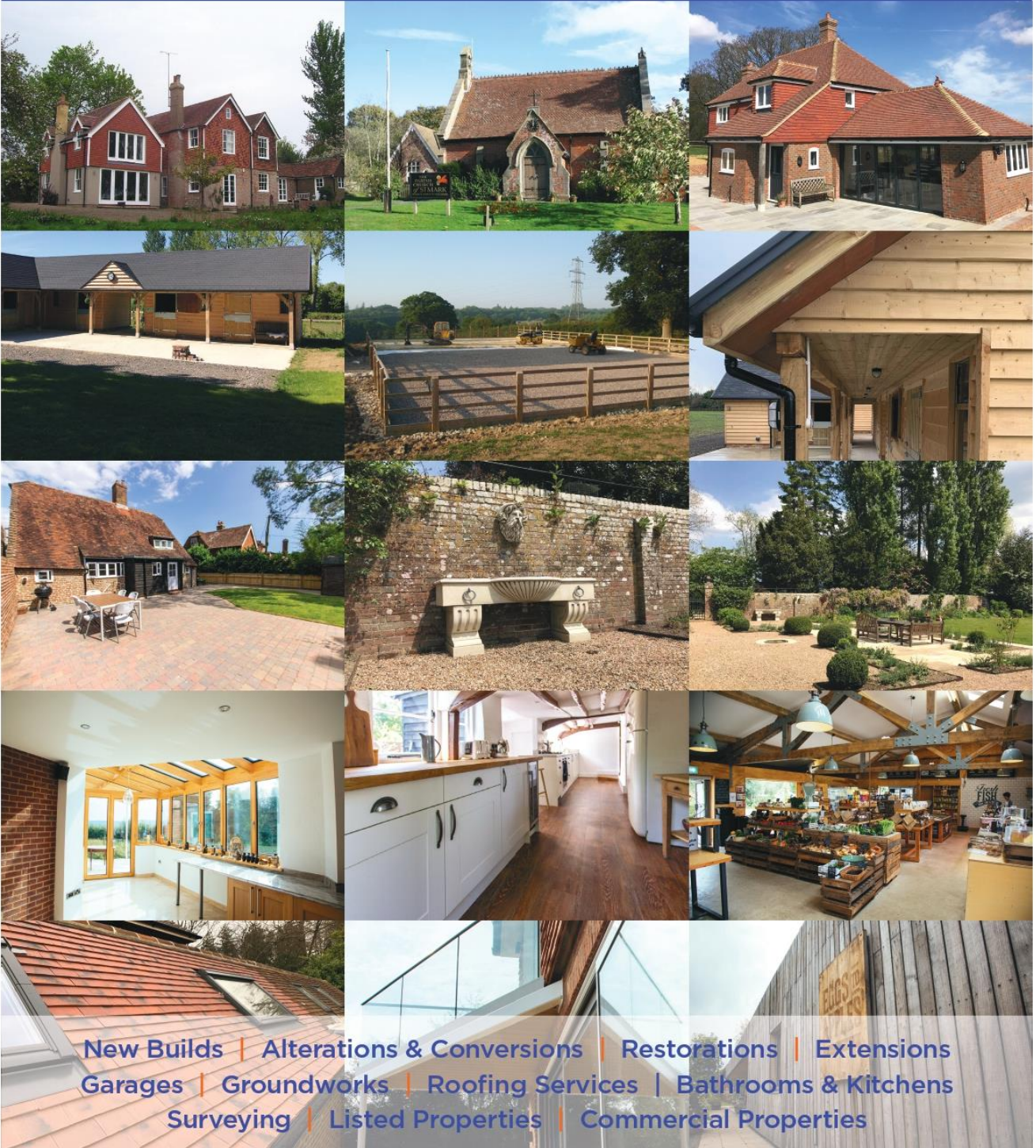


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# Parish Council Chairman's Introduction:



**Jonathan Vine-Hall**

[Cllr.vine-hall@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:Cllr.vine-hall@sedlescombe.org.uk)

After many years of uncertainty, it was pleasing to finally see the Pestalozzi site purchased by the Bruderhof Community from PGL. The Community engaged with the Parish Council and residents as soon as they purchased the site. Their plan is to use the site for their school which will evolve over the coming years. Their ownership of the site will give a long-term protection to the site. The Community has decided to use the traditional name of the site which is Oaklands. I'd like to thank the Bruderhof Community for the free BBQ they provided to meet our community. I have invited them to speak at our Annual Assembly so those residents who have not yet engaged can do so.

Details of our speed calming project will be dealt with later in the report. The Parish Council has secured matched funding from Rother DC and are now waiting for one of the small developments to start to provide the full funding for the project. In the meantime, the survey work has been completed and final designs are being created for residents to see and comment on later this year. A key objective is that the design should reflect a rural not urban feel.

Nikki Moore resigned from the Parish Council earlier this year due to work commitments. I'd like to thank her on behalf of the Council for her contribution.

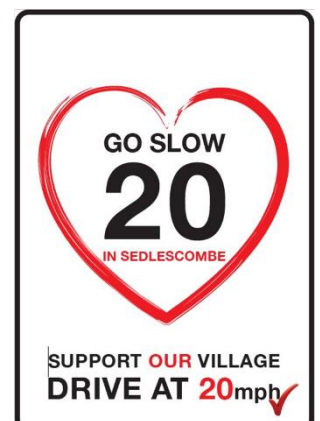
Jackie our Clerk successfully bid on a grant to decarbonise the sports pavilion which includes a whole range of features from low energy lighting, solar panels to smart heating controls. This is the first update of the sports pavilion since it was built and will reduce our energy costs which have risen significantly over the past few years, as well as having a positive benefit to the environment. The pavilion will also get a new deck as the existing one has rotted and can't be patched any more.

Last year we provided a very successful free afternoon tea on the green for all residents. We are planning another similar event in June this year and hope everyone will come along as it's a great opportunity to meet and talk. More details will be available closer to the event.

Sadly, the village geese flock has reduced considerably over the last year so we are looking to introduce more geese to rebuild the flock which is, and always has been, very much part of Sedlescombe.

On a final word a warm welcome to all our new residents in the village.

March 2024





Sedlescombe Traffic Advisory Group



# Traffic Calming Project update at the Annual Assembly



Although it may not be readily apparent, we continue to make progress with the traffic-calming project instigated in pre-Covid days.

Our Highways consultants - Evans Langford - have completed the necessary surveys and have prepared a plan outlining the various features proposed and approved in the village-wide survey of residents conducted two years ago.

We now wait final adjustments before those plans are put to the Highways authority and emergency services for consultation.

Funding is available, so it is hoped that work will be able to commence within a short time from completion of that final consultation and approval phase.

Once final drawings are completed, they will be made available to the community.

**Come to the Annual Assembly and find out the latest,  
there will be a chance to ask questions.**

## **The 2024 Sedlescombe Annual Parish Assembly will take place Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in Sedlescombe Village Hall**

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of all the local government electors for the Parish which the public can participate in. It is NOT a Meeting of the Parish Council.

Anyone may attend but only registered electors of the Parish may speak.

The purpose of the meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish.

### **Doors open at 6.30pm**

You will have an opportunity to view tables displayed by local businesses and organisations.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A DISPLAY TABLE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK ON 07531 065 469 or [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

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

**I hereby give notice that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Sedlescombe Village Hall ,7pm. Local Government Act 1972 c 70 Sch 12 part III.**

### **Agenda**

1. Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023
3. Reports from the groups and organisations of Sedlescombe.
4. Report of the Parish Council Chairman
5. Electors' question and answer session with County & District Cllr. Carl Maynard, District Cllr Beverly Coupar & Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall

Signed

Jonathan Vine-Hall

Chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council

***At the end of the business part of the meeting you are invited to circulate  
around the hall to meet Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors  
and local organisations and businesses.***

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## Minutes of the

### Sedlescombe Annual Parish Assembly

held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 19:00 in Sedlescombe Village Hall 7pm – 9pm

Item	Agenda Item
	<p><b>PRESENT:</b> <b>Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall Chair of the Meeting, Chair of Sedlescombe Parish Council.</b> <b>Parish Councillors: Pauline Glew; Roy Chapman, David Caney, Jackie Saull-Hunt (part time).</b> <b>Parish and District Cllr Beverly Coupar.</b> <b>Clerk / RFO of Sedlescombe Parish Council Jackie Scarff.</b> <b>94 residents were present at the meeting.</b></p>
1	<p><b>Chairman's welcome and to receive any apologies for absence.</b> The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. For Health and Safety purposes he pointed out the emergency exits in the village hall plus the mustering points outside. The audience was advised that it was proposed that the meeting was to be recorded. No objections were indicated. <b>Apologies Received.</b> Nikki Moore.</p>
2	<p><b>Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> It was proposed by D Caney and all agreed to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022.</p>
3	<p><b>Introduction to the evening's proceedings.</b> <b>The chair asked if anyone in the room would like to speak in addition to those he already knew about.</b> Jane Wallis introduced herself as the churchwarden at Sedlescombe church. She spoke about the churchyard, which is a village amenity is open to all and been open for centuries. The church plan for it to be open for many more generations to come but have a problem with the grounds maintenance which has always been maintained by a team of volunteers – mowing, strimming, look after the hedges etc. They organise working parties twice a year to cut things back and clear paths. The mowing is the big problem to manage, the churchyard is looking absolutely beautiful with wildflowers currently and it's no mow May. Many people will walk through it just because it's a nice place to go. But if anybody is able to consider helping with the mowing that would be brilliant. It is normally split up into patches so volunteers have their own patch, the mowers and strimmer's are available at the church so it very flexible. However, if the church can't find volunteers, they will have to consider other options which are going to cost money. If anybody would like to help, then please speak to Jane or email us at <a href="mailto:sedlescombeparishchurch@gmail.com">sedlescombeparishchurch@gmail.com</a>.  The Chair explained that Marie and Peter from the Chapel on the Hill will give an update on the work they have done at the Church since they joined and some children from the school will be on stage shortly.  The chair expressed congratulations to Beverly Coupar, who was elected as one of the district councillors in May as well as being a parish councillor. Lindy Latreille was introduced as a new parish councillor. The chair thanked Sally Sidgwick who has worked on the parish council for a number of years but has now retired.  The chair asked the other parish councillors to stand up as they were introduced. The chair thanked everybody who had volunteered in the Parish over the last year and explained that there would be a prize draw later in the evening. The chair thanked Pump House Designs who generously donate all the printing of the posters that you see on the green. In the last year there has been progress on the traffic calming project and David Caney will speak a little bit</p>

