In memoriam – Graham Kelly
It was with great sadness that we recently learnt of the death of Graham Kelly, a stalwart of both the village and Lavant Parish Council. Graham was Chair of LPC for some eight years and his contribution to the community is appreciated and recognised. He was unstinting in his support of people and causes he believed in and during his time with LPC Graham set standards and traditions which his successors continue to aspire to. Not a mere acquaintance but a friend to many and, as such, he will be sadly missed in our village. Our love and best wishes are extended to Graham’s wife, Di, and the whole family at this difficult time. Graham’s funeral was held at St Mary’s church on Tuesday 31st October.

Neighbourhood Plan
Lavant is now a member of the 400 club. We are one of 400 local communities in England that have a Neighbourhood Plan in place. We voted 84% in favour of adopting the plan in July and both CDC & SDNPA ‘made’ the plan soon after, so it is now part of the planning rules which have to be adhered to for all development in Lavant. Over the next year or two we should expect to see applications for all the sites specifically covered in the plan, our responsibility to ensure that what comes forward adheres to what we voted for in our Neighbourhood Plan.

Our plan is not just about housing, Councillors and volunteers have started discussions with SDNPA about the implementation of the proposed new footpaths, in particular the ‘River Walk’ from Marsh Lane to the Playground on the field side of the river. This will require a bridge across the Lavant at the playground site, which as much as we might wish for it Father Christmas will not bring in his stocking (too full of toys), so we will, we hope, be calling for volunteers to help build a wooden bridge across the river next year.

Councillor Robert Newman

Parish Garage Re-Build
The Garage which is located next to the Car Park at the Memorial Hall is no longer fit for purpose. It contains so much equipment that it is dangerous to walk in, and has no room for the additional equipment we need to obtain to support the Lavant Volunteers. As you will have read in the Lavant News the garage is targeted by petty criminals and while so far we have kept them out, the two sets of doors need replacing. The Council after some debate agreed that the best way forward was to re-build the Garage on the existing site, but at twice the size. The Council working with the Memorial Hall Committee looked at an ambitious scheme to rebuild the Cricket Pavilion and Garage, but agreed that, at this time, it was sadly a step too far, so settled on just replacing the Garage. A design was drawn up and submitted to the SDNPA for planning approval, which was duly authorised – see over.
The Council is about to send out invitations to tender for the demolition and rebuild, and has set the ambitious target of 1st May 2018 as the project start date. Any local residents who would be interested in helping with the construction of this new Parish facility please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

**New Byelaws for our public spaces**
The Byelaws for the Recreational Ground are 25 years old, are very out of date, and do not cover any of the other public land in Lavant. Following a well-attended Village Pump Meeting about the Village Green your Council undertook to review and update the Byelaws. So, what are they? They are rules made by local Councils, which often cover public land, and set out what is and is not allowed. To become legal, they must be approved by the Secretary of State.
The Recreation Ground, the square of land between Pook Lane and Sheepwash Lane is for the most part, but not all of it, a Registered Village Green. As such it not only enjoys legal protection for ever as a public open space, but also has legal restrictions on what type of activities can and can’t take place. We are also close to an aerodrome, which also means we have legal constraints on things like model plane and drone flying.
The proposed new Byelaws are on the Parish Website, and you are invited to make your observations and comments to the Parish Clerk by the end of November. If you do not have access to the internet please ring Councillor Robert Newman on 775059, who will drop a copy off for you to review.

**Cobnor Activity Day 2017**
Once again 15 Lavant youngsters took the opportunity to get very wet and experience sailing, canoeing and archery. The event in July was much appreciated by the children and was substantially subsidised by the Lavant Recreation Fund. It is a sobering thought that beyond the efforts of the Church, Friends of the School, the Allotments and our own Playground in Churchmead, this is the only venture that the village makes for its Youth. Let us know if there are other activities your children would be interested in taking part in.
Lavant Fête 17th June

Following a fabulously sunny fête day, the Fête Committee made recommendations on the distribution of funds raised at the Fête to the Parish Council who subsequently authorised payments as detailed below. We would like to thank the hard-working committee for all their continued efforts, and pay special thanks to Sheila Sims who stands down this year after many years on the committee. Put the date for next year’s fête in your diary now – Saturday 16th June 2018.

