

## Paul Robinson



**“An evening stroll in the country round about Liphook revealed to us a wealth of beauty of the homelike, peaceful order, so rest bestowing but so hard to convey in words. We wandered along deep hedge bordered lanes whose green sides and leafiness would have done credit to even lovely Devonshire”**

So wrote James John Hissey in his book ‘Through Ten English Counties’\* when he visited Liphook in 1894 and, thanks to the efforts of ‘Liphook In Bloom’, I like to think that he might have been similarly impressed with the twenty first century look of the centre of the village. Indeed, since last week, he could once again have stayed at his beloved Anchor Hotel, now that they have redecorated the bedrooms to accept guests.

There are a great many things that the visitor may note that would single out Liphook as a special place to stay or to settle in.

Not least of which would be :-

- The commitment of members of L.I.D.B.A. (Liphook & District Businessmen Association) who have, over the years, raised over £¾ million for local charities.
- Liphook United Football Club who have, once again, won the Hampshire Football Association Intermediate Cup.
- Liphook Carnival Committee who also raise annually substantial sums which benefit local charities and worthy causes.
- Liphook Village Surgery P.P.G who offer pastoral and practical care for people who care for people and for others who are need.
- Liphook Day Centre caring for the elderly members of the community, providing them with them food and entertainment each week.
- Liphook Street Watch, a voluntary organisation working with Hampshire Constabulary towards a safer and quieter village after dark.
- And of course Liphook In Bloom who not only strive to make the flower beds so stunning each year but also do so much to clear up litter all year round as well as organising the Christmas illuminations each year.

Whilst I take no personal credit for any of these, my reason for acknowledging all these worthy public efforts is to illustrate the positive commitment that these organisations have for the village and its inhabitants. I am mindful that with the predicted cuts in national and district budgets of between 25% and 30% we in Liphook need to ensure that these and other village organisations get all the support they need to maintain services to the community.

My wife Marian and I have lived in Liphook for over thirty two years, the last thirty in the Headley Road. Both our children have attended Liphook Infants, Juniors and Bohunt School before progressing through Alton College to University.

I am a bookseller and, from my book rooms in the Longmoor Road, I sell books to a worldwide market. I have always maintained an interest in local affairs and once served on the Carnival Committee and I still help out on Carnival weekend.

If elected I would

- Strive to improve the services that we offer our aged and infirm residents. We live in an aging society and the calls upon these services will see an inevitable increase in demand.
- Resist as far as possible any further cuts in policing the village and surrounding area.
- Do what I can to improve the public transport to and from the village, which is pitiful.
- Address the problem of litter in the streets and public areas, living just a discarded lolly wrapper away from a supermarket I am only too aware of this blight.

However as a priority I would seek to make a contribution towards unifying the fragmented Parish Council. The all too evident acrimony between some Councillors and the staff is, I feel, hampering the contribution that the Parish Council could and should be making towards improving the services to the community.

Please support me when registering your vote on Thursday May 5th.

\* Through Ten English Counties' James John Hissey. Richard Bentley & Son, London. 1894 First Edition. 404pp Illustrated Hardback.