

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Issue 1

July 2011

### Can you help please?

We need a volunteer to deliver the Newsletter in Brightling Road from China Hill to Hackwood. If you can help please Contact the Clerk

### Dates for your diary 2011

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Parish Council Meeting</i><br>Robertsbridge Hall | 18th<br>July   |
| <i>Planning Committee</i><br>Youth Centre           | 4th<br>August  |
| <i>Planning Committee</i><br>Youth Centre           | 1st<br>Sept.   |
| <i>Parish Council Meeting</i><br>Robertsbridge Hall | 19th<br>Sept.  |
| <i>Planning Committee</i><br>Youth Centre           | 6th<br>October |

*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](http://www.rother.gov.uk) and you can comment on planning applications on-line*

### A new term begins!

May saw the election of a new Council and details can be found on later pages – all Councillors are elected for a 4 year term but are eligible to stand for re-election. In the case of our own councillors, 4 members decided not to offer themselves for re-election – David Allen, Neville Davies, Christine Kimberley and Tamara Strapp – between them they had given over 50 years of service to the village and we thank them for this. It is perhaps also worth remembering that Parish Councillors give their services voluntarily and receive no payment.

We are fortunate that 4 other residents put their names forward and we had sufficient candidates to fill the 9 places on the Council and all 9 were therefore **elected** unopposed without the need for a **poll**. It is perhaps a shame that a poll was not necessary but if insufficient people come forward that is how it works but one can be sure that this will not stop some complaining about the lack of a poll. We can though be thankful that there were sufficient candidates, in some parts of the country, including parts of Rother, not a single candidate came forward! – whither the Big Society?

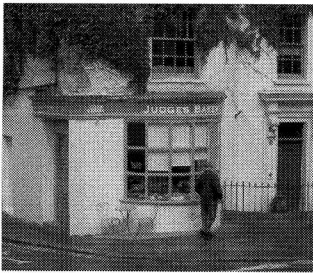
We also, of course, had District Council elections and Sue Prochak was re-elected and a new Councillor, Graham Browne was elected to fill the vacant place created when George Hearn decided not to stand for re-election. We look forward to continuing our close working relationship with our District Councillors and we thank George for the help and support he has given us over the years – his experience on the Rother Planning Committee has been of particular help.



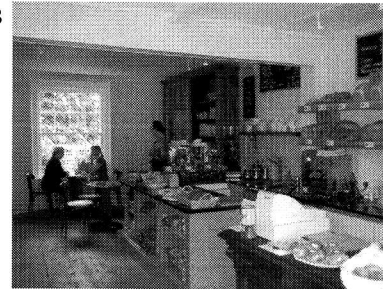
**Battle Area Community Transport** - has added new routes to its services from Robertsbridge. As well as the regular services to Battle and surrounding villages on Tuesdays and Fridays, there are two new services to Eastbourne on the 3rd Thursday of each month and to Tenterden on Fridays on alternate months. Please note that both of these last two services require 48 hours advance booking. Bus Passes can be used on all services. For further information contact BACT on 01424 772001 or [bactoffice@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bactoffice@tiscali.co.uk) or full details on the BACT web site [www.bact-online.co.uk](http://www.bact-online.co.uk)

**Stay a Hero, Stay Safe** - Sussex Safer Roads Partnership is running a new campaign: '**Stay A Hero, Stay Safe**' which aims to reduce the number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on our roads every year. The SSRP has once again worked with Writer/Director Daniel Cox and Producer Sarah Alexander of Alexander Commercials (the team behind the globally recognised 'Embrace Life' campaign) to produce a piece devoid of blood, guts and gore, but still with emotional impact and involvement.

They have also started to upload more data onto their website concerning motorcycle collisions and casualties in Sussex. For more information and news from the SSRP, please see their web site [www.SussexSaferRoads.gov.uk](http://www.SussexSaferRoads.gov.uk)



**Café Society comes to Robertsbridge** - It is always good to see shops opening in the village rather than closing and it is good to see that the former butcher's on the corner of the High Street/Station Road has now re-opened as a bread shop and coffee shop. Besides the bread and pastries it also sells a range of local produce, including pasties, jams and dairy products - so if you haven't done so already, give it a try! We are quite lucky in Robertsbridge in



the range of shops we have, many villages of our size throughout the country don't even manage one but, as always, it's a case of use them or lose them and once a shop is closed it rarely re-opens.

**Making Tracks** - We now have a couple more volunteers for footpath maintenance and I'm very grateful to all for putting their names forward.

