

SEE PAGE 2 **The Show Must Go On!**



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

WITHOUT DOUBT my term of office has been full of fun and rich in wonderful occasions – I can hardly believe that a year has gone past!

It has certainly been busy and December was no exception. I attended many **Carol services** across the area, from local schools to Ford Open Prison. I also had the pleasure of attending some wonderful Community events,

including the **Carnival Association's Christmas Family Fun day**. The event was a great success and I am sure they have a lot planned for 2014, as this year marks the Carnival Association's 40th anniversary. Another highlight of the winter season was our wonderful **festive light switch-on**. Always a dazzling event, the Town looked wonderfully Christmassy and the atmosphere was warm and friendly.



Whilst December brought many happy events I was sad to hear of the death of **Harry "Spike" Kelly**, a veteran of the original 30 Command Assault Unit. It was extremely moving to see

such a wonderful turn out at his funeral on 23rd December, especially the seven members of the current 30 IX Group Royal Marines who gave up leave to give him a full Military send off.

A particular highlight of my year in office was of course the glorious **Freedom of the Town** event. It was a great honour to be part of such a momentous occasion.

My charity this year has been **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People**. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the residents, organisations and businesses that have donated or supported the cause by attending my events. Your kindness is much appreciated. I will be holding a **Race Night** on Saturday 29th March at the Littlehampton Badminton and Squash Club. I hope that you will be able to attend and help me to continue to support this worthwhile charity.

2014 looks set to be another busy and exciting year for Littlehampton. I hope that you enjoy some of the fantastic events that feature in the LTC **What's On** guide.

With warm regards,
Councillor Joyce Bowyer, Town Mayor

Littlehampton

**YOUR TOWN
YOUR VISION
YOUR PLAN**



The Best Laid Plans...



Littlehampton Neighbourhood Plan passes examination but is withdrawn from the referendum!

The postman might not have brought many Valentine cards to the Town Council's offices on February 14, but good news was delivered.

LTC was delighted to learn that the Independent Examiner had approved the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and, subject to some minor modifications, it was ready to go forward to referendum on the 8 April.

But on closer inspection councillors swiftly found that their initial delight gave way to serious concerns. On reading the Examiner's report it became apparent that some of the proposed modifications were not so minor at all. Furthermore, they significantly affected the outcomes agreed for the Plan. **CONTINUES ON PAGE 2**



Be Flood Aware

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT LITTLEHAMPTON has escaped the worst of the winter weather experienced by many across the south, Town Councillors also recognise that there is no place for complacency. Floods can be especially devastating when it comes to adverse weather conditions, so being 'flood prepared' can make a big difference to the destruction that water can cause. The **Littlehampton Flood Action Group** are asking residents to be prepared for the risk of flooding (or any emergency, such as fire, storm damage, etc.), enabling people to leave home very quickly, should the need arise. Having an emergency plan will save valuable time, so make one and keep it where members of your household can see it. More information on how to make your emergency plan and other useful advice is available from the West Sussex website at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/living/emergency_services/preparing_and_dealing_with/what_can_i_do_in_an_emergency.aspx ●

