



RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO THE

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 22 APRIL, AT 7.30 PM

RODMELL VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Assembly is an annual event open to all residents of Rodmell and Northease. It's not a Parish Council meeting, it's a less formal gathering aimed at providing a round-up of the past year, giving you a chance to meet and talk to your Councillors, to be reminded of what's happened since the last Assembly, and hear from Council and some guest speakers about current issues and what's likely to be happening over the coming year.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

John Gillies (Chair), John Harvey (Vice-Chair), George Hickey, Jill Goldman, Richard Sellick, David Smart, Anne Sword-Daniels. Parish Clerk: Derek Blackhall

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

Rob Lovell is a Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector in the East Sussex Division at Lewes. At a time when policing in our county is subject to considerable National and Local Government spending cuts, Rob will tell us about the up-to-date situation and how it is likely to affect us, eg whether we still have a Police Community Support Officer, how much pro-active attention we shall get in the village, what the police response times might be in the case of emergencies, plus any other questions you might like to throw at him.

Jude Le Patourel is Rodmell's broadband guru. Our village is known to be one of the worst served communities in the country but we've recently been given a window within which – allegedly – we can expect to be provided with fast broadband. How likely is it that this is going to happen? Jude may not have the definitive answer but he will, as ever, do his best to give us an insider view.

Judith Bradbury has been talking with Action in Rural Sussex. This is an organisation, strongly supported by East Sussex County Council, which is keen to see the development of Good Neighbour schemes in rural areas, where residents can feel isolated with the reduction in local transport services etc. Judith has been exploring whether it might be possible to set up such a scheme in the village, possibly in conjunction with other neighbouring villages. An information sheet is included with this newsletter, to explain how such schemes work and to gauge the amount of interest from both users and providers. Judith will tell us some more at the Assembly.

OUR NEW PARISH CLERK

For the first time in many years Rodmell has a Parish Clerk who doesn't live in the village. Derek Blackhall is a retired Civil Servant; he used to be Head of Finance at the Corporate Services Group in London, and is now Clerk for the Parish of Fulking as well as Rodmell. Whilst we all know that Judith Bradbury will be a hard act to follow, we're confident that Derek will be more than capable of keeping Parish Council admin and finances on an even keel.

CURRENT LOCAL ISSUES

This is the last Newsletter of the current year, before the AGM on May 9th ushers in the new financial year. It seems likely that the present Council will continue unchanged for the next year, so there should be no need for elections. Here's a quick résumé of the main village issues currently faced by Councillors:

CLOSURE OF RODMELL PRIMARY SCHOOL: ESCC and the Diocese have decided that they wish to close the school, mainly on the grounds that it is too small to be viable in the long term. This is an issue that has already raised village emotions: it seems a shame that a village should lose its school, but at the same time very few village parents send their children to it. We await the consultation process to see what, if anything, can be done.

IFORD FARMS PLANNING APPLICATIONS: an application by Iford Farms which could potentially legalise an extension of commercial shooting activities is about to be decided by the Lewes planners. Considerable local opposition has been shown, and we await the outcome with interest.

REDUCTION IN BUS SERVICES: after the withdrawal of the local CTLA 130 community bus service along the C7, talks have taken place with the operators aimed at reinstating a limited service subsidised by some of the parishes involved. At present the most we can hope for would be a one day a week service, and only Kingston appears to be prepared to support the idea; we await developments.

SAFETY ON THE C7: survey results have been produced by the authorities indicating that there have been slight reductions in the speed of traffic travelling through the village since 2011, in the order of 4 mph southbound and 3 mph northbound. The volume of traffic has however increased noticeably: a worrying trend given the major housing developments scheduled to take place in Newhaven.

These increased traffic volumes have already given rise to numerous complaints about safety blackspots, not least of which are the junctions at Northease. Lewes DC councillor Vic lent has just run a workshop on this, aiming to put some proposals to ESCC. This was attended by two of our councillors and the proposals will be made public shortly.

OUSE CYCLEPATH: progress on this is slow. The section from Southease to just short of Piddinghoe is now complete, but Rodmell to Southease is still not hard surfaced and, frustratingly, permission for the Iford to Rodmell section has been denied by the landowner.

