



Steve Brine's
WINCHESTER POST

Produced at no cost to the taxpayer by local Conservative MP Steve Brine and delivered by volunteers across Winchester, Alresford, Kings Worthy and surrounding villages.

NEW... go to www.stevebrine.com/wherelive to see Steve's work in your area

CALL FOR SCHOOL

Momentum is gathering for a new primary school in Winchester.

Local MP Steve Brine has been leading calls for the new facility and is working with Conservative colleagues at both councils, as well as key members of the city's education community.

Steve told The Winchester Post all options remained on the table, including new provision from the Local Education Authority (LEA) and a new 'free' school.

Hampshire County Council recently announced they would consult on proposals for a new school in the city and Winchester City Council have now made provision for one in their draft local plan.

Steve Brine says; "It is very clear, regardless of what happens to Barton Farm, that Winchester has an increasing problem with primary places.

"The LEA has a fiendishly difficult job in many respects

but my post bag, my surgery and the number of temporary classrooms that are having to come online for September 2012 tell us there's a crisis looming."

Steve, who is a parent of two himself, said it was good news the LEA recognise a new school is needed in Winchester but insisted a huge coordinated local effort was needed to avoid any further delay and get the new facility open for September 2013 latest.

He added; "I do however think there is a temptation to remain stuck in the old way of thinking whereby we wait patiently to see what the LEA gives us. Michael Gove's 'free' school policy is part of our localism agenda and for the first time it puts new school planning directly in the hands of Winchester residents.

"A free school in the city could be really exciting and I see no reason, least of all ideological opposition, why Winchester should be left behind."



Winchester MP Steve Brine is pictured discussing the issue of school places with parents and staff on a recent visit to Harestock Primary School. Around 18 per-cent of the school's pupils are from Forces families and Steve has spoken in the House of Commons about the provision of places for service children; an issue that is likely to return when British personnel come home from Germany in 2012/13.

NEW... Hampshire Hospitals Trust is here! Winchester's Royal Hampshire County Hospital is now part of a brand new Foundation Trust covering Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover. The new organisation went live on 9th January 2012. Steve Brine, who addressed staff at the hospital at the start of the new year, says; "I have always been clear my priority is to maintain a full District General Hospital in Winchester and I support the new Trust which will give the RHCH a long-term sustainable future. That is great news for people across Winchester and Chandler's Ford but also much further afield as this much-loved hospital goes from strength to strength." See much more: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

Find out more about Steve's campaign to bring a new school to Winchester and join the team
www.stevebrine.com/newschool

News IN BRIEF

Winchester Olympics

The Olympic Torch Relay is to pass through Winchester and Kings Worthy on Wednesday 11th July.

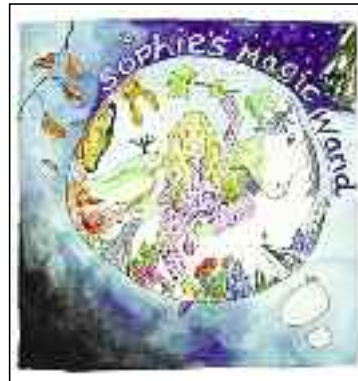
The flame will take in over 1000 villages, towns and cities across the UK, as well as Loch Ness, Mount Snowdon and Stonehenge.



London 2012 supremo Sebastian Coe said: "We are thrilled to confirm that Winchester and Kings Worthy will act as host locations for the Olympic Flame during its journey around the UK."

Sophie's Magic Wand

The Magic Wand Appeal seeks to raise £1.5m for major improvements to children's inpatient services at Winchester's Royal Hampshire County Hospital. *Sophie's Magic Wand* is a very special book written by young Winchester author Ivan Brett to support the appeal. "Please buy a copy of and help raise funds for this most worthy cause", says Steve Brine.



Copies are £7 and can be requested by emailing Nikki Oliver at the RHCH (Nikki.Oliver@hfh.nhs.uk) or directly by visiting Steve's constituency shop at 9 Stockbridge Road, Winchester.

Water for Life - Planning for our future

Steve Brine has warmly welcomed the recent publication of the government's outline plans for our water, which recognise new scenarios of water availability by the 2050s.

The Water White Paper also looks at plans to tackle water bills and ensure customers get a better service from water companies, alongside building awareness about the connection between the water we use in our homes and the condition of our rivers.

More www.stevebrine.com/westminster

Council Tax freeze ... again!

Winchester Conservatives are committed to delivering a further year of NO increase in City Council Tax during the 2012-13.

Although the council's own income is coming under very great pressure, Leader Cllr George Beckett, is determined to deliver a further zero increase and is working hard with senior officers to ensure front line services are protected while reducing back office costs.



Winchester: Steve met local skater Steve Willoughby at River Park Leisure Centre in December to discuss the tired skate park that currently exists and the effect it has had on participation. They also discussed next steps for Steve and Winchester skaters as they seek funding.



Alresford: Steve joins Zac Gilmore, Jennifer Stokes and Olivia Probert, who showed him round Perins school in Alresford after meeting with the Headteacher and senior team.



