

# Sedlescombe Parish Council



## 2017 Annual Report and Directory



# Annual Parish Assembly 2017

Sedlescombe's Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7pm in Sedlescombe Village Hall

The Annual Parish Assembly is not a Parish Council meeting. It is a meeting for all the local government electors in the Parish of Sedlescombe.

This meeting is a time to celebrate the local activities and debate current issues in the community.

**Doors open at 6.30pm** where you will have an opportunity to view tables displayed by local businesses and organisations

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK ON 075 310 654 69 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A DISPLAY TABLE.

**There will be a free prize draw for those attending and also one for Parish Council volunteers.**

## Agenda for the business part of the meeting, starting at 7pm

1. Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence
2. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2016
3. Reports from the groups and organisations of Sedlescombe
4. Report of the Parish Council Chairman
5. Electors' question and answer session with County Councillor Angharad Davies, District Councillor Tony Ganly and Parish Council Chairman Jonathan Vine-Hall

Signed

*Jonathan Vine-Hall*

Chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council

*At the end of the business part of the meeting, during the serving of light refreshments, those attending are invited to circulate around the hall to meet Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors and local organisations and businesses.*

## Parish Council Chairman's Introduction



Since the introduction of the Localism Act in the last parliament and the reduction in funding to the District and County Councils the role and responsibilities of Parish Councils like our own continues to change.

The first major change was the introduction of neighbourhood planning which allowed communities to determine where larger housing developments will be sited around the village.

The first submission of our community's neighbourhood plan met with significant resistance from our District Council causing the Parish Council to have to rework part of the plan. That work has been done and the revised plan should be examined by a government inspector in early March. The revised plan was supported by 88% of residents who responded to the consultation last September. Hopefully we will progress to referendum in late Spring or early Summer. We recognise and respect the relatively small number of residents who don't support the plan but hope they too will recognise the significant benefits of having a plan in place which will:-

**Bring an estimated £200,000 in funds to the village for infrastructure work which we would not otherwise receive.**

**Help protect the village from speculative development proposals like we have seen at Street Farm which simply seek to undermine the wishes of the majority of the community.**

The second major change is the District Council's plan to off-load responsibility of public toilets and car parks to Parish's. This will result in an overall increase in residents' council tax bill with no additional services. This issue is dealt with in more detail later in the directory and we are asking your opinion before the Parish Council makes its final decision on this matter. Please can I ask everyone to respond to the questionnaire enclosed.

Jonathan Vine-Hall

Chairman Sedlescombe Parish Council

March 2017

## Annual Parish Assembly Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2016 in Sedlescombe Village Hall 19:00 to 21:00

**PRESENT: 103 people were present at the meeting including:**

Cllr Jonathan Vine-Hall (Chair of Sedlescombe Parish Council) Chairing the meeting  
Parish Councillors Peter Anson, Michelle Brister, Roy Chapman, Pauline Glew, John Page, John Parsons and Debra Veitch  
Carol Hodgson (Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer of Sedlescombe Parish Council)  
District Councillor Tony Ganly

### **1. Welcome from the Chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

For Health and Safety purposes the emergency exits were pointed out in the Village Hall.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Received from County Councillor Angharad Davies, Andy Waters, Jane Blanford (Sedlescombe Church Bell ringers), Jo Mozley (Sedlescombe Guides), Shirley and Mike Davies (Badminton and Sedlescombe Theatre Club), Hope Gosse, Dorothy Tipper, Mary Ferrier and Clive Smith.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2014 and 28th April 2015**

It was proposed by Reg Glew and seconded by Brian Croucher to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2014 and 28th April 2015

### **4. Reports from the groups and organisations of Sedlescombe**

Before moving onto hearing the reports from the groups and organisations of Sedlescombe the Chairman extended thank you's to the following:

- To all those organisations attending this evening who have done a table display.
- To Rosemary Farley, Sylvia Beaney and Margaret Hudson who, every year, provide us with tea, coffee and biscuits as refreshments.
- To all the local businesses who support the Annual Directory. The Chairman encouraged everyone to try and use these businesses whenever they can.
- To Pump House designs who print the Annual Parish Assembly posters free of charge.
- To all the volunteers who do a wide variety of jobs from delivering bulletins, to supporting Pauline Glew's lift scheme to Roy Chapman's band of workers who keep Sedlescombe tidy and well maintained.
- To the Queens Head and the Brickwall Hotel for providing the door prize and the volunteers prize for the 4th year running.
- To our hard working Parish Councillors who have devoted a large amount of time and effort over the year, and last but not least our Parish Clerk Carol Hodgson who, now, after two years has become an invaluable asset to our community.

The Chairman advised at the heart of an Annual Parish Meeting is the right for any resident on the electoral role, or anyone invited, to speak. A number of people had already requested to speak. The following were called to speak:-

**Sedlescombe CEP School:** Four year 6 children George, Millie, Sam and Angus from Sedlescombe CEP School, told us of their daily life at Sedlescombe School. They work especially hard in Maths, English and Science which are the three main subjects and also have homework in these subjects. The national tests will be taking place soon and Sedlescombe School's results are always above the national average. The introduction of the latest new national curriculum means more is being learnt in primary schools, which would previously have been taught in secondary schools. The children love doing creative projects which link between subjects. The latest Harry Potter Project included a trip to Harry Potter World. Other outings included the Shipwreck Museum in Hastings, a Victorian School in Horton Kirby, Dinosaur Zoo in Tunbridge Wells and a visit by a Viking Warrior to the school. 2 classes have been doing space related projects which included following Tim Peake going

off to the International Space Station. The children's Project books were available to view on their display table.

The Children love their art and sports. There is a wide variety of sports activities including gymnastics, football, zumba, dance, drama, netball, badminton and tag rugby. They have two PE lessons per week to encourage them all to become aware of the need for exercise in developing a healthy way of life. Earlier in the year the medal winning UK and England decathlete Mark Cryer spent a day at the school. Music and drama lead to annual productions at Christmas and in the Summer. This year there will be a junior version of 'Roots'. There are also plenty of musical opportunities with a large school choir of over 60 children. In 2015 they won the 1066 Choir Competition and their prize was to sing with the '3 Tenors' at the White Rock Theatre Hastings. They have just been short listed for the 1066 choir finals at the White Rock Theatre. The Choir also goes out of school to sing in several places including the Conquest Hospital and Care Homes.

This year they are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs. Ham who has been at Sedlescombe School for 25 years.

Two upcoming school events are a Strawberry Fayre in June and the annual Summer Fayre.

Before the Children stepped down The Chairman called for Mrs Ham the Village's school headmistress to come forward. Mrs Ham has been headmistress at Sedlescombe village school for 25 years and has decided to retire in August this year after 38 years of continuous teaching in primary schools. Over this time Mrs Ham has run Sedlescombe school to such a high standard it is the envy of schools across the District. She has guided hundreds of children through their early years of education and as a community, cannot thank her enough. The Parish Council presented a gift of appreciation on behalf of the community.

Mrs. Ham thanked Parish Council and the Community for her gift. She told of how lucky she had been to be head of such a great school - which included the Governors, School Staff, Parish Council and the Sedlescombe Community. She has loved what she has done and thanked the Community for their support. Mrs. Ham is not moving away from her hometown of Rye and will be back to visit the Village and attend the many events she has become a part of across the years. The new headmistress Mrs Harvey will be taking over in September. Sedlescombe has been Mrs. Ham's life for 25 years. She will be sad to say goodbye but will be back and remain involved with the children via her passion for music.

**Pestalozzi International Village:** Two students from Bhutan & India shared there stories. The Bhutanese student began by thanking the Community for donating to help those who suffered in the Nepalese earthquakes in 2015.

When he first heard news of being awarded a Pestalozzi scholarship he was very happy even though he would have to move along way from his family. This was his very first flight and 10 hours later arrived in a chilly UK. He now has a new family at the Pestalozzi. Aside from his studies there are lots of curricular activities including football. Living in Bhutan he would never have had the opportunity to apply to places like Harvard etc. which he will be able to do now, like many others before him. His view of life has been changed through learning different politics and social sciences. He is planning to take a career in science but also wishes to socially help his community and give them a better chance in life. He thanked the Pestalozzi for giving him this chance.

The Indian student told of how happy he was when he first heard that he had been granted a Pestalozzi scholarship to go to England and study his A levels. England was a place in Europe that his parents had no idea where it was. Pestalozzi is a new life for him and has opened up great opportunities. He has recently been to the Sedlescombe School Assembly and told how Pestalozzi provides a scholarship to disadvantaged children like him from around the world. Pestalozzi is helping to realise these students potential and achieve their goals, but more importantly, helping to transform the world into a better place.

**Sedlescombe Summer Fayre - Brian Croucher :** Brian Croucher reported that last year a small team of volunteers had come together to run the Summer Fayre together with the Sedlescombe and District Garden Society. He thanked all those that were involved last year from John Brownsdon with his Goose Poop to the running of the Jazz night later in the evening. This year's Fayre is planned to be even bigger and better than last year. The date for the diary is Saturday 16th July and will once again be held on the Sports Field - so cancel your holiday and come along! For those involved in a village society or club having a stall (free of charge) at the Fayre is a good way of attracting new members as raising funds which you get to keep. Stalls can be booked through either Brian or Debby Veitch. This is a village event and needs village support. The Committee would welcome any donation of prizes for the raffle. John Brownsdon has also started selling his 'Goose Poop squares'.