	<p>about that in a moment. We've had a big update on the children's playground and you're going to hear from some of the children who have been using it. The project was managed by Beverly Coupar including raising the funds and coordinating the whole installation of the new equipment. We also have resurfaced the kickabout area at East View Terrace which was looking a bit tired, the lines will be repainted fairly soon as the weather is a little bit drier. In terms of the sports field and the pavilion, the parish council took that back from what was a sports association a couple of years ago. Over the last two years, through the sports committee, we have spent time working on repairs to the building, bringing it back up to standard. The Parish Council applied for a grant this year to decarbonize the pavilion, by using solar panels and heating etc work towards a net zero energy cost. This is in line with the climate emergency that that has been declared by the parish council. We didn't get that grant unfortunately, but we will apply for another one and if successful, that will help towards bringing the energy costs right down, saving the parish council and therefore all the residents money in the longer term.</p> <p>The sports pitches are very well managed by Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club and we thank them for that.</p> <p>The chair thanked Pauline Glew and all her volunteers who last year carried out a very successful Queen's Jubilee event on the green. There is now an oak tree that's been planted with a commemorative plaque and thanks go to Roy Chapman for doing the planting and also setting that plaque in position.</p> <p>There was another event just a couple of weeks ago. Thanks to Jackie Saull-Hunt and Lindy Latreille who organised the cream tea on the green to celebrate the King's Coronation. Both of those events were free for residents and it's wonderful that we can offer these things for free.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Volunteer Prize Draw</b></p> <p>The Chair asked Roy to come up and draw the volunteer prize. This is a lunch for two at The Brick Wall hotel. Thanks go to the Brick Wall for their continued support by donating this prize for our Annual Assembly.</p> <p>Roy can present the prize because he manages the volunteers and does a lot of the work himself as well. Thank you to Roy for that.</p> <p>Congratulations expressed to the winner and explained that being a volunteer in the villages is extremely helpful to us all. We will be asking for more volunteers towards the end of the meeting.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>The Chairman introduced David Caney to talk about the traffic calming project.</b></p> <p>David Caney updated the meeting on the traffic calming project following last year's feasibility and the overwhelming positive response from the community. The project has received support from East Sussex highways in line with the feasibility study and the 20 mile an hour speed limit, which we plan to impose. The parish council has recently received confirmation of a successful grant application for the sum of £73,000 has been earmarked for Sedlescombe to spend on traffic calming.</p> <p>There are two ways to install the measures, we can go through East Sussex highways, who conducted the feasibility study, and use their contractors. They've quoted about 200,000 pounds for the installation. This would unlock a maximum contribution of £50,000 from East Sussex County Council towards the project. The second option is to go down the private route. Having looked at both we prefer the private route as it gives us the freedom to choose the designer, the design and it also allows us to apply for full match funding from the planning authority. But more importantly, it gives us the opportunity to design traffic calming which is sympathetic to the rural nature of Sedlescombe rather than have something more urban. We have a meeting in two weeks' time with a highways architect who has been recommended to us and who is sympathetic to our desire for a rural scheme. It will all need to be presented to East Sussex highways and the relevant emergency services and other authorities who have to give their final green tick. Then all we have to do is wait for one of the developments to start in the village, triggers the CIL money.</p>
<p><b>Q</b></p> <p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b>Question and answer session on the traffic calming project.</b></p> <p>Do we get a chance to look at what and where these things are going to go before they're actually put in place?</p> <p>In line with previously showing the plans that we had we will share the design when we have it. We can also put it all on our website so its publicly available.</p>

<p><b>Q</b></p> <p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>Q</b></p> <p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>Q</b></p> <p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>Q</b></p> <p><b>A</b></p>	<p>What's the timescale of the developments to unlock the CIL money?</p> <p>Three of the developments are in the final stages of the legal agreements. Once this is completed the money is released in stages following the commencement of the development.</p> <p>Do the properties being built next to The Brickwall Hotel generate CIL?</p> <p>They will do if they are over 100 square metres.</p> <p>Is it possible that the final design can be put on display before the council make their final decision.</p> <p>Yes, the intention is that the designs will be put on display.</p> <p>Do you think the designs will be available in the summer.</p> <p>We do hope to have some designs by the end of the summer.</p>
	<p><b>The Chairman invited Peter and Marie from The Chapel on the Hill to the stage.</b></p> <p>Marie explained that the Chapel on the Hill is at the Westfield end of the Village. It's been there since 1879. They wanted to take the opportunity to let everyone know that it's been a busy year with lots of things going on. They've had ministers coming from other churches to visit the chapel, and to see what's been going on, and specifically to see the work that's been happening in the gardens, and how the community use the building. Last year the chapel hosted the wonderfully presented history presentation. It was really well received over the two days, Pauline and Colin did an excellent presentation showing the history through the years of Sedlescombe. So it was very good. We've also been very involved in things that are happening in the village with needs community needs. We often get asked how many people go to church on Sunday? I think it was over 600 altogether. So that's a lot of people we've been involved in in the last year. Warm spaces was one of the biggest things that we got involved in in the last year, we decided to open the church for two days a week between 1030 till about four o'clock to support people who were worried about being able to keep their homes warm. We received donations of food - people turned up with sacks of potatoes, vegetables, other people got involved in wanting to help cook lunch. You'd be amazed how many people got involved and about I think was about seven people actually volunteered to be taxis, to pick people up and drop them off. We ended up with over 250 people visiting in the three months that we actually opened the church.</p> <p>We have a defibrillator donated to the church, and it's fitted outside in a box. To use it, you have to dial 999. And now we'll give you the code. If I'm there, I'll give you the code as well, at the same time, but if you need it, and that was donated by Benenden Healthcare Trust. Thank you for listening.</p>
	<p><b>The Chairman invited the students from Sedlescombe Primary School to the stage.</b></p> <p>Beverley Coupar explained that Riverside Playground had been updated with new equipment and some children from the local primary school had come along to tell everyone what they think.</p> <p><b>First up Winnie who told everyone</b></p> <p><i>'my favourite thing about the playground is new slide because it's not too small for little children but it's not too big as well.'</i></p> <p><b>Sophie explained:</b></p> <p><i>'I best thing I like about the play park is the zipline because if you bring your friends over they can push us so you can go extra fast.'</i></p> <p><b>Elizabeth told us:</b></p> <p><i>'My favourite thing is about the playground is the pendulum swing, because I go really fast on it and because it's fun. I like to see if people are scared of heights, not because they go so big, so I can always tell if they want to get off or not.'</i></p> <p><b>Nathaniel explained that:</b></p> <p><i>'well, there are so many things good about the playground. But the zipwire is for all groups, it could be from reception children to teenagers in secondary school, and also tennis court, you can play football, you can play tennis, you know, everything, a lot of stuff.'</i></p> <p>Beverley thanked the community for their support as she said being awarded the grants wouldn't have been</p>

	<p>possible without the community.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the 'expert users of the playground who have spoken so enthusiastically and shown us that it is a real success. It's nice to be able to have these projects come forward with very little cost to the community and they have such a positive impact on the children who use it.</p>
	<p><b>Brede Lane Car Park and Public Toilets possible devolution.</b></p> <p>Some of you already probably filled in the survey that's been handed out. And that's about the public toilets in the village carpark. And many of you will remember that this issue came up some years ago. In fact, Peter Anson is in the audience here and he was responsible for surveying the community at that time. At that time, based on the response from the community the parish council decided that they would offer to take the car park but not the toilets. That was largely driven by the fact that the toilets were quite expensive to run, not the least, because they had business rates on them as does the carpark.</p> <p>The toilets no longer attract business rates although the car park still does - approx £1000 a year.</p> <p>The District Council is asking us again, if we would take these on.</p> <p>Provision of public toilets and car parks are discretionary services. So they don't have to provide them and at the same time, the district councils are restricted as to how much they can increase the council tax. It's 2%. And of course, costs are rising at far greater than 2%. The Parish Council felt it was best to go back and ask residents their thoughts because there is a cost involved. You'll see on the sheets you've had in front of you that the various costs that it will come towards you in your in your rates, but there's a part of the parish precept as opposed to the District Council council tax. If we took the car park and toilets on it would cost a band D council tax payer approximately £1.11 per month so that's about 12 pounds a year. That includes about £2000 for maintenance and capital costs. If we just took the toilets on, it would cost just under £1 per month, so about £12.</p> <p>That includes around £1400 pounds for maintenance and capital costs. To take the car park only is about £20 per month. The maintenance costs aren't so great on the car park, there are parts of the car park, which cost more than what might appear to be there, because you also have to maintain the trees that surround them.</p> <p>We will also receive a negotiated grant towards the renovation of the toilets which are a little tired. We're also interested in hearing from you as to whether you feel that there are other uses that might be for the building itself. Currently, there's a disabled toilet, there's a men's toilet, there's a women's toilet, and there's a small storage area. The building itself, the actual brick building is in pretty good condition. One proposal is that we have a single up to date, the top of the range toilet, which everyone can use, and we use other parts of the building for other things, which could be storage of assets that we have. Does anyone have any questions about this?</p>
	<p><b>Question and answer session on the devolution of discretionary services.</b></p> <p><b>Q</b> What happens if we don't take them on?</p> <p><b>A</b> We haven't been told. Its difficult to imagine anything would happen to the carpark. They may simply close the toilets as many villages don't have any.</p> <p><b>Q</b> What cost benefit analysis has been about the value of the toilets and the carpark to our community.</p> <p><b>A</b> It's really hard to get a feeling as to who uses them. Anecdotally, you would think the people who live in the village probably don't use them, because they have houses to go to. If you if you speak to the parents from the school. I think increasingly they have used them because I can't use the toilets at the school. We don't really know who uses them. If you stand there, you will see them being used. And it's often by passersby, people going to and from work and they know there's a toilet there. It's a very subjective question there is no quantitative data to fall back on.</p> <p>A resident commented that their study looks down on to the entrance to the toilet and feels that a lot of use is by workmen and also the Ramblers.</p> <p><b>Q</b> Would the council still have to pay rates – there are no rates for toilets anymore it would just be the carpark.</p> <p><b>A</b> The Parish council wouldn't if they were closed, any responsibility would remain that of the district council.</p> <p>A resident commented that they had parked in the carpark to come to the AA and it would be chaos at school</p>

