

The News



portsmouth.co.uk

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Newspaper of the Year

FINAL

45p

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Cat's tale has a purr-fect ending

Meet the missing moggy found five years later

FULL STORY ■ PAGE 9



NEWS

Funeral cavalcade for biker

■ PAGE 23



SPORT

Fans' fears over Pompey 'exodus'

■ BACK PAGE



WAR MEMORIAL DOCTOR: I WAS OVERWORKED



Deaths probe GP under 'intolerable pressure'

SHE spoke of a huge and dangerous workload - and of prescribing drugs to ensure comfort for elderly patients. After weeks of evidence at a General Medical Council hear-

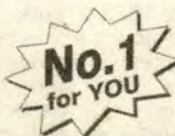
ing, Dr Jane Barton took to the stand herself to explain her actions before and during a series of deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

FULL STORY ■ PAGE 2

TN2: A TASTE OF GOATS MEAT AND GODSMARK - PAGE 27

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NEWS

Inside...



DARING DAY

Countess of Wessex to welcome new ship to the fleet

PAGE 18



GET SNAPPING

Prizes up for grabs in our great One Summer's Day contest

PAGE 25

WEATHER



Tonight
Cloudy with heavy and thundery rain.
Min temp 13C (55F)



Tomorrow
Unsettled and windy with heavy showers.
Max temp 18C (64F)

FOUR-DAY OUTLOOK

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
20C (68F) 13C (55F)	20C (68F) 14C (57F)	21C (70F) 15C (59F)	21C (70F) 15C (59F)

SUN & MOON

Sunrise 5.13am Sunset 9.11pm
Moonrise - Moonset 3.27pm
Lighting up times: 9.11pm to 5.14am

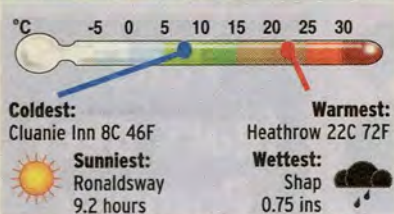
SAILING FORECAST

Tomorrow A fresh north-westerly wind, force 5. Showers. Moderate seas. Mostly good visibility.
Saturday Winds will be fresh westerly, force 5. Fair. A moderate sea. Good visibility.

HIGH & LOW TIDES

Tomorrow
Portsmouth 6:50.3.9m 19:30.4.1m - - 12:25 1.7m
Chichester 7:03 4.0m 19:37 4.1m 0:11 1.7m 12:36 1.7m
Warsash 6:56 3.8m 19:34.4.0m - - 12:15 1.8m

YESTERDAY'S EXTREMES



WORLD WEATHER

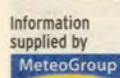
Yesterday		C	F
Algarve	sunny	24	75
Amsterdam	cloudy	21	70
Bordeaux	cloudy	24	75
Brussels	sunny	23	73
Corfu	sunny	31	88
Costa del Sol	sunny	29	84
Cyprus	sunny	33	91
Edinburgh	showers	19	66
Geneva	sunny	26	79
Hong Kong	cloudy	34	93
Jersey	sunny	19	66
Los Angeles	sunny	23	73
Majorca	sunny	29	84
Miami	cloudy	32	90
New York	sunny	24	75
Nice	sunny	27	81
Paris	cloudy	24	75
Rome	sunny	32	90
Sydney	sunny	15	59
Tenerife	sunny	27	81
Tokyo	sunny	33	91
Venice	fair	29	84

09068 500 403

For a detailed forecast for Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset

09068 500 402

For a detailed forecast for Sussex, Surrey and Kent



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Excessive, dangerous workload for doctor

Letter is read to GMC panel

by CLARE SEMKE

Health reporter
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THE doctor at the centre of elderly patient deaths had an 'excessive and dangerous workload', a panel heard.

Jane Barton, pictured below, was under 'intolerable pressure' as clinical assistant at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The family GP, whose conduct is being examined in relation to 12 deaths on her wards between 1995 and 1999, repeatedly raised concerns over her workload and had asked for more help, the General Medical Council heard yesterday.

