

WINCHESTER POST

For Winchester and the surrounding villages, including Chandler's Ford

Fighting the Superbugs

'Bold and innovative' work of hospital praised as Shadow Health Secretary visits

Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine welcomed a senior member of David Cameron's Shadow Cabinet to Winchester recently.

Health supremo, Andrew Lansley, came to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital to see the Trust's 'breakthrough' in the fight against the MRSA superbug. Staff at the hospital claim it has discovered a new way to help fight the spread of infection which they say could have national implications.

It involves better management of what is called a cannula, a thin tube inserted by needle under the skin to administer intravenous fluids. The tubes can now only be prescribed

by a doctor and are flushed daily with saline solution to spot early signs of any infection.

Now Dr Chris Gordon, consultant physician, believes it could slash infection rates and save lives in hospitals across the UK.

Mr Lansley said: "A zero tolerance approach to MRSA has to be the way forward across the whole country and treating cannulae as a prescribed event is an excellent example of a search and destroy strategy that is working. It is not good enough to set an arbitrary target for just a reduction in cases of infection because even one is too many."

Steve Brine added: "The Trust ambition to have an infection-free hospital in Winchester is exactly where we should be aiming and it's nothing less than local people expect. There will always be set-backs along the way but we should congratulate those working at the Royal Hampshire for really setting the standard in such a bold and innovative way."

While at the hospital, Mr Lansley also saw ambitious plans for the Romsey Road site which will see a new hospital emerge next year and met with staff to discuss a wide range of current issues across the NHS.

Dr Chris Gordon, left, Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley MP, and Prospective Winchester MP Steve Brine chat to a ward sister at the RHCH

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Latest poll just in...

Con – 44%

Lab – 30%

Lib Dem – 16%

Source:
ComRes for The Independent Newspaper

Results from the most recent poll show a healthy lead for David Cameron's Conservatives. This would lead to a Conservative majority of 102 seats at a General Election! At the next election, Winchester will have a chance to play its part in removing Gordon Brown's failing Labour Party and elect a fresh new Government that is committed to social justice and a cleaner, greener, fairer society.



www.stevebrine.com

A Green Winchester publication, printed on 100% recycled paper

NEWS SHORTS

Tower @ Kings' stronger than ever

Winchester's Tower Arts Centre finally transferred to Kings' School at the end of April and early signs are that the much-loved live performance venue is stronger than ever.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) controversially first proposed that management of the centre move to Kings' last year as a response to ever increasing demands on its adult social care costs. Exhaustive pressure from campaigners and Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine, led to HCC and Winchester City Council committing a total of £150,000 over the next three years to help develop a mixed evening programme at the Tower. "This is the key issue we need to watch now," says Steve.



He adds: "The school have appointed a local arts promoter, Ben Ward, to the new post of Tower Arts Co-ordinator. He is well known with musicians in and around Winchester. I think it was unfortunate the way the campaign last year became so party political but it is becoming increasingly clear now that maintaining the status quo would have eventually seen the closure of the Tower as public funds are increasingly squeezed. I am confident the transfer will mark a positive new chapter in its history if we all work together and support its programme."

Conservatives retain control of the Council

Local elections were held across the district (with the exception of Sparsholt, Crawley and the villages of the Itchen Valley) on May 1st and they saw the Conservatives re-elected to lead Winchester City Council.

A delighted Council leader, George Beckett, spoke to The Winchester Post after the count: "In spite of a concerted and wholly negative campaign from our opponents, we were able to run a decent, honest and 100% positive campaign, focusing on our candidates and their record/proposals for each local area. When you consider where we have come from in the past six years, huge steps have been made, now we need to get on with the work we were elected to do."

Cracking down on underage drinking

Local Community Safety Officers (pictured) plan to take their tough message on underage drinking into Winchester's schools following impressive results in the past six months.



The CSO's, who are employed by Tory-led Hampshire County Council, say 95 per cent of the alcohol seized from people drinking in Winchester's central Alcohol Exclusion Zone between October 2007 and March 2008 came from under 18's. They operate a yellow card scheme which acts as an early warning system and involves the parent/guardian of the young person caught misbehaving.