Winchester: Ten year-old Eleanor Ring, from Prince's Mead School in Winchester, won Steve Brine's first Christmas Card Competition, beating over 120 children from across the constituency. Steve used the design on his official 2011 card, and one even made its way to the Prime Minister!

BUSY FEW MONTHS FOR LOCAL MP



Winchester: Steve Brine spent a lunchtime selling the Big Issue on Winchester High Street before Christmas, and was delighted to take the opportunity to learn more about the magazine, and exactly how they operate. See short-film at www.stevebrine.tv



Alresford: Steve Brine visited care company 'Home Instead Senior Care' after Steve and Jan Gapper, who set up the business in March 2011, invited him along to look at what they have to offer. More at www.stevebrine.com/alresford



Colden Common: Steve joined Cllr Richard Izard and a host of guests at the grand opening of the new Sunstar convenience store in Colden Common. He cut the ribbon as staff and customers celebrated the first day of trading at the Main Road store. See short-film at www.stevebrine.tv



Winchester: Steve Brine took to Chilcomb sports fields to check out the behind-the-scenes progress Winchester Youth FC has recently made. The club, which has links with AFC Bournemouth, Aldershot FC and Eastleigh FC, has around 150 players and an ethos which focuses on providing quality coaching while competing successfully at each age group.



Winchester: Steve Brine spent a Friday night out on the town, as he joined up with the Winchester Street Pastors in December. The Winchester Street group chatted and offered friendly support to youngsters sampling Winchester's lively nightlife.



Twyford: Steve Brine opened a new link-way at the Abbeyfield Winchester Society in Twyford in early December. Abbeyfield is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to making the lives of older people easier and more fulfilling, and providing a range of services, all of which are linked to the local community.

Short-films @ Steve Brine TV www.stevebrine.tv

WINCHESTER CREATIVE CITY

As we move into 2012, Winchester's creative heart is beating stronger than ever. In addition to award-winning artists, poets and musicians, the city has a vibrant arts culture and popular venues.

Local MP Steve Brine says; "Winchester really does have it all, I hope to see the concept of 'creative city' really take off in the next few years."



Pictured above; Sally Ingram from the thriving Pop Atelier in Stockbridge Road - one of those leading the charge. As Sally says "Hard times need art!" See more www.pop-atelier.com.

- ARTFUL** - a group of like-minded professional artists and makers, living and working around the Fulford area of Winchester. www.artfulwinchester.com
- Umbrella** Winchester's creative network - connects creative and artistic people living, working or studying in or near Winchester. umbrellawinchester.ning.com
- Hyde Writers** - a group of poets, novelists, script and short story writers who meet every first and third Monday in the Hyde Tavern, Winchester. www.hyperspaces.co.uk/thehydewriters
- 10 days across the city** - A 'not for profit' organisation which organised a series of events and exhibitions in October 2011. www.drawingplace.co.uk



IN WESTMINSTER

NEW Local MP elected to Justice Select Committee

Winchester & Chandler's Ford MP Steve Brine has been elected to a powerful House of Commons committee. Mr Brine will now serve on the Justice Select Committee following an election among MPs, held just before Christmas.

The committee, which is chaired by experienced Lib Dem MP Sir Alan Beith, examines the expenditure, administration and policy of the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Office, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office.

The MP said: "I am really pleased to be joining the Justice Committee. It's a powerful check on the work of the MOJ and holds some key enquiries into Government policy, including most

recently the proposed abolition of the Youth Justice Board and the role of the Probation Service. I look forward to playing my part in its published schedule of work but also in helping to shape its focus going forward.

"I am very interested in the agenda around reducing re-offending rates, restorative justice and in the area of prison reform so I hope to use my new position to promote those causes within Parliament."

More www.stevebrine.com/westminster

News IN BRIEF

New plan to outlaw sub-let

Plans to make it a criminal offence for council tenants to sub-let their homes are being announced by the government.

Grant Shapps, Housing Minister, said: "For too long this country has turned a blind eye on the multi-billion pound problem of housing tenancy fraud and abuse. This year the coalition is determined to end that scandal. Why should someone on a six-figure income enjoy a fantastically subsidised council rent, whilst those in real need languish on the waiting list?"

High Street market update

Traders in Winchester High Street - and local residents - have raised concerns with their MP Steve Brine about the growing number of market stalls in the city centre.



The City Council is now reviewing the situation after the city's Business Improvement District (BID), led by Executive Director Chris Turner, and Steve Brine made council chiefs aware of concerns. A survey of local businesses is taking place and BID is encouraging local people to write to the council with their views. Have a view? Email: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

Wessex Boy

Winchester has its very own soundtrack after local musician Frank Turner recently hit the charts with 'Wessex Boy'. The tune mentions Jewry Street, the Cathedral grounds and the Railway Inn, and is also accompanied by a video featuring a host of local buskers, shot on location around the city centre. Find it on You Tube and enjoy!



Want to attend PMQs?



Steve Brine is inviting constituents who would like to visit Parliament and watch *Prime Minister's Question Time* to contact him.