	<p>drop off and pick up if the carpark wasn't there.</p> <p><b>Q</b> Is it just the maintenance and upkeep you are talking about rather than the ownership.</p> <p><b>A</b> Yes, this has been an ongoing discussion with the District Council. We have told the district council we would want the freehold of those facilities and they want to give 100 year or so lease.</p> <p><b>Q</b> What about the huge puddle that appears in the carpark is there anything that can be done about the drainage problem.</p> <p><b>A</b> When we met the District Council to look at the carpark and toilets we had a discussion about the fact that the facilities hadn't been well maintained. The puddle was there in the carpark at the time and they agreed to remedy it. At this moment in time it hasn't been done but we will remind them.</p> <p><b>Q</b> Is this maintenance in your numbers?</p> <p><b>A</b> Yes, the parish council put money into a reserve for maintenance that build up over the years to prevent a large unforeseen bill that would dramatically affect the council's funds and the precept. We would seek to negotiate with the district council to get some of the jobs done in advance.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Other projects and questions and answers.</b></p> <p>The Neighbourhood plan needs to be updated because the Rother District Plan is being updated and it will produce new housing numbers. It doesn't look like any available sites would meet the threshold required for the planners.</p> <p>So the likely focus of the plan will be the climate and environmental aspects of the village, things like dark skies and biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Q</b> Is the Parish Council interested in the Pestalozzi site.</p> <p><b>A</b> The parish council made some enquiries but the owners would not sanction releasing the details to the Parish Council as they said they would only release details to people who could afford to buy it. We did explain how the parish council could have the ability to purchase it but they wouldn't let us have the details.</p> <p><b>Q</b> A resident commented that they had made enquiries due to having some adjoining land. They were told that there had been interest in the site and asked would the parish council be interested in buying any of the land as a community asset?</p> <p><b>A</b> A The parish council would look at it but are unable to get any information from the agent.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Door Prize Draw</b></p> <p>The chair thanked Neil and Maria Smallwood, the new landlords of the Queens Head, despite not having met them yet they have donated the door prize for the evening.</p> <p>Pauline Glew was asked to draw the ticket for the door prize. The winning ticket, no. 137, was claimed.</p> <p>The chair wished Neil and Maria the best of luck in their new venture.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Plea for volunteers.</b></p> <p>The Parish Council along with other societies in the village would like to ask if there are residents who would like to volunteer. Pauline Glew is the contact for litter picking, the lift scheme and looking after Red Barn Field.</p> <p><b>Litter picking</b> helps keep the village attractive but there is litter to be picked up on a daily basis. Pauline has the equipment needed so please do ask her if you are willing to do some litter picking.</p> <p><b>The lift scheme</b> is a really great initiative in our village. There are a number of volunteers who, for the cost of the petrol, will take residents to medical appointments. In recent times there are less volunteers available but without new volunteers the village will lose this service which is vital for people who can't drive themselves.</p> <p><b>Red Barn Field</b> this is our lovely wildflower area and there are always little things that need doing, trimming</p>

back hedges, strimming, painting benches.

**If anyone is able to volunteer for any of these activities that would be great. The more hands, the less work there is per person. Any volunteering is always down to the individual and it doesn't matter how often or how long or short the time is that you have available it all helps.**

#### 9 Final thank you's

Last, but definitely not least is a thank you to Jackie Scarff our clerk, who's sitting quietly in the back corner there for anyone who hasn't met her or don't know her. She's always on the end of email or telephone to help out the residents and does work tirelessly behind the scenes on all aspects of the parish council work. So can I just offer thank you for that. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the evening, all those who've put their display tables up, members of the Parish Council who've worked consistently hard during this time please feel free and welcome to stay for another glass of wine or talk to anyone that's running the tables over here.

On that note, thank you very much and good night.

# N Sedlescombe News



The weekly newsheet *Sedlescombe News* is now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, in its current form. We are a small team of 4 editors who produce the weekly newsheet with only one week off per year, at Christmas. We are all volunteers who edit and write content for the News on a rota.

We aim to print almost any news from the village with a particular focus on events that are coming up. We also have space for news and service timings from our two local churches.

There is a £10 for an annual subscription to the News and all this money goes to a charity of the editors' choosing. Alternatively, you can buy a hard copy from the village shop for a small charge which is currently 20p per week.

Sedlescombe News relies totally on contributions from our readership, so do send in your news, advance warning of events that are coming up, and even news of births, marriages, and deaths. We will publish whatever we have room for.

However, we are conscious that our readership is currently small, and we are keen to expand more. Let us have your feedback on Sedlescombe News via [sedlescombenews@outlook.com](mailto:sedlescombenews@outlook.com) For example, we would be keen to know:

- Which clubs or groups in the village are not currently featuring in the news, and why?
- How can we encourage our younger neighbours to post news and to read the news sheet?
- What would you like to read more of?

Let us know what you think, and for all the news that you want to put into the weekly sheet email [sedlescombenews@outlook.com](mailto:sedlescombenews@outlook.com) by midday each Wednesday. The Sedlescombe News is usually available on Friday each week, by email to our annual subscribers and otherwise as hard copy in the village shop.

The Editors.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022-23, DRAFT 2023-24 & BUDGET 2024-25.

	All amounts are GBP	Final 2022-23	Draft 2023-24*	Budget 2024-25
<b>I N C O M E</b>	Precept on District Council	58,613	59,800	67,650
	Interest and investment income	8	94	150
	Grant Income	31,312	230	15,000
	Hire Fees	5,220	4,650	7,000
	CIL			
	Other Income	20,963	558	860
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>116,116</b>	<b>65,338</b>	<b>67,820</b>
<b>E X P E N D I T U R E</b>	Clerks Employment	16,022	16,739	22800
	Training	40	95	300
	Members Allowance	200	200	200
	Bank Charges	72	72	72
	Audit Fees	593	692	800
	Professional Fees	472	224	600
	Subscriptions & Memberships	687	862	850
	Insurance	1,474	1,643	2,000
	Administration	3,202	2752	3700
	Grants/Donations paid	150	150	100
	Election Costs	0	188	500
	Loan Repayment	4,643	4,643	0
	Section 137 expenditure		0	0
	Entertainment	3,364	406	500
	Hall	362	189	220
	Grass Cutting	3,577	3,684	3,824
	Trees	3,000	2,500	2,300
	Ditch & Hedge Cutting	300	350	420
	Dog Bins	390	429	450
	Repairs and Maintenance	2,582	4,500	5,500
	Cleaning	920	983	1,200
	Village Amenities	1,000	1,000	6,000
	Bus Shelter	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Car Park - Sports Field	300	400	400
	Car Park – Brede Lane	300	300	300
	Maintenance of Assets	12,583	7,500	19,500
	Cut & Bale	450	800	800
	Utilities	1,966	2,005	1,800
	Traffic Calming	275	6,349	3,000
	Speedwatch	0	0	0
	Inspection Fees	1,244	248	700
	Equipment	84,153	254	200
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>143,025</b>	<b>51,772</b>	<b>81,714</b>	

<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>			
<b>All amounts are GBP</b>		<b>Final 2022-23</b>	<b>Draft 2023-24*</b>
<b>R E S E R V E S</b>	Maintenance of Assets	8,000	9,000
	MUGA	9,500	11,000
	Red Barn Field	5,550	6,550
	Red Barn Field Grant Income	1,309	1,309
	Riverside Playground	0	2,500
	Traffic Calming	6,692.67	3,693.67
	Speedwatch	2,000	2,000
	Street Farm	11,000	11,000
	CIL	11,700	11,700
	Brede Lane Carpark	1,500	1,800
	Legal Fees	3,300	3,300
	Bus Shelter	4,100	5,100
	Sportsfield Carpark	0	400
	EVT Kickabout.	0	2,500
	Youth Funding	0	0
	Trees	3,000	4,000
	Sports Pavilion	22,000	24,500
	Recreation	10,000	10,000
Neighbourhood Plan Development	5,000	9,000	
<b>Reserves Balances as at 31st March 2023</b>		<b>104,651.67</b>	<b>119,352.67</b>

\*NB. These are Draft figures are to the end of March 2024 and may change during the year end.

