



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Issue 4

March 2012

## Dates for your diary 2012

**Planning Committee** 5th April  
**Youth Centre**

**Annual Parish Assembly** 16th April

*See p.2 for more information*

**Planning Committee** 3rd May  
**Youth Centre**

**Parish Council Meeting** 21st May  
**Robertsbridge Hall**

*Dates for future meetings will be decided at the meeting on 21st May*

**Note: Meetings of the full Council now take place on the 3rd Monday of alternate months. Planning Committee meetings are held monthly if applications are submitted.**

*All meetings start at 7.30 pm and a period of up to 15 minutes is allowed at the start of the meeting for public comment or questions if required.*

*Agendas for meetings are posted on the parish notice boards and web site at least 3 days before the meeting - planning applications are available for inspection at the parish office during normal opening times or on the Rother District Council web site - [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk) and you can comment on planning applications on-line*

## Council Tax 2012/13

**Did you know...** that Parish Councils *do not* receive *any* funding or grants from the Government or any other body? The money or 'budget' spent by the Parish Council is collected almost entirely (with the Council Tax) from the residents of Salehurst and Robertsbridge *only*, so residents from other parishes do not contribute to our budget and we do not contribute to theirs. This means that the 'parish' element of your council tax bill, referred to as the 'precept', will be different in each village depending on how many amenities and services each Parish Council provides or funds (unlike the rest of the Council Tax, which is collected from all residents across Rother).

Here in Salehurst and Robertsbridge, apart from the costs of administering the statutory functions common to all councils (Clerk, accounts, notices, meetings, elections etc) your Parish Council precepts to run the following *local* services: 95 street lights (not on the A21), 10 grit bins (including refilling), the Cemetery in Beech House Lane (not the Churchyard), 2 bus shelters, 7 public seats, 3 dog waste bins (including emptying), the War Memorial and Clock (including weekly winding), Bishops Meadow in Bishops Lane (including the play equipment), Pipers Field and Jubilee Garden in Station Road, the Recreation Ground on the Clappers (including the play equipment, football field, football pavilion, toilets and car park) and the Pocket Park. All this is managed on a budget (current year) of £64,645, which costs each household in the parish approximately £60 for the year, or about £1.17 a week (which is based on a band D property - for which the full amount of Council Tax is £1,600 for the year).

It is that time of year again when councils of all sizes have to review and set their budgets for the coming financial year. You may well be aware that Central Government have offered grants to County Councils which allows them to freeze their section of the council tax for a second year in a row; this is the case at East Sussex County Council. Unfortunately, these grants are *not* available to Parish Councils such as ours and, with increasing pressures on the local services provided, it has been decided that, although we were able to avoid any increase last year, the precept for Salehurst & Robertsbridge will need to increase for the coming year to £69,145. This will mean an increase of £4.24 per year - or 8 pence per week, for a band D property.

District Councils are able to raise funds in other ways such as raising car parking charges - as has happened in Battle - whereas, beside the precept, our only other sources of income are cemetery fees and contributions from the football clubs for use of the field. We do not have any other source of funding. The Parish Council, just like all our households, has been affected by increasing costs with the most significant increase being in the cost of providing street lighting (we all know how much electricity costs have escalated). With the additional costs of providing grit for the new grit bins, provision for renewing the Local Action Plan and other general increases in costs, it is not possible to have a second year of no increase.

In order to help their budgets, the District Councils are also able to pass responsibilities to the Parishes such as the responsibility for the Station Road car park which could incur further costs for the Parish Council in the future. The increase has been kept to the minimum possible to ensure the effect on household budgets is not excessive but will ensure that your local services are maintained to a satisfactory standard.

### **Annual Parish Meeting – or Parish Assembly**

This will take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Robertsbridge Hall, Station Road. This is not a council meeting, but a **meeting of the 'electors' of the parish** – in other words **it is your meeting!** After short reports from the Chairman of the Parish Council and your County and District Councillors, you will have an opportunity to ask questions or raise any matters of local interest.

As usual we will be inviting all voluntary groups and organisations in the parish to take part by having a small table top display or stand to promote and advertise their own activities, and other topical displays. This is a good opportunity to see just how much Robertsbridge has to offer, and to meet informally with other residents and your elected representatives to discuss matters of interest to you.

Doors open at 7pm allowing half an hour to gather, view the displays, mingle and chat. The formal part of the evening – the reports and questions and / or discussions starts at 7.30pm and will last for about 30 - 45 minutes. Following this, light refreshments will be served, with more time to chat and view the information stands. The evening will finish by about 9pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Making Tracks** - I wrote a piece for the March edition of The Villager following concerns about sheep worrying in fields through which some of our footpaths run. Rather than repeat the whole article here I would urge you to buy a copy and have a read; it contains information taken from the Natural England website. Many ewes are in lamb, which makes it a delicate time for them and for the farmers. The loss of a sheep means the loss of her lambs as well and if a ewe is spooked in any way, whether it is by a person or another animal, it can abort its lambs.

It is important to stick to the footpaths and to keep dogs under close control (they can continue to be exercised off the lead in Bishop's Meadow but must be kept on a lead throughout the Recreation Ground) and remember to clean up after them.