Speaking for the first time before the five-strong panel, Dr Barton said she was 'sustaining an excessive and dangerous workload' shortly before quitting her post in 2000 while being investigated by police on suspicion of attempted murder.

In a letter prior to her resignation - which was read out at the London hearing - she wrote: 'The current police investigation into a charge of attempted murder only serves to highlight the almost impossible task faced by a team dedicated to offering seriously ill patients a dignified and peaceful passing.'

Dr Barton said she 'pre-prescribed' wide dose ranges of powerful sedatives and painkillers.

This meant they could be given out even when she was not at the hospital.

In another letter read out during the hearing yesterday, Dr Barton told her bosses without further help she was 'unable to do her job to a safe and acceptable standard'. She added: 'I'm finding the pressure on me to continue to provide what I consider appropriate care for patient, proper consultation with their relatives and support of my hard-



PRE-PREScribed

Powerful drugs were pre-prescribed to elderly hospital patients to preserve their comfort and dignity while they were dying, Dr Jane Barton said yesterday.

She said she prescribed cocktails of sedatives and painkiller diamorphine - a form of heroin - to 12 Gosport War Memorial Hospital patients in advance in case patients were in pain when she was not there.

Dr Barton also said that concerns over the calibre of some doctors who could be called on out-of-hours if she could not be contacted led to the culture of 'proactive prescribing'.

When asked by defence counsel Timothy Langdale QC why she wrote out prescriptions for controlled drugs in advance, Dr Barton said: 'It was mainly to ensure the maximum comfort and dignity for my patients. It was not for my convenience. It was not for the convenience of the nursing staff.'

pressed nursing staff almost intolerable.'

Dr Barton was first investigated following the death of Gladys Richards at the War Memorial in 1999. But the Crown Prosecution service later dropped the case due to insufficient evidence.

Dr Barton has admitted she failed to keep adequate notes and that some prescriptions were 'potentially hazardous'.

She also said dose ranges of painkiller diamorphine and sedative midazolam she prescribed to some patients were too wide, and could have led to them being given too many drugs.

However, she denies serious professional misconduct.

(Proceeding).

Little Darlings (and Peter)



LIFT OFF Tom Payne in flight as Peter Pan with the Darling children, from left: Edmund Bridge, 11, Eva Ladedz, 11, Jack Gillyead, 10, and Tinkerbelle Georgia Rielly, 11, in the St James' Primary School, Emsworth, production of Peter Pan

PICTURE: STEVE REID (092566-08)

AUDIENCES are in for a treat with a school's production of Peter Pan.

Pupils at St James' Primary School, in Emsworth, invited members of the community to watch the dress rehearsal and the response was fantastic. It was so good that someone bought tickets to see it again, tonight.

Deputy headteacher Claire White said it was testament to how good the show is.

'It really is fantastic. The singing is superb - it really gave me goosebumps,' she said.

'I've seen the rehearsals and the show is excellent.'

'All the children have worked so hard and the leads have a lot of lines to learn. It is going to be a brilliant show.'

'We invited people from across the community to watch the dress rehearsal and one lady had to leave half-way through. She was so impressed she couldn't bear to miss the second half so bought a ticket.'

The production, at the school in Bellevue Road, runs from tonight until Friday.

Murder suspect is granted bail

A FOURTH Royal Marine has appeared in court charged with the murder of sailor Kyle Bartlett.

James Taylor appeared at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court yesterday and was released on bail.

The 25-year-old, from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, spoke only to confirm his name, date of birth and address.

Dressed in a dark suit, shirt and black tie, he remained seated throughout the five-minute proceedings with his hands clasped in his lap.

The commando is the fourth member of the corps to be charged after the death of 21-year-old Mr Bartlett in

the Walkabout bar, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth, in May.

Taylor's bail conditions are that he must live and sleep each night on board HMS Albion or any other military establishment or his home address.

He must also abide by a daily curfew between 7pm and 6am.

Taylor will appear at Winchester Crown Court on July 29.

Mr Bartlett, a Marine Engineering Technician in HMS Liverpool, a Portsmouth-based Type 42 destroyer, was repeatedly kicked and punched in the bar brawl on Tuesday, May 6.