**Sedlescombe and District Garden Society - John Parsons:** John Parsons explained how the Gardening society started over 70 years ago and has been a thriving society since the beginning. Following their AGM the committee unfortunately lost 3 members and could be losing a further 2. There is plenty of room for new members. The Society has a varied programme which recently included a talk from Tom Hart-Dyke. Events for this year take in a visit to Lullingstone Castle - a few tickets are still available for anyone interest, 2 local garden visits, BBQ and the very popular plant market on 7th May. Details of the Society and events for the forthcoming can be found on the website at:- [www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk). If you are interested in becoming a Member, the Society will also be at the Spring Fayre in May or in the big marquee at the Summer Fayre on the Sports Field in July.

**Speedwatch - Cllr. John Parsons:** Cllr. John Parsons showed the assembly Parish Council's new Speed Gun. A Speedwatch session had taken place last week but not many people had been caught speeding, which is a good result. If anyone would like to join the Speedwatch team to run a number of Community Speed Watch sessions at varying times 2-3 times a week, please contact John Parsons or John Page. Forms to express interest were also available that evening. The sessions include taking all the details of the offending motorists. The Police will then send letters to offenders and action maybe taken against repeated offenders receiving 3 letters. Last year 90 offenders were caught doing over 38 mph.

**Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club - Nick Gardener:** Chairman Nick Gardner shared the following. The Football Club has been based at Oaklands Park since the 1980's and is growing year by year. In 2015 they received accreditation for FA Charter Standard Development Club status. This accreditation is only awarded to those clubs that are well-run, sustainable, prioritise child protection, have quality coaching and have the Respect Programme implemented. Development Club status is awarded to clubs that pro actively maintain both youth and adult football, providing a long term path for football and social development. Sedlescombe Ranger FC has qualified coaches across the teams from the under 16's to seniors / veterans teams. The Football Club is a good way of getting children together and for them to meet new children from across the community. They also provide a coach to the Pestalozzi students. The Football Club promotes a family atmosphere and will never turn anyone away. The Club is properly constituted and the Committee is made up of a Chairman, Secretary, Vice-Chair, 2 Welfare Officers, Certified Officers and a Charter Standards Coordinator. A 2 day tournament is held every year in July at Oaklands Park and has evolved into a large event. The tournament dates this year are 2nd & 3rd July 2016. This is a busy period and the Football Club will leaflet drop to notify everyone of the arrangements. Pestalozzi very kindly provides an area for parking and there is a good parking plan in place. All are welcome to come down and watch the games. There are Team Managers for each of the 20 teams and they have become the largest club in the area with 16 teams in the youth section and 4 adult teams - totalling 300 players. They are also proposing to set-up a Veteran team - walking football for the over 50's. Sedlescombe Rangers had a very successful season this year with the Under 15's winning the U15 League Knockout Cup, the Under 17's winning the U18 League Knockout Cup as well as being league champions of the Sussex Sunday Youth league. Full reports were in the local paper. A great day for

Sedlescombe. The Football club is the primary user of Oaklands Park but they also use other facilities outside of Sedlescombe during the winter. The Committee meets every 6 weeks, usually in the Pub and meetings are very well attended. With a budget upwards of £50,000 the club's Treasurer along with support from across the committee ensure that all income and expenditure are closely managed. Over the last 2 years they have extended the car park and ensure the ground is well maintained. The Club is always looking for new sponsors to support their running costs.

**Rother Seniors Forum - Ron Sunderland:** Ron Sunderland spoke of how the Rother Seniors Forum was launched in March of 2006 and they now have 700 members across Rother. The Forum provides a voice to the over 50's to be heard by the service providers including the NHS, Rother DC and East Sussex Adult social care, which the Forum meets with regularly. Many of the Forum committee members are on other committees such as ESSA (East Sussex Seniors Association) which has 6500 - 7000 members across Sussex, Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group, Bexhill Dementia Action Alliance, Rother DC's Equality Steering Group and Diabetes Support Group - Bexhill For Forum members there is a logo, constitution and a bank account. Communication is through regular Newsletters. Quite a few grants have been achieved to date which has gone towards running several successful events. Many of the arranged outings are a sell out in 3-4 days. Membership to the Forum is free and is open to all over 50's who live or work in the Rother District. (Membership forms were available on the evening). The Rother Senior Forum's 10th Anniversary is on 20th June at St Peters Community Centre in Bexhill, with a musical concert by Mike Hatchard and Herbie flowers and finishing with a cream team all for £6 a head including return coach travel. Ron Sunderland is also involved with the **Sedlescombe Friendship Club** along with Pauline Glew, Ralph Dellow, Shirley Coleman and Valerie Wright. The club currently has 38 members who enjoy outings, walks and lunches etc.

**Sedlescombe Village Store and Post Office - Nicholas Johnson and family:** Nicholas introduced Jo and his children to the assembly and thanked everyone for supporting the shop. There has recently been some visual changes to the Post Office but the biggest change has been in the way the Shop will earn income from the Post Office services. This has been cut in half and potentially threatens the whole business. The Shop will receive funding from the Post Office over the next 2 years to help with the transition but Nicholas will need to assess the viability of the Shop and Post Office over this period. Nicholas and Jo are talking with the Community and Parish Council about this problem. They ask for the continued commitment of the Village and encouraged everyone to use the Shop. Nicholas & his family thoroughly enjoy being in Sedlescombe & thanked everyone for how well they had been accepted by the Village. To secure the future of the Shop it needs help to be used more.

**History Cup - Mrs. Pauline Raymond:** Pauline Raymond reported there were just two entries to this year's competition, but they were both good and will provide interesting additions to the Archives. The History Cup table in the Hall displayed the entries for this year and a couple from last year's competition. There were also copies of the competition rules and Pauline encouraged more people to do a bit of research and to put down what they could remember about Sedlescombe's past. There was also on show some other recent additions to the Sedlescombe Archives for which Pauline is always pleased to receive contributions.

In the runners up spot for this year's competition was last years' winner Charlotte Williams who, with the help of her family, had put together a sensitive obituary of the late Derek Wilton, whose family was connected with Sedlescombe for many years up until his death in 2014. The Pauline Raymond History Cup had this year been awarded to John Brownsdon for his extract from a much longer piece of work on this home, Spilstead Farmhouse in Stream Lane. It described the building's occupation stretching back to 1490.

## **5. Report of Parish Council Chairman**

Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall reported:-

**Neighbourhood Plan:** As many will know through involvement in surveys and consultations, the village, through the Parish Council, has been preparing a Neighbourhood Plan over the past 2 years.

The plan was well formed and was supported by over 90% of the community but met significant negative response from the District Council who sadly took a 'not invented here attitude' to a more creative way of delivering housing. This was unfortunate and whilst the plan passed its examination by a Government Inspector his recommended modifications would have made the plan completely inconsistent with the clearly articulated desires of the community. As a result Parish Council has had to go back one step to find some new sites which satisfy the District Council who are in effect the gate keepers in this process. Luckily, new sites, not available when the original plan was being produced, have now come forward and those sites are consistent with the desires of the community. In addition, and as a direct result of Sedlescombe once again leading the way for Parishes and Towns in Rother, 20% of Rother's housing supply is now being managed through Neighbourhood Plans. This has meant that our smallish plan is now considerably more important to Rother and thankfully they are now taking a more pragmatic approach to Sedlescombe's plan which they now desperately need to be able to convince the government that they can in fact deliver housing through Neighbourhood Plans. The net result is that Parish Council hopes to have a consultation on the revised plan in or around June for the community and to be able to deliver that plan to Rother by September. The benefits for Sedlescombe with a Neighbourhood Plan will be significant, firstly, giving the Village some protection against unwanted aggressive developers and secondly it will give the community a much larger share of the Community Infrastructure Levy on new housing going directly to Sedlescombe, rather, than that money raised from new housing in the Village, being taken by the District Council to fund projects largely in Bexhill. The additional costs of the revised plan are being entirely funded by a new grant. Parish Council asks for residents continued support and that they stay connected with the project and fill in the consultation forms when they come around.

**Highways:** The Parish Council and the Highways Authority are conducting traffic surveys on all the main lanes leading into and through the village. Parish Council has for some time been trying to get the County Council to reduce speed limits through the village and the small lanes. They have not responded positively taking what can only be seen as 'a problem too hard to solve' attitude as opposed to recognising that country villages and country lanes are getting worse each year in both traffic numbers and speed. Parish Council will report on the progress of this in the next Bulletin. Parish Council has now purchased its own Speed gun to more easily run Speedwatch in the village. This programme has been hampered in the past by a lack of an easily available speed gun. Those involved in the past will, no doubt, be receiving a call or email from Councillor John Parsons who runs the scheme and is planning to have regular Speedwatch days throughout the year. Anyone interested in helping on this programme should contact John Parsons or John Page during refreshments or by contacting The Clerk - Carol.

**Red Barn Field:** Red Barn field is the small field which sits just behind the Village Hall. Some years ago it was established as a Nature Park for use by the Community. One of the main projects this year was to develop a programme so the field was well maintained and made more accessible for the Community. To this end Councillor Pauline Glew has been instrumental with other members of the Parish Council and Colin Boyd and supported by Keith Datchler in obtaining grants to achieve this objective. Parish Council encourages everyone who has never walked through Red Barn Field to do so in the summer to enjoy the new mown paths through the rich variety of wildflowers that make this field a rare and special part of not only Sedlescombe but our District

**Other items:** The Sports Association runs the Sports Ground and Sports Pavilion. They desperately need some new and enthusiastic volunteers to join their Committee and help run the association. Parish Council asks if anyone who would like to contribute and is prepared to give some time and energy to help promote Sport / raise funds or help manage the Association to contact either John Mainwood, Ashley Davey, any member of the Parish Council or The Clerk.

**Sedlescombe News:** The Sedlescombe News is an important weekly news sheet prepared as always by volunteers and available in the village shop. It is only 20p. Parish Council asks that everyone

purchases this as its an important way to find out what's happening on a weekly basis. Alternatively Pauline Glew is offering the Sedlescombe News to be delivered every week directly to your computer for an annual subscription of just £10. (Pauline was available at the meeting to sign anyone up). Pauline was also looking for anyone who would like to volunteer to help out on the lift scheme. A mileage allowance is paid for those involved.

