



NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Issue 4

June 2013

Dates for your diary 2013

<i>Planning Committee</i> Youth Centre	4th July
<i>Parish Council Meeting</i> Robertsbridge Hall	15th July
<i>Planning Committee</i> Youth Centre	1st August
<i>Planning Committee</i> Youth Centre	5th September
<i>Parish Council Meeting</i> Robertsbridge Hall	16th September
<i>Planning Committee</i> Youth Centre	3rd October

Community Friends for Robertsbridge and Salehurst

We all need a "helping hand" at some time in our lives. It is not just those who are less mobile but anyone can fall sick, break a limb or just be under the weather and welcome help from a neighbour.

You will all have seen the recent questionnaire sent to everyone's home asking whether you need help for such tasks as changing a light bulb, tidying the garden, walking the dog, shopping, help with reading or forms or a lift to a hospital or dentist appointment.

You were also asked if you could spare some time to give this kind of help.

There has been a good response to date and we are hopeful that we will soon be setting up a Community Friends scheme for Robertsbridge and Salehurst - watch this space!

Do not worry but if you missed out returning your questionnaire, the collection boxes at Judges and One-Stop will still be there for a limited period to post any completed forms - we would love to hear from you.

Val Smith, Rother Community Friends Project Officer

Tel: 01424 217259 / 07719102898 Email: val.smith@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk

Robertsbridge Summer Event - Village Fun Picnic

Sunday 23 June on the Recreation Ground from 1.30 to 5 pm

Put the date in your diary now for an afternoon of fun games, competitions, a treasure hunt and lots more. Bring your own food, chairs, drink etc and join the whole village for this free event with a Pimms' bar. You can bring down your tables and chairs in the morning up to 1 pm.

This year the Summer Event (www.robertsbridgesummerevent.co.uk) is being run in association with FLAIR, the Robertsbridge Youth Festival of Arts which is taking place over the same weekend (see pages 2 & 3). There will be guest performances from the very best FLAIR competitors during the picnic.

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 and you can comment on planning applications on-line

Parish Council or Village Council. What's in a name? Have your say.

In this village, as in many others, the boundary of the church parish is close to or identical with that of the civil parish, though the functions of the two bodies diverged long ago; since 1894 they have been completely separate. Originally the civil parish name was the same as the church parish - Salehurst. But, several years ago the civil parish was re-named 'Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council' which reflects history but recognises Robertsbridge, the larger part of the parish. This and the dual meaning of 'Parish' is sometimes the cause of misunderstanding and, the name is a lot longer than any other in Rother. Is this confusing and cumbersome? Or is it keeping traditional and historic links?

It would be quite easy for the civil parish to change its name to, for example, 'Robertsbridge Village Council'. Do you have a view about this possibility? If so please let the Clerk (Karen Ripley) or the Chairman (Dicky Clymo) know.

If you use the Blue and Red Rother Recycle plastic sacks then you might find it useful to know that these are available at the Parish Office. They can be collected during parish office opening hours to save a journey to the Rother District Council Office in Battle.

Forging ahead? The management of Robertsbridge green spaces



To improve access for all to the Pocket Park volunteers made a small wooden bridge/walkway to level part of the outer footpath to enable an easier passage around the park for mobility scooters and pushchairs which was part of the initial plan for the pocket park steered by the earlier village questionnaire results. The bridge work was carried out during a recent Task afternoon (John, Nils and Ivan from Darvell together with Nigel and Gordon made a great Bridge team) while other volunteers got on with the usual maintenance work within the woodland and around the ponds. The work by volunteers carried out during 2012 made this first task of this year easier.

If you are walking around the Pocket Park (entrance by the football ground, under the bridge) you might hear a cuckoo and skylark as well as see the emerging wild flowers such as cowslips, wild arum, wild allium (wild garlic) and yellow archangel among the primroses and bluebells. Two ducks have been spotted visiting one of the ponds so it seems its popularity is growing.

If you are using mobility transport or pushchairs around the outer path perhaps you could let us know if you find the paths to be adequately accessible or in need of some further attention. We hope we are keeping a balance between protecting the natural environment of the area while enabling access to it.

Clrs Anne Wells and Nigel Lockwood

What powers do Parish Councils have with respect to planning applications?

Parish Councils are notified by the relevant Local Planning Authority (either the Rother District or the County Council) of all planning applications. In this Parish all such applications are considered by our own Planning Committee, which is a statutory committee and therefore advertises its agenda before the monthly meeting and holds its meetings in public. Anyone may attend these meetings, and has an opportunity to express views about any application.

Views expressed by our Planning Committee must be taken into account by the Planning Authority before a decision is made. The final decision is made by the Planning Authority, **not** the Parish Council. Results are published and are a standing item on the PC Planning Committee agenda.

The advantages of these procedures are:

- The development may be of particular significance locally and the views of the Parish would be a helpful indication of local reactions.
- It gives the Parish the opportunity to be aware of what development may be undertaken in their area.
- The Parish, with its local knowledge, can alert the Local Planning Authority to things which may not be readily apparent in the application. Local people may have important relevant evidence not in the application.
- Interested residents learn about development proposals.
- It allows residents to inspect paper plans locally (the publicly available electronic plans are often of very poor quality).



Robertsbridge Youth Festival of Arts 21st- 23rd June 2013 Festival Update

The festival's name, Flair, was chosen by Year 6 children at Salehurst Primary and the logo was designed by Molly Bielecki aged 10. To see a full colour version and all the other entries, visit the website, www.flairfestival.com.