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

Sedlescombe Parish Council employs the Parish Clerk as its Responsible Financial Officer.

The Council follows the requirements for adequate financial governance as defined in the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) Practitioner's Guide and its own Financial Regulations. The financial year is from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The budget is set by Councillors at the December or January meeting for the following financial year and is the basis for submission of the precept request to Rother District Council. It is at this time that Councillors consider financing future and ongoing projects. The annual accounts were agreed at the parish council meeting held on 22nd May 2023 after having been reviewed by an independent internal auditor, they were sent to the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn and received back in September unqualified (the auditor is completely satisfied with the truth and fairness of the financial statements of the accounts). You will find a copy on our website.

The council has overseen a spend of £51,772 to the end of March 2024, this is significantly less than the previous year predominantly due to the purchase of new playground equipment in the previous year. The final loan repayment has been made for the Sports Pavilion. Sedlescombe Parish Council is able to reclaim VAT. VAT is calculated and reclaimed quarterly as it relates to suppliers invoicing directly on the council and which are VAT registered.

Overall, the net effect of expenditure & income this year has been to increase reserves by £14,701 to some £119,352 and the expected use of the reserves is outlined in the Earmarked Reserves table above. The council has a risk management policy and register and in conjunction with its financial regulations ensures that all payments are made by Standing order, direct debit or BACS, financial reports are included with the monthly meeting information and available on the council's website.

If you would like any further information, please contact The Parish Clerk/RFO [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

# Meet Your Councillors.

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

**Contact: ☎: 07973 129505    Hurst House, Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PE**



Jonathan joined the 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 all aspects of the Parish Council's work representing the Council on a number of related bodies. Jonathan has lived in Sedlescombe since 2003 and farms Hurst Estate between Brede Lane and Cripps Corner. He has 2 rescue dogs, 2 rescue horses and 1 rescue cat. Having been a trustee for Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare for 10 years and chairman for 4 years he was appointed vice president in December 2022.

**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 0PP**



Pauline joined the Parish Council in 2003 and is an ex-officio member of all Committees. She is Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee. She is the Parish Council's representative on RALC and runs the Sedlescombe Lift Scheme and is chair of the Red Barn Field working Group and is Treasurer of the Friendship Club.

Her leisure time is taken up working voluntary for the National Trust for 25 years and trying to keep pace with 4 daughters, 13 grandchildren aged between 24 and 35 and 5 great grandchildren.

**Roy Chapman - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 01424 870520    Ashdown Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0RR**



Roy was elected to the Parish Council in May 2011. He is a member of the Planning committee and Red Barn Working Group. Roy coordinates all the village volunteers and ensures that the village is well maintained and has become the village tree warden.

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 member of Battle Writers Group. His interests include photography, the arts and conservation.

**Beverley Coupar - Parish Councillor and Independent District Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07938 384467    Voles, Moat Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0RZ**



Beverley was co-opted to the Parish Council in December 2019. She moved to Sedlescombe with her husband and 2 young children in 2016. She is Chair of the Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground Charity Trust and deputy chair of Sedlescombe Traffic Advisory Group and The Sports Field Committee. She is an active member of the Community Speedwatch Group in the village and surrounding areas. She is a Sedlescombe Primary School Governor and treasurer for the PTA. Her interests include gardening and cooking.

- Councillor

**Contact: Old Orchard, Chapel Hill Sedlescombe TN33 0QX**



Keith moved to the village in 2020 two weeks before the first lockdown. He became a trustee of Sedlescombe Village Hall and is now Chair of the Trust working to ensure the future of the village hall as a community resource. He is passionate about the beauty of the village and local countryside in which we are privileged to live, and is keen to ensure that our heritage is preserved through sustainable and manageable change for the future. He was co-opted to the council in May 2023 and is on the planning and finance committees. In his spare time Keith enjoys gardening, playing with his two young grandchildren and playing his violin.

**David Caney - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07831 663321 Summer Cottage The Street, Sedlescombe TN33 0QQ**



David joined the Parish Council in September 2018. He has lived in Sedlescombe for 6 years, having moved from Robertsbridge where he served as a governor at Salehurst Primary school. He is chair of the Traffic Advisory Committee (STAG), Vice Chair of the Planning Committee and Chair of the Sporsfield and Pavilion Committee.

**Jackie Saull-Hunt - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07765 710337 Hurst Cottage, Hurst Lane, Sedlescombe, TNN33 0PE**



Jackie was co-opted on to the Parish Council in June 2020 She has lived in Sedlescombe for almost 20 years and has been an active part of village life including mother and toddler groups, the preschool as well as the local primary school. Her main interests include running around the local footpaths especially with various kids in tow, and swimming in the local rivers as well as a lifelong interest in plants

**Lindy Latreille - Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07977 911893 Pokehold Wood, Kent Street, Sedlescombe, TN33 0SD**



Lindy concluded her 50-year career in Nursing, Teaching and Social Care inspection in 2015. She then joined her Partner, Manufacturing roof, floor, wall and Mathematical tiles for heritage and listed properties from a rural setting in Kent Street. Since 2017 she has been a member of the Patient Participation Group attached to the Sedlescombe & Westfield Surgeries and a Volunteer with East Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust, joining the Parish Council in November 2022.

**Jackie Scarff - Parish Clerk / Financial Officer**

**Contact: ☎: 07531 065 469 The Red House, Lower Street Ninfield TN33 9ED.**



Jackie joined as Parish Clerk/RFO to Sedlescombe PC in October 2018. She is currently employed by the Parish Council for 18 hours per week as the Clerk and proper Officer. she has recently passed her Certificate in Local Council Administration, becoming a qualified clerk. Jackie lives in Ninfield with her husband and 3 children and outside of work enjoys sailing and gardening.

**Carl Maynard -Rother District and East Sussex County Councillor**

**Contact: ☎: 07500 224869 Dines Wood, 22 Baldslow Down, Westfield, TN37 7NH**



Carl was elected councillor for Brede Valley and Marsham in 2005 has been a ward councillor on Rother District Council since 1999. His current Committee Membership is: Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Cabinet, East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, ESBT Strategic Commissioning Board and Full Council.



# Sedlescombe Village Hall

## Into a new era: update

There are probably many in the village who believe that the Village Hall is owned by the Parish Council. This is not the case: for many years now, it has been owned freehold by a charitable trust which has its own trustees and who manage the hall and its immediate surrounds on behalf of the whole community of Sedlescombe. The car park is on a 25-year lease from the Parish Council. Currently we have 10 trustees who all live in the village and give their time voluntarily: Dave Brabants was until recently the Chair of Trustees and Keith Saunders has just taken over as the Acting Chair.

We took the decision some time ago to move the legal status of the Hall to a so-called “Charitable Incorporated Organisation” (CIO). The advantages of this are that it reduces liabilities on individual trustees, allows the Hall to enter into contracts (for example with decorators, electricians, or builders, as required) and means that we no longer will need to change our details at the Charity Commission and Land Registry every time there is a change in trustees. Our old constitution was written in 1986 and is no longer fit for purpose: the new CIO has an updated constitution which makes it clear that the hall can only be used for the benefit of the residents of Sedlescombe. The new constitution retains, though, the aims that were established in 1986 and before: the Hall is held in trust and exists solely to benefit the people and community of Sedlescombe.

The next step is to transfer the title deeds of the Hall to the new Charitable Trust and we are currently working through this process with the Charity Commission and, removing some of the legacy issues which remain from the way the old Trust was set up. We hope this process will be completed by the end of 2024 at the latest and the new arrangements will be fully agreed with the Charity Commission by then.

Although many of the organisations that used to nominate trustees to our board have now disappeared (remember the Sedlescombe and District Tennis club or the Old Time and Modern Sequence Dancing club?), we are keen to encourage more people to be trustees in their own right. We work hard to ensure the Hall is a safe and welcoming place, and to keep it both financially solvent as well as affordable to us all. Trustees who are happy to help organise Sedlescombe Screen, join regular working parties to deep clean the kitchen or keep the grounds under control are particularly welcome, but we also have valued trustees who regularly come to meetings and make important contributions in other ways. If you are interested in being a trustee, please email [chairman@sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk)

A few facts to finish, over the last two years we typically have had, per year:

- \* Just under 400 bookings
- \* Income of approximately £30,000
- \* Costs of approximately £7000 for gas, electricity and water (these will be rising sharply soon as our contract comes to an end)
- \* Cleaning costs of more than £4000
- \* To spend about £7500 in maintenance

You can find out more, including reading the CIO’s new Constitution, by visiting <https://www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk/> and you can now book your event at the hall on the same website. Thank you to everybody in the village for your support, for continuing to use the hall and for helping us to keep the hall as a going concern for us all.

Keith Saunders – Chair of Trustees.

## Garage Services



BAVARIAN MOTORSPORT

**Bridge Garage Workshops**  
**The Street, Sedlescombe,**  
**East Sussex.**  
**TN33 0QB**

**Tel: 01424 870202**

Local MOT Test Centre

## AUTHOR

### **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

**'One Last Chance' also 'One Last Chance' part II My Continuing Journey by Roy Chapman also available.**

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

## PLUMBING & HEATING



## Hunts Sussex Cider

Norman Hunt & Sons are a family farming business based in New England Lane, Sedlescombe who have been growing apples since the 1930's, following family traditions and now growing many varieties of organic, true cider apples which are known for their tannin properties.