#### **6. Prize Draw for Sedlescombe Volunteers by Cllr. Roy Chapman**

The winner of the Volunteers Prize Draw is Rosemary Farley as drawn by Cllr. Chapman. Cllr. Vine-Hall thanked Rosemary for all her hard work and the contribution she has made to the Village over many years. Cllr. Vine-Hall also thanked the Brickwall Hotel for donating this prize.

Cllr. Vine-Hall advised that Parish Council's Financial Report had been printed in the Annual Directory and asked for those who had any questions to ask these during the Q and A session or to email The clerk.

Sedlescombe's Got Talent will be on 20th May this year with proceeds going to the Friends of Sedlescombe Church Heritage Trust. Jean Dann has tickets available or they can also be purchased from the Village Shop

#### **7. Question and Answer session**

District Cllr. Tony Ganly joined Cllr. Vine-Hall on the stage for a Q and A session.

Q: Why is there not disabled access to the Sports Field? The gates are locked and barred on the main road and at Ladybird Lane.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall responded that the Sports Field is locked during the week as it is a private field leased to the Sedlescombe Sports Association. Cllr. Anson advised that there is disabled access next to Pavilion but it has to be locked during the week as people park there when walking their dogs.

Q: In the Annual Report and Directory it mentioned that final figures would be available at the Annual Parish Assembly, but they are not. We would like to see a breakdown of the reserves as they have increased significantly.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall advised this information was not ready for the meeting and agreed for The Clerk to email the information and to include it in the next bulletin. Cllr. Vine-Hall explained that Parish Council was building up reserves for replacing assets in the future.

Q: There is not a lot of interest income shown.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall advised this would be looked into and advised in the next Bulletin.

Q: Why won't the County Council reduce the speed limits?

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall explained that ESCC do not have the funds for such schemes. They will 'Match Fund' with Town and Parish Council's. This is the reason why Parish Council is building-up reserves.

Q: To Cllr. Ganly. What is the situation with Highways as they have a new contractor from 1st May, with regard to potholes?

A: Cllr. Ganly answered that this was a question for the County Councillor. As District Councillor he did not have as much information on the situation and would pass this question onto Cllr. Davies.

Q: The road through the Village is bad with potholes.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall responded that together with Parish Council, everyone needs to continue to report potholes to Highways so they will be attended to.

Q: What are the new sites proposed for the NHP that were referred to north of village.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall responded that the sites referred to are next to and adjacent to the Village Hall. The District Council has not yet reviewed these sites so more information will be available later.

Q: Who is responsible for footpath at Orchard Way? The bridge needs replacing, it is dilapidated and the land is falling away at the sides.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall responded that ultimately ESCC is responsible, but Parish Council will ask Andy Waters who oversees the local footpaths for Parish Council, to take a look and report it to Highways.

Q: In April Spilstead Airstrip started an appeal against Rother DC's decision to refuse permission for their land raising scheme. Why does the owner need to improve the visibility, it is OK? In Stream Lane where the airstrip is based planes are not generally seen but others in the Village are effected.

However Stream Lane will be effected by the 4400 lorry loads of soil to be moved and in an AONB. We need to write to the Inspectorate to dismiss this appeal.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall responded that Spilstead has applied twice to remodel the airstrip to flatten it out. These are important local issues. Parish Council has objected previously to the planning applications as it is in AONB. There has never been any safety issues.

Comment: There has been an airstrip at Spilstead for at least 40 years but not in the exact position.

A: Cllr. Ganly noted that the subject had been raised recently at Rother DC in relation to Helicopters landing at this site.

Q: How do people know about these planning applications and appeals?

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall responded the information can be found via Parish Council's agenda and on Rother DC's website. Also to look out for 'Pink Planning' notices. Cllr. Ganly advised the information could also be obtained via 'Rother Alerts' if you subscribe.

Q: Does Parish Council know what really goes on in the Village organisations? If they did they would be providing financial help.

A: Cllr. Vine-Hall responded that Pauline Glew being involved with many organisations is very good at keeping Parish Council abreast of all the key groups. The organisations are always able to come and talk to Parish Council.

#### **8. Prize draw for those in attendance**

The winner of the Door Prize Draw is number 83 - Pat Evans as drawn by Mrs. Marian Ham. Cllr. Vine-Hall thanked the Queens Head Pub for donating this prize.

#### **9. End of meeting**

Cllr. Vine-Hall invited those attending to stay for refreshments and see the display tables.

### **Sedlescombe Parish Council's History Cup**

*Sedlescombe Parish Council sponsors a competition to encourage interest in Sedlescombe's history. The winner will be awarded a Cup to hold for a year. The Cup has been named after Pauline Raymond who retired in 2014 after working for nearly 40 years as Clerk to Sedlescombe Parish Council. The competition is open to anyone of any age, whether they live in Sedlescombe or not.*

*The rules of the competition can be viewed on the Parish Council notice board outside the Sedlescombe Village Stores or a copy can be obtained from Pauline Raymond.*

*For details of the **2018 Competition** please contact*

*Mrs. Pauline Raymond on 01424 870508 (email [candpraymond@outlook.com](mailto:candpraymond@outlook.com))*

*Pauline is also keen to obtain further copies of photos, postcards or documents for inclusion in the Sedlescombe Archive Collection.*

### **The Sedlescombe-Westfield Archaeology & History Society (SWAHS)**

*A new society was launched in May 2015*

*The Sedlescombe-Westfield Archaeology & History Society (SWAHS)*

*For further information please contact:*

*Paul Humm 07842 514961*

*Marc Lynch 01424 870955 or 07531 128444 Email: [marklynk@hotmail.com](mailto:marklynk@hotmail.com)*

Sedlescombe Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to thank all those volunteers who carry out many jobs throughout the village without asking for recognition or praise.

Your valuable support has helped in so many ways and below are just a few ways in which people helped during 2016.....

- delivering this Annual Report and Directory, Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan Consultations and Bulletins (three times a year) to every household in the parish
- inspecting and looking after the range of public rights of way across the Parish
- tackling small repair jobs with Cllr. Chapman such as -

#### Riverside Playground and MUGA

- keeping the MUGA clean and clear
- making safe the play equipment where necessary to conform with required health and safety standards
- hedge cutting
- litter picking

#### East View Kickabout area

- sweeping and tidying around the hard surface
- keeping the hedge cut
- ongoing fencing repairs

#### Village Green

- planting up and maintaining the flower tubs
- clearing out the road drain
- repairing damage to the grass
- checking the trees are in good order and not a public danger
- keeping the Pump House in good repair

#### Red Barn Field

- managing the meadow help to increase the range and number of flowers that it supports, increasing the quantity and quality of foraging habitat
- doing general ground maintenance and looking after the fruiting hedgerows

#### Sports Field

- repairing roadside fence damaged by traffic

Our volunteers not only help to keep the village tidy but also help save a lot of money.

If you would like to be involved as a volunteer we would be pleased to hear from you.

Just make contact with our Parish Clerk on 075 310 654 69 or by email

[clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

On a weekly rota basis the Councillors inspect the Riverside Playground, MUGA and Kickabout area at East View Terrace where many of the above repairs are identified.

**Jonathan Vine-Hall - Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Contact: 07973 129505      Hurst House, Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 OPE**

Jonathan joined Parish Council in August 2010, has been its Chairman since May 2012. Jonathan is an ex-officio member of every committee and is actively involved in general maintenance around the Parish. He is Chairman of Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Jonathan has lived in Sedlescombe since 2003 and farms Hurst Estate between Brede Lane and Cripps Corner. He competes in Western Riding. He is also a trustee for Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare and has 3 rescue dogs and 2 rescue horses. In addition he works as a mediator for the Hastings and Rother Mediation Service.



**Pauline Glew - Vice-Chairman of Parish Council,**

**Chairman of Finance Committee and Chair of Red Barn Working Group**

**Contact: 01424 870258      Kagiso, 36 Park Shaw, Sedlescombe TN33 OPP**

Pauline joined the Parish Council in 2003 and is an ex-officio member of all Committees. She is Parish Council's representative on SALC, RALC, Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch (also the Treasurer), Rother Transport Action Group. Pauline runs the Sedlescombe Lift Scheme and is also the Treasurer on the Sedlescombe Friendship Club Committee.



**Roy Chapman - Councillor**

**Contact: 01424 870520      Ashdown Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 ORR**

Roy was elected to Parish Council in May 2011. He is a Member of the Planning, Finance, Neighbourhood Plan, Parking & Traffic, Emergency Planning Advisory and Red Barn Working Group Committees. Roy has lived in and been associated with Sedlescombe and its surrounding areas for more than 40 years and ran his own building business here. He is a Vice-Chairman of the Sedlescombe & District Garden Society Committee and Chairman of Battle Writers Group. His interests include photography, the arts and conservation.



**Peter Anson - Councillor**

**Contact: 01424 870862      Durhamford, Stream Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 OPB**

Peter joined Parish Council in 2012. He is a Member of the Planning and Finance Committees. He is Council's representative on the Sedlescombe Sports Association Committee, Peter is a retired Chartered Surveyor and spent almost 50 years in the property business specialising in property investment, development and planning. He has lived in Sedlescombe for more than 15 years, is Chairman of the Restholme Trust and a Managing Trustee of The Revd. George Barnsley Trust. Peter enjoys gardening, fishing, cricket watching & entertaining grandchildren, the latter for limited periods!



