SOUTHAMPTON MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
November 2026



Inside this month

From Dorset beach hut to international bestseller 4

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DIGITAL EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE

Your people, your pages

4 From Dorset beach hut to international bestseller

6 Southampton Toy Appeal Returns for 38th Year to Bring Festive Joy to Local Children

7 Southampton City Council Launches £100,000 Youth Community Chest Fund

8 Southampton Families Enjoy Free Sport, Music, and Food at Half-Term Community Events

8 Southampton Plans Free Bus Travel for Disabled Residents From January

9 Southampton Care Home Invites Families to See Refurbished Bedrooms

9 In brief: Southampton

10 In brief: Southampton, Portsmouth

11 In brief: Basingstoke, Brighton, Sussex

12 Your story here

13 Find your local magazine

14 More local stories online

16 Your story could be next



7



4



9



11

Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: From Dorset beach hut to international bestseller, page 4. Photo: Alex Stone.

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Your turn

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Photo: Alex Stone

SOUTHAMPTON

From Dorset beach hut to international bestseller

Sea-inspired thriller writer Lucy Clarke to headline Southampton's Coastal Crime Festival

The bestselling author, whose love of the ocean has inspired her atmospheric psychological thrillers, will discuss her new novel Wish You Were Here at Southampton's waterfront crime fiction festival on Saturday 6th March 2027.

From the beaches of Dorset to the volcanic islands of the Azores, the sea has long been a source of inspiration for bestselling thriller writer Lucy Clarke.

Now the author, whose novels have sold more than two million copies worldwide and inspired major television adaptations, is heading to Southampton as one of the headline names at Coastal Crime Festival on Saturday 6th March 2027.

Lucy will be in conversation with Stu Cummins at 5 pm at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Southampton Grand Harbour, discussing her lifelong fascination with the coast, her writing career, television adaptations and highly anticipated new novel, Wish You Were Here. For Lucy, the connection between the sea and storytelling began in childhood.

Growing up on the Dorset coast, she spent weekends at her family's beach hut, surrounded by the sounds of the waves and the changing moods of the ocean. It was there that she later found the inspiration and solitude to pursue her ambition of becoming a novelist.

The beach hut became her writing retreat as she worked towards publication, and the sea has remained a recurring presence in her fiction.

Her novels transport readers to some of the world's most beautiful destinations, from remote islands and dramatic coastlines to sun-drenched beaches, where idyllic surroundings conceal dangerous secrets.

The contrast between the beauty of the natural world and the darkness of human behaviour has become a hallmark of her psychological thrillers.

The new novel

Her latest novel, Wish You Were Here, published by HarperCollins on 11th February 2027, takes readers to the spectacular volcanic landscapes of the Azores.

Inspired by Lucy's own family travels to the Atlantic archipelago, the novel follows five friends who reunite on a remote island following the death of someone they all loved.

But as old loyalties fracture and buried secrets emerge, their idyllic surroundings become the backdrop to an increasingly dangerous mystery.

From page to screen

An enthusiastic traveller who keeps diaries of her adventures, Lucy frequently draws on the places she visits to create the atmospheric settings of her fiction. Her success has also attracted major interest from television producers.

Her previous novel, The Surf House, is in development with Netflix US, with director/writer Ed Lilly (Industry, Tell Me Lies) attached. Two of her other novels, The Castaways and No Escape, have already been adapted into television series for Paramount+, with further screen projects in development.

Her latest thriller has attracted early praise from fellow bestselling authors, with Gillian McAllister describing it as "Sultry, disturbing, unforgettable", while Beth O'Leary promises readers a gripping journey to the beautiful Azores.

About the Festival

Alex Stone, Festival Director of Coastal Crime, said:

"We're absolutely delighted to welcome Lucy Clarke to Coastal Crime. There couldn't be a more fitting author for a festival celebrating crime fiction on the coast. Lucy has an extraordinary ability to turn beautiful beaches, remote islands and spectacular coastal landscapes into settings for dark, gripping psychological thrillers.