"Our ciders are made with passion and care, using traditional methods and zero chemical input allowing our farm to be a haven for nature and our products to be free from any toxic residues. We deliver free to all mainland England and Wales. Visit our website for more information and the variety of ciders on offer"

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Stream Farm, Stream Lane, Sedlescombe

## Clubs and societies news and contacts.

### Village Voice 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 or send via e-mail ✉: [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 Sedlescombe Village Shop or sent by email to the Parish Clerk.  
Email ✉: [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

### Parish Council Website

Sedlescombe Parish Council website [www.sedlescombe.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk) is as useful source of information. The current website continues to be updated with the work of Sedlescombe Parish Council and is compatible with most media devices. Sometimes it is useful to use the search facility to find the information you are looking for, but please feel free to contact the clerk if you can't find what you need.

### 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 ☎: 01424 870589 ✉: [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.

### Litter Pickers

The Parish Council have been asked to provide litter pickers for volunteers to borrow. If you would like to do some litter picking contact Pauline Glew for more details.  
☎: 01424 870258

### Lift Scheme

The Parish Council runs an informal lift 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 willing to provide lifts can be found at the Doctors Surgery on Brede Lane. Those wanting lifts should simply telephone anyone on the list and pay the driver. Contact Pauline Glew ☎: 01424 870258 if you would like to become a lift scheme driver.

### Battle Area Community Transport

Battle Area Community Transport (BACT) was founded in 1999 in response to the need for regular transport serving the inhabitants of rural areas of East Sussex. Bus services serving Sedlescombe can be found online or for further details. Contact ☎ 01424 870955 (mon-Fri 9-12) ✉: [bactoffice@bact-online.co.uk](mailto:bactoffice@bact-online.co.uk) 🌐: [www.bact-online.co.uk](http://www.bact-online.co.uk)

### Buses

Stagecoach Bus Service 349: 2-hourly daytime service details  
Contact ☎ 08702 433711 / General 0345 6080194  
🌐: [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

### Sussex Police

Sedlescombe, Ewhurst, Staplecross, Cripps Corner and Bodiam neighbourhood area' comes under the **Rother district**.

The nearest Police Station is in North Trade Road, Battle. TN33 0EX. ☎: 101 or 01273 470 101.

✉: [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) To report a crime or incident call Sussex Police ☎101 or report online <https://www.sussex.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/>

For your local team please call or email.

✉: [rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rother@sussex.pnn.police.uk) ☎: 01273 404934 🌐: [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

## Clubs and societies news and contacts cont.

### Crime stoppers

Crimestoppers is an independent charity helping law enforcement to locate criminals and help solve crimes. They have an anonymous 24/7 phone number, **0800 555 111** to pass on information about crime; alternatively anonymously fill in their 'Giving Information Form'  
📄: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online/>.  
For more information visit their website at 🌐: [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

### Sedlescombe Parish Council

Parish Council Clerk – Jackie Scarff. Sign up to receive important information via email.  
📄: [www.sedlescombe.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombe.org.uk) we send 3 newsletters a year plus important information like road closures etc  
✉: [clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk) ☎: 07531 065469  
📍: The Red House, Lower Street, Ninfield, Battle, TN33 9ED

### Rother District Council

Rother District Council can provide help on a range of issues such as Benefits, Planning, Bus Passes, Council Tax, Data Protection, Dead Animals, Elections, Food Hygiene, Freedom of Information, Grants, Housing, Jobs, Land Charges, Licensing, Parking, Pest/Dog Control, Planning, Pollution/Noise, Road/Pavements and Waste/Recycling.  
☎: 01424 787000 ; ☎: 01424 787686 (out of hours). 🌐: [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)  
✉: [customerservices@rother.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rother.gov.uk);  
📍: Rother District Council. Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3JX

### East Sussex Highways

East Sussex Highways maintain over 2,000 miles of highway in East Sussex and look after roads, pavements, streetlights, grass and winter maintenance.  
Problems from Potholes to Overhanging Trees can be reported via: 🌐: [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com)  
Customer contact centre ✉: [customer@eastsussexhighways.com](mailto:customer@eastsussexhighways.com)  
☎: 0345 608 0193

### Rother Member of Parliament

The Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle is **Huw Merriman MP**  
**Constituency Office:**  
**contact:** 29-31 Sea Road, Bexhill on Sea, E. Sussex, TN40 1EE  
☎: 01424 736861 ✉: [huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk)  
House of Commons contact: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA  
☎: 0207 219 1852 ✉: [huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk)

### Battle Library

**Battle Library** at 7 Market Square, Battle offers Books, audio books and DVDs.  
Free computers with Internet access. Opening times are different daily so check their website.  
<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries/local/locations/battle>  
Free Wi-Fi. Local history material. Photocopier. Bus pass forms for older people. Bus travel discounts for young people. Disabled access. Display facilities. Computer help from volunteers Wednesday 10.30am to 12 noon. Thursdays 12 noon to 2pm – available in library or book in advance.  
**Contact:** ☎: **0345 60 80 196**



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**55 High St, Robertsbridge TN32 5AN**

## Clubs and societies news and contacts cont.

### Allotments

Private allotments at rear of Bulmer Lodge, The Green.

Contact: David/Natasha Lampard

email ✉: [David.lampard1984@gmail.com](mailto:David.lampard1984@gmail.com)

### Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Where: Events held at Sedlescombe Village Hall

Contact: Chairman

Rosemary Farley ☎: 01424 870533

Secretary

Jenny Mitchell

Website: [www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk)

Shows, outings, plant exchange and social events throughout the year. Contact as above or see Shop Notice Board for dates/times.

Anyone with an interest in any aspects of gardening is welcome to join at only £9 per person per year (£12 for Family membership).

### Badminton

Where : Sedlescombe Village Hall

When: Tuesdays at 7.30pm Contact: Shirley Davies ☎: 01424 870475

### The Chapel on the Hill (*The United Reformed Church*)

Where: Chapel Hill Sedlescombe TN33 0QX

When: Sundays Time: 3pm

Contact: Sampson Boatri ☎: 01424 870512

The CHAPEL and Manse Garden can be opened at other times for visits, contemplation, and quiet times.

Everyone is welcome to draw near in Faith. We are a friendly bunch who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, do come along and find out more.

Other events during the year such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Chapel Anniversary celebrations, Bible Study and Coffee mornings are held at various times; Please keep an eye on the 'Sedlescombe Village News' for more information.

The chapel is well heated and ventilated and comfortably seats 45 people, there is a small side room with seating for around 12.

We have a coffee bar, modern kitchen facilities with a fully accessible WC. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters have full access to the Chapel and Garden.

We now have a children's Garden built during the 'Lockdown.' This has around 20 activities, it is ideally suited to children individually or groups under 11 years of age. (Groups should have their own insurance)

The premises are for hire to village groups under certain conditions.

Contact the **Church Secretary** email [thechapelonthehill2020@outlook.com](mailto:thechapelonthehill2020@outlook.com) for details on Marriages, Baptism, Funerals, and other bookings.

### Sedlescombe Church Bellringers

Where: Parish Church

When: Every Wednesday at 7.30pm

### Sedlescombe Book Club

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

✉: [Shaw.glynis3@gmail.com](mailto:Shaw.glynis3@gmail.com) ☎: 07704 160128

## Clubs and societies news and contacts.

### Sedlescombe Dance Club

Where : Northiam Village Hall  
When: Most Fridays throughout the year Time: 7.30-10.00pm  
Contact: Les Gordon ☎: 01424 424763

New members from the experienced to the novice, are given warm welcome & established members are always happy to help newcomers to settle in.

### Friends of Sedlescombe Parish Church Heritage Trust

Contact: Judy Torrance ☎: 01424 870344 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. Several events will be planned each year including visits to interesting places often with lunch. Dates and times of these and other events will be published in the Sedlescombe News and elsewhere that is appropriate.

Committee: Valerie Wright, Shirley Coleman, Maureen Hayes, Pauline Glew, Fay Rose, Andrea Hogwood, Jennifer Mitchell.

### Sedlescombe Guides

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

Contact Jo Mozley on ☎: 07739 352148 or ✉: jomozley@hotmail.co.uk

### Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch

Contact: Danny Blay ☎: 01424 871669

Call 999 to report crime in progress or someone in immediate danger.

Call 101 for non-emergency reporting.

A new membership pack is available on [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) as well as extensive information on many neighbourhood and national issues and useful phone numbers.

Check the website regularly for weekly information.

### 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 1st Sunday in month)

Churchwarden

Jane Wallis

☎: 01424 870240



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locally sourced food by the roaring fire, or on a finer  
day sit back & relax in our beer garden, while the  
children play in our dedicated play area.



## Clubs and societies news and contacts cont.

### Sedlescombe Players

Contact: Chairman Tara Buchanan ☎: 01424 870694  
Email ✉: [sedlescombeplayers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sedlescombeplayers@hotmail.co.uk)  
Website 🌐: [www.sedlescombeplayers.co.uk](http://www.sedlescombeplayers.co.uk)

The Players are a friendly, welcoming group, with a strong membership of all ages and a core production crew. We tackle a wide variety of productions, aiming for 2 a year, and rehearse in the hall on Monday nights. Actors come and go, and return, depending on the genre of show and newcomers are always welcome both onstage and backstage.

### Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club

Contacts: Chairman Chas Tibbutt  
Secretary Matt Noonan  
Phone: ☎: 0330 001 0993  
Email: ✉: [info@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk](mailto:info@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk)  
Website: 🌐: [www.sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk](http://www.sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk)

FA affiliated England Football Accredited Club. Based at Oaklands Park, Sedlescombe, East Sussex. Established in 1981, the club has grown from a single youth team to become a large community football club. Today's club is proud of its thriving youth and senior football setup, which offers a 'football for life' approach, starting with our pre-match playing age children (under 6 years old), progressing through the youth age and onto our fully integrated Open Age (adult) football section.

Our teams play across a number of leagues and operate in line with FA and Sussex FA rules and codes of conduct. Matches are played at Oaklands Park, Staplecross Playing Field and Bexhill Road Playing Field in St Leonards.

### Rother Seniors Forum

The Rother Seniors' Forum (RSF) was established 2006 as an independent organisation giving a collective voice to the over fifties of Rother District. RSF is strictly no part-political and will work with all bodies to the benefit of all Rother Seniors.

Contact: Chair: Terry Steeples email ✉: [info@rotherseniorsforum.org.uk](mailto:info@rotherseniorsforum.org.uk) ☎: 01424 256999

### Sedlescombe Brownies

1st Sedlescombe Brownies is for all girls aged 7 to 10 years  
For more information please contact Andrea Hunneman ☎: 01424 424112

### 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 Chris Escott ☎: 07753 252449

Contact any of the above for further information.

## Clubs and societies news and contacts cont.

### The Breakaways

Where: In the homes of the members.

When: Every 3rd Thursday in the month

Time: 10.00 until 12.00

We are a new group of ladies from the village who meet once a month and we will be having demonstrations and talks by local villagers as well as other speakers.

Refreshments will also be available and new members/visitors will always be welcomed.

For further information please contact Mrs. Rosemary Farley ☎ 0142 870533.

### Thursday Club

Where: Committee Room, Sedlescombe Village Hall

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

Contacts: Ken Western ☎: 01424 870824. Brenda Page ☎: 01424 870455

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

### Sedlescombe Village Hall

The Venue for your events, party, fundraiser, celebration, class, group or gathering.

Group and individual hire, one-off or regular booking

Main Hall \* Fully equipped stage \* Excellent kitchen facilities

\* Meeting room \* Car Parking \* Wi-Fi

Tables \* chairs \* crockery \* cutlery \* glassware to cater for up to 100 at tables,  
150 seated in rows.

Check availability on the website Diary page and full details of this fantastic Community Venue.

Book Now, ✉: [bookings@sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk)

Website: [www.Sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk](http://www.Sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk) on Facebook @sedlescombevillagehall

### Community Cinema

Community Cinema at Sedlescombe Village Hall. A film every month on a Thursday evening. See some all-time favourite films on our big screen. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm, licenced bar, snacks and drinks, free parking.

[www.sedlescombevillagehall.org.uk](http://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 ☎: 07788 544889 Email: ✉: [tinasixtytwo@btinternet.com](mailto:tinasixtytwo@btinternet.com)

## Clubs and societies news and contacts.

### Sedlescombe & Westfield Patient Involvement Group

The Patient Involvement Group(PIG) is a small group of volunteers who meet every 6 weeks to talk about key issues regarding the Practice. There is a virtual group through which members can keep in touch. If you would like to know more about the Patient Involvement Group or are interested in joining

Email: ✉: [sedwest.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:sedwest.ppg@nhs.net) or check the website

<https://www.sedlescombeandwestfieldsurgeries.co.uk/patient-group/about-our-pig/>

### Sedlescombe and Westfield GP Surgeries

Part of the Rural Rother Primary Care Network Sedlescombe Surgery is a partnership of GPs working from two sites, in the villages of Sedlescombe and Westfield in rural East Sussex. 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 across a wide range of services. The Surgery has an open list and welcomes requests for registration from patients living in or moving to the practice area. On registration patients are given a named GP but you are free to consult whoever you feel can help you best at the time.

☎: 01424 870225

### Tennis Coaching

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

Contact: ☎: 07824 799632

✉: [montaguenick075@gmail.com](mailto:montaguenick075@gmail.com)

### Sedlescombe Pre-School

Where Sedlescombe Village Hall- TN33 0QW  
When Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
Time 9.00am-3.00pm, 38 weeks a year (Early start also available from 8.30am).  
Contacts ☎: 01424 871455 (07577 644179 – out of hours)  
✉: [sedlescombepreschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sedlescombepreschool@yahoo.co.uk)  
f sedlescombepre--School

We offer a full range of exciting activities for children aged 2-5 years that encourage their early years development. We accept 2-, 3- & 4-year-old funding. Contact us to arrange a visit to this wonderful pre-school or pop by to collect a welcome pack.

# RED BARN FIELD NATURE PARK

**Greater Stitchwort**  
*Stellaria holostea*  
Not to be withered, has a cure for pain in the side

**Red Barn Field Nature Park**

**Willow**

**High Weald**  
Situated in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a historic countryside of small fields and scattered farmsteads among wooded rolling hills and steep valleys.

**For the Environment**  
For the Environment

**For the Community**  
For the Community

**Red Barn Field Nature Park**  
Ideally three times a year, including the end of July hay cut. This will ensure that the field remains species-rich and not overrun with fast-growing grasses.

**You are welcome to visit this area for picnics and quiet recreational use, however, we request no ball games or dogs due to the sensitivity of the wildlife. For your own safety please keep away from the pond.**

**The bristly oak** trees within the nature park provide a fantastic habitat for Pipitruvula bats. Look out for the tree holes which encourage these bats to roost.

**The insects that are attracted to the meadow plants and the pond provide an excellent source of food for the bats and birds of Sedlescombe.**

**Field Wood-rush**  
*Luzula campestris*

**Black knapweed**  
*Centaurea nigra*  
Civ's would pierce the unopened flower heads inside their houses, if the heads opened after an hour, they would come their way

**Redwort plantain**  
*Plantago lanceolata*

**Yarrow**  
*Achillea millefolium*

**On-eye daisy**  
*Leucanthemum vulgare*  
John Harvey in the Complete Herbal of Physical Plants of 1614 recommends this daisy for curing "St. Croonian" that are occasioned by drinking cold beer when the body is hot"

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**For more information about Red Barn Field Nature Reserve contact Pauline Glew : 01424 870258**

The wildflowers growing in Red Barn Field at this time of the year are a real treat to behold.

At the moment we have very few people on the Working Party for Red Barn Field. We really would like some help with mowing, cleaning and painting benches and if you can offer a few SHEEP for a week or two that would be great.

Sheep do help to keep the grass down which helps lessen the need for more mowing.

Also is there a FARMER out there who would mow and bale the field once a year?

If you are interested in helping please telephone Pauline Glew on 01424 870 258 or email [cllr.glew@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:cllr.glew@sedlescombe.org.uk)

**Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) - Riverside Recreation Ground and Playground.**

**This community space is managed on behalf of the Sedlescombe Public Playing Field and Recreation Ground Trust, for whom the Parish Council are the sole trustees.**

**Any ball games can be played on the MUGA and this is free for the general public.**

**Group Bookings or commercial use is charged at £12 per hour and the time must be booked through the Parish clerk.**

**Please park on the road or in the public car park in Brede Lane.**

# Bargain Carpets & Floors

Carpet and Vinyl Flooring supplied and fitted.  
Same choice as any shop but at up to half price.



We can move your  
furniture for you and take  
away your old flooring.

Proud members of  
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Where reputation matters

For free home sample viewing and estimates  
Please call Stuart or Lisa on  
01424 885882 / 07734 659834  
[www.bargainfloors.co.uk](http://www.bargainfloors.co.uk)

## Sedlescombe CE 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)

Welcome from the Head Teacher – Mrs. Caroline Harvey

A very warm welcome to Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School. The school was originally founded in 1723 but has been on the existing site since September 1980.

At the heart of our school is each and every child. As a small school we are able to know each child as an individual and can build on their strengths and nurture and support their weaknesses. Our children are taught by dedicated, hard working staff who make learning fun and exciting whilst ensuring that we provide a high quality education so that every child realises his or her potential.

The School has an active Parent Teacher Association providing fun activities for the children while fundraising for the school. The PTA provides essential support in providing resources, treats for the children and equipment for the school.

# Our Amazing Volunteers.

Sedlescombe Parish Council is grateful to every-one of our fantastic volunteers. Your valuable support over the year has helped in so many ways and we would like to share with our community some of those tasks:

Tackling minor repair jobs around the village.

- . checking trees to make sure they are good shape and not a danger to the public.
- . keeping play equipment and MUGA in good repair.
- . repairing of finger post along Brede Lane after it was vandalised.
- . Various gardening type jobs
- . repair storm damaged notice board and refix in Red Barn Field.

We also have a group of volunteers who deliver this annual report and directory and also other Parish Council reports during the year to every household in the Parish.

We could always do with more volunteers there are always little jobs to be done no matter how much time you have to offer.

Please contact the clerk, Roy Chapman or Pauline Glew

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## Sedlescombe Lift Scheme.

LIFT SCHEME. An informal scheme is arranged by the Parish Council to help Sedlescombe residents without transport to attend hospital or surgery appointments. It has been running successfully for 17 years and relies on people willing to be drivers.

Residents who are unable to get to medical appointments can telephone people on a list who are willing to help. We, in Sedlescombe, have 7 drivers on the list at the moment, we would like to have 12. Obviously if their chosen driver cannot help, the Resident telephones others on the list. A small fee for this service is charged, money going to the driver for running costs. We cover the Conquest, Bexhill and Eastbourne Hospitals and the Sedlescombe surgery.

A list of drivers who are willing to provide lifts are at the surgery or through Cllr Glew. Those wanting lifts simply make a phone call to any one on the list and pay the driver. Cllr Pauline Glew 01424 870258 or The Parish Clerk 07531 065469 will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to become a Lift Scheme driver.