The footpath volunteer group has now cleared the section of footpath that runs between the church and Goodgrooms, which I hope will now make that whole footpath more accessible to a wider range of people. There are still a few jobs that can be done on that path to improve it but at least it is now in a better condition than it was a year ago.

The gate on the footpath behind Glenleigh Walk has not been forgotten. East Sussex, CC, the land owner and the tenant farmer have all agreed that a gate can be installed there so I am just waiting for them to let me know when their rangers are ready to start. Having just walked from Bugsell to Glenleigh I see that the path is now well signposted and a new footbridge has been installed down by the railway main line. I only reported this to ESCC a short while ago and it is only with cooperation between the land owner/tenant, ESCC and the public that these kind of improvements can happen so quickly. If you do come across any footpath problems please contact ESCC direct on 0345 6080193 or on-line at [rightsof-way@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:rightsof-way@eastsussex.gov.uk).

*Charlie Beeden*

### **Robertsbridge Pocket Park**

Conservation work by local volunteers has started on one of our Parish's green spaces - the Pocket Park. On the first Volunteer Work Day overgrown blackthorn and brambles were tackled to reveal once again the criss-cross of smaller paths through the park while protecting the existing surrounding wildlife habitat and fauna. We plan to work on the ponds in the coming months.

Future Work Days will be advertised so if you are willing to give a hand to help maintain the Pocket Park and Bishop's Meadow please contact Peter Massini (01580 880353 [petemassini@btinternet.com](mailto:petemassini@btinternet.com)) or Cllr Anne Wells. The work does not entail use of power tools but suitable footwear and gloves are advisable plus secateurs and/or loppers if you have either.

The muddy access area under the bridge has been now temporarily improved by Rother Valley Railway until further work can be done on it before completion of the track.

### **Get fit??**

The Parish Council has been asked to investigate the possibility of some basic low impact and fun-to-use adult outdoor gym equipment for the Recreation Ground. You may have seen such equipment in other villages or towns. If there is sufficient demand and space permits, we would be applying for an outside grant for the majority of the cost. If you think this would be a useful community asset in helping us to keep fit perhaps you could let me know by phone or email. Anne Wells ([anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk) tel: 880832)



Robertsbridge Jubilympics

4<sup>th</sup> June 2012

### Robertsbridge Summer Events Committee

## 'BY THE VILLAGE – FOR THE VILLAGE'

The Summer Events Team is busy with preparations for this year's event celebrating both the Queens Jubilee and the Olympics.

The Sedan Chair race is attracting a lot of attention with teams deciding which Olympic Nation their team will represent in the race. Starting at the car park the entrants will process down the

High Street and into the Recreation Ground where the real fun begins. Contact Simon Longhurst [chairman@salehurst-cc.org.uk](mailto:chairman@salehurst-cc.org.uk) for more information and to book your team a place.

Who knows you may win a Gold Medal.

Hot and cold refreshments and the ever popular Pimm's Bar will be on hand, or bring your own picnic and drinks to keep you going through the fun and games... and the live entertainment in the evening.

Join us on Face Book (Robertsbridge Summer Event) and if you want to lend a hand on the day email us at [info@robertsbridgesummerevent.co.uk](mailto:info@robertsbridgesummerevent.co.uk)

101....101...101...101...101...101..... ?? Do you know what this number represents? - check it out on the back page.

### **ROBERTSBRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (The Village Hall) Reg. Charity 263528**

The Village Hall was set up nearly 30 years ago to provide a venue for events of all sorts for the village. This is still what it does and how the hall pays its way. Recently we have made a series of improvements to the Hall and its facilities, e.g extending and improving the bar, replacing the side doors and windows, making steps to the stage, buying uniform sets of crockery, new chairs for the Committee Room, getting a new public address system, screen, projector etc, etc. But Committee members also run various activities which contribute to Village Life, not to mention hopefully raising a little money to help keep our basic hire charges down.

**Village Market** - It is four years since we started "The Village Market" on the first Saturday of each month and it has taken its place as a regular feature of our village life. Of course it is mainly a market with fruit and veg, spices, meat, clothes, cards and much more, but also it is a busy, happy and useful meeting and chatting place.

**Allotments** - These will soon have been in use for two years. Obviously running them also makes demands on volunteer time but seeing what the allotment holders have achieved is reward enough and we like to think they are here to stay. The waiting list is down to two at present so if you are interested it is worth applying.

The cheap seeds scheme is back in operation for this season, jointly for both RAGAS and RCA.

Our allotments are on the floodable side of the bund which protects the Hall. This means we are subject to Environment Agency rules. Surprisingly they are happy with the most of the structures our members have created, but not with the water and compost butts as they present a hazard in the event of flooding by possibly blocking water courses. Negotiations are proceeding!

**Entertainment** - We have put on the occasional film show in the past and other Village Halls offer regular shows which are usually well attended. No doubt this is because it provides a nearby and cheap way of enjoying recent popular productions and the occasional classic, so we have decided to give this a try and adverts will appear around the village. The next showing is 'One Day' (PG) on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Obviously the success of the scheme depends entirely on demand. If you have any preferences, thoughts or questions about this idea, or any of our other activities please talk to a committee member, or e-mail [underhillphil@talktalk.net](mailto:underhillphil@talktalk.net).

