



NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Issue 1

June 2012

Dates for your diary 2012

Planning Committee Youth Centre	5th July
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	16th July
Planning Committee Youth Centre	2nd August
Planning Committee Youth Centre	6th September
Parish Council Meeting Robertsbridge Hall	17th September
Planning Committee Youth Centre	4th 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 and you can comment on planning applications on-line

1952 **Jubilympics** 2012

If you were watching the Thames Jubilee Pageant on Sunday 3rd June taking place in the pouring rain then you may well have had concerns about the village celebrations on the following day but, fortunately the weather was reasonably dry if a bit chilly.

The **2012 Robertsbridge Jubilympics** on 4th June was a great occasion for the village to get together in celebration and fun. The free event achieved its goal in involving the whole village in coming together to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and the London Olympics.



After a fanfare specially written for the event, the parade down the High Street included the spectacular and colourful Sedan Chairs and villagers dressed up to celebrate the day. The afternoon, which was opened by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex included fun

Olympic sporting events such as the marathon, fencing, diving, sailing, cycling, shot put, discus and throwing the hammer. Many went away with either a gold, silver or bronze medal.

Local youth bands Attitude and Kids with Bricks performed during the afternoon along with Hebe Gillham who sang to the assembled crowd. In the evening Pzaz played on the big stage as villagers danced late into the evening.

This event took many months of hard work by the Summer Events Committee to organise and thanks go to them and to all the many other individuals who helped to ensure the success of this fantastic day. and, of course, to the sponsors.

You can see many more photos of the day on the Summer Events web site and Face Book page www.robertsbridgesummerevent.co.uk



See the Olympic torch near you.



Tuesday 17th July - Crawley - Copthorne - Felbridge - East Grinstead - Tunbridge Wells - Crowborough - Lewes - Eastbourne - Pevensey Bay - Pevensey - Bexhill - St Leonards on Sea - Hastings.

Wednesday 18th July - Rye - Hamstreet - Ashford - Hythe - Sandgate - Folkestone - Dover.

Making Tracks

The volunteer group has now installed a metal gate at the end of path that runs behind Glenleigh Walk. I'm happy to say that I was unable to attend but those who did got thoroughly soaked as it was one of the wettest days this year. We have also cleared the section of path 12 by Jolleys (Jollies) Farm House, this clears one of the most enjoyable paths in the parish as ESCC has also renewed many of the stiles and a footbridge.

If you have not walked that path for a while then give it a go now, it is walk No 1 in David Allen's booklet "Walks in Salehurst and Robertsbridge" and runs from Beech House Farm to Jolleys. If you don't have a copy of the booklet you can buy one in Judges or contact David direct on 01580 881056 but hurry because there are less than 20 copies left.

Anne Wells and I are walking all of the paths in David's book over the next few months so that we can assess and prioritize any work needed on them and to update the booklet, but don't let that stop you buying one now as we won't be revising it until next year at the earliest. We also hope to come up with some new ones and to add a couple of long routes for those of you with more energy.

Several people have commented on the trees that have fallen across Mill Bay. ESCC knows about this, hopefully they will have been removed by the time you read this.

As a footnote, Zara and I have a team of four entered for this year's **TRAILWALKER UK 2012** under the name of "Charlie's Angels". The event takes place over the weekend of 14th and 15th July and is a 100 km walk along the South Downs Way from Petersfield to Brighton Racecourse, non-stop and which must be completed within 30 hours. Our combined age is 191 but that said the youngest is only 26! All funds raised will be split equally between the Gurkha Welfare Trust and Oxfam. As I write this we are getting ready to extend our training with a night time walk of just over 20 miles to finish at between 3 and 4 am. Look out for the sponsorship forms in some of the village shops or, better still, please consider sponsoring us on line at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/charlie.beeden or ring me on 01580 880508. Remember to Gift Aid any donations if you are a UK tax payer.

Charlie Beeden

Robertsbridge Pocket Park

Good progress has been made over several task days when local volunteers (including Duke of Edinburgh Award students from Robertsbridge Community College) have helped with conservation work in the park. The two ponds have dramatically reappeared following a digging/clearing session assisted by the copious rainfall of late. Once again the smaller paths through the wooded area are walkable. The wider paths are being maintained and wild flowers such as cowslips, primroses, bluebells and white dead-nettles have been emerging during recent months. Some of the dense dead blackthorn has been removed, brambles tackled and coppicing has taken place, all to encourage new and sustained growth. Work is ongoing to maintain this local amenity where you can walk, observe and enjoy a natural habitat for wildlife, flowers and fauna. A supply of road stone has been bought by the Council and volunteers are spreading this on the muddier paths.

Unfortunately visiting the pocket park is still often marred by some dog owners who do not dispose of their dogs' mess in the appropriate bins. We realise it is an inconvenience for dog owners to have to carry bags of excrement back to the bin by the car park entrance, but contractors will only empty bins adjacent to vehicular access. Thankfully the majority of dog owners do take care to dispose responsibly.