RODMELL TO NORTHEASE FOOTPATH: nothing has happened since last year. Once again the landowner will not grant permission to construct an off-road footpath on his land, and the cost of making one along the edge of the road is prohibitive.

L'ENTENTE CORDIALE: three dignitaries from the Normandy village of le Bourg Dun paid us a very pleasant visit in March, met a number of Rodmell people in the pub at lunchtime, ate a sumptuous dinner *chez* Marcus and Jenny Brown, and evidently liked what they saw. Informal twinning is the suggestion on both sides, and we await their report to us on the reaction from their village.

RODMELL RESIDENT OF THE YEAR

According to time-honoured tradition, Christine Isitt will announce the next recipient of the title of Resident of the Year. As this is an appointment that doesn't come via Whitehall the news will not be leaked in advance, so you'll just have to come to the Assembly to find out if it's you.

WWW.RODMELL.NET

A previous recipient of Resident of the Year was Catriona Grant, whose accolade had a lot to do with her sterling work on the previous website. It was indeed a great site, largely due to her efforts, but inevitably became a bit behind the times in terms of technology, and needed a radical upgrade. Now that Catriona has helped to move the site to a new platform called WordPress, she's decided that enough is enough and is handing over the job to John Gillies, who is therefore looking for one or more volunteers to help preserve his sanity. Possibilities are:

- Volunteer 1: a village record-keeper: someone to liaise with village groups, societies and businesses, check on village events, and make sure that everything is updated.
- Volunteer 2 (may be the same as Volunteer 1, but not necessarily): someone who would like to learn about WordPress and gain the skills needed to update the site.
- Volunteer 3: someone who already knows lots about websites in general and WordPress in particular, and would like to spend a bit of time helping John with technical stuff.

Alternatively, anyone who is both qualified and willing to do the whole lot is welcome to apply.

If you're game, please contact John at jg@gillies.biz.

RODMELL ART WAVE

It's been decided to hold another collective community Art Show for three days over the August Bank Holiday weekend. If you are interested in taking part either as an exhibiting artist or as a helper please do get in touch. So far about 20 residents have signed up to show work across a range of mediums including photography, painting, knitting, quilting, felt work and jewellery. You are welcome to just exhibit items or offer them for sale, or a combination of the two.

We are delighted that this year, thanks to the very kind support of Eleanor and Jude Le Patourel, the event will be held at The Old Rectory. Their lovely garden will be a great backdrop for the tea and cakes laid on by Rodmell and Southease Women's Institute. Contact Judith Bradbury (rodmell.parish57@btinternet.com) or Sarah Jay (sarahjay66@hotmail.com)

RODMELL SUMMER SHOW

This year, after a year's absence, the **Rodmell Summer Show** returns on **Saturday 20th August** to the Sports Field at the lower end of the Village. In addition to the Rodmell Horticultural Society's Flower & Produce Show, there will be the usual sideshows, refreshments and entertainments. As ever, volunteers will be needed, so if you'd like to help with any of this, please contact Willie Edmunds on 01273 474555.

RODMELL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES 2016

Don't forget that information on all village activities can be found on www.rodsmell.net

RODMELL ALLOTMENT GROUP. We have six allotment plots on the land adjacent to South Farm Bungalows. At present there may be one plot which is available: if you are interested in registering, details are on the village website or speak to Judith Bradbury on 01273 470713 or rodsmell.parish57@btinternet.com

BOTANICAL ART CLASSES run by Vicky Mappin are held in the village hall on Thursday and Friday mornings 10am – 1pm. The classes are attended by people from the village and the surrounding area. About 22 people attend altogether, choosing which day they want to come and opting for a 5 or 10 week term. There are 3 terms of ten weeks. Vicky's new address is 2 Rodmell House, tel. 01273 809613. vickymappin@hotmail.com

RODMELL BOOK CLUB meets on the last Monday in the month in the pub to discuss an eclectic and diverse range of mainly 20th century literature. We also enjoyed two 'literary walks ' last year and hope to do the same again this year. Contact Judith Barnes for more information on jebar57@googlemail.com

ST. PETER'S CHURCH. The Church continues to be at the centre of the community. Our Associate Vicar, Marcus Brown, reports that services remain quite well attended, especially over Christmas and Easter. On Remembrance Sunday we had a "Rodmell Remembers" service at which all the Rodmell parishioners who died in the World Wars were remembered thanks to some historical research by Judith Bradbury, and a Parliamentary wreath donated by our MP was laid. We are very appreciative of the continued help of the church cleaners and flower arrangers on whom we rely. The church is open every day for contemplative prayer or for nothing more complicated than peace and quiet.

