

LISS



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National Park Threat to Liss

The long-awaited Public Inquiry Inspector's report on the South Downs National Park was published on July 2nd. The report is now open for public consultation for six weeks ending on 13 August.

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The Inspector has recommended that the South Downs should become a National Park, but that the Western Weald, including Liss, Petersfield, Midhurst and Petworth should be excluded. He has also cast doubt on whether the Upper Rother Valley should remain an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a status that has helped conserve the beautiful countryside in which we live since the 1960s. The impact of the A3 and the railway are particularly emphasised.

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The boundary put to the public inquiry had wide support both locally and nationally with over 500 representations made in support of the boundary as drawn through the Western Weald in Hampshire. Its exclusion at this late stage represents a fundamental change. The objection, put forward mainly by West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council, affects both Sussex and Hampshire. Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council continue to favour the wider boundary put to the public inquiry.

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This is only a recommendation to Ministers. The recommendation does not have to be accepted.

Liss Parish Council will fight this recommendation and will not be fighting alone. It is a member of the South Downs Campaign, an association of over 100 national, regional and local amenity groups and parish councils. The Campaign is pledged to fight this exclusion of the Western Weald and to overturn this flawed recommendation. The accompanying photograph shows the rally held in support of the Western Weald attended by Brian Blessed, the President of the Council for National Parks.

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Defra has chosen to consult in the middle of the holiday period for a mere six weeks, instead of the usual twelve weeks that is normally allowed. Defra is also trying to minimise the grounds for objection, so that the principle of exclusion is not debated.

Liss Parish Council is outraged by this undemocratic process on a matter that is crucial to the long-term future of this beautiful countryside. The Council has written to Jonathan Shaw MP, the Minister responsible in Defra, and our local MP, Michael Mates, expressing our anger.

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What You Can Do

- Write to the Minister, Jonathan Shaw, at the address shown in the enclosed South Downs leaflet and our local MP, Michael Mates MP at the House of Commons complaining about the 6 weeks consultation period and the narrow grounds for objection.
- Emphasise the wide support for the boundary that included the Western Weald and formed the basis for the Public Inquiry.
- Say that you do not recognise the description of the Upper Rother Valley given in the Inspector's report. Remind the Inspector that Liss is described as the "Hidden Village" because it does not impose itself on the landscape but merges into it.
- Question the impact of the landscaped A 3 and the railway on the area.
- Press for the Public Inquiry to be reopened if Defra continue to press the case for excluding the Western Weald from the National Park
- State that you would like your letter to be considered as part of the current consultation process.
- Add your name to the petition to the Prime Minister at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/western-weald>
- If you want to do more contact the Parish Clerk at the parish office behind the Village Hall
- If you want to stay in touch with developments, consult the Parish web site at www.lissparishcouncil.gov.uk or the South Downs Campaign website at www.southdownscampaign.org.uk



VOICE

The Newsletter of
Liss

Parish Council No 19

Free Basketball Coaching

East Hants District Council is arranging a District-wide street sport programme for teenagers. This will be over the summer holidays. The sessions will be led by a qualified coach. There are 2 sessions scheduled for Liss:

Monday 30 July, 2-4pm at Newman Collard Playing Fields
Tuesday 6 August, 2-4pm at Newman Collard Playing Fields



Happy Birthday Triangle

2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Triangle Community Centre in the old school building. When it first opened its doors the trustees were not absolutely sure whether such a venture could be sustained. Ten years on - those worries have been dispelled and the Triangle has proved to be a huge success, far exceeding the expectations of even the most visionary of its founders. Liss prides itself in the strong community spirit and the Community Centre is at its heart. Many people may be unaware that the Triangle is independent of the Council and is run by a charity (the Community Association) which is responsible for raising the funds needed to keep it open (currently an astonishing £1,500 per week!). Every year the costs of insurance, heat and light, maintenance, cleaning and general expenses of the Triangle have risen far faster than inflation. Most of the income comes from room hire and from activities organized by the Association; the rest is derived from grants – not least from the Parish Council. However, the overall level of grant aid is due to fall in future years and despite its current success the financial future of the Triangle is far from certain.

