

# LISS



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## South Downs National Park Update

The South Downs National Park Inquiry re-opens on February 12<sup>th</sup> and is expected to continue until at least April.

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At a pre-inquiry meeting in December, the Inspector emphasised that the inquiry should not be used as an opportunity for participants to argue that the Western Weald, of which the Parish forms a part, should form part of the National Park, since he considered that this fell outside the Secretary of State's terms of reference for the re-opened inquiry.

He did, however, say that he was ready to receive written submissions on the Western Weald so that Secretary of State is aware of the views of those who support its inclusion in the National Park.

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The Parish Council does not consider that the Inspector's grudging concession goes far enough, and along with many other objectors is pressing the Inspector to hear evidence on the Western Weald in exactly the same way as on other new issues not considered at the original inquiry. The recommendation to exclude the A3 Corridor and the Rother Valley stems mainly from a report of the Inquiry's Landscape Assessor, who produced his report after the formal inquiry, had closed. His recommendations, which are also at variance with a wide range of other assessments, have, therefore, never been the subject of public scrutiny. The issue will be raised at the first day of the re-opened inquiry.

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There continues to be a tremendous amount of support both from within the Western Weald and from outside individuals and organisations. When the Boundary proposed to the Government by Natural England was the subject of public consultation, there were only 2 objections, both from developers, compared with over 400 in favour of inclusion.

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The issue is of vital importance to the village since the Landscape Assessor is arguing that Liss and the Rother Valley no longer meet the "natural beauty" criteria needed for inclusion in a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). If, therefore Liss is excluded from the National Park, there is a real risk that it will lose its AONB protection, which has limited the amount of development in the village since the AONB's creation in the early 1960s.

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## A New Bus Shelter for Mill Road

We are happy to say that our application to EHDC for the release of Developers' Contributions Funds for an additional bus shelter, as reported in issue 20, was successful. The new shelter is an all oak construction that was built and installed by local craftsman Mark Probyn and was erected in December.

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Unfortunately, both of the bus shelters, as well as some private property were hit by a graffiti attack in January.

This has been reported to the police and if anyone has any helpful information please contact PC Elliot Mowbray on 08450 454545. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the offending graffiti will have been removed.



# VOICE

The Newsletter of

Liss

Parish Council

No 21





## Liss Christmas Fair 2007

On the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> December, following a trumpet fanfare performed by Liss Band, the centre of the village sparked as residents of all ages turned out in fine weather to participate in this annual event, supporting local shops, organisations and charities. Craft stalls drew crowds into the Community Centre while Santa's Grotto and fairground rides provided by the Whistle Stop were a great attraction for younger children. Two splendid Christmas Trees, a gift from Mr. Harris of Farnham Road, were lit by "2007 Villager of the Year" Michael Oakley, ably assisted by the two young winners of the Triangle "Create a Tile" competition: Emily White & Rosie Jukes.



Congratulations to Creative Hair Design who won the "Best Dressed Window" competition sponsored by Howard Smith & Co. Ltd. The clear night air was filled with festive music provided by Liss Junior School Band, Liss Band and St. Mary's choir who welcomed everyone to join their



carol singing. Seasonal fare was on offer in many of the shops and for those with bigger appetites the Scout BBQ had the answer.

Thank you to Co-operative Funeral Services for their contribution to the decorations and to the many other individuals and organisations who were so very generous with their time, expertise and equipment which helped to make the evening a success.

## Use it or lose it....call to Liss commuters and others

The District Council is looking at all its assets and the Hill Brow Road car park is very under used and therefore under threat.

The car park behind Tesco and the other Lower Mead shops is always full before the shops open and after they have closed suggesting the users are Liss commuters. It would be very sad indeed if Liss was to lose at least part of the Hill Brow Road car park due to the lack of consideration for shoppers by commuters not using this EHDC car park.

If we were to lose this car park and the landowner of the shoppers car park in Lower Mead decided to reduce or limit car parking then the villagers of Liss would have even less available car parking in the future. The other car parks in Liss are usually full and the demand for on street car parking is high so any loss of car parks in Liss will exacerbate the situation.

