

Rustington

Parish Council Newsletter

Chairman's Message



It's that time again to look back and reflect on the last few months in Rustington. So far the weather is being relatively kind to us, but Spring will soon be on its way

and I look forward to warmer weather.

The Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce together with the Littlehampton District Lions Club held the Annual Christmas Shopping Event in the Village and although cold we were lucky that it remained dry, as 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 really proud to host the Annual Community Carol Concert which, again, saw amazing 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 £1,137.76 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

We are getting ever nearer to the

opening of the Next and Aldi Stores in the Spring at the new Retail Park and the Parish Council will be working hard with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce to make sure that the Village continues to thrive whilst embracing change.

Work is to begin shortly on the new Leisure Centre in Littlehampton and we look forward to welcoming this new facility on our doorstep which, I am sure, will be of great benefit to our community.

In closing, can I thank you, the Parishioners, for your unceasing support of the Parish Council and its efforts to ensure that Rustington continues to be a unique Village, with an enviable charm.

Councillor Mrs Alison Cooper
Chairman

2017/2018 Parish Council Tax

For the past six years, the Parish Council's annual charge on a Band 'D' property has remained largely unchanged at a yearly average of £88.52. Unfortunately an increase has been necessary for the forthcoming financial year ending 31 March 2018. The Council has set its 2017/2018 Precept at £563,000 which means that the estimated annual Parish Council charge on a Band 'D' property in Rustington will be £93.32 an annual increase of £3.28 (3.64%). This total Band 'D' charge equates to £1.79 per week, an increase of approximately 6p per week over last year. The final amount, which will be fixed by the Arun District Council as the tax collecting body, may differ slightly depending on that Council's registered number of single person properties (receiving a discount of 25%, plus an estimated 0.6% non-collection rate of Council Tax in Rustington).

The Council regrets the need for this increase but it, like everyone else, is prone to inflationary pressures and, exacerbated by Arun District Council's decision to withdraw the Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant, has not found it possible, despite certain cost efficiency savings,

to keep the Parish Precept at its current level.

However, 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 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; four 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. A contribution will again be made to the No. 12 Bus Service.

In addition, other work planned for 2017/2018 includes the further development of new uses for the delightful building, now known as The Garden Room, at the rear of the Museum, new directional signage for the Village and further

improvements at The Woodlands Centre.

I believe that the Council continues to provide excellent 'value for money' for its parishioners 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.

Local residents, as always, will have an opportunity to find out much more about how the Council has spent its Precept 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 20 April 2017 in the Village Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

I would also like to take this opportunity of reminding parishioners that Meetings of the Council's Committees, including the Finance and General Purposes, 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



QUALITY
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Rustington Museum



Finding the last of the needles from the Museum's Christmas Tree means it's time to look ahead to our proposed Events and Exhibitions for 2017.

Without a Curator for the latter half of the year, it was 'all hands on deck' to utilise and promote the services the Museum could provide. The small tribute to the Women's Land Army has proved a resounding success with many visitors taking a walk down Memory Lane!

It is proposed, this year, to honour and celebrate Zachary Merton Maternity Hospital. From the Museum's plea for information in All About Rustington, it has been inundated with photographs, not only of the babies, (now grown men and women) but of the staff and the many Events in the grounds as well as items for the display cases. So, this should be an exciting Exhibition.

Following the Land Army Display, there will be a tribute to a local Cartoonist, David Slinn, from Rustington who spent his entire working life as an illustrator on The Eagle - very boy's toys!

Easter will see the return of a Craft Workshop in The Garden Room on Saturday 15 April from 11.00 am - 3.00 pm - making Easter bonnets, cards, bunting and anything to do with chicks! This will be a FREE Event.

Parishoner's Award

As in previous years, the Council is, once again, inviting all members of the community to submit nominations for the 2017 Parishoners' 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 **24 April** and the winners will be announced in June.

Rustington-In-Bloom

The Committee had its regular stall at the Christmas Shopping Event on 3 December and I would like to thank the local community and visitors for their support, also all the local traders and businesses for their donations to the Event. We raised a magnificent £1,063.00 which will be used towards this year's In-Bloom Campaign including the further development of the Wildlife Garden on the Woodlands Recreation Ground.



On **Saturday 18 March** in The Garden Room, in the Community Garden at the rear of the Museum, there is another fund raising Event, a Coffee and Cake Morning with Tombola and Bric-a-Brac from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Please drop in, you will all be most welcome.

There will be other Events such as the well-established Plant Sale which is yet to be confirmed. Please look out for further information.

Following the Committee's decision to enter the 2017 South and South East in Bloom Competition in the Village/Town Centre Category, it is now actively looking at ways in which last year's entry can be improved upon.



The route for judging day will again start at 'Abbotswood Corner' at the junction of Station Road and Ash Lane, and finish at The Lamb Public House, via Ash Lane, Broadmark Lane and The Street.

