



Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Issue 2

December 2012

## Dates for your diary 2012/13

**Planning  
Committee  
Youth Centre** 6th  
December

**Planning  
Committee  
Youth Centre** 3rd  
January

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

**Planning  
Committee  
Youth Centre** 7th  
February

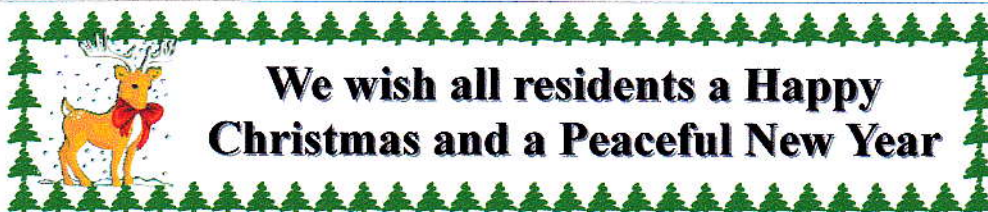
**Planning  
Committee  
Youth Centre** 7th  
March

**Parish Council  
Meeting  
Robertsbridge Hall** 18th  
March

**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



## We wish all residents a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

### **WE NEED YOUR VIEWS...** does Robertsbridge want to keep its skate ramp?

The Parish Council is currently considering the future of the skate ramp situated on the Youth Centre land adjacent to the Primary School (behind the Robertsbridge Children's Services building).

The timber mini half-pipe skate ramp was installed in 2000, following an initiative to raise the funds by a group of local young people, supported and helped by Cllr Sue Prochak. Having raised £1000 themselves, they secured grant funding from the Parish Council, Rother District Council, Sussex Police and Sussex Rural Community Council. The most difficult part was finding a suitable location; several sites were investigated but ruled out for various reasons (the most obvious being the Recreation Ground, which is unsuitable due to flooding) and after much consideration, permission was given to site the ramp on the Youth Centre land. The Parish Council agreed to take on responsibility for maintenance and insurance of the facility (a condition of the funding bodies).

The ramp has been very popular in the past and well used, but has been out of service for some time following problems with land drainage on the site, which has caused some fairly major damage. Repairs / refurbishment will cost from £2,000 to £5000. Parish Council funds earmarked for the ramp will not cover such significant expenditure.

We are therefore keen to ascertain what level of support or interest there is within the community to retain the facility; if there is sufficient support to retain it, we would need to establish a group of volunteers - including some young people - to lead on raising the necessary funds.

Please let us have your views, in writing or by email ([clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk)) before 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Local Action Plan - update**

Village Gateways - as reported previously, we have been working on a project to install "gateways" at the main entrances to the village, as a traffic calming measure. The wooden structures on the verges can now be seen at the entrance to many villages across the county and aim to draw attention to the fact that the driver is entering a residential area, with a speed limit.

Our PCSO Tina Grevett managed to secure a grant of £250 from the Police Property Act Fund (this is funded from the sale of seized property) to add to the money already earmarked from Local Action Plan Funds; a further £250 allocated from Parish Council funds means that we are now able to progress with the project. Final plans are being drawn up and a legal safety audit will shortly be carried out by East Sussex County Council. We hope to have the gateways in place next spring.

## Making Tracks

There hasn't been much activity over the summer months due to holidays and other commitments, also, we avoid cutting hedges until after the birds have flown and we are advised not to cut bracken during August because of the risk of carcinogens.

The three stiles at the back of The Ostrich have been repaired by the landlord following complaints about their general condition, so my thanks to Tony for doing the work so quickly. To reiterate what I have said before in these pages, footpaths are public rights of way but they run over land that is privately, not publicly owned and that goes for the ownership of many of the stiles and gates that you will use. The gates and stiles are there to allow access from separate areas of land whilst keeping livestock enclosed. I know that to some walkers stiles are an obstacle rather than a means of easy access from one piece of land to another and as a result, for whatever reason, damage can be caused to them. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) now prefers to install self closing gates or dog latches where practical but to do so requires the consent of the landowner, which isn't always forthcoming. So to all walkers, please respect the land owners' property and please, please clean up after your dogs.

