

Rustington

Parish Council Newsletter

Chairman's Message



We are now in a new decade and we look forward to seeing what new prospects it has in store for us.

2019 was an extremely busy year and many events took place in the Village. More recently, in November, the new Museum was opened in the Samuel Wickens Centre. It has some amazing artefacts on display along with a history of

Rustington that surrounds the walls. If you have not had the opportunity to visit, I would urge you to pop in and enjoy the very informative displays that have been created.

The Annual Christmas Shopping Event in the Village was held in December and, although cold, we were lucky that it remained dry for the third year running. The Village did a great job of bringing everyone together.

I was proud to host the Community Carol Concert which, once again, 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 Auction and Retiring Collection raised £772.63 for the amazing and most deserving Charity, Turning Tides.

The next exciting upcoming Events are the 75th Anniversary of VE Day Celebrations which, it is hoped, will prove to be a fantastic weekend for all, and following that, the 2020 Rustington Street Fayre on Saturday 6 June. Further details of both Events feature in this Newsletter.

The Number 12 Bus is still being widely utilised by so many and continues to allow Rustington residents and those in neighbouring areas to be able to access facilities that may otherwise have proven difficult to enjoy.

It has been a privilege to lead the Council as Chairman since May of last year, and I have been given the opportunity to attend many events representing Rustington. We are surrounded by so many friendly communities and their welcoming spirit has definitely made me humble.

Councillor Jon Street

75th Anniversary of VE Day - Celebrations in the Village



The Parish Council is currently working with a number of local Groups and Organisations to arrange a Programme of Events for the weekend of 8-10 May 2020, to celebrate the most important 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

The provisional Programme is as follows:-

Friday 8 May 2020

10.45 am Church Service at the Methodist Church, followed by an Act of Recollection and Rededication at the War Memorial at 11.15 am. This will last approximately 15 minutes and will include prayers, silence and wreath laying. Refreshments will be available in the Church lounge between the services and after the Act of Recollection.

Showtime Amusements - Fair Rides and Attractions - Woodlands Recreation Ground

Saturday 9 May 2020

Rustington Sports and Social Club 'Day and Evening of Entertainment', including Live Music - Woodlands Recreation Ground and/or Club

Showtime Amusements - Fair Rides and Attractions - Woodlands Recreation Ground

Evening Firework Display - Woodlands Recreation Ground

Sunday 10 May 2020

A Celebratory Afternoon Tea with Entertainment - 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm - Village Memorial Hall at The Woodlands Centre

(Rustington Scouts to serve the Afternoon Tea, the Rusti Belles WI and Parish Councillors to make and provide Cakes and Sandwiches etc, The Melodians to provide the musical entertainment and Littlehampton District LIONS Club to organise the Bingo)

Entry by Ticket Only - Cost of Tickets (Inclusive) - £5.00

The Museum will be staging a small Exhibition throughout May, with a display of objects from its own Collection, as well as original newspapers and programmes from past celebrations in the Village, together with items relating to local soldiers and their return home.

A leaflet containing full Events' details and timings, will be produced, once all of the Events have been confirmed, and will be available in the Village Information Centre at the Samuel Wickens Centre, the Council Offices and in a number of Shops throughout the Village. This will also be displayed on both the Council and Village Facebook Pages, as well as the Council's Website.

Everyone involved is hoping for good weather and the support of the local community, to help to make sure that all of the planned Events are as successful and enjoyable as possible.



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

34 Woodlands Avenue, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3HB
Offices Open Monday-Friday 10.00 am to 4.30 pm
Telephone: 01903 786420 Emergency Mobile: 07752 493539 Fax: 01903 788736
Email: enquiry@rustingtonpc.org Website: www.rustingtonpc.org



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

2020/2021 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 is called the Precept. At this time of year, the Council has to consider the level of this Precept and it has decided that it must set its 2020/2021 Precept at £690,000.00 an estimated increase of 11.8% on 2019/2020.

This decision will result in an annual Parish Council charge on a Band 'D' property in Rustington being approximately £113.39, an increase of £11.26 for the year, equating to approximately 93p per month.

