



NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Issue 2

August 2010

Do you have something you want to say about your group? We are happy to try to publicise it for you - send to the Clerk or Chairman or via our web site.

Dates for your diary 2010/2011

<i>Planning Meeting Youth Centre</i>	<i>2nd September</i>
<i>Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall</i>	<i>20th September</i>
<i>Planning Meeting Youth Centre</i>	<i>7th October</i>
<i>Planning Meeting Youth Centre</i>	<i>4th November</i>
<i>Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall</i>	<i>15th November</i>
<i>Planning Meeting Youth Centre</i>	<i>2nd December</i>
<i>Planning Meeting Youth Centre</i>	<i>6th January</i>
<i>Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall</i>	<i>17th January</i>

Note: Meetings of the full Council now take place on the 3rd Monday of alternate months. 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



The Summer Ball took place on Saturday 26th June on the Recreation Ground. A relatively small committee of Ian Clark, Stephen Hardy (REG) Chris Kimberley (Lead Organiser - PC), Hugh Kirby, Simon Longhurst (PC), Roger Palamarczuk (Bonfire Society), Sue Prochak (RAP), Jo Rainsbury, Karen Ripley (PC) and Jane Turner worked extremely hard to make it happen and the event was a great success. 268 people literally

did have a ball! They came in a wide variety of attire, from shorts and T-shirts (the weather was fabulous) to full evening dress; picnics ranged from a lunchbox sitting on a blanket, to gazebos, tables, chairs and candelabras! The band (in an open front marquee) catered for a wide variety of tastes and people packed the (wooden) dance floor for several hours; others simply relaxed and enjoyed the ambience. Feedback has been very positive.

The aim was to provide an event that was open to all – ‘by the Village for the Village’ – for no other purpose than to facilitate a fun evening of socialising with families, friends and neighbours. The committee were therefore determined to keep the price to a minimum so as not to be ‘exclusive’ and a ticket price of £5 was achieved by securing very generous sponsorship from local businesses: Alphastar Lettings, Berforts Group, Collective Legal Solutions, Greenbottles Recycling, Millbrook Design, Poppinghole Farm Shop, Robertsbridge Cycles, Russett Farm Units, The Salehurst Halt, Spectrum Decorating Services, The George Inn, The Seven Stars and The Village Stores, plus two generous donations: one from the Darvell Community and another from someone who wished to remain anonymous.



In the event of bad weather a contingency location was arranged at the Community College. However, as that venue can only accommodate 200 people, that was the maximum number of tickets that could be sold in advance. All 200 tickets were sold in advance and we were blessed with fabulous weather and we were able to sell a further 68 tickets on the gate. This additional income resulted in a profit for the event of £443.97 which is being kept for future events.

Due to the enormous amount of time, hard work and generous sponsorship given this year, the Committee have decided that it is unrealistic to expect to do a ball every year, particularly as more money would need to be raised through fundraising events.

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Remember this? - With the hot summer we have had so far it is perhaps difficult to remember the problems we had over the last two winters.

The Parish Council has no powers to install grit bins without the approval of ESCC Highways department but we have been working closely with them to identify suitable and appropriate sites around the village to install grit bins in case we have future problems with snow and ice. Once we had completed this part of the exercise we will pay for the installation of the bins.

The grit bins will be provided for use on roads and pavements and **NOT** for use on private property - residents should make their own provision for that. Bags of grit can be bought at Culverwell's or Builder Center and it is worth buying during the Autumn and not waiting until the snow and ice arrive! - if they haven't got it in stock then they will order it for you.

More trees - It is now 10 years since the Woodland Trust launched its Millennium Woods scheme and many residents will remember helping start the planting of our own Springfield Wood in the north of the village. To mark the anniversary, the Trust has offered Parish Councils more trees to plant around the village.

The Parish Council has taken up this offer and has asked for a 'Jams, jellies and chutneys' collection which will provide colour, food for wildlife and, of course, fruit for residents to collect and use. The trees can be planted in hedgerows as well as in the open and we will use some in Bishop's Meadow and other Council owned areas but, we will have lots to spare and are looking for suggestions or offers of other areas for planting.

If you have suggestions for areas or indeed would like to offer space please contact the Clerk - the Council will be making a decision at their September meeting and the trees will arrive in October/November and we will be asking for volunteers to help with the planting!

"No Cold Calling Zones

Every few months Parish Councillors from Rother meet with local police officers to get a run down on how they are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in the relevant areas. As a general trend the rate of crime is going down but the fear of crime remains of concern to all. With this in mind there was a short presentation at a recent meeting from Trading Standards who were promoting the idea of 'No Cold Calling' zones. The setting up of such zones is neither new nor does it carry any legal enforceability but it can produce a neighbourly look out and early warning system for cold callers. More importantly it can be a deterrent to some cold callers.

This is very much a Trading Standards scheme and only happens if a majority of households in any particular area want such a scheme and is prepared to operate it. Such a zone does not need to be the whole parish but could be just a small area like a residential estate or just a part of one. The main cost involved is for signs, the funding for which could come from the neighbourhood in question clubbing together, the parish and possibly matched funding from Trading Standards. Signs can vary from those showing that a particular area is a "No Cold Calling Zone" to simple door stickers - the more signs there are the more expensive the scheme becomes.

So there you have it, at least in outline form. This could be an option for you if you feel your area is prone to cold calling and you would like to do something about it. As I said earlier, this is not a Parish Council initiative so it will be up to neighbours to look out for each other in the spirit of community living. I can provide a little more information if required so please ring or email me, my contact details are on the rear of this newsletter. If you think your area is at risk from cold callers and would be enhanced by this scheme then please contact Karen at the Parish Office on 882066 in the first instance, Karen can then assess the degree of concern in specific areas of the parish. If there are sufficient responses to indicate a need then we can help you to start the ball rolling.