We have a splendid network of footpaths in the parish and many lead us to some magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. Anne Wells and I have started to walk David Allen's footpaths and this will continue during the autumn and winter. The purpose of this is twofold: firstly to update the book and secondly to highlight work for the volunteer group to undertake during the autumn/winter/early spring. As we walk the paths we are checking the way-marking and are installing additional discs where necessary. I've had a query from Rother Valley Railway following some comments about the difficulty in walking from the abbey to Bodiam, so this is a path that will also be checked out over the coming months. Talking of volunteers, we have a small group of regulars but could do with a couple more, so if you are interested then please get in touch, my details are on the back of this Newsletter. The work is only as strenuous as you want it to be and, to fall within ESCC insurance scheme, we use only hand tools.

*Charlie Beeden*

## Get Fit - Keep Fit!



Good News!!! Awards for All (National Lottery) have agreed to fully fund our request for 4 items of adult outdoor gym equipment to be installed in the recreation ground alongside the children's equipment already in place. We expect to have it up and running early next year.

So Robertsbridge, like many other towns and villages in our region will now be able to offer residents a range of outdoor equipment for the benefit of all who want to make use of this new facility. The only thing we need is some dry weather for this fresh air fitness experience, although there's nothing to say that exercise in the rain can't be pleasurable. (Or so my dog tells me! Ed.)



*Anne Wells*

**Robertsbridge Arts Partnership** On Saturday 15th December *Fairgame Theatre* will be performing **Hansel and Gretel** in Robertsbridge Village Hall at 6 p.m and tickets for this will be £8 for adults and £4 for children. .

I would also like to remind you that we can only bring these to the village with your support so any outstanding membership subscriptions would be very welcome - Single membership costs £5 per year; Family £10. These can be left at 9 Station Road and tickets for the performances are available from Pam Golding Tel 01580 880359.

*Muriel Webster*

**Public Access Defibrillators (PAD)** - Do you know what these are? Did you know that Robertsbridge has two, available for ANY member of the public to use in an appropriate emergency? Would you use it? A defibrillator is a device which is critical in 'cardiac arrest' situations. If someone's heart has stopped, early intervention with a defibrillator and basic CPR can make a huge difference to their chance of survival, in the vital minutes before an ambulance arrives. The Patient Participation Group for Robertsbridge has been successful in securing two devices from South East Coast Ambulance Authority under an initiative to make PADs (Public Access Defibrillators) available for use by members of the public. These devices are perfectly safe to use by UNTRAINED people; they 'speak' very clear instructions to the person using it, and are incapable of delivering a 'shock' to anyone whose heart has not stopped, so there is no danger of 'doing more harm than good'.



You may have noticed the PAD attached to the outside wall of the Vet's surgery on the High Street (close to the junction with Station Road). The second device is situated on the exterior wall of the Salehurst Halt, so that there should always be one within a few minutes reach.

**COME AND SEE A MACHINE DEMONSTRATED AND FIND OUT MORE...** The Patient Participation Group, in collaboration with the British Red Cross First Aid Group and supported by the Parish Council and Sussex Police (Tina our PCSO) is organising a **Defib Awareness Drop-in Event on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at Robertsbridge Hall, Station Road**. Please come along at **any time between 10.30am and 12.30pm** and have a look at the machines and see training models demonstrated – *a few minutes of your life could save a life later*. You can ask questions, have a go (only if you want to), and generally reassure yourself about the process and concept. The Darvell Community has kindly offered to provide refreshments on the day, so just come to socialise... we will be delighted to see you.

**Edited Report from Tina Grevett; Police community Support Office ( a fuller version can be seen on her notice board outside Judges Bakery**

I am pleased to say that we have had nine fewer crimes than in this period last year. It may not seem like a huge number but this has made a great difference in terms of impact on the community. There have even been some weeks in this past year where there have been no crimes reported at all.

