



## **Welcome to Spring**

This Spring newsletter has been produced to bring a number of important matters to your attention. The Parish Assembly notice is on page 3 and the Village Hall Management Committee notice below. Please put these dates in your diary and make every effort to attend.

The Parish Plan is also an important opportunity for you to contribute to the future of the Parish. Please take it!

## **Village Hall Management Committee**

We have an excellent Village Hall facility in the Parish which is run by a Management Committee. The Committee is set up as a charity and all members of the committee are trustees of the charity. Parishioners are entitled to elect six of their number to represent them as trustees and elections take place each year at the Annual General Meeting of the charity. In addition a number of organisations accredited to the village hall are entitled to appoint representatives to the committee.

The Annual General Meeting for 2005 will be held at the Village Hall, Braeside Road on Thursday, 2nd June 2005, at 7.30pm. Nominations are required for election of the six parish representatives mentioned above. Anyone wishing to put their name forward should contact the Chairman at The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ.

Alternatively if you know of someone who may be a suitable candidate please bring this item to their attention.

## **Gravel extraction may be the next Parish concern**

A number of walkers have reported concerns that gravel extraction appears to be taking place on forestry land between the Grange Estate and the A 31.

Enquiries have resulted in the Forestry Commission confirming that tests are being carried out in a number of locations, including St Leonards & St Ives, to assess any potential. Planning permission is apparently not required for initial investigation, but would be before extraction could commence.

Councillor Mike Dyer

## **St Leonards & St Ives Homewatch**

Formed over 6 years ago, we now have a membership of over 1,000 households.

In addition to being the 'eyes and ears' of the local Police, we believe that the Home Watch is strengthened by fostering a community spirit amongst our neighbours. Our local Home Beat Officer is Julia Wilkinson. If you wish to contact her, her number is 01202 226027. In an emergency please dial 999 and tell the operator that you live in Dorset.

If you are interested in becoming a member (subscription is £1 for 2005), or forming your own group, please contact either myself, Julie Wilkinson on 01425 475212, or John Duffin on 01425 476967

## **Update - 50 mph Speed Limit on the Palmersford to Woolsbridge Section of the A31.**

In our last Newsletter the Parish Council asked residents to support their request for a 50 mph speed limit on the A31 commencing east of the Ashley Heath Interchange. We have to date received 146 slips in support of our proposal with one against. Thank you to all of you for taking the time to return a response. We will keep you updated.

## **STOP PRESS - CO OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Due to the resignation of Councillor Alan Pain, there is a further vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Anyone interested should apply in writing to the Parish Clerk at the Parish Office, Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ. Deadline for applications is Wednesday 27th April 2005.

## **Avon Heath**

### ***Friends of Avon Heath Country Park***

Regular visitors to Avon Heath may already know that there have been a few changes at the park over the last few years. A great success has been the Friends of Avon Heath. This is a voluntary group that has been established at the park. The annual membership is a modest £15 a year but lets members park for free. You also receive a membership card that entitles the holder to 10% off many of the items sold in the Visitor Centre shop and regular updates on what's happening.

Friends of Avon Heath also has a number of Volunteer Rangers who get their hands dirty and help the park Rangers maintain and improve the park.

### ***Management***

Dorset County Council who own Avon Heath Country Park are managing it in partnership with the RSPB, for the people of Dorset to enjoy the rare wildlife and landscape the park is renowned for. During the coming months the RSPB will circulate an updated management plan to the parish council who have kindly agreed to comment on the future proposals for the land management. Changes are also planned to improve the Visitor Centre and park entrance for details watch this space in future additions of the newsletter.

## ***Coming Events Spring into Summer***

### ***May***

***29<sup>th</sup> Countryside Trailer.*** This offers an opportunity for wheelchairs users and people with mobility difficulties and their companions to take a ride to the most beautiful corners of the park.

***30<sup>th</sup> Batbox Building.*** With new bats being born in June, build a batbox for them to move into later in the summer. Book in advance to save disappointment.

***31<sup>st</sup> Wander in the Wildlife Area.*** Discover what the residents of the wildlife area are up to at this time of year.

### ***June***

***1<sup>st</sup> Raptured by Reptiles.*** A fantastic opportunity to get close to some of the snakes and lizards that live at Avon Heath.

***3<sup>rd</sup> Pond Dipping.*** Ever wonder what makes the ripples or blows the bubbles in our pond, or even lurks in the mud at the bottom?

***13<sup>th</sup> Nightjar Walk.*** Join an RSPB expert in a magical stroll in search of the enigmatic sound of the Nightjar's call and if you are really lucky a glimpse of the unusual nocturnal flight of the bird.

***19<sup>th</sup> Minibeast Safari for National Insect Week.*** Become an intrepid explorer of the world of the mini-beasts - meet the ferocious hunters, charming Casanovas and much more.

***Please ring Avon Heath Visitor Centre on 01425 478470 for times, prices and booking information.***

**Parish Plan**

The annual review by the Parish Council and planning for the future is underway. This year we have decided to widen the discussion by consulting with you, our Parishioners.

We really would like to hear your views on how you feel St Leonards & St Ives can be improved as a place to live. On the reverse of this page is a questionnaire please take the time to fill it in and return it to the Parish Clerk.

Also please attend the Annual Parish meeting when you will have a further opportunity to contribute to the Plan.

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**St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council**

Invite you to your

**Annual Parish Assembly**

On

Friday 6th May 2005 at 7.30pm

In The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Followed by

A public consultation meeting

on the requirements for a parish plan and its contents

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Please complete the questionnaire and return it to the Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards BH24 2PJ. If you are able to attend the Parish Assembly please also complete the slip below. This will assist with seating and refreshment arrangements.

I will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 6th May 2005.

Number attending .....

Name:.....

**Please return this slip and questionnaire by 2nd May 2005**

PARISH PLAN CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE	Happy with present level of action\facility? <i>Please tick</i> ✓		Comments
	YES	NO	
<b>Communication</b>			
Ability to meet with councillors			
Publications/Newsletter			
<b>Environment</b>			
Tree preservation			
Maintenance of parish roads and verges			
Maintenance of parish open spaces			
Consultation with environmental agencies			
<b>Amenities</b>			
Parks and playing fields			
Young persons' facilities			
General recreational facilities, village hall, etc.			
Provision of dog fouling bins			
Other amenities, please itemise:-			
<b>Safety and Security</b>			
Street lighting			
Police presence/Crime & disorder			
Road safety/speed limits			
<b><u>Other items of concern, please list:</u></b>			

Would you be prepared to pay an increased Council Tax to meet the cost of additional services? Tick for YES