

# SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

Issue 1

October 2020

## Dates for your diary

Planning Committee Virtual - Zoom	1 Oct
Planning Committee Virtual - Zoom	5 Nov
Parish Council Meeting Virtual - Zoom <i>And deadline for ordering Christmas Trees to go up on houses in the main streets. See P3.</i>	16 Nov
Christmas Trees put up on houses	28 Nov
Planning Committee Virtual - Zoom	3 Dec
"Light Up the Village" Christmas Trees switched on	4 Dec
Planning Committee Virtual - Zoom	7 Jan

## A MESSAGE FROM NICK BROWN, PARISH CHAIRMAN...

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all village residents for your response to the challenges of COVID. The observance of social distancing, wearing of masks and adherence to the rule of six has been heartening. The current situation is daunting for every age group and the news and guidance surrounding COVID can seem overwhelming. I ask you to continue to observe recommended Government guidelines as they evolve. We are fortunate to live in an environment where fresh air and space is freely available and I hope that, as always, we can be mindful of and kind to others and thereby keep all of us safe. I personally look forward to seeing Robertsbridge lit up this Christmas and end by reminding you to support our local businesses, which need our custom more than ever this year. The shops and services in Salehurst and Robertsbridge are the envy of many other villages; please let's keep it so.

*[See Page 3 for an update on the local COVID support available].*



**Full Parish Council Meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of alternate months. Planning Committee Meetings are held monthly, on the first Thursday. All meetings are held virtually on 'Zoom' at present. Members of the public can attend by emailing the Parish Office by noon on the day of the meeting.**

*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 website*

## From the Organisers of Robertsbridge Christmas Capers

Given the latest information from Government regarding Covid-19, Christmas Capers will regrettably not be able to proceed as it has been in previous years.

**But what we believe we can do to celebrate Christmas is to build on the putting up of Christmas trees on the theme of 'Light Up the Village'.** We hope that more people will want to have Christmas trees this year, to make an even better show than we had last year, when over 110 trees were put up.

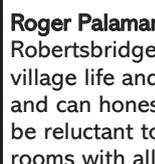
In addition it would be great if we can do what would be socially responsible in the light of Covid-19. Our thinking is that we would be able to have Martin Brockman and his team build their wonderful willow sculptures and place them securely around the main streets of the village. With the help of Darvell, we could have the usual Christmas tree in front of the Youth Centre, and could have a lighting up time, on what would have been Capers night so that magically all the lights on the trees and sculptures light up at the same time). If you have more ideas about how we can show that Robertsbridge wants to celebrate Christmas whilst being socially responsible, please let us know. If you want to have a new Christmas tree bracket put up on your house, please let Stephen Hardy know on 07831 494028 or [stephenhardy1948@gmail.com](mailto:stephenhardy1948@gmail.com)

# INTRODUCING OUR PARISH COUNCILLORS...

In our last newsletter we introduced our Chairman Nick Brown, and Vice Chairman Sean O’Hara. Here are our remaining 7 Councillors...



**Gillian Smith** I have lived in the village all my life and run Belle Flowers in the High Street alongside my daughter Kerrie. If you notice any issues when out and about, such as street lights not working, trees which have come down or vandalism I am happy to take the details to pass on to the Parish Office.



**Roger Palamarczuk** Having travelled and lived in numerous places around the world, I settled in Robertsbridge 15 years ago with no knowledge of the village and its surroundings. I discovered village life and made the effort to integrate and join in with the array of activities and societies, and can honestly say I have never had such an ‘at home’ experience before, to the extent I would be reluctant to leave the village. In turn the village embraced me and my wife into their front rooms with all the nuances that brings. I became a Parish Councillor to give back something to the community and help perpetuate the ethic of the diverse Robertsbridge community.



**Gillian Branford** I settled into Robertsbridge about 6 years ago, and after a few years commuting and working in the public sector, I opened a shop in the village, Teal. I decided to become a Councillor as I love the village and the sense of community and wanted to work with the Parish to ensure the village continues to be a thriving community. In my spare time I wander the countryside with my two dogs Ted and Nellie.



**David Todd** Born and bred in Scotland, I have lived the last 40 years either in the south of England or overseas. Having retired a few years ago, we moved to Robertsbridge two years ago to be nearer to my partner’s parents and to revert back to my love of the countryside. I am an enthusiast about village life and love the idea of being able to get involved in all that entails.



**James Tucker** I moved to the village 5 years ago with my wife Sarah (a lot of you will know her as one of the ladies in Boots). I have spent 35 years working in the construction industry learning my trade which assists me greatly in the restoration of our home in Northbridge Street. In doing so, we hope it can be enjoyed by many a generation to come. I am a Director for an International Cost and Project Management Consultancy working on major infrastructure projects across the South of England. I am passionate about our heritage. I have joined the Bonfire Society and Christmas Tree team who along with so many other good causes provide events that I’m, sure are the envy of many a surrounding village.



**Clive Cooke** We moved here in 2012 and like the village so I joined the Parish Council to try and help maintain it’s pleasant, friendly ambience and even improve matters where possible, without losing it’s rural nature. My interests include anything to do with cars and motorcycles, singing with the Bridgeman and my granddaughters.



**Lorraine Miles** I have lived in the village for 6 years and work mainly from home running my own consultancy business. My background is in research and strategy and I have worked for many central and local government organisations helping them to improve and modernise. I know councils well and became a parish councillor to help people living in Robertsbridge and to put their needs before those of institutions.