Thus to ensure the valuable Hill Brow Road car park remains in its entirety for the use of all Liss people it is vital that the current utilisation is increased, hence this call to Liss commuters and others to use the Hill Brow Road car park.

## Courtesy Crossings

Following on from the last issue, we have it on good authority that the installation of the courtesy crossing in the village centre outside Vision Vista and Pembrokes will occur very soon and by the time you read this it may already be in place. To compliment this crossing new dropped kerbs have been installed in Station Road close to the car park to allow easier access for those with buggies or using mobility vehicles. We should all be able to reach the Lower Mead shops more easily.



## Calling all Photographers

To exhibit in

# THE FACE of LISS

A rotating exhibition in the Village Hall

**It could be a place, a face, or an activity  
That evokes Liss**

Selected photographs will be framed and hung in the village hall and will be changed from time to time.

The 12 judged the best will be made into **The Face of Liss 2009 Calendar.**

Trophies will be awarded to the outstanding Adult and Junior (under 16) entries.

There will be an opportunity to sell the photographs should you wish to do so.

Entries with relevant information to the Parish Room (behind Village Hall).

Initial selections will be made on

1<sup>st</sup> May 2008

entries received after that date will also be considered

## A word on Allotments.....

It is timely to welcome several new tenants to our allotment plots and wish them well in their growing endeavours and at the same time give a few reminders.

Good practice in terms of cultivation is expected, as well as management to deter certain kinds of wildlife particularly vermin. Many of nature's pests to the gardener such as pigeons, magpies, foxes, rabbits, deer etc. etc. are extremely difficult to control and netting of both the plastic and wire mesh type may be necessary to deter.

All allotments are inspected regularly and tenants contacted regarding any issues, particularly lack of cultivation over several weeks. This has to be done in view of the long waiting list for plots and if allotments are not kept up then after appropriate warning or discussion, cessation of the tenancy will result.

Awards are made each year in August by the Parish Council for 'best kept allotments'. Plots are inspected on an independent basis at least three times during the period April to July and points are awarded for plot tidiness, methods of cultivation, quality of crops and overall appearance.

For those who are not aware of the facility, Liss Horticultural Society operates a Trading Hut at Lower Green allotments on Rake Road which is open for an hour at 11.30 am each Saturday and Sunday from February to October, an excellent selection of horticultural products are available in sizes and prices better than Garden Centres & DIY stores. For the modest subscription of £5 annually you can avail yourself of this facility, as well as participate in the regular monthly meetings at The Triangle Centre, display your produce at the Spring, Summer & Autumn shows as well enjoy visits to many Garden attractions in the South of England including RHS at Wisley.

## Liss Beat Surgery

Our local beat police officers are to hold a surgery at Liss Community Centre on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March between 3pm and 5pm. Members of the public will have a chance to discuss any matters of concern including anti-social behaviour and the future policing of Liss.

## Liss Junior School is seeking new governors - could you help?

Liss Junior School needs members of the local community to join its governing body. The Governing Body is made up of fourteen people comprising staff, parents and other members of the local community. They set the overall strategic direction of the school and ensure that the school provides the best possible education for the young people of Liss and the surrounding area.

Each governor is appointed for a term of four years and we provide an informal mentor to help with the initial induction as there is a lot to learn, especially for those not familiar with the state school system. Extensive training is provided by Hampshire County Council, this usually takes place at Cosham. New governors can also expect to join at least one of our three committees focusing on Curriculum, Personnel and Buildings.

The full governing body meets twice each term and each committee also meets twice a term. These meetings are held at the school, usually on Tuesday or Thursday evenings starting at 6pm. The minimum commitment is to attend as many meetings as possible, but some governors also get more involved in the life of the school,

If you would like to do more to support the young people of Liss, why not think about joining us? Further information can be obtained from Mrs Valerie Brown in the school office on 01730 892292 (during school hours).

Informal visits to the school and chats with existing governors can easily be arranged if required.

## Villager of the Year Award

Each year, at the annual Parish meeting, LPC presents the "Villager of the Year Award". This award is made in recognition of an individual's contribution to the community of Liss of an extended or an important voluntary nature.

