



SPRING 2025

Liphook

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Inside This Edition:

Gables Newsagents

Vintage Bentley

Hollycombe Home Farm

BOG Beneficiaries

Community Magazine Spring Appeal 2025

As many of you are already aware, your quarterly Magazine is written, compiled and delivered 'free-of-charge' by residents within the community. This work is all voluntary and we continue to owe a huge vote of thanks to all those involved.

The inevitable costs for paper and printing do need funding and some 83% of these outgoings are met by our excellent local advertisers. We wish however to limit advert numbers so the majority of the magazine continues to be devoted to articles and features of local interest.

With a print run of 4,500 copies per issue and an annual expenditure of over £16,000, this means there is inevitably a shortfall. As we receive no funding from local Government or other organisations, can we please ask for your help by donating to our annual Spring Appeal?

You will find a green slip inserted in this issue giving details of how to contribute. We therefore welcome your donation, be it large or small, preferably by Electronic Bank Transfer - it saves the Magazine money!

Transfers should be made to:

Liphook Community Magazine - Account No. 36811260
Sort Code 30-93-94. Please state 'Appeal' as reference.

If this is not convenient, we are most happy to receive your contribution by cash or cheque - please send or take to: The Treasurer, 73 Shepherds Way, Liphook GU30 7HH. Cheques should be made payable to Liphook Community Magazine. There is no need to return the slip with your donation.

Thank You Very Much.

John Anthistle - Hon. Treasurer

The Magazine is always keen to receive articles about local events, local places, items of historical interest, club news, stories or poems. Please email Fay Boyett: fay.lcm@outlook.com

A few guidelines:

- Please include in your article some pictures or photos.
- Please ask for permission from everyone shown in your photos if they are prominent in the picture.
- Please get permission from parents/guardians to include children in photos.
- Only include the first name of any child in a photo or body of your article.
- Please tell the Editor where you obtained your photos, e.g. you took them, the subject of the photo gave them to you or they were taken by a local newspaper etc.
- Please tell the Editor where you obtained any maps e.g. local library, local council, taken from an OS map.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION 2018

The Liphook Community Magazine has taken note of the regulations and can confirm that the information we hold has been fully assessed. We are aware of our obligations to comply and confirm that individuals' data will not be shared outside the Liphook Community Magazine's Committee. A full copy of our Privacy Policy is available on request.

Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the information supplied for inclusion in the magazine is accurate, responsibility cannot be accepted for any omissions or inaccurate information.

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Magazine.

Copies of this magazine can be viewed on the Liphook website as well as being delivered to your door by hand in the usual way.

www.liphook.uk/magazine

The Liphook Community Magazine

Exists to help maintain, encourage and initiate aspects of community life in which individuality, creativeness and mutual fellowship can flourish.

It is produced and distributed by volunteers, free, to every household in the Parish of Bramshott and Liphook. It is financed by advertising and donations from individuals and organisations.

The circulation is 4,500 copies per issue

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* If less than four insertions are booked, the above charges increase by £5 per eighth-page to cover higher set-up costs.

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A PATRON'S EULOGY

Farewell to the Gables

By Richard Gould.
Photo's by
Clinton Blackman.

By now Liphook will be learning to live without one of its older businesses. Sunday, 26th January 2025 saw the final day of The Gables Newsagents. It had been a Newsagents for over 100 years and run for the past 34 years by the engaging husband and wife team of Kash and Babs Patel – aided and abetted down the years by Paper Persons (used to be Boys and Girls) and those that progressed to serving in the shop at weekends.



I moved to “Lippy” in 1992 and, as an occasional commuter in those days, was among the throng of those needing a paper on the train. That was only one aspect of what running the shop came to mean to its proprietors and the community. A range of merchandise that might be useful was available for people popping in. However, it is the Community more than Commerce that may come to realise another aspect of Life In Lippy has ebbed away.

Kash and Babs have that gift to strike up conversation, be it a “good morning”, or an enquiring “how are you” for regulars. After I’d taken early retirement, I entered a different level of clientele. Those that had more time for a chat over whatever topic was either in the news or happening in the locality. Of course there were always the usual suspects such as the weather, dis-satisfaction with the politics of the day, sports in



general, or football in particular. Nothing was ever judgemental or confrontational, merely observational that anyone’s views could be aired. Most of us have learnt that the vagaries of fortune mean our teams will always attract good natured depreciation. Kash always had a way of dealing with the erratic results Chelsea delivered. His love of cricket ensured an all year-round appreciation of his beloved India and our County Season. Babs’ would cover horticulture and cuisine to ensure there was a broader perspective that undoubtedly raised the intellectual stakes.

As for those coming in through the door, depending on the time of day, you would have a cross-section of ages and professions. Most of us will recall seeing the Bohunt afternoon queue too. From the early morning crew to the later mid-morning retirees – it was more than a retail outlet. In modern parlance it was a Social Hub for the Community.

Kash and Babs have raised their family alongside running the business. All of whom have gone on to forge their own careers having served an apprenticeship at The Gables. Rakesh is now a Sales, Operations and HR Director, Tiran is a Customer Success Manager and Alisha plies her trade as a Dental Therapist.

Kash and Babs take this opportunity to thank you for your custom over the past 34 years.

I’ve a feeling that Kash and Babs will miss us as much as we will miss them.

FOOTNOTE

They are going to continue with a Delivery Service. If you have yet to register, please contact them on **01428 731172** or **07436 909360** and add yourselves to the list.

Radford Park

Words and photos by Eva.

Editor's Note: We are delighted to announce that we have recently been fortunate enough to recruit two Junior Writers for the Liphook Community Magazine. We will be including contributions from them as and when school work allows. This is their first article.



On the edge of Liphook, sits the charming hotspot of wildlife that is Radford Park. Spanning 15 hectares, it offers a perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, blending natural beauty with historical intrigue. It has something to offer round every corner, from its stretches of gorgeous green open space perfect for picnics, the River Wey winding its way through strewn with ducks, to the peaceful woodland teeming with life.

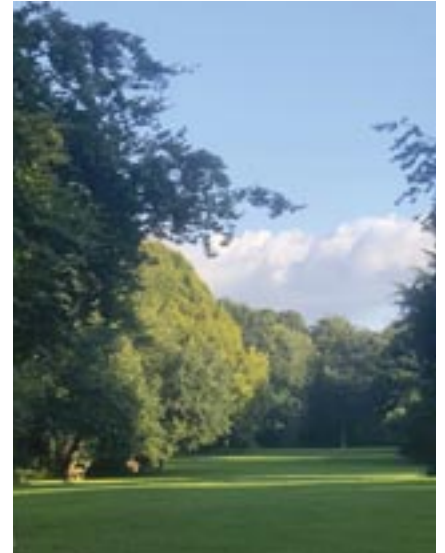


As well as a stunning natural sight, the park is steeped in history, with roots tracing back to its days as part of a large estate. This includes an aqueduct, a historic feature that once supplied water to the estate and nearby areas. Used for transporting water, it highlights the engineering skills of past generations. Though no longer in use,

the aqueduct remains a charming reminder of the park's history, making it both a relaxing and interesting visit. For those further interested in the park's history, The River Wey Trust has a fascinating webpage about it:

<https://www.riverweytrust.org.uk/river/radford.php>

Radford Park is also a favourite spot for community events. Most notably, the June rubber duck race, which is great fun for the whole family! There are prizes for the winners, and even if luck is not on your side, you can still enjoy the food and refreshment stalls that accompany it. Furthermore, the park is a brilliant resource for the children in our community. The



scouts use it often for activities such as raft building and rounders, as well as it being a perfect, fun but educational, school trip for our local Liphook Infants.

Radford Park is an irreplaceable gem of our community, serving everyone in one way or another. It certainly is alive no matter the season, but it is especially exciting to see it bloom into action this spring! Why not take a weekend stroll with family to see the new greens of the trees? Or settle on a bench for some light reading, in one of its stunning spots overlooking the river? This spring is the perfect time to escape a busy life and enjoy the peace of nature in our beautiful Radford Park, so make some time to head down!

Liphook Horticultural Society

2025 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

20th March	Talk – Vegetable Growing Techniques, Ideas and Advice <i>Barry Newman, NVS</i> Church Centre. Talk starts at 7.30pm	19th July	Summer Show Bring & Buy Plant Sale Church Centre 2.00 – 4.00pm. Admission free
5th April	Spring Show Bring & Buy Plant Sale Sale of Fuchsias for Summer Show (Class 51) Church Centre 2.00 – 4.00pm. Admission free	6th September	Autumn Show Bring & Buy Plant Sale Sale of Daffodil bulbs for Spring Show (Class 13) Church Centre 2.00 – 4.00pm. Admission free
11th May	Mammoth Plant Stall Selling Vegetable, Sweet Peas and Flower Seedlings, Plants and Shrubs VE Day Celebrations Village Green	16th October	Talk – For the Love of Roses <i>Gillian Taylor, Perennial</i> Church Centre. Talk starts at 7.30pm
June	Garden Visit – TBA	20th November	AGM & Social Evening with Quiz Church Centre 7.30pm Non-members £5.00
29th June	Summer Party	For further information on LHS please contact Ann Haussauer on: 01428 723045	

SPRING 2025 NEWS

Liphook Heritage Centre

By Jenny Woodsford.

The volunteers in the Heritage Centre remain busy and committed to this valuable village resource. Whilst continuing with their regular duties of cataloguing, sorting and storing and responding to the many requests for information received from far and wide, they have a few new schemes underway.

During the last half of 2024 they had the idea of printing Liphook Christmas Cards, many of which they sold during the Artisan Christmas Market, but also available direct from the Heritage Centre, and they also have a new range of post cards showing various scenes of Liphook and Bramshott.

Following this success the volunteers have started a new venture – namely to produce a series of leaflets on various subjects. The first ones produced are about the Oral History Project and one called “Liphook – What’s In A Name?” which traces the origins of our village name. During my own researches previously, I had come across the name Lippocke but it seems that going back further the name originates from the Old English word Leipe which refers to a Leaping (as in deer) or sporting place. These leaflets are available from the Heritage Centre on

the upper level of the Millennium Hall.

Volunteers are also working on a new display for the mezzanine area which will be available to view by the time you receive this magazine. Prompted by recent interest on the works at Hollycombe House the display will chart the history of this building.

Visitors are always welcome in the Heritage Centre which is upstairs in the Millennium Centre and is open:

Monday - 10.00am to 12.30pm

Wednesday - 10.30am to 2.00pm

Friday - 10.00am to 12.30pm

Saturday mornings when the Artisan Market is open

Email: liphookheritage@gmail.com

Phone: **01428 727275**

SPRING 2025 NEWS

Conford Village Hall



Village Hall Trust and their big cheque!

Dave Griffin, Chairman of the Village Hall Trust writes: “Thanks to a generous donation of £8,800 from the National Lottery Community Fund, Conford Village Hall Trust has successfully replaced the old heating system in the Village Hall. The new air conditioning-based heating system was installed in December 2024 and will be fully operational by the beginning of 2025, once the electrical supply is connected. With the help of the National Lottery, users of the Hall can look forward to a warm and cosy hall during the winter and a cool one during the summer!

In addition, the Conford Village Hall Trust have received a generous £3,120 from the EHDC Councillor Community Grant

Scheme and the Hampshire County Councillor’s Funding Scheme. This funding will be used to repair and repaint the exterior woodwork of the hall, which has deteriorated more quickly than expected. The Committee would like to express their gratitude to Cllrs. Glass, Moulard and Sear from EHDC, as well as Cllr. Curnow-Ford from HCC, for their generous support in making this possible.”

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Future Conford Village Hall events include an “a capella” concert of sea shanties performed by the popular Kingspond Shantymen on Saturday 15th March 2025 at 7.30pm.

Please contact Penni Smith for ticket sales:

pward573@btinternet.com

or **07986 710129**.

Saturday 17 May - Quiz Night with supper at Conford Village Hall. If you are interested in this event, please contact Penni Smith, as above, for details.

Friday 20 June - Live Theatre from the Rude Mechanicals on the Village Green (tickets direct from Rude Mechanicals website: <https://www.therudes.co.uk/>)

Friday 18 July - 5.30pm onwards, Pop-up Pizza and Beer (pre-booking and pre-payment for pizza required through Penni Smith: **pward573@btinternet.com** or **07986 710129**).

Please note, admission to all our events is by pre-paid ticket due to space restrictions.



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ENRICHING, EMPOWERING AND IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH MARTIAL ARTS

The Millenium Centre

By Laura Russell.