RODMELL COFFEE CLUB. The Club continues to meet on a monthly basis. Anyone, of whatever age, who is interested in socialising over a bit of cake and coffee is very welcome: we just ask for a small donation to offset the cost of village hall hire etc. Many thanks to the kind people (especially Pat Allcorn) who have bought a delicious homemade cake with them! To make room for the new Exercise Class, **with effect from April** we will change to meeting up on the last Tuesday of the month. So the dates for your calendars are: - 26/4, 31/5, 28/6 (when we will be guests of Monks House), 27/7, 27/9, 25/10, 29/11.

RODMELL CRICKET CLUB. Rodmell Cricket Club has an exciting season of 11 home fixtures in 2016. Spencer Prosser has kindly agreed to continue in the dual roles of Captain and Chairman of Selectors. The list of fixtures for 2016 can be found in the Events section of the Rodmell website, www.rodsmell.net. Please do come and support us.

RODMELL NOTICE BOARD ON FACEBOOK. This is proving to be a great success, with just over 200 members signed up since its inception a little more than a year ago. Members post anything from items for sale, requests for and recommendations of tradesmen, warnings about traffic problems on the C7 and local area, lost cats, ferrets and dogs and offers of help. It's easy to join – just set up a Facebook page (you only need to supply minimal information), search for Rodmell Notice Board and ask to join. Nikki Terry is our First Lady of Facebook; if you have problems contact her at nikkiterrymac.com.

RODMELL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (RHS). The Rodmell Horticultural Society is having an active year. On 14th May we are holding a seedling sale, open to all, in the village hall from 10 until 12. On 14th June we have a trip to Sissinghurst for members and on 20th August we have our summer show on the sports field.

We have 45 members and would welcome more. Members may enter produce, crafts and photos in our spring and summer shows. We also provide a discount card for plant purchases at Paradise Park. If you would like to help to organise events please come along to our committee meetings. In particular, **we need offers of help now** with the field events for the summer show. For more information please contact Caroline Thomas on 01273 473341 or Sandra Webb at sandrawebb300@gmail.com. Jean Twohig is the Membership Secretary, tel. 01273 475503.

OIL CLUB. We have now established a Rodmell group on the 'The Oil Club', which gets consistently good prices. By joining the Club you can access good prices and flexibility as they order on a fortnightly basis. To join The Oil Club visit their website www.oil-club.co.uk and hit the 'join now' button: complete and submit the form and you should automatically be joined to Rodmell (via your postcode) and the offer emails will start arriving.

An alternative used by a number of local people is the Budlett's Oil Syndicate, which is based in East Sussex and currently has over 200 members. All communication is via email (mike@pope.plus.net) with various suppliers' oil prices for each week being mailed out every Monday together with contact details for the supplier. Members buy their own oil directly from the supplier at any time they wish.

NEW EXERCISE CLASS AT THE VILLAGE HALL. Starting on Wednesday 20th April from 11am to 12 pm, Emma, a fully qualified instructor from Wave Leisure, will be running an exercise class aimed at our older citizens and anyone perhaps recovering from injury. The classes are aimed at helping to maintain muscle strength and balance which in turn helps to prevent falls, mishaps etc. The classes will run for an initial five week pilot at a cost of £2 per person per session. If take-up is good we hope to make this class a permanent fixture. Flyers will be distributed shortly but if you are interested just turn up on the day wearing comfortable clothes, and please spread the word to anyone you think might be interested, both in Rodmell and beyond.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME. A Good Neighbour Scheme is a group of volunteers who can help others in their community by perhaps giving lifts, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, completing very small household tasks and so on. With the help of Action in Rural Sussex & Rodmell Parish Council, Judith Bradbury is exploring the setting up of such a scheme in the village. A questionnaire to all households in Rodmell & Northease is attached to this newsletter, basically asking if you feel you would be able to help or if you would want to use such a service. Please do complete and return the survey so that we can get as full a picture as possible.

