

Littlehampton Gazette

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SHAPE YOUR SUMMER

KID'S ACTIVITY SPECIAL INSIDE

CAFÉ YEAR
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BYPASS WORRIES OVER EVENT'S FUTURE

A STRAWBERRY fair that attracts hundreds of thousands of people and raises thousands of pounds for charity could be a thing of the past, A27 bypass

campaigners have warned. Sunday's Strawberry fair at Binstead saw members of the Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee set up a stall. They

were raising awareness of the threat the area faces from two of the possible five routes proposed for the bypass. ■ Turn to page 4



Sirona Thorneycroft performs at the PICTURE BY DEREK MARTIN

Residents prove Love Littlehampton

GOOD neighbours helped to share the Littlehampton's annual arts festival with brilliant sunshine on Saturday.

The third Love Littlehampton Festival Park took place on Caffyn's Field. ■ See page 44

Strawberry fields not forever, A27 bypass campaign warns

HAPPY chatter over a strawberry tea, with the gentle sounds of folk music playing in the background, could be replaced by the roar of traffic thundering along a dual-carriageway, campaigners warned at a popular village event on Sunday.

More than 1,000 people are thought to have attended the 27th annual Binsted Strawberry Fair, raising a record £7,006 for charities and the village's ancient church, and adding to the £100,000-plus generated for good causes since it began.

Among the stalls set up around the field next to a flint barn, where hundreds of strawberry treats were served up, was one for the Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee, to raise awareness of the threat the area faces from two of the possible five routes proposed for the bypass.

An information board at the stall included a map showing where the bypass could be built, drawing on information from a report by consultants and a workshop for 'stakeholders' held last

By ROGER GREEN
roger.green@littleshampingtongazette.co.uk
01903 282343

week. "One of these goes through the middle of Binsted, destroying the fields where you are now standing," the board warned.

Emma Tristram, who helped to set up the campaign group, said: "People were shocked to hear that the field where the fair is held could be under threat from the bypass. It would be terrible if we lost this field and the event. It has raised a great deal of money for Binsted Church and that funding would be lost.

"This route would completely kill Binsted village. It goes very close to lots of listed houses and people would have to sell them at a loss and move away.

"Binsted is a wonderful place. I love Binsted Woods. They are mysterious, full of surprises, a wild place," said Emma, who lives in Binsted.

Dormice, newts and other protected species are known to live in the area in significant numbers.

Three days before the fair, Highways England



Emma Tristram shows a visitor the map with possible Arundel bypass routes

held the stakeholders' meeting to which groups and individuals with an interest in the bypass were invited, including Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee.

Bill Treves went on behalf of the committee, and

reported back that, although two routes still posed a major threat to Binsted, its woods and Tortington Common, as well as a number of homes, Highways England officials remained open to the possibility of

an online bypass, largely based on the A27, but with junction improvements and some widening of single carriageway sections to dual-carriageway standard.

For more information, see www.arundelbypass.co.uk

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