I know it takes no reminding that winter is upon us and I would like to bring two things in particular to your attention.

The first being **Oil Thefts**, it always happens this time of year so try and be a little more diligent this year.

The position of your tank could affect how much of a target you are, have you thought of visibility? Surround your tank with well constructed wooden or metal fences and walls Shackle padlocks are the best defence against bolt croppers.

Electronic oil level gauges set off an alarm if the oil level in the tank drops suddenly or falls below a quarter full. You can locate the alarm in the kitchen, or somewhere else that's convenient to warn you if your fuel level drops.

Security lights can be a very effective theft deterrent. Although it may be tempting to floodlight the entire area, more subtle lighting maybe just as effective, before fitting lights think about: Bright lights may be a nuisance to neighbours or road users in certain location. Would motion sensor lights or lower level locations work better?

Planting a prickly hedge around the tank will put thieves off, and a trace of blood or shred of clothing could help the police identify an offender if your tank is targeted.

**The second thing** is to think about making our properties more secure. One way of doing this is by ensuring your home looks occupied when you are out; leaving a light, TV or radio on can deter thieves. If you go away ask a neighbour to clear post from your letterbox and switch lights on.

To further deter thieves please security mark your property and register all of your items on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com), a national property register designed to help get your property back to you if lost or stolen. Please remember to lock bikes securely when leaving them unattended.

I can supply you with UV pens and bicycle marking stickers to security mark your property. If you would like more crime prevention advice I can also arrange a visit from the Crime protection Officer to check your home and suggest ways to make it more secure.

**Continued on next page**

## 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: (note new times)

Tuesday	2pm to 4pm
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  
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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)

### Tina's report contd.

This year I managed to obtain £650 for Robertsbridge from the Police Property Act Fund, this is funded from proceeds of crime, i.e. from drug dealers that have money, car or property seized from them which is then sold on at an auction site (Bumblebee). Police Officers and PCSOs can apply for good causes within the community. I got £250 towards new village 'gates' at the entrances of the village for Robertsbridge Parish Council, £250 towards bicycle racks at Salehurst Primary School and £150 towards the senior citizens Christmas lunch at Robertsbridge Community College.

### Street Lights – update

At long last, work will shortly commence on the upgrading of our street lights. Widespread consultation last year indicated overwhelming support to change all lamps to the 'golden' ones which are cheaper, use less energy and last longer and to switch lamps off at midnight in all but the main 'arteries' of the village.

The programme includes replacement of all the old mercury based lanterns with new, far more efficient ones. As we change them we will have them programmed to turn on at dusk, off at midnight, on at 5am, off at daylight (note this is a fixed schedule and cannot be adjusted on an individual lamp basis) except for Station Road and along George Hill, High Street, The Clappers and Northbridge Street to the roundabout, where the lamps will stay on from dusk to dawn.

We currently have several lamps which are on constantly, but these will be gradually changed as we work through the programme. So if you see the engineer in your area over the coming months, I believe his is tea with two...

**Robertsbridge Archaeological Society** have started their new season of lectures. All are held at Robertsbridge Hall starting at 7.30pm and are open to members and non-members. There is no charge but a collection is held at the end to cover expenses (recommended donation £1 per person).

### Robertsbridge WEA

When Sussex University withdrew from their provision of outreach adult education courses, Robertsbridge WEA agreed to take over the running of the courses they had planned to run in Hurst Green.

We have just completed two successful courses and in the New Year we will be running two more courses starting in January. **Traveller's in the Middle Ages** is a 10 week course given by Vanessa King and will be held on Tuesday evenings in Robertsbridge. In Hurst Green the second 10 week part of **Historic Buildings on the River Thames from its Source to the Nore - Part I** will run on Monday afternoons at Hurst Green Village Hall – you do not need to have been to the first part to attend this!

Both courses are open to all and you may attend the first session of any course without obligation.

Please contact Margaret Allen, tel: 01580 881056 email:

[wea@davidallen.idps.co.uk](mailto:wea@davidallen.idps.co.uk) if you are interested in either of these courses.