

LISS



"CROSSOVER" YOUTH CENTRE - A PROGRESS REPORT

V During September the Tuesday and Thursday "drop-in" sessions from 6pm - 9pm have continued to attract capacity attendances of young people, and we have started "chillzone" sessions on Wednesdays from 4pm - 6pm. In October we are planning to start other weekday sessions and full details will be publicised around the village.

I Currently we are delivering to all households a reminder letter about our need to raise more money to cover the running costs. So far we are over half way to our target of nearly £37,000 per year, and if another 10% of families contribute as generously as those who responded to the original appeal letter we shall be there.

A BRIGHTER ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

L This Christmas we are pleased to announce that we will be brightening up Liss village centre with two Christmas Trees decorated with festive lights. The trees, positioned close to the War Memorial and in the planter nearest to the mini roundabout will be set up well in time for our annual Christmas Fair on **Wednesday December 13th between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm.**

L As in previous years the Community Association will be hosting a craft fair at the Triangle Centre, where refreshments will be available, and Santa will be in his grotto.

L The Parish Council will be responsible for closing Station Road between the station and the roundabout and there will be stalls in the street run by local groups and charities, and many of the shops will be opening late for this festive event.

A Any charities or groups who have not been contacted and wish to be involved should contact The Triangle (phone 301000 or call into the office).

We are hoping that, as in previous years local musicians will be on hand to entertain and that there will be other amusements.

G This is a partnership between the Community Association and the Parish Council and we hope that as many people as possible from the village will come and support this much loved Christmas event.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Come and celebrate the switching on of the first ever Christmas Lights in Liss - Look out for details in the Local Press.

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VOICE

The Newsletter of
Liss

Parish Council

No 17

LISS SKATEBOWL ... UPDATE

As a result of the recent public consultation on the proposal for a skatebowl to be situated in West Liss Recreation ground a document has been distributed to local residents and those who wrote to the council;

- responding to the key issues raised by residents
- offering a visit to a bowl of similar design in Bournemouth
- confirming that there will be a second public meeting chaired by an independent person from outside Liss

By the time you read this, the visit will have happened, which we hope will have been useful for those who haven't seen this type of facility before. The date of the public meeting will be announced as soon as practical and with plenty of notice. No final decision will be made until after this meeting. The delay is to ensure that all of the questions raised may be properly answered.

DAYS OF HOPE PLAYScheme – CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Following on from the very successful Summer Playscheme Liss Woodcraft Folk are offering the chance for parents to spend a day Christmas shopping whilst knowing their children will be safely looked after and entertained. On 9th December 2006 for just £12.00 parents can leave their children from 10am to 4pm at Liss Triangle Centre. Activities throughout the day will include crafts, games and much more. For further details please contact Pam Gruber on 01730 301270. Booking is essential.



NEWMAN COLLARD PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILION

Report by the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

Like Parkinson's Law, it is always the case that projects take longer than the planners thought. When the trustees of the Newman Collard Trust first presented their ideas to the Parish Council a year ago, they estimated that by now planning permission would have been granted and major funding would be well underway. Sadly, the untimely death of our project manager meant that we were unable to keep up with what was already a very tight schedule. We have since obtained the services of another expert who has a great deal of experience in this field. The final details of the design of Phase 1, which is the extension and renovation of that part of the pavilion currently used by the football club, have been negotiated with current users but very much with an eye to the future and making the other 'end' of the building a multi-user facility. Although the rebuild is still some time away, perhaps those 'shakers and movers' in Liss who would like to set up a new sporting or recreational facility, such as keep fit or martial arts clubs, might like to contact the Trust to express any interest they might have in using the improved facilities when they become available.

On the financial side, all the grants we bid for to allow us to finance the infrastructure costs have been agreed and we are particularly grateful to both the Parish Council and East Hampshire District Council for their support. We have also had generous gifts from local individuals and organisations. With the granting of planning permission we will be able to go to major fund providers to raise the money to enable renovation to commence.

For some time we have been in discussion with both the Charity Commission and the Parish Council over an updated constitution for the Trust, replacing that which has been in place since the early 1960s. Our aim is to make it easier for villagers to express their views on the strategy the Trust pursues and at the same time to make the constitution a more comprehensive document. This has proved to be a slow business, as we wish to take into account the constructive suggestions of parish councillors as well as the mandatory requirements of the Charity Commission.

LISS – SIGNS OF LESS CLUTTER

Over the past year or so following an audit of the signage in Liss undertaken by residents, the Parish Council has been working with Hampshire County Council (Highways East) to reduce the number of signs and road-side "clutter" in the village.

This has been achieved by pole sharing of signs, and by removing unnecessary and duplicate signs such as those indicating a "slippery road surface". The signage has also been tidied up at the car parks in Hillbrow Road and Station Road, and on roads where we no longer have bus routes the redundant bus stop poles and signs have also been taken away. This action has resulted in a marked "de-cluttering" of the roadsides within the Parish making our village look tidier, and should improve road safety as drivers will not be distracted by

Hopefully, the next action will be to remove a number of poles that don't have any signs on them from around the village.

Here in Liss we have taken action to reduce the roadside "clutter" which The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has long been advocating.

LISS ROMAN VILLA PROJECT

Report by Liss Archaeology Group.

The dig for September 2006 is now complete and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part, and we are all anxious to see and hear the report to be produced by George Anelay, our professional archaeologist, during the November Liss Archaeology Group (LAG) Members meeting.

