

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND MISC. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**Miscellaneous Correspondence & Information Received**

- **NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin** – forwarded to members 23/5/24, 30/5/24. 6/6/24, 13/6/24, 20/6/24, 27/6/24, 4/7/24
- **County Councillor's reports** –Juen and July reports forwarded to Members 4/7/24
- **RDC Members Bulletin – May and June 2024** – forwarded to members 4/6/24 and 4/7/24
- **St Brice Courcelle (Twin Town)** – letter dated 10th June from the Mayor and Chair of the Twinning Committee inviting attendance at an event in November 2024 - forwarded to Chair and Vice Chair for consideration.

D Day 80 – 6th June 2024

Hurst Green Parish Council's Beacon was lit at the Stage Field, and several other beacons could be seen in the surrounding area. The evening ended with a fabulous firework display (by Roberstbridge Bonfire Society). The event was well attended including residents from S&R. Cllr Natalie Bishop, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk represented Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council.

Summer Event

Unfortunately the Summer Event scheduled for Saturday 22nd June, led by Robertsbridge Bonfire Society, had to be cancelled due to poor weather. It has been rescheduled for Saturday 20th July. Please inform the Clerks if you can help / attend this event.

Station Road Resurfacing

Good news. A pre surfacing survey took place 8-13 July, to be followed by resurfacing from the High Street to Brightling Road Darvel entrance on weekends from 29 July to 30 August. We have been liaising with Highways and have requested clear signage at each end of Bishops Lane to stop larger and non local traffic using the lane as a cut through. We know the works will be disruptive but they need to be done! If there are any issues they should be reported to <https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem> or ring 0345 60 80 193 if an emergency.

RBS 10K Run

RBS annual 10K took place on Friday 21st June, starting and finishing at the Recreation Ground, as in previous years and was well attended.

RBS Boot Fairs

The third in the series of fundraising boot fairs will take place on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 21st July. The fourth (last) one is scheduled for Sunday 18th July.

Coronation Community Orchard Grants Scheme

Cllr Palamarczuk is looking into this.

A21 Silverhill and George Hill Junction

We held a meeting with National Highways (NH) on 4th July to discuss the increase in the speed limit on Silverhill from 40mph to 50mph, and proposals to change the George Hill / A21 junction to no right turns. They reiterated that the speed limit changes are based on sound evidence and stats and will not be changed. The pedestrian crossing signal timings have been adjusted to allow for the changed speeds limits. However, they are prepared to look at other factors that may impact visibility at/of access turnings, such as vegetation etc, which if on verges that are controlled by NH they may be able to deal with. However, most will be in private ownership, so not in their control. Once all the works are complete, the changes will be monitored and re-assessed for any impacts to driver behaviour, safety and accidents. We have invited residents at Bantony Manor, who have expressed concern at the increase above Robertsbridge roundabout, to the Parish Office to discuss their concerns.

With regard to the George Hill junction, they advised that video conflict surveys have been conducted which look at speeds, near misses etc. that would not be reflected by accident stats and that the junction definitely needs safety intervention. They are adamant that the proposed option will improve safety and is the only viable option taking into accounts all factors, including traffic flow, available space, funding and environmental factors. Their modelling indicates that traffic heading south will continue to use the junction, turning left and going to the roundabout to come back up, rather than through the village to the roundabout via Northbridge Street.

We advised that the Parish Council is not convinced or in favour of the proposals and that public feedback so far has been negative. However, because the work is safety related, they are not required to hold a public consultation as such, but are nevertheless keen to keep the PC informed. They consult with ESCC as the Highway Authority for George Hill, the police and Sussex Safer Road Partnership. They had also made contact with the bus companies but not had a response. Once the detailed designs are ready in a few months time, they will be made available on their website and we will then be able to share the link and encourage comments from residents. They welcome comment from the public but this appears to be with a view to explaining rationale and reasoning and to reassure, and not likely to affect the proposals significantly. They anticipate that the works will be carried out in the autumn/winter of 2025.

Meet Your MP Event 24th May 2024

This went ahead as planned, despite the General Election being called a few days before and Huw Merriman announcing that he would not be standing for election! It was therefore not very well attended, but he was happy to meet with and talk to those that did attend, and make the event his last as an MP, before Parliament was dissolved the following week.