The LMC is a busy and vibrant Community Centre offering a range of rooms suitable for business meetings, fitness/dance classes, private parties and shows/productions.

CALLING ALL MUMMIES (OR DADDIES!)

Are you looking for things to do with your toddlers/ pre-schoolers? We have a range of classes/groups available:

Tuesdays 1:45pm – Children's yoga with Julie

Children's Yoga with Julie helps children learn how to move their body with control, balance and coordinated breathing. Not only will this help develop children's gross motor skills, it also teaches them tools to support their mental health. Julie also runs after school and weekend sessions for school aged children.

Wednesdays from 9:45am onwards - The Mumma's Village

A range of sessions available including baby massage, sensory song and stretch and tiddlers and toddlers – imaginative adventure play with puppets and props.

Thursdays 9:30-11:30am – Tots & Tinies

Trinity Church run this lovely playgroup for 0-5s and their parents/carers. Just £2 per family, no booking required.

More information on these groups can be found on our website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday April 4th –

An evening of Clairvoyance with Lesley Carver

Lesley is a sought-after international psychic medium; based in Hants, with a reputation for delivering messages and comfort from spirit. Through her development over the years, she has developed a style of psychic mediumship that is borne out of a desire to help and comfort people.

Lesley was brought up in a Church of England family and was therefore not made aware of the spirit world until much later in life. That said, she did believe certain experiences she had which would have been explained as dreams and the like, were spiritual encounters. She was drawn to the study of Tarot cards and Psychic development around 18 years ago after a wonderful reading she had received from a medium, during that Reading something happened in that Reading to her and she was told that she was very Psychic.

Lesley has now been working as a Psychic Medium for 15 years and continues to meet lovely people and help them to get closure and move on with their lives. Whether the reading is done on a pure Psychic level (including clairvoyance) or medium level, she feels very privileged to be a small part of this process and used as a channel for these messages which give guidance and comfort to clients.



In this live event, she delivers messages to the audience from those who have passed.

Friday June 6th – The 80's Mixtape

Get ready to take a nostalgic journey through the most iconic music of the 1980s with the ultimate 80's Tribute band.

From pop hits and power ballads to rock anthems, The 80's Mixtape will have you singing and dancing along to the biggest tracks of the decade. Relive the sound that defined a generation as the music of the 80's comes alive on stage.

So dust off your leg warmers, grab your denim jacket and hairspray, and travel back to a time before TikTok – when the dance floor was the only place to show off your moves! Whether you grew up in the 80's or just can't get enough of the era's legendary sound, The 80's Mixtape is the show you don't want to miss.



Featuring the hits of: Madonna, Spandau Ballet, Duran Duran, Tears For Fears, Phil Collins, Kate Bush, Irene Cara, Huey Lewis & The News, Kenny Loggins, Paul Simon, Blondie, A-Ha, Kim Wilde, The Human League, Bon Jovi, Journey, Cyndi Lauper, Starship, Heart, Nik Kershaw, Chaka Khan, Bonnie Tyler, and many more!

Sunday 11th May VE Day Celebrations

Lots of family fun to be had on The Village Green from 12.00pm - 4.00pm. We have live entertainment from War time singer Stephanie Bell – also being joined on stage by Liss Junior School Choir; The Liss Brass Band; David Major – Magician and Punch and Judy shows. Liphook Scouts and Guides will be on hand to help with refreshments from tea and cake to Burgers on the BBQ. There will also be a variety of stalls and activities to take part in.

If you are interested in having a stall, please contact us at: events@bramshottandliphook-pc.gov.uk

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

It takes a great deal of organisation and planning beforehand and on the day to run this event. If you can help out, please contact the office on **01428 723889**.

ALSO ON AT THE LMC

Monthly Coffee Mornings

On the first Monday of each month (March 3rd, April 7th, May 12th and June 2nd) is our Coffee Mornings.

Join us for a coffee and chat (and a biscuit too!) in The Canada Room from 11.00am – 12.00pm. Donations made for refreshments.

Vintage Bentley –

Bentley motor cars are the stuff of legend. Between the wars they reigned supreme and dominated the Le Mans 24-hour endurance race, winning it five times. Any British school-boy of a certain age still gets dewy eyed when the name W.O. Bentley is mentioned. He was an engineer and motor vehicle visionary way ahead of his time. The cars were so well designed that they are still racing now, over 100 years after they were built. But like any thoroughbred, they need constant care and attention to keep them in their prime. Enter Vintage Bentley based at Hill Brow, a specialist vintage car garage dedicated to preserving the marque into the future. Their founder, William Medcalf took time out of his busy schedule to show me around.



The workshop facilities at Hill Brow.

“It all started when I was a toddler. My father rebuilt a vintage Bentley on the kitchen table in North London and at the age of five, he took the whole family on a 28,000-mile road trip around and across the USA for nine months. I followed in his footsteps, expanding the business and some thirty years later, here we are in Hill Brow.” Has it always been Bentleys? “Absolutely,” says William, “they are the quintessential vintage British motor car and so beautifully put together. I could not work on anything else.”

Relocating to West Sussex in 2011, the site was chosen for its easy access to race circuits (Goodwood and Brooklands) and good road, rail, airport and shipping links. Just as well as the Vintage Bentley business is truly worldwide. “We prepare and send cars to anywhere on the globe, from Mongolia to Portugal, to the USA and China. You need a Bentley to race? We will be there!” he confirms.

The business now comprises of four key elements; sales and procurement, parts manufacture and supply, race and rally preparation for the cars and lifestyle events themselves. “All are integral to one another and all are controlled from here at The Works. There is never a dull moment.”

The sales element operates globally and Vintage Bentley are constantly in touch with buyers and sellers in every corner of the world. The team at Vintage Bentley have curated a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire five of the most historically significant vintage Bentleys (see picture) in just one sale at a price of circa £17m. “But not all our clients operate at this level; we also cater for true enthusiasts who are by no means wealthy, just passionate petrol heads!”

But how do owners keep their cars running and competitive given their age? “It’s quite simple,” says William, “we have every conceivable part for any vehicle here on the shelves – over

55,000 of them. And if we haven’t got it, we can make it. We have CAD drawings of every nut, bolt, engine and gearbox and can fabricate anything. These are not ‘refurbished’ parts, but brand new. We could in theory build a whole new car from scratch although we would never do that as the lineage of these vehicles is part of the joy of ownership. And we know how to fit the parts too; our team of superb mechanics are second to none and have worked on hundreds of Bentleys over the years in our purpose-built workshops (see picture). A full ‘nut and bolt’ refurbishment of a vintage Bentley can take over 2,500 labour hours which is a whole lot of love. A full race preparation can be quicker and as we see the same cars time and time again, we know them inside out. As an example, in

2024 we prepped and shipped twelve out of the twenty-five Bentleys that were racing on the Algarve Circuit in Portimão, Portugal (see picture). And then we bring them back and start again. It’s crazy!”

The workforce at Hill Brow comprises nearly thirty with the majority being hands-on engineers plus the essential ‘back office’ team. Proud of their Apprenticeship programme, Vintage Bentley currently have five apprentices who once fully trained, will become part of the permanent team. “We recruit locally where we can and many of the team live in Liphook. Good people are hard to find so ensuring we look after them is vital,” says William.

But looking to the future does not just include planning for the vital skills needed; just as important is the environmental impact of fossil-fuelled motor vehicles. Again, Vintage Bentley are thinking ahead and tackling the existential threat of climate change. “At first sight you might think that old jalopies like these would be gas-guzzling monstrosities from another age,” explains William; “not a bit of it. We have developed methods by which our cars can run on a fully synthetic fuel that does not

“Viscera et Gloria”

By Simon Catford. Photos courtesy of Vintage Bentley.



The specially curated collection of Bentleys for sale.

come from oil. It may be expensive but the fuel we use is way beyond carbon-neutral as it uses carbon that is already in the

Some of the Vintage Bentley prepared cars at the Algarve Circuit, Portugal in 2024



atmosphere rather than that locked up in oil. With the minimum of adjustment, the engines run just as well as with leaded fuel. In fact, any internal combustion engine in the world could run on this fuel if only sufficient quantities were manufactured. But the political will across the globe is for electric powered vehicles so the investment for producing this fuel at scale is just not there – yet! But all our lovely vehicles can run on it”

And Vintage Bentley have gone even further. “We have built a ‘carbon-calculator’ for the entire Vintage Bentley business – a life-cycle analysis if you will. We assess the embedded carbon in everything we do, manufacture, refurbishment, fuel, travel - both globally and to and from work - and have built a carbon map. Don’t forget that re-using a 100-year-old motor car is the ultimate in ‘recycling’. How many new cars would you have bought over that century? These beauties will last and last. As a consequence of this work, we are proud to record that the majority carbon ratio for our business is 4:1 – offsetting four times the amount of carbon than we use. And we would be happy to demonstrate it.” Impressive stuff – for more details of their sustainability programme and indeed the whole Vintage Bentley business, visit their website at: www.vintagebentley.com

And for an even closer look at this remarkable operation, workshop tours are available. Book online and help support Vintage Bentley’s partnered charity of the year at the same time; for 2025 it is the MS Society.

This article gives only a flavour of what goes on behind the showroom window at Hill Brow – there is so much more to discover. But what of their moto ‘Viscera et Gloria’? Simply put – Guts and Glory! W.O Bentley – we salute you!

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Market Dates

Covered by this issue - March 8th, April 12th & May 10th

CHIROPODIST (PODIATRIST)

Regular visits to Liphook and surrounding areas

Patrick A. Brown MBChA MSSCh

Tel: 01730 821153

Ryonen, Nyewood, Petersfield, Hants GU31 5JA

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LIPHOOK METHODIST CHURCH Christmas Tree Festival

By Sue Calvert.
Pictures by
Brian Simmons.

Each year, in early December, we hold a Christmas sale. Last year we decided to enhance it with a Christmas tree festival. We wanted to involve church members, church and hall users and encourage other members of the community to join us to publicise their activities.

The ideas started flowing and we had over 40 trees, in various media, to display! Some beautiful trees decorated to reflect the creators' interest – the Craft Group, Love to Sing Choir, The MAD Company, the Flower Club. Some representing charities – The Food Bank, Water Aid, Toilet Twinning and Mind. Some from local Brownie packs and Nurseries. The largest group by far were the Christmas tree puns: Nativi - tree, Chemis - tree, Poet - tree, Tea - tree and many more and the star of the show defying gravi - tree!

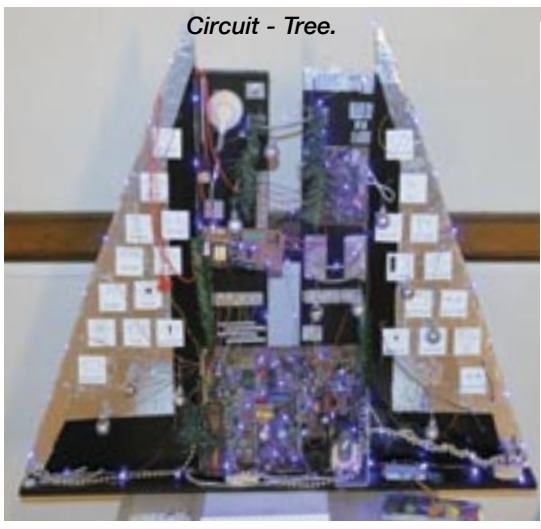
I cannot name them all but we were so pleased with the result – beautiful, funny and a real demonstration of villagers' creativity.

Any donations given were in aid of the Liphook Food Bank and we were very pleased to pass on £200.

It fell on a very bad weekend for weather but we were delighted with the numbers who attended. So our thanks go to all the visitors, contributors, old and young, for their hard work and especially Hazel Simmons for having the idea in the first place and creating so many of the wonderful trees on display.

If you didn't visit you missed a treat, ask anyone who came. So, look out for another display next year, perhaps not trees – there are ideas brewing!

To see the exciting trees decorated by children please turn to the last page in the magazine.



Circuit - Tree.



Pan - Tree by Liphook Food Bank.



Lavat - Tree.



Mental Health Tree.



Chemis - Tree.



The Hobbie Group Tree.

Photos continued on
inside back cover.

A JEWEL ON OUR DOORSTEP

Hollycombe Home Farm

By Gabrielle Pike.
Photos by
Alex Merz.



Edd Jenner is the 4th generation to run the family business at Hollycombe Home Farm on the border of Liphook and Milland.