Steve Brine, who is standing to become Winchester's next MP, says: "The patrols and the yellow card system has obviously had an effect and that can only be positive in tackling anti-social behaviour in the city. It is important however, that the CSO's are backed up by continuing use of the 101 non-emergency number, a vibrant programme of youth activities and strong family units if we are to make continuing progress."

Supporting our forces and their families

Conservatives launch new commission to protect Military Covenant in support of City's service personnel.

Conservatives, locally and nationally, are working hard for service personnel and their families. Here in Winchester, local City Councillors and Winchester's Prospective MP, Steve Brine, have supported the Conservative-led City Council to retain a strong military presence in this historic garrison city.

Local military personnel have been warmly welcomed back from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, others have marched in Freedom Parades and the future of Worthy Down and Southwick Park have been secured.

Nationally, David Cameron is showing wholehearted support for the British armed forces. The Opposition leader has recently launched the "Military Covenant Commission" to examine the health of the military covenant and how Government and society can better support the military. He has also promised a Forces' Families Manifesto at the next election.



Returning soldiers march through Winchester in January of this year

"Soldiers will be called upon to make personal sacrifices in the service of the Nation. In return, British soldiers must always be able to expect fair treatment, to be valued and respected as individuals, and that they (and their families) will be sustained and rewarded."

Extract from the Military Covenant

Steve Brine says: "The commission is gathering evidence from service personnel, their families and the public. It is one way for everyone to have their say on how the Government should look after the interests of the extended military family. The website contains all the information and a way to have your say. I would urge you to take part if at all possible."

Visit the website and have your say via www.stevebrine.com/military or email military@stevebrine.com

We must help elderly couples stay together

Conservative leader, David Cameron, says pensioners should not have to sell their homes to pay for residential care.

He said it was one of the "great unfairnesses" that people who had saved money and "done the right thing" were then more likely to fail a means test and face having to sell their home. "I think what we can do is look at schemes like they have in certain American states, where if you put a bit aside to pay for maybe the first year ... or two years of residential care ... the state will guarantee that's all you have to pay for," he said.

At the moment, anyone with assets of more than £22,250 has to pay for a place in a care home, which can cost tens of thousands of pounds a year.

Winchester's Conservative Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine, threw his weight behind the need for change and told The Winchester Post: "One of the true ways we should judge a compassionate



Steve Brine discusses the issues around long-term care with Margaret & Terry Thorp of Harestock and local campaigner, Patrick Cunningham

society is how it looks after its senior citizens when they need help the most."

He continued: "To be fair to the current Government, they have talked much about this issue. We have to find a way to keep couples together and save them from a situation where they have to sell everything they ever worked for, live apart and drain the inheritance they want to pass onto their kids just to pay for their care in old age.

"I think we also need to look at the wider point which is to transform the lives of the so-called 'sandwich' generation of grown-up children with frail elderly parents. We need plans to allow people caring for elderly relatives to go to work without losing benefit payments. At the moment many are reluctant to take up work or further their careers because the moment they earn more than £95 a week they lose support from the state."

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Has the care crisis affected you?**

Join the debate at www.stevebrine.com/socialcare or write to: Steve Brine, The Coach House, Worthy Park, Winchester, SO21 1AN or call us on 01962 762023

Help for City's Small Businesses



Small businesses in Winchester are in line for a leg-up with the opening of a new enterprise centre.

Up to 70 businesses could be based at the building in Winnall Valley Road, Winnall. It will be run by business centre operator, Basepoint, which will provide offices and studio workshops in the building owned by Winchester City Council.

The centre will offer space to suit all sizes and types of business, ranging from one-person micro-offices for the emerging entrepreneur, office suites for larger teams and studio workshops. Licensees will also benefit from shared facilities including meeting rooms and the support of an on-site management team. It is hoped the centre will replicate the success of other local centres in Southampton, Romsey and Andover.

George Beckett, Conservative leader of the City Council (pictured) adds: "As a small business owner myself, I am delighted by the agreement that has been reached. Not only will an area of Winchester be given a new lease of life, but new and emerging local businesses will also have a wealth of business facilities available to them. The fact that Basepoint also generates funding for charities makes this project particularly agreeable."