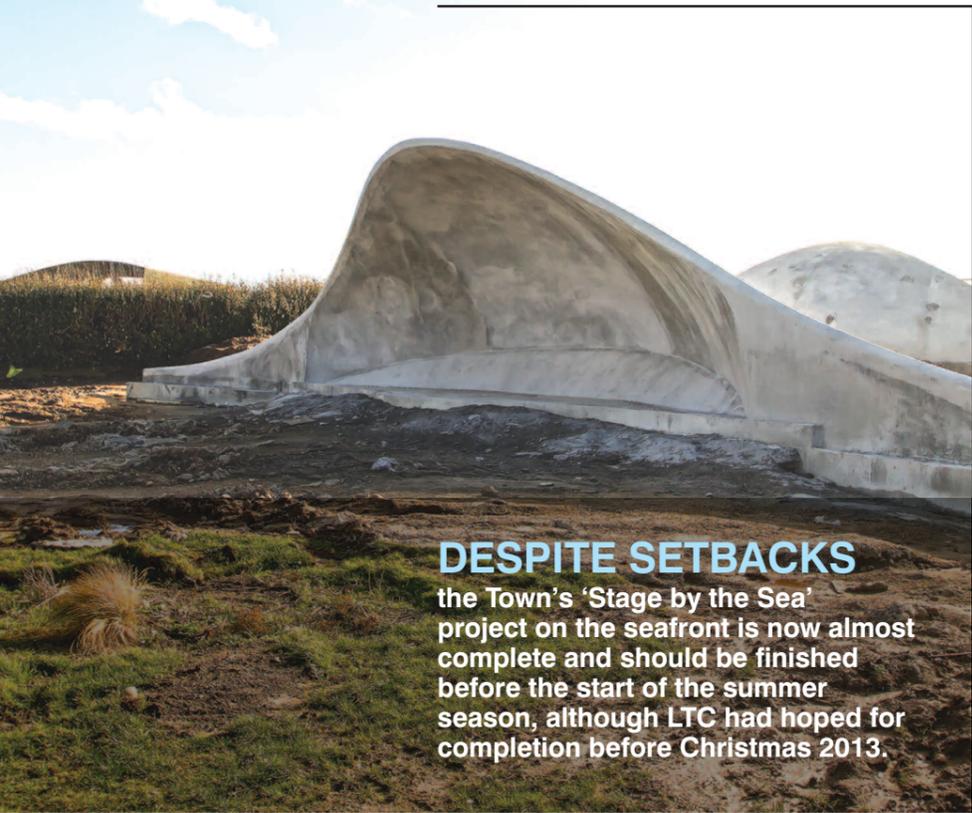


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the show must go on



DESPITE SETBACKS the Town's 'Stage by the Sea' project on the seafront is now almost complete and should be finished before the start of the summer season, although LTC had hoped for completion before Christmas 2013.

Delayed initially through inclement weather, which caused significant problems for the management contractor Cavendish Consultancy, as the New Year began the Town Council were advised that the company had gone into liquidation. Fortunately – because they have faith in the project and are justifiably proud of their work in constructing the stage – sub-contractor Shotcrete is prepared to complete the work in spite of financial losses.

Cllr Dr James Walsh, who has been on the Stage by the Sea Working Group since the idea was formed, said: "The news was a bitter disappointment to the Town Council initially but we believe we have found a way through it which will ensure we have an end result we can all be proud of."

Hoping fervently for some respite from the terrible weather, the contractors hope to be back on site shortly and to finish the project as soon as possible. Littlehampton Mayor Cllr Joyce Bowyer said: "I feel passionate about this project and although we have had to manage a number of difficulties I am determined we will celebrate its opening within my mayoral year and we look forward to the local community sharing this celebration with us."

The launch event initially planned for Sunday 6th April will be rescheduled for a later date, which will be widely advertised. ●



LTC'S GARDEN AND ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION 2014 is launching on the 1st April. Yes, once again Littlehampton's green-fingered folk are being urged to enter the contest, which aims to promote civic pride and celebrate the achievements of local gardeners. Children are also being encouraged to participate by taking part in the 'grow the tallest sunflower' challenge. And if you don't know your grass from your elbow, why not nominate a neighbour whose horticultural skills deserve recognition? The only criteria for entry is that nominees must reside within the BN17 postcode. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- Front Garden ● Back Garden ● Communal Garden
- Community- Led Garden Project ● Patio Garden
- Commercial/industrial frontages ● Kitchen garden - sponsored by F A Holland & Son ● Allotment including best crop (taken on before June 2013) ● Tallest sunflower - sponsored by F A Holland & Son ● Best new entrant - sponsored by Going Spare ● Best Infant/Junior School - Sponsored by Ferring Nurseries ● Best NEW allotment (allotments taken on after June 2013 will be entered automatically)



The closing date is 27 June. Winners of each category will receive vouchers from principal sponsor, Ferring Nurseries. Entry forms will be available from LTC'S offices at the Manor House, Church Street, and from Ferring Nurseries, Littlehampton Road, Worthing. Or they can be completed online on the Council's website: www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk

Don't lose the plot!