"What makes her story especially fascinating is that her love of the sea isn't simply a literary device. It's something that has shaped her life since childhood, from growing up around a Dorset beach hut to travelling the world in search of inspiration.

By Clair Challenor-Chadwick

Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/from-dorset-beach-hut-to-international-bestseller**

Your turn

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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Toy Appeal Returns for 38th Year to Bring Festive Joy to Local Children

Residents, businesses and community groups are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys and gifts to help make Christmas brighter for children and young people in Southampton.



Southampton residents, businesses and community groups are invited to share some festive kindness by supporting the city's annual Southampton Toy Appeal.

About the Appeal

The Southampton Toy Appeal, now in its 38th year, collects new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children and young people from birth to 18 years of age who are supported by Southampton City Council's Children's Services, as well as families facing severe financial hardship. Gifts for teenage boys aged 12 to 18 are especially welcome. Ideas include headphones, phone accessories, sports equipment, rucksacks, hats and gloves, toiletries and shopping vouchers. Every donation stays in the city and is a chance to bring a little Christmas joy to a local child or young person.

How to Donate

To donate, simply collect a gift label from a participating drop-off point, such as Westquay or MAST Mayflower Studios, attach it to the new, unwrapped toy or gift and hand it in or place it in the donation box.

Gifts can be dropped off during opening hours at:

By Barbara Parker

Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-toy-appeal-returns-for-38th-year-to-bring-festive-joy-to-local-children

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton City Council Launches £100,000 Youth Community Chest Fund

Putting young people at the heart of community investment: community groups and social enterprises can apply for one-off grants of up to £15,000 for youth projects, with a panel of young people assessing every application.



Photo supplied by Southampton City Council

Southampton City Council has launched a £100,000 Youth Community Chest fund to back community-led projects that help young people feel safe, happy, healthy, and able to achieve.

How the Fund Works

The Youth Community Chest fund, supported by Councillor Amanda Barnes-Andrews, Cabinet Member for Children and Learning and Councillor Toqeer Kataria, Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Leisure, will provide one-off grants of up to £15,000 for locally rooted youth focused projects. Applications will need to involve young people in developing ideas and helping to deliver activities.

A panel of young people will assess every application and recommend awards to cabinet members, helping ensure investment reflects the priorities and experiences of those it is intended to benefit, shaping funding recommendations.

Funding Priorities

The Youth Community Chest project will support grassroots community activity that responds to local needs, reduces inequalities and creates more opportunities for young people across Southampton. The project will focus on:

By Albert Nelson

Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-city-council-launches-100000-youth-community-chest-fund

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Families Enjoy Free Sport, Music, and Food at Half-Term Community Events



8

Children, young people, and families enjoyed free sport, music, creative activities, and food at well-attended October half-term and Halloween events across the city, delivered by Southampton City Council in partnership with community organisations, activity providers, and neighbourhood police.

From games and inflatables for younger children to football, DJ workshops and bicycle maintenance for young people, alongside refreshments and opportunities for adults and families to meet, the programme offered activities for different ages and interests. Events in St Mary's, Millbrook and Thornhill received a positive community response, demonstrating how partnership working can bring people together close to home.

By Albert Nelson

Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-families-enjoy-free-sport-music-and-food-at-half-term-community-events

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Plans Free Bus Travel for Disabled Residents From January



8

Eligible disabled residents in Southampton could soon benefit from free bus travel at any time of day under proposed changes to the city's concessionary travel scheme.

The revised scheme, which could come into effect on 1 January 2027, would remove existing time restrictions for eligible Southampton disabled person's bus pass holders, making public transport more accessible and convenient. The proposals will be considered by the council's Cabinet next week before being put forward to the full Council for final approval.

Who Would Benefit

The change would benefit more than 4,600 existing disabled bus pass holders in Southampton, giving people greater freedom and flexibility to travel when they need to.

By Zoe Walker

Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-plans-free-bus-travel-for-disabled-residents-from-january

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Care Home Invites Families to See Refurbished Bedrooms



9

Photo: Aurem Care

South Haven Lodge in Southampton is welcoming prospective residents and their families to explore its newly refurbished accommodation following significant investment in its facilities.

