

Thursday April 3rd 2008 at 10am



**FOOTBALL LEGEND
MATT LE TISSIER**



**Will be officially opening the newly refurbished Play Park
at Braeside Road St. Leonards**

COME AND JOIN US AND HAVE SOME FUN

This project has been made possible thanks to grants received from
Veolia Environmental Trust and Awards for All

**Message from the
Chairman:**

As there is so much news, I
am not going to say too much

The refurbishment and re-
modelling of the Play Park is
now in its final stages and we
are looking forward to having
Matt Le Tissier to perform the
opening ceremony.

I have realised from occa-
sional correspondence that it
is not always understood that
The Parish Council comprises
entirely of unpaid volunteers
who are required to act within
a strict framework and the
statutory powers given to
them. Come along to one of
our council meetings and see
how it all works.

Our next Parish Assembly will
be on Friday May 9th com-
mencing at 7:30; I hope to see
many of you there.

Cllr Mrs J House

**Residents Concerns over
Forestry Proposal**

The Forestry Commission's
proposal is to clear an area of
trees covering 6.3 hectares
(15.5 acres) in the Ashley
Heath Forest 800 metres from
the residential housing in
Ashley Park. This is for the
purpose of creating an open
space for recreational events.

The anticipation is that the site
may be used for up to six days
per year with two of these
used to host two open-air con-
certs on consecutive evenings
(Saturday and Sunday) one
weekend a year in summer.
The concerts will be for around
5,000 to 7,000 people and the
site will have the capacity to
park 2,000 cars to include
coaches.

The Forestry Commission
state that they have been
hosting concerts in seven
other locations throughout
England within similar sites
since 1997.

The Forestry Commission are
making reassurances that
noise levels will be controlled
by use of the latest digital
sound equipment, vehicle ac-
cess and egress will be man-
aged, no permanent structures
will be erected, no overnight
camping will be allowed, the
concert area will be temporar-
ily fenced for events and car
parks and access routes will
be cleared of litter the next
day.

The Parish Council has re-
ceived a constant flow of visits
to the Parish Office, emails,
correspondence and tele-
phone calls from unhappy
residents. This proposal is,
however, only subject to en-
tertainment licensing approval
under which the Parish Coun-
cil is classed as a non-
Statutory Consultee.

To facilitate a means of com-
munication with the Forestry
Commission, your Parish
Council arranged an Extraor-
dinary General Meeting on
Friday February 29th with Mr.

Bruce Rothnie from the Forestry Commission in attendance.

Some 300 residents and the BBC attended the meeting. It was very clear from the beginning that residents were against the proposal and when the question was asked as to who was for the proposal there was only a show of 2 hands.

Questions and concerns expressed were in the main surrounding the following:

- **Environment**- cutting down trees with no replacement. Keeping the area free from litter not only in the concert arena area but also on entrance roads from queuing cars.
- **Potential Fire Hazard** - illegal camping and possible use of barbecues.
- **Noise** - Sound levels required to entertain audiences of 5,000/7,000 with loss of decibels over 800 metres being minimal.
- **Safety** – The Verwood Road (**B3081**) has already been subject to 7 deaths
- **Congestion** – Concerts taking place during summer months with some 2000/3000 vehicles travelling to site accessing and egressing would exacerbate traffic that is already at its heaviest in these months on the A31, A338 and Horton roads.
- **Nuisance Parking** - With queues to access and egress there is a likelihood of parking in side roads and the taking of short cuts in via the many entrances into the area.
- **Security** - The site has numerous access points how can all of these be policed? With a cleared site and access available what is going to stop travellers setting up camp

- **Control of behaviour** – Who will cover the cost of any possible damage to residents' property particularly those properties backing onto the Castleman Trailway and who will bear the cost of using the Police if required?
- **Number of Concerts:** What is the guarantee that it will remain as only 2 concerts over one weekend per year when the Forestry Website already shows a number well in excess of this over the number of sites available.

