, SMUG would love to hear from you. If you know or suspect anyone who is responsible for the phonejacking, please contact: editor@smugwinchester.com