



NEWS IN BRIEF

PHONE-SHOP-cum-barber-shop-cum-coffee-shop solution for high street

ISLE OF WIGHT model village: third night of rioting and looting

HAMPSHIRE not as mortifyingly dull as expected, say ex-London house buyers

REDUCE POLLUTION, move city to coast, urges planning consultant

“SYRIA NOT GOING AWAY” complains housing official

TRAIN seen at station: mystery thickens

Channel swimmer forced to turn back

AN ATTEMPT to swim the channel was today foiled by bureaucracy. Mr Ted Leather, aged 86 of Winchester, had got to within touching distance of the beach in Calais when disaster struck. What he thought was a welcoming committee waving at him was a squadron of Gendarmes and custom officials, who informed him due to the BREXIT result he was no longer allowed to land, unless he was an asylum seeker.

“Not only did I swim there, I was forced to swim back!” said Mr Leather “It’s bureaucracy gone mad. That Mr Farage has a lot to answer for!”

We interviewed one of the custom officers who said “Hop off Johnny foreigner”.

Boris Johnson was unavailable for comment.



Ted Leather’s ‘aller retour’

Trump/May deal: entire UK to become “one big, beautiful golf course”



Prime Sucker May

CITY and business leaders were buoyant today following the latest meeting with President Donald Trump and the Prime Minister Theresa May which indicated promise future trade deals with the UK.

Hopes centred on the President’s grand vision for the UK as a leisure-oriented, themed-park, tax-haven consisting of one continuous golf course from John O’Groats to Penzance, populated with strategically placed casinos, castles and towers.

Local developers were delighted by the opportunities in leisure and retail sectors that would, they pointed out, filter down to the best performing counties.

Giles St John-Pratt, executive leader of a local business syndicate said: “In Hampshire, we’re in a prime position to take advantage of the President’s innovative vision. As we see it, Winchester is squarely on the fairway for Trump development, with Silver Hill ideally placed as a major casino/retail/leisure/business park complex. We’ll be ahead of the game and operating above par over cities like Guildford and Basingstoke,



Prize Twat Trump

which will probably end up being bunkers on the UK golf course.”

Reg Lard, councillor for Basingstoke West, was quick to point out that a bunker was the best place to be when there was a “prize twat” in charge of the nuclear codes.

The syndicate says it is poised to make developing deals that could be worth tens of millions. Speculating on the financial future for Winchester, St John-Pratt said: “As for tax breaks, we’ll be copying the big guy in the White House and breaking every tax law we can”.



The future for Basingstoke?

Hyde900 receives Lottery grant

A wheelie bin is to receive a Lottery grant of £33,600 after Hyde900 researchers established a definitive link with King Alfred the Great.

“The first clue was the burnt pack of Mr Kipling’s Country Slices poking out the top of the bin” said Professor Teddy Celery, Hyde900 luminary and leading Alfredologist. “Then, digging deeper, we found to our delight the remains of a large doner kebab with extra chilli sauce. Bede states explicitly in his Chronicles that Alfred always visited City Kebab after a Friday night out on the razz.”

Hyde900 plan to spend the grant money on an augmented virtual reality guided tour of the bin which will open to all (provided they have the latest smartphones) to explore all year round,

except every other Thursday, when it’s bin day.



Virtual reality tour prototype

“My beach burka hell” by IOW nun

IN an exclusive interview with SMUG, Sister Iris Loyola, a 53 year-old nun attached to St Grundy’s Episcopal Church in Ryde, spoke openly of her trauma on an Isle of Wight beach when she became the victim of a local crowd who demanded she take off her burka.

Enjoying a stroll in the sunshine, Sister Iris was accosted by a vicious gang who taunted her dress sense and abused her with cruel jokes and hurtful catcalls.

“I was sore afraid” said Sister Iris. “They were drinking from cans and were ill-mannered in the extreme, calling me names like ‘Batman’ and ‘terrorist’.

The louts tortured the hapless nun with verbal abuse and demanded she unmask and take off her hijab and sunbathe ‘like a normal person’. Tweets and pictures claiming ISIS had landed on Ventnor beach later caused a sudden rush for the ferries to the mainland and WightLink to put up its prices by 200%.

Local police later arrested three Ryde schoolboys in connection with the incident and charged them with inducing hate crime.

The distraught nun was recovering yesterday with a large scotch and holy water in a nearby hostel. “The Lord will forgive them for they know not what they do,” added the sister.

Police officers investigating the altercation confirmed that a recent by-law did exist which specifically allowed for sun-bathing in Batman outfits on that particular stretch of sand.



53 year old Sister Iris. Not to be confused with Sister Isis.

Over generous spirit of Wintonians behind new ‘Guide to Fair Begging’ claims disgruntled street dweller

IN response to complaints made by ‘honest’ members of the Homeless Co-operative that some less-than-honest street dwellers have been profiteering from the over generous nature of Wintonians, a new *Wintonian Guide to Fair Begging* can now be found on the walls of all major tunnels, doorways and passageways.