New MP for Bexhill and Battle Constituency

Our new MP is Dr Kieran Mullan (Conservative). No contact has been made so far with T&PC's but may follow in due course. Members may wish to invite him to meet with the Council here in Robertsbridge to discuss local issues?

Environment Agency Flood Awareness Day

We have booked an Environment Agency Flood Awareness Day for Saturday 10th May 2025. This will be both general flood information and also input from the local team to help residents

understand the specific flood protection scheme in Robertsbridge and how it is used to protect the village. There will be lots of information and interactive activities by the Environment Agency for all the family, plus information on the flood warning scheme. It will be held at the Village Hall and will be open from 10am to 1pm.

Water Vole Surveys in Robertsbridge

The Environment Agency has appointed an ecological surveyor to carry out Water Vole surveys to assess the likely presence/absence of Water Voles in sections of the river. This work informs their maintenance programme methods. They were in Robertsbridge this week.

Village Steward

Gavin has now been trained for maintenance of VAS and also in winding the War Memorial clock, which he has been doing whilst the regular winder has been unavailable. He now opens the Staton Road toilets daily (cleaned and locked up in the evening by a contractor). He has been concentrating on weeding, hedges, path clearing and installing a new bench in Pipers Meadow.

Rother Valley Railway Turntable Completion and Gala Weekend

We were invited to a special celebration day on 31st May to mark three events: the relocation of the Hither Green Turntable to Robertsbridge for use on what will be the line to Tenterden, commencement of the final phase of re-connection of Robertsbridge with the Kent & East Sussex Railway and re-naming of the Class 73 Diesel Loco which launched the RVR project in 1991. VIP guests included Huw Merriman (then MP and Rail Minister), and the Chairman of Network Rail. I was unable to attend but I believe Sean did. This was followed by a Gala Weekend, where members of the public could see the station, turntable and have a ride on the steam train to Northbridge Street and back and also get specially arranged busses to Tenterden. It was a busy and popular weekend, during which the sound of the train could be heard across the village (loved by some, hated by others!).

RVR has since given us a copy of their commemorative booklet 'The Robertsbridge Turntable' which is held with other books and publications in the Parish Office.

Lighting Upgrades to LED

The last of the upgrades has now been completed. The new Windsor lantern has been installed on Column 6, opposite Belle Flowers in the High Street.

CPRE Sussex Survey on sewage spills and Development pressures

We have been invited to take part in this survey, which hopes to gain a powerful picture of the experience on the ground of sewage spill, over-capacity water treatment works, and inadequate infrastructure investment. Sean is collating local information to respond on behalf of the PC.

Salehurst Cemetery

Activity - since the last meeting (20th May 2024) - there have been four ashes interments, and two full burials, with arrangements in progress for a further one next week (16/7/24). There has been one purchase of Exclusive Rights and two more pending. One application has been received/approved for a new memorial and one memorials have been fitted.

Members Training / Briefings / Conferences

Keeping up to date is an important aspect of being a Member and the organised courses are a valuable way of keeping up with current issues and changes, as well as meeting other Members and hearing different views and news.

ESALC can commission courses for a new Members or chairmanship training, or bespoke for a whole council, via Trevor Leggo, who will discuss specific needs and deliver the session. The dates for general briefing/training sessions (open to all/any parish) can be found on the ESALC website at [ESALC](#).

ESALC have announced Breakthrough Communications are working with them to provide a new programme of communications and compliance-focused training courses for parish and town councils across East Sussex. The details can be found here <https://breakthroughcomms.co.uk/calc-training-events/>

If you are interested in any training, please let us know, so we can book you in. It is important that new Councillors take up training and that ***all Members periodically attend update sessions***.

Events attended:

D Day Beacon 6th June – Karen, Gill, Natalie

D Day Flag Ceremony 6th June – Nick

ESALC Social Media Platforms 20th June - Gill

RALC Meeting 10th July – Karen and David

Training/events booked:

None

Karen

Gill

Karen Ripley
Parish Clerk

Gill Colquhoun
Assistant Clerk