



## What's New for 2018 in Hampshire

### **Hampshire ready for take-off in RAF centenary year**

Hampshire can stake a very strong claim to have been at the very forefront of the formation of the RAF, in 1918. Farnborough, in the north east of the county, is where the Army established its balloon workshops at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It's where the pioneer pilot Samuel Franklin Cody made the first successful flight in Britain; and where the Father of the RAF, Hugh Montague Trenchard set up his HQ in August 1914. The earliest building on the site of the Royal Aircraft Factory, now called Trenchard House, is where he formed the Royal Flying Corps - later to be merged with the Royal Naval Air Service to become The RAF in 1918. FAST (Farnborough Air Sciences Trust) in Farnborough commemorates all of this - and more – in its wonderfully eclectic Museum.

<https://www.airsciences.org.uk/index.html>

### **Farnborough Air Show**

**21 July 2018 - 22 July 2018**

Taking place just once every two years, the Farnborough International Airshow is one of the most iconic events in Hampshire, if not the world. Held at the historical Farnborough Aerodrome in Hampshire - the birthplace of British aviation - the show features a packed flying display both on the ground and in the air, along with a multitude of entertainment features.

<https://www.farnboroughairshow.com/trade/visiting/public-show/>

### **Marwell Zoo to open new Tropical House**

Work is now well under way on a new Tropical House at Marwell Zoo. This marks the second phase of a £17m investment programme for the zoo over the next 8-10 years, creating improved habitats for animals and more immersive experiences for our guests. At a cost of £7.8M, the Tropical House will be the largest exhibition area built at Marwell. It will span two levels offering vantage points across a lush, tropical canopy and the opportunity to experience the captivating life of the forest floor. Guests will be free to share the habitat and enjoy uninterrupted, close-up views of new, colourful and charismatic mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects whilst learning about the flow of energy through life. As well as being a spacious, indoor, contemporary exhibit, the new Tropical House heating system will be powered by Marwell's animal waste, and wood chip from its woodland management operations. This new exhibit is planned to open for Easter 2018.

<https://www.marwell.org.uk/zoo/explore/tropical-house>

### **Nuffield Southampton Theatre City, Southampton**

The new Nuffield Southampton Theatre City will reside in Studio 144 building which will be situated in Southampton's new cultural quarter in Guildhall Square. The theatre will host amazing productions and live acts. The Nuffield theatre is also a Producing House creating many pieces which then go onto the West End and national theatre circuit (E.g. in 2016 Fantastic Mr Fox). The theatre's Associate actors include Tom Hiddlestone, Samantha Bond, Celia Carmichael and Celia Imre. The theatre will include a flexible 447 seat main house theatre, a 135 seat studio, screening facilities, rehearsal and workshop spaces, and a café bar and bistro.

The opening production will be the world premiere of "Shadow Factory". The production focuses on the story of the covert construction of the Spitfire plan in and around Southampton's. The covert factories could be anything from laundrettes to country houses.

<https://www.nstheatres.co.uk>

### **Paultons Park expansion**

Paultons Park (voted the UK's number one theme park) will be expanding one of its key areas within the park "Peppa Pig World" in 2018. The area will increase in size and will encompass two new Peppa Pig themed rides, "The Queen's Flying Coach Ride and Grampy Rabbit's Sailing Club"

"Little Africa" is the Park's newest area set to open in Spring 2018. The African inspired area will showcase a great variety of amazing animals and birds within the savanna. From Meerkats, to Porcupines, Lizards to Polecats there are animals of all shapes and size to delight and entertain.

<https://paultonspark.co.uk/blog/2017/12/12407/new-for-2018-at-paultons-park-and-peppa-pig-world>

### **Winchester Cathedral Flower Festival**

**5th - 9th September 2018**

Winchester Cathedral Flower Festival returns in 2018 with a stunning array of flower arrangements inspired by the magnificent 12th-century Winchester Bible.

Artistic Director Angela Turner (Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal Winner), Wessex and Jersey NAFAS teams and members of the Cathedral flower arrangers will fill Winchester Cathedral with spectacular and fragrant floral displays evoking the exquisitely illuminated pages of this medieval masterpiece.

<http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/events/flower-festival-2018/>

### **England v India Test Match**

**The Ageas Bowl - 30 August - 3 September 2018**

The Ageas Bowl hosts its biggest ever match in 2018, a potentially series-defining fourth Test between England and India. The 2018 encounter will be the penultimate test in a five-match series, so there is likely to be all to play for when both sides do battle on the South Coast.