WITH ALLOTMENT SITES THRIVING under the care of enthusiastic growers, Progress is also pleased to report that the Town Council is able to extend the offer of plots to even more people. Having worked hard to reduce waiting lists to approximately 3 months (from a two-year wait in 2009), the Town Council maintains five Allotment Sites in the town as part of its commitment to improving the quality of life for Littlehampton residents. Rental fees start from as little as £31.25 for a medium sized plot of 125M2 (5 rod). For more information visit www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk or call **01903 732063**. To qualify for an allotment you must live within the Littlehampton Parish boundary. ●

"It would give the Town the much needed direct link"

KEEP UP TO DATE KEEP UP TO DATE KEEP UP TO DATE

New Surgery to be Built: AS PROGRESS WENT TO PRESS news of plans for a new health facility were announced. The Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is planning to provide a new GP surgery in the north of the town, to cater for both the existing population and the new homes to be built there. It is hoped that it will also include some of the facilities that were lost when the town's hospital was demolished 7 years ago. The precise site and size is awaiting an imminent planning application. ●

West Side Story: ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL APPROVED an annual target of 580 new homes each year as part of its new Local Plan. However, the strategic or large sites have yet to be determined and are subject of ongoing work One possible area is the West Bank in Littlehampton. LTC has significant concerns about this area and believes that it should only be considered if the development pays for flood defences and regeneration on the West Bank of the river Arun. LTC is also pressing for full public consultation, which has not been undertaken to date. ●

Bypass News: HERALDING EASIER JOURNEYS for local residents and visitors alike, Progress can confirm that County Council Officers have given some indication of when the Lyminster Bypass (A284 Lyminster Road to the north of Littlehampton and Toddington Nurseries to the south) may be complete. Subject to funding from developers, road works to create a link between the Littlehampton Academy and Toddington will commence by Summer 2016. West Sussex County Council is leading on the design and feasibility work and has commissioned WSP to undertake preliminary design, environmental impact assessment and stakeholder consultation work. The southern bypass would be completed by the North of Littlehampton developers. Cllr. Mike Northeast was quick to applaud the news, telling Progress: "50 years being talked about, it's pleasing to see that there is light at the end of the road now that County has announced that the funding in place, which means it could be completed in a couple of years if all goes to plan. It would give the Town the much needed direct link right from the seafront to the A27." ●

The Best Laid Plans... CONTINUED FROM COVER

ONE SUCH ANOMALY INCLUDED the removal of a condition that secured the future of the **Swimming Pool** site. In accordance with residents' wishes, the Plan stated that in the event of the facilities being relocated elsewhere in the town, the current site should retain its established use for leisure and should not be available for residential development. Acting on information received by ADC, outside of the formal consultation process, the Examiner removed this condition, making the site vulnerable for housing development. This is not what YOU told us you wanted!

Chair of the NP Steering Group Councillor Jill Long said: "First and foremost this is a Neighbourhood Plan and has come about through extensive consultation with residents of Littlehampton in line with the ethos of the Localism Act. If we disregard these views and write something different then the whole plan loses its purpose".

LTC has also spoken to many residents who have expressed their strong support for the Town Council's stance, which has also been agreed by the Steering Group.

LTC is seeking legal opinion as how best to proceed. Whether or not the Plan now proceeds to referendum is in the hands of the District Council. Given the cost to the public purse, LTC cannot endorse, at this stage, taking forward a NP that neither the Town Council nor the local community supports.

Town Mayor, Councillor Joyce Bowyer told Progress: "I am devastated that we should be in this position after all the hard work and fantastic input from members of the public. The NP was a significant document to aid planning decisions in Littlehampton and came about through full and open consultation".

The Town Council will keep residents updated with developments regarding the NP through local press and via this newsletter. You can also find more information on Neighbourhood Planning and the Littlehampton Neighbourhood Plan at www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan ●



an invitation TO D-DAY VETERANS

Veterans and local school children will be invited to a very special event to mark the 70th anniversary since the D-Day Landings.