The 'villa' has not been located but it cannot be far away from where the dig was conducted this year since in this year's trench we have been able to relate previous findings with new findings. This has identified two Roman bathhouses and another Roman building – probably used for accommodation, in addition to other finds like a brooch, a bracelet, a bell and an array of coins, tiles and pieces of pottery.

The 'well', that is only partially excavated, has revealed the skeleton of a dog (see photograph). The skeleton has been verified by our animal bone expert, Sheila Hamilton-Dyer, as that of a dog, and not a wolf or fox. The dog was male and prior to dying had been gnawing on a beef bone – the contents of the stomach cavity revealed the bone fragments.

Perhaps next year will reveal the 'villa' – keep on digging.



ALLOTMENTS

With declining temperatures and shortening days gardeners can look back on the growing season and adjudge their efforts in what was a very challenging year, starting from a cold spring, followed by very little rainfall from May onwards and record temperatures during July. August rains were insufficient to replace the loss of soil moisture and redress the yields of many crops.

Results have been varied, top fruit has been alright on established trees but with reduced yields, autumn soft fruit crops have been up to expectations or better in some instances - blackberries came into crop up to 3 weeks early.

So with this year's results in mind it's time to think about the start of the next gardening year which traditionally begins now in October. After a review of crop locations it will be time to start digging to remove perennial and annual weeds that still linger and turn the ground to the state where nature takes over and breaks down the soil to a friable mass.

Winter evenings are times to contemplate the new season's seed catalogues, and the possibility of trying new varieties and different crops for next year, and a good opportunity to consider joining a local horticultural society, many of whom have schemes that offer members discounts on seed purchases.

Renewals for allotment plots take place early in the New Year and by the end of February the Parish Office has details of plots that are not being retained and are available for re-letting. There are some 80 plots of varying size spread over a number of locations around the village and many of the allotments on the various sites have been worked by their holders for many years.

A word of caution for first timers, after contacting the Parish Office to ascertain availability of plots, go and see what is on offer, check the size and depending on its condition try to estimate how many hours or over what period of time it will take to bring the plot into a manageable and cultivated state. Do not take an allotment just because it is the only one available at the time, far better to be patient rather than find other demands on your time such as a young family prevent you undertaking all your growing intentions. Here's to next year, the evenings will soon be getting lighter after Christmas and all the growing fun can start again.

PLAY TENNIS IN LISS

Tennis doesn't stop in the autumn. The tennis courts at Newman Collard, supported with contributions from the Parish Council, are open for public use. You can book through Jade News and find out more on the website www.hants.org.uk/nctennisclub

SPOTLIGHT ON VILLAGE SOCIETIES LISS CRICKET CLUB 2006

Liss Cricket Club's 126th Season was memorable not only for the weather. The Saturday Leagues saw the 1st XI gain promotion to Hampshire County Division 2, while the 2nd XI in Hampshire Regional Division 3 North East missed promotion by 1 point. The 3rd XI continued to progress in Division 4 North East, and the Sunday XI were undefeated.

The Club is fortunate in having a number of established players of long standing. In addition it now has an increasing number of outstandingly talented young players who are beginning to make their presence felt. It is also fortunate to have the use of two of the best maintained grounds in North East Hampshire, Liss and Hawkley, which are not only pleasing to the eye, but can also be relied upon to stage a true wicket where strokes can be played and runs scored.

The 2007 Season will be a challenge for all three Saturday XIs; the 1st XI to consolidate in the higher league and the other two to gain promotion. With these objectives, new players and officials will be most welcome. It is also the intention to restart the Juniors Section, and volunteers are sought to assist in the general management. Club annual nets will take place at the Rose Bowl in March.

Anybody who is interested in joining the Club should contact the Chairman, Lawrence Baker on 01730 893713.

VILLAGE LIVES- VILLAGE HALL CARETAKER

After fourteen and a half years service as caretaker for the village hall and West Liss pavilion popular village character Ray Swift has hung up his keys to take a well deserved retirement. He assures us that he will still be seen around and about the village continuing to carry out the many voluntary tasks that he has always done, such as grass cutting at the War Memorial, Liss in Bloom, maintenance of the Churchyard, duties as President of 1st Liss Scouts and others too numerous to mention.

Ray's duties have passed on to young Tim Pay, another long-standing village resident, who joins us after a twenty nine year career with the MOD.

IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN OH NO IT ISN'T – OH YES IT IS !!

For well over a quarter of a century there has been a pantomime produced in Liss – until this year - when for a variety of reasons there wasn't one. So many people were disappointed by this break in tradition that the Community Players have been searching for a producer and are pleased to announce that Peter Scott, who is well known to audiences South of Butser for his traditional pantomimes, has agreed to direct their 2007 production. This will come to the stage during the February half-term and rehearsals will be starting shortly. The hunt is now on for people young and old who want to be involved either on stage or behind the scenes. It doesn't matter if you have never been involved in anything like this before – give it a go, don't be shy. For more information contact Colin Dring [Liss 892653].



Tim and Ray

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

		2006			2007		
	Time	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Council	7.30pm	16th	20th	18th	15th	19th	19th
Planning	7.30pm	9th	6th	4th	8th&29th	26th	26th
Buildings	7.00pm		13th			12th	
Highways	7.30pm	23rd			22nd		
Grounds	7.45pm		13th			12th	
Finance	7.30pm		27th				12th
Annual Parish meeting							21st

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

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