**Michelle Brister - Councillor**

**Contact: 07801 034002      Dell View, Hawkhurst Road, Sedlescombe**

Michelle was co-opted to the Parish Council in February 2015. She administers the Sedlescombe Jobs Network Facebook Page connecting business and individuals to local people seeking work. She is a Member of the Planning, Neighbourhood Plan and Red Barn Working Group Committees. Michelle has lived in Sedlescombe since 1996 and is a Business Development Specialist for a Hastings Sales & Marketing Support Company.



**Lindsay Fraser - Councillor**

**Contact: 01424 871064      10 Blacklands, Sedlescombe**

Lindsay was co-opted to the Parish Council in August 2013 after spending several months as a co-opted member of the Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Project Plan Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and Emergency Advisory Committee. Lindsay moved to Sedlescombe in 2010. She works with a research team in London looking at women's cancers.





**Debra Veitch - Councillor**

**Contact: 01424 870914      The Meadows Harts Green, Sedlescombe**  
Debby was co-opted to Sedlescombe Parish Council in July 2015. She moved to the Village in August 2010 and has been a keen and active member of the community since then. Among other groups and societies she is a member of the Sedlescombe Players and is currently the Chair of the Sedlescombe Societies Association. Hobbies include gardening, baking, reading and sailing.



**Carol Hodgson - Parish Clerk / Financial Officer**

**Contact: 075 310 654 69      April Cottage, Church Road, Catsfield, TN33 9DP.**  
Carol became Parish Clerk/RFO in July 2014. She is employed for 20 hours per week and her work covers all aspects of Council work. Carol lives in Catsfield with her husband and 2 children. She has been Parish Clerk/RFO to Catsfield Parish Council for 10 years. Carol enjoys travelling, cooking, sailing and fundraising.



**East Sussex County Councillor Angharad Davies**

**Contact: 01580 831969      Alureds Barn, Northiam, Rye. TN31 6JJ**  
Angharad was elected to ESCC in May 2013. She is the County representative for Northern Rother which consists of the Parishes of Beckley, Bodiam, Ewhurst, Northiam, Peasmarsch, Rye Foreign, Salehurst and Robertsbridge and Sedlescombe



**Rother District Councillor Tony Ganly**

**Contact: 01580 830704      Morgay House, Junction Road, Staplecross. TN32 5SH**  
Tony was elected to Rother DC in May 2007. His current Committee Membership is: Cabinet, Rural Affairs and Town Council Liaison, Waste and Recycling, Joint Waste Committee, Planning Committee. He is the Parish representative for Ewhurst and Sedlescombe.

**2016: Welcome and Farewell.....**

We have recently said two **FAREWELL's**.....

**John Page** who was co-opted to Parish Council in 2015. John was one of the main Coordinators of Speedwatch and a valuable member of the Red Barn Working Group.

**John Parsons** who was co-opted to Parish Council in 2012. John was also one of the main Coordinators of Speedwatch and was Parish Councils representative for SALC and NALC.

We would like to thank them for their time with the Parish Council and wish them both good luck in their future ventures.

We are pleased to **WELCOME** two newly co-opted Councillor's.....

Andy Waters and Gareth Matthews.

The Councillors are delighted that the Parish Council is now back to full strength.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THREE YEARS 2015-16, DRAFT 2016-17 & BUDGET 2017-18**

	Final 2015-16	Draft 2016-17*	Budget 2017-18
	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>			
Precept on District Council	42,479	45,054	46,344
Local Council Tax Support Grant	1,569	1,334	667
Agency income from Authorities	266	266	0
Interest and investment income	11	0	15
Grant Income		10,751	0
Sale of footpath leaflets / parish maps etc	0	30	20
Sale of advertising - Annual Directory	528	43	480
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>44,853</b>	<b>57,478</b>	<b>47,526</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
General administration	4,067	3,941	5,711
Election Expenses			165
Clerk and Asst Clerk employment	14,873	13,466	16,056
Website	232	228	240
Neighbourhood Plan expenses	350	8,305	2,000
Grounds Maintenance / Amenities	2,458	2,429	3,200
Red Barn Field	381	2,645	1,500
East View Kickabout Area	24	0	200
Village Green Assets	28	47	2,500
Sportsfield Car Park		21	206
Dog bins	341	345	360
Riverside playing field	2,434	186	1,570
Brede Lane Car Park			300
Multi-Use Games Area	22	0	1,500
Grants and prizes	150	150	200
Loan repayments	5,636	3,315	5,636
Maintenance of Assets		0	2,000
Traffic Calming Project	869	1,529	3,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>31,865</b>	<b>36,607</b>	<b>46,344</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
Balance as at 1st April	42,234	55,222	
Add: Total Income	44,853	57,478	
Total Income	87,087	112,700	
Deduct : Expenditure	31,865	36,607	
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>55,222</b>	<b>76,093</b>	
<b>Reserve Balance as at 31st March</b>	<b>55,222</b>	<b>76,093</b>	

\*NB. The Draft 2016-17 figures were calculated at the end of February 2017.

## Responsible Financial Officer's (RFO) report.....

Parish Council strives to obtain good value for money and adopts a 'Best Practice' approach when negotiating contracts of work. Our dedicated Finance Committee continued to monitor PC's financial affairs and report their recommendations / concerns back to the Full Council.

Parish Council remains in good financial health and prudently hold's any surplus funds in designated reserves for future planned projects, replacement and repair of assets and/or unexpected events.

In 2016/17 Parish Council was fortunate to secure grants from Groundwork UK for revising the Sedlescombe NHP - £8,800, Sussex Community Fund (Sussex Lund Fund) for installing benches, tree + grounds maintenance (mowing, bailing etc.) at Red Barn Field - £1,161 and High Weald AONB Unit (Brede Valley Farm Habitat Fund) for fencing works at Red Barn Field - £790.

What did the Parish Council spend money on this past year?

- ❖ Engaging grounds maintenance contractors to cut and strim the grassed areas at The Village Green, Brede Lane Car Park, East View Kickabout Area, Riverside Playground and Red Barn Field.
- ❖ Arranging the weekly collection of Parish dog waste bins.
- ❖ An annual donation to Battle Area Community Transport
- ❖ An annual safety inspection of the children's play equipment at the Riverside Play Ground by a 'Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' approved contractor.
- ❖ Printing of the Annual Directory and Report + 3 bulletins + Sedlescombe NHP Reg 14 Consultation
- ❖ Traffic surveys in 5 locations through the Parish
- ❖ Fencing and benches for Red Barn Field
- ❖ Keeping the Councillors and Clerk/RFO up-to-date with relevant training
- ❖ General repairs around the village.

Moving into 2017/18.....

To remain in a financially strong position and be prepared for potential devolved services from either Rother DC or East Sussex CC, it was agreed to increase the precept for 2017/18 by 1%. Together with an annual increase of 12.05 in the Council Tax Base (the number of properties against which the tax can be collected) the precept for 2017/18 is £46,344. This will result in an increase of Band D from £68.98 to £69.67 per annum. Parish Council also receive an additional grant from Rother DC via the 'Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant' (a support scheme for people on benefits or low incomes to help reduce their Council Tax bill) which has been cut by 50% for 2017/18 to £667

If you have any questions regarding the financial statement for Parish Council, please feel free to contact The Parish Clerk/RFO

<b>ARCHITECTURAL</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
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Pump House Yard, The Green, Sedlescombe

**Mrs Julia Chapman**  
Ashdown Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe  
01424 870520

Author of the following books about  
Sedlescombe.....

**'LIFE THROUGH THE LENS'**  
A Pictorial history of the village

**'HOP-SCOTCH & SPINNING TOPS'**  
The history of the old Primary School

**'THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES'**  
Memories of local people

Books can be purchased at the local shop or  
contact Julia at the above address

<b>CAR SALES</b>	<b>CHIROPODY / PODIATRY</b>
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**Tim Marchant Motor Sales**

The Street, Sedlescombe TN33 0QB  
[www.sedlescombeusedcarcentre.co.uk](http://www.sedlescombeusedcarcentre.co.uk)

Quality Used Vehicle Specialist  
Cars Purchased  
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01424 870350  
07873 826609  
[timmarchant@btconnect.com](mailto:timmarchant@btconnect.com)

**Andrea Birtwistle** DFPodM MChS  
**Chiropody Home Visits**

HCPC Registered.  
Over 25 years NHS  
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- Treatment to suit individual requirements:
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- Full Podiatry treatment
- Foot health/footwear advice
- Diabetic foot care



**Please Contact:**  
**Mob: 07931974486**  
**Tel: 01580 831780**  
**Email: [andrea@birty.co.uk](mailto:andrea@birty.co.uk)**

<b>CLEANING</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION/BUILDERS</b>
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**Conquest Cleaning Services Ltd**  
Quality cleaning of carpets, upholstery, rugs and curtains. We use the very latest equipment and methods for the best possible results.

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Cleaning & maintenance of all stone, wood and resilient flooring.  
**DUST FREE** wood floor sanding, oiling and lacquering.