There was, however, one resident who spoke-up in favour of the project, pointing out that revenue was required to support some already excellent facilities and to sustain the maintenance of the Forestry in general and that there was a need to keep some perspective with regard to the proposal.

Mr. Bruce Rothnie of the Forestry Commission listened to the views expressed by residents and answered a number of the questions.

At the close of the meeting residents requested the support of the Parish Council and their attendance at the licensing hearing when called for. This was put as a resolution before Parish Councillors present and the vote in favour was unanimous.

WLTM. Would Like To Mulch

A keen gardener has contacted the Council to ask if there is anyone in our Parish with land that could be rented as an allotment. A garden, which has become too much for the present owner might fit the bill. Free veg in lieu of rental could be an option. Anything would be considered

If you can help, contact the Parish Clerk who will be pleased to act as an agency.

Cedar Avenue to A31 Footpath

Following the refurbishment of the Abbey Rose Nursing Home at the end of Cedar Avenue the Council has received several complaints from local residents about the demise of the footpath, which led through alongside the driveway of the home down to the A31. This footpath was not on the definitive map. It is apparent from the information supplied and maps found in archives that a number of residents had used this path for quite a number of years. We now have a number of requests to arrange for the formal adoption of this path. If successful this adoption will protect it for generations to come. For this to happen there is a fairly lengthy procedure to follow.

The first step is to collate evidence forms. Users with 20 years minimum residency need to complete an official witness form. The owners of the land in question have to be notified and provided all the formalities can be completed the County Council will proceed with the adoption. It should be noted that there is more than one owner affected by the proposal.

The Clerk of the Council has spoken to the Manager of Abbey Rose who has suggested that responsible legitimate walkers are welcome to utilise the tarmac driveway down to the A31 although the actual path has vanished in the refurbishment.

If you would like to assist, please contact: The Clerk, The Parish Office at the rear of the

Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ or Mr F Haire, 2 Cherry Tree Close, St Leonards



This is a not for profit locally based and locally funded organisation helping older and vulnerable people or those of any age with a disability by way of repairs, adaptations, maintenance and improvements to their homes. Where appropriate they can also help in trying to locate sources of funding and can assist in making applications for certain benefits assistance and guidance in moving home. Anchor Staying Put is funded by a number of partners in Local and County Councils, Social Care and Health and Primary Care Trusts. Housing Options is also sponsored by The Royal British Legion and Help the Aged.

For a friendly chat call Lynn Kenchington (Anchor Staying Put) or Ann Jones (Anchor Housing Options) on 01202 862765

Black Bin Bags

The District Council has announced that they will no longer supply free black bin bags. You can purchase any black sacks you like just don't overfill them.

Remember to recycle your waste wherever possible and help to save our environment

Jubilee Copse

Back in November the Council arranged for a workday in the copse off Ashley Drive South. The Council would like to arrange more of these days but we do need some enthusiastic volunteers. If you are interested in the plan or even better would like to help please give your details to the Clerk

so that we can let you know the date.

Email office@stleonardspc.org.uk or ring 01425 482727.

Report from the Parish Plan Monitoring Group

Since the publication of our Parish Plan in June 2007, we have been actively seeking to deal with your concerns raised during our Parish Plan consultations and recorded in our Action Plans.

We are represented on East Dorset Community Partnership's Themed Action Groups for Housing, Transport and Environment, and we are finding that other districts within East Dorset share our concerns and problems. However, we would welcome your support and news of specific problems arising from issues including:

1. The dangers of the Woolsbridge Roundabout and wide loads using Horton Road.
2. Insufficient road sweeping, particularly in the Autumn and Winter when the need is greatest.
3. Any problems with fly tipping, dog fouling or drainage.

Whilst problems should be reported to the correct authorities, the Parish Plan Group will appreciate copies of any reports in writing to the Parish Plan Monitoring Group c/o The Parish Office, The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ.

