

Rustington

Parish Council Newsletter

Chairman's Message



With the Festive period over, it's time to look back over a busy few months in Rustington.

The Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce,

together with the Littlehampton District LIONS Club, held the Annual Christmas Shopping Event in the Village on Saturday 2 December and, although cold, we were lucky that it remained dry for the second year running. Once again, Santa's Grotto was in a log cabin and, as usual, went down very well with all those lucky enough to meet him. The Fairground

Rides, Charity Stalls and Events dotted about the Village did a great job of bringing everyone together.

I was proud to host the Annual Community Carol Concert which, again this year, saw outstanding performances from the Littlehampton Concert Band, the Sussex West County Guide Choir and the Friendship Singers. It certainly put us all in a Festive mood and the now well established and popular Lucky Programme Draw and Charity Auction rounded the evening off perfectly. I was overjoyed that the Charity Auction and Retiring Collection raised £776.94 for the amazing local Charity, Enable Me.

We are getting closer to the opening of

the Samuel Wickens Centre which will be the new home of the Rustington Museum and Village Information Centre. More details on this exciting Project can be found in the article below.

I am pleased to be able to announce that the reinstated No. 12 Bus Service has been such a success that, in Partnership with Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Store Property Investments limited and Compass Travel, the Council has been able to secure a six-month extension to the initial trial period, taking us up to September 2018.

Councillor Jamie Bennett

Introducing the Samuel Wickens Centre...



The major renovation works at the Samuel Wickens Centre, the ex WRVS Building in the Car Park behind the Waitrose Store, are anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2018. The building will then be handed over on a 10 year Lease to the Parish Council, and will provide a new home for Rustington Museum and the Village Information Centre. There will also be a hireable community venue to replace The Garden Room presently situated at the rear of the Museum.

The Council's current members of personnel employed at the aforementioned facilities will all be working in the Samuel Wickens Centre.

It is hoped that the community facility in the Centre will, in the future, be used by local Groups, Clubs and Organisations, and there will be a number of drop-in Tea and Coffee mornings and/or afternoons, managed by volunteers, for the benefit of the local community.

The Council is continuing to work with the Rustington Heritage Association, to ensure that the new Museum space will not only continue to portray and protect the Village's heritage, but will also be enhanced further with additional displays, to ensure that Visitors will be able to enjoy the 'Museum Experience'. A professional Consultant and Designer are currently preparing a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide the necessary equipment, furniture and expertise to fulfil the future vision.

The Museum, Garden Room and associated land, are on the market for sale, and offers in the region of £600k are being invited. The sale proceeds, following repayment of all associated loans, will be retained for use by the Council for a future capital project for the Village.

The Council remains positive that the move of the aforementioned services to the new Centre will result in much needed revenue cost efficiencies being achieved, which will obviously be of benefit to you, the Parishioners of Rustington.

The Council is sure that this new Community Centre will provide much improved facilities

within the Village, enabling people to gather and socialise in an aesthetically pleasing and welcoming 'fit for purpose' environment.

It is anticipated that the Information Centre will open sometime in April/May 2018, and will operate between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Saturday. The Community Facility in the Centre will also be available to hire on a sessional basis from that time.

The opening of the Museum will be later in the year, as this is dependent on the funding bid being successful. At that time, it will also be open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Saturday. Until it is moved to the new building, it is hoped that it will remain open at its current location.

The Parish Council would like to reiterate its sincere gratitude to Store Property Investments Limited for affording it this most exciting opportunity which, will not only raise the profile most positively of the facilities in the Centre, but will also ensure that it offers social inclusion for all.

If you require any further information regarding any aspect of the new Centre, please contact the Council Offices.

2018/2019 Parish Council Tax

Each year the Parish Council spends money on various local services and that money is part of the Council Tax you pay to the Arun District Council. The money raised through the Council Tax is called the Precept. At this time of year the Council has to consider the level of this Precept and it has decided to set its 2018/19 Precept at £572,000, an estimated increase of 1.03% on the previous year. This compares favourably with the current rate of inflation which is some 3%.

This decision will result in an annual Parish Council charge on a Band 'D' property in Rustington being £94.28, an annual increase of 96p on the previous year. This is under 2p per week.