## WOULD YOU LIKE A LITTER FREE VILLAGE?



Cllr. Pauline Glew has the tools to keep Sedlescombe looking 'CLEAN AND TIDY.'

We already have some people in the village that keep their area free of litter and thanks to you all from the Parish Council. It would be good if we could interest some more villagers to take on this worthwhile job. Please come and join the Litter Pickers. Contact cllr. Pauline Glew on 01424 870 258.

email [cll.glew@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:cll.glew@sedlescombe.org.uk)

## Our New Neighbours The Bruderhof Community at Pestalozzi.

It has been wonderful to be welcomed to the village of Sedlescombe following our purchase of the Pestalozzi property, now named Oaklands Community. It is obvious how, as an educational establishment, the property has been part of village life for many years – something we are looking forward to continuing into the future.

The Bruderhof started in Germany in 1920. A group of young people wanted to find a new way to live – breaking free from a very hierarchical society. They wanted people to be equal and they wanted their Christian faith to be something genuine. To that end, they decided to share all their possessions and live in a community. The community started to grow and eventually reached around 250 people. But a run-in with the Nazis led to expulsion from Germany and the members fled to England. From there the Bruderhof travelled to Paraguay in South America, then to North America in the 1960s and back to Robertsbridge in 1971.

We have always run our own schools for both our children and children from the locality. The Bruderhof took in orphans during the war years in Germany and England.

Our plan is to re-locate the senior school we currently run in Kent to Oaklands within the next few years. It will take time and we will probably have to build at least one new building. We are already thinking of how the school can be a natural part of the village, much like Pestalozzi was.

Until the move, several families will be living on the site to help start the renovations. I am sure that as soon as the weather improves we can invite everyone back up for another barbeque!

We have never been so warmly welcomed to a property before and that is something for which we are truly grateful. Anyone who wants to see how our community works should come and visit us in Robertsbridge. Just call 01580 883300 or drop in. You can see our website at [www.bruderhof.com](http://www.bruderhof.com)

## What you need to know as a dog walker in Sedlescombe.

### DOG BINS

Sedlescombe has three dog bins provided and maintained by the Parish Council.

1. at the entrance to the Sportsfield next to the bridge;
2. in the Brede Lane Car Park;
3. in the Riverside Playing Field.

The emptying is arranged by Rother District Council on a weekly basis and paid for by the Parish Council from Council Tax.

**Rother District Council have advised that you can also dispose of dog waste in the litter bins around the village and it will be sorted by the waste collection company.**

**Under The Public Spaces protection order (NO.2A) Rother District Council 2021 - which came into force 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 for 3 years.**

## Dogs must be kept on leads at Sedlescombe Sportsfield.

**Dogs are prohibited from the following areas all year round.**

The two fenced off children's play areas Riverside Recreation Ground (including the tennis courts) and at East View Terrace, (the East View Kickabout Area), Red Barn Field Nature Park.

## East Sussex County Councillor Carl Maynard

Annual report 2023/24

### Summary of County Council achievements 2023/24

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in 2023/24 (up to February 2024) under the four strategic priorities of the Council:

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/about/key-documents/council-plans](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/about/key-documents/council-plans)

The Council Plan for 2024/25 will be on our website from 1st April 2024.

### Driving sustainable economic growth

Following a competitive tender process, a **new contract for highways and infrastructure services** with Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd, began in May 2023. In June 2023, the Council approved additional one-off funding for highways in 2023/24, including £2.5m for carriageway patching work, £3.1m for drainage works and funding for carriageway repairs. Over the first three-quarters of the year, **70 road improvement schemes** were completed, over 19,000 potholes repaired, 132 patch works were completed across 62 sites, around 100 road signs were replaced and around 150 minor drainage schemes were completed.

As part of the Council's **Bus Service Improvement Plan** a number of projects have commenced including the roll-out of reduced price bus tickets, improvements to bus stops including the implementation of QR plates at all bus stops which can be scanned to receive next bus information, £10.5m of conventional bus service improvements to increase the frequency and running times of some services and the Flexibus service which now covers nearly 90% of East Sussex. 10,000 passengers have taken a trip on the Flexibus. In November 2023, a public consultation was launched on the draft **Local Transport Plan**. The plan looks ahead to 2050 and sets out how we will connect people to places through the county by walking, wheeling and cycling, using public transport, traveling by car, or by new ways to travel. In May 2023, the Council was awarded £1.22m from Active Travel England's **Active Travel Fund 4** to support schemes that encourage people to become more active and help reduce carbon emissions.

The **broadband** project eSussex completed its final build in 2023. Together with commercial investment this brings gigabit-capable coverage (1000 Mbps) to 67% across the county, with 98% of premises receiving superfast speeds of >30Mbps. In addition, the Council hosts the new South East Grid (SEG) network, which contributes to the provision of ultra-fast data network connectivity throughout the county.

The Turner Prize exhibition opened at the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne in September 2023 with 1,200 people in attendance. The prize, which was awarded in December 2023, has been instrumental in showcasing the county to a wider audience. In June 2023, the Council-led Sussex **Visitor Economy Initiative** and Sussex Modern launched the Sussex Wine Tourism Plan for Growth which sets out how the Sussex wine sector could grow from bringing £25m of value to the economy currently to nearly £300m by 2040, creating over 3,600 jobs.

Promoting **employability and skills**, over 1,000 pupils attended Open Doors workplace visits over the first three quarters of the year, supported by Industry Champions to gain experience of a real workplace. 226 Industry Champions were supporting schools and colleges by the end of December 2023. In addition, in October 2023, the East Sussex Careers Hub hosted the online 'What Next?' event connecting young people and their families with careers experts and local employers. The Youth Employability Services was re-commissioned with the new contract, which has a focus on young people Not in Education, Employment or Training, starting in October 2023. Over 1,600 people enrolled on Family Learning Programmes at East Sussex Libraries over the first three-quarters of the year. In addition, since 2019, the Council has committed over £1m from its apprenticeship levy to support local small and medium sized employers take on an apprentice.

### Keeping vulnerable people safe

An **inspection of the Council's Children's Services** by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) took place in December 2023. The inspection report published on 6 February 2024, found that the lives of the most vulnerable children in East Sussex are improved by 'consistently strong and effective' support. The help, protection and care children and young people are receiving from

the Council earned an overall 'good' rating, while inspectors found the experiences and progress of children in care to be 'outstanding'. This report is set against the context of rising demand for Children's Social Care services and increased complexity of needs. Increases in costs have been particularly acute in looked after children's care costs, in particular external residential costs (with average costs increasing by 13% between quarters 1 and 2) and support for children with the most complex needs.

Following extensive engagement activity with clients, carers and families, the Council published a new **Adult Social Care Strategy** in 2023; 'What Matters to You'. The strategy guides residents' understanding of what adult social care is, outlines six priorities and sets out how these will be taken forward.

The delivery of the **Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme** over summer 2023 was the biggest yet with over 21,000 sessions attended by more than 4,200 young people. 75 providers ran activities at 118 sites reaching more areas of the county than ever before. The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) element of the programme also grew with 14 specific SEND providers. Also over the summer, funding was made available to deliver positive activities to support young people with low attendance at primary school during their **transition to secondary school**. 313 young people participated with 86% saying they felt more excited about starting their new school.

**Trading Standards** were involved in over 1800 interventions over the first three-quarters of 2023/24 to protect vulnerable people, including installing CCTV and call blockers to try to prevent people from falling victim to telephone scams and as part of support sessions and training for vulnerable groups.

As of 31 December 2023, 1,762 guests had arrived in East Sussex under the **Homes for Ukraine** scheme, hosted by 812 sponsors. Over 600 people have subsequently moved into private sector accommodation.

## Helping people help themselves

In 2023, the Council opened 11 **Family Hubs**, including in Eastbourne, Lewes, Hailsham, Peacehaven, Uckfield, St Leonards and Hastings. Visitors to the hubs can get support and advice from midwives, health visitors, early communications support workers, early years practitioners and more. Activity sessions give children, parents and carers the chance to socialise and support their children's development. In addition, the Council was successful in securing £7m of Youth Investment Funding to upgrade **youth facilities** in Heathfield and Peacehaven.

**Reablement services** are provided to help people to regain mobility and daily living skills, especially after a hospital stay. Between April and December 2023 95.1% of people who received short-term services did not request further support and between April and September 2023, 93.5% of older people discharged from hospital to reablement or rehabilitation services were at home 91 days after discharge.

Work continued on the **integration of health and social care** in 2023/24. A joint five-year Sussex Shared Delivery Plan was endorsed in June 2023 by the Council. The plan brings together delivery milestones for 2023/24 and a roadmap for years 2-5. This includes delivery of integrated community teams, operating initially in Hastings.

15 **road safety** schemes were completed during the first three-quarters of 2023/24 to improve road safety infrastructure. Over 3,700 people have also benefitted from 'Bikeability' courses.

In September 2023, ESCC partnered with The Tribe Project, an online platform and app that connects **volunteers** with local opportunities. There are now over 175 roles across the county. The Tribe Project offers volunteers flexible positions accommodating availability, location, and skillset. The Council's External Funding team responded to 220 enquiries over the first three-quarters of the year from the **voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE)**. The team has helped organisations secure £389,361 in funding over the same period.

Annually the Libraries team take part in the Summer Reading Challenge, to encourage children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading over the summer holidays. This year East Sussex saw its largest uptake since 2018, with 7,198 participants. **Libraries** also provide free computer and internet access, alongside volunteer led 'IT for You' sessions to support people to develop IT skills. So far during 2023/24 over 1,729 adults have participated.