Meanwhile, mini-concerts by professional musicians for the primary school children have been taking place in the weeks leading up to the Festival as well as storytelling and finger painting with Sarah Massini.

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On Friday 21st June, local folk trio Little Roc join forces with Steph Vidler in a fun choral singing session, after which the children will perform that evening at the Rococo Summer Concert in the village hall.

Competition and Workshops

On Saturday 22nd June, you will be able to see entrants perform songs, play musical instruments and recite literature. There will also be an art exhibition. And of course some of the children will be performing at the Summer Event Picnic on Sunday 23rd June down on The Clappers.

Also on the Saturday, we're running a series of workshops for children aged 3-16 years involving different kinds of art, dance, storytelling and drumming with David Driver.

Look out for details and for how to get tickets if you haven't done so already on our website and posters.

Finally, thank you to our existing partners: Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council, RAP, REG, Rococo, Rother District Council, Robertsbridge Summer Event, Robertsbridge Club, 1066 Media, Scouts, Salehurst Primary School, Robertsbridge Children's Services, Darvell, Robertsbridge Community College and the Rev. Jack Lusted.

www.flairfestival.com



Hi - We are some of the young people in Robertsbridge. We are as young as 11 and as old as 19 and every Monday night you will find us hiding out at the Robertsbridge Youth Club. We want to tell you about our art and film exhibition. Please come and see our work.

Sept 23rd 6-8pm at the Youth Centre (opposite The George) will be our opening night. We would like you to listen to a sample of original music, read our texts, see our photography and film and sculptures made from chairs, AND to see us.

That is a bit scary of course because as we said, we like hiding away at the youth club.

Our youth club is run by a part of ESCC called Targeted Youth Support. There are youth leaders to talk to and help us through things. We chill, chat, play sport, music and make art because at the moment we are getting ready for our exhibition. We will be working with professional artists to turn our ideas into a good exhibition. We want our art to change some ideas about who we are.

To run our exhibition, we have already raised £1,243 from Strictly Youth. **First Flair** - The Robertsbridge Youth Festival of Arts, from 21-23 June, then us in Sept, will help change how young people are seen in Robertsbridge and how they see themselves.

How do you see me? Art and Film Exhibition will be open between **Sept 23 to Oct 7**. Soon, we will announce five public viewing times. Also, if you are a community or school group in the village we will be inviting you to come and look round as a group. Plus, if you use the youth centre for anything else, you can see our work.

Right now, we are collecting answers to the question '*What did you love in life when you were 15 years old?*' (If you are younger than 15, you will have to change the question to '*What will you love in life when you are 15 years old?*'). Please send your answer to our youth worker hilarywatkins@eastsussex.gov.uk or post it, marked 'Youth Exhibition Question', into the parish office at the Youth Centre by mid-July please so that we can include it in the exhibition - your answers will, of course, be anonymous.

To help run the exhibition we need volunteer stewards. We have the support of many adult organisations but we need adult stewards to sit at the entrance and tell people where to find the art. If you could offer a couple of hours and want more information about when and what, please tell Karen Ripley clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk or by a note into the Parish Office. We will appreciate your belief in us.

We know we're not angels and we know you can sometimes find us annoying but this exhibition is a place to start talking.

From Tiff Wares, Sam Wright & Millie Jones.

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

Web address:

www.salehurst-pc.org.uk or
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

Parish Councillors

Tel:

Cllr Dicky Clymo (Chair) 881563
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East Sussex County Councillor

Cllr Angharad Davies 831965
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Rother District Councillors

Cllr Graham Browne 860118
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Cllr Susan Prochak 881309
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Circular countryside walks in East Sussex - a new App to download free

The East Sussex County Council Rights of Way Access Team has recently developed an 'East Sussex Walks' App to make it easier for smartphone users to follow some of the most popular circular countryside walks in East Sussex. The 'East Sussex Walks' App can be downloaded for free onto a smartphone. It will then use GPS, maps and photos to guide you around a choice of twelve circular walks in the County.

The App also includes directions to the start of each walk, clearly written descriptions of the route, photos of path junctions, and other points of interest - including historical sites and other features of the East Sussex countryside.

The walks can be selected by location, length, difficulty or chosen from a map of East Sussex. The App includes the most popular circular routes from the ESCC website:

To download the App, simply search for 'East Sussex Walks' on the Google Play Store or on iTunes. The development of the App was funded by European funding as part of the Accessing the Countryside project. It is co-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund)

Onward to 100!

Having celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2012, the Robertsbridge & District Archaeological Society move towards their centenary with their next season of talks starting in October:

October 11th - The History of Ashburnham

November 8th - The History of the Palaces of Westminster

*December 13th - A Sussex Christmas
(Members Christmas meeting & Buffet)*

January 10th 2014 - New Insights at Ore Church

February 14th - The Civil War of Stephen & Matilda

March 14th - Traditional Music and display of memorabilia

April 11th - Archaeology in the local area

May 9th - The Story of Rye

Meetings are open to everyone (excluding Christmas members meeting) - there is no charge, but a collection is made to defray expenses.

New members are always welcome - contact the Secretary Ann Barden for details 01580 880457 or email info@aboutrobertsbridge.org.uk

Sharp eyed readers will have noticed that Dicky Clymo has stopped 'acting' and has taken on the role of Chairman - he is supported by Nick Greenfield as vice-Chair