



## **What's New for 2016**

### **Emma is 200 years old**

Jane Austen has been a household name for more than two centuries and interest in her, and her books, is only likely to increase during the next 12 months as Hampshire prepares to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, in 2017.

In the meantime, 2016 will mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of Jane Austen's *Emma*; and as part of their celebrations, the Jane Austen's House Museum will have a small selection of the costumes from the 2009 BBC production of *Emma*, starring Romola Garai and Jonny Lee Miller, on display from October 2015 to March 2016. The costumes for this production were designed by award winning designer Rosalind Ebbutt who has since gone on to design for *Downton Abbey* & Inspector George Gently. Also scheduled for 2016 are Writing Workshops on the theme of *Emma* next Spring; an Illustration Workshop in May; and Picnics in the Garden.

Following that, everything will start to gear-up for 2017 and the Hampshire-wide 'Jane Austen 200' commemoration.

### **Heckfield Place is set to open in 2016**

Country house hotel Heckfield Place in the North of Hampshire will open in 2016. Following a long period of restoration and refurbishment, the property has been transformed into an idyllic country retreat. Positioned in beautiful rolling countryside, Heckfield Place ([www.heckfieldplace.com](http://www.heckfieldplace.com)) will offer guests the atmosphere of "a private country residence with a touch of whimsy and quintessential English eccentricity". The original 18th century manor house and cottages, along with the mews addition have been sympathetically restored and updated. The result is an impressive property boasting 45 individually designed and furnished bedrooms and suites, 3 restaurants, a state-of-the-art cinema, a wine cellar and three intimate spa suites. The hotel sits within a 400 acre estate, with gardens, an arboretum, two lakes, a working farm, vegetable and flower gardens. Heckfield Place's Head Chef, Barnaby Jones, has worked closely with Culinary Director Skye Gyngell to develop a gastronomic offering that reflects the hotel's philosophy of local, honest and seasonal food, with many ingredients sourced from the estate itself. Heckfield Place will also feature The Bothy, a luxurious and serene spa due to open in 2016.

### **Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series - Portsmouth**

Portsmouth is also now gearing-up to host for the second time the Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series between July 21 and 24 in 2016. Results compiled by KPMG from this summer's first set of racing look positive. There were 245,460 visitors over the four days events, of which 88% of non-residents said they would be likely to return again to Portsmouth for a day trip.

## **Major openings in Southampton, in 2016**

West Quay shopping centre is undergoing an £80m transformation. Set to be completed in autumn 2016, it will be rebranded as West Quay Watermark ([www.westquaywatermark.com/](http://www.westquaywatermark.com/)), and will offer around 20 more restaurants, a luxury 10 screen cinema, additional stores and vibrant new plaza.

At the same time, a new arts complex ([www.culturesouthampton.org.uk/new-arts-complex](http://www.culturesouthampton.org.uk/new-arts-complex)) will also be completed in 2016 within Southampton's redeveloped Cultural Quarter. The new complex will become home to The John Hansford Gallery which will hold world renowned contemporary art. A performing arts centre featuring a 450-seat theatre will be another feature of the complex.

## **Two Hoots to offer stays in a Shepherd's Huts**

Adult-only campsite Two Hoots ([www.twohootscampsite.co.uk](http://www.twohootscampsite.co.uk)) is introducing two Shepherd's Huts to its range of accommodation for 2016. Both will have additional insulation for all-winter glamping, with French doors in the centre long-side of the hut and additional windows.

They have light, heating, TV/dvd player, king-size bed and a real log burning stove, cassette toilet and sink, and are available for a minimum of two nights with prices per night starting from £85.

This quiet adult only escape is on a hill, close to the famous Watercress Steam Railway, the Georgian town of Alresford and within easy reach of four market towns including Petersfield. Only a 17 minute drive from historic city of Winchester

## **New glamping and bushcraft opportunities at Adhurst**

Coppicers Lodge - a hand-built wooden cabin with a canvas roof and a kitchen on its veranda - is the most recent addition at Adhurst (<http://www.adhurst.co.uk/>). Set to become the only space at Adhurst Yurts with hot running water in the kitchen sink, it also offers a bonfire area and a tripod cooking system, in addition to a two-burner gas hob. The idea for Coppicer's came from our Adhurst's own coppicer, Fred - who moves his encampment from season to season depending which part of the coppiced woodland is due for management...although it has all been jazzed-up for guests, as Fred's encampment doesn't have a shower, a privy or a comfy bed!

Adhurst also now has two qualified instructors, and a menu of options all involving bushcraft skills, including: bread making; whittling; fire starting; ponassing fish\*; and dutch oven cooking. Bushcraft sessions can be enjoyed during a glamping break at Adhurst. (\*Ponassing fish features various ways of cooking a fish over a fire and making the hazel frame to cook it with. The hazel is sourced from Adhurst Wood and fish can be bought from a fishmonger who visits the nearby farm).

## **Langrish House to celebrates 80th Anniversary of the first Spitfire flight**

Langrish House Hotel ([www.langrishhouse.co.uk](http://www.langrishhouse.co.uk)) owner, Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby's father made the cockpits for Spitfires at his precision steel die and mould making business in the stables at Langrish House. Translated into a munitions factory for the war effort, Talbot-Ponsonby and Co Ltd, with up to 160 men and women produced munitions and Spitfire parts 24 hours a day. Today, it is a multi-award-winning hotel and restaurant.

Further tourist information can always be found at <http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk>.

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