Anne Wells & Nigel Lockwood

Editor's footnote - it is often noticed that some dog owners carefully bag up their animals' waste - that is good! but then leave the bag lying about - not good! Unfortunately, the Council does not have resources for someone else to collect the bags and take them to the bins.

Robertsbridge Twinning Association

We are very grateful for this opportunity to write something for the Parish Newsletter about the association, and to let residents know about it and what it has been up to. Signs at each end of the village announce the fact that we are twinned with St. Brice-Courcelles in France, and few could not have seen these! But not everyone may be aware that we have a thriving Twinning Association in the village, which formerly came into being in 2000. Its purpose is to foster friendships and visits between our two villages and in the process learn more about, and enjoy, each other's cultures. Over the last 12 years there have been quite a few coach trips to St. Brice (great fun), many visits by the St. Brice members to us, and many events here and in France which we have shared. In the process a large number of close friendships have developed, to the extent that many trips to and fro now take place throughout the year, quite independently of the Twinning Association.

The association is run by a committee of fourteen dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, which meets regularly to plan and organize events and to manage the day-to-day admin. This team has successfully run lots of fund raising activities (the association receives no money from any other body, and raises all its income from fund raising events and members' subscriptions) – like the ever popular Quiz Night every October – and they are just about to put together the programme for 2013.

The next big 'do' for 2012 is the Boules & Barbecue afternoon on Saturday 14th July at the Community Hall, starting at 12.30pm. With burgers, sausages and all the trimmings being served throughout the afternoon; beer, wine and soft drinks; a folk & blues band; a bouncy castle and of course the Boules Competition (with prizes) it will truly be a fun, family day out. Tickets will be on sale soon – watch for posters around the village.

A popular misconception is that to take part in the Twinning Association it is necessary to speak French and/or to know something about France. Quite wrong! Many of our French friends speak very good English; quite a few speak a little but want to learn more and so ask us to use English at all times! The Bricocourcellians, as their villagers are known, are tremendously welcoming and hospitable, and no-one has ever found a problem communicating with them or enjoying their company.

If you want more information about any of the events, are interested in helping the Association in any way, or are thinking of becoming a member, please contact the Chairman, David Faithfull, on 880937 or email him at cow-bix@lineone.net.

Outdoor Adult Fitness Equipment

The increased restriction on grant aid funding in the current financial climate has meant a disappointing rejection of our recent bid for 'Awards for All' funding for 4 items of outdoor gym equipment for our Recreation Ground. The amount we are seeking is approximately £4,500 for the equipment and installation. As our recent survey has shown, there is a lot of support from residents for acquiring such a facility alongside the children's equipment in the Rec. so we will continue to look at alternative sources for funding in our aim for a more active Robertsbridge.

Anne Wells

Rother Valley Railway



Many village residents took the opportunity offered by RVR at the end of April to walk the line between the station and Northbridge Street before the track laying started.

It was a bright sunny day and it was good to see up close the work that has been done in restoring the track way and the bridges and to see the great views from up on the embankment.

Work on laying the track to Northbridge Street has now been completed and hopefully we can look forward to seeing trains chugging along in the not too distant future.

In order to install some of the heavy bridge work it was necessary for RVR to access the embankment through the parish recreation land and as a 'thank you' RVR gave the Parish a grant of £500 - this will be put to some project for the benefit of the village.

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Email: clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk
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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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Amenities Working Group

There is a new working group within the Parish Council which has been formed to oversee the village amenities. The areas concerned are generally all the open spaces including Bishops Meadow, Pocket Park, Jubilee Gardens, Pipers Field, Recreation Ground, trees and include other amenities such as the children's playground, football pavilion, lighting, fencing, notice boards, bus shelters, seating etc.

Residents who are not councillors but who have an interest and/or expertise in any of these areas are welcome to contribute to this working group for benefit the community. The agenda of the bi-monthly meetings of the Amenities Working Group (AWG) will be publicly displayed to enable those interested to contact the group through Anne Wells (Councillor) or Karen Ripley (Clerk) via the Parish Office. This will also be the point of contact for anyone who wishes to contact the parish council regarding the village amenities.

So, if you would like to help us maintain our lovely village, do please get in touch.

Anne Wells

Bishop's Meadow

Whilst we may have regretted the wet summer we have been having so far, the Meadow has benefited enormously as can be seen by the way the grasses and flowers have grown.

Apart from one casualty, the apple trees planted last year have thrived and a new one has been planted to replace the casualty.

The former wood yard is now starting to 'green-up' nicely and will gradually become as attractive as the rest of the Meadow and a significant amenity for the village.

Numerous requests have been made to provide some more seating in the Meadow and the Council has approved a plan to install a simple rustic-style bench near the bridge leading to the Licensed footpath over the Darvell land.

Those of you who use the Meadow regularly will have been aware of the problems of the overflowing drain near the Darvell drive. This drain originally flowed under the Meadow where there was probably a blockage. The Darvell community have paid to re-route the drain which should overcome future problems. Unfortunately it was necessary to remove a couple of poplar trees, the roots of which were causing part of the problem, but this has not had too much of a negative impact on the landscape.

Jubilee Tree - A lime tree has been planted in the Jubilee Garden to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.