Once again, the Council very much regrets the need for this increase but, like everyone else, it is not immune to increasing financial pressures. However, parishioners should be assured that it 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 it provides, that are appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

These services include the maintenance and daily operation of the Samuel Wickens Centre (Information Centre, Community Hall and Museum), The Woodlands Centre, the Woodlands Recreation Ground, the Rustington Youth Centre, the Woodland Park Sportsfield, 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, the Christmas Lighting Scheme and Grants to local Organisations. The Council also continues to fund, in partnership with the Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Store Property Investments Limited, the No. 12 Bus Service.

Unfortunately, Church Farm Cottage has still to be sold, having been on the market for over two years. There have been two 'close' sales during the past year which have, due to a 'chain break' and a change in a potential buyer's personal circumstances, not been successful, despite substantial price reductions. However, it is hoped that the property will be sold this year.

The main reason for the increase in the 2020/2021 Precept is not only to ensure that the Council can continue to provide all of its services for the benefit of its parishioners, but to also replenish its general fund balance, which has been significantly reduced as a result of the Council's obligation to repay the £100,000.00 donation made by Store Property Investments Limited towards the setting up costs of the original Museum at Church Farm Cottage a number of years ago. This repayment requirement was a condition included in the 10 Year Lease on the Samuel Wickens Centre, for which only a peppercorn rent is now payable by the Council. This was repaid in October 2019 in accordance with the aforementioned Lease Conditions.

Taking account of all of this information, I still believe that your 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 16 April 2020 in the Village Memorial Hall at The Woodlands Centre commencing at 7.30 pm.

Councillor Don Rogers - Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee



Rustington Museum

Since the Museum opened last November, there have been many visitors through the doors to enjoy the new displays and interactives.

The Events Programme has already proved very popular. The Evening Talks in November and December were fully booked and the Family Art & Craft Activities have also been well attended and enjoyed by all those present. All Events are free, and places can be booked by calling the Museum on 788478 or by emailing: museum@rustingtonpc.org

More details can be found on our Events' Leaflet available from the Information Centre and on our website: www.rustingtonmuseum.org

Behind the scenes there is a lot of Collection's and Documentation work planned, and the Museum would welcome volunteers to help with this interesting and diverse work. In particular, volunteers are invited to help the Museum Team to photograph and catalogue the Collection. Full training will be given and no experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and get involved. For more details and to find out how you can join the Team, please contact the Museum.

There are several mini Exhibitions planned for our Community Case in the Museum. There will be a small display on the Chaucer Avenue plane crash, commemorating 75 years since the accident and 10 years since the Memorial Garden was created. Following this the Museum hopes to host a display of Sussex butterflies and birds from the Collection at Portsmouth Museum. The display will link to the talk on biodiversity in March and to British Science Week. A display for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May is being researched and items looked for in the Collections. If anyone has any memorabilia from past celebrations in the Village that they wish to loan for this, the Museum would love to hear from you.

Claire Lucas - Museum Manager

What's On - March/April 2020

Saturday 21 March, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Family Activity: Paper Planes

Tuesday 24 March, 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Talk: Science of Biodiversity

Thursday 16 April, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Family Activity: Eggs-citing Easter

Tuesday 21 April, 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Talk: The First Brexit

Rustington Street Fayre

The 6th Annual Rustington Charity Street Fayre will take place on Saturday 6 June from 9.00 am until 4.00 pm, with around thirty stalls along the whole length of Churchill Parade, from Woodlands Avenue through to SLH Dry Cleaners next to Establo Lounge.

The Event is being organised by The Littlehampton District LIONS Club, in conjunction with Rustington Parish Council and the Rustington Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

There will be entertainment throughout the day and the Club would like to hear from any local Musicians or Singers who would like to perform

Rustington-In-Bloom



During this very dull and wet Winter, it is so refreshing to see the pleasantly planted flowers in the Village, especially during the festive season with the addition of the wonderful Christmas lights, which made the Village look so attractive and such a lovely place in which to live and shop.

After our success in the South and South East in Bloom Competition last year, winning Gold Awards in both the Village/Town Centre Category as well as the West Sussex Discretionary County Award for the entry with the highest marks, we are holding a Coffee and Cake Morning at the Samuel Wickens Centre on Saturday 18 April from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, to show a retrospect of our successful entry. We will also be holding a Plant Sale in the Methodist Church Garden on Saturday 23 May from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

As was decided a few years ago, we are only entering the Competition on a biennial basis, so this year we will be concentrating on projects for the Village, in readiness for next year's Competition.