He says: "Since my family has been farming it has always been a mixed farm with cereal crops and livestock including cattle, pigs and sheep. For the last 20 years my dad only had sheep but since taking it on, I have reintroduced a small herd of native



breed Sussex and Belted Galloway cattle to graze some of the rougher areas of the farm. I am keen to raise the best beef for our popular meat boxes and am planning to crossbreed the two. We offer nose to tail boxes, butchered to order".

"In addition to the farming we have rejuvenated a barn to host farm feasts, whereby guests come to enjoy a four-course feasting menu using produce from our farm, cooked over open fires, served on long tables overlooking the pastures where your food came from. From delicious organic veg to slow grown 100 per cent grass fed beef and lamb, the produce from our farm always takes centre stage. We wanted to create an immersive

culinary experience, brought to life by our incredible chef, Charlie Butcher".



"Food is at the heart and soul of everything we do at Hollycombe with the produce from our fields, gardens and orchard leading the seasonal menus we have become known for. Our head chef Charlie will work with you to turn our ingredients into a delectable feast for your event, cooked in the open kitchen over a wood fire. Your guests will be able to enjoy the spectacle as well as all of Charlie's culinary delights".

"Our beautiful farm boasts a variety of spaces to be enjoyed by couples on their wedding day from the enchanting walled garden, perfect for an intimate ceremony surrounded by loved ones, to the Rusty Barn, a lovingly restored Dutch barn, the ideal setting to host an unforgettable wedding feast and reception. Each year we offer the opportunity to a small number of couples to have their special day at the farm. This approach allows them to enjoy a highly personal experience and we are now taking bookings for 2026".





“The barn provides a distinctive backdrop for any event. Whether you're planning a cosy feast, engaging workshops, or a night of live music, it is a canvas ready to be transformed”.

“We have added hosting other events including two mountain bike races every year, and following last year’s success, this year we will be doing two Open Days in May and August, on afternoons where we open the farm up for the local community to come and enjoy a walk, explore the produce, listen to music have a drink and have something to eat”.

“We also coppice our chestnut woodlands and supply small bales of hay for horses locally and I am delighted to have attracted other businesses to the farm”.

Edd has partnerships with veg growers Notoora and Ed’s Veg with two market gardens on the farm. In addition, Phoebe Tomlins of Humming Bird Floral Designs, is now located in the walled garden.



To hear more about event dates, sign up for newsletters or to buy tickets for events visit www.hollycombehomefarm.com or follow on social media @hollycombehomefarm

Dates for 2025

Saturday 17th May
 Farm Open Day Sunday 25 May
 Saturday 14th June
 Saturday 12th July
 Saturday 16th August
 Farm Open Day Sunday 24 August
 Saturday 20th September
 Saturday 11th October

After the success of the first farm open day last year, two will be held this year, both on bank holiday Sundays.

These are free entry and a great opportunity to come experience the farm, have a walk, grab a drink and enjoy various delicious food options from Earth-To-Oven as well as meet Chef Charlie Butcher. There will also be the chance to pick your own flowers, join a walking tour and a paddock for kids to run around and play in.

Tickets are now live on the website:
www.hollycombehomefarm.com

The Cabin

Cabin Photos by Kyle Stirling.

There is also a place of calm and simplicity at Hollycombe Home Farm. Designed with the intention of using materials from the land, The Cabin is integrated into the landscape with ease whilst offering quiet luxury and comfort.

It features a wood burner, as well as an outside kitchen and bath tub and helps to take life back to basics.



Available to book through Airbnb or directly via info@hollycombehomefarm.com. The Cabin can be booked as a separate stay or as part of a weekend after attending one of the farm's feasts or events.

When booking a private event or wedding at Hollycombe Home Farm it will be included as part of the package.



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Carnival Quiz Night 2024

By Gabrielle Pike. Pictures by Harry Pye.

The annual Carnival Quiz night, which was held last November, raised around £1,000 towards funds for staging the 2025 Liphook Carnival.

The fun filled evening had 15 teams competing and was held at the Church Centre, organised by the quiz sub group, led by Neil White of White's Joinery.

Proud winners were 'The Bird Brains' who just pipped 'The MAD 6' to the winning position while 'The Quiz Quackers' were awarded the wooden spoon prize for coming last.



Winners (Bird Brains).



Wooden Spoon.

Tash Thomas was the Quiz Master and compere for the evening, providing great continuity from the Liphook Carnival, after his debut as commentator in the Square.

Lesley Holland provided a superb home-made menu of Chicken and Vegetable Curry or Chicken Casserole, served with Basmati Rice, Poppadoms, Naan bread, cucumber yoghurt and her very own sweet chilli jelly chutney. This was followed by sticky toffee pudding with toffee sauce and pouring cream.

The organisers want to thank their sponsor, Morgan's of Petersfield, for providing the chicken thighs, as well as Jason Kemp, landlord of The Links Tavern, for his support by providing drinks and a raffle prize, and businesses and individuals who donated prizes for the raffle.

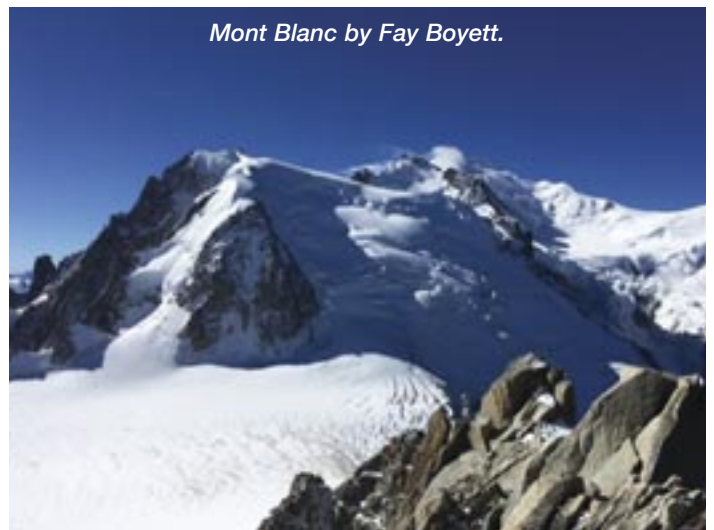
A While Away (Val d'Isere)

By Richard Gould.

Now that you're out there
And have had time to take in the air
You'll have had time to think
For the problems to recede and shrink
Back into manageable proportions
Free from temper, prejudice and distortion

Are the mountains at dawn still the same,
Their majesty dusted by a fall of snow ?
Do you wake and brush a hand through your hair
Or huddle in the bedding, deep in contemplation ?
Can you believe and feel that it's great to be alive
In spite of being far from free of care ?

Tie that red ribbon, go and join the day
Outside there's the sound and sight of movement
Of blades over snow and blurs of colour at speed
The chill air claims your breath
During both speech and laughter
Beneath the skies of blue and enslaved cloud



Mont Blanc by Fay Boyett.

At the day's end, in the firelight glow
Its flickering patterns dance upon your eyes
Its invisible, yet warm, hands reach out
To touch and hold you be it only for
A moment, its spell of contentment
Reassuring, and soothing to you

It may only be a while away
And maybe you crave for longer
But if it's helped to make some sense
Or reason then it's served its purpose
It may only be a while away
To bring some clarity for you

The Churches of Liphook

Welcome to Liphook Churches' Easter Services 2025

Details are correct at time of going to press, but please check before attending.

TRINITY CHURCH

18th April - Good Friday Service

10.30am (a joint service with St Peters IPC, Liss held at their building in Liss)

20th April - Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

10.30am followed by

Family Service

11.00am (held at Liphook Infant School)

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

13th April - Palm Sunday

9:30am Joint service at St Mary's Bramshott

18th April - Good Friday

We're holding a "Good Friday Reflection"

12.00pm at St Mary's Bramshott

20th April - Easter Day

Traditional Communion

8.00am at St Mary's Bramshott

Family Communion and Easter Egg Hunt

9.30am at St Mary's Bramshott

Family Communion and Easter Egg Hunt

10.45am at the Church Centre

METHODIST

18th April - Good Friday

10.00am

20th April - Easter Day

10.00am

CATHOLIC CHURCH

For details of Holy Week and Easter services please visit the parish website:

<http://liphookcatholic.uk>

Methodist Church

I am writing this on the day when I have been shocked to hear about the death of a younger former colleague. I had not heard from her for a while, and did not know she had cancer. She died in the Royal Surrey, and if I had known she was in there, I could have visited. I feel numb, disorientated.

You do not have to live to a great age to find yourself navigating such tragedies. Some reject belief in God as a result. But stopping believing in God doesn't solve anything. That would mean that we are only an accidental collision of atoms, and if so, then we can no longer speak meaningfully about love, justice, purpose, and free will in life.

The Christian message is not about a God who waves magic wands. One friend who used to ring me up when passing through dark periods of her life always used to say, 'I bet you're right out of magic wands, aren't you?' And I would reply, 'Yes, the shop has sold out of them again.'


Certainly, God does work occasional miracles, but they are by definition not the norm, because they require the suspension of the laws of nature, which are to the Christian a description of God's usual habits in upholding the universe. And God knows we

ordinarily depend on the predictability of those laws, so he will not change his habits too often.

Our message certainly is one of great joy at Easter – but only after passing through the bleakness of Good Friday. For when Jesus was executed, it was the greatest injustice the world has ever seen. Yet God used even that for good.

Why don't you come and explore that journey with the Christian churches in Liphook? Let us walk together in the shadows, even 'the valley of the shadow of death', as the Bible puts it, until we come to the new light of dawn on Easter Day. At the Methodist church on London Road, you can join us at 10 am on Good Friday, and at the same time on Easter Day.

Reverend Dave Faulkner


The Methodist Church
Sunday Worship at 10am
www.liphookmethodist.org

Church of England

What have you done with all my stuff? It's a question one of our kids could ask, or maybe a flat mate after a big argument! But what about Jesus! Curiously I know someone who has very conversational prayer times with God! It's a bit of a gift really. He just imagines he's hanging out with Jesus, it could be anywhere, in his study, or on holiday! And they have conversations. Is he just the victim of an overactive imagination? Well, if he is – I'd quite like to know what he's on – because the conversations he has can be really profound.

Take this question for example: "What have you done with all my stuff?" It wasn't so much the question – it was the way it was asked. For once – Jesus was really angry and very animated. He was striding about and my friend Graham kept on saying – "what do you mean all your stuff?" And then he would just ask again "What have you done with it?". It was only after the 3rd or 4th round that Jesus let him off the hook. He said this, he said "all the stuff that belongs to me. All the stuff in your life that you're sad about, or regret, all your worries, all your pain, all your sin, all your

shame what have you done with it? It cost me everything and I want it back...".

That's what I mean about Graham's gift. You see I couldn't think that one up, but it's true. It's what the cross is all about, it's what Easter is all about. Jesus paid for all our stuff. It cost him everything and he wants us to give it to him and all we have to do is put it into a great big cardboard box in our heads and imagine handing it over. This can be life changing.

Reverend Valentine Inglis-Jones


St Mary's Bramshott
Church Centre Liphook

Sunday worship at St Mary's, Bramshott at 9.30am
Sunday worship at Church Centre, Liphook at 10.45am

www.liphookchurch.co.uk

Trinity Church

The story of Christmas is for most of us, a very comfortable story. It tells us of a wonderful baby. It speaks of life and hope. The story can be captured easily in a comfortable and heartwarming scene. It is a time of presents and excitement, especially for children.

But Easter is different. It is not as easy to speak to children about. Some children might well (understandably) find it at points quite upsetting. It is a story of apparent injustice and betrayal. It is a narrative with a grizzly and gruesome death at its centre. It seems like a story of loss and defeat on Good Friday until the story is turned on its head amidst the resurrection joy of Easter Sunday.

Amidst any discomfort we might have with the Easter story, it could be easy to think, 'Could we just do without Easter?' Maybe you think like that. But two verses in Matthew's gospel help us see that in fact Christmas is incomplete without Easter.

When Joseph receives an angelic vision in his dreams he is told of Mary, 'she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21 ESV). But the Christmas narrative leaves us hanging - how will this be achieved?

Well at Easter we get our answer as Jesus tells us. He says "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28 ESV). In the Easter story we see the culmination of what Christmas promises - Jesus saving his people by dying for them on the cross. And this salvation is available for all who trust in Jesus. If you want to find out more please do join us any Sunday or at one of our Easter services.