All profits made by Basepoint go to worthy causes, including four Winchester-based charities: Naomi House, the Trinity drop-in Centre, Friends of Shepherds Down School and the Emmaus project at Bar End, which we featured in the Spring Winchester Post.

You can find out more about this initiative at www.stevebrine.com/business

Help for Homebuyers

Scrapping HIPs and raising the Stamp Duty threshold will ease the burden in troubled times.

House costs have greatly increased in recent years – with rising Council Tax, utility bills and higher mortgage rates making it harder to move. We now have additional costs to battle with compulsory Home Information Packs (HIPs).

Steve Brine says: "Moving home is one of the most stressful things that anyone can do. The Government's new red-tape threatens to make it worse, not better. Rather than protecting consumers, their new regulations will increase the cost of moving and threaten to undermine the stability of the housing market. At a time when the housing market is under great pressure, the last thing anyone needs is the introduction of HIPs on one or two-bedroomed homes. This latest move will dismay hard-working families because it increases instability in an already fragile market."

The Conservatives have launched a House-Buying Review, led by TV property guru Kirstie Allsopp.

Conservatives will:

- Raise the Stamp Duty threshold to 250,000 for first-time buyers – helping them to afford a house
- Scrap Labour's pointless and expensive HIPs – keeping the new Energy Certificates
- Examine the whole process of buying a home with a Home-Buying Review, currently underway.



Ecotricity

Winchester finds eco-saviour in Green Electricity Company

The UK's leading renewable energy company, Ecotricity, has launched in our city.

Ecotricity is the only independent electricity company in Britain. It produces clean power from wind turbines and plunges all profit into the technology - last year the company invested £15.6 million.

Prospective Conservative MP, Steve Brine, recently joined forces with Winchester's current MP to help Ecotricity launch into the Winchester area. The company are giving Winchester residents a chance to sign up for the same price as they currently pay on their local supplier's standard



tariff. Each household will also receive free of charge an energy saving pack from Ecotricity which includes four energy saving light bulbs and a 'Bye Bye' Standby Kit that can reduce an average homes electricity bill by up to £74 per year.

The offer is open to the Winchester business community too. If companies sign up during the launch period, they'll receive a special discounted rate. They'll also receive a business pack with a certificate, web logos and stickers to demonstrate their environmental credentials to both existing and potential new customers.

Mark Oaten and Steve Brine are both taking the opportunity to go green and are switching their Winchester offices to Ecotricity.

Steve Brine says: "I have always maintained that going green needs to make as much financial as environmental sense, in other words that we need to make it a no-brainer for consumers. As the cost of living, and in particular utility bills, rise steeply for Winchester families I would think Ecotricity have chosen an extremely smart time to come to the market. I wish them every success."

For more information phone 08000 326 100 or visit www.ecotricity.co.uk



Steve Brine with Ben Ward from Ecotricity

STEVE BRINE living here

The candidate aiming to replace Mark Oaten as Winchester's Member of Parliament is Steve Brine. Steve is a local family man, living near Alresford with his wife Susie, seven-month old daughter Emily and dog 'Popcorn'. He says: "My aim is to be the best local MP Winchester has seen."



Steve and Emily completed the Winchester Sport Relief Mile in March - in spite of driving rain - and raised just over £300 for the chosen charities. He says: "Any requests for my official time will be met with a strict no comment - I was held back by a pushchair on wet ground!"

"I applaud your work in this area, which shows how much you care about our community. You have convinced a hardcore Labour supporter to switch to you at the next election." **Mrs C. Kings Worthy**



Steve was fortunate enough to be invited to the launch earlier this year of Brasserie Blanc, Raymond Blanc's newest restaurant in Jewry Street. The new restaurant is housed in purpose-built premises created by Winchester-based developer, Mohamed Bakhaty.

"You are certainly doing a good job and will get my vote at the next election - and may it be sooner rather than later!" **Mrs S, Winchester City Centre**



Alresford celebrated its annual Watercross Festival in May - on one of the hottest days of the Spring. Steve is joined by Alresford Councillor Ernie Jeffs and Rob & Pauline Brown. It really must have been a hot day because even Steve has shorts on!