The In-Bloom Committee needs more volunteers to join it's merry throng. No experience is needed just a friendly 'can-do' attitude. Help is particularly needed with organisation, communications, social media, advertising our events, producing posters etc., and help with fundraising events. To register your interest, please contact the Council Offices on 786420, the Committee will be really pleased to welcome you.

Steve Perry - Committee Chairman

Schools' Bulb Planting

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

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



on the day. There will also be a Children's Entertainer for the younger ones, as well as the customary Arts & Crafts Event in the Rustington Methodist Church Hall, with a display of locally crafted goods for sale.

This Event is the ideal opportunity for local Charities and 'Not for Profit' Organisations and Groups to raise money for, or promote, their Groups, so we hope that you will come along and support them.

If you would like to book a pitch, perform on the day, or require any other information about the Event, please email rustingtonstreetfayre@gmail.com or telephone 918024.



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. Further details will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Donate a Tree Scheme Public Highway



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 as a result of adverse weather conditions.

The West Sussex County Council currently operates a Donate a Tree Scheme, where members of the public are able to contribute to that Council's tree planting programme. For a financial 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-tree-scheme/request-a-tree. Alternatively, you can contact the County Council on 01243 642105 for more information.

Meetings

Parish Council Monthly Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month (apart from August and December) commencing at 7.15 pm in the Roger Montgomeri Room, The Woodlands Centre, Woodlands Avenue (via Council Offices' entrance).

All members of the public are welcome to attend these Meetings and time is set aside before each Council Meeting commences (7.00 pm) to provide the opportunity to pose questions.

A copy of the Agenda for each Meeting is displayed at the Public Library and on Notice Boards around the Village and on the Council's Website.

Council and Committee Meeting Dates

Mon 16 Mar Planning
Mon 23 Mar Finance & General Purposes
Mon 23 Mar COUNCIL

Mon 6 Apr Allotments
Mon 6 Apr Planning
Thur 16 Apr ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
Mon 27 Apr Finance & General Purposes
Mon 27 Apr COUNCIL
Mon 27 Apr Planning

Mon 18 May Finance & General Purposes
Mon 18 May ANNUAL COUNCIL
Mon 18 May Planning
Thur 28 May Leisure & Amenities

Mon 8 Jun Planning
Mon 22 Jun Finance & General Purposes
Mon 22 Jun COUNCIL
Mon 29 Jun Planning



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 two Surgeries will be held as follows:-

- Rustington Library from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm on Saturday 21 March
- Samuel Wickens Centre (Car Park rear of Waitrose) from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 May

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 16 April** commencing at **7.30 pm** and complimentary light refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the Meeting.

Parishioner's Awards

As in previous years, the Council is, once again, inviting all members of the community to submit nominations for the 2020 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. These are 'once in a lifetime' Awards and will not be presented on more than one occasion to any Individuals, Groups, Clubs, Organisations or Associations.

Nomination Forms are available from the Council's Offices, the Samuel Wickens Centre and the Website. The **closing date for the receipt of nominations is Monday 27 April** and the winners will be announced in June.

Homelessness in Rustington

The Parish Council and Arun District Council have each received concerns and complaints regarding homeless individuals who have appeared in our Village over the last few months.

Each of the individuals has been visited by the District Council's Outreach Team and Turning Tides Homeless Charity a number of times and have been offered assistance and guidance to obtain accommodation.

The Parish Council would like to reassure local residents that the plight of these individuals is assessed regularly and taken very seriously. Assistance has been offered on numerous occasions. However, some homeless people choose not to engage with services for various reasons and continue their current habits.

Are you aware of the numerous facilities available for 'homeless' people in Rustington?

- Arun District Council provided 11 beds at the Littlehampton United Reform Church (until 2 March 2020) for local homeless people
- Arun District Council has specialist homeless Housing Officers and specialist caseworkers who visit to assist homeless people on the street
- Turning Tides provides advice to help homeless people find accommodation, employment opportunities and regularly street visit to advise on local services.

If you want to help the 'homeless' people in our Village directly, buy them a coffee and/or sandwich, in preference to giving them cash, as this will not improve their chances of accommodation or work.

- Donate online to one of the local Homeless Charities detailed on the above Flyer to this article. Your donation will help provide advice about services, work opportunities and how to find suitable, affordable accommodation.

If you want to express your concerns or raise a complaint about begging please do so to the Arun District Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team on 0808 141 2800 (24 hour answerphone) or email: asb@arun.gov.uk