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Members of the National Carpet Cleaners Association and  
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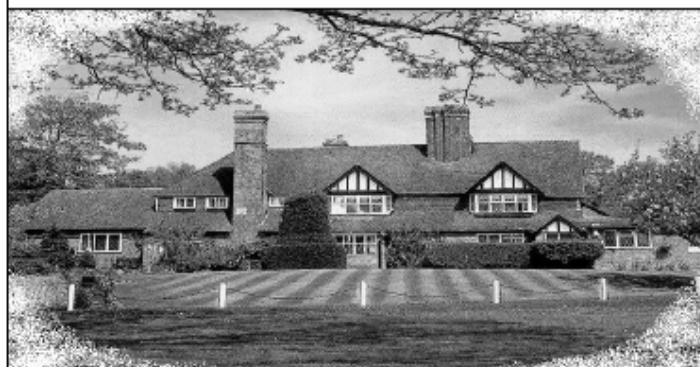


[www.parkerandsonconstruction.co.uk](http://www.parkerandsonconstruction.co.uk)

DECORATING / MAINTENANCE	DRAINAGE
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Neil Stanley</b>  <b>Decorating &amp; Maintenance</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">City &amp; Guilds Qualified                      30+ years' experience</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Internal &amp; External Decorating</b>  <b>Wallpaper Hanging</b>  <b>Tiling</b>  <b>Kitchens &amp; Bathrooms</b>  <b>General Maintenance</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:neilstanleydecorating@sky.com">neilstanleydecorating@sky.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>07432 563281</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ECOFLO GARDEN IRRIGATION LTD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIALISE IN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recycling solutions to Septic Tank,                      Treatment Plant Soakaway issues.                      Reducing escalating cesspit costs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Septic Tank Maintenance                      Surface Water Issues</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T: 01424 871081 or M: 07840 172432  <a href="http://www.ecoflo-irrigation.co.uk">www.ecoflo-irrigation.co.uk</a>                      Stream Farm, Stream Lane, Sedlescombe</p>
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS	ELECTRICIAN
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>R.D. MORRIS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LTD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Domestic and Commercial Electricians</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fire Detection, Intruder Alarm, Gate Automation, Access Control, CCTV.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Covering Sussex and Kent</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 01424 871075 / 07817013732</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email: <a href="mailto:robertd.morris@hotmail.co.uk">robertd.morris@hotmail.co.uk</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sedlescombe, Battle</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARHAM PROJECTS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2. Coach House Cottages, Hurst Lane,                      Sedlescombe TN33 0PE                      T: 01424 870893. M: 07814 820894</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Fuse-Board changes, Lighting, Power, both internal and external, security lighting, earthing upgrading etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Also – testing existing wiring and surveys on proposed house purchases</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">E: <a href="mailto:mikeparham1@hotmail.com">mikeparham1@hotmail.com</a>                      (NICEIC Pt "P" accredited. City &amp; Guilds qualified)</p>
GARAGE SERVICES	GARDEN CENTRE
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>BAVARIAN MOTORSPORT</b></p> </div> <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Bridge Garage Workshops                      The Street,                      Sedlescombe,                      East Sussex.                      TN33 0QB</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: 01424 870202</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Local MOT Test Centre</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <hr style="border: 1px solid #76b82a;"/> <p><b>Blackbrooks</b>                      GARDEN CENTRE</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid #76b82a;"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.blackbrooks.co.uk">www.blackbrooks.co.uk</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tel: 01424 870710</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bringing your garden to life</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A21, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0RJ</p>

## HOTELS

### *Brickwall Hotel & Restaurant*



The Green, Sedlescombe, TN33 0QA  
01424 870253

[www.brickwallhotel.com](http://www.brickwallhotel.com)  
[info@brickwallhotel.com](mailto:info@brickwallhotel.com)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Sedlescombe Parish Council acknowledges with thanks the contributions made by local businesses towards the printing of this booklet.

Applications for advertising space in the 2018 booklet should be sent to the Parish Council by the end of January 2018.

## PLUMBING & HEATING

### RICHARD JORDAN LIMITED

Plumbing and Heating



Millstones Cottage, The Street,  
Sedlescombe  
T: 01424 871165

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## TAXI

### SEDLESCOMBE HIRE CAR

Licensed private hire taxi  
Long and short journeys

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Contact: H Hannam

T: 01424 870397 or M: 07770 478516

**Business or Community advertising for the 2018 printed Directory should be sent to the Parish Council by the end of January 2018.**

**Standard Business Listing on the [www.sedlescombe.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk) website can be purchased at any time for £4 including VAT (expires on 31 March each year)**

**The Council reserves the right to refuse an advertisement request.**

### Tennis Coaching

Nick Montague provides Adult and Junior Tennis Coaching for Sedlescombe and the surrounding areas. Group or individual sessions available at the MUGA.

Contact: Nick on 07824 799 632 / 01424 848 572 or [montaguenick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:montaguenick@hotmail.co.uk)

## Sedlescombe News

# Sedlescombe News



Vol. 10 No. 8

25<sup>th</sup> February 2017

20p

The Sedlescombe News brings you a weekly round-up of the news and events in the Village and is available to purchase from the Village Shop for 20p or £10.20 pa to receive 51 weekly copies by email. Items for inclusion can be left in the Village Shop by 12 noon on Wednesdays. Entries are FREE.

The Editorial team is totally voluntary and they are always on the lookout for additional helpers. If you are interested in being involved, please contact 870258.

## Village Voice column in Battle Observer

The Village has its own village voice column published in the local Battle Observer which comes out every Friday. It provides information on Sedlescombe, local events, groups and organisations. There is no charge for this promotion. If you have an event coming up in the local area or would like to have a small piece outlining your club or organisation aims, activities, membership etc., then please drop your information into Asselton House, The Green send via e-mail to [judy@asselton.co.uk](mailto:judy@asselton.co.uk) or call 01424 870344

## Notice board

Items for posting on the Parish Council notice board outside the shop may be left in the Sedlescombe Village Shop or sent by email to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

## Sedlescombe Parish Council Website - [www.sedlescombe.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk)

Check the website regularly to keep updated on the work of Sedlescombe PC. If you press the "Website Changes" page, you will see all the latest information.

Contact The Parish Clerk on 075 310 654 69

or at [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

## Sedlescombe Jobs Network



Sedlescombe  
Jobs Network

The Sedlescombe Jobs Network has been active since 2014 and has publicised many job opportunities. The network also offers a platform for organisations who are seeking volunteers. Village news and events are also being promoted.

Contact: Michelle Brister T: 01424 870589

E: [michelle.brister@btinternet.com](mailto:michelle.brister@btinternet.com)

Facebook users search for 'Sedlescombe Jobs Network' page and 'Like' to receive information and post updates.

### Lift Scheme

The Parish Council runs an informal scheme to help Sedlescombe residents who find it difficult to attend hospital/surgery appointments because of lack of transport. A list of names of drivers who are willing to provide lifts can be found on Parish Council's notice board outside shop and at the Doctors Surgery in Brede Lane. Those wanting lifts simply make a telephone call to anyone on the list and pay the driver.

**Contact: Cllr Pauline Glew 01424 870258**

(Please contact Cllr Glew if you would like to become a Lift Scheme driver)

### Battle Area Community Transport (BACT)

BACT operates Regular Bus services serving Sedlescombe as follows:

Tuesdays and Fridays for Battle + Wednesdays for Battle and Sainsbury.

Bus passes can be used on all services after 09:30.

For further details on all Bus services (Regular/Flexible/Shopping Trips) contact:

**Tel: 01424 772001 (Mon-Fri 9-12)**

**Email: [bactoffice@bact-online.co.uk](mailto:bactoffice@bact-online.co.uk) Website [www.bact-online.co.uk](http://www.bact-online.co.uk)**

### Public Transport

Stagecoach Service 349 Hastings - Sedlescombe - Bodiam - Hawkhurst

Monday to Saturdays, 2-hourly daytime.

**Contact: Stagecoach (Hastings) 08702 433711 / General 0345 6080 194**

### Sedlescombe Village Library Est. 1953

A small village library run by volunteers at Sedlescombe Village Hall Committee Room 2 - please use side entrance. Available on Tuesdays between 13:30 & 14:30

### ESCC Mobile Library

ESCC mobile library makes its rounds every three weeks. It has books for adults and children, DVDs, audio books and reference materials. It also has a wheelchair lift so that everyone can use it. The Mobile stops are Wednesdays: 14:45 - 15:45 at Park Shaw (29-Mar / 19-Apr / 10-May / 31-May / 21-Jun etc.)

**For more information please phone: 0345 60 80 196**

### Battle Library

Battle Library offers Books, audio books and DVDs. Free computers with Internet access – Please note computers shut down 15 minutes before the library closes.

Free Wi-Fi. Local history material. Photocopier. Bus pass forms for older people. Bus travel discounts for young people. Disabled access. Display facilities. Bookends pop-up store. Rhymetime every Tuesday 10.30am to 11am – booking essential.

Storytime has been postponed until further notice. Computer help from volunteers Wednesday 10.30am to 12 noon – available in library or book in advance

**Contact: 0345 60 80 196 Battle Library: 7 Market Square, Battle.**

### Sussex Police

Following changes to the Police Community Support Officers role in Jul 2016 there is now a team of PCSO's and Police Officers who will be accessible to all.

This has replaced our named PCSO Demi Georghiou.

In addition to the 999 or 101 numbers you can contact the local Rother District

Neighbourhood Policing Team via **Email: [District.rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:District.rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk)**

Non-emergency Service **Contact: T: 101 E: [contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk)**

Emergency Service **Contact: T: 999 W: [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)**

### **Rother District Council**

Rother District Council can provide help with a range of issues such as Benefits, Building Control, Bus Passes, Council Tax, Data Protection, Dead Animals, Elections, Feedback and Comments, Food Hygiene, Freedom of Information, Grants, Housing, Jobs, Land Charges, Licensing, Parking, Pest/Dog Control, Planning, Pollution/Noise, Road/Pavements, Schools and Waste/Recycling  
Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea TN39 3JX

**Contact: Tel: 01424 787000** (Out of office hours number 01424 787868)  
**Email: [customerservices@rother.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rother.gov.uk)**

### **Rother Member of Parliament**

MP for Bexhill and Rye - Huw Merriman MP

Contact: Tel: 01424 219117  
Email: [huwmerriman@btinternet.com](mailto:huwmerriman@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.huwmerriman.org.uk](http://www.huwmerriman.org.uk)

### **Crimestoppers**

Crimestoppers is an independent charity working to fight crime. For over 25 years they have helped people who want to stop crime that hurts them, their family, and their community. This anonymous service gives them the opportunity to speak out when their personal circumstances could silence them.

