

RATEPAYER

ISSUED FREE OF CHARGE *MAGAZINE*

Circulation 9,000



CHRISTMAS FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

IN LONDON ROAD, WATERLOOVILLE.

Visit your local town centre this Christmas for quality, value and friendly service on your doorstep.

Come to the **Christmas light switch-on** in Waterlooville shopping precinct on Thursday 4th December between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. There will be lots of entertainment for the children with Casey the Clown, children's rides and, of course, Santa and his helpers will be there. Late night shopping will provide an opportunity to avoid the Christmas rush and purchase gifts at your leisure. Choirs from local schools will be singing festive songs and M.C. Sounds will co-ordinate the event ensuring festive fun for all.

Visit **Santa's Grotto**, kiddies go karts, bouncy castle and rides in London Road on 4th, 6th, 13th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd December.

Additional Saturday entertainment will include:

The Phoenix Singers wearing traditional dress, will sing festive songs
11 am Sat 6th Dec

The Future Zone, a local hip-hop squad, will give a display of street dancing.
12 noon and 1pm Sat 13th Dec

Carol Service lead by local Churches
2pm Sat 20th Dec

The Street Market
9am to 2pm Wed 24th Dec

APPEAL FOR POPPY DAY ORGANISER

Due to age or infirmity there is no one to organise next years Poppy Day Appeal in the Waterlooville area.

In recent years Waterlooville & Cowplain were well represented both on the streets, around the houses and in local business premises.

If you can help and try to save the day then please contact Tel: 9223 3075.



THE NEXT RATEPAYER GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 4th December
Waterlooville Community Centre
Starts at 7.30pm
All welcome

Discuss the latest community issues

The Ratepayer **EXHIBITION TRAILER** is in Waterlooville Precinct from 9.30am to 2.30pm on Sat 6th Dec. Do come along and see us you will be most welcome.

REFERENCE PRIVATE CLEMENTS WW I

This brave soldier, whose family lived in Jubilee Road, is remembered on one of the plaques at Waterlooville War Memorial.

Jenny – a researcher has some information to pass on to Vera Round – a relative of Private Clements – but unfortunately has no address or telephone number.

I have contacted the British Legion but they have been unable to help. If you know Vera Round please could you telephone 9224 0653 and I can arrange for Jenny to contact her.

It is very important that we make contact. I know someone will come up trumps out there. Thank you.

David Pink EDITOR

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EDITORIAL NOTICES

Old Ratepayer magazines, photos and news cuttings I am always willing to give a good home to any of these and can promise they will be well looked after. Tel: 9224 0653.

Age Concern Cowplain - will be holding **Coffee Mornings** on 5th Dec and 2nd Jan at the Borrow Day Centre, Padnell Road from 10am to 11.45am. **Cowplain W.I.** will be holding a **Coffee Morning** on Sat 13th Dec from 10am to 12 noon and a Birthday Meeting to celebrate their 50th anniversary on Thu 8th Jan. All welcome to attend.

SNAP (Say No And Phone) Disco will take place on Sat 13th Dec from 7pm - 11pm at Havant Leisure Centre. These events enable 11 to 17 year olds to enjoy a good night out in a Drug and Alcohol free environment. Entry ticket only £4 in advance. Tel: 9247 6026 or visit Havant or Waterloo Leisure Centres. Supported by Neighbourhood Watch and the Local Police.

Waterlooville and District Philatelic Society - will meet on Fri 12th Dec at Westbrook Hall, Tempest Avenue, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Subject: Chairman's Evening. **St. George's Church, Waterlooville** - hold Coffee Mornings every Wed and Fri from 10am - 12 noon. All proceeds to charity. Also a **Grand Christmas Bazaar** on Sat 6th Dec. Usual stalls plus a visit by Father Christmas. Doors open at 10am. Entry 20p.

Waterlooville Town Market - each Fri in the Precinct. **St. George's Market** is held every Thu in St. George's Church Hall, Waterlooville, 9.30am - 11.30am. Home made cakes, preserves, cards, crafts, eggs, plants, etc. Coffee and tea also available.

RE-ACTION (Tools for self-reliance) - If you have any tools suitable for refurbishment then contact Bob Ginger Tel: 9226 8762.