According to Catherine Chord, a spokesperson for the Homeless Co-operative, “The new *Guide* aims to foster a healthier, more transparent and trusting relationship between the homeless and those with homes. Let’s face it, many residents seem to believe that being homeless is a life choice. We believe that every person in need should be given the benefit of the doubt and the right to a fair hand-out because, Our *Guide to Fair Begging* will not only save money for homeowners but also increase the income for the genuinely honest homeless. It’s a win win outcome for everyone.”

Included in *The Guide* is the actual cost of a night in the night-shelter (free if you are not drunk and genuinely homeless),



New ‘Guide to Fair Begging’

and unacceptable gypsy curses such as ‘not being able to sire a male heir’ or ‘your livestock will lay funny’. *The Guide* also provides guidelines on homeless etiquette, such as always saying ‘Have a nice day’ when ignored by a home owner, and not approaching customers in open spaces, unless in exceptional circumstances, i.e., needing £25 to make up the cost of a train ticket required as a result of a constant need to get back to London.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MR FUSSY AND MR PERFECT confirmed as new Winchester Festival organisers

STARBUCKS REBRANDING better reflects its moral standing claims CEO



Christmas market a ‘gweat’ success

Nationally advertised Winchester Christmas market has declared itself to be a resounding success this year, as bus loads of visitors came from far and wide attracted by the chance to visit this great event. However the rumour that was circulating, of there being something new or worthwhile to buy this year, could not be substantiated.

One Chinese lady was effusive about the market and Winchester itself. “I love it” she said. “I’m from Beijing, and I think the modernist architecture of the cathedral as a backdrop is very impressive. I had mulled wine and also bought tat { ed - hat? }. I love the town too, and the way that restaurants are named after places, or the food they serve - Fish tale; Mucky Duck; Greyhound and Black Lat to name but four. We will try the Green Man next. Winall is a beautiful place to live.”

Her friend held her hand and said she thought the whole situation was iwonic.



Local delicacy a hit with Chinese

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

'PLAQUE PLAGUE' PRIME SUSPECT REVEALED

Information about the identity of those responsible for Winchester's 'Plaque Plague' has found its way to SMUG. While the plaques may not in themselves be illegal, complaints have been lodged about the effect this rather 'common', i.e., modern, cultural initiative is having on Winchester's image. Lawyers from a number of local organisations are arguing that the plaques are not simply an affront on the grounds of good taste, but their placement could constitute a myriad of crimes including graffiti, vandalism, fly-posting and being rude to someone in a public space. **So, who is to blame?**

In a city so very rich with cultural interests, which extend to the city and county councils, civic societies, residents associations, The Round Table and local lodge, as well as various festivals and arts trusts and anyone with far too much time on their hands, there are a lot of fingers pointing at a lot of suspects.

SMUG has been advised, however, that increasing pressure is being put on the local police to stop the 'plague' primarily because of the risk to Winchester's World Heritage Site bid, and it is this fact that marks the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) as the most likely perpetrator!

So is this a complete break from the HCT tradition of operating in secret (their advertising is usually so poor that they might just as well) or a brilliant and innovative 'awareness-raising' campaign that threatens to backfire?

Our cultural correspondent Alanna Loveless explores the possibilities and more closely examines the HCT motive, means and opportunity.

THE HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST - WHO ARE THEY?

According to itself, "Hampshire Cultural Trust was established in 2014 to promote Hampshire as a great cultural county by delivering countywide outreach programmes that bring culture to local communities. In addition, we look after 2.5 million objects relating to Hampshire's internationally significant cultural heritage." (This is mostly an assortment of moth-eaten old frocks, broken pottery and boxes of bones).

MOTIVE

The Wintonian Plaque campaign could be seen as HCT simply doing its job of delivering "outreach programmes that bring great culture to local communities", but the HCT has also declared an ulterior motive. As published in The Hampshire Chronicle (Dec. 2016), the HCT hope to ensure that the 'walled city' of Winchester takes its rightful place on the world stage by joining "the ranks of the Grand Canyon, Taj Mahal and the Great Barrier Reef as it bids to be named a World Heritage Site".

Alan Lovell, the HCT Chairman, doesn't actually believe the city has any real chance of succeeding in its bid, but forty odd thousand pounds required for preliminary work will help rally the troops and get the Trust's master plan off the ground, which (surprise, surprise) involves more excavations of King Alfred's toenail clippings, digging up more skeletons, and a new museum in which to house them all because, according to Lovell, Winchester has "undersold its fantastic history. It should be a world heritage site."