Call Crimestoppers anonymously to report any type of crime.

**Contact: 0800 555 111**

### **Victim Support**

Victim Support as an independent charity, work towards a world where people affected by crime or traumatic events get the support they need and the respect they deserve. They help people feel safer and find the strength to move beyond crime. Their support is free, confidential and tailored to your needs.

**Contact: 0808 1689 274 (Sussex Office)**

Lines are open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am-5pm on Saturdays.

If you need support outside of the above open hours, call their Support line for free on 0808 1689 111 or request support via their website:

**[www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)**

### **Sedlescombe & Westfield Surgeries**

We are a partnership of four GPs working from two sites, in the villages of Sedlescombe and Westfield in rural East Sussex and our aim is to provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for all our patients whilst also providing high levels of up-to-date clinical care.

On registration patients are given a named GP but you are free to consult whoever you feel can help you best at the time

**Contact: 01424 870225**

### **East Sussex Highways**

East Sussex Highways is a partnership between CH2M, Costain and East Sussex County Council. They maintain over 2,000 miles of highway in East Sussex and look after roads, pavements, street lights, grass and winter maintenance.

Problems on anything from Potholes to Overhanging Trees can be reported via their website: [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com)

If you think the issue is an emergency please call them on **0345 608 0193**

### Allotments

Private allotments at rear of Bulmer Lodge, The Green.

Contact Reg Glew 01424 870258

### Sedlescombe and District Flower Club

Where Sedlescombe Village Hall  
 When Every 2nd Wednesday evening in the month  
 Time 7.30pm  
 Contact Sheila Benson - Chairman. 01797 223927  
 benson.ferryhouse@gmail.com

Our annual programme consists of several demonstrations of flower arranging, practice meetings, workshops and social events. Visitors are warmly welcomed.

### Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Where Sedlescombe Village Hall  
 Contact Vice-Chairman Roy Chapman 01424 870520  
 Membership Secretary Dave Brabants 01424 871436  
 Website [www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk)

See notice board on Sedlescombe Stores for dates / times of events. Speakers, outings, shows, plant market etc. Anyone with an interest in plants is welcome to join. Discounts on purchases for gardening items available to members.

### Badminton

Where Sedlescombe Village Hall  
 When Tuesdays Time 6.00pm  
 Contact Shirley Davies 01424 870475

### Chapel Hill Church (United Reformed)

Where Chapel Hill, Sedlescombe  
 When Sundays Time 10:30am  
 Contact Mrs. Doreen Meredith 01424 870634  
 Minister Reverend Andrew Birch 01424 447003

Chapel Hill Church Hire

The well-heated, comfortable, multifunction chapel, seating 45, and the smaller meeting room are available for use by other village groups, under certain conditions. Includes toilet and basic kitchen, also overhead projector and fixed screen. Please contact the Secretary - Mrs Doreen Meredith - above for details.

### Sedlescombe Church Bellringers

Where Parish Church  
 When Every Wednesday Time 7.30pm  
 Contact Jane Blanford 01424 751298

### Sedlescombe Book Club

A new book club is starting in Sedlescombe in 2017. If you enjoy reading, sharing your enthusiasm for a good read and the idea of a monthly meet up over a cup of tea with a small informal and friendly group, then please get in touch with Glynis on [gds01620@gmail.com](mailto:gds01620@gmail.com) or telephone 870804

### **Sedlescombe Brownies**

1st Sedlescombe Brownies is for all girls aged 7 to 10 years

For more information please contact Andrea Hunneman on 01424 424112

### **Community Friends**

Community Friends' focus is about helping people in the Village, particularly older people. A range of help offered is listed as follows: -

Befriending, Gardening, Collecting prescriptions, Shopping, Small jobs, Letter writing and many others.

Please ring Pat Evans on 01424 870709 or Reg Glew on 01424 870258 or Alan Olin on 01424 870007 who will try to find help for you.

### **Ewhurst, Sedlescombe, Staplecross & Robertsbridge Conservatives**

The local branch of the Conservative Association supports the local Conservative Member of Parliament and Councillors (or candidates) by raising funds and promoting Conservative ideas locally. Regular enjoyable social events are held where residents can meet their MP and Councillors to discuss and influence how their local area and indeed their country are administered. If you wish to take part please contact either:

Chairman: Dr Angharad Davies - aed45@tiscali.com 01580 831969

Secretary: John Page - essr.conservatives@gmail.com 01424 870455

### **Sedlescombe Cricket Club**

Where Sedlescombe Sportsfield for home games

When Sundays Time 2.30pm

Contact J Carthew 01424 774589

Aaron Maynard - potential recruits 01424 430526

The Club plays its main matches on Sunday afternoons during the season and maintains the tradition of amateur sport by engaging in friendly matches (rather than league matches). It welcomes new players.

### **Sedlescombe Dance Club**

Where Northiam Village Hall

When Most Fridays throughout the year Time 7.30-10.00pm

Contact Les Gordon 01424 424763

Emphasis is given to ensuring members enjoy the social atmosphere of Old Time and Modern Sequence dancing to familiar tunes. New members from the experienced to the novice, are given a warm welcome and established members are always happy to help newcomers to settle in.

### **Friends of Sedlescombe Parish Church Heritage Trust**

Contact Pauline Williams on 01424 870412 to become a friend.

This charitable trust was established by the late Beryl Lucey for the purpose of assisting in maintenance and restoration of our beautiful 13th century Parish Church and churchyard. It provides a means for anyone in the community to contribute to ensuring the long-term survival of this historic building. Several fund-raising events are organised throughout the year.

## **Sedlescombe Friendship Club**

Established in 2007, the club was founded with the aim to advance the welfare of the older people and, in particular, to endeavour to counteract loneliness and isolation. A number of events will be planned each year including visits to interesting places often with lunch. Our programme also includes computer lessons which take place on a Monday. Dates and times of these and other events will be published in the Sedlescombe News and elsewhere that is appropriate.

Members of the Committee are: Valerie Wright, Ron Sunderland, Shirley Coleman, Jean Dellow, Maureen Hayes, Pauline Glew and Joan Firth.

## **Sedlescombe Guides**

1st Sedlescombe Guides is for all girls aged 10 to 14years. We meet weekly during term time for a 2 hours.

For more information please contact Jo Mozley on [jomozley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jomozley@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07739 352148

## **Lions Club - Battle and Villages**

Lions Clubs are an international network of men and women who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities across the world - it is the largest voluntary service organisation in the world. Battle and Villages Lions Club serves the area of Battle and surrounding villages. The running costs of Battle & Villages Lions Club, like those of all other Lions Clubs, are met by subscriptions paid by the members, so all monies raised from the public are used for charitable purposes, both locally and worldwide. If you would like to come along to a meeting or find out more.....

When 2nd Monday of each month Time 8.00pm

Contact 0845 8335826. Visit the website for Battle & Villages Lions Club

## **Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch**

Contacts Chief Co-ordinator	Jean Dellow	01424 870223
Treasurer	Pauline Glew	01424 870258
Secretary	Sally Martin	01424 870353
Member	Reg Glew	01424 870258

Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch: \* Offers home security advice and will fit security equipment if needed - this offer is free of charge but is subject to availability of funds. \* Loans an engraving appliance free of charge. \* Will pay the installation charge and first month's rent for Lifeline for Sedlescombe residents. \* Local e-mail system in operation.

## **Parish Church - St John The Baptist**

What: Family Friendly Service without Eucharist - 1st Sunday in the month\*  
Parish Eucharist - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday in month  
Joint Benefice Service with Whatlington -5th Sunday in the month.

When: 10.30 am.

\* Eucharist available at Whatlington at 9.30am on 1st Sunday in month.

Contact: Vicar	Fr. Kevin Mephram	- 01424 870471
Churchwarden	Trevor Palmer	- 01424 870830
Churchwarden	Jane Wallis	- 01424 870240

### **Sedlescombe Players**

Contact    Chairman        Tara Buchanan    01424 870694  
                  Email                sedlescombeplayers@hotmail.co.uk  
                  Website            www.sedlescombeplayers.co.uk

The Players are a friendly amateur theatrical group with an enthusiastic membership of all ages. We rehearse on Monday nights in the village hall and aim to put on two productions a year, which vary from farce and straight plays to musicals and pantomime. If you are interested in joining us - either onstage or backstage - we would be delighted to hear from you.

### **Sedlescombe Pre-School**

Where        Sedlescombe Village Hall  
When         Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
Time         9.00am-3.00pm, term time only  
Contacts    Chairperson        Jenny Eldridge        01424 870761  
                  Email                sedlescombepreschool@yahoo.co.uk

We offer a full range of exciting activities for children aged 2-5 years that encourage their early years development.

### **Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club**

Contacts    Chairman        Nick Gardner        07809 562448  
                  Secretary        Rod Cornelius        07870 741222  
                  Charter Standard Coordinator – Chas Tibbutt 07855 374886  
                  Email:             info@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk  
                  Website:          www.sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk

Based at Oaklands Park, Sedlescombe, our football club offers football for all age groups from U6s to U18s within the youth section and tiered senior and veteran teams. All teams have fully certified coaches and are supported by a committee that includes a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Charter Standard Coordinator and two Club Welfare Officers.

Matches take place on both Saturdays and Sundays throughout the season, along with our own tournament that is held each year in July.

Training is spread across a number of venues and days each week, with the winter period utilising all weather surfaces at various schools in the area before moving to Oaklands during the spring.

We always welcome new players and volunteers across the club, particularly at entry age, so please contact us for further information.