Taking place at the Look and Sea Centre, the free event is scheduled for 6th June 2014. People who saw service during WWII, or who were part of the Land Army or had a role on the Home Front should contact Valerie Sharp on 01903 856397. The organisers hope to be able to offer free transport.

Medals would be welcome, as would any memorabilia that people could bring to share with specially invited local school children. ●



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Littlehampton Town Council BUDGET 2014/15

	DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION & MANAGEMENT 16%		PUBLIC CONVENIENCE 4%
	TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT 7.5%		COMMUNITY CENTRES 6%
	COMMUNITY GRANTS & PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES 5.5%		COMMUNITY ARTS, EVENTS & TOURISM 13.5%
	PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2%		PARKS AND OPEN SPACES 6%
	CORPORATE MANAGEMENT 10.5%		PROJECT 82 8%
	MANOR HOUSE 4.5%		MUSEUM 13%
	STREET LIGHTING 0.5%		ALLOTMENTS 3%



AS PART OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT Minister, Brandon Lewis', speech to Parliament on 5th February, he clearly stated that the Government has provided funds to mitigate Town and Parish Councils from the impact of changes to the way in which Council Tax Support is funded. In Littlehampton's case, these monies have been provided to Arun District Council (ADC) and

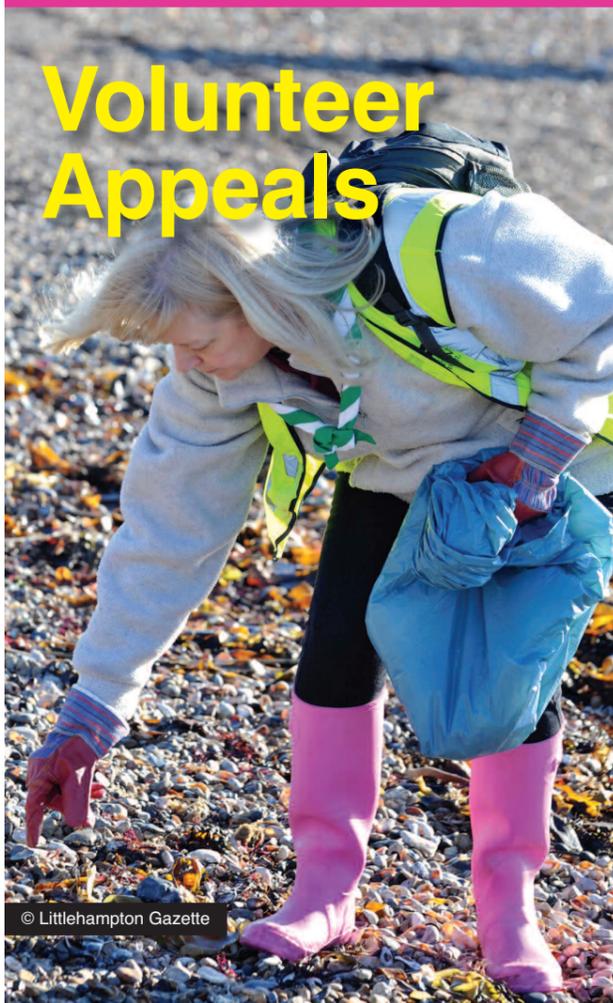
amount to c.£147,000 or c.15% of the money that the Town Council raises through Council Tax. Mr Lewis stated that "we (the Government) expect billing authorities (in this case ADC) to carry on passing support to town councils and parishes to help mitigate any reduction in their tax base due to the local Council Tax support scheme.

Although ADC has agreed to do as requested by the Government in 2014/15, they have indicated that they will reduce this by 50% in 2015/16 and totally withdraw it in 2016/17. This is wholly contradictory to the Government's wishes and, in effect, ADC is withholding our Town's money.

