



# New names from Stagecoach

with new generation of new generation buses.

**Beemer Bigend**

SMUG travel correspondent

**STAGECOACH** has announced a new generation of buses to replace the last new generation of buses. This comes following a survey which identified passengers' most requested improvements as 'buses keeping to timetables' and the 'introduction of air conditioning and spring suspension'. A spokesman said:

**"We have carefully studied the results of the survey and after much deliberation decided to ignore them completely."**

"We feel that introducing such elements as running to a precise schedule would go against the ethos of the company. We also have no wish to interfere with the customer's freedom of choice, by which

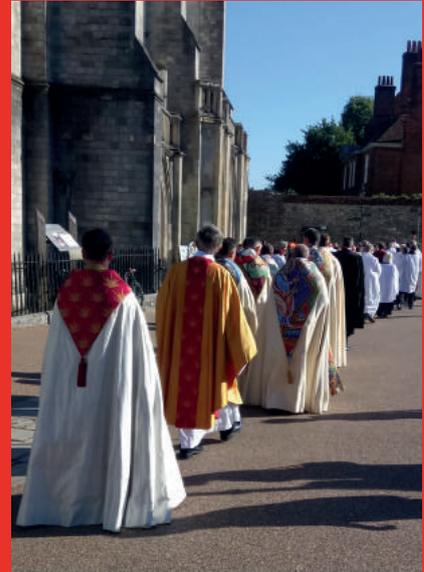


I mean the one annoying bloke who must have the window open in January.

"But we have decided to completely modernise and upgrade our service in one respect: we will be re-branding our routes. People never understood why we called the number 6 'The Spring', especially as springs were exactly what the buses seemed to lack. Despite this we will be re-naming the number 3 'The Tortoise', the 5 'The Bat', the 46 'The Bad', the 66 'The Clickety Clack', and the 69 'The Swanky Smurf'... or something like that."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**OMISSION** of Cathedral's 'fancy dress' pageant from Hat Fair programme leaves tourists confused.



**BLACK RAT** scoops two awards. Best Independent Restaurant in Winchester and most resilient independent vermin in Winchester takeaways.

# Age UK launch new app

How large is a knob of butter? What delights shepherds? Who would win a fight between Napoleon and Hitler? The new app answers all these questions and more.



By our man with his finger on the future, **Tom Thumblr**

**REAL NEWS OR FAKE NEWS @smugw**

**CHARITYAGE UK** chose Winchester's Great Hall as the venue for their luncheon to launch their new interactive software service which provides access to the accumulated knowledge and experience of grandmothers. Called *Instagram*, it enables anyone to instantly tap into – to quote their slogan – the 'wisdom of the ancients'.

**Grandmothers have been carefully selected to reflect a broad spectrum of backgrounds, classes and prejudices.**

The on-duty gran will not only be able to verify old wives' tales, say how large a knob of butter is and what delights shepherds, but answer enquiries on a wide variety of topics.



*Instagram*

The new service will run 24/7, apart from mid-morning, lunchtime, early afternoon, late evening, or during the night.

The app has been trialled with much success, welcoming questions such as "Is it true Britain was created in 1066?", "Who would win in a fight: Napoleon or Hitler?", "Which did you enjoy more, the First or the Second World War?",

"Was it your generation that got us into this mess?" and "Do you now regret having children?"

## “You say”

Should they build a skating rink at Bar End?



**Natasha Jetski**, 25, Care home nurse, “Oh my god! That would be so fantastic! I wouldn’t have to take my little Katrina all the way to Southampton at three in the morning to do her training.”



**Giles Tiffintime**, 60, Historian, “No! No! No! I don’t want to see the roads blocked with cars full of noisy little Torvill and Deans. Leave it as it is – Somewhere one can take one’s dog for a good old romp.”



**Maxine Factor**, 30, Sales, “It’s about time the council did something for the everyday people of Winchester. There was no where to go when I was a kid - only a bus shelter.”



**Dave Amps**, 45, Electrician, “Don’t give a toss nipper. As long as I don’t have to pay for it.”

# New trail for Alresford

## Literally years in the making

**Tyro Storey**

**ALRESFORD** Parish council is the latest government body to add a dinosaur trail to its list of tourist attractions.

“It makes a great addition to the Millennium and Arle Valley Trails and has been literally years in the making,” said its brainchild.

Parish Councillor Nigel Boredman explained the concept of the trail to a press day group before leading the first guided tour.

“The trail starts at the bottom of Broad Street and heads up the hill and out of Alresford towards Bishops Sutton. There is clear evidence that herding dinosaurs lived in this area and you’ll be able to cross off the species listed in the booklet provided.

“It’s a very exciting time and although we are the first to launch this I am told Winchester Council is also looking at their own Dinosaur Trail after discovering evidence that they too had dinosaurs over the winter.”

We head up the hill, passing the library, its windows newly adorned with posters advertising the trail, stating ‘booklets available inside for a small donation’. We stop at the *Horse and Groom*, newly re-branded *The Raptor and Rex*, where Nigel points to the road and asks enthusiastically, “So, can anyone tell me what this is?”

“A pothole” someone at the back replies.