Pastor Sean Clokey



trinitychurch
Sunday worship at Liphook Infant School
Trinity Kids - 9.45am Trinity Training - 9.45am
Morning Service - 11.00am Evening Service - 5.30pm
www.trinitychurch.tc

Catholic Church

2025 is a Jubilee year in the Catholic Church. From the year 1300 every 50th year, and since 1450 every 25th year, is celebrated as a Holy Year for the forgiveness of sins and for reconciliation and justice for all. At each of the four great Papal Basilicas in Rome a special door is unblocked for the duration of the Jubilee and pilgrims from around the world travel to Rome to pass through one of these Holy Doors to gain a special spiritual blessing. For those unable to travel to Rome, the Bishop of every diocese across the world can nominate one or more churches as a place of pilgrimage to receive the same benefits. I have just returned from my own Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome with brother priests from the UK, the USA and Australia.

Pilgrimage is an important part of many of the major religions and in recent times has become very popular with people of no particular faith background. The famous Camino de Santiago in Spain has seen its busiest year ever and the British Pilgrimage Trust (<https://www.britishpilgrimage.org>) estimate that 8 million Britons are considering a pilgrimage this year. What is it about pilgrimage that makes it so attractive to people?

At its best a pilgrimage is a transformational journey. You leave your everyday life behind for a while and head for somewhere new and often somewhere with a particular significance. You may have the opportunity to interact with people you would not otherwise meet or to relate in a new way to friends and companions. It is best to travel light - not to carry too many expectations but allow your journey to evolve and develop as you go. The British Pilgrimage Trust give this advice for giving a purpose to a pilgrimage. 'Reflect on something in your life. Maybe you are seeking clarity on a question or decision you may have. Maybe you are at a significant life transition. Or maybe you are simply wishing to be present in the moment. This intention travels with you, even if you do not consciously think about it every step of the way.'

Father Simon Chinery



LiphookCatholic.uk
Church of the Immaculate Conception
Sunday Worship at 11.00am
www.grayshottcatholic.uk/mass-schedule

Windfarm Fever

*By John Byrne.
Artwork by Jason Beton.*



The new National Anthem is the sound of spinning blades
A joyous whirring serenade as unclean power fades
With turbines turning everywhere there's not much space to spare
Be careful where you park your car there'll be a windfarm there
In the not too distant future this might be the only way
Free energy could just become the order of the day!
A turbine churns at Waterloo there's one at Berkeley Square
At Charing Cross at Limehouse Reach at Smithfield's Cloth Fair
But this is not a London thing they've built them far and wide
In Scottish glens in Cornish coves in scenic countryside
Across the hills of Wales great blades turn against the sky
On mighty Snowdon's pinnacle to power its railway
Britain hums incessantly to the drone of massive blades
Far reaching green initiatives put coal power in the shade

Green energy works just as well, your blender will still blend
Your smart phone will be just as smart its messages to send
At Manchester at Winchester at Liphook and at Deal
There's something quite tremendous and yet something quite surreal
Lord Nelson takes a mere backseat in tense Trafalgar Square
Now a good few hundred megawatts are generated there
On windy days on quiet days it's a case of quick quick slow
But better pristine air to breathe than the filth we used to know
Is this the best thing since sliced bread? Only time will tell
Rescued in the nick of time from roasting climate hell
Mankind now makes good use of the gales it created
While praying things turn out to be far less severe than stated
The benefits are many so think twice before you scoff
Our sea levels are dropping cos the country's taking off!

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Liphook in Bloom



By Barbara Miller.
Photos by Liphook in Bloom.

I LIKE SUNFLOWERS

The sight of sunflowers on a summer's morning cannot help but make me smile. There is something uplifting and inspirational about this flower - the *Helianthus annuus* - which will brighten up any space, has inspired artists, writers and musicians and has a variety of uses.



Measuring a sunflower.

The flowers first originated around 1000 BC in the Americas and were cultivated for food, with the seeds being crushed into flour for bread. Then they discovered how to extract the oil which could be used not only for cooking but for their skin and hair. The sunflower stalk would often be used as a building material. In the 16th century sunflower seeds were brought to Europe and became a widespread cooking ingredient. Today over half of worldwide seed production comes from Eastern Europe.

Across the world the sunflower has become symbolic of happiness, admiration, optimism, loyalty and devotion, strength and resilience.



An unusual sunflower.

Vincent Van Gogh has become synonymous with sunflowers. In his paintings, sunflowers often represent the beauty and resilience of nature. Similarly, in literature the sunflower is often used as a metaphor for life and the desire for happiness and success, no more so than in the poem "Ah! Sunflower" by William Blake. In recent years sunflowers have made it onto the music scene in songs by Post Malone and Neil Diamond.

The sunflower has become one of the nation's best loved flowers. They are easy and fun to grow. Besides the iconic yellow sunflowers there are some varieties with red, green and even white flowers. There are tall ones and dwarf ones, single and multi-headed varieties. They like to grow in fertile soil in a sunny position and will bloom from summer to autumn. Depending on the variety they will take 11-18 weeks to flower from seed. Sunflowers need plenty of water and of course the tall varieties need staking, so they don't get blown over!

According to the Guinness Book of Records, the tallest sunflower recorded was in Germany in 2014 where one grew to 9.17m! In 2023 the heaviest seed head was recorded in the UK at 6.44kg.

Last year the tallest sunflower grown in Liphook and entered into our competition measured 3.6m and was grown by Thomas Simmons in his grandparent's garden. Peter Dennis grew an amazing sunflower with 20 blooms and the most unusual sunflower was small, multiheaded and fluffy! Prizes were given to each of the categories including best display in pots.

Now is the time to get some seeds. Get ahead by planting them in small pots indoors. Cover each pot with a clear plastic bag and



Photo courtesy of Pixabay.

keep them in a warm place. When the seedlings start to emerge remove the plastic bag but continue to keep them indoors until there is no risk of frost. Then plant them directly into the garden or into containers.

If you don't have the space to grow from seed at home, you will be able to get a seedling at the Liphook in Bloom stall at the VE Day Summer Fair on the Millennium Green on May 11th.

This year there will be three categories in the competition: the tallest sunflower, the sunflower with the most blooms and the best collection of sunflowers in a pot or garden.

As your sunflowers grow, please send photos to: liphookinbloom@gmail.com and we will add them to our website. The closing date for the competition is Sunday 17th August with judging soon afterwards.

Perhaps 2025 will be your prize-winning year!



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A Note About Liphook u3a

Some more words about Liphook u3a illustrating the range and variety of groups available to members. There are over forty groups in our branch, all managed by the members themselves. We have a monthly meeting with a speaker held in the Millennium Centre on the first Monday of each month starting at 2.00pm. There is a charge of £3 for members and £4 for visitors which includes hearing the presentation followed by tea and coffee and the opportunity to mingle with members and read the boards which list the groups available. There is sure to be something to tempt visitors to try a new interest or pick up on an old hobby. All are welcome - come and see for yourselves!

HISTORY GROUP

In the Autumn edition of the Community Magazine, Liphook U3a was featured with the Local History Group being highlighted. We also have another History Group which meets on every third Wednesday of the month at the Millennium Hall.

Formed in 2013, we have explored History from the Roman occupation of England and carrying on through the passage of time. Now we have reached the Victorian era and propose to discuss subjects up to the outbreak of war in 1939. More recently we have covered subjects from the world stage.

We currently have about 25 members in the group and take it in turns to deliver presentations, usually three separate topics, at each meeting. These might take the form of a particular event, biographies, conflicts and developments throughout the ages. Two presentations normally last for 30 to 40 minutes and we have a section on brief lives to take up to a quarter of an hour to take us up the end of each session. In addition, we have the use of a projector to accompany illustrations for our talks. There is time for questions and refreshments at the halfway stage of the morning.

Examples of recent presentations include the Irish Famine, the Unification of Italy, the Boxer Rebellion and the Indian Mutiny. Lives covered have included William Cobbett, Wilkie Collins, Mrs Beaton and Edward Lear to name but a few and we are fortunate to have members in our group who have different interests such as in military history, transport, the sciences, poets, inventors and authors.



Rupert Town-Jones.

The current leader of the History Group is Rupert Town-Jones who may be contacted at: history1@liphooku3a.org He will be very pleased to provide further information about the meetings which uncover so much detail from our rich past.

TRIPS OUT GROUP

This group is efficiently managed by a committee of u3a members. They deliver interesting visits to properties and gardens over a wide area in the South East. Transport is by coach which is a boon when the destination is in London or along busy roads.

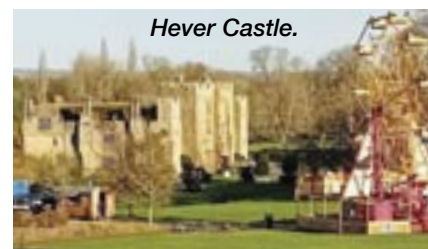
Some recent highlights have been a visit to The Great Stink which was a voyage of discovery through some of the often ornate tunnels built by talented engineers to deal with the heavy pollution in Victorian London.



Hever Castle.

More recently was a visit to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn which was bedecked in Christmas finery. This visit included lunch which was very good and there was a convivial atmosphere.

Arrangements for the day vary but inevitably a coachload of happy u3a members returns to Liphook and Whitehill having enjoyed an interesting Trip Out.



Hever Castle.

These are examples of some of the people who run Liphook u3a's groups, all of whom give their time to ensure that we have a lively and dynamic set up available to all.

Wind

By Angela Glass.

For those of us with mobile phones,
And weather apps, and clever drones,
And endless TV red alerts
About approaching Big Storm Bert,
We are now all quite well-aware,
There'll be some wind to ruffle hair,
Tomorrow, and the next day too,
And for a week, or maybe two.

So, as we pinpoint its arrival
(And to ensure our own survival),
We lower the outside swinging light,
And find the candles, with a fight,
We stock up on the toilet paper,
Torches, soup, oh what a caper,
And litres, litres of bottled water,
Just because we're told we oughta!

And so, to bed, but not much sleep,
For every little howl and peep
Of wind, through every nook and cranny,
Tells us that we've been quite canny,
And just perhaps that Big Storm Bert,
Is, in fact, a little squirt!
We fall into a peaceful slumber,
As head just misses bedside tumbler.

As daylight dawns, there's quite a shindy
And yes, it still is pretty windy,
But what was once an amber warning
Has turned into a yellow morning.
So, hooray for the met-men's apps,
The weather girls, and all the maps.
For those of us from days of yore,
I'm not sure how we coped before!

NEWS FROM THE FEDERATION OF Liphook Infant & Junior School



At the Federation of Liphook Infant and Liphook C of E Junior schools, the children have had a wide range of experiences and learning opportunities since the last publication. Every year group is particularly focusing on developing the children's speaking and communication skills and we are really seeing the impact of this work, particularly with many of our less confident children taking more active roles in group and whole class discussions. Our mantra is 'Every voice matters. Every voice heard.' and this has definitely been the case across the Federation over the past term.



Year R. The children in Year R have been listening to, learning and retelling Traditional Tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They have enjoyed using puppets and small world figures

and acting using costumes and masks in our outdoor theatre to do this with their friends. They have also explored how to make porridge for the three bears so that it was 'just right'!



In **Year 1**, the children have been using their speaking and listening skills to help them to explain their understanding in a range of subjects. In maths, the children regularly show and explain their thinking using resources such as counters and cubes. Group discussions have also helped them – for example, to identify materials used to make objects in the world around them.

In **Year 2**, the children have enjoyed the art unit linked to the topic. They have learned a range of artistic techniques, including collage and lino-printing as well as having studied 'The Great Wave' by Hokusai. As part of this journey, the children have explored ways to represent waves using a range of shapes, lines and colour. Their final art pieces were unique and individual to each of them and they were rightfully, very proud when explaining the reasons behind their artistic decisions to their learning partners.



Year 3. The children embarked on an exciting journey to explore the core of our planet. They have learned about the formation of the Earth and the crucial role natural disasters play in shaping the world we live in. They've also discovered the importance of art in depicting natural disasters throughout history. Through a blend of drawing, painting, printing, and collage, they have crafted their own distinctive representations of volcanoes.



Year 4. The children spent time exploring the significance of light, delving into various festivals of light celebrated globally throughout the year. This learning journey transitioned into understanding the crucial role electricity plays in our daily lives. They engaged in hands-on activities, learning to construct their own electrical circuits. This concluded in the exciting project of designing and creating their very own functional lamps out of recycled materials. Their enthusiasm and creativity were truly remarkable!



Year 5. The children in year 5 had an exciting time during their trip to The Tower of London, which greatly enriched their study of Crime and Punishment. This led their learning onto their Design and Technology project, where they were tasked with

designing and constructing wooden bridge structures capable of supporting a 10 kg weight without breaking. They thoroughly enjoyed testing these out in class. Most of the bridges were a tremendous success!



