

NEWS

Police release CCTV of men wanted in connection with pub brawl



ON CAMERA CCTV images on people police want to interview following an incident outside the White Hart pub in Stoke Road, Gosport on February 13

A MAN has been arrested following a fight involving up to 20 people outside a pub. The brawl took place outside the White Hart in Stoke Road, Gosport at about 11pm on February 13, resulting in several people being assaulted and needing treatment by the ambulance service.

Police are now looking for several suspects. They are all white, and the first was about 30, bald, and wore a black and white striped hooded jumper. The next was in his late 20s with short brown hair and wore dark trousers with a waist-length cream jacket. A third suspect was in his

early to mid 20s, with short dark brown hair, and wore a white hooded jumper and dark trousers. The last was about 30 with short dark brown hair with dark eyes and wore a creamy/brown waist-length hooded jacket and dark trousers. Police have also released two CCTV images of people they believe

were victims who have yet to come forward. PC Sam Warne wants people to get in touch if they recognise any of the suspects or victims. He said: 'This was an isolated incident of drink fuelled violence which is thankfully rare on this scale, but we need to track down those responsible to

prevent them from offending in this manner again.' Anyone with information should contact Gosport police station on 0845 0454545 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. A 40-year-old man from Gosport has been arrested on suspicion of affray and is bailed until March 26.

Next Lord Mayor warns she won't put up with badly behaved politicians

Councillor chosen to represent city wants to restore order to council chamber meetings

COUNCILLORS are in for a tough year as Portsmouth's next Lord Mayor has pledged to crack down on bad behaviour in the chamber.

Cllr Paula Riches says she wants to restore order to Portsmouth City Council meetings where debates are often marred by personal jibes and back-biting.

Councillors have also come under fire for scoffing sweets during meetings – and in one case a Kentucky Fried Chicken meal.

And in some cases members of the public have been silenced during speeches for making inflammatory allegations.

Cllr Riches, pictured, will

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become chairwoman of full council meetings when she replaces current Lord Mayor Terry Hall in May.

She said: 'I hope I will be able to bring back some kind of order to council meetings. I'm going to see what other councils do – I think many places are a lot stricter than us and maybe I can pick up some things from them.'

Cllr Riches first won her St Thomas seat in 2004 and is currently midway through her second term as a councillor.

The Liberal Democrat was



formerly in charge of community safety, and remains passionate about the issue. 'I need to get my thinking hat on and work out how I can

use my year as Lord Mayor to continue to work on improving community safety,' she said.

Cllr Riches has already served one year as deputy Lord Mayor, and said she is looking forward to her 12 months in the main role.

'I'm keen to get out there and meet as many people as possible,' she said.

'That's what I have found really interesting in the past year, that is my real passion. Getting out into the community and talking to people.'

'I want to go to the homes of real people and have a cup of tea with them, and I would like to be able to visit as many schools as possible.'

'That's the way Portsmouth City Council can really get to understand what issues people are facing.'

As deputy Lord Mayor she went to 60 engagements in the run up to Christmas.

'I went to the Blind Association and they stroked my badge, and the Stroke Association – I just think it is amazing to meet all these people and that's what I want to continue.'

Cllr Riches has chosen Rock Challenge and the Down Syndrome Trust as the Lord Mayor's charities.

Her deputy will be fellow Lib Dem Cheryl Buggy, ward councillor for Eastney and Craneswater.

Hospital's plea to help stop spread of bugs

THE public is being reminded to practise good hygiene and avoid unnecessary hospital visits to help stop bugs spreading.

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, is asking people to regularly wash their hands with soap and water and if they are in hospital to wash their hands before and after entering and leaving a ward.

The trust is also asking people not to visit the hospital if they have had diarrhoea or vomiting symptoms within the last 48 hours unless they require urgent treatment.

It comes after Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester had to close off wards and quarantine patients after a norovirus outbreak last week.

About 30 patients were affected by the sickness bug.

Matt Richardson, infection prevention nurse at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, said: 'Currently we have no cases of norovirus in the hospital but we are remaining vigilant as we know there is a lot of it out in the community.'

Press Complaints Commission issues adjudication

A WOMAN complained to the Press Complaints Commission that an article published in *The News* on December 3 last year headlined *Pill woman telephoned number to say goodbye* contained excessive detail about the way in which her mother had taken her own life.

The commission upheld the complaint that this was a breach of Clause 5(ii) (Intrusion into grief or shock) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The article reported the death by suicide of the woman's mother. It noted that, following her death, her handbag had been found to contain pill packets for a set number of a named anti-depressant. It went on to report the precise quantity of

pills that were missing and the dosage she had ingested (compared to the therapeutic dose).

The article also referred to the amount of alcohol found in her blood. The complainant said the reported detail was excessive.

After initially defending the level of information in the article (all the details having been heard at the inquest into the complainant's mother's death), the editor acknowledged that the reference to the number of missing pills might be considered excessive.

He agreed to amend the online version of the story and circulated information to all staff about the requirements of Clause 5 (Intrusion into grief or shock) of the Code.

The commission's adjudication was as follows:-

Newspapers are quite entitled to report inquests but when doing so they must take account of the requirements of the Editors' Code. In this case, the article contained the name of the anti-depressant, the number of pills missing from the packet and the post-mortem result showing the level of drugs in the deceased's system.

Taken together, the commission considered that this was sufficient information to spell out to readers the precise method of death. The commission concluded that this level of detail was excessive and led to an avoidable breach of Clause 5(ii) of the Code.

Tragic student's funeral this week

A STUDENT who was found dead in water at Old Portsmouth will be cremated this week.

University of Portsmouth student Richard Staight, 20, was found drowned in the water below the Hot Walls on the morning of February 5.

The Bristolian was last seen at 12.15am that morning, leaving Gunwharf Quays' Tiger Tiger.

Richard was the only son of Julie and Paul, and younger brother to Sarah. His funeral service will be held on Friday at All Saints United Church, Longwell Green, Bristol followed by cremation at Haycombe, Bath. Guests are asked to wear red.

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