At the time of writing we have 42 of the stepping stones between Church Bridge and the old railway line, it will be interesting to see where the last one is. It's hard to believe that in a few months time the ground, which is now rock hard and very dry, will be underwater with the first flood of the Rother.

Whenever we work along that section there are always plenty of people using it, walkers, runners and cyclists and it is rewarding to see the walkers using the stones; the children count them. Most people we meet along the path have commented favourably on the work we are doing and always ask the history of the stones, which I will research and reveal in future newsletters.

Two of our number have also cleared the laurels at the back of Glenleigh Walk so hopefully that will be more pleasant path to walk.

Our sessions are always about two hours duration and are quite relaxed, people do what they can, when they can. We try to make it a light hearted social event rather than a tedious slog. *Charlie Beeden*



**Clean it Up!** - The majority of dog owners in the village are, thankfully, responsible and clear up after their animal. But, there are a few who persistently fail to clean up when their dog fouls the pavement or our public spaces. If caught, they face a fine of up to £1000 and residents can help by reporting to the Clerk anyone they see who fails to clean up.

A few owners do bag up their dogs offerings but then just leave the bag on the ground, this seems to happen especially in the recreation ground and play area where bags of dog poo are often left just lying around. Be aware that the law requires that not only is the mess cleared up but that it is disposed of properly either in a specially provided 'Dog Waste' container (these are available at the Recreation ground, Piper's Field and Bishop's Meadow) or where these are not available in a litter bin. Cleaning up after them is not one of the most pleasant tasks associated with dog ownership but it's even worse when it is not your dog!

**Who's who on the Council? - we thought it might be interesting to ask Councillors to give us a potted biography of themselves.**

**Cllr Ruth Augarde** - I have lived in the village all of my life. I attended Salehurst Primary and Robertsbridge Secondary School. My Mum and Brother run the Salehurst Halt. It's a family business which means I also do my fair share of shifts behind the bar! I have always had an active involvement in village life (sang in the choir at St. Mary's, Brownie Leader, Guides, Bonfire Society etc.). I recently organised a street party in Salehurst to celebrate the Royal Wedding. *(This is Ruth's first term as parish councillor - Ed.)*

**Cllr. Neil Barden** - I was born in Fair Lane, Robertsbridge and moved to Bishops Lane when I was 3, I have lived in Robertsbridge all my life and now live in Bellhurst Road. My first job was at Parsonage Farm, and later at the British Gypsum Mines. For the last 40 years I have ran my own business and still continue in a more leisurely way. I am also Chairman of the Village Hall. Committee *(This is Neil's fourth term as parish councillor - Ed.)*

**Cllr. Charles Beeden** - This is my second term on the parish council. I was born and bred in Robertsbridge and am still living in the village with my wife Zara, five chickens, one cat and an eighty year old car. My main areas of interest as a councillor are on planning, footpaths, maintaining a thriving village and moving the PC towards Quality Council status and realising the opportunities open to Parish Councils to enable them to improve the wellbeing of the community. I am currently enjoying a busy retirement following 39 years with the Land Registry, half of that time in Lincoln's Inn Fields specialising in training surveyors and resolving boundary problems. In 2009 the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors presented me with the Michael Barrett Award following my lecture on alternative dispute resolution. *(Which should stand him in good stead on the PC! - Ed.)*

**Cllr. Dicky Clymo** - Dicky Clymo has lived in the High Street since 1998, when he 'retired' from London University as Professor of Ecology. He divides his time among the Parish Council, the Community College (as an LEA governor), family, editing, and writing books, research projects, and computer programs. It keeps him happily occupied and off the streets. *(This will be Dicky's second term as parish councillor - Ed.)*

**Cllr. Nick Greenfield** - I was born and bred in Robertsbridge with family living in the village for over 50 years. I have 2 children attending Primary and Secondary schools in the village and am a former active member of Robertsbridge football and cricket clubs. *(This is Nick's first term as parish councillor - Ed.)*

**Cllr. Nigel Lockwood** - I was born in Sussex and have lived in the county for most of my life. I have worked at the village primary school since January 2003; and moved into the village in April 2004, having lived in Battle since 1988 where I served two 3-year terms on St Mary's Parochial Church Council and 9 years as a Rother District Councillor, My chief areas of concern on the RDC were housing, recreation & tourism and staffing issues. I love village life and have been treasurer of the Community Association (i.e. Village Hall Committee) for almost all the time I have lived here. My chief areas of concern for the village are the availability of affordable housing and support for local businesses, facilities for young and elderly people, both of whom may lack transport to find entertainment etc., and of course our beautiful rural countryside. *(This is Nigel's first term as parish councillor - Ed.)*

**Cllr. Simon Longhurst** - This is my second term on the Council. I have lived in Robertsbridge since 1993 and in the local area since 1985. I work in the City for a firm of solicitors. My involvement in village life includes Country Fairs in 1997 and 1998, chairman of Rugby Club, ex-Akela of Cubs, and I have sat on REG, RAP and SARLAP. Children attended Primary school, cubs, brownies, guides etc.

