

Volunteer as part of £3.6m park project

VOLUNTEERS are needed as a multi-million pound makeover starts on a park.

Hampshire County Council is calling for people to give up their time to help restore Staunton Country Park, in Havant, as part of its £3.8m project.

The council needs volunteers to clear vegetation, help in the visitor centre and research the park's history.

Councillor Sean Woodward, executive member for recreation and heritage, said: 'Volunteers at Staunton Country Park already do fantastic work, often unseen, helping us to make every visit to the park an enjoyable experience.'

'Having announced a major programme to bring Staunton's unique and historic past back to life as well as modernising facilities for visitors, we are now looking for more volunteers.'

The project will see new catering facilities, improved car parking, new trails and activities and conservation of the Chinese bridge and follies.

For details email staunton.hlf@hants.gov.uk.

First book is published

AN AUTHOR has had her first book published - more than a decade after it was written.

Marilyn Ashley from Gosport says she is delighted that her children's book, *The Adventures of Bom-Bom, Dum-Dum, Toy-Toy and Baby Jo-Jo*, has now gone to print.

Marilyn said: 'The story is about the adventures of four dachshunds; it's my first children's book - I wrote it about eleven years ago and now I've retired I thought it would be a good time to get it published.'

The book is available in local Waterstones and WHSmith stores, as well as Hayling Island Bookshop, The Book Shop in Lee-on-the-Solent high street, The Works in Gosport, Gunwharf News and New To You Books in Portsmouth.

Southsea beach clean

THE latest Southsea beach clean has seen 53kg of rubbish removed from the coastline.

An estimated 120 volunteers joined 'Southsea Beachwatch' to remove plastic cutlery, barbecues and even dirty nappies from the beach.

Addicts issued with emergency antidotes to drug overdoses

Rollout in bid to cut linked deaths

by BEN FISHWICK
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EMERGENCY antidotes to overdoses have been dished out to pharmacies in a bid to cut the number of drug-related deaths.

It comes as overall drug misuse deaths have more than doubled in 10 years from 23 to 52 in Portsmouth, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics.

Ageing drug addicts suffering from health complications, including liver disease and Hepatitis C, have been linked to the growing numbers.

But now Portsmouth City Council, the ninth-worst unitary authority in the country for drug-linked deaths, has funded and rolled out the use of a drug, Naloxone, in a bid to reverse overdoses. Around 400 kits have been issued.

Eight pharmacies in the city that see a high number of people use their needle exchanges have been given the drug, which is an emergency antidote for opioids and opiates, including heroin, morphine and fentanyl.

Councillor Matthew Winnington, cabinet member for health, wellbeing & social care, said: 'The increase in drug-related deaths is a national trend and not one



ANTIDOTE Sophie-Marie Furmedge with the drug at Laly's pharmacy in Guildhall Square, Portsmouth

Picture: Habibur Rahman

DRUG MISUSE DEATHS

LOCATION	2006-08	2015-17
Portsmouth	23	52
Gosport	7	27
Havant	4	19
Fareham	4	6

exclusive to Portsmouth. 'We are working hard to reduce drug-related deaths in Portsmouth as people are dying much younger than

they should be and these deaths are avoidable.'

The number of drug misuse deaths in Portsmouth, Gosport, Fareham and Havant has gone from 38 in 2006-08 to 104 in 2015-17.

Overall drug poisoning deaths, which includes misuse deaths, increased from 61 to 156 in nearly 10 years. He added: 'In Portsmouth we are seeing an increase in older drug users

dying. This is often due to health complications linked to drug use, for example liver disease caused by Hepatitis C from injecting drugs.'

'Addiction, mental illness and homelessness are also common factors in drug-related deaths in Portsmouth, and as with other areas there are a greater number of drug deaths in areas of higher deprivation.'

Addicts and their carers

have been given Naloxone with training so they know how to use it if needed.

A total of 3,756 deaths involving legal and illegal drugs were registered in England and Wales in 2017.

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THERE'S MORE ONLINE

Follow the latest on the area's health-related news at portsmouth.co.uk

The increase in drug-related deaths is a national trend, not just in Portsmouth

Councillor Matthew Winnington



HELPING HAND Duke being looked after at PDSA

Funding boost is given to Portsmouth pets

A DONATION has been given to a pet hospital to help fund treatment for poorly animals.

Portsmouth PDSA Pet Hospital, based in Cowplain, received £1,000 from Persimmon Homes South Coast in Fareham.

PDSA provides free and low cost treatment to sick and injured pets in need.

Nationwide, it costs £60m a

year to provide the service.

The money was donated via Persimmon Homes' Community Champions scheme.

Sam Haig, pet hospital leader at Portsmouth PDSA Pet Hospital, said: 'The PDSA treats around 125 pets every working day in Portsmouth and provided more than 65,000 treatments last year alone.'

'The owners we see every day at PDSA Portsmouth tell us how their pets have helped them through difficult times, provided them with love and companionship, motivated them to go out more and given them a real sense of purpose.'

'Every day we provide critical care for pets of those who are most in need, so we're thrilled that Persimmon has

chosen to help by providing much-needed support for the local community.'

Matt Paine, managing director of Persimmon Homes South Coast, said: 'We are delighted to be able to help the PDSA Portsmouth Pet Hospital - pets help people in many ways and we are delighted to be able to support the work of this charity.'