

Fratton Big Local



Finding the way forward

Fratton Big Local Newsletter November 2015

The Fratton Festival of Lights is coming!

The Festival of Lights will be held on **Wednesday 2nd December**. The parade will start at 6:30pm from the Royal British Legion Club. People will walk down Fratton Road with their lanterns, arriving at St Mary's Churchyard just after 7pm. The parade will be accompanied by the Dolphin Marching Band.

There will be projections outside of the church and entertainment and activities inside, including performances by Top Banana Circus and the Urban Vocal Group choir. Films will be shown in the vestry.

Free hot drinks will be available within the Church. Additional food and refreshments will be on sale.

If you'd like to help us as a volunteer steward during the parade, please contact Anna on 07841 341 969. (Please note that volunteer stewards will not be required to manage traffic; professional marshals employed by MG Security & Events will undertake all traffic management activities.)

The last chance to make a lantern will be at a workshop on Tuesday 1st December, 3:30pm-5:30pm, at AG Stapleford and Sons, 104 Fratton Road, Portsmouth. (This workshop is for families and young people 11 years and over)



Some lanterns made for the festival





Christmas Lights

There will be Christmas lights for the first time along Fratton Road this year! Fratton Big Local and Portsmouth City Council's Town Centre Management Team have funded the lights, which will be switched on this Friday (27th November).

Y Services Youth Project



We have supported Y Services to set up a new youth project for young people in Fratton aged 12-17 years old.

These sessions will take place on a Monday evening at Fratton Community Centre. The first session is on Monday 7th December, 6.30pm-8.30pm. Entry is free.

If you want more information please contact Amy Thompson on 07522 511441 / fbl@yservices.co.uk

Free guidance for Fratton residents on reducing their fuel bills

Working with Groundwork Solent, Fratton Big Local has been granted £5,000 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to carry out work to reduce fuel poverty in Fratton.

Emma Hollands will meet with Fratton residents to provide them with face-to-face advice about how to reduce their fuel bills. Where appropriate, she may be able to help them gain government grants to improve their properties, or signpost them to other sources of support that may be available.

Come and meet Emma in St Mary's Church after the Festival of Lights parade on 2nd December to see if Emma could help you!

20 Streets in Portsmouth

The 20 Streets in Portsmouth project is now well under way. Individual or small group meetings have been held with most of the initial volunteers/researchers, but more are still joining.

Our first training/work session at the Carnegie Library has been held and more are being planned. The 20 Streets are all between St Mary's Road and New Road.

You can follow the project on Facebook at www.facebook.com/20StreetsinPortsmouth or get in touch by email 20streetsinportsmouth@gmail.com



Coming up in the New Year:

'Dear Me'

Following the success of our 'Dear Me' competition last year we will be running it again as part of Portsmouth BookFest 2016.



'Dear Me' is a literary and literacy competition for the children of Fratton. It will be judged by a local author.

Each child is to write a personal letter addressed to their future self in 10 years. It will describe the hopes, dreams, excitement and aspirations they have now which they aim to have fulfilled by 2026. The competition is open to 7-11 year olds. More information on the competition, and how to enter, will follow.

ESOL sessions

Following the success of our pilot ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) sessions earlier this year we will be running three further series of sessions next year. These will be for women living in Fratton whose first language is not English. More information about these will be available shortly.

Date for your diary:

2nd December - Festival of Lights

If you have some spare time and would like to help us with any of our projects, please contact us:

T: 07841 341 969

E: community@frattonbiglocal.org.uk or contact us via our Facebook page.

Local Trust | **Big Local**

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