

PRESS RELEASE



20 MARCH 2017



Spinnaker Tower goes Blue in support for WaterAid on World Water Day – 22nd March

Portsmouth Water and Southern Water have joined together with the Spinnaker Tower to promote World Water Day in support of WaterAid. By turning itself blue the Spinnaker Tower will help raise awareness of the fact that on this planet we still have the unacceptable situation where one in ten people lack access to clean, safe water. This lack of access means that around 315,000 children die each year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. That's almost 900 children each day, or one child every two minutes.

World Water Day, on 22 March every year, is about taking action to tackle the water crisis. The day was established in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly and is today coordinated by UN-Water in collaboration with governments and partners. Portsmouth Water and Southern Water have supported the charity WaterAid since 1981 and will be joining the charity on its #blue4water campaign on World Water Day to raise awareness of the 1 in 10 people still living without clean water. Turning the Spinnaker Tower blue is one of many activities happening all over the world to shine a light on the global water crisis.

Jamie Jones, Portsmouth Water's spokesperson, said:

"I am delighted that such an iconic feature in our area has agreed to help raise awareness of World Water Day by turning itself blue. It's unacceptable that, in this day and age, a child dies every two minutes from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. World Water Day helps spread the message that we all have a part to play in helping to end the global water and sanitation crisis, while also raising valuable funds for WaterAid's vital work in some of the world's poorest countries. Just £15 can help provide one person with access to safe water."

Clare Devine, Southern Water spokesman, said:

“Southern Water is a proud supporter of World Water Day, and WaterAid’s valuable work raising funds for some of the world’s poorest communities. This is a hugely important issue as the lack of access to safe clean water and sanitation facilities affects millions of people across the world on a daily basis.”

Barbara Frost, WaterAid’s Chief Executive, said:

“Clean water should not be a privilege – it is a basic human right. That’s why we’re calling on governments across the world to deliver on their promises to meet the UN sustainable development goal of reaching everyone, everywhere with clean water and sanitation by 2030.”

On World Water Day, WaterAid will be releasing a global report focusing on water security and how this could be affected in a changing climate. Entitled ‘Wild Water’, the report will rank the world’s worst countries for rural access to water and will show how extreme weather events, like cyclones, flooding and drought, will affect communities already struggling to access clean water.

ENDS

For more information please contact Ian Limb on 02392 249224

For more information on WaterAid, please contact Suzy Vickers, PR Manager, at SuzyVickers@wateraid.org or +44 (0)207 793 4995, or Fiona Callister, global media lead, on FionaCallister@wateraid.org or +44 (0)207 793 5022. Or call our after-hours press line on +44 (0)7887 521 552 or email pressoffice@wateraid.org.

Notes to Editors

WaterAid

WaterAid’s vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. The international organisation works in 37 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific Region to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in some of the world’s poorest communities. Since 1981, WaterAid has reached 25 million people with safe water and, since 2004, 24 million people with sanitation. For more information, visit www.wateraid.org, follow @WaterAidUK on Twitter, or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wateraid.

- Around 315,000 children die each year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. That’s almost 900 children each day, or one child every two minutes.
- An estimated 663 million people (around one in ten) are without safe water
- Nearly 2.4 billion people (around one in three) live without improved sanitation
- For every £1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of £4 is returned in increased productivity.
- Just £15 can help provide one person with access to safe water.
- For details on how individual countries are keeping their promises on water and sanitation, please see our online database, WASHWatch.org.

Website: www.portsmouthwater.co.uk
Twitter [@portsmouthwater](https://twitter.com/portsmouthwater)

Portsmouth Water is one of the oldest water companies in the country, having been incorporated in 1857. We are proud sponsors of Portsmouth in Bloom, EBP Schools Science Fair, Staunton Country Park and Water Aid. *Our Water Sources*
Our water, of high quality, is derived from the chalk of the South Downs and is abstracted from wells, boreholes, springs and the River Itchen. The Springs at Havant and Bedhampton are thought to be the largest group of springs used for public supplies in Europe. *Statistics*
We serve 304,000 homes and businesses in an area covering 868 square kilometres (335 square miles) from the River Meon in Hampshire to the River Arun in West Sussex.
Every day we supply around 180 million litres (40 million gallons) of water to a population of over 660,000 people at the lowest cost in England and Wales. Portsmouth Water has approximately 16,500 non-household customers and 280,000 household customers.
Our Distribution Network
Water is supplied to our customers through a network of over 3,200 kilometres (1,990 miles) of underground water mains and more than 300,000 individual service connections, all of which are continuously maintained by our distribution staff.