However, whilst Lovell & Co happily work to promote historic Winchester as the centre and origin of a nation, they still have to convince UNESCO and it is here the perfidy begins. We have to guess the thinking is that if one plaque commemorating the final few days in the life of Jane Austen can provide Winchester with ownership of her whole life, just think what it would do for Winchester to similarly own Ernest Hemingway, Dame Judy Dench or Adele. The evidence mounts...





MEANS

Whilst leader Lovell owns the World Heritage Site bid strategy, the HCT are of course not alone in their quest and have partners in Winchester Cathedral, the University of Winchester, The English Project, Hyde 900 and the Centre for English Identity. Between them, they have more than enough physical and imaginative resource to produce the plaques.

OPPORTUNITY

The major challenge is the placement of the plaques, but with such a partner as the University of Winchester it is not beyond imagination that a few uni students (or college quirksters perhaps) could have been persuaded that the task of ‘secretly’ blue-tacking plate-like objects around the city after a night out on the raz might be a real hoot, especially when ‘Daddy’ is providing all the White Lightning and Prosecco you can drink!?

WHY HAVEN'T HCT CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY

It turns out that the majority of individuals and organisations to whom the HCT cultural initiative should have appealed in fact consider the plaques to be “common, vulgar and un-Winchester” because they have no historical value, i.e, they refer to phenomenon occurring within the last 250 years.

It is, therefore, perhaps not surprising that HCT is keeping its distance from the possibly criminal activity underpinning the mounting of a ‘guerrilla advertising’ campaign that now threatens to backfire. On the other hand, if the silence is because the HCT is not behind the plaques, we’ll have to start looking at the cultural partners who stand to lose as a result of the bias towards ancient history. The Art School, then, becomes first suspect...

More in next issue...



Wintonian Heritage plaque on facade of the Hotel du Vin & Bistro.

Winchester businesses trial ‘honest’ message

A Which? survey has identified the most annoying phrase used by businesses in recorded telephone messages. This is an assurance that the caller is a “valued customer”.

The inherent lack of sincerity leads to customer distrust, and hence local companies are trialling more evidently truthful words.

If no staff are available, callers to one major Winchester retailer hear the following:

“Thank you for your call. No staff are currently available.

Please follow the instructions below so you don’t waste our time. You might be some whingeing complainer with a personality disorder, for example. God knows we get enough of those now every consumer believes they’re important with a near psychopathic conviction. You might even be an automated PPI scam.

If you’re enormously rich, press one. You might be Richard Branson, for example. If you’re Rupert Murdoch, however, hang up now. We may be profit driven, but we’re not without some sense of ethics and common decency.

When you press one, your number will be logged. If you’re pissing us about, future calls will be blocked.

If one of our products has caused a massive problem, press two. For example, a mobile phone we sold you might have blown up and downed a 747 over the Atlantic. In such cases, we might pay you to keep your mouth shut. If you’re anyone else, you can wait until more customer care advisers turn up.

The delay’s your own fault. Everyone complained when our call centre was in India. At least our staff arrived on time then because India has a reliable train service. Now the call centre’s in Winchester we’re at the mercy of those flat-capped luddites who staff Southern Rail.

Bring back Thatcher, we say. The rail union needs to be crushed like she crushed the NUM before the whole country’s held to ransom by unelected, self-interested plebs with no grasp of the bigger picture.

Anyway, as you’re paying for this call and it’s probably cost you three quid already, you might want to hang up and try your luck later.

If you wait, we’ll play some dreadful, distorted music.

Enjoy.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

JOKE SHOP staff reject ‘not good enough’ fancy dress for marathon

HAT FAIR relocates to upstairs cupboard above pasty shop

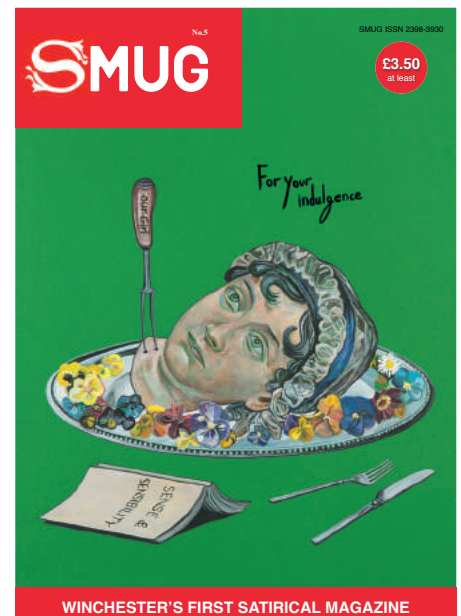
TRANS PERSON sues council for “inappropriate” public toilets

ALRESFORD HOG ROAST anti Semitic say protesters

TINY MOUSE found living in microscope

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OVERHEARD in THE CORNER HOUSE

“That’s a lovely jacket, it looks very warm.”

“Yes, it’s a ski jacket.”

“Do you ski a lot?”

“Not really. Only once a year.”