Ken Brooks, Chairman
Parish Plan Monitoring Group

Independent Community Website

Since our last newsletter a local resident has launched an independent community

website. Visit www.2saintscommunity.org.uk

Goal Nets Stolen from Horton Road Green

The Parish Council has supplied two sets of nets for the goals at Horton Road, both of which have been stolen. The Council supplied these goals and nets to give something constructive for the youth in our community to do. Surely it is better that children are encouraged to play in a safe location and not in the street.

If you have any information as to the whereabouts of the nets please let the Parish Clerk know on 01425 482727.

Your Village Hall

The Braeside Village Hall has three rooms, each with access to a kitchen and toilets. All rooms are available for private bookings with favourable discounts for regular users. We can accommodate events for up to 200 people. Ideal for children's' birthday parties, family anniversaries, weddings, discos, dances, theatrical productions and general get togethers. Regular groups include badminton, yoga, indoor bowls, freestyle dancing for young people, Pilates and many other activities. It is run by a voluntary Village Hall Management Committee, chaired by Ann Warman and has a friendly staff of cleaners, handyman, caretakers and hall administrator. Whilst the building is owned by the Parish Council the committee is expected to manage the day to day running, maintenance and repairs. To do this we have to cover our expenses and need to maximise our revenue. We urge local people and groups to take the opportunity to make bookings for their activities, whilst dates are still available.

Please contact Elaine on 01425 478177 or 07847 430815.

Invitation to the Parish Annual Assembly

To be held at the Village Hall,
Braeside Road, St Leonards

On Friday 9th May 2008 at 7:30pm

After the usual formalities the meeting will conclude
with a Presentation by Mr. Brian Jackson
author of the "Castleman Corkscrew".

An informative and interesting history of the line from Dorchester to Southampton

Your local School

St Ives First School has an excellent reputation and is on your doorstep. There are not many first schools in the area that can boast their own pool and such beautiful grounds. Please note that during the summer months the pool is also open to the rest of the community; just contact the school for details. Visit www.stives.dorset.sch.uk for further information.

Parish Home Watch

Our local Homewatch now have a web site at www.2saints.org.uk

'Space Week' at St Ives First School

The children and staff at St Ives First School recently worked on a whole school project...Space Week! Everyone really enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot about space. We had a 'sharing' assembly on Friday. This was where our mums and dads could come and see what we had been doing and then show them round the school.

Endangered Species And Carbon Footprint

Post Offices are at the very heart of local retailing, bringing products and customers together and helping to create sustainable communities. A customer using a local Post Office and Shop leaves a far smaller carbon footprint than someone driving 10 miles to a Superstore.

The National Federation of Sub-Postmasters believes that the UK Government must support the creation of a British Postbank, with a full range of Banking and Financial services products. Our counterparts in Italy, France and Germany all have successful Postbank models.

Within the last four years the Post Office has sold more than 500,000 car insurance policies and over 12,000 van insurance policies in less than a year, putting it en route to taking the largest market share in the field.

A combination of competitive rates, the Post Offices status as one of the largest retail

networks in Europe and being one of the UK's most trusted brands, has been a large factor in these successes.

As to the reduction of the network, there should be a presumption against closing a Post Office where this is the last shop in the village or in a deprived urban area. Despite this, Ibsley Post Office and Stores closed recently. Where next?

Cllr N R Hindmarch

Warning To All Irresponsible Dog Owners - Clear up or Pay up is the message!

At the full Council meeting held on 27th February your Parish Council agreed to buy in to a scheme formulated by the District Council to provide regular Dog Warden patrols with specific hours dedicated to this Parish, to enforce the dog fouling laws. This will commence shortly.

Make no mistake the Parish Council is committed to do all it can to ensure the law is enforced in this respect.

Mrs A Jacobs, Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Village Hall, St Leonards, Ringwood, BH24 2PJ
Telephone: 01425 482727

Email: office@stleonardspc.org.uk Web Site: www.stleonardspc.org.uk