Year 6. The children had a great time exploring the history of fairgrounds, with a special focus on Hollycombe Steam Fair in Liphook. In English, they crafted a mystery story set in an abandoned fairground, impressing their teachers with their exceptional vocabulary. This project then inspired them to

design and build their own moving fairground rides, using a variety of tools and equipment such as pulleys, gears, and electrical systems. They finished their rides by using their computer coding skills to control the moveable rides. Parents were amazed when the rides were showcased at the conclusion of the unit.



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BRAMSHOTT OPEN GARDENS 2024

The Beneficiaries

By Gabrielle Pike. Photos by the BOG committee.

Following a hugely successful Bramshott Open Gardens 2024, the committee had the hard task of deciding where the money should go, with the focus primarily on local projects that might otherwise struggle to get funding.

They received a compelling application from the Liphook Food Bank, who have an ambitious Cookery School project underway. The aim is to help families they support learn new skills and cook healthy, nutritious food on a budget. Participants will be taught knife skills, cookery tips, information on nutrition, batch cooking and cooking on a budget. At the end of each session they will be able to take the food home to share with their families. The recipes are affordable and easy to replicate in their own kitchens. The BOG committee awarded £4,000 towards this fantastic project.

The Rosemary Foundation and Midhurst Palliative Care, Midhurst Macmillan, each received £2,500 towards their work providing specialist palliative care. The money goes towards the core costs of maintaining the service which is mainly salaries for the professionals on the team including specialists in palliative and end of life care like consultants, doctors, Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), a paramedic and a Clinical Support Team.

£1,500 has gone towards the purchase of a Bramshott Defibrillator, which is much needed.

Bramshott Educational Trust was awarded £2,000 to support their work. The Trust is experiencing an increasing call for support from families in the parish who need financial help to enable their children to experience extracurricular activities to broaden their horizons.

£2,200 was earmarked to continue supporting the Bramshott Sunken Lanes project. This will primarily cover the costs of tree surgeons to help residents in the upkeep of these beautiful historic lanes.

St Mary's Church will receive new LED lighting using funds directly from BOG and the Bramshott Bugle magazine received funding of £1,000, since, although it does carry advertising, the money raised is not enough to cover its full printing costs.

Bramshott and Liphook Social Club would like to smarten up their front area, with new seating, a small fence as well as plants and hanging baskets and £1,750 was awarded towards this effort.

Liphook Day Centre had an unexpected roofing bill and applied for £540. Fortunately, they were able to raise money through



Liphook Day Centre.

other fund-raising activities and will therefore use the earmarked funds elsewhere and let the committee know where in time.

Liphook and Ripsley Cricket Club received £850 to support their youth programme and Liphook Football Club were awarded £1,000 to help upgrade the water system in their clubhouse.



Liphook & Ripsley Cricket Club.



Liphook United Football Club.

The River Wey Trust was awarded a grant of £1,000 to support their conservation work, while the Ark Pre School received £800 towards a new computer.

The Grayshott Tea Party applied for funds of £180. The Tea Party is for local, mostly elderly people to get together once a month with 51 paying members currently involved. The grant will be used to buy raffle prizes.

A decision was made by the committee to award the same to Bramshott to help expand its tea party offering.

In total £25,000 has been awarded and the committee hopes the village and all those involved in Bramshott Open Gardens can see the direct and lasting local benefit which comes from the Open Gardens weekend.

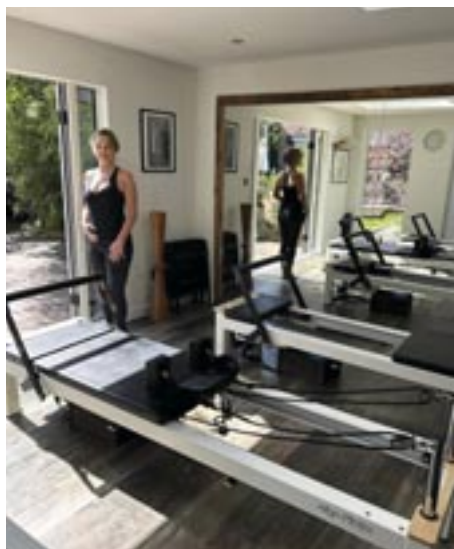
A NEW BOUTIQUE FITNESS STUDIO IN LIPHOOK

Sublime Body and Mind

By Jenny Woodsford with Amanda Beechcroft-Kay .Photos courtesy of Amanda Beechcroft-Kay.

Devised in the 1920s by Joseph Pilates, Pilates is a body conditioning method that helps to build flexibility, strength, endurance and coordination in the legs, abdominals, arms and back. It is claimed that regardless of age, ability or fitness level, Pilates is beneficial for everyone. Originally a niche form of exercise used by dancers or for rehabilitation from injury or surgery it is now practised by over 12 million people worldwide either in a classical studio utilising equipment including the Cadillac, Wunda chair, Ladder barrel & Reformer, newly developed Reformer classes or mat Pilates classes which are widely available.

Amanda Beechcroft-Kay has previously worked as a Fitness Instructor and a yoga teacher but following a back condition she herself benefitted from Pilates and after two years and 1200 hours of training qualified as a Pilates instructor with the Pilates Foundation in 2010. Amanda has worked in London and Surrey,



including eight years alongside osteopaths and health professionals at Haslemere Sports Injury Clinic, and has now returned to Liphook after having most recently spent time teaching at some of the foremost Reformer Pilates studios in London.

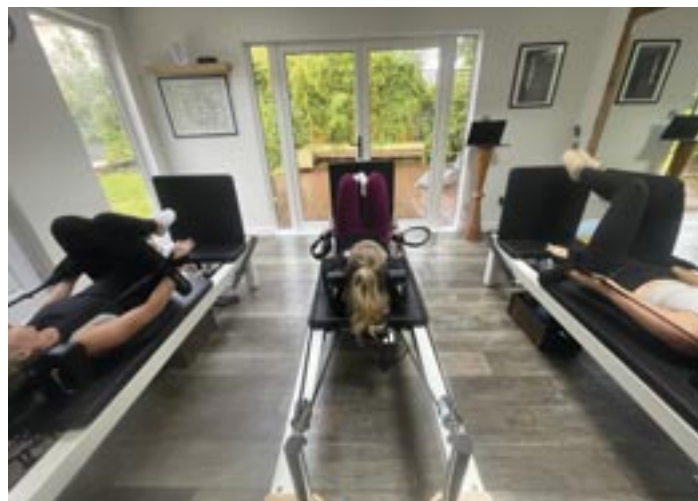
Amanda specialises in Pilates for rehabilitation and has two studios at

her home; a garden studio for small Classical Reformer Pilates sessions for up to three people at a time where, in the good weather the doors can be opened up onto a deck where clients can relax after their session, and a studio in her house for private and rehabilitation sessions.



Recently, she invited me to come along to experience a session. We started by her taking down my medical history in her sage-scented (for cleansing) studio which gave a lovely atmosphere. At a first session she takes things very slowly to see how the client uses their body, indeed, initially I was only required to stand

straight and then do a slow roll down and then straighten up again. Amanda straightaway saw that my lower back is rather less mobile than my upper back. She then got me onto the Pilates equipment. I have only done Pilates Mat Work before so this was completely new to me whilst the basic principles of control from the core remain, but Amanda carefully guided me at every stage.



Initially, there is a lot to remember whilst performing each exercise, but she ensured me that after a couple of sessions it becomes easier! The session was extremely informative throughout – especially as I thought I knew my body and its weaknesses fairly well – as I found how my body has been compensating for previous injuries and medical interventions that I hadn't fully realised. Even though I hope I am reasonably fit and able (for my age!) and wouldn't have regarded myself as being in need of specialist help it was incredible how many issues were highlighted in just one session. Certainly, for anyone with specific mobility issues, I can imagine how helpful it would be to have some sessions with Amanda.

As an example of her successful treatment Amanda told me of the following case (with the permission of her client):

"I have been teaching one of my clients to walk since he contracted SEPSIS in Basingstoke Hospital and was pretty much abandoned by the NHS last year. Paralysed he was sent home on crutches after he walked, perfectly able, in to the hospital for a minor 10-minute procedure. Upon release from the hospital after 4 days in intensive care where he nearly died, he was advised by NHS physiotherapists that they couldn't do anything with him because he was paralysed and they didn't know why. Despondent and believing he may never walk again; he accepted this for several months and then came across my work online. His wife dragged him somewhat against his wishes to my studio as he was at this point believing he would never walk again and "what was the point?" On crutches and understandably fed up he began working with me. Seven months on (in July) he took his first unaided steps and walked across the deck outside the studio with the biggest of beaming smiles. His wife and I were holding back tears as this seemed a miracle to where he had been when we first met. The client Paul

(who is very happy for me to share this story in order to help others) is still working extremely hard and continues to make progress. His outlook and future are much more positive and Paul walks now with the aid of just a walking stick. Obviously, our aim is to lose the stick.

As a result of this work, I was approached by the Sepsis Trust and have completed a month's Yoga challenge for them. The group taking part in this challenge raised £11,500 for the trust. I had no idea how many people were so affected by this but my work over the past 8 months and particularly working with the Trust recently, has opened my eyes to many horrendous stories."

This is an incredible testimonial but you don't need to have such a serious lack of movement to benefit from Amanda's teaching and guidance. Today Pilates, and increasingly Reformer Pilates, is on everyone's radar.

Amanda has set up her garden studio in Liphook and launched her Reformer Pilates with top of the range Reformers to match the high-end Pilates training she can give, blending the classical with a more contemporary style for a safe and effective workout and she is already receiving a lot of interest.

For more information:

Web: www.sublimebodymind.com

E.mail: amanda@sublimebodymind.com Tel.: 0780 303 2463

Getting to Know Liphook By Natalie Cocker.



Taken from the path that extends from Rudgard Way.

Until recently, my personal experience with the town of Liphook was composed of brief visits, in most ways no more material than looking out from the window of a train. My parents moved out here from the South-East while I was polishing off my sixth-form education, and I never lingered in their household again for longer than a week or two at a time.

This June I completed my undergraduate degree, a three-year adventure in independence and self-discovery in the city of Birmingham, and the most immediate consequence was that I found myself living once more under my parents' roof full-time. Overnight, Liphook turned from a holiday stepping-stone to my base of operations for the foreseeable future as I learned to make my way in the world.

In the months since, I have become modestly acquainted with this corner of Hampshire. I've sampled the food of almost every pub in Liphook; I've attended a festival screening at the Living Room Cinema; I've walked the lengths of the high streets of Haslemere and Petersfield; I've seen red kites diving into the Lowsley Farm nature reserve and I've stumbled into more pockets of peaceful woodland than I can count.

It is those green spaces which stand out most to me. I arrived here after growing accustomed to the bustle and sprawl of the Second City - from my previous home I could walk in any direction for an hour and likely never leave Birmingham, and I'd probably

never be wholly alone during the exercise. Here in Liphook, there might not be the convenience of every shop you can think of within 20 miles, but a spare half-hour is all I need to find a quiet moment in nature.

One of the first times I set off to experience some of Hampshire's famed natural beauty, I remember stopping at the shore of a lake. There were birds out in the middle, perched on an upturned log. We exchanged glances and I sat for some time, watching the water shiver at the wind and at every minute movement they made, to appreciate that this was what I had been missing.

There's still plenty left for me to see, and countless facets of the community to encounter, but I'm not exactly in a hurry anymore. Rushing is behaviour befitting the city life; I'm happy taking this at my own pace and stopping to smell the roses as I desire.



Taken from Longmoor Road.

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UPDATE FROM Liphook & Bramshott Parish Council

GRANT FUNDING

We have recently allocated our grant pot to various local organisations and we are always delighted to support local groups who provide services to our community.

This year we have supported the following:

Age Concern
Citizens Advice Bureau
Homestart (support for vulnerable families)
Kings Arms (support for young carers)
Liphook in Bloom
Liphook United Football Club
Liphook & Ripsley Cricket Club
I'm All Ears (counselling service)
Liphook Carnival
Liphook Scouts
The Tantum Trust

If you are a member of an organisation that requires funding in the future, please contact us and we can add you to our mailing list so we can let you know when our grant window opens again later in the year.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We were delighted that the community voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan in the Autumn, and this has now been formally 'made' by East Hampshire District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority. This means the Plan is now used as a statutory planning document when the two authorities make decisions about planning applications in our parish.