ABERGAVENTNY ARMS. John and Lucy Cleall are now offering a Steak Night every Thursday from 6pm - 9pm: Rump steak and a drink for £12 and Fillet steak and a drink for £18. Future attractions are going to include:

Friday 29th April - LIVE MUSIC - FULL HOUSE ROCK: the UK's finest rock covers band live and loud from 9pm!

Saturday 14th May - LIVE MUSIC - 9pm - Lucie's Birthday Party, with Beer Street Band – awesome talents on show!

There's plenty of entertainment coming up throughout the year so please check the website www.abergavennyarms.com for all events, or give them a call on 01273 472 416 or drop them an online message via the contact form.

THE PARISH PUMP. Pauline Cherry's column appears every week in the 'Parish Pump' section of the Sussex Express. If you know of any forthcoming events for her to include, please let her have them at the earliest opportunity. Information can be put in her letterbox at Sunnyside or ring her on 01273 476876.

RODMELL STAGE CO. The last panto was, as ever, scurrilous, offensive and thoroughly enjoyable. The perpetrators are scouring the archives to find something suitably disreputable for next year, and would be delighted to hear from any enthusiastic new acting recruits, however meagre their talent, or anyone with enough self-awareness to prefer helping out to acting. Make yourself known to Paul Mellor on paul@pads4labs.com.

VILLAGE HALL. The Village Hall Committee, chaired by Mike Twohig, manages and maintains the Hall for the villagers. It is a charitable trust with half the Trustees elected and half appointed by village societies. They have had a successful year with regular use by village societies and Vicky Mappin's Art class, plus many events and bookings by private hirers. The hall could do with more bookings though, and the committee are on the lookout for people with ideas for novel events or activities. Please contact any of the committee members, whose details are all found on www.rodmeell.net.

RODMELL & SOUTHEASE WI. We're a small, lively group, just three years away from our centenary and one of the oldest established groups in the country. We're always welcoming to new people, of whom we've had a handful in the last year, which means we will continue to thrive. We are lucky to have some interesting speakers come along to our meetings and we've had some fun and enjoyable practical sessions for our members too. In the past we've yarn-bombed the bus shelter, and got to grips with origami, belly dancing, marbling, peg loom weaving and calligraphy. We've been on treasure hunts, visited the incinerator and tried tai chi. We're always up for a challenge and enjoy jolly good cream teas and plenty of cake. Why not come along and join us sometime? Every third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall; just turn up or contact Madeleine Harvey (wi@mjharvey.bbmax.co.uk).

WOOD SCHEME. Buying wood for fires or stoves can be expensive, and you need to be sure where it has come from. The scheme delivers local sustainable wood in metre cubed builders' bags at cost price. As the wood scheme is a co-operative run by its members as a non-profit organisation we have very competitive prices. Orders are placed in the Spring – if you would like to join the scheme, or for more information, please contact Tim Rabjohns, (tim@rabjohns.org) or 07958 958162

YOGA CLASSES. Sara Warner is an accredited British Wheel of Yoga teacher and runs a class on Mondays at 6.15 – 7.45pm in the Village Hall. Beginners are welcome, in fact she offers a free first class (to Rodmell residents) if you want to give it a try. Sara teaches Hatha yoga in the Scaravelli tradition, which is suitable for all ages and focuses on using breathing and gravity as a gentle way of improving flexibility, de-stressing, and restoring balance. Classes cost £10 per class drop-in, or £9 per class for a block of 6. If you are interested in coming along or have any questions please call or text on 07976 896509 or email Sara at warner.sara.a@gmail.com.

A FINAL WORD

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who have helped maintain and improve the quality of life in our village over the year: Judith Bradbury for organising the Coffee Club and any number of other things, Martin and Pauline Burnaby Davies for looking after the Pavilion, Marcus Brown for mowing the Dicklands, John and Lucie for making the Abergavenny Arms a welcoming place of refuge to us all, and all the many unsung folks who help out with this and that. I personally would also like to thank the Parish Council, in particular John Harvey, not just for doing all the things they do, but at the same time for covering for me, as a recent immigrant, in my considerable previous ignorance of Rodmell, Sussex and almost everything to do with Parish Councils. I much appreciate their support and hope I am learning fast enough.

John Gillies