ROWANS HOSPICE - will be holding a **Christmas Fair** on Sat 13th December at St Georges Hall, Waterlooville from 10am to 1.00pm. Usual stalls selling gifts, wrapping paper, cards etc and a charcoal artist. Refreshments available. 20p entry. **Carol Singing** - on Sat 20th December carols will be sung at Cascades in aid of the Rowans Hospice. Please go along and join in.



IT COMES TO AGE CONCERN COWPLAIN

Thank you to all those who responded to the Age Concern Survey. It is clearly apparent that there is a great interest in basic computing - e-mailing, genealogy, local history or just how to switch on!

These are hourly sessions and are tailored to wherever your individual computer interest may lie. There is no charge, though we do ask for a pound donation to help cover the cost of each session.

By the time you read this, we shall have started our first six-week course. Unfortunately, we were too late to advertise this programme in the 'Ratepayer'.

However, if you are still interested in basic computing do come along any Thursday between 1.30pm and 4.30pm and see Keith Mildenhall (Age Concern Hampshire), who runs the project (or ring Doreen Wharton (Sec) at Age Concern on Tel: 9226 6423 from 9am to 1pm on Tuesdays) as there is every chance that we will be able to make this a



EDITORIAL - CHRISTMAS TIME.

For most of us Christmas time is a time of joy, for others it can be a time of sadness coping with loneliness or bereavement. Those of us fortunate enough to be with our families should think of others not so blessed.

Christmas Fayre has been in the shop since August, which for some is far to soon whilst those with large families need the extra shopping weeks to lighten the financial burden.

The first Christmas, which we celebrate and which began with the birth of Baby Jesus, was a much more laid back affair.

Mary & Joseph knowing the urgency of the situation in which they found themselves called at an Inn - a pretty poor one by today's standards - no designer or themed brewery decor in those days only a humble stable.

Having settled into the comfort afforded by the stables straw the couple waited for the birth of their new baby. The arrival of baby Jesus was broadcast by the Angels: heard by the Shepherds and celebrated by the three Kings delivering presents of Gold: Frankincense and Myrrh. For the past 2000 years these celebrations have taken place according to the customs of the age in which we live.

As you get the last shopping and wrap the last present then spare a thought for the elderly: lonely and bereaved who may not feel able to have a Christmas as enjoyable as the rest of us and remember they might have had different Christmases to reflect upon when their circumstances were unchanged.

Linda Bowden - our Chairman joins me in thanking everyone who supports our efforts. All our Volunteer Bundlers, Distributors and Street Delivers, Advertisers and all who print the Magazine.

Please have a Blessed Christmas and a New Year to look forward to.

David Pink Editor.



WESTBROOK SHOPPING CENTRE.

Anyone new to the area could be forgiven if they didn't know the centre existed.

Following the first fire at One Stop the premises were rebuilt very quickly - which gave back to the area a much missed facility and encouraged customers to use the other shops in the Centre.

Since the most recent fire earlier this year the limited demolition, which has taken place, renders the site overgrown and uncared for and a seemingly overlong delay in returning to the status quo and ridding the site of temporary portacabins.

Sited on the car park serving Westbrook Hall, this causes inconvenience to hall users and draws customers away from the other shops, which the convenience store being the Anchor Store should be attracting them into.

Since opening day the Centre has had many change of businesses reflecting the many difficulties faced by the small businessman.

Meanwhile please support the businesses in any shopping centre close to you for those individuals provide the personal touch often missing in their large competitors.

Finally: On behalf of the Westbrook Centre may I ask all Councillors to try and get the Convenience Store to rebuild and get the area back to normal.

David Pink Editor.



CHILD CAR SEAT SAFETY STILL AN ISSUE

Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service has expressed concern that once again over half the child car seats they tested in recent safety checks were not fitted correctly or suitable for vehicle which they were in.

A properly fitted child car seat is essential for the safety of young children travelling in vehicles. At just 5mph a child can be thrown forwards and killed. In the safety checks 63% of the seats examined were not correctly installed, but the majority of these problems were quickly corrected with minor adjustments.