### **Rother Seniors' Forum**

Established 2006. Rother Seniors invites local people who are 50+ years to have their say about public services. The Forum speaks out on issues such as Transport, Life-long Learning & Leisure, Health & Care, Housing & Pensions, and Crime & Safety. We work with Local and County Council Service Providers so that members keep abreast of, and help shape, developments that affect them.

Contact    Ron Sunderland        01424 870801

## **Royal British Legion, Sedlescombe Branch**

When Meetings on 3rd Wednesday in January, April, June + October

Where The Queens Head in Sedlescombe Time 10:30 am

Contact Chairman - Anthony Morton King 01424 870218

Secretary - John Page rbl.sedlescome@gmail.com / 01424 870455

The Legion is active in helping the welfare of ex-servicemen, women and their dependents in the area and runs the local Poppy Appeal. Membership is open to all who wish to support this noble and important cause. The annual subscription is £18.50. If you would like to join or know of someone who might need British Legion help, please contact the Secretary.

## **Sedlescombe Short Mat Bowls Club**

.....established June 2006

Where Sedlescombe Village Hall (3 bowling mats)

When Meets each Tuesday and Thursday. Time 2.00-4.30pm

Contacts Chairman Trevor Palmer 01424 870830

Vice-Chairman Bea Morris 01424 777048

Secretary Roger Arnsby 01424 871451

Treasurer Eve Bradbury 01424 870401

Contact any of the above for further information

## **Sedlescombe Societies' Association**

The Association is run by an elected committee who organise the annual Summer Village Fayre on the Village Sports Field. The aim of the day is to involve everyone in the community, to provide an enjoyable event for all villagers and visitors. All local groups are welcome to participate free of charge. The AGM takes place in October when surplus funds raised from the event are awarded to local village organisations.

## **Sedlescombe Sports Association**

An umbrella organisation that promotes sport and manages provision of facilities for sport at Sedlescombe Sports Field. The membership comes from clubs that use the sports field. The pavilion is available for hire for birthdays & other events. For further information and bookings contact the Secretary.

Contacts: Vice-Chairman Ashley Davey 01424 870615

Secretary Mrs. Anne Stanley

## **Sedlescombe Theatre Club**

For information please contact:

Shirley Davies 01424 870475 or Jenny Mainwood 01424 871445

New members always welcome.

## **Thursday Club**

Where Committee Room, Sedlescombe Village Hall

When 1st Thursday in every month except August. Time 10:00 to 12:00

Contacts David and Anthea Post 01424 871675

Eve Bradbury 01424 870401

Speakers on a variety of interesting topics. Meetings are open to all and refreshments available.

### **Sedlescombe Village Hall**

Established 1920 and completely rebuilt on a new site in 2001 this superb facility is available for hire. There is a large Main Hall, fully-equipped stage and 2 Committee Rooms. Excellent Kitchen facilities, Car Parking and Wi-Fi. For Bookings Check our website for availability on our 'Diary' page. Contact Fill in the form on-line or call Stella Brabants 871436 E: sedlescombevillagehall@gmail.com www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk

### **Sedlescombe Wine Club**

We are a very friendly group of wine lovers who meet once a month for great wine tastings and talks mostly in the village hall. Become a member, annual subscription is £35 per person. Major event and outside visits extra. All events at 7.30pm on a Friday of each month, unless otherwise stated. Guest members are welcome and can pay a fee of £7.50 for each event attended.

Contact: Tina Mitchell 07788544988  
Email: tinasixtytwo@btinternet.com

### **Women's Institute - Sedlescombe Green (Evening)**

Where: Sedlescombe Village Hall  
When 4th Wednesday in month. Time 7.30pm  
Contact: President Mrs. Rosemary Farley 01424 870533  
12 East View Terrace, Sedlescombe

Established in 1975, we are a friendly and sociable group with a membership of ALL ages. Every month there is always something different on the programme whether it will be a speaker, craft class, going out on trips or some other interesting activity. In addition we supply teas to visiting groups. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends, learn new skills and take part in new activities.

### **Sedlescombe Youth Club**

When Thursdays  
Time 18:00 - 20:00  
Where Sedlescombe Village Hall  
Contact Matt Davey 07891 524500

An opportunity to meet new friends, take part in new activities, learn new skills and achieve awards. For Year 7 & above.

### **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)**

This area is managed by the Parish Council on behalf of the Sedlescombe Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground Trust.

Any ball game can be played on the MUGA and general public use will remain free.

Group bookings or commercial use should be booked through the Parish Clerk.

The cost for 2017/18 is £12 per hour.

Please note there is no parking on the site.

Please park in the road or in the public car park a short distance away in Brede Lane.  
(Public toilets are also available here).

## Sedlescombe C of E Primary School

Where Gammons Way, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0RQ

Contact: Mrs Caroline Harvey - Head Teacher 01424 870585

Email: [office@sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Website: [www.sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.sedlescombecep.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Mrs. Ham retired from the school after 25 years as the Headteacher in August 2016. The governors were successful in appointing a new experienced Headteacher, Mrs. Harvey, who started in her new role in September 2016. Mrs. Harvey had previously been the Headteacher of a small village school for 9 years. Mrs. Harvey produces a weekly newsletter that can be downloaded from our website which keeps families up to date with the children's achievements and what's happening in school.

There are currently 216 children on roll, aged 4-11 years taught in seven classes. The school is built in a peaceful location within the village and the school has strong links with our local parish church, Sedlescombe Preschool and the village community. We are a fully inclusive school and believe in the development of the whole child, academic, emotional, spiritual and social. We are an active, exciting, hard-working school with bright, stimulating learning environments, and a warm Christian ethos. Our whole team firmly believes in, and works hard to achieve the vision:

Every Child Matters

Together we enjoy learning ~ Together we achieve ~ Together we succeed

We have high standards and are particularly noted for our sport, music and art achievements as well as our strong focus on creative learning. Our standards in reading are particularly high and we are very proud of the academic achievement of our children in reading, writing and mathematics. Our end of Key Stage 2 test results for 2016 were above the East Sussex and national average in reading, maths, grammar punctuation and spelling and in line with for writing. Our phonics national assessments for 6 year olds are also very high, a 100% pass rate in 2016, putting us above East Sussex and National standards. You can read more about the academic results of our children on our website. Our latest Ofsted Report, February 2017, is also available on our website.

We welcome parent/carer helpers from the local community to support children with their learning by hearing children read, cooking with the children, doing craft activities or working on number bonds or times tables. Our Good Work Worships, in which the children share their learning, are open to the village community. The dates are available from the school website, but take place on Fridays at 2:45 pm twice a year for each class. We offer a wide range of after-school clubs, which allow our children to develop a broad range of talents and enrich their school experience. These clubs include choir, netball, football, art, yoga, dodgeball, swimming, film, construction, ukulele, keyboard and others depending on the time of year. In addition we offer a daily breakfast club opening at 8:00 am and after school care (Twilight) until 5:30 pm each day.

## Pestalozzi



Inspiring young people to make a difference in the world

Pestalozzi is more than just a scholarship. Our vision is to inspire young people to make a difference in the world. Our mission is to produce globally conscious young leaders by supporting their further education in the multi-cultural, multi-faith environment of the Pestalozzi International Community. Central to everything we do are our core values of Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Commitment and Fun.

We have meeting rooms, the Pestalozzi Centre, summer accommodation and outdoor spaces available for groups, schools and businesses to use which help support our student scholarships.

There are various ways in which you can get involved with Pestalozzi, including becoming a host parent to our students, attending our cultural events, joining the local 1066 Friends of Pestalozzi group, volunteering your time as an academic tutor and much more.

For more information about Pestalozzi and how you can get involved, please visit [www.pestalozzi.org.uk](http://www.pestalozzi.org.uk) email: [office@pestalozzi.org.uk](mailto:office@pestalozzi.org.uk) or call 01424 870444



**Summary of County Council achievements 2016/17**

This summary sets out the some of the key achievements of ESCC in 2016/17 (up to February 2017) under the four strategic priorities of the Council. The Council Plan provides further detail of these priorities at:

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm)

The Council Plan for 2017/18 will be on our website from 1st April 2017.

**Driving economic growth**

ESCC and Skills East Sussex (the county's employment and skills board) were successful in securing funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company for Progress – a new project aimed at equipping people with the skills needed by business and preparing them for the world of work. The project is running between April 2016 and July 2017 and includes work experience for pupils in years 10 and 11, visits to businesses, work readiness programmes, tailored support for young people wishing to access apprenticeships and the STEMfest project, aimed at encouraging students to study science, technology, engineering and maths.

Funding was also secured to allow Business East Sussex – the county's 'growth hub' to continue for two further years. The service is aimed at supporting businesses at all stages of growth, and helps businesses to find all the information, advice and support they need in one place. Since launching in July 2015, the service has engaged with more than 1,100 businesses. More information is available at [www.businesseastsussex.org.uk](http://www.businesseastsussex.org.uk). In addition, Locate East Sussex has helped 35 companies start up, relocate or expand in East Sussex during 2016-17.

New computer terminals have been installed at all of the county's 24 libraries, improving the Council's network of free to access PCs and enabling people to use the internet and email, search for jobs and look up a wide range of information. Among those benefitting from the upgrade are users of the IT For You scheme which offers advice and support on using IT to prepare a CV and apply for work. In addition, the library at Seaford is benefitting from a new café, as part of the £6m Warwick House development.