It is for this reason and this reason only, that the Town Council is raising its Council Tax by 3%. This increase equates to £3.21 a year or 6p a week for the Band D Taxpayer. We will also be considering over the year whether to withdraw from some of the ADC's services that we contribute to or whether to increase Council Tax by a similar sum over the next two years. Alternatively, we hope that ADC will change their minds and pass on the funds intended for us.

In all other respects the 2014/15 Budget broadly remains unchanged. We have included funding to enable the No. 12 bus and ferry service to continue for another year and all of the other key services will continue, together with our capital projects. Details of the Budget can be found on our website www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk

CLlr Carol Emberson, Chair, Policy & Finance Committee



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Volunteer Appeals

Meals On Wheels Volunteers Needed

Could you give a little time to support older people in the Town? Royal Voluntary Service (formerly WRVS) needs volunteers in Littlehampton to support the growing number of older people who want to remain independent but who are struggling to shop or cook for themselves.

Ideally the Service needs a commitment of two hours each week, so that you can visit older people and ensure that they have a nutritious meal.

Offering friendship to someone who may not see anyone else all day, checking they're ok and making a cup of tea are simple practical things that make an enormous difference to someone living alone. More details on 0845 600 5885 or www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/westsussex

Dog walkers wanted for The Cinnamon Trust

Get fit and earn some appreciative tail wagging into the bargain. Volunteer dog walkers are urgently required by the Cinnamon Trust, a national charity whose volunteers help elderly and terminally ill pet owners look after their beloved animals. The Trust has a dear little Lakeland/Jack Russell cross in Littlehampton who would love to go for a good walk. If you can spare an hour a week to help this little dog please call Sally on 01736 758707 or email volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk www.cinnamon.org.uk

Community Cleans Up

A recent success story and proof that great things can be achieved by volunteers was the Beach Clear Up that took place on East Beach on the 11th January. Organised by local resident Lyndall King, the appeal for volunteers to help clear the beach after weeks of stormy weather gathered swift momentum via social media. Dozens of people came forward to help clean up the town's beach, confirming community spirit is very much alive in Littlehampton.

Making Wick Tick AS WE LOOK TO PUT THE CLOCKS FORWARD

residents of Wick are looking forward to seeing their clock reinstated.

In a joint effort by Wick Village Traders and LTC, the public clock at Wick Parade, originally installed in 2008, has been replaced after it stopped working just before Christmas. Councillors Marian Ayres, Mike Northeast and Tony Squires used their ward budget towards the initiative.

CLlr. Northeast explained: "We had to replace the whole clock as the old one was unrepairable – because the tower is an old rubbish chute and not a clock tower, the clock had to be specially made. My thanks to my other two ward Councillors for agreeing to use our ward budget to put the tick back into Wick".

PROVING THAT CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME Littlehampton Town Council's **Grant Aid** scheme will once again make a positive difference to some of the Town's charitable and not-for-profit clubs and organisations.

Applications for the grants, awarded annually to cultural, charitable and sporting activities for the benefit of the community, can be made from the 1st April 2014.

Assessing each application on its own merit, and examining the objectives and the benefits of each group, a much-needed cash boost will be awarded to those groups deemed to be able to make best use of a cash injection.



Grant Aid Makes a Difference

Last year LTC awarded **West Sussex Asperger's Awareness Group** (WSAAG) £500 under the Grant Aid Scheme. A neurological developmental condition that affects a person's ability to interact with others, **WSAAG** works to raise awareness of Asperger's and campaign for its members' inclusion into mainstream society by helping them to overcome their difficulties. The boost from LTC enabled the Group to rent an office, giving their members a base for support meetings. Other grants awarded by the Town Council in 2013 include money towards venue hire, volunteer expenses and equipment.

Applications for the 2014 grants must be made by **Friday 16th May 2014**. Application details, along with full criteria, can be found online at www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk Successful applicants will be notified by early July.

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE 2013 LTC GRANT AID

Total LTC Grant Aid Amount 2013: £14,110 **Volunteers Involved per week: 412**
People Supported: 5,555 ***In Kind Total per annum: £ 220,777.5**
How much it would cost if the volunteers were paid

*The total £11.09 in kind rate is set by the Community Development Foundation and is based on the London basic hourly living allowance.