The Committee is hoping that parishioners will continue to participate in some way, whether it be by ensuring the streets are litter free on the Competition judging day, or simply by attending a Fundraising Event. Any support will be most appreciated.

Steve Perry
Chairman - In-Bloom Committee

You are invited to

Rustington In Bloom

Coffee morning

With bric a brac and tombola stalls

Please come and support us

Where: The Garden Room & Community Garden (behind the Museum)

When: Saturday 18th March 2017

Time: from 10am to 1pm

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

Plans are being made for this year's Rustington Street Fayre, which will be held on Saturday 17 June, when the Littlehampton District Lions Club and the Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce will again be organising a day of fun and entertainment for Rustington Village.

Local charities and non-profit organisations will again be invited to have a stall in Churchill Parade to help them raise valuable funds for their relevant causes. There will also be entertainment at the Methodist Church Garden with a stage for local Groups and Bands to perform on,

and an Arts and Crafts Event will be organised in the Hall. There will also be performances in Churchill Court, to include Magicians and Singers.

For further information, or if you would like to be involved, please email rustingtonstreetfayre@gmail.com or call David Bishop on 01903 726858.

With the support of our main sponsors, Rustington Parish Council and Store Property Investments Limited, we have been able to donate over £3,500.00 to local charities from the last two years' Events.

Rustington Youth Club



The Youth Club is a venue for young people aged between 11 - 17 years old. 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. The programme is fun, varied, and designed with young people involved in the planning and ideas.

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

The Club is open from 6.00pm to 8.00pm (term time only with trips planned for half-terms) and the cost of 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 Club and ACCelerate activities can be found at www.acceleratearun.org or from Arun Community Church on 01903 782744.

Ben Young - Youth Worker

Schools' Bulb Planting

Every year the Parish Council purchases a quantity of bulbs, and this year was no exception. Towards the end of 2016, the Village Primary Schools in Rustington accepted the Council's offer of some bulbs to plant in the Schools' grounds.

In November the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Alison Cooper, joined pupils at Georgian Gardens Community Primary School to assist with its Bulb Planting and was extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the pupils.

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

- Georgian Gardens CPS - Green Team**
- Rustington CPS - Eco Team**
- Summerlea CPS - Eco Warrior Team**



Another three Defibrillators for the Village!

The Council has recently received three additional defibrillators for the Village, kindly donated by the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB).

The Council is currently considering where these defibrillators should be located and further details will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

In an emergency **DEFIBRILLATORS** are available for public use at the



Defibrillator

- Village Information Centre**
Churchill Car Park
(behind Iceland and The Factory Shop)
- Owen Electrical Limited**
Woodlands Avenue
- Rustington Scout Hall**
Church Road

(All are affixed to the external walls)

Further **DEFIBRILLATORS** are also available in
The Village Memorial Hall at **The Woodlands Centre** and
Rustington Sports and Social Club
Woodlands Recreation Ground



The Parish Council is now on Facebook. Why not follow us on [facebook.com/rustingtonpc](https://www.facebook.com/rustingtonpc) for all the latest news and events.

If you would like your local Event advertised on our Facebook please email details including a Poster to enquiry@rustingtonpc.org or tag us on [@rustingtonpc](https://www.facebook.com/rustingtonpc)

Meetings

Parish Council Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month (apart from August and December) commencing at 7.00 pm in the Roger Montgomeri Room, The Woodlands Centre, Woodlands Avenue (via Council Offices' entrance).

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 20 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 Parishoners to have the opportunity to meet with Councillors to air their views in respect of the way in which the Village is managed and maintained, as well as raising 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 22 April**.

Council and Committee Meeting Dates

Mon 6 Mar	Planning
Mon 27 Mar	Finance & General Purposes
Mon 27 Mar	COUNCIL
Mon 27 Mar	Planning
Mon 10 Apr	Allotments
Mon 10 Apr	Planning
Thur 20 Apr	ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
Mon 24 Apr	Finance & General Purposes
Mon 24 Apr	COUNCIL
Mon 24 Apr	Planning
Mon 8 May	Planning
Mon 22 May	Finance & General Purposes
Mon 22 May	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Mon 22 May	Planning
Thur 1 Jun	Leisure & Amenities
Mon 5 Jun	Planning
Mon 19 Jun	Planning
Mon 26 Jun	Finance & General Purposes
Mon 26 Jun	COUNCIL
Mon 26 Jun	Planning

The Garden Room



The Village's newest community facility, formerly The Garden Café, is now available to hire and will provide an excellent venue for Community Groups, Clubs, Associations, Businesses and Individuals for Seminars, Training Courses, Meetings, Celebratory Events and many other functions.

For further information, please contact
Rustington Parish Council
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Your Councillors

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