A number of positive educational results were reported in the summer, including improvements in GCSE and A level results. At Key Stage 1, the percentage of East Sussex pupils achieving the expected standard was higher than the national average in reading, writing and mathematics. At Key Stage 4 our Progress 8 score was +0.04, significantly higher than the national average of -0.03. 87.1% of primary schools are judged to be good or outstanding, an increase of 10.1 percentage points since August 2015. 77.8% of secondary schools and 100% of maintained special schools are good or outstanding against national averages of 77.6% and 93.2% respectively. East Sussex was awarded £13.2 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund in February 2017, following a bid by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). ESCC will receive £8.2 million for the East Sussex Strategic Growth Project to create new employment developments in areas including Bexhill and Eastbourne. £5 million has been granted towards a £44 million redevelopment of the Devonshire Park area including a new conference complex. More than 1,000 new jobs are expected to be created as a result.

ESCC is one of seven local authorities which have agreed to form a partnership called Transport for the South East (TfSE). The vision for this new body is for strategic transport planning for the whole area, unlocking economic growth and improving lives for residents. To begin with, TfSE will run in shadow form as it develops its strategy and operation, consulting with transport operators, businesses and the public. With government agreement, TfSE could move to full operation from 2019.

A new seven-year contract for the provision of highway services in the county began on 1st May 2016. The contract with Costain CH2M replaced the existing arrangement of three separate contractors being responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new contract has seen the introduction of a new website and online system for people to report highways issues; [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com). In the first 6 months of the contract East Sussex Highways completed over 220 planned road works, 10,000 minor works, laid 64 miles of tarmac, answered 26,000 calls and progressed major works in areas such as Hailsham and Uckfield.

Our e-Sussex project to rollout faster broadband in previously isolated areas has improved access to services, jobs and education. Over 66,000 premises have been connected to improved broadband speeds in the first phase of works and the second phase to connect a further 5,000 of the hardest to reach premises in the county is underway.

**Keeping vulnerable people safe from harm**

A new integrated service bringing health visiting and children's centres together was launched in June 2016. The new service aims to help families be self-sufficient in their communities by providing appropriate early intervention and support, and keep children aged 0-5 safe and healthy by providing accessible, comprehensive, high quality services, promoting social inclusion and equality and respecting diversity. The percentage of court proceedings, to ensure timely decision making about long term care for children, completed within 26 weeks has increased from 22% in April 2016 to 63% in December 2016.

## County and District Councillor reports.....

81% of people affected by domestic violence and abuse who have exited the specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence service (Portal) in the first half of 2016/17 say they are more in control of their lives and/or more optimistic about the future. ESCC supported the 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women campaign, in November/December 2016. Over the 16 days a range of agencies, groups and individuals came together to work towards ending all forms of violence against women. The Council has been reaccredited as a White Ribbon authority recognising the Council's commitment to work to end violence and abuse and ensure survivors can access help and support.

**Trading Standards** have exceeded their target of 80 positive interventions for the year, including supporting victims of financial abuse and over 400 delegates have attended workshops run by Trading Standards in 2016/17 so far. Two recent successful prosecutions include one for a rogue trader who preyed on elderly people and another for a company director who duped investors into paying thousands of pounds for worthless franchises.

### Helping people help themselves

Significant progress has been made in delivering East Sussex Better Together (ESBT), the programme led by two local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG and Hastings & Rother CCG) and ESCC to transform health and social care services. In 2016 for example, six integrated locality based teams of health and care professionals were brought under single management to deliver more cohesive care, more quickly. We launched nurse-led Crisis Response Teams, helping to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions along with a new frailty service at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to support frail people to live independent and healthy lives out of hospital. In addition, Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) a new integrated point of contact for adult health and care is receiving 8,000-9,000 enquiries a month.

Between April and December 2016, 100% of working age adults and older people supported by Adult Social Care received self-directed support. 98.2% of new clients who received short-term services to increase their independence made no further request for support. This means that more service users are planning how they want their social care needs met and have more control over their support. In addition in, 2016-17 so far, 2,872 people have been supported by STEPS, which helps people maintain independence within their own homes. We took part in a national survey of carers sending surveys to 953 carers in East Sussex and receiving 535 responses. 73.9% of respondents said they were either extremely, very or quite satisfied with the support they receive from Adult Social Care, an improvement from 72.6% reported in 2014/15.

Public Health has been leading a programme of work to tackle the health effects of cold homes. Work included training frontline professionals to enable them to identify people living in cold homes and refer them onto appropriate services. 374 referrals to the Winter Home Check were made between October and December 2016. Public Health also developed a Stay Well this Winter campaign and helped to develop a Locally Enhanced Service for GP staff to help them identify patients at risk of fuel poverty.

### Making the best use of our resources

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2017/18 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 7th February 2017. The budget includes spending of £365 million on services for East Sussex and a £95 million capital budget for one off projects. It also includes savings of £17 million, a 3 per cent Adult Social Care levy and a 1.99 per cent council tax increase.

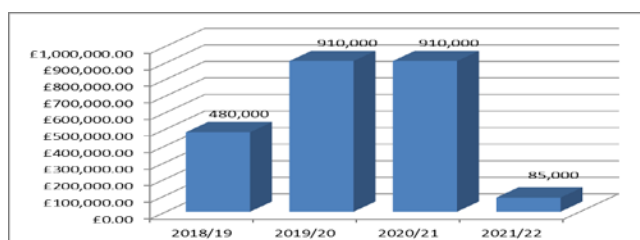
The Orbis partnership between ESCC and Surrey County Council aims to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. In December 2016, the Orbis Joint Committee and the Cabinet approved in principle, Brighton and Hove City Council joining the partnership as a founding partner. This is aligned with our ambition to grow Orbis and is a positive endorsement of the partnership. In addition, plans to bring together the legal operations of Surrey County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and East and West Sussex County Councils were signed off. The aim is to create greater resilience, reduce duplication, generate income and deliver savings of £1 million a year.

In October 2016, the 3SC (Three Southern Counties) partnership of East Sussex, Surrey and West Sussex submitted a proposal to Government, seeking to open formal negotiations on a devolution bid. If successful, the bid will help unlock new growth and spearhead a transformation in how public services are delivered in the region. Due to a Government stock-take on devolution activity and other national developments, formal negotiations on the devolution bid are likely to be delayed and as such a strategic pause on activity began in January 2017. Work on specific activities including the 3SC Infrastructure and Skills Strategies, digital plans and responses to the Industrial Strategy and Housing White Paper are however continuing. Further detail can be found at <https://surreyandsussex.wordpress.com/>

Contact: Alice Pippard: [alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk) 01273 481816

**Rother District Councillor Tony Ganly Annual report 2016-17**

- Since 2011, the Government has cut its grant to Rother District Council by a total of £5.4 million, including a cut of £600,000 for 2016/17. The Government general grant will be cut by a further £620,000 in 2017/18. In 2016/17, the grant was £1.07 million therefore in 2017/18 we will only receive £450,000. By 2020 the Government will not pay us any general grant.
- Our latest forecasts show we expect a shortfall in our income over the next five years of around £2.4 million. This calculation takes into account other changes to our spending and income generated from other sources. We have balanced our revenue budget for 2017/18 by securing savings and additional income of around £1.2 million. The annual funding gap is shown in the chart below:



- More detailed information on the Council’s finances can be read in our draft medium term financial strategy. Our Sustainability and Efficiency Plan sets out how we will meet the funding challenges ahead and also we will decide which services to prioritise and how lower priority services might be delivered over the next three years. You can find both documents on the Council’s website at <http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/1059/Budgets-and-accounts>
- Demand for some of our services is rising, particularly in the area of housing and homelessness. For example:
  - o Homelessness applications were up by a third and households accepted as homeless were up by 74% in the first six month of the financial year.
  - o Complaints of disrepair for private sector landlords were up 59% on last year.
  - o 54% more investigations of reported abandoned vehicles to see if the vehicle has to be removed by the Council, comparing an average month last year to this year.
  - o 25% more complaints about food safety and 40% more licensing applications.
  - o It should also be recognised that ESCC funding has also been significantly reduced by over recent years and the strain on their services is likewise leading to increased pressure on our services.
- Despite these funding cuts and the measures RDC have put in place in terms of innovative working solutions we can advise that our services continue to perform well, for example:
  - o 100% of major developments planning applications were determined on time (in either 13 weeks or an agreed date with the developer).
  - o 105 new affordable homes built in 2015/16 in Bexhill and Rye; the highest number for the last 10 years. A further 71 were finished in 2016 in Bexhill & Brede and we expect around 80 by the end of the financial year
  - o 29 arts and cultural events and 19 health and sporting events supported by the Council with small grants, staff time and other resources from April to December 2016.
  - o When surveyed an average of only 1% of public land and highways was found with unacceptable levels of litter
  - o Our website was available 99.99% of the time and website use is up by 6%.
  - o Over 28,500 residents receive a My Alerts email and we’ve had about 100,000 clicks through from a My Alerts message on to a website for more information.
- Looking at the next three years ahead, in order to minimise service losses to the public and our residents the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Sustainability and Efficiency Plan will seek to work with town and parish councils, along with community groups, in devolving non-statutory functions. There have been a number of good examples where some of these have already been effectively passed over thus securing these services for local people.
- For these services to be enjoyed into the future a number of other services will be required to be devolved or they may well be lost. RDC look forward to continuing the good working relationships with its Town and Parish Councils to secure these services in an ever challenging financial climate.
- There are several consultations underway at the moment including the Development and Site Allocations Plan, Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan and Bexhill Community Governance Review. For further information see the Council’s website at <http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/367/Current-Consultations>

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# Spring Fayre

This year the Spring Fayre will take place on  
**SATURDAY 13th MAY 2017**



**The Spring Fayre Committee works together to organise an Annual Fayre**

*on the Village Green and  
in the gardens of the Queen's Head.*

**The aim is to try to maintain the traditions of the Village  
and raise money for various deserving charities.**

**Committee Members:**

**Trevor Palmer, Jeremy Eldridge, Barry Bradbury,  
Jean Dellow, Pat Evans and Reg Glew**