**Cllr. Gillian Smith** - I have lived in the village all my life and have recently become a great-Grandmother! I run Belle Flowers in the High Street so I have a good knowledge of what goes on. This is my fourth term as a parish councillor.

**Cllr. Anne Wells** - I have lived in the village for 37 years with my family and both my children attended the local schools. My daughter has recently decided to live in Robertsbridge and my eldest of two grandsons is about to start at Salehurst Primary School. In the distant past I worked in and around Robertsbridge, served on the local youth club committee and was a founder member of the Robertsbridge Peace Council. I have recently retired after 20 years service with East Sussex Probation Service and I am enjoying getting back into village life again. I sing with the Rococo choir for spiritual sustenance and attend local yoga classes for body maintenance. *(This is Anne's first term as parish councillor - Ed.)*

## SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Karen Ripley

The Parish Office  
Robertsbridge Youth Centre  
The Grove, George Hill

Phone: 01580 882066

Email: [clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Web address:

[www.salehurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.salehurst-pc.org.uk) or  
[www.robertsbridge-pc.org.uk](http://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](http://www.rother.gov.uk)

### Parish Councillors Tel:

Cllr Simon Longhurst (Chair) 880469  
[simon.longhurst@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:simon.longhurst@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Dicky Clymo (vice-Chair) 881563  
[dicky.clymo@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:dicky.clymo@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Ruth Augarde 881708  
[ruth.augarde@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:ruth.augarde@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Neil Barden 880457  
[neil.barden@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:neil.barden@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Charles Beeden 880508  
[charles.beeden@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:charles.beeden@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Nick Greenfield 880998  
[nick.greenfield@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:nick.greenfield@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Gillian Smith 880810  
[gillian.smith@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:gillian.smith@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

Cllr Anne Wells 880832  
[anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:anne.wells@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

### East Sussex County Councillor

Cllr Peter Jones  
[cllr.peter.jones@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.jones@eastsussex.gov.uk)

### Rother District Councillors

Cllr Graham Browne 860118  
[cllr.graham.browne@rother.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.graham.browne@rother.gov.uk)

Cllr Susan Prochak 881309  
[cllr.susan.prochak@rother.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.susan.prochak@rother.gov.uk)

## Who does what?

### Committees

Cemetery: Chairman or vice-Chairman; Cllrs. Barden, Lockwood & Smith

Planning: Cllrs. Beeden; Clymo; Greenfield; Smith & Wells

### Advisory Committee

Local Action Plan: Cllrs. Augarde; Beeden; Longhurst & the Clerk

### Working Groups

Friends of Robertsbridge & Salehurst: Cllr. Longhurst

Finance Working Group: Cllrs. Clymo; Greenfield; & Longhurst

### Lead Councillors

Bishops Meadow: Cllrs. Augarde; Barden; Lockwood (+ Tree Warden)

Crime & Disorder: Cllrs. Augarde & Wells

Economic Regeneration: Cllrs Beeden & Longhurst

Footpaths & Bridleways: Cllrs. Beeden, Clymo & Wells

General Purposes: Chairman; vice-Chairman & Cllrs. Greenfield & Lockwood

Lighting: Cllrs. Barden & Smith

Pavilion: Cllrs. Greenfield & Longhurst

Pocket Park: Cllrs. Lockwood & Wells (+Tree Warden)

Recreation Ground: Cllrs. Greenfield & Longhurst

### Representatives

Robertsbridge Arts Partnership: Cllr. Wells

Robertsbridge Enterprise Group: Cllrs. Augarde; Beeden & Longhurst

Rother Association of Local Councils: Cllr. Clymo and the Clerk

Salehurst Charities: Cllr. Smith

Tree Warden: Cllr. Barden & Mrs Jill Woodgate

Twinning Association: Cllr. Lockwood

**Housing Survey** - Thank you to all who took the time to respond to our housing survey. There were over 60 replies and the results are being collated by Rother. We will let you know the outcome in a future *Newsletter*.