The Council regrets the need for this small increase but it, like everyone else, is not immune to current inflationary pressures. The Council will continue to strive to achieve ever improved efficiency and value for money in its operation, whilst doing its best to maintain the local services that are so appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

These services include the maintenance and daily operation of the popular Woodlands Centre, the Woodlands Recreation Ground, the Rustington Youth Centre, the Woodland Park Sportsfield, the Village Information Centre, the Museum, over 150 Allotment Plots, Bus and Beach Shelters, Public Seats, the War Memorial, 4 Public Toilet Units, a School Crossing Patrol, some Street Lighting, the continued enhancement and maintenance of all floral and planted displays throughout the Village, Christmas Lighting and Grants to local Organisations. The Council will also continue to provide, in partnership with the Rustington Chamber of Trade and

Commerce and Store Property Investments Limited, the No. 12 Bus Service.

This year will see the opening of the new Samuel Wickens Centre, managed by the Parish Council, at the rear of the Waitrose Supermarket. The Centre will house the new Museum which will move from its current premises in Church Farm Cottages, which will be sold, and the Village Information Centre, which will also move from its present location. In addition, an exciting new service within this Centre will be a venue available for hire. It is expected that this will accommodate a "drop in" facility for local residents on certain days of the week.

I believe that your progressive Parish Council continues to provide excellent value for money for its residents and, at the same time, works in close partnership with the local community to ensure that Rustington maintains its reputation as a most vibrant and pleasant place to live.

Residents have an opportunity to find out much more about how the Council has spent its share of the Council Tax during the past year, and how it plans to spend its Precept during the next financial year, at the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting which will be held on Thursday 19 April in the Village Memorial Hall at the Woodlands Centre, commencing at 7.30 pm. I would also like to take this opportunity of reminding residents that Meetings of the Council and its Committees are open to the public and further details such as dates, timing, etc., can be obtained from the Council Offices.

Councillor Don Rogers
Chairman of the Finance and
General Purposes Committee

Rustington-In-Bloom



The Rustington-in-Bloom Committee held its regular stall at the Christmas Shopping Event on 2 December 2017. It was a very successful day and £660.00 was raised on the Tombola. I would like to thank the local community and visitors for all of their support. I would also like to express the Committee's appreciation to the local traders and businesses for their donations, which helped to make the fundraising event such a success, and Santa helped too...



The In-Bloom Committee has decided not to enter the South & South East In-Bloom Competition for this year. With the outstanding results in the Competition last year, it is felt that we can go no further

at this point. Also, as this year marks the End of the World War One Centenary, it gives the Council and Ferring Nurseries full range for some very notable arrangements in the floral displays planned.

With the various changes that have been made by the Parish Council, the change of venue for the Museum and the Garden Room, the Committee would like to concentrate its efforts on enhancing these changes with some planters and new benches for the front of the new Samuel Wickens Centre.

The Committee will be holding various fundraising events throughout the year, details of which will be announced in due course.

Steve Perry
Chairman - In-Bloom Committee

Gardens Competition

Now is the time to start thinking about this year's Gardens Competition which is divided into the following classes:-

- Class 1** - Window Boxes, Balconies and Patio Tubs etc. (Residential)*
- Class 2** - Window Boxes, Balconies and Patio Tubs etc. (Commercial)*
- Class 3** - Front Gardens of Any Size - including Paved Gardens with Patio Tubs (Residential)*
- Class 4** - Front Gardens of Any Size (Commercial)*
- Class 5** - Schools' Competition
- Class 6** - Community Gardens

*Entries must be clearly visible from the Road

Parishioners and local businesses are encouraged to start thinking about their planting plans now so that they can nominate either themselves, their neighbours, or any members of the local Community for the Competition.

Rustington Street Fayre

The 4th Annual Street Fayre will take place in the Village on Saturday 16 June in Churchill Parade, from Woodlands Avenue through to Establo Lounge.

Last year's Event raised £2,000.00 for the Sussex Snowdrop Appeal and it is estimated that the 30 Charity Stalls raised at least a further £4,500.00 through the generous support within the Village.