## Making the best use of our resources

The Council's **budget and Council Plan** for 2024/25 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 6 February 2024. Councillors approved a £538m net revenue budget for 2024/25 with no new cuts to services. The decision not to reduce services was taken despite the rising cost of providing them and funding not keeping pace. In setting a balanced budget, Councillors agreed to use £14.3m of the Council's limited financial reserves to meet the shortfall and to increase council tax by 4.99%.

The Council participated in a Local Government Association (LGA) **Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC)** in June 2023 with the aim of further improving the Council's work. The subsequent independent report found the Council to be well-run and well-managed, open and approachable as well as a trusted and respected partner. The Council was also found to be financially prudent with a good record of financial stability and on the delivery of savings.

Over 2,000 people took part in a **survey on the Council's priorities and spending** from October to December 2023. 70% of people felt the Council's priorities were the right ones, with 60% of people suggesting that highways should be the priority for any additional investment.

The Council has continued to work with partners to deliver carbon reduction and our **climate change** plan. In 2023/24 this has included securing £245k to develop a plan to provide people with the skills to enable the retrofit of domestic properties to reduce their carbon emissions, £4.4m to support the installation of electric vehicle charging points in over 280 locations and nearly £300k of Forestry Commission funding for tree planting projects. Sixteen **energy efficiency** projects were completed on Council buildings during the first three-quarters of the year, including 4 LED lighting projects and 5 solar PV energy generation schemes. Total energy use in quarter 2 of 2023/24 was down 9% on the same period last year and down 25% on the baseline year 2019/20.

The Council spent £307m with 853 **local suppliers** over 2023, equating to 64% of total contract spend. In addition, during the first three-quarters of the year, 11 contracts were awarded which were in-scope of the Social Value Measurement Charter. These contracts had a total value of £4.9m with £1.3m of **social value** commitments secured, including apprenticeships, work experience, creation of local jobs, and local volunteering initiatives. This equates to an outturn of 27% of applicable procurement spend, against a target of 10%.

In September 2023, the **East Sussex Pension Fund** Team won the Governance Award at the Local Authority Pension Fund Investment Awards.

**Contact: Alice Pippard: [alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk) 01273 481816 February 2024.**

Plumbing	Hotel
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-style: italic; margin: 0;"><b>Brickwall Hotel &amp; Restaurant</b></p>  <p style="margin: 5px 0;"><b>The Green, Sedlescombe, TN33 0QA</b> <b>01424 870253</b> <b><a href="http://www.brickwallhotel.com">www.brickwallhotel.com</a></b> <b><a href="mailto:info@brickwallhotel.com">info@brickwallhotel.com</a></b></p> </div>

**Rother District Councillor  
Beverly Coupar**

**Highlights and Key Issues 2023/24**

The Council started the new year by urging residents and businesses to take part in a budget consultation, as the authority continued to face increasing demands on its finances.

A new requirement for voters to show photo ID when they vote was highlighted. Residents were warned the new rule would apply for the first time in the May 2023 local elections.

January ended with some fantastic news, as the authority was told it had been awarded over £19 million for community, creativity, and skills in Bexhill. The investment, from the Government's Levelling Up Fund would be used to support two major projects at the De La Warr Pavilion and in Sidley.

In March, the Council launched a special £10,000 grant for community groups looking to celebrate the Kings Coronation in May. Further good news was confirmation that the district had been chosen as one of 20 new Levelling Up Partnership areas and would benefit from a share of the £400m UK fund.

This month also saw the authority addressing some difficult issues. The Council continued its negotiations on the devolvement of public conveniences to town and parish councils and issued a joint statement with East Sussex County Council on the Government's proposed plan to use the Northeye site as a centre for people seeking asylum.

The District Council and Parish Council elections took place on Thursday 4 May and results were announced at the election count held at the De La Warr Pavilion on Friday 5 May. On the day of the count, the Council published results as they came in on its website and on social media.

Later on in May, the Council highlighted its work to promote equality and diversity with the raising of the Progressive Pride Flag at the Town Hall in Bexhill. The Flag marks International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

In June, the issue of public open spaces was on the agenda. The Council launched a consultation on proposed changes to dog controls in public spaces and highlighted the need for budget savings with proposals to change grounds maintenance. The issue of Northeye again came up this month, with Council Leader Doug Oliver releasing a statement to confirm that the Government had changed its plans and would not be opening the proposed centre in September 2023 but the plans remain on the table.

The Council's Cabinet met and approved items including continuing with the enforcement of certain environmental offences - such as dog-fouling and littering. Cabinet also confirmed the Council's Net Zero pledge and its membership of UK100 – a network of UK local authorities who have pledged to reach Net Zero by 2030.

The Council helped to celebrate the completion of 15 new affordable homes for local people in Icklesham. The Council joined Hastoe Housing Association, the Icklesham Parish Community Land Trust, Icklesham Parish Council, Sussex Community Housing Hub and other partners to mark the project.

Other highlights included promoting democracy to school pupils when a group from All Saints School visited the town hall, praising improved bus timetables that will boost the economy, and highlighting Egerton Park in Bexhill - recognised as one of the country's best parks for the eleventh consecutive year.

In August the authority announced it had appointed Lorna Ford as its new Chief Executive and welcomed its first cohort of energy champions – volunteers who will train others to reduce their energy bills and save money. August also saw the Council continuing its work to maintain the electoral register by asking residents across the district to check their details and ensure they do not miss out when it comes to voting in local elections.

There was good news for people in the Rye area in September with the announcement that Rye Pool was set to reopen in October. The Council and its partners had worked tirelessly to make the facility available again for local people after soaring energy costs forced its closure in 2022.

Community groups and projects in Battle, Bexhill and Winchelsea were among the beneficiaries of the latest round of District Council community grants with close to £20,000 being handed out. And a local eyesore in Bexhill got a welcome makeover as National Highways confirmed it had completed the Ravenside roundabout improvements.

In October, due to budget savings, the Council introduced a trial closure of public toilets over the winter months in Battle, Bexhill, Pett Level, Sedlescombe and Rye. The Council took the decision as it faced a £3.8 million shortfall in its budget. At its Cabinet meeting, the authority discussed various issues including the Council Tax Support Fund, cash payments in car parks, dog controls, and CCTV cameras.

The month also saw the authority highlight its work to get people of all ages active and healthy. The Council promoted a national rugby play programme called Rugby tots for pre-school and primary school aged children to take part in rugby-themed activities.

And looking ahead to Bonfire Season, the Council reminded Rother bonfire societies of their responsibility of clearing up litter after their official events.

The Council launched a wide-ranging consultation on its budget situation in November 2023. Using all its communication channels, the authority urged residents and businesses to have their say on how the Council manages its finances, as Government budget cuts, soaring costs and extra demand for services create a £3.8m funding gap.

Towards the end of the month, the Council started its annual 'Love Local' campaign, urging people to shop and eat locally in the run up to Christmas. The campaign, which includes input from businesses themselves was boosted with the announcement that once again free parking would be available on set days in council-run car parks during the festive period.

The last month of the year saw continued activity on Rother's budget consultation and Love Local campaigns, and at a Cabinet meeting councillors discussed the Council's Climate Strategy and how its aims would be implemented over the coming months and years. At the same meeting, cabinet members were told that the authority had received £76,000 from DEFRA's Coronation Living Heritage Fund, for tree planting, community orchards and biodiversity work across the district.

### **And so far in 2024 the Council has...**

- Announced £300,000 rural business grant
- Held a Rother Housing event attended by 80 industry and partner delegates
- Completed a successful budget consultation resulting in over 700 responses
- Set its budget with £15m to be spent on services and a 2.99% council tax rise
- Agreed to hold consultations on both the Local Plan and on anti-social behaviour on beaches
- Announced the latest round of community grants with £66,000 for projects in Bexhill, Crowhurst, Icklesham and Three Oakes

### **And finally...**

The authority is also looking forward to highlighting its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024!

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**DISCLAIMER:**

Please note that the inclusion of traders in this Directory neither implies nor confirms that any trader is an approved supplier or contractor to Sedlescombe PC. The Parish Council does not vouch for the financial stability of any company or for its health and safety procedures. All information is provided in good faith to assist consumers in exercising their own best judgment. No guarantee is given or implied as to the accuracy of the information provided.



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# Welcome to Sedlescombe



Twenty-first century Sedlescombe is a lively village with a thriving primary school, a village hall, sports grounds, churches and a variety of local voluntary organisations and societies. A selection of interesting businesses are centred in the village.

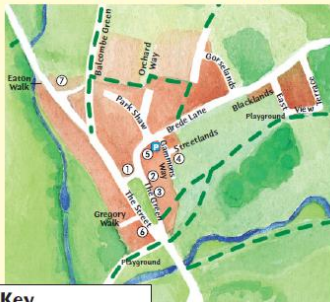


Sedlescombe's past industries include iron-working, charcoal burning, gunpowder manufacture, leather production and farming.



Sedlescombe has a wealth of public rights of way marked on the map by dashed lines.

## Sedlescombe Village



- Key**
- ① Brickwall Hotel
  - ② Queens Head
  - ③ Post office and shop
  - ④ Primary school
  - ⑤ Doctor's surgery
  - ⑥ Bridge Garage Antiques
  - ⑦ Village Hall
  - Car park and toilet

Produced by Sedlescombe Parish Council.



Nearby attractions include Battle Abbey, 3 miles and Bodiam Castle, 7 miles. Visits can easily be made to historic Rye, 12 miles and the seaside town of Hastings, 7 miles.

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