As a sustainable settlement, we will be allocated sites for development in the future. The Neighbourhood Plan now gives the community a way to have influence over the nature of development and its associated impact. It will ensure the type of housing and tenure provided is appropriate to its setting and to secure appropriate community and environmental benefits.

We will also now receive 25% of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy which will directly go towards improvements in our parish.

Thank you to stakeholders and residents who came along to events and consultations during the process and provided their views and insight which contributed to the development of the Plan.

Most importantly, we would like to give sincere thanks to the past and present members of our community who formed the steering group to formulate the Neighbourhood Plan. Over the 7 years the Plan has been in the making, there have been many residents who have got involved and worked extremely hard

using their expertise and/or local knowledge to investigate options, formulate policies and work with both East Hampshire District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

The Parish Council is confident that the Neighbourhood Plan will bring benefit to the parish through implementation of the policies relating to housing, environment, traffic, heritage, community facilities and the economy.

TOWN CRIER

The Council recently agreed to formally appoint a Town Crier who could 'cry' at events held in the Parish, such as our annual Picnic on the Green, Annual Parish Meeting, Bramshott Open Gardens or other local events.

We will be holding auditions at our Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 23rd April.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Clerk using the details below.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

We regularly post updates on our Facebook page and website. Do sign up to our regular news bulletins on our website news page here:

<https://bramshottandliphook-pc.gov.uk/news-events/council-news>

You can also view information about transport issues and District and County Council information and consultations.

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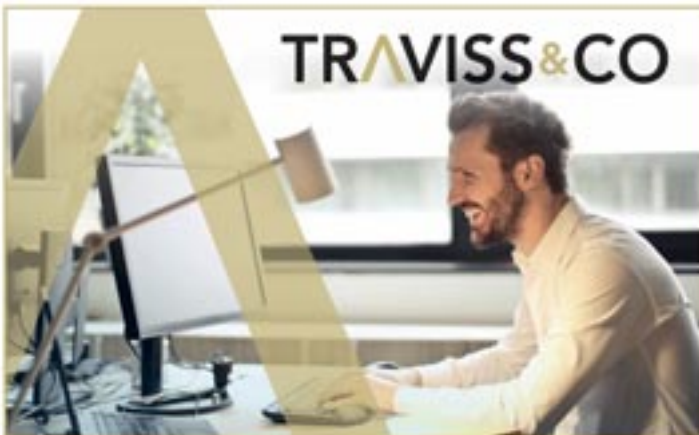


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HOLLYCOMBE STEAM IN THE COUNTRY

Fun, Fairgrounds and Festivals

By Rod Sharp.

Did you see that Liphook's very own heritage attraction was featured in an episode of Susan Calman's Grand Days Out programme on Channel 5 last year?

She indulged her love of all things steam powered with a trip to Hollycombe, which houses one of the country's largest collections of working steam.

Hollycombe Steam in the Country is very much more than steam, although there's plenty of that in evidence in the form of railway engines, traction engines and agricultural machinery in their rural location hidden away just off the Midhurst Road.

Liphook's very own heritage attraction has a busy year ahead in 2025.

The dedicated team of volunteers have been busy over the winter months preparing for the new season which starts when they reopen to the public on 18th April (Good Friday). In addition to the many regular attractions there will be a host of special events designed to appeal to families and enthusiasts alike. Not all of them are steam-related!

Amazing Meccano creations will be on display over the early May Bank Holiday, followed by a weekend of "steam-powered everything" on 31st May and 1st June, when, in addition to Hollycombe's own railways, fairground, beam engine and steam farm, there will also be working demonstrations of steam sawing, steam ploughing, steam road making and rock crushing, working steam lorries and showman's engines as well as masterpieces in miniature in the model steam section.

These will be followed by the first of two special Toy Fairs this year on 8th June, a Father's Day Classic Car Gathering on 15th June, a Mega Model Show on 28th/29th June, and a celebration of everything on two wheels on 6th July.

Apparently, the Dinos take over on 13th July, and the following weekend is dedicated to all things railway with an intensive timetable of steam and diesel on the narrow-gauge and miniature railways in addition to visiting railway layouts on display.

The biggest fairground attraction of the year will see Hollycombe welcoming visiting rides and attractions from all over the country on the August Bank Holiday Fairground Weekend, followed by a celebration of mechanical music on 20th and 21st September featuring visiting fairground organs, street organs, busker organs,

mechanical music boxes and performers to delight visitors alongside their own fairground.

The popular late afternoon and evening "Glow Night" openings this

year will be on 20th September with over 25 visiting organs coming for a Festival of Mechanised Music, on 27th September for "The Greatest Show" with brightly lit fairground rides and showman's engines, and on 11th and 18th October for spookier versions of Glow Night for Halloween.

Further details of these events can be found at: <https://www.hollycombe.co.uk/events>

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the volunteers at Hollycombe. Every winter the huge task of maintenance includes checking every stressed component of the fairground for defects.

Some of the fairground Galloper horses went for a repaint with Fairground Artist George Hebborn. Fibreglass repairs have been made through the winter and painting is the last hurdle to get them looking glorious ready for the Easter opening.

Projects completed since the 2024 season ended include the rebuilding of the railway gates which originally came from Farncombe Station, and the volunteers are aiming to complete the work on their Aveling F type Steam Roller to get it moving under its own steam again in 2025. In addition, it is hoped that their iconic narrow-gauge locomotive "Caledonia" will return to steam this year after many years out of service.



Caledonia by Mike Lampert.

Our Summer 2023 issue featured A Tale of Two Boxes, which mentioned the former Signal Box from Liphook Station, dating from 1895, which moved to Hollycombe in the 1970s after it became redundant. Having undergone a massive restoration over a five-year period, Hollycombe were pleased to welcome the family of Liphook's last signalman to reopen it last summer.



Opening Ceremony. Photo by Mike Lampert.

You don't have to go more than a very short way beyond our parish boundary to have a Grand Day Out!

With grateful thanks to Lucy Dyke from Hollycombe for her assistance in compiling this article, and to all the volunteers at Hollycombe whose dedication allows us the chance to visit this unique attraction.

Liphook signal box. Photo courtesy of Hollycombe Steam Collection.





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Hummingbird Floral Designs

By Gabrielle Pike. Photos courtesy of Phoebe Tomlins and Fay Boyett.



Phoebe Tomlins, a cut flower grower and florist, established her dedicated walled garden at Hollycombe Home Farm in 2024.

With over 10 years experience in growing cut flowers, she provides flowers, plants and seeds to Milland Stores as well as making local deliveries. She is also the recommended

wedding florist at St Mary's Church in Bramshott.

Her journey began with joining the Royal Horticultural Society, followed by a volunteering position at Fittleworth House under

the guidance of Mark Saunders, providing her with invaluable knowledge. She then worked for a local grower who had been cultivating flowers for more than 25 years.

Phoebe now runs her own business and started an exciting venture of collecting, drying and selling her own seeds last year.

She will be hosting spring events in March and April at Hollycombe Home Farm.

For more information please contact Phoebe Tomlins, Hummingbird Floral Designs, **07890 700901**.



Haslemere Camera Club Outings

By Clinton Blackman, Chairman HCC.

Regular meetings of the Camera Club held in the Millennium Hall, are paused during the busy period of summer holidays and instead a small number of outings and workshops takes place, contributing to the social side of club activities whilst still pursuing photography. Last summer there were three such ventures, each quite different in nature.

Inspired by many excellent TV programmes, Natural History has become a very popular photographic genre and with the South Downs on our doorstep there is no excuse for seeing what can be found. Last summer we visited one of the lesser known sites



Marbled White by Clinton Blackman.

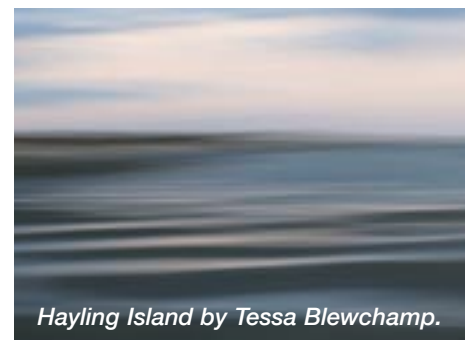
- Crab Wood which is a SSSI close to Winchester comprising 200 acres of ancient woodland as well as extensive wild meadows full of butterflies at the right time of year. Rare downland species can of course be found here, but even common examples such as the Marbled White make great photographs when seen in detail.

To balance our trip to the countryside we subsequently went to London, concentrating on street photography in and around the South Bank at Leake Street, Borough Market and Bread Lane. We also went underground to visit some of the stations on the newly opened Elizabeth Line, which subsequently won the Stirling Prize for Architecture – and where photography is permitted, albeit for personal use only and not with tripods. At the award ceremony, the president of the Royal Institute of British Architects Muyiwa Oki said “The Elizabeth Line is a triumph in architect-led collaboration, offering a flawless, efficient, beautifully choreographed solution to inner-city transport.” A great place to visit, especially on a quiet day.



Elizabeth Line by Tim Wayne.

Finally, at a workshop on the south coast we learnt about Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) which is relatively new approach in digital photography intended to produce impressionistic views of everyday scenes by the simple expedient of moving the camera whilst the exposure is taking place. In fact this technique dates back to the 1950s but it was then very difficult to achieve consistent results. The instant nature of digital photography overcomes this problem but the results still divide opinions. See what you think.



Hayling Island by Tessa Blewchamp.

We always welcome new members, irrespective of their age and experience and for more information about the club, please see our website www.haslemerecameraclub.com

Churcher's Steam Week 2024

STEAM week was a triumph! With the children enthused with their learning and inspired by science. The children were supported throughout the week by visiting scientist Ian Russell. Ian produces interactive science displays for museums and science centres all over the world. The children experienced a fantastic week of activities which not only drew the subjects together but also brought the children together as they worked collaboratively to create and make exhibits for the Churcher's College Junior School and Nursery Science Centre which opened for one afternoon only to share their learning with each other and their parents.

The week started with the children experiencing Ian's 'Exploding Custard Show' and their enthusiasm was infectious! They were enthralled by his demonstrations – many of which can be tried at home! At break times Ian entertained the children with gigantic bubble fun as he is also a bubble artist, and many were thrilled to be entrapped (briefly) within giant bubbles.



As part of Nursery's STEAM week, the children looked in awe and wonder at some amazing bubbles in all sorts of colourful shapes and sizes. They even had the chance to stand INSIDE a bubble! They created art using bubbles and learnt how to create square and triangular bubbles.

Reception had a ball during STEAM week. They loved the exploding custard, smoke rings and gigantic bubbles galore! The colour show, involving primary-coloured lights mixed together to make secondary colours, had the children spellbound! The children then mixed their own colours and made beautiful finger-printing leaves. As a Reception unit, Puffins and Dolphins have made a 'Colour Mix Tree', using food colouring in water and sucked up in pipettes to squirt onto cotton pads to mix the colours for the leaves. The magnet activity was magical, and the children spent days exploring and investigating everything magnetic in the classrooms!



Year 1's theme for STEAM week was 'rainbows'. We launched the week with a story called 'How to Catch a Rainbow' where a girl goes on the hunt for different colours to make her very own rainbow.



We decided she needed a little help and set off on a classroom rainbow hunt before writing rainbow poems. How do you catch a rainbow? Catch a . . . crater from Mars, a lion's mane and a bright green lizard . . . just some of their imaginative ideas! In the classroom, they tried out some of their own rainbow themed experiments. How do you make water walk? Or a fish disappear in water? The children had fun dissolving skittles which created beautiful colours and patterns and was wonderful to observe as they slowly merged and changed. They really enjoyed making their own glasses using colour filters and watching the world around them take on a whole new view.

Year 2 investigating static electricity, exploring the phenomenon with activities like static electric butterflies and electric fleas. They had great fun finding out which surfaces provided the most amount of charge. When Ian visited the classroom, he was amazed to find out that a table was the most effective surface! He was very impressed with our young scientists.





Year 3 used their inquisitive nature to explore and question the world around them, focusing on the Cartesian Diver which looks at the effect of pressure on a pocket of air in water. All the children enjoyed designing and creating their own divers to experiment with. They worked hard in small groups to create some interesting presentations about the knowledge gained from this experiment which also helped them understand the movements of creatures with hydrostatic skeletons.