"Thank you for taking the time to help us when we didn't know where else to turn. We have always supported Mark Oaten in Winchester, but you will be a worthy successor in our view." **Mr & Mrs H. Weeke Estate**



Steve recently dropped into KAYAC, the King Alfred Youth Activity Centre in Winnall to hear about the current funding challenges they face, to play a game of Ping-Pong and to really get his (blue) hands dirty!

Give us a break!

Sat Nav blamed as the volume of heavy traffic increases in Twyford.

It is one of those problems which simply didn't exist in the past. The growth of sat nav technology in vehicles has pushed ever increasing numbers of heavy goods lorries off main roads into much smaller towns and villages.

Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine, says: "I have seen a steady growth in the number of letters received from residents worried about the changes sat nav is forcing upon their communities as more and more traffic is diverted away from nearby motorways."

The problem has got so bad for one village, Twyford, that there are now calls to implement a tonnage restriction on the through road.

Local campaigner, Susie Evershed, told The Winchester Post that she increasingly feared for the safety of local residents. "The size and volume of lorries coming through on a short cut is very dangerous and sometimes they even mount the pavement."

Steve Brine adds: "The main road from Fair Oak through Colden Common and Twyford is a short cut for haulage companies from the M27 to the M3 at Hockley and, to add to this, there is a large distribution centre in Fair Oak where many of them are headed. It would seem to me that there is a strong case for tonnage restrictions if the villagers supported such a move."

What do you think about the idea of a tonnage restriction on the main road through Twyford? Find out more about this subject and have your say at www.stevebrine.com/campaigns or write with your view to Steve Brine/Susie Evershed, The Coach House, Worthy Park, Winchester, SO21 1AN.



Steve Brine and local campaigner, Susie Evershed, run through the issues with Twyford resident, Veronica Cloke Browne (and 16-month old Anthony)

Round one to Winchester!

In the last edition of The Winchester Post (in March, see inset) we looked at the very serious threat new mass development poses to our city and surrounding villages.

Since that publication Ministers have wisely turned away from forcing a 12,500 house eco-town on land at Micheldever Station. Thanks to heroic efforts by the Dever Society, who put together a first-class case on behalf of local people, we will **NOT** now be included in Gordon Brown's plan for ten major new towns.



April of this year - Time to crack open the bubbly as the news came through in Micheldever

Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine does not believe however, that we can now sit back and toast our victory for too long. "It was excellent news that Micheldever was left out of the eco-town plan but there are still huge challenges facing Winchester in terms of new development. It is tempting to look at the slow-down in the housing market and think the economy will stop our green fields being targetted by central Government housing numbers but that would be far from accurate."



The Winchester District is still being told it must build 12,000 new homes by 2026 and around 5,000 of these must be in its Northern part. Steve Brine adds; "While we are meeting current targets, as recently reported in the Hampshire Chronicle, Barton Farm remains in the firing line thanks to ever-increasing Government targets. Winchester's Challenge is to work together in a grown up way to respond to them. In my view Barton Farm is a vital part of our wonderful landscape setting and while more homes may be needed, 2,000 on this site would kill the patient in my view. I simply don't think Winchester's present road network, public services, infrastructure and even our supermarkets can cope."



Barton Farm on Andover Road in its late Spring glory covered in the vivid yellow flowers of oilseed rape plant blossom

This is a live issue that changes by the day - you can stay up-to-date and have your say via www.stevebrine.com/winchesterchallenge

Promoted by Paul Twelftree on behalf of Winchester Conservative Association, both of The Coach House, Worthy Park, Abbots Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1AN and Printed by Culverlands Press, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0LN

Talk to Steve and join the winning team for Winchester

Your comments:

- I would like to deliver a few leaflets
- I would like to display a poster during elections
- I would like to join the party
- I would like to donate to Steve's campaign
 - £10 £20 £50 Other (please state) £ _____

Please make cheques payable to: **Winchester Conservatives Fighting Fund**

Please complete and return to: Winchester Conservatives, The Coach House, Worthy Park, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1AN

or visit: www.stevebrine.com

Name:

Address:

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