South Haven Lodge, operated by Aurem Care, has transformed its upstairs community, Chantry Walk, creating ten beautifully refurbished bedrooms designed to provide residents with a comfortable, welcoming and homely environment.

The refurbishment forms part of a wider programme of investment and improvements throughout the home, with a focus on enhancing the living environment and ensuring residents can enjoy comfort, dignity and independence.

By Caroline Walker

Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-care-home-invites-families-to-see-refurbished-bedrooms**



9

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Marks National Care Leavers' Month with Career and Empowerment Events

Southampton is marking National Care Leavers' Month this November with opportunities to celebrate care experienced young people, champion their ambitions, and create access to new experiences.

By Zoe Walker

Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-marks-national-care-leavers-month-with-career-and-empowerment-events**



9

SOUTHAMPTON

Safer Routes to School Works Completed at Two Southampton Primaries

Southampton City Council is creating safer, healthier and more welcoming environments for children and families around St Monica Primary School and Foundry Lane Primary School.

By Catherine Williams

Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/safer-routes-to-school-works-completed-at-two-southampton-primaries**

In brief



10

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Proposes £400,000 Investment to Improve Bitterne and Lordshill

Plans to invest £400,000 in improvements to Bitterne and Lordshill district centres are set to be considered by Southampton City Council's Cabinet.

By Catherine Wilson
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-proposes-400000-investment-to-improve-bitterne-and-lordshill**



10

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Families Enjoy Autumn Fun at Best Start Family Hubs

Families across Southampton came together for two autumn celebrations hosted by Southampton City Council at the Clovelly Best Start Family Hub in St Mary's and the Seashell Best Start Family Hub in Weston.

By Zoe Walker
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-families-enjoy-autumn-fun-at-best-start-family-hubs**



10

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton shoppers can enjoy free parking and support independent businesses this Christmas

Southampton residents can enjoy a little extra Christmas cheer while supporting local businesses, with free parking available at selected council car parks across the city's district centres on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December.

By Barbara Parker
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-shoppers-can-enjoy-free-parking-and-support-independent-businesses-this-christmas**



10

PORTSMOUTH

Own a Piece of Portsmouth100 History at Pride of Portsmouth Lion Auction

Some of Portsmouth100's much-loved Pride of Portsmouth lions are looking for their forever homes, as selected sculptures from the city's centenary art trail go under the hammer next month.

By Zoe Walker
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/own-a-piece-of-portsmouth100-history-at-pride-of-portsmouth-lion-auction**

In brief



BASINGSTOKE

Basingstoke residents invited to free Mayor's Christmas Carol Service on 5 December

Basingstoke residents are being invited to celebrate the start of the festive season with an evening of Christmas carols and community spirit at the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane's annual Christmas Carol Service.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **basingstokemagazine.com/basingstoke-residents-invited-to-free-mayors-christmas-carol-service-on-5-december**



Photo: Afrori Books

BRIGHTON

Afrori books in Brighton champions Black authors

Did you know tucked away in the Brighthelm Centre on North Road, there's an independent bookshop with a mission to diversify bookshelves?

By Priya Attapatto
Continued at **brightonmagazine.co.uk/afrori-books-in-brighton-champions-black-authors**



SUSSEX

University of Sussex students win prestigious Africa debate championship at Houses of Parliament

Two University of Sussex students, Miama Iddisah and Daniella Oduro, have triumphed in a prestigious debating competition on the future of African relations at the Houses of Parliament, defeating finalists from LSE, Oxford, and Queen Mary.

By Zoe Walker
Continued at **sussexmagazine.co.uk/university-of-sussex-students-win-prestigious-africa-debate-championship-at-houses-of-parliament**



BRIGHTON

Nine Council-Rented Flats Ready for Residents in Hollingbury

Residents will start moving into nine new council-rented flats in Carden Hill, Hollingbury, later this month.

The development has transformed a long-derelict brownfield site into new council homes for social rent, providing much-needed affordable housing for local people.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **brightonmagazine.co.uk/nine-council-rented-flats-ready-for-residents-in-hollingbury**



4

+ Your story here



7



9



11

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