Again, this year, the entertainment will be focused on a Performance Stage in the Methodist Church Gardens, and there will be a programme of entertainment throughout the day with a range of local professional and gifted amateur acts. A Children's Fun Fair is also planned and the Church Hall will be displaying a range of Arts and Crafts for sale.

30+ Charity Stalls will be encouraging us all to take an interest and support their individual Charities. For further information regarding Charity Stalls, please contact David Bishop on 01903 918024 or email: rustingtonstreetfayre@gmail.com

The Event is being co-ordinated by Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce and The Littlehampton District LIONS Club. Confirmed Sponsors, to date, include Store Property Investments Limited, Rustington Parish Council, Holt Publishing and Rustington Methodist Church. The LIONS Club is grateful to all of the sponsors and supporters, without whose help the Event could not proceed.

Rustington Youth Club



Rustington Youth Centre is a venue for young people aged between 11 - 17 years. Open every Thursday evening during term time. It offers a variety of activities including pool, table tennis, air hockey, video games consoles, sports, art and more. Each week there is also a tuck shop and an ongoing programme including cooking, movie nights, inflatables, theme nights, and sports.

Last term we chowed down on nuggets and pancakes whilst also enjoying a hot chocolate with our pals celebrating friendship and looking at what it means to be a friend. We also ran a session on self-esteem and we finished the half-term embracing National Pizza Day, making our own pizzas. Next term we hope to be experimenting during National Science Week, reminiscing about our favourite childhood characters during World Book Day and of course there will be lots of food.

The Club has a great team of staff and volunteers committed to seeing young people included and supported. The whole team strives to make a difference to their lives and is able to assess their needs in order to plan and deliver programmes related to areas such as health, fitness, smoking, drugs, relationships and bullying.

The Club is open from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm (term time only with trips planned for half-terms) and entry is FREE for the first time, then 50p per session. You can also bring a friend to the Club that hasn't been before, and you will BOTH get in for FREE that week. More details on the Youth Centre and Arun Youth Projects activities can be found on Facebook and Instagram @arunyouthprojects, email arunyouthprojects@arunchurch.com or from Arun Church on 01903 782744.

Ben Burt - Youth Worker

Schools' Bulb Planting

Every year the Parish Council purchases a quantity of bulbs, as part of its continuing planting scheme, and this year was no exception. Towards the end of 2017, all three Primary Schools in Rustington accepted the Council's offer of a quantity of bulbs to plant in the Schools' grounds.

In November, the Chairman, Councillor Jamie Bennett, joined pupils at all three Schools to assist with the Bulb Planting and was extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the pupils.

Undertaking the planting of the bulbs in the Schools' Gardens were:-

Georgian Gardens CPS - One of the School's Gardening Groups

Rustington CPS - Year 4 pupils

Summerlea CPS - Year 5 pupils



Georgian Gardens CPS



Rustington CPS



Summerlea CPS

Parishioner's Awards

As in previous years, the Council is, once again, inviting all members of the community to submit nominations for the 2018 Parishioners' Awards.

Two awards can be made each year - one to an Individual and one to a Group/ Organisation - in recognition of outstanding Public Service to the Community. All Rustington parishioners or parish-based organisations (including voluntary groups and professionals) are eligible to receive these Awards.

Individuals, Groups and Organisations from outside of the Parish, who make an outstanding contribution for the benefit of the community of Rustington, may also be considered for these Awards.

Nomination Forms are available from the Council's Offices and the Village Information Centre. The closing date for the receipt of nominations is 23 April and the winners will be announced in June.

Council and Committee Meeting Dates

Mon	5 Mar	Planning
Mon	26 Mar	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	26 Mar	COUNCIL
Mon	26 Mar	Planning
Mon	9 Apr	Allotments
Mon	9 Apr	Planning
Thur	19 Apr	ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
Mon	23 Apr	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	23 Apr	COUNCIL
Mon	23 Apr	Planning
Mon	14 May	Planning
Mon	21 May	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	21 May	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Mon	21 May	Planning
Thur	31 May	Leisure & Amenities
Mon	4 Jun	Planning
Mon	18 Jun	Planning
Mon	25 Jun	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	25 Jun	COUNCIL
Mon	25 Jun	Planning

Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting

This is a Meeting of the Parish and is, therefore, open to all electors. It gives everyone an opportunity to discuss local matters, and meet their Parish, District and County Councillors. It is held in the Village Memorial Hall, The Woodlands Centre, Woodlands Avenue.