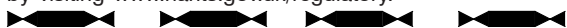
Trading Standards is more concerned by the 24% of car seats that required major adjustment or repair or were deemed to be incompatible with the vehicle. Some of these seats provided little or no protection for the occupant in the case of a major accident.

The annual safety checks were carried out in Bursledon, Petersfield and Fareham this year and the results were similar to those found at other parts of the county in previous years. Staff from Trading Standards conducted the checks with local car seat manufacturer Britax, Hampshire Road Safety Unit and local district councils.

Councillor Ken Thornber said: "It is important that retailers selling parents expensive new car seats demonstrate how to fit them properly. We urge retailers to check when selling a car seat that it is compatible with the vehicle it is intended for."

"Parents need to check that their child's car seat is fitted correctly every time it is installed. If the child seat is kept in the car permanently the seat should be regularly checked to make sure it is still safe and secure."

Anyone who was unable to attend this year's checks can request a free fact sheet on child car seat safety from Hampshire County Council Trading Standards service by calling lo-call rate number Tel: 0845 6030081 or alternatively by visiting www.hants.gov.uk/regulatory.



WHEELCHAIRS AFLOAT

Do you care for or have responsibility for one or more people who are wheelchair users, have mobility difficulties, or are in some way disabled? Ever thought of taking them on a canal boat for a day - or indeed for a longer holiday break? Impossibly difficult to contemplate? At "Accessible Boating" we have helped our many clients make such a dream come true.

Offering ready access from Hampshire, Berkshire and NW Surrey, we are situated at Odiham on the Basingstoke canal (a scenic 'Site of Special Scientific Interest', teeming with wildlife). Our two purpose built boats are designed to allow easy and enjoyable boating.

'Dawn', our popular day boat, is available either for self-drive, or skipped by one of our experienced team. Up to 12 people, with a maximum of 6 wheelchair users, access the boat via a powered hoist. With heating and an on-board toilet, groups can enjoy a day out with an optional lunchtime stop at a waterside pub.

For longer holiday trips, a disabled person and up to 6 family or friends can be accommodated comfortably on 'Madam Butterfly'. Full personal care facilities including a hoist are available in a special berth.

As many have already found, handling a canal boat is straightforward and full tuition on handling the boat is provided before departure. To make things even easier, we can arrange to meet you and take you through the locks so you can just relax and enjoy this unique experience.

For more information, call Peter Bridle on Tel: 01252 622520, or e-mail us at: mailsec@accessibleboating.org.uk or have look at our website: www.accessibleboating.org.uk.

LIBRARIES OFFER ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICE

A new service provided by Hampshire County Council's Library and Information Service will enable people to access newspaper and encyclopaedia articles and general reference publications via the web.

The database - Ebsco Host UK Reference Centre - is available via the County Council's website, www.hants.gov.uk/library/index.html and can be accessed free of charge either from libraries or from the comfort of your own home, simply by putting in your library borrower card number.

All Hampshire County Council libraries have People's Network terminals, offering people free access to the Internet, available simply by booking a session at your local library.

The database, which holds articles from UK and international broadsheet and tabloid newspapers from the mid 1990s through to today, enables users to search for articles by subject, date and publication name. Other useful reference documents including historical, geographical, and travel information are also available.

The Ebsco database is the first of the electronic resources bought by Hampshire County Council as part of its membership of Co-South, the consortium of public library authorities in the south of England.

The County Council's Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage, Councillor John Waddington, said: "This is a great resource for anyone carrying out research, and will also offer students a free, and convenient way of accessing a broad range of information for study purposes."

"It is the first of a number of electronic services which we will be making available via our website. We are also looking into another service, e-books, which would give people access to a wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles via the web."

"This is all part of our work to improve our library service to ensure that we are catering for the needs of people in the 21st century."



MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY HAVANT AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The branch exists as a local arm of "The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland", which is dedicated to supporting people with MS and securing the care they need in their everyday lives. It is also the major UK funder of biomedical research into MS.

Our branch offers a service to local people with MS and their carers with regard to access to services in the community; benefits information; regular social events; newsletter, general emotional support in matters associated with diagnosis and the impact that this has on people's lives.

