



BOARHUNT UPDATE

August / September 2025



ADDITIONAL EDITION TO THE SOUTHWICK AND BOARHUNT PARISH MAGAZINE

July 2025 Barn Dance



On a very warm July evening over 100 villagers and friends came along to the Barn Dance which was even bigger and better than last year. The marquee was suitably dressed and looked magnificent with the straw bales and checkered bunting with matching tablecloths. Mike along with Graham and Sandra (from **Boarhunt Social Club**) manned the bar and **Three Cut Burgers** supplied the food.

We were fortunate to have same caller as last year and what a job she did in getting everyone onto the floor with much hilarity and fun. There were more dances this year than last mainly due to the space in the marquee and guests sitting outside on the benches kindly loaned to us.

The bucking bronco as usual supplied a lot of laughs for everyone who was brave enough to have a ride.

Eliza Proost, from **Blondie Balloons**, made and donated a beautiful balloon display at the entrance to the marquee and the bar area. Check out Blondies balloons on FB and Instagram or contact Eliza at blondieballoons@outlook.com

Photographs of the whole evening are on Boarhunt Facebook taken by **Tim Trew** who was the designated official photographer.

A big thank you goes out to the organising committee; Lara Davies, Ruth and Julian Proost, Becki Aquilina, Eddie and Emma Schofield and Carlyne Trew. A special thanks goes to Schofield Groundworks and staff for organising the benches, straw, and rubbish removal on the Sunday and to James Harris for mowing the grass.

It is expected that over £850 profit has been made (yet to be verified) which will go towards funding future village events. Details will be in the official council meeting minutes.



Boarhunt in Bloom 2025 – Judging Results



This spring marked the launch of Boarhunt in Bloom — our village's very first celebration of front garden flair and floral creativity. The call went out: show us your blooming fabulous blooms! And the village responded beautifully.

In July, a secret judge with horticultural expertise quietly toured Boarhunt to assess the many displays. The judging criteria focused on variety, colour, and a sense of fun visible from the roadside or path — the kind of joyful planting that lifts the spirit and enhances our lovely village for all who pass by. The standard was impressively high, with many gardens demonstrating clear knowledge, care, and a real passion for planting.

While it was a tough decision, four gardens particularly stood out:

🏆 1st Place – “Dun-Roamin”, Southwick Road

Awarded a £30 Mud Island voucher

A garden brimming with life and personality. The judge was especially taken by the creative use of hanging baskets suspended from a tree, the vibrant mix of pots and bedding plants, and the charming scarecrow scene. A playful and colourful display — a true delight for pedestrians.

🥈 2nd Place – No. 2 Borland House, Bere Farm Lane

Awarded a £20 Mud Island voucher

An elegant and thoughtfully arranged garden, packed with colourful shrubs, pots, and flowering plants. A harmonious planting scheme full of charm and vibrancy.

🏆 Joint 3rd Place – each awarded a £10 Mud Island voucher:

- **Russells Place**, Trampers Lane – praised for its colourful variety of bedding plants, containers, and hanging baskets.
- **5 Orchard Bungalows**, Trampers Lane – recognised for its lively mix of pots, window baskets, and decorative ornaments.

All prizes were kindly donated by **Mud Island Garden Centre** and the **Boarhunt Parish Council/Boarhunt Events Group**, using funds raised through previous community events.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who took part – you've helped make Boarhunt bloom!

Upcoming events in Boarhunt



Scarecrow Competition

Last week of October we are looking for more scarecrows to decorate the village and to find winners as we did last year.

Bonfire night – 1st November 2025

We hope to have a burn the scarecrow bonfire – no fireworks but sparklers, watch this space for a lot more information which will also, be on Facebook as well as village noticeboards.



Santa Coming to Boarhunt

On Saturday 20th December Santa has been booked to come to Boarhunt, more information will be available on Facebook and village notice boards as we get closer to the date. All village children and friends of the village will be welcome and all being well Santa will have a present for each one again. The Social Club will be open for the evening. Entertainment for those wanting to dance and party is being organised.



Boarhunt Volunteers – we need you

Did you know there are many volunteering opportunities in Boarhunt?

Contributing as much or as little time as you are able would help build a stronger community and invest in what matters to Boarhunt. If you are looking to meet new people, increase social skills, get out your comfort zone, learn new skills and/or share your skills, bring a bit of fun into your life and want to make a difference to our community, please get in touch.

We already have fantastic volunteers who regularly show up for the village but would like more people to donate some time, skills, and/or ideas to build a cleaner, safer, and stronger community.

