



NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Issue 2

September 2011

Dates for your diary 2011/2012

Planning Committee Youth Centre	6th October
Planning Committee Youth Centre	3rd November
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	21st November
Planning Committee Youth Centre	1st December
Planning Committee Youth Centre	5th January
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	16th January

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 and you can comment on planning applications on-line

BATTLE AREA COMMUNITY TRANSPORT BUS. In our last Newsletter we mentioned the Community Bus service and in particular the extra journeys now being run and a "Mystery Shopper" (i.e. Cllr. Anne Wells) decided to join one of the journeys to try it out – here is her report.

On a sunny Thursday morning in September three of us from Robertsbridge joined eight other passengers from nearby villages already aboard the Community Mini-bus for a pleasant trip to Rye. We had over 3 hours there to visit the busy Rye market and to meander around the picturesque town before rejoining the bus for the return trip home by mid-afternoon.

This Community Bus service is FREE to all bus pass holders and just a nominal charge made to non pass holders. The mini buses are driven by volunteer drivers who pick up from convenient stops in the village which keeps the running costs down. Bus timetables are available from the Parish Council offices or from Battle Library.

Currently, as well as a regular service between local villages every Tuesday and Friday (allowing approximately 3 hours before the return journey), the Community Bus can be taken for monthly and bi-monthly trips to visit Eastbourne, Tenterden and Rye.

Eastbourne: Every 3rd Thursday monthly (next trip 20th Oct)

Tenterden: Every 4th Friday alternate months (next trip 25th Nov)

Rye: Every 1st Thursday alternate months (next trip 3rd Nov)

For more details or to pre-book (which is necessary for these extra trips) tel: 01424 772001 or visit their website www.bact-online

We should use it or we may lose it!

In addition to the Community Bus we have now have three commercial bus companies serving the village. There is the original 304/305 Countryliner running between Hawkhurst and Hastings which is hourly and has just added a two hourly Sunday service. A new addition from Renown buses "the Conquest Line" is another hourly service. This gives us a scheduled bus service Hawkhurst to Hastings every half hour during the day! There is also now a Stagecoach bus company bus going from Wadhurst to Hastings via Robertsbridge. Details of bus times are at the bus stops in Robertsbridge.

Doris Millward - We were sorry to hear of the recent death of Doris Millward. A long term resident of Robertsbridge Doris was a familiar sight in the village and, over the years, had involved herself in many village activities - she was active in the amateur dramatic group; in the fund raising activities for the village hall and was for some years a Parish Councillor. In the latter role she had a particular interest in the footpaths and led the monthly parish walks.

We send our condolences to her family and friends.

ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY CONSTRUCTS NEW BRIDGES AT ROBERTSBRIDGE (Phase 5)

Now that RVR has re-laid the track from Bodiam to the site of Junction Road Halt, attention is being focussed on restoration at the Robertsbridge end of the railway. The first half mile from the station has always been acknowledged to be the most expensive because of the need to replace and restore five bridges as well as a new level crossing. These structures cannot be simply removed and filled because they are designed to allow water movement in the event of the River Rother bursting its banks. In addition there are two public footpaths passing under the line.

The demolition of the old bridges, reconstruction and restoration of one new one is the first major civil engineering work to have been carried out since the formation of the Rother Valley Railway some 20 years ago. When RVR took ownership of the land, it was decided to simplify the old British Railways bridge numbers to a more simple system. They are therefore logically, numbers 1 – 5, bridge no. 1 being the first one from Robertsbridge station. The details are as follows:

Bridge No.1 - This structure was life expired during the last operating days of the railway and indeed Bill Austen, the last general manager of the line, went to the trouble of shoring up this bridge with two sloping RC struts during 1946 to keep the line operational. This work was eventually completed by British Railways upon nationalisation.

Bridge No 2 – This was replaced some 10 years ago by Southern Water when they installed their new pipeline.

Bridges No's 3, 4 and 5 - A casual glance at all the remaining structures indicated that they were incapable of economic repair with both inwardly leaning fractured abutments and rust ridden beams. These would be totally unacceptable by modern railway standards even if they were capable of restoration and are therefore being rebuilt. So there are exciting times ahead. The bridges will be constructed over a three month period, hopefully taking advantage of the dry summer weather. The bridges have been generously donated and will be shot blasted, repaired and painted in the Rother Valley Railway yard prior to installation.



Bridge No.3 under construction

As this is a construction site, the RVR requests that trespass does not take place. However the works can be readily viewed from footpaths that run beside the works.