We also run a regular evening Whist Drive on the third Thursday of each month at the Hall, which provides both entertainment and refreshments. We have our regulars but will be very happy to fill one or two more tables if whist appeals to you.

**Coach outings** - Occasional coach trips are organised and the next one is on 28<sup>th</sup> April visiting *The Vyne*, a Tudor mansion, near Basingstoke, combined with *West Green House* gardens quite nearby. Both are National Trust which will be very economical for NT members, and will have spring flowers galore on show. If interested ring Anne on 880457.

**Unfortunately** - we have not had space to include an update on the Rother Valley Railway progress in this issue but a full report is in the March edition of 'The Villager' and you can also read it in the 'News and Events' page of the Parish web site

## SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Karen Ripley

The Parish Office  
Robertsbridge Youth Centre  
The Grove, George Hill  
Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5AP

Phone: 01580 882066

Email: [clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Web address:

[www.salehurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.salehurst-pc.org.uk) or  
[www.robertsbridge-pc.org.uk](http://www.robertsbridge-pc.org.uk)

The Parish Office is open to the public at the following times:

Tuesday	9am to 11am
Thursday	2pm to 4pm

Rother District Council

Web address: [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)

### Parish Councillors Tel:

Cllr Simon Longhurst (Chair) 880469  
[simon.longhurst@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:simon.longhurst@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Dicky Clymo (vice-Chair) 881563  
[dicky.clymo@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:dicky.clymo@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Ruth Augarde 881708  
[ruth.augarde@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:ruth.augarde@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Neil Barden 880457  
[neil.barden@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:neil.barden@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Charles Beeden 880508  
[charles.beeden@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:charles.beeden@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Nick Greenfield 880998  
[nick.greenfield@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:nick.greenfield@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Nigel Lockwood 882204  
[nigel.lockwood@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:nigel.lockwood@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Gillian Smith 880810  
[gillian.smith@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:gillian.smith@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Anne Wells 880832  
[anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

### East Sussex County Councillor

Cllr Peter Jones  
[cllr.peter.jones@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.jones@eastsussex.gov.uk)

### Rother District Councillors

Cllr Graham Browne 860118  
[cllr.Graham.browne@rother.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.Graham.browne@rother.gov.uk)

Cllr Susan Prochak 881309  
[cllr.susan.prochak@rother.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.susan.prochak@rother.gov.uk)

### The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The extended holiday weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June is the central focus for the national celebrations. We are aware of the following events planned for Salehurst and Robertsbridge so far:

- **Jubilympics** – whole village picnic event on 4<sup>th</sup> June - see page 3
- **St Mary's Church** – Jubilee Tea and Evening Service of Thanksgiving, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May; plus display of paintings, flowers, needlecraft, Coronation memorabilia etc in the Church during June – see the March edition of the Villager for details
- **Jubilee Beacon** – the PC is working with Robertsbridge Bonfire Society and Hurst Green PC to light a beacon on the Stage Field, Hurst Green as part of the official 2012 beacon network on 4<sup>th</sup> June

If your group or organisation is planning an event or celebration, please let us have details and we will happily publicise it on the PC website, and on a summary list on the PC notice boards.

Apart from its usual timetable the Community Bus will be running additional shopping trips, picking up in Robertsbridge at several places. Advance booking of a few days is required (tel. 01424 772001) for these extra trips.

**Eastbourne:** every third Thursday monthly (next trip 19th April)

**Tenterden:** every fourth Friday alternate months (next trip 27th April)

**Rye:** every first Thursday alternate months (next trip 3rd May)

The scheme needs a minimum amount of passengers for each trip to be viable.

It is good to see so many residents using the bus to visit Battle on Tuesdays and Fridays - using it helps to secure its future. But as you probably know most Councils around the country in their search for savings are looking at libraries, not ESCC so far, but why not pop into Battle Library whilst you are there - borrow a book or just browse or read a newspaper, it's warm and dry and the more it's used the safer it is from cuts!



I have been in post now 7 and half years and mainly in Robertsbridge. I have seen children go from infants to Seniors and from seniors to becoming parents themselves, It has been a very rewarding time. I have specialised in being the School Liaison Officer, that means that I go into schools in the area that Battle Police Station cover and speak to the children, for Receptions and playgroups I take in a bag of police clothes which they love to dress up in, for Year 1 the lesson is Stranger Danger & Year 2 is Road Safety, the other years are covered by the new School Liaison Officer PC Gaynor Oakensen.

I also am the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer for the area and work closely with the Police and the Travelling community.

**101....101...101...101...101...101.....** This is a new **Non Emergency** number for Sussex Police now, much easier to remember, just dial 101 and listen to the prompts you hear, this also affects my contact number as well so if you need to leave me a message please use the following

101 extension 19450

mobile: 07810656247

email: [tinamarie.grevett@sussex.police.pnn.co](mailto:tinamarie.grevett@sussex.police.pnn.co)