This may be service to a single organisation, or to several groups.

LPC Councillors would welcome any nominations from residents of Liss. Please give your nominations to the Parish Clerk, Council Room, Village Hall, by 29<sup>th</sup> February.

## Village Day

Newman Collard Trustees are in the early stages of planning a village day - an event to take the place of the carnival. The date is June 7th.

If you would like to have a stall or provide "entertainment" let the committee know. Contact Roy Hubber roy.hubber@ntlworld.com or 01730 302094

## Trustees wanted!

Newman Collard management committee are looking for some new trustees to assist in the running of the Newman Collard playing fields and the pavilion. Your help would be in managing this area, greatly appreciated by many Liss residents. Contact Roy Hubber roy.hubber@ntlworld.com or 01730 302094

## The Triangle Centre – Film Nights

March 15th - Elizabeth: The Golden Age

April 19th - And When Did You Last See Your Father?

Tickets are £5 from the Triangle office, doors open at 7pm, films start at 7.30pm.

## Elizabeth: The Golden Age

Reprising the roles they originated in seven-time Academy Award-

nominated Elizabeth, Cate Blanchett

and Geoffrey Rush return for a gripping historical thriller laced with treachery and romance -- Joining them in the epic is Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh, a dashing seafarer and newfound temptation for Elizabeth.

## And When Did You Last See Your Father?

Blake Morrison's bestselling and moving memoir of his father in the weeks leading up to his death has been turned into an intelligent and heartfelt film. Colin Firth and Jim Broadbent take the lead roles of father and son, giving wonderfully vivid performances. The film explores the shared experiences of father and son, the intimacies and the irritations of their relationship. A serious subject but a film that stays in the memory.

## Council Meetings 2008

	<u>COUNCIL</u>	<u>PLANNING</u>	<u>HIGHWAYS</u>	<u>BUILDINGS</u>	<u>GROUND</u> S	<u>FINANCE</u>	<u>APM</u>
	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.30pm	7.00pm	7.45pm	7.30pm	8.00pm
2008							
FEB	18	4		25	25		
MAR	17	3				11	19 (Wed)
APR	21	7	28				
MAY	19	6 (Tue)				12	
JUN	16	2 & 30		9	9		
JUL	21	28	14				
AUG		26 (Tue)					
SEP	15	22		1	1	8	
OCT	20	27	13				
NOV	17	24		3	3	10	
DEC	15	22					

## Precept 2008/09

At the December Council meeting, Councillors approved a precept of £132352 for the 2008/09 financial year. This is an increase of £3666, or 2.85%, over the 2007/08 charge. Allowing for the small increase in the number of band D houses in Liss this equates to a charge of £51.98 per house compared to £50.76 for 2007/08, an increase of £1.22 or 2.4%. This increase is significantly below the current annual RPI rate of inflation which is 4.0%. A full presentation of the budget will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Among the provisions for capital projects are sums for disability access footpaths to play areas, allotment regeneration at Princes Bridge & enhancements to the entrance of the Riverside Walk.

## Annual Parish Meeting

8.0pm on Wednesday 19th March in Liss Village Hall

All villagers are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity to raise items of concern.

## Liss Cricket Club

The Club is preparing for the 2008 season, following one of the most successful years in its 127 year history, when all three Saturday XIs achieved promotion. The 1st XI will be playing in Hampshire County Division 1, a remarkable achievement.

The Club has played its home matches at The Glebe, West Liss, for the past 60 years. 3rd XI matches on Saturdays are now played at Hawkley, thereby putting the Club in the enviable position of playing at home on two of the most attractive grounds in North East Hampshire. Three XIs are put out on Saturdays and one on Sundays throughout the season. The Junior Section, for which there are high hopes, has also been resurrected.

The Village can be proud of its Cricket Club. Support in any form would be much appreciated, be it playing, umpiring, scoring, helping with the ground, or preparing teas on match days.

Would anybody interested in helping as described, please contact the Secretary, Judy Lintott, on 01730-893361 or [JudyLintott@aol.com](mailto:JudyLintott@aol.com)

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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