[https://www.ageasbowl.com/cricket/tickets/england-v-india-\(tm\)/](https://www.ageasbowl.com/cricket/tickets/england-v-india-(tm)/)

### **New, luxury hotel & spa in Southampton**

The final phase of the redevelopment of Ocean Village in Southampton has resulted in the opening of the new, five-star Southampton Harbour Hotel & Spa. A milestone for both the city and owner group, Harbour Hotels, the new hotel will feature luxury accommodation, an iconic bar and restaurant, and spa facilities in one of the most desirable marina locations in the UK. The hotel's yacht-inspired design will reflect Southampton's thriving marine culture, with walls of windows and glass to soak up the marina views. Set to offer 85 bedrooms, the hotel will feature 'HarBar on the 6th' - a spectacular rooftop destination bar, kitchen and club, with stunning views across the marina. The spa treatments will be complemented by an indoor pool, sauna, steam room, hydrotherapy pool and relaxation areas. The hotel started to welcome paying guests in October - from £185 per room, including breakfast.

[www.southampton-harbour-hotel.co.uk](http://www.southampton-harbour-hotel.co.uk)

### **Discover the home of windsurfing for its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in Hampshire**

It was back in 1958 that Peter Chilvers first invented windsurfing on Hayling Island, and the destination continues to be an excellent location to learn the sport. Stretches of coast on Hayling are backed by farmland, or nature reserves - and conditions off its award-winning beaches are perfect for a variety of watersports. 2018 will mark the 60th anniversary of Chilvers' invention of the sport, making this a very special time to come and explore the birthplace of windsurfing, and head out onto the water to find out why it is enjoying a resurgence in popularity.

<https://ukwindsurfing.com/hall-of-fame/peter-chilvers/>

### **Mayflower 400**

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower from Southampton then onto Plymouth UK and finally arriving in Plymouth Massachusetts. This is an opportunity to commemorate the legacy of the passengers and crew who undertook the journey and to highlight their stories and heritage, which are embedded in communities across the UK, US and Netherlands. Mayflower 400 programme has been created to make the most of this opportunity, aligning 11 core destinations in England (including Southampton, in Hampshire) with wider local, national and international partners and over 20 million US citizens descended from the Mayflower. It will deliver a world-class series of events, public art and wider content that will commemorate this exceptional voyage and provide a major ongoing impact across the partnership, knitting together communities, inspiring creativity and culture, driving economic growth, and promoting understanding and education.

<http://www.mayflower400uk.org/about/>

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**Visit-Hampshire.co.uk**

## Top 10 Fun Facts about Hampshire

1. The two closest National Parks to London are only a little over 1.5 hours away and both are in Hampshire! A must visit is the stunning New Forest and South Downs National Parks.
2. Jane Austen and Charles Dickens were both born and lived in Hampshire. You can still visit their homes today.
3. Windsurfing was invented in Hayling Island by Peter Chilvers. Hayling Island is still one of the best places to learn to windsurf and kitesurf in the country due to the shallow water.
4. The majority of the world's bank notes were once produced in Hampshire by the note maker De La Rue. Notes were produced at Laverstoke Mill due to the purity of water of the River Test enabling to produce the best watermarks. Today Laverstoke Mill has now been transformed to the new Bombay Sapphire Distillery attraction.
5. The river Test has the best fly fishing stream for trout in the UK due to crystal clear river conditions.
6. Winchester Cathedral's crypt floods during the winter season, the flood surrounds the Antony Gormley statue (Anthony is renowned for designing The Angel of the North statue)
7. Hampshire has the only Peppa Pig World Theme Park on the Planet.
8. Winchester has the UK largest farmers market. Held every second and last Sunday of the month.
9. Hampshire is also a popular destination for filming. Visit the film location from The Da Vinci Code (Winchester Cathedral), Downton Abbey (Highclere Castle), Les Misérables (Winchester College), the Netflix production The Crown (Winchester College and The Great Hall) and Gladiator (Alice Holt Forest)
10. Over 500 households from Southampton lost family members in Titanic's disaster. Discover more about this iconic ship at the SeaCity Museum and walk the Titanic Trail situated in Southampton's new Cultural Quarter.

**Editor's notes:**

Visit Hampshire is the official tourism organisation for Hampshire. Hampshire - "the perfect blend of city, coast and country" - is home to three historic cities Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester; The Solent coastline, stretching 55km; and two National Parks, the New Forest and South Downs. Leading annual events include The New Forest and Hampshire County Show; Farnborough International Airshow; CarFest South; Southampton Boat Show; and Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market. It is also renowned for outdoor activities such as sailing, cycling and walking. Its best-known attractions include: Beaulieu Motor Museum, Bombay Sapphire Distillery, Emirates Spinnaker Tower, Exbury Gardens, Highclere Castle, Jane Austen's House Museum, Paultons Park featuring Peppa Pig World, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Winchester Cathedral. Renowned for its local produce, Hampshire's dining options range from gastro pubs to Michelin Star restaurants. Further information, and full details of accommodation can be found at <https://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk>.