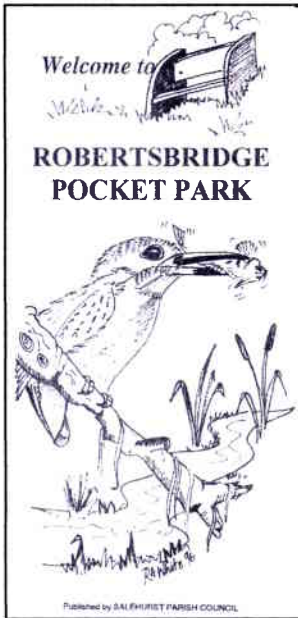
Mark Yonge, RVR Heritage Trust Press Officer 07792 09320



How's that? - If you have been to the Recreation Ground recently you will have noticed the high nets that have been erected along the line of the cricket club boundary by the children's play equipment. These are intended to be lowered and removed after the playing season and stored until the next season.

The Parish Council made a grant of £1000 towards the cost of the nets and together with the 2 metre high steel mesh fencing which the PC provided as part of the Playfinder equipment fund should provide good protection from the occasional cricket ball for our children using the play equipment.

All Clear! Footpath 26 which runs at the rear of Glenleigh Walk parallel with the railway had become very overgrown, too much for our volunteers who, because of insurance problems, are not allowed to use mechanical trimmers etc. to clear by hand. The Parish Council has therefore paid to have this path cleared and it is hoped that volunteers can now keep it clear in the future. Want to help? - then please contact Cllr. Charles Beeden.



ROBERTSBRIDGE POCKET PARK - *have you found our hidden gem?*

Our Pocket Park, which is entered under the railway bridge behind the cricket/football field, was established in the mid-nineties and has been managed by the Parish Council for the benefit of wildlife and the people of Robertsbridge and Salehurst.

The Park is basically a two and a quarter acre triangle of trees and shrubs between the old railway line, the River Rother and open grazing land. It is criss-crossed by pathways and supports a wide variety of flora and fauna.

However, it seems that many residents are unaware that it even exists! Below is a short questionnaire which you are invited to complete to enable the Parish Council to produce an action plan with the aim of making good use of the park in the years ahead.

If you would like to know more about our Pocket Park you can pick up a copy of this free leaflet from the Parish Office during opening times or from Belle Flowers in the High Street.



POCKET PARK QUESTIONNAIRE

please indicate your age group: Teenage Young adult Middle-aged Senior

1. Do you use the park? Yes *if yes, what for?*

No *if no, why not?*

2. What would you like to see it used it for? Dog walking
Nature study
Family picnics/walks
Playing
Other ?

3. What changes would you make, if any?

If you would be prepared to join a working party to meet to take our ideas forward please add your name and contact phone no:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return by the 15th October 2011 to the Parish Office (Youth Centre building) or Belle Flowers (High Street)

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

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 **Tel:**

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Housing survey - The Older Peoples Housing Needs survey was delivered with the Parish Newsletter to nearly all households in the parish. A total of 69 forms were returned of which 33 households were aged over 55 and needed to move to a property more suited to their needs.

The survey results will be used by Rother District Council to help plan the development of a small older persons housing scheme that adequately reflects the needs and aspirations of elderly people living within the village.

The full report can be seen on our web site under 'News' - or, a hard copy can be seen at the Parish Office during open times.

Thanks to all who took the time to respond.

Robertsbridge Archaeological Society 50th Anniversary

Your local history society was formed in 1962 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season. 50 years after its initial formation as a school club, the Society has gone from strength to strength and now has almost 200 members.

Apart from the annual programme of winter lectures, the Society organises summer outings to places of historical or archaeological interest. The Society welcomes new members and non-members are always welcome at meetings and on summer outings, space permitting. Membership costs only £3 per year.

In this their 50th season of lectures they have invited a series of special guest lecturers:

2011

October 14th - Robert Hooke and the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire - Professor Michael Cooper

November 11th - Coasting along Sussex - East to West - Geoffrey Mead

December 9th - Sussex Customs and Folklore - Brian Purdey
Members Christmas meeting and Buffet £12

2012

January 13th - Houses of Local Gentry - David Martin

February 10th - Rudyard Kipling, His life and verse - Geoff Hutchinson

March 9th - Fifty Years in Archaeology - Professor Henry Cleere

April 13th - The Politeness of Princes - Imogen Corrigan

May 11th - To the Manor, The Manor of Robertsbridge Records - Christopher Whittick

For more information contact the Secretary: Anne Barden 01580 880457 or email: info@aboutrobertsbridge.org.uk