<table>
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<td>12th Chichester Scout Group</td>
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Village Pump Meeting – things to do in Lavant
On Saturday 30th September, the third village pump meeting was held to consider how village facilities might be improved. There was lively discussion to review how different groups are currently provided for, and to identify any gaps. We agreed that were some age groups who were less well catered for and some ideas for future activities were considered, so watch out around the village for posters advertising new initiatives. Thank you to everyone who came and took part in the discussions. The next Village Pump meeting takes place on Saturday 11th November at 3pm at St Nic’s church and will focus on the children’s playground, reflecting on the outputs from the Playground Party held in July. If you are interested in offering your views and might like to be involved in how the playground is developed and maintained in the future, please do come along – we welcome your input.

Stepping forward from Let’s Walk ....
Given the level of enthusiasm on the Let’s Walk Sunday, we are now running a series of walks locally. We are starting simply, with a programme based from the Village Green. We are initially running it twice every week – leaving on Wednesday at 8.30am and Sunday at 2pm. Our aim is to offer a mix of challenge and length to suit the whole community. We will see how it goes through until Christmas. If you would like to receive a monthly update of the programme, contact Sarah Newman (sarahmnewman@aol.com). It will also be published on the parish website, and in the Lavant News.
Lavant Volunteer Task Force (LVTF)
Finally, after a challenging year keeping the old tractor repaired and running, the Council has put in an order for a brand new tractor. Hopefully this will arrive soon and will help the LVTF team carry on with their maintenance tasks around the village. The LVTF team goes from strength to strength as three new members have recently joined and are helping out regularly with the jobs list – which only ever seems to get longer no matter how much work is completed. The team were also very pleased to receive the proceeds from the recent Let’s Walk festival – a fabulous sum of just over a £1000. A huge thanks to everyone who helped with this event or took part and donated funds. This money will go towards helping maintain the footpaths around the village, and the creation of new paths as highlighted earlier in this newsletter.
If you would like to join the volunteer team, please call Adrian Blades on 527705 or Bob Mallett on 776997.

Who is on Lavant Parish Council?
Have you forgotten who your current LPC councillors are? Did you know we have a new parish councillor? Not sure who to contact? Here we all are, with our key areas of responsibility:

- Adrian Blades – Vice Chair, Goodwood liaison, volunteer team
- Ian Hutton – Chair, Cobnor activities, playground
- Phil Ladds – finances, footpaths, Memorial Hall liaison
- Elaine Mallett – communications, playground, village fête
- Robert Newman – planning applications, youth activities
- James Pickford – A27 development
- Caroline Reynolds – A27 development, youth activities, history project
- Louise Tucker – new councillor
- Brigid Whyte – planning applications

More general queries, complaints or any other communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk initially.

You can reach any of your Councillors through the Parish Clerk as follows:

- Imogen Whitaker
- 2 McAdam Close
- Hambrook, PO18 8FG
- Home tel: 01243 575094
- E-mail: lavantparishcouncil@gmail.com

or check out the Parish Council website at www.lavantparishcouncil.co.uk

Dates for your Diary:
- **Saturday 11th November:** Village Pump Meeting (re playground), 3pm, St Nicholas’
- **Sunday 12th November:** Remembrance Sunday, 9.30am, Village Green
- **Saturday 25th November:** Lavant Christmas Fair, 2.00-4.00pm, Memorial Hall
- **Sunday 10th December:** Christingle Service, 4.00pm, St Mary’s
- **Sunday 17th December:** Carol Service, 6.00pm, St Mary’s
- **Sunday 24th December:** Crib Service, 4.00pm, St Nicholas’
- **Saturday 6th January:** Village Jumble Sale, 10.00am, Memorial Hall