Here are some of the volunteering groups and activities that we currently support that you could join;

- Events coordination
 - Children's Christmas party
 - Easter Egg hunt
 - Boarhunt Barn dance
 - Bonfire night
- Recreation ground and Pavilion
- Southwick and Boarhunt Parish Magazine
- Litter pick
- Speed Watch
- Scarecrow competition
- Harvest festival (currently not enough volunteers to run this group)
- Social Club/parish Hall
- Boarhunt in bloom
- Other adhoc community volunteering

Please get in touch with either myself (raquilina@boarhuntparishcouncil.gov.uk) or the Parish Clerk (clerk@boarhuntparishcouncil.gov.uk) if you could spare some time to build a better Boarhunt.

We also have one Boarhunt Parish Council vacancy. Please contact clerk@boarhuntparishcouncil.gov.uk if you are interested in making a difference to your community and becoming a Parish Councillor

Devolution

What is Devolution?

In the Labour 2024 manifesto they stated that they would be de-centralising a lot of decisions back to local governments and cutting out unnecessary tiers. This means that Hampshire County Council will no longer exist in its current format and will be governed by an elected mayor in 2026. The mayor will shadow the county council for a year before they officially take over. The role will be like the London mayor, or Manchester's Mayor and will have the same status as the PM for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

This mayor will have a cabinet who will be responsible for largest county in the country with a population of approximately 2.2 million. They will have control over policing, fire, and some NHS aspects. They will set the policy for planning, enforcement, education, transport, highways, housing and homelessness, adult and children's services, environment, waste, and recycling to name a few.

In summary there will be some restructuring with the new mayoral role and as such more details will become apparent as the nominees start canvassing early in 2026 to be elected for this role.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

This is something that Treasury think where major savings could be obtained. This was not a Labour manifesto nor from any other political party.

For Hampshire the idea is that there would be various Unitary Authorities (UA's) and to expand the current 2 that already exist, namely Portsmouth and Southampton. Within Hampshire all District, Borough councils have been working together except for Hampshire County Council (HCC) and East Hants who have come up with their own proposals. Below is a statement from Martin Todd who has been leading the 12 councils working together:

Here's the joint statement from the *12 councils working together across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight:

- **Local people should shape local decisions**

Making councils bigger makes it harder for residents to influence decisions that affect their daily lives, like school places, adult social care, housing and transport.

- **Biggest doesn't mean best**

Services like social care and special educational needs are already under pressure. Proposing three large councils won't fix that. The evidence shows that larger public authorities don't guarantee better services, and they often feel more distant and harder to access for local people.

- **There's a better way**

The councils working together across Hampshire and the Solent are putting forward proposals for five unitary authorities (four on the mainland and one; the Isle of Wight) that are:

- large enough to succeed, with the capacity to deliver joined-up services and value for money
- small enough to care, rooted in real places and responsive to the communities they serve

Smaller councils already prove this can work. They deliver high-performing services like waste collection, housing, and local regeneration. They respond quickly to local needs, support diverse communities, and work closely with local businesses, schools and voluntary groups. This isn't theory, it's how we work every day.

We already work together at scale when it makes sense; like through Project Integra, our long-standing waste partnership across Hampshire. We collaborate to save money and improve services, without losing the local accountability and flexibility our communities value.

- **Local identity should count**

Real communities are shaped around sense of place and how people actually live, where they travel, learn, work and access services. This is why we are asking people to tell us about these things and share their views on our three options.

Crucially, Hampshire County Council's own research shows people feel most connected to their immediate neighbourhoods, not large remote councils, and that many fear LGR will reduce their sense of local identity, weaken local representation, and make services harder to access. For the services people rely on every day, like roads and travel, local understanding matters. A single, county-wide approach can't reflect the needs of such a diverse area. Our proposed model allows services to be designed and delivered around real communities, not a one-size-fits-all system.

- **Local democracy needs more than 'token localism'**

HCC's plan for district area panels and locality teams within super-sized councils isn't enough, it risks creating powerless talking shops. Communities need genuine decision-making power at neighbourhood level, with frontline councillors supported to lead and shape local priorities.

We are committed to creating councils that are simpler, stronger and more local, not just bigger. And we will continue working together to build a future that reflects the people and places of Hampshire and the Solent.

*The 12 councils are: Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Hart District Council, Havant Borough Council, Isle of Wight Council, New Forest District Council, Portsmouth City Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council.

Editors: Councillor Trew and Councillor Aquilina