To celebrate its tenth birthday the Triangle volunteers have been distributing a leaflet throughout the village. The pamphlet (the design and production of which was generously sponsored by Shillings of West Liss) aims to raise the profile of the Triangle and what it offers to everyone – young and old alike. Coupled with this, the Trustees have launched the 'Friends of the Triangle' scheme, the aim of which is to put its finances on a more sound footing. If the Triangle is to continue to be at the heart of the community it is vital that as many people as possible contribute to the scheme. Please help if you can.

Tel 01730 30100 E-mail traingle@liss-online.org

Days of Hope Summer Play scheme August 2007

London Zoo, A Day on the Farm and the Isle of Wight are all day trips on the ever popular Days of Hope Summer Play scheme.

Running throughout August it kicks off with a Back to Basic camp especially for the teenagers and now has the bonus of a bush craft day for the younger children. There are also energetic activities like basketball (both indoors and out) or quieter theme days with craft sessions.

New this year is a visit to a working farm where your child can have a hands-on experience with the animals and enjoy a tractor ride.

The programme this year is exceptionally varied with something for every child aged 5 yrs and over. Each session will be a total play experience with free play alongside structured play. Just for fun there is air hockey, table football, dance mats, X-box and Play stations, trampets and much more.

The scheme is Ofsted registered and run by experienced, qualified staff of the Woodcraft Folk, who have been vetted through the Criminal Records Bureau.

Programmes will be distributed through local schools and available at the Liss Triangle Centre: booking is easy. For further information please contact Pam Gruber on 01730 301270 or Andrea Paget 01730 895866.

Hog the Limelight live @ the Village Hall



Dominic Holland

DOMINIC HOLLAND has been doing stand up comedy for over 15 years and has become one of the most regarded comedians of his generation. *The Sunday Times* recently described him as 'The UK's master of observational comedy' and *the Daily Telegraph* noted that 'he is a top notch stand up who everyone should see'. *Dominic* has made countless TV appearances on such television shows as *Have I Got News For You*, *The Stand Up Show*, *Edinburgh Nights*, *Best of Edinburgh*, *The Royal Variety Show*, *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* etc etc., He has recorded an award winning series for BBC Radio 4, is a regular on many Radio 4 panel games and has published two comic novels as well as writing umpteen articles and short stories.

DOMINIC HOLLAND'S material is what sets him apart, inoffensive and totally accessible to all, relying heavily on acute observations on all our lives. His material, combined with a very personable stage presence, always make his shows relaxing, intimate and hugely enjoyable.

Tickets £8 will be on sale at Jade News Station Road Liss from 3/9/07 Licensed bar

Liss Village Hall, Hillbrow Rd, Liss. (opposite Tesco)

For further information call 01730 894866

Saturday 22 nd September 8.0 pm

A word on the subject of Allotments.....

At the mid-point in the growing season gardeners can adjudge their efforts so far in what has been a challenging year, starting from an exceptionally dry spring, with a virtual absence of rain in our area for nearly eight weeks followed by heavy rainfall in much of May & June.

In tune with the vogue for "All Things Green" we have seen an unprecedented demand for allotment plots this year, at the time of writing there are still over thirty people who have their names down for plots, we have been able and continue to clear for occupation plots that have been out of use for many years, but even that will not satisfy the demand for this year.

The Parish Council Grounds Committee which oversees allotments will have to appraise the situation for next year, should the demand continue. In the meantime inspections of existing plots have been taking place and some holders have regretfully been written to regarding the lack of cultivation or state of the plot under their tenancy. Inspections will continue and whilst it is understood many holders have tended their plots for a number of years, if there are signs that they are unable to keep up with cultivation, then they should consider surrendering their holding or discussing with the Parish Council office how they intend to manage the plot in future.

At their last meeting the Grounds Committee unanimously decided that the letting of "double plots" to anyone other than those already in possession of a double plot will cease.

For those Parishioners with allotments it is a good idea, if you are not already a member, to consider joining your local horticultural society. With summer shows fast approaching there will be a chance to display your prize produce, you could be surprised how well it is judged...