Our Welfare Committee also administers the branch's welfare fund, which exists to offer financial assistance to anyone who is affected by Multiple Sclerosis and is in need of financial support for respite care, holidays, home adaptations or special equipment to enable them to achieve a better quality of life.

Branch Chairman: Allan Jones Tel: 9263 7392

Branch Secretary: Joy Russell Tel: 9263 7392

The branch has a WEB site at www.HavantMS.org.uk

May be contacted via email at info@HavantMS.org.uk



WATERLOOVILLE AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

(Covering the Wards of Cowplain, Stakes, Waterlooille and Hart Plain including part of Lovedean)
Affiliated to the Hants. Fed. of Residents' Associations

President: Mr. D. Foyle I.S.M., Tel: 9225 7467
Vice President: Mrs. J. Rea, Tel: 9225 8261
Chairman: Mrs. L. Bowden, 7 Lancaster Way, Waterlooille. Tel: 9225 4806
Vice Chairman: Mr. D. Pink, Tel: 9224 0653
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. N. Chedzey, 103 Sutton Road, Cowplain, Waterlooille, PO8 8PT, Tel: 9242 6575
Hon. Secretary & Minutes Secretary: Mrs. S. Beard, 3 Wrexham Grove, Catherington P08 OTP. Tel/Fax: 9259 3351.

MAGAZINE

Editor: DAVID PINK, 74 Cherry Tree Avenue, Cowplain.

ADVERTISING

Unfortunately, there are presently no spaces for advertising.

For general advertising enquiries contact the Business Manager at 11 Ruskin Way, Waterlooille, PO8 8JX or email business@theratepayer.org.uk



BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Tuesday 2nd December at WACA (Rear of ASDA)



USEFUL INFORMATION

Waterlooille Police Station: Swiss Road, Waterlooille, Hampshire P07 7FX. Tel: 999 in an emergency or 0845 045 45 45 for non-emergencies giving details of your beat area:- Cowplain and Hazleton; Stakes and Crookhorn; Waterlooille or Wecock, when the beat officer will get back to you. Or use Crimestoppers on Tel: 0800 555 111 where messages are dealt with in a strictly confidential manner.

Registrar of Births and Deaths: "Fernglan" Town Hall Road, Havant. Tel: 9248 2533. Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm. Mon and Tue 2pm - 3.30pm.

Citizens' Advice Bureau, Swiss Cottage, 9 St. Georges Walk (Hambledon Road) Waterlooille. Tel: 9271 7700 (Answerphone out of hours). Hours: Mon, Thu and Fri 10am - 3pm, Tue closed, Wed 10am - 1pm. Telephone advice only 1pm to 3pm and Thu evenings 5pm - 6pm.

Age Concern Day Centres

Cowplain: Borrow Day Centre, London Road. Tel: 9226 6423.

Disabled Information and Advice Line (DIAL) Tel: 9282 4853 (answer phone when closed).

Good Neighbours Schemes: Cowplain Tel: 9225 4090. Waterlooille Tel: 9226 6005. (Help line 9am - 6 pm. Mon to Fri. For assistance with collecting prescriptions, lifts, small odd jobs and errands.)

Community Centres and Halls:

Westbrook Hall Tel: 9243 2828, **Wecock** Tel: 9225 8423, **Waterlooille** Tel: 9225 6823, **Cowplain** Tel: 9226 7029, **Stakes** Tel: 9224 0166, **Merchistoun Hall** Tel: 9259 7114, **Lovedean Village Hall** Tel: 9259 6636. **Deverell Hall Purbrook** Tel: 9264 2747. **WI Hall Cowplain** Tel: 9226 2408.

Street Lighting Defects These should be reported on Tel: 0800 50 60 60 quoting the number on the lamp post.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECT Tel: 0845 600 4555.

Hampshire County Council Information Centre in Waterlooille Library Tel: 9224 1677.

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (Havant and District Branch): meets last Tuesday each month at the British Legion, Legion Road, Hayling Island. Tel: Maureen Jones 9236 6641.

Portsmouth Area Talking News for the Blind: 48 Stubbington Avenue, North End, Portsmouth. Tel: 9269 0851.

Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind (Waterlooille Branch): Meets 1st and 3rd Mon at The Lodge, Lavender Road, Waterlooille between 2pm - 4pm. Tel: 9226 3016.

Scouts and Guides: All general enquiries for membership or leadership to: **Waterlooille District Scouts:** Tel: 9225 8761.

Horndean Div. Guides: Division Comm. Mrs. J. Chapple, Tel: 9259 1894.

Waterlooille Div. Guides: Division Comm. Mrs. L. Linkins, Tel: 9264 1856.

Royal British Legion: Waterlooille and District Branch meets 2nd Mon each month at 11am. Tel: 9264 4035.

Women's Section meets 2nd Wed each month at 2.15pm. Tel: 9261 7548. Both the above meet at British Legion Hall, Forest End, Waterlooille.

Lovedean Branch meets at Merchistoun Hall. Tel: 9264 4035 for details.

Waterlooille Branch of the Royal Naval Association Club: (with room to hire) 48 Aston Road, Waterlooille. Open daily. Tel: 9225 3756.

R.A.F.A. Club Victoria: 1 Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooille. Open daily. Monthly meetings 1st Thu 7.30pm. Tel: 9226 5732.

R.S.P.C.A. (Portsmouth Branch): Tel: 9224 1394. Portsmouth Group hold regular meetings existing and new members welcomed. Further details Tel: 9235 3949.

R.S.P.B. Portsmouth Group hold regular meetings, existing and new members welcome. Further details Tel: 9235 3949

N.S.P.C.C. Chairman (Fund Raising) Mrs. P. Gross. Tel: 9259 9300. Helpline: 0800 800 500.

Waterlooille and District Twins Club - meet one Tuesday per month in members homes. Members social events include the children. Multiples also welcome. Tel: 9226 1784 (Jane) or 9223 1420 (Sam)

Women's Institutes:

Cowplain W.I. 1st Thu, 2pm, W.I. Hall, Cowplain. Tel: 9225 1374.

Padnell Park. W.I. 4th Wed at 7pm. St Wilfrid's Hall, Cowplain. Tel: 9226 7568.

Lovedean W.I. Lovedean Village Hall, 7.30 pm, 2nd Tue. Tel: 9259 6636. **Stakes W.I.** 3rd Wed 7.30 pm. St. Johns Hall, Purbrook. Tel: 9242 3491. **Purbrook W.I.** 2nd Thu 2.30pm. Deverell Hall. Tel: 9237 5572.

P.D.S.A. Animal Treatment Centre: 5 Durley Avenue, Cowplain. Tel: 9226 3152.

Forest of Bere Bowmen (Archery): Tel: 9226 2931 for details.

Waterlooille and District Garden Club: - meets at Age Concern Hall, Cowplain, 1st and 3rd Mon evenings at 8pm Tel: 9264 8493 for details.

Portsmouth and District Beekeepers' Association: For advice, membership or swarm clearance Tel: Chairman Mr J. Storey 9264 5288.

Cowplain Cricket Club: Tel: 9236 7860 for details.

Denmead Tennis Club: 3 hard courts and an active social life. Tel: 9226 3191.

Havant and Waterlooille Swimming Club meets at Waterlooille Leisure Centre on Fri evenings. Tel: 9226 3002 for further details.

Disabled Swimming takes place at Waterlooille Leisure Centre on Sun 5pm - 6pm. Tel: 9223 1010 for information.

ME. Association (Hants Group): Tel: 9259 1473 or 9242 0732 for details.

TOP TIPS FOR COUNTRYSIDE FUN THIS WINTER

Winter is wonderful time to enjoy the countryside - and a handy booklet produced by Hampshire County Council offers some top tips on walking, cycling and special events in the countryside this season.

The programme, which includes information on 92 walks, 37 special events and 3 cycle rides from now until March next year, aims to encourage people to get out and about and make the most of Hampshire's countryside.

For the gardening enthusiast, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum at Ampfield will hold guided tours giving a fascinating insight into its changing collections through the seasons, every Sunday until February next year.

The County Council's Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage, Councillor John Waddington, said: "This booklet is a great guide to what's on offer across the county, and we hope that people will use it to explore Hampshire's countryside and learn more about their local landscapes, wildlife and heritage."