Charlie Beeden

Are you finding it hard to make ends meet? Or do you want to save towards an important purchase?
Perhaps East Sussex Credit Union can help!

If you are having trouble getting a loan from a bank, have a poor credit rating or are on benefits then the Credit Union may be able to help you get a loan of up to £2500! Searching the MONEY SUPERMARKET web site, the only available loans for £2500 as a non property owner with a fair credit rating are: East Sussex Credit Union 12.68%; flmloans.co.uk 42.6%; Aspire Money 53.9%.

For more information contact East Sussex Credit Union at 01273 234858 email: info@credit-union.org.uk or visit the web site www.eastsussexcu.org.uk

Information supplied by East Sussex Credit Union

Jubilee Gardens & Piper's Field - at a recent meeting it was suggested that these areas were neglected by the parish council - this is, of course, not so! The Council spends nearly £2000 annually on the maintenance of these areas and wants them to remain as the pleasant, and much appreciated, places that they are.

Agreed, the planters have not looked their best this year. We spent over £200 last year having them re-planted but unfortunately although the spring bulbs were attractive the other planting suffered badly from a very severe winter followed by an exceptionally dry summer. Our financial resources are finite but we have decided to try to re-plant using a different combination of plants and are seeking quotes for this.

Another comment was about the willow arch and the hedge along the stream. It was never intended that the Jubilee Garden should be a neatly manicured urban park but, should rather reflect the rural nature of our village. The hedge along the stream is being purposely allowed to grow up to screen the houses behind and also to become more like a natural hedgerow - good for birdlife as well! - but it will receive a trim at times. The willow arch was trimmed at the start of the summer and will receive another trimming later in the summer.

We know that many residents appreciate these areas and are pleased that the Council were able to acquire them from the developers and any offers of help to water the planters during dry spells would be appreciated .

Allotments - the new allotments on the Community Association land are coming on well and it is good to see the land being used in this way.

Because of restrictive covenants, no vehicular access is permitted across Piper's Field and the Parish Council is not allowed to vary this restriction. However, to help with access for wheelbarrows and the disabled, the Parish Council has paid to replace the kiss-gate on the public footpath between the parish land (Piper's Field) and the new allotments with a wider gate with self-close spring.

Bishop's Meadow - A good start has been made on incorporating the former wood yard into the main meadow area. The area has been scraped and leveled and the entrance secured against unauthorized access by fencing and the creation of an earth bund across the former access into Bishop's Lane.

Unfortunately, the very dry weather since then has prevented any further planting or seeding but this will take place during the autumn. At the same time a bridge will be constructed across the drainage channel which runs between former wood yard and the main meadow creating the link between the two parts. We hope that residents will join in the community projects to build the bridge and help with the planting and seeding.

Picnic Bench - residents who live near the Meadow have complained to the Council about youths using the picnic bench near the children's play equipment as a gathering place, sometimes into the early hours and creating a nuisance. They requested that the bench be removed to try to stop this happening and the Council have reluctantly agreed to this. The bench at the top of the Meadow will remain.

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Karen Ripley

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Phone: 01580 882066

Fax: 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:

Tuesday	9am to 11am
Thursday	2pm to 4pm

Rother District Council

Web address: www.rother.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

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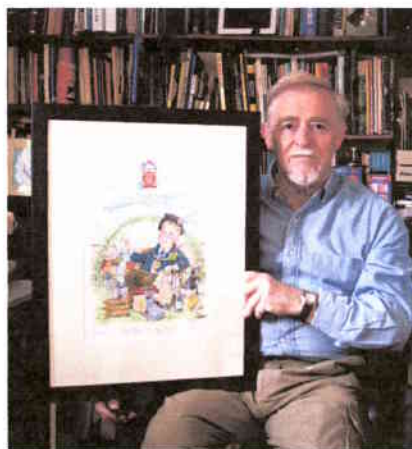
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Thank you to all those who subscribed to this super retirement present for me and to all those who have sent their best wishes. I have to say that this came as a complete surprise and was probably one of the best kept secrets in Robertsbridge!

I have enjoyed my time as Chairman of the Parish Council and I am pleased to have made some contribution to the well-being of the village. I hope to stay on as a member of the Parish Council (back benches!!) until the election in May 2011

David Allen

The Summer Ball - continued from page 1

It had been intended to hold a picnic event in August this year, along the lines of the very successful and popular one held on Fathers' Day last year but clashes with other events in the village and the pressure on everyone's time and availability it has been decided to make each event bi-annual, holding a picnic event next year (**Sunday 26th June 2011**) and another ball in 2012 (provisional date **24th June 2012**).

The next event will therefore be another Kite Flying Day in Bishops Meadow on **Sunday 17th October**. This year we hope to provide some simple refreshments – hot soup and possibly hot dogs.

Efforts now also need to focus on trying to attract more people to join the Summer Event Group, to lighten the load for existing members. The 'for the people' is going well – but there needs to be a little more 'by the people' – any volunteers willing to help, even in a small way, will be welcomed.

Thanks to Tony Coombes for the photographs.

<http://www.tonycoombesphotography.fotki.com/>

The police have asked us to pass on this message: if you see any form of Anti-social driving (speeding, using a mobile phone whilst driving, regular drink drivers, disqualified drivers etc), please report it to us via our Op Crackdown system : <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>