“No, no, no! Let’s not get confused. That’s a Diplodocus footprint. You can tell because we’ve put a paint circle around it for preservation”

“So it’s not the road breaking apart after the recent bad weather,” I say with a sudden realisation of how the rest of the tour may go.

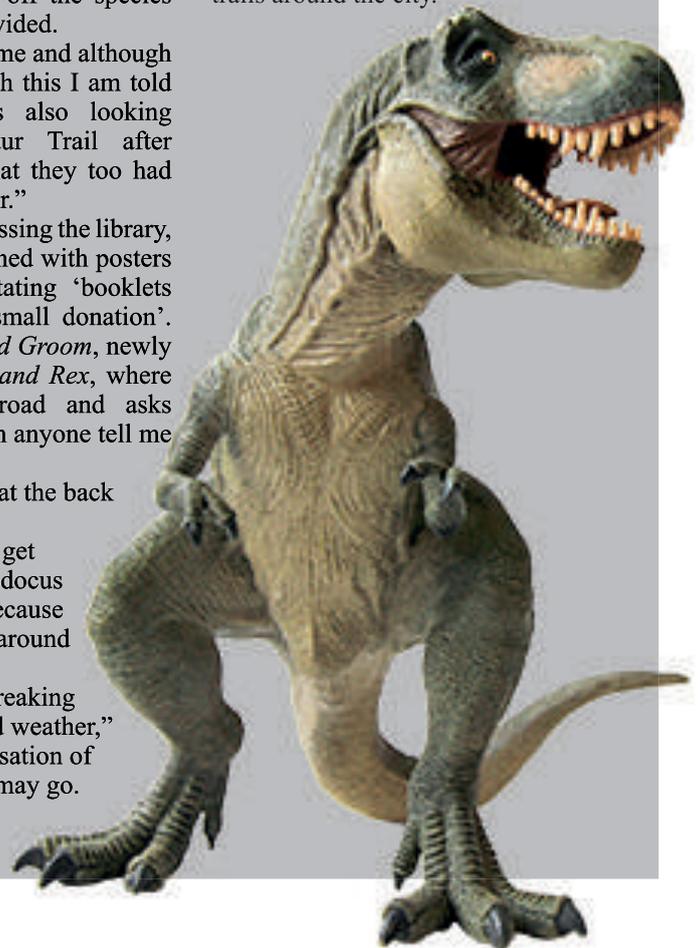
“Not at all,” Nigel continues, “The parish made a full survey and was amazed to find so much evidence of dinosaur movement in the area. The decision was made to celebrate this by the creation of the trail.

**“We’ve circled all the footprints with paint to show them as artefacts.”**



You should see the ones outside Long Barn. We think it must have been a communal meeting point or even watering hole.”

Winchester Council was unavailable for comment but released a press statement saying they were looking into many dinosaur trails around the city.





# Winchester Tennis Club invents brand new sport

“...now that sixty is the new thirty.”



**Polly Player** Sports correspondent

**REAL NEWS OR FAKE NEWS** @smugw

**WINCHETER'S** oldest tennis club, Winchester Racquets and Fitness, is set to launch a completely new sport it claims will prolong the competitive playing days of veteran tennis players.

Called *Croqis* or *Transition Tennis*, the new sport is the brainchild of the club's Head of Development, Will Bounce. In an exclusive interview with SMUG, Mr. Bounce explains how he came up with the idea.

“I was tasked with finding ways to keep our veteran tennis members happy when they can no longer bend over to pick up the ball,” explained Mr. Bounce. “Until now, we simply increased the number of drink-assisted BBQs and urged them to transition to our croquet or bridge membership packages.”

“But since sixty has become the new thirty, more and more tennis players are finding the transition from tennis to croquet simply too painful. Instead they soldier on with tennis, even though they spend so much time bent over trying to pick up balls, they might just as well roll the ball to one another.

“We tried ball boys, of course, but that didn't resolve the problem of the overarm serve and of players having to move. Then it hit me. Hoop-holes. Instead of hitting the ball back and forth over the net, players could knock the ball through hoop-shaped Croqis holes at the bottom of the net. Everything else would be the same, the court, net height, scoring system and the option of playing singles or doubles. In the players' minds, it would still be tennis.

“Unlike tennis, in which less able players struggle to reach a rally of more than two shots, Croqis court options include nets with double the number of hoop-holes, meaning that shit players can look just as good as good players.”

Enthuses one member who trialled the new game. “It's brilliant! Gone are the days when you can simply win using skill, agility and determination. Now, you can just bore your opponent into submission.”

Not all members welcome the sport. One tennis purist, Nettie Hightoss, even suggested that the club invented the sport

solely in order to boost profits.

“The majority of members,”

explains Ms. Hightoss, “joined the club during its heyday in the 70's and are now reaching 70, meaning that the number of tennis memberships is set to plummet. The addition of

Croqis to the tennis package is simply a way of getting them

to keep paying their £600+ tennis memberships, instead of moving on to the significantly cheaper Croquet package.”

Despite the detractors, club manager Bill Usmore is so convinced the new sport will be a success that he has announced that the first Croqis Open will be held in conjunction with the club's most illustrious tournament of the year, the Under 5s' Sponge Ball Open.

**Rubbish players can now look just as good as good players**



“Winchester Racquets and Fitness or Winchester Racqueteers and Fitness.”