This year's Meeting will be held on **Thursday 19 April** commencing at **7.30 pm** and complimentary light refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the Meeting.

Councillors' Surgeries

The Council holds its Quarterly Surgeries, to enable members of the local community to have the opportunity to meet with a Councillor to air their views in respect of the way in which the Parish is managed, maintained and enhanced, as well as any other issues of interest or concern.

The next Surgery will be held at Rustington Library from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm on **Saturday 21 April**.

New Defibrillators for the Village



The Parish Council is delighted to report that two of the three donated Defibrillators from the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB), have now been installed on the external 'Summer House' building facing the sea at Princess Marina House and at the southern end of Sea Lane on the Beach Shelter. The third Defibrillator will be installed at the southern end of Sea Avenue in the very near future, subject to the most suitable location being agreed.

Thanks to the generosity of the Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce and, in particular, Clipper Street Barbers, Owen Electrical Limited and Vanilla White Hairdressers, together with the Sea Estate Residents' Association, who made donations of £450.00 and £500.00 respectively, secure cases and protective thermal bags were able to be purchased to house each machine.

The Council will be responsible for all future issues relating to the Defibrillators and their protective cases, and locally based Members of the Worthing Community First Responders, are kindly undertaking regular inspections of the equipment to ensure that they are fully functional at all times.

The Council is especially indebted to Matt England, Blue Light Collaborations Manager (SECAMB), for arranging for the Defibrillators to be donated to the Parish Council, and to Sally Holmes, for all of her assistance, advice, and for offering to ensure that the three Defibrillators are in good working condition at all times, together with Jenny Lindsay, both from the Worthing and District Community First Responders.

For further information, there are three Defibrillators already in-situ in the Village, available for public use, at the following locations:-

Village Information Centre, Churchill Car Park (behind Iceland and The Factory Shop), Owen Electrical Limited, Woodlands Avenue and Rustington Scout Hall, Church Road. All are affixed to the externals walls.

Defibrillators are also available in The Village Memorial Hall at The Woodlands Centre and Rustington Sports and Social Club, Jubilee Avenue (Woodlands Recreation Ground).



Rustington Museum

The new Museum premises are now nearing completion. In total contrast to Church Farm Cottages, all of the facilities are housed on one level. This will enable continuity with all of the planned Exhibitions and static displays. It has been a fantastic nine years spent in this particularly historic building

where, the Museum has celebrated many of Rustington's famous people, events and buildings.

Everyone involved with the Museum is looking forward to celebrating and honouring, in this Centenary year, the very brave and innovative women who worked tirelessly to achieve equal voting rights. We say goodbye to two very successful Exhibitions, from David Slinn - The Eagle and Zachary Merton Maternity Hospital. Both have been appreciated by many visitors.

Tree Donation Scheme

The Village Tree Wardens are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of trees on the public highway that are being lost as a result of age and disease, and damage caused by adverse weather conditions.

The West Sussex County Council operates a Donate a Tree Scheme, where members of the public are able to contribute to that Council's tree planting programme. For a

contribution of £150.00, the County Council will plant a tree outside of the contributor's property (subject to a site assessment and any necessary permissions being granted).

So, if you would like to improve your environment by contributing to this Scheme, you can find out more and apply online at [www.westsussexcountycouncil/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/road-and-roadside/donate-a-](http://www.westsussexcountycouncil/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/road-and-roadside/donate-a-tree-scheme/request-a-tree)

[tree-scheme/request a tree](http://www.westsussexcountycouncil/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/road-and-roadside/donate-a-tree-scheme/request-a-tree). Alternatively, you can contact the County Council on 01243 642105 for more information.

Whilst the County Council accepts requests from members of the public who are not prepared to contribute towards the cost, these can take up to three years to fulfil and, will only be added to the planting schedule if sufficient funds are available in the budget.