Town Council Supports Residents' Opposition to New Council Houses in Wick

Mike Northeast (ward councillor) and Ian Buckland (County councillor) protesting with concerned angry residents from the Wickbourne Estate about the loss of their car parks and open spaces.'



PROPOSALS BY ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL (ADC) to build Council houses on current parking areas on the edge of the Wick have been met with opposition by local residents.

"Yes, we all want to see new Council Homes built, but not to the detriment of the quality of life of established residents," said CLlr. Mike Northeast, who as part of LTC has raised concerns, shared by residents, about the lack of consultation and the potential impact such a development would have on an area of already high density housing.

"The Wickbourne Estate was designed in the 70s with a level of open space to satisfy the number of residents who live there now. It is not fair to cram in more housing on every little bit of open space and bring in more families with no extra amenities just so ADC can tick the numbers box. You can't create new communities simply by shoe-horning new houses into an existing community. It is a badly thought out proposal that has not only upset a lot of residents, but that flies in the face of the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan, which is based firmly on what really matters to residents," said Mike.

Residents have had meetings to discuss ways to oppose the plans and further details can be found on facebook - search 'stop council house building in Wick'.



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Events

March

Looking at Littlehampton: A personal view of our Town

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH TO FRIDAY 16TH MAY AT LITTLEHAMPTON MUSEUM: Littlehampton's Emma Storey displays her unique photography views of the town.

Steve Carroll's Sussex

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH TO FRIDAY 16TH MAY AT LITTLEHAMPTON MUSEUM: Local artist Steve Carroll exhibits his colourful graphic illustrations of scenes from the South Coast.

April

Easter Fun! Fossil Hunters

WEDNESDAY 9TH, FRIDAY 11TH, WEDNESDAY 16TH, FRIDAY 18TH
Come along to the Museum and take part in a fossil hunt around the galleries, or book a place on one of our popular annual fossil hunts on West Beach. Advance booking essential - 01903 738100.

Easter Out & About

MEWSBROOK PARK: WEDNESDAY 9TH 10AM-12PM
BROOKFIELD PARK: WEDNESDAY 16TH 10AM-12PM
Hugely popular, our annual outdoor Easter fun events for children aged 3 to 11 years return to the Town's award-winning parks. Help find the encrypted message left by the Easter bunnies and join in games and bouncy castle fun.

Easter Craft

SATURDAY 19TH AT LITTLEHAMPTON MUSEUM 2-4PM
Drop into the Museum to create some beautiful Easter craft.

Family Art Day

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 10AM-4PM AT LITTLEHAMPTON MUSEUM: Artist Jenny Staff hosts a free and fun hands-on day of artistic activities. Suitable for all ages, learn about some of the Museum's portraits and try new drawing techniques. Advance booking essential - 01903 738100.

Street Influence

WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY TO FRIDAY 18TH JULY AT LITTLEHAMPTON MUSEUM: Jan Bennett returns to the Museum with her wonderfully colourful creations.

School's Art

SATURDAY 24TH MAY - FRIDAY 18TH JULY AT LITTLEHAMPTON MUSEUM: Popular annual display of artwork by Littlehampton school children.

Dinosaurs!

TUESDAY 27TH, WEDNESDAY 28TH, THURSDAY 29TH, FRIDAY 30TH
Come to the Museum and discover the dinosaurs that used to roam our coastline. Touch real dinosaur bones and design your own dino. Advance booking essential - 01903 738100.

May

June

Boat Jumble

SUNDAY 15TH CAFFYNS FIELD; 10.30AM TO 3PM
Buying a boat, chandlery or fishing tackle? A great catch is guaranteed at this nautical rummage. In aid of the Jubilee Sailing Trust.

Armed Forces Day

SATURDAY 28TH, SEAFRONT GREEN AND HARBOUR PARK: Action packed, free of charge and featuring the now traditional aerial display, Littlehampton's Armed Forces Day is one of the most spectacular in the country. Not to be missed!