Renewals for allotment plots will take place early in the New Year and by the end of February the Parish Office will have details of plots that are not being retained and are available for re-letting, there are nearly 100 plots of varying size spread over a number of locations around the village, so for those of you that have been disappointed this year in being unable to obtain a plot, please make sure your application for next year is registered in good time after New Year.

New play Equipment West Liss

New play equipment has recently been installed at West Liss Playing field. Pictures show children from St Mary's Playgroup and preschool, trying out the climbing frame and swing.



Liss Conservation Volunteers

'Liss Conservation Volunteers are a thriving group of individuals spanning a formidable age range who meet once a month to undertake conservation work, primarily along the Liss Riverside Railway Walk. The group is particularly keen to recruit new members to the committee, especially anyone able to bring skills and experience to the group.

In particular, a Works Officer and Chairman are required. Even if you have never been involved in a committee or any form of conservation work, please consider contacting our Secretary, Angela Wright, with a view to discussing possibilities. Fully accredited training is available in all matters related to use of machinery and tools and First Aid. Please contact Angela Wright on 01730 892284.



A bit of Colour

This year Liss Parish Council and village shopkeepers have joined together to brighten the village centre by putting up hanging flower baskets. The project was masterminded by Margaret Effenberg and baskets were sourced through Pembrooks Florists and put up by villager Tony Grant assisted by LPC staff members Tim Pay & Ray Swift.

Tim, pictured, is ensuring that the baskets are fed and watered regularly.

New Councillors



Graham Baker

Graham is a recently retired Construction Manager originally from the south Midlands. He has lived in the area for two years and has two children, the youngest being 5. (he likes being a middle aged dad). When Graham is not updating his house, which is in Greenfields, he visits Spain on a regular basis. Graham will be on the Planning and Grounds committees where he hopes to use his knowledge of housing development to the advantage of the Parish.



Les Mann

Les is 44 years of age, married with two small children. He came originally from Inverness, and has lived in Liss for four years. His children attend school/nursery in the village.

Les is a business manager working in Haslemere and most of his spare time is spent with his children. He likes to travel and has varied interests.



John Milman

John Milman is a Liss newcomer, living in Birch Close, but he has lived in the area (South Harting and Petersfield) for most of the last 45 years. Now semi-retired he devotes time to The Petersfield Society (Civic Trust for the area) and other organisations. He looks forward to participating in the Parish council's Planning and Highways Committees. Much of John's working life was in specialist telecommunications which took him around the world.



Michael Payne

Michael was brought up in Bath, but has lived in Hill Brow, Liss since 1989 with his wife Annette and two younger daughters, who both attended local schools.

He enjoys gardening, playing bridge and walking in the countryside.

Michael works for the charity Mencap supporting local people with learning disabilities. Before that Michael worked in IT for 30 years.



Andrew Piper

Andy moved to Liss in 2004. Having been a "townie" all his life, He loves the friendly Village atmosphere and welcomed the opportunity to become a co-opted councillor in June 2007. He has been appointed to the Buildings and Highways committees where his knowledge and experience can be put to good use. Andy worked for a well known telecom's company primarily associated with its international business since the late 80's. He enjoys golf and motorcycling.

Liss Parish Website

We are pleased to announce that the LPC website is now up and running at:

www.lissparishcouncil.gov.uk

It explains some of the things that LPC does and useful contact information. As part of this change all Councillors and the office staff now have individual email addresses which you can use.

There is a News section for keeping you up to date.

Have a go and let us have any comments – e-mail them to:

admin@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk

Council Meetings 2007

	COUNCIL	PLANNING	HIGHWAYS	BUILDINGS	GROUND	FINANCE
	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.00pm	7.45pm	7.30pm
JUL	16	9	23	30	30	11
AUG		6				
SEP	17	3				24
OCT	15	1 & 29	22			
NOV	19	26		5	5	12
DEC	17	10				

The Village Voice is written, edited, produced, published and delivered by Parish Councillors in order to keep the citizens of Liss informed of the actions of their elected representatives.

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