Year 4's topic for the week was Robots and the children started off with a secret message about the spacebots that had landed in the school grounds over the weekend. The poor little spacebots had been abandoned by their mother ship and needed to be helped to return to their own planet. The first thing that needed doing was to make a launch pad for the ship to land on - Mrs Francis was able to help here and the children coded a bot so that it drew a route and a target for the spacecraft to land on. Then of course we had to design a camouflage outfit for each spacebot - lots of fun here as we added feathers, wings, hats etc.



Finally, we all had to write up our thoughts and produce design boards ready for the Science centre.

Alongside this they had a magnificent session with Ian Russell where we made and launched rockets - adding fins to the basic shape to make it travel as fast as possible through the air.

Year 5 explored the solar system and wider universe and realised just how small us earthlings are! This was shown to even greater effect with a scaled solar system on the field. In fact, we could reach only as far as Saturn, with the relative size of Earth being the size of a full stop! In small teams, they created their own solar system, from the Sun to Pluto, using Modroc. They then used Art lessons to create the texture and colours on the chosen planets in readiness for the Year 5 Science Centre display. These were both messy and fun in equal measure and gave them the opportunity to work in teams to achieve their goal. The children explored questions such as,

'How did the Earth begin?' and 'What is an Exoplanet?' as part of our research projects. They used multiple sources to find the answers to our questions and presented their findings using a mixture of mediums. This was another opportunity to consider the audience and purpose of our final outcome as these would be on display in the CCJS Science Centre.



As if that wasn't enough, they also created rockets that Ian sent into 'orbit' on Thursday afternoon.

Following the show, **Year 6** had a Q&A session with Ian Russell, who was able to go into more detail about the workings of some of the exciting demonstrations and his life as an interactive science exhibit designer. The children then extended their knowledge of light by producing working camera obscuras and models that demonstrated thin film interference. They were able to describe the phenomena in detail following their research and visitors to the Science Centre were amazed with their working, professional looking models and explanatory posters.



Some of Year 6 also had the opportunity to be trained as demonstrators for the Science Centre and enjoyed the afternoon wowing the visitors with their newly acquired tricks of scientific phenomena.



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UPDATE FROM East Hampshire District Council

Government notifies the District Council during December, of the amount of funding that it will receive for the following twelve months. The New Year at East Hampshire District Council signals finalisation of the proposed budget for the next financial year, from April, and this proposed Budget will be brought to the Budget Council on the 27th February 2025. We are very pleased that we have been able to maintain and fulfil our statutory obligations to our residents.

REVENUE AND BENEFITS

We do not often report on this aspect of the District Council, but the following statistics up to 30th November 2024, may be of interest:

Revenue - Council Tax collected for 24/25 financial year: £85,583,258. Business Rates collected at 30.11.24 for 24/25 financial year: £23,88,385.

Benefits - Council Tax Support - Financial support to help with paying Council Tax. Caseload of 4,942, total spend of £6,342,280.

Housing Benefit - Financial support to help with paying rent. Caseload of 1,987, total spend of £10,498,160.

Discretionary Housing Payments - Additional help with housing costs with 79 households helped, total spend of £51,820.

Household Support Fund Food Vouchers - 4,945 households in receipt of Council Tax Support have received a £25 food voucher - total spend of £123,625. 186 households in receipt of Housing Benefit only, have received a £40 food voucher - total spend of £7,440.00.

Household Support Fund - In exceptional circumstances help to support households with housing cost support through rent arrears, with 45 households helped - total spend of £62,257.

PLANNING

As previously known, the Government published its new Planning Policy Guidance on the 12th December which revealed East Hampshire's housing figures had gone up from 575 homes per annum to 1,142 per annum, the majority of which will be delivered outside of the South Downs National Park, which has the highest level of protection and will not have to respond to these numbers in the same way as we do. This leaves the wider East Hampshire area with a massive challenge, facing significant amounts of new housing in our villages and towns. It remains our aim, through the new Local Plan, to find suitable locations for growth and to fight for the best development possible, including appropriate infrastructure. Inevitably there will be an increase in large-scale planning applications across the District from many developers.

East Hants is required to show that it has a five-year supply of land suitable for housing development, during the plan period, which it does not currently have, and with the increase to 1,142

homes per annum, the District will find this extremely difficult to fulfil. What is known as the "tilted balance" is therefore applied when considering planning applications, either at Planning Committee, or by officer delegation, which is the balance in favour of approval.

Replacement of the outdated Acolaid planning software with Idox Cloud took place in mid-December, and training of staff and configuring the new system continues. This has resulted in a significant impact on service delivery and validation times, for which we apologise. The new EHDC Planning portal is operating, although it has taken a little time to rectify some errors.

DEVOLUTION

The transfer of powers and funding from national to local government.

The Government is pursuing Devolution, which is the transferring of powers from central to local government; the establishment of Unitaries, which are a single tier of local authority, responsible for all services in an area, and in addition, the introduction of Mayors across geographical areas of the country. As we know, Hampshire County Council has requested to be fast-tracked in this process, with a decision from Government by the end of January, although at the time of writing, the outcome of this request is not known. The timelines currently proposed by Government are, for those areas chosen to be fast-tracked, the process is to be completed by April 2027, and for those not on the fast-track route, the process is to be completed by April 2028.

East Hampshire District Council will come together with other districts, yet to be determined, to form one Unitary authority, whose population must be 500,000 or more.

When this happens, East Hampshire District Council will cease to exist as a Local Authority.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY GRANTS

Visit: www.easthants.gov.uk

The "application year" closes at the end of February. We do not yet know the extent of our grant pots for next year, from April, but we would advise organisations to consider future requirements, in 2025, in view of uncertain future availability.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help with anything related to the services that the District Council fulfils, or if you have any queries which you believe that we can help you with.

Cllr. Angela Glass angela.glass@easthants.gov.uk

Cllr. Bill Moulard bill.moulard@easthants.gov.uk

Cllr. Nick Sear nick.sear@easthants.gov.uk



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FESTIVE CHEER FOR HIGHREACH

A charity which provides week-long summer breaks for children with disabilities has received some early Christmas cheer.

While the balmy days of summer may seem a little way off just yet, the dedicated team behind Highfield Highreach Holidays is already busy planning the next happy get-together in August.

And thanks to the generosity and support of the fun-loving visitors to a suitably festive 'winter wonderland' at Highfield and Brookham School in Liphook, the charity's coffers have been swelled to the tune of £3,280.



Organised by the school's "selfless" parent associations, whose continued efforts were recognised by Highfield and Brookham Head Suzannah Cryer, the atmospheric winter wonderland featured Christmas stalls, fun inflatables, children's games, fabulous live festive music, and a giving tree in aid of Liphook Food Bank which provides gifts for families who are struggling financially.

Highreach, which is hosted by Highfield and Brookham, has been providing respite for children with physical and mental disabilities since 2018 and is committed to supporting local families.

The annual holiday runs for one week every summer and the charity covers half of the cost of the residential holiday, making it one of few affordable residential respite holidays in the area. The cost is met by year-round fundraising initiatives within the school community while a healthy group of volunteers, many of whom return year on year, including former Highfield and Brookham pupils, also helps keep costs down.

As well as offering the children a fantastic week of exciting trips and activities, not to mention bags of fun, games, love and laughter, it also offers a welcome break for parents and carers who know their children are in safe hands.

CRICKET HONOURS HAT-TRICK

Young cricketers from Highfield and Brookham School hit a purple patch last summer; securing the U11 Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) title at Merchant Taylors' School in Middlesex before the U13s were named joint national IAPS champions after their final tie with Millfield was curtailed by heavy rain in York.

Now, the school has been confirmed among the top 50 prep and junior schools in the UK by The Cricketer magazine for the sixth successive year.

The latest inclusion in the respected magazine's annual schools guide reflects the unswerving commitment of Highfield and Brookham toward its cricket provision. The school runs 34 boys and girls teams from Year 2 to Year 8 and fulfils around 230 competitive fixtures against rival prep schools from across Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Berkshire each year, taking full advantage of its 12 natural grass pitches and artificial strips.

Under the guidance of Head of Cricket Richard Dunn, Highfield and Brookham prides itself on performance and participation. Matches are offered for children of all abilities with the aim of making cricket more enjoyable and the "hope that children will want to play again tomorrow".

Alongside its 12 pitches, Highfield and Brookham offers three artificial outdoor nets, three indoor nets, four grass nets and two mobile cages, as well as three bowling machines and two Flicx pitches on the astro to help cricket development.

As well as representing Highfield and Brookham in external fixtures, many young school cricketers also play for local club sides such as Liphook & Ripsley, Haslemere, Fernhurst and Grayshott, while 25 children are on county pathway schemes run by Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex.



HASLEMERE SIGNAL BOX

Project Gathers Steam

By Rod Sharp.

Since the railway first came through Liphook in 1859, the station has been a vital part of our community. At first the line from London finished near Petersfield, but eventually it continued to Portsmouth and became a major rail route of national and military importance. Haslemere was a busy half-way stage on the route.

The need for better safety required the building of the signal boxes at both stations in 1895. Haslemere had 47 levers to control all the points and signals in the area, including three platforms and extensive goods sidings in the station. In 1937 the line, known to railwaymen as 'Portsmouth Direct' was electrified.

Whereas the box at Liphook closed in 1975 and now resides at Hollycombe Steam in the Country, the Grade 2 listed box at Haslemere is a rare survival in its original place and is still in use today controlling signals and points. It still retains its complete block instruments and original 47-lever frame although many of the levers are now unused as the goods sidings have gone and the signals are electric rather than semaphores.

Haslemere Signal Box is still manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, controlling every train between Guildford and Portsmouth. Signallers pulling levers is 150-year old technology, although it is still safe and reliable. It is demanding on manpower to provide 24-hour shifts of signallers, who must be highly trained. Many manual signal boxes still exist and will continue to do so, especially on lightly used lines.

But Network Rail is gradually replacing local manual operations on main lines such as the Portsmouth Direct with centralised control and has now given a date of November 2025 when the signal box at Haslemere will signal its final train through the station. All trains on the line will then be controlled from Basingstoke, and the signal box will be decommissioned.

Our Summer 2023 issue featured A Tale of Two Boxes, about the planned closure and the proposals by the enthusiasts and experts of the Haslemere Community Station and Signal Box Trust (HCS&SBT) to take over the box and associated property and re-purpose it as a visitor attraction and an excellent example of British technology and architecture. It will be open to the public who can learn about its history and see how trains were controlled safely through Haslemere and the surrounding stations.



The signal box. Photo courtesy of Philip Hunt.



Interior of the signal box. Photo courtesy of Philip Hunt.

School groups, families, local residents and commuters, as well as rail enthusiasts will be fascinated by the simulations of train control, operated by experienced railwaymen and signallers.

And the visitors can operate the levers themselves - but will not be able to operate anything on the railway itself!

Ken Griffiths of HCS&SBT has updated me on the progress made by the enthusiastic team which is now a registered charity with the Charity Commission. Network Rail have now agreed Head of Terms to offer HCS&SBT a lease of the box at a peppercorn rent for 15 years. In addition, the Railway Heritage Trust have indicated potential support through grants which would enable HCS&SBT to turn it into a visitor attraction as a working signal box. HCS&SBT will operate from the Information Hub at Haslemere station, which has also had its lease extended by South Western Railway, and where you can already see some displays and artefacts connected to the project.

To enhance and extend the project HSBT is also in advanced negotiations to turn the area surrounding the signal box into a memorial garden dedicated to the 636 Southern Railway staff who lost their lives during the Second World War. The land around the signal box including the two containers on site will be cleared and developed as an overall part of the project. There is a video of the HSBT plans for the memorial garden on YouTube which reflects the potential and ambition of the project at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd7jwTtQINo>

In addition, they are talking to South Western Railway about taking over the unused offices above the booking hall and turning them into an exhibition area for railway memorabilia. This would include a working model railway which would represent the station in the 1930's with its associated goods yard. They have already received some very generous donations and loans of artefacts and memorabilia, including memorabilia and a working model of Midhurst Railway Station donated by Deborah Esher and Cass Mitchell of Middleton Press of Camelsdale, the daughters of railway enthusiast Vic Mitchell who founded the publishing company which has created one of the largest - if not the largest - collections of railway books. HCS&SBT would also welcome (as a gift or a loan) railway artefacts, pictures, articles and personal stories of local railway interest from the readers of Liphook Community Magazine.

As the project develops, they will need volunteers such as painters, gardeners, engineers, software experts, carpenters, sales and marketing people as well as rail enthusiasts.