Southfields

From dance and sports to clothes sales and social clubs, discover what's on visit www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk



Event!

Own it... Idea for it... Host it!

Want to own the event? Offering a fantastic marketing opportunity to local businesses, reach out to new customers and clients by becoming one of our Event Sponsors. Attractive and competitive packages now available throughout the year, for more details please contact LTC on 01903 732063 or via email ltc@littlehampton-tc.gov.uk

Got a bright idea for an event? LTC is always open to new ideas, so whether it's a display, activity or a hot new act that you have in mind, be sure to let us know. For more details please contact LTC on 01903 732063 or via email ltc@littlehampton-tc.gov.uk

Hosting an event? Spread the word and share details of your events with our ever-growing facebook community at www.facebook.com/littlehamptontc

Keep your finger on the pulse and GRAB A GUIDE! All upcoming Littlehampton events and activities are listed. Download a copy from the Town Council website or pick up from Town Council offices in Church Street and at selected town centre outlets.

Project 82



Offering friendship, fun, activities, advice and support, P82 has plenty for young people in Littlehampton. Check out the different session times below and come and see us soon! And enjoy your first session FREE!
Youth Club Evening Sessions: 50p

MONDAY: Inters (10-13 years) 6.30 to 8pm at Project 82
TUESDAY: Drop-in (11-18 years) 7-9pm at Southfields Jubilee Centre

WEDNESDAY: Drop-in (10-25 years) 3.30 to 5.30pm at Project 82 & Seniors (14-18 years) 7-9pm at Project 82
THURSDAY: Juniors 4 to 5.30pm at Keystone Centre & Seniors (14-18 years) 7-9pm Project 82

CONTACT P82: email project82@littlehampton-tc.gov.uk
TWITTER @Project_82 FACEBOOK P82youth CALL 01903 739250
VISIT 82 Wick Street, Wick, Littlehampton BN17 7JS

Have Your Say



This year's **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** takes place on 24 April at 6pm at the Manor House, Church Street. For details of all Council meetings visit www.littlehampton-tc.gov.uk

Strewth, Cobber

PICTURE: Littlehampton, Australia!



A Littlehampton resident in the 19th century, **BENJAMIN GRAY** has had a book written about him by a former Mayor and Town Councillor.

Gray, who left our sandy shores and settled in the Adelaide district of South Australia, founded a village down under, naming it 'Littlehampton' after his hometown. Going on to become a resident Justice of the Peace, Councillor and Chairman of Mount Barker District Council, Mr Gray formed a community that has been sustainable ever since and is now a growing township.

Fascinated by the story, **Alan Gammon** began researching the life and work of Benjamin Gray, resulting in a small volume documenting Gray's achievements. Priced at just £4.99, you can purchase **The Benjamin Gray Story Book** by Alan Gammon via the internet or from Wick Information Centre, Littlehampton Museum or Littlehampton Shopmobility. Buying the book locally will see half the cover price being donated to local charities.

TOWN TRIVIA

There's lots of fascinating facts about Littlehampton. For instance, did you know that...

- Handsome **James Bond** Star Roger Moore lived in the impressive Kingmere building on Littlehampton seafront.
- The inspiration for the programme 'Open All Hours' came from Littlehampton, as Ronnie Barker lived in the town during the 1970s. Note 'Granville Road' in the town, and the convenience store on Norfolk Road was allegedly Ronnie's local shop.
- Despite having a history dating back to Roman times, Littlehampton only got its present name in the **14th century**.
- Littlehampton has always been a haven for creative types, with **poets** Percy Bysshe Shelley, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Lord Byron all coming to savour the peace and tranquillity.
- Littlehampton residents and visitors used to be able to enjoy a **sea water swimming pool** off Sea Road during the 1930s. It had a large wooden chute, so you would have had to be careful not to get splinters on the way down! Ouch!
- Victoria Terrace, Bayford Road, was said to be the **longest terrace** of its kind in the country when it was built in the late 1870s.

TOWN TRIVIA

With thanks to Chranen Photography www.chranen.com and Mike Northeast for photographs used in this edition.



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