"By producing this and other handy guides, we are making it easier for people to make the most of the county's rich natural resources which can make such a big difference to quality of life."

The 'Guided Walks, Cycle Rides and Special Events' booklet costs 75p and are available from County Council Information Centre in Waterlooville, or Tel: 0800 028 0888



SHOPMOBILITY

SHOPMOBILITY is a charity that hires motorised scooters, wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs to anybody with a mobility problem.

There is a membership scheme for anybody who uses the service regularly. Membership costs just £5.00 per year. For electric vehicles you then pay a hire charge of £1.50 for up to 2 hours or £2.50 for a day. Longer-term hire is also offered at £15.00 per week, subject to availability.

Visitors and anybody wishing to use a vehicle on a casual basis pay £3.00 for up to 2 hours or £5.00 for all day.

Manual wheelchairs are £1.50 per day and £10.00 per week.

A members' quarterly newsletter contains news, views and articles associated with the scheme.

All our vehicles are simple to use and you will be given a choice of vehicles on your first visit. Full training is given.

You can use a scooter to go anywhere which is accessible! Do your shopping, change your library books, visit places of interest or see friends and relatives. Trips to places of interest are arranged - ask about Countryside Mobility.

If you can spare a few hours a week and would like to help then please contact Shopmobility.

Finding Shopmobility . . .

Havant - 47 Market Parade
Mon to Fri 9am - 4pm
Tel: 9245 5444

Leigh Park - Learning Centre, Greywell. Mon
to Fri 9am - 4pm
Tel: 9245 0883

Waterlooville - Shopmobility Van
At the entrance to Asda
Friday 9am - 4pm
Tel: 07932 802778 (mobile)

Email - shopmobility@havant2001.fsnet
Website www.shopmobility.org.uk

RAILWAY OPERATOR WANTS TO IMPROVE TRAIN SERVICE

The operator of the Beachlands Railway has asked the Council to allow him to make changes to the train services over the winter months.

Under the current agreement with the Council, operator Mr Bob Haddock can run trains at the weekends in between November 1st and Maundy Thursday. But he has asked to be able to run midweek services during this period, as well as operating Santa Specials during the Christmas School Holidays and on Bank Holidays and school holidays not covered by the original agreement, and occasional 'Birthday Specials'.

He has also asked if, on occasions when business demands it, two trains can be run at any one time. This will not result in more train journeys, but will allow Mr Haddock to be more flexible in his service provision to meet public demand.

Officers are recommending approval on a trial basis, to be reviewed next year.

The long-planned railway operated for the first time this summer and was popular with visitors and residents alike. At times they were unable to cope with demand.

Editors comment - I used this new facility in the summer. It is excellent value and can be accessed from the Funfair Beach Car Park.



mencap making the most of life

Havant and District Mencap are holding a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 6th December at Anders House, Jubilee Park, off Milton Road, Waterlooville from 1pm to 4pm.

Stalls include Tombola, Spin-a-wheel, Good as new, lucky dip, Bric-à-brac, Cakes, Books and Teas.

Admission is free and there's plenty of parking.



AMBASSADORS VISIT ORDNANCE SURVEY HEAD OFFICE

Hampshire Ambassadors have visited Ordnance Survey in Southampton, as part of their Company Visit Programme to promote business excellence in Hampshire.

The Ambassadors, part of Hampshire County Council's initiative to promote and support the county's businesses, were welcomed by Government Policy Adviser Neil Sutherland, to the company's main offices at Romsey Road.

The origins of the Ordnance Survey can be traced back as far as 1791, when the Government decided to map the south coast to help plan military defences. Today it is a £100 million-a-year organisation producing computer data products and paper maps for business, leisure, administrative and educational use. The organisation employs around 1500 staff - many of whom work at the Southampton site.

During their visit, as well as finding out more about the Ordnance Survey, the Ambassadors were given a tour of the print room and digital map-making processes.

Councillor Michael Woodhall, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Economic Development said: "Ordnance Survey has had a home in Hampshire for more than 160 years, creating thousands of jobs and contributing significantly to the local economy."

