

# Love and laughter as family and friends mark special day for Hannah

**Balloon release at holiday home set up to help other children suffering from cancer**

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*The News*

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DOZENS of pink and purple balloons were released into the sky to celebrate what would have been the 16th birthday of a much-loved little girl who died from cancer.

Family and friends came together to remember Hannah Westbrook, who died aged 10 in 2004.

Hannah, from Horndean, who bravely battled Hodgkin's disease for two years, was the inspiration for setting up Hannah's Holiday Home where children with cancer and their families can go for relaxing breaks.

Mum Pam Marshall, 40, was joined by 70 people and asked everyone to attach birthday messages to the balloons which were released at the holiday home, in Ringwood, on Mother's Day.

She said: 'It was a very emotional and poignant day.'

'Quite a few families who have stayed or are going to be staying were there and told us what the holiday home meant to them.'

'For us as a family it was a special day and would have been a lovely, important birthday for Hannah.'

'Quite a few of her friends from school were there. They attached little purple hearts with messages on them.'

'Hannah's brother Adam's birthday was the Sunday before and he wrote that he wished they could celebrate together.'

'But we felt like Hannah was there and would have been so proud of everything we've done.'

'It was a beautiful sunny day so we think she ordered the weather for us especially.'

The charity was recently awarded £2,500 by Barclays bank in *The News* We Can Do It Charity Giveaway.

The money was spent on a child-safe veranda around the holiday home where children can play safely.

It was officially unveiled by Pam and her mother Carolyn.

They also held the charity's AGM to explain how all the donations had been spent.

To donate to the charity go to [hannahsappeal.org](http://hannahsappeal.org).



**CUTTING THE RIBBON** Hannah Westbrooke's mum Pam, right, and nan Carolyn cut the ribbon at the holiday home



**TRAGIC** Hannah Westbrooke

## Fundraisers needed for dragonboat festival

SHOPPERS will be wowed by a 40ft dragonboat on display in Portsmouth city centre.

Members of Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club will set up the 18-person craft in Commercial Road on Saturday to attract support for their second annual charity dragonboat festival.

The two-day event is supported by the Rowans Hospice in Purbrook and Naomi House Children's Hospice in Sutton Scotney who will be among the good causes to benefit. It is hoped up to 40 teams will take part in the event at 1000 Lakeside North Harbour.

Event organiser Gary Dickens said: 'Planning is going well for Portsmouth's second great charity dragonboat festival at Lakeside.'

'The Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club is organising this festival with the support of the Rowans Hospice and Naomi House Children's Hospice to raise funds for them and other Rotary projects such as the worldwide eradication of polio. We hope Portsmouth people will support this event.' The festival will be held on May 22 and 23.

## Picnic time for Southsea

SOUTHSEA Common has been nominated as the south east's favourite picnic spot.

The competition is sponsored by baking company Warburtons, who will pick a winner during national bread week, from May 3 to May 9.

Regional champs will then compete to be crowned the nation's best picnic spot 2010 and receive a £1,000 bursary towards site maintenance.

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## Drama as car careers into ditch

A RESCUE effort was launched after a car plunged into a ditch.

Emergency services were called to the car on the A286, close to the Weald and Downland Museum, near Chichester,

shortly after 7am yesterday.

The driver had managed to clamber out of the car.

Firefighters made the scene safe and recovery was arranged for the car.