In line with all MPs, Steve receives only a handful of pairs of tickets each calendar year and holds a ballot three weeks before each date which is drawn from all received entries. The key dates so far for 2012 are 21st March and 11th July. A third date will be announced shortly by the House of Commons, so keep an eye out... and apply via - www.stevebrine.com/pmqs

60-second interview



Award-winning author **Michael Dobbs** returns to *The Winchester Post* to put our local MP on the spot. Michael, who was made a Member of the House of Lords in 2010, is best known for writing the hugely successful political drama *House of Cards* and his writing on Winston Churchill.

The doom-mongers are predicting a terrible year ahead. Are they right?

It is going to be really tough yes. The Government must stick to its plan but there is no doubt unemployment and rising prices will continue to challenge us. The coalition is taking strong action to re-balance our economy but I will go on stressing the importance of hope and optimism alongside austerity in 2012.

This is the year Britain sees the world and the world sees Britain. As well as the London Olympic Games - where Winchester and Kings Worthy will host part of the historic Torch Relay - we also come together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The eyes of the world will be upon us



and this gives us an extraordinary opportunity to showcase our nation, despite these most difficult of times. Think Royal Wedding plus!

What do you see as the main challenges for Winchester? Winchester may have an unemployment rate below the national average but that is little consolation if you've lost your job. We have a large number of public sector workers in this city and our challenge, as in so many places, is to help the private sector grow and replace those jobs. We must also keep inflation under control and the economy stable; those of us with a mortgage to pay know all too well what even a half per-cent rise in interest rates would do to monthly bills so stability is key.

On a different, more local tack, I think we face a real challenge in planning for the new homes this area needs without ruining existing communities. Councillors, strengthened by our localism agenda, have a real job on their hands taking local people with them this year as their local plan comes into force.



It was an extraordinary busy year for you in 2011, your first full year as an MP. What were your personal highlights?

Generally speaking it was great to just settle into the groove of a being a good constituency MP and I have already helped so many people who came to me with their problems. It was good to see the Alternative Vote

resoundingly rejected by the British people in the referendum and personally, it was very nice to be elected, by my peers, to the influential Justice Select Committee in Parliament.

You are one of the hardest workers I know at Westminster. How difficult is it to juggle family and a full-time job in Westminster?

Very hard at times but I am no different to thousands of the people I represent. William is 14-months old now but we are having a terrible time with his sleeping so it's not easy to follow some of the very late nights Westminster demands with some very early mornings at home. I think we're all struggling to get the work-life balance right these days and I am no different.

Quick Fire Questions...

What made you laugh loudest in 2011?

Finally getting a chance to watch *The Inbetweeners*.

What programme causes you to throw the remote control at the TV?

I don't watch it but if channel hopping and it comes on, *Big Brother* will do that to me.

Your most irritating habit?

Biting my nails; must do better in 2012 - especially when sitting behind the Prime Minister in the House of Commons as it drives my wife nuts!

What music is on your iPhone at the moment?

Lots but I love 'Funny looking angels' by Smith & Borrows.

Your favourite meal - and who cooks it?

Curry; cooked (and washed up) by anyone else!



Our growing small business sector

Local Conservatives and Steve Brine have been actively supporting the growth of new independent businesses across Winchester in the last few months.

Prospective city councillor Helen Osborne has been supporting the introduction of new shops into Stoney Lane. Helen says: "I have been an avid campaigner supporting small businesses in north Winchester and I am delighted to welcome two new independent shops to Weeke. I am particularly keen to welcome *Going for an English* takeaway, which is a fantastic re-introduction of great British food to our local residents.

"The reduction of red tape and the lowest rate of small business corporation tax in the G7 have certainly helped."

Steve added: "I recently opened the new barbers in Oliver's Battery and I continue to champion the growth of the Winchester business economy." **More:** www.stevebrine.com/weeke

■ Campaigner Helen Osborne with manager Terry Tarant.

Community work welcomed in Stanmore

Stanmore residents have welcomed community improvements which are taking place across the area through the Winchester City Council Estate Improvement Programme.

Residents have recently been surveyed over what they would like to see happen to improve their estate, and many actions have already taken place.

Cllr Jamie Scott, who represents the community for the Conservatives, commented: "Thanks to the scheme, the Thurmond Crescent horseshoe car parking area has been resurfaced and the promenade of shops at Wavell Way has been improved".

Jamie's colleague, local campaigner Derek Green, added: "It is great to see many areas of our community improving and it is giving the estate a real lift".

More: www.stevebrine.com/stanmore



■ Steve Brine MP joins Cllr Jamie Scott on Thurmond Crescent.

Parking at Shawford Station...again

City Councillor Jan Warwick has been closely working with Compton and Shawford Parish Council and Winchester City Council who are consulting with local residents about possible parking regulations around Shawford Station.

"The station is an asset for the local community but its popularity has created problems for local residents and businesses. It's been a real challenge finding a solution which works for all parties in a rural area," said Cllr Warwick.

Parish Councillor Mike Southgate added; "The problem has been getting worse and something needs to be done to regulate where people could park. We will keep residents updated via In Touch". More: www.stevebrine.com/shawford



■ Cllrs Warwick and Southgate on the spot.

Ways to contact your local MP

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