For suggestions and offers of assistance, or for more information as the project proceeds, see Haslemere Information Hub Home (haslemereinfohub.co.uk) or contact Ken on **07860 263055**, **01428 263055** or ken@haslemere.com

My thanks for information and help given in compiling this article and supplying the images go to Ken Griffiths of Haslemere Station and Signal Box Trust Signal Box Trust.



No. 70000 'Britannia'. Photo courtesy of John Harris.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Coyte's Paddock

By Rod Sharp. Photos by Rod Sharp and courtesy of Liphook Heritage Centre.

A development of ten houses named Coyte's Paddock, completed in 2022, on a site tucked away between Haslemere Road and London Road leads to what was Coyte's Stores in London Road. This opened in 1913 and became a household name in Liphook for over eighty years, selling a huge variety of items, before closing just over thirty years ago in October 1994.

The name commemorates both the business which became a local institution and the family which ran it and took a prominent part in our community.

Simon Coyte, who worked in the family business from 1973, recalls that the site was originally a farm and the area by the stables was always known as The Paddock. The building which



The Old Stable by Rod Sharp.

formed the stables for the horses which originally pulled the firm's delivery carts still survives; hence the paddock.

Simon's grandfather William, born in Kingsbridge in Devon, moved to London at the age of eighteen where he met and married Constance Garrad. Soon after they saw a notice for the sale of an existing General Stores in London Road, Liphook and promptly bought it.

He took over the business in partnership with her brother Charles Garrad on 8th February 1913. They are the two men shown on the left in this photograph from that period.



Coytes London Road.

Charles Garrad was killed in the first world war, leaving William and Constance to continue and build up the business. A wide range of goods was stocked, including drapery, boots, clothing, furniture, carpets, bedding, groceries, provisions, lamps, oil

stoves, garden equipment, crockery, glassware, patent medicines and sporting cartridges. Below the shop was a large cellar which was used to grow mushrooms which were sold on the greengrocery counter.

At the rear of the building were the stables, out-buildings, and coal yard, reached via a track from the Haslemere Road which now forms the access to Coyte's Paddock.



Coytes Paddock.

When they weren't proudly delivering invoices to local addresses, William and Constance's three children Hugh, Muriel and Charles, loved playing in the shop and rear outbuildings which had lots of secret hiding places. They all became involved in the family business when they grew up, Muriel from the 1930s, Hugh after service in the Royal Engineers in World War II, when the flat roof of a rear outbuilding was used as a machine-gun post for the Home Guard, and Charles in the 1960s after retiring from the army with the rank of Major. Hugh's wife Betty ran the drapery department for several years and their daughter Elizabeth commenced work in the drapery in the 1960s.

For a few years there were several Mr Coytes at the shop until William retired in 1965. Charles continued to work until he died in 1984. Hugh continued to help out after he had "officially retired" in 1986. He was prominent after the hurricane-force winds of the Great Storm of 1987 when they were inundated with customers wishing to buy emergency equipment and supplies. Television pictures showed Hugh handling the traffic in the Haslemere Road, which people in Liphook were unable to see because they were without electricity!

Coyte's acted as box office for many local functions and usually entered a float in the carnival and the family members were prominent in the community, serving on the Parish and District Councils and involved in local activities and organisations.

My thanks to Simon Coyte, and to Liphook Heritage Centre for permission to use photographs from their archive and information from their Liphook Shops Remembered.

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- HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (Bramshott and Liphook)** -
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e: idmrc-Secretary@outlook.com
- LIPHOOK MILLENNIUM CENTRE** - 01428 723889.
w: www.liphookmc.co.uk
- LIPHOOK MODELLERS CLUB** - John Clare: 01428 729967.
- LIPHOOK TABLE TENNIS** - Peter Ritchie: 01428 727815.
- LIPHOOK TENNIS CLUB** - Simon Hargreaves: 01420 474899/07717 016374.
- LIPHOOK UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB** -
Chairman: Mark Culverhouse: e: mark@football-fit.co.uk
John Raeyen: e: media-contact17@liphook-united.org
- LIPHOOK VILLAGE HALL** - Bookings: e: chair@liphookvillagehall.org.uk
- LIPHOOK VILLAGE SURGERY PPG** - 01428 728270.
- LIPHOOK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** - e: liphooksec@hampshirewi.org.uk
w: www.facebook.com/LiphookWI/
- LISS IN STITCHES** - Deirdre Mitchell: 01730 267214.
- LOVE TO SING CHOIR** - Liphook Methodist Church Hall.
Contact Vanessa K. Breach: 07766 083862 .
- LUDSHOTT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB** - Diana Grant: 01428 713706.
- LYNCHMERE CRICKET CLUB** - Contact Richard Saulet:
e: lynchmerecc@gmail.com
- LYNCHMERE SOCIETY** - Conservation and Natural History.
Membership enquiries - Louise Searight: 01428 723715.
w: www.thelynchmeresociety.org
- MACULAR SOCIETY HASLEMERE SUPPORT GROUP** - 01428 602991.
- M.A.D. COMPANY (Methodist Amateur Dramatics)** - 07766 083862.
- MUSICAL SOCIETY (Haslemere)** - Choir and Orchestra, Rehearsals
Mondays. Sue Ecclestone: 01428 605612.
- MYAWARE CHARITY (Myasthenia Gravis)** - Mrs J. Finney: 01428 776467.
- NATIONAL TRUST** - Ludshott Commons Committee -
Susan Salter: 01428 751409.
- OPERA SOUTH** - Caroline Martys: 01428 64476 or 07950 646326.
- OPTIMIST BADMINTON CLUB** - Bohunt - David Lush: 01428 725166.
- PARISH COUNCIL** - Bramshott and Liphook - The Haskell Centre,
Midhurst Road, Liphook: 01428 722988.
- PEAK CENTRE** - Booking Secretary, Ann Hall: 01428 727751.
- PETERSFIELD YOUNG FARMERS CLUB** - 8-10pm
Suzy Goring, 01420 488325.
- RAMBLERS (Liphook & District)** - Secretary, Raj Jas:
e: rajjas@hotmail.co.uk w: www.liphookramblers.wordpress.com
- RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT CENTRE** - 01483 546400 or
Freephone: 0800 0288022.
- RIVER WEY TRUST** - e: office@riverweytrust.org.uk
w: www.riverweytrust.org.uk
- ROTARY CLUB - Haslemere**, Debbie Morley: 01428 643416.
- ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** - Sean Brady RM: 0771 100 6847.
- ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION (Liss & District)** - 01730 895470.
- R.S.P.C.A.** - Di Fowler: 0771 303 8429.
- SSAFA/FORCES HELP** (Soldiers, Sailors & Airmans Families Association)
East Hants Branch, Divisional Sec., Patricia Lyons: 01420 561264
- SELF SUFFICIENCY GROUP - East Hants**, Dru Furneaux: 01730 814193.
- STANDFORD, PASSFIELD AND HOLLYWATER COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION** - Sue Sergeant: 01428 751326. Hall Bookings,
Ron Sergeant: 01428 751326.
- TANTUM TRUST (local charity for local people)** - Shops in
Station Road (01428 727211) and in Bordon, Grayshott & Haslemere,
e: info@thetantumtrust.co.uk w: www.thetantumtrust.co.uk
- u3a LIPHOOK** - e: membership1@liphooku3a.org.uk
- VOLUNTARY CARE GROUP (Bramshott and Liphook Parish)** -
01428 723972. Transport provided for those in need.
- WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Sue Knight: 01428 723502.
- WOOLMER FOREST ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY** -
1st Wednesday of month, Colin Brash: 01428 713256.
- WOOLMER FOREST LIONS CLUB** - Ken Bassett: 01428 713285.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PERSONS' CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

ARK PRE-SCHOOL - Helen Jackson: 0777 539 4230 or 01428 725390.

ARMY CADET FORCE - No. 6 Platoon, 'A' Company, 1st Battalion
Hants & I.O.W. ACF - Detachment Commander: Staff Sergeant
A. Steven: 07796 268095, Parade Night: Tuesday at Wolfe House,
Bordon, 7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHILD HEALTH CLUB -

Millennium Centre, 9.30 - 11.00am: 01428 483827.

FERNHURST CENTRE IT COURSES & INTERNET CAFE -

2, Crossfield, Vann Road, Fernhurst, GU27 3JL: 01428 641931.

HASLEMERE BAND (BRASS) - Graham Ingram: 01252 33828.

INFANT SCHOOL PTA - e: Lisfa@Liphook-infants.sch.uk

JUDO CLUB - Mr M. Poke, Bohunt Centre: 01428 724324.

LIPHOOK AND RIPSLEY CRICKET CLUB YOUTH MEMBERSHIP -

Steve Saycel: 0777 178 8486. e: Lrcyyouthcricket@gmail.com

LIPHOOK CRUSADERS GROUP - For 4-14 year olds. Friday evenings

Church Centre. Contact Church Centre Office: 01428 725390.

LIPHOOK JUNIOR SCHOOL P.T.A. - e: foljs@liphook-jun.hants.sch.uk

LIPHOOK PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP - Friday am.

Mrs Janet Stovold: 01428 722333.

LIPHOOK THEATRE CLUB - For 5-11 year olds: 01428 722813.

LITTLE BADGERS PRE-SCHOOL - For 2-4+ year olds

Sports Pavilion, Headley: 01428 714827.

LITTLE LAMBS - Tuesday 9.45 - 11.45am

Contact Church Centre Office: 01428 725390.

MADHATTER NURSERY BOHUNT SCHOOL - 01428 727288.

SWIMMING CLUB - e: admin@haslemereswimmingclub.co.uk

TRAINING BAND - Maurice Wright: 01428 723940.

If you have any other questions about Scouting or our Group then please contact:-

- **Bryan Jackson** (Group Scout Leader) on **01428 723248**
e: gsl@liphookscouts.org.uk for enquiries about Scouting and our sections.
- **Stuart Clark** (Group Chairman) on **07900 463482**
e: chair@liphookscouts.org.uk for volunteer and fundraising enquiries as well as for general enquiries.
- **Sarah-Jane Anslow** (Treasurer)
e: treasurer@liphookscouts.org.uk for subs enquiries.
- **Alison Jackson** (Scout Shop) on **01428 723248**
e: alisonjackson@btopenworld.com for uniform or equipment enquiries.

Scouting sections:

- Willow Beavers - Monday
- Ashdown Beavers - Tuesday
- Maple Beavers - Thursday
- Downlands Cub Pack - Tuesday
- Oakhanger Cub Pack - Thursday
- Wheatsheaf Cub Pack - Friday
- Shackleton Scout Troop - Wednesday
- Scott Scout Troop - Friday
- Stirling Explorer Unit - Monday

*Any changes, please email to Fay Boyett:
fay.lcm@outlook.com
by the copy date shown on the Inside Front Cover*

GIRLGUIDING LIPHOOK DISTRICT

With guiding, girls have fun, adventure and the space to discover their potential. If your daughter would like to join our active Girlguiding District in any section then register at:

www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/
and the unit leader will contact you directly.

Guiding Sections:

RAINBOWS AGES 5-7

1st Liphook Rainbows - Tuesday
2nd Liphook Rainbows - Thursday

BROWNIES AGES 7-10

2nd Liphook Brownies - Mondays
5th Liphook Brownies - Tuesday
4th Liphook Brownies - Thursday

GUIDES AGES 10-14

2nd Liphook Guides - Monday
1st Liphook Guides - Wednesday

RANGERS AGES 14-18

1st Liphook Rangers - Wednesday

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

Young Leaders ages 14-18
Adult Volunteers 18+

For any other enquiries please contact: Girlguiding Liphook District
Chair Ruth Whiting:

liphook-guides@outlook.com

SCOUTS

1st Liphook Scout Group - Scouting offers young people, aged between 6 and 25, a fantastic range of fun, exciting, challenging and adventurous activities. In Liphook we have one of the largest and most active Scout Groups in Hampshire. 1st Liphook Scout Group has over 200 members and runs 3 Beaver Colonies (for those aged 6-8), 3 Cub Packs (9-11), 2 Scout Groups (11-14) an Explorer Scout Unit (14-18) and has strong links to our District Scout Network Scout Unit (18-25). If you live in Liphook or the surrounding villages and you would like your son or daughter to experience the everyday adventure of Scouting, then please contact our Membership Secretary, Vic Pires, to find out more about joining:

membership@liphookscouts.org.uk

Christmas Tree Festival (from page 9)

As well as the trees decorated by adults, there were also some delightful trees decorated by children.

Madhatters Pre-School.



Three Frogs Nursery.



Some of the trees decorated by children in this years MAD Pantomime.





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