- ||| Covid-19 Statistics Six Months On... Salehurst & Robertsbridge Response |||
- ||| 35 food bags donated to local residents by Robertsbridge Foodbank |||
- ||| 39 residents telephoned regularly by a Volunteer Telephone Team |||
- ||| 80 phone enquiries made to Helping Hands phonenumber on 07726 592739 |||
- ||| 125 volunteers helping the community, including a new Street Champion team |||
- ||| 255 tasks completed by the Street Champion team for fellow residents |||
- ||| 449 prescription deliveries by a Volunteer Prescription Team |||
- ||| 600 food deliveries from Robertsbridge Village Stores |||



# ROBERTSBRIDGE & SALEHURST HELPING HANDS



As the summer draws to a close we thought it was time for an update on the local situation with regard to Covid-19 and work being undertaken around it in the Parish, to reassure everyone young and old that we are still here for you.

The work of the street champions, which has been invaluable during lockdown, is now easing off. However, we still have an active list of street champions as there may be further restrictions in the future. If you have moved to the village since the start of lockdown, Helping Hands can provide you with the name of your street champion. If you need anything please make a request through Helping Hands on 07726 592739 or contact your street champion directly.

Some of you may know Helping Hands has a prescription team in place who are continuing to deliver prescriptions to those who need it. The work of the team has slowed a little, but we want to reassure people this service will continue as long as it is needed into the future.

Helping Hands also has a telephone team of volunteers, who have been making calls to the shielded and those self isolating and anyone else fancying a natter. This team will continue to operate as the nights draw in. If you would like someone to call you, please ring Helping Hands on 07726 592739 and they will match you with one of the team.

The Helping Hands website has been kept up to date throughout the Covid crisis by our fabulous volunteers and includes all sorts of helpful information [www.robertsbridgehelpinghands.co.uk](http://www.robertsbridgehelpinghands.co.uk), we have also been posting links to information through the Robertsbridge Family Info Facebook page. We recognise that not everyone is on Facebook, so if you have any suggestions about how we might contact you, please email [info@robertsbridgehelpinghands.co.uk](mailto:info@robertsbridgehelpinghands.co.uk) or ring the number above.

Now that there is greater movement around the area and the hospitals are open for business other than Covid, Helping Hands are starting to get requests for transport. We hope to be up and running with transport from 1st October and we will be putting clear guidelines in place to ensure this service can be provided safely for both volunteers and villagers.

The shops in the village have been doing a great job ensuring that residents have had deliveries where necessary and have ensured a supply of life's essentials. All shops and businesses in the village are now up and running and have safety measures in place, so it is a great chance to support your local businesses and keep them going for the future. The village market is also trading outdoors at the moment, the first Saturday of the month.

All of our main village events for this year have sadly been cancelled in these uncertain times, but will be back next year bigger and better. During the Christmas period we will still be decorating the village with trees and ensuring a fabulous festive display, making being in the village a delight. All shops and businesses will do their bit to ensure you can take the opportunity to get all your festive needs in one place.

The Parish Council will continue to work closely with Helping Hands and other partners in the village to ensure villagers stay as safe as possible and are kept up to date with everything you need to be a vibrant friendly community in these difficult times.

*Anne*

*Sue*

*Nick*

Anne Wells  
Co-Chair  
Helping Hands

Sue Prochak  
Co-Chair  
Helping Hands

Nick Brown  
Chairman  
Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council



## SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk to the Council:** Karen Ripley (Mrs)  
**Assistant Clerk:** Gill Colquhoun (Mrs)

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Robertsbridge TN32 5AP

Phone: 01580 882066  
Email: [clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@salehurst-pc.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.salehurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.salehurst-pc.org.uk)

**Facebook:** Find us at 'Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council'

*Please note we use our Facebook page alongside our website to communicate information (rather than answer questions).*

The Parish Office is normally open to the public on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, but in line with Government guidance, **the Clerks are currently continuing to work from home.** They **do** have access to office **phone messages** and **email**, as normal.

**Rother District Council** [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)

**Parish Councillors** Tel : (all 01580)

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**East Sussex County Councillor**

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**Rother District Councillor**

CLLr Susan Prochak 881309  
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We urgently need **someone to lead the Robertsbridge Footpath Group** which has maintained the local footpaths around Robertsbridge, for a number of years. We are also looking for **volunteers to be active members of our SpeedWatch Team.** Finally, we are looking for **volunteers aged 60+ willing to be interviewed as part of the HAIRE (Healthy Ageing...) project.** Further details from Jen Wells [jen.wells@rva.uk.com](mailto:jen.wells@rva.uk.com)



### Robertsbridge Wins!

Many residents explored the local area during lockdown and submitted photos to RAP - Robertsbridge Arts Partnership for a national competition. This photo 'On Top of Robertsbridge' by Oana Baković won the whole competition. The prize is a free Applause Theatre production for the village in 2021! All the photos by Robertsbridge residents are online at [www.rap.org.uk](http://www.rap.org.uk)

### Upgrading our amenities

During lockdown the Parish Council has been busy upgrading our local amenities. We have refreshed the plant pots at Pipers Field and Jubilee Gardens., and also ordered new dog bins for Fair Lane and Heathfield Gardens, replacement grit bins, and a new noticeboard for Bishops Meadow.

In addition, we hope that you will be impressed (next time you need to spend a penny) by the complete overhaul of the toilet block at the Station Road car park. The building has been upgraded from top to bottom and features more modern, efficient and sanitary fittings. The water supply has also been repaired to resolve a pressure issue. If you are registered disabled, you can apply for the necessary key to use the disabled toilet <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/shop/official-and-only-genuine-radar-key>.

This is one of the biggest capital expenditures we have carried out and reflects our belief that the provision of such services to a high standard is of significant value to our community, as well as to visitors to our lovely village.

