



# Hellingly Highlights



*#KeepingItLocal*

Spring 2024

**Birds seen in Hellingly – can you name them? See page 29 for answers**



## ***Councillor Vacancy***

Find out more on page 10

## ***Annual Parish Meeting***

Find out more on page 12

## ***What's On at the Hub***

Find out more on page 24

## ***Easter Activity Day***

Find out more on page 33



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# Hellingly Highlights

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# A message from the Clerk



## Hi everyone,

How are you all doing? It's been a challenging winter for sure. Let's get the 'elephant in the parish' out of the way, flooding!! I won't go into too much detail as our Chairman, Cllr David White has reported on this on page 22 we are now working more closely and regularly with the relevant parties to resolve the flooding issues and will continue to do so.

Before Christmas we hosted Young at ♥ Christmas lunch, serving over 70 Christmas lunches to our members who thoroughly enjoyed it (see page 31). Then a week later we had the HelliHubs Christmas morning with Santa, who delivered some brilliant book gifts to each baby/toddler, it was truly magical, see page 14 for photos. Then the Hub and council office shut for 10 days for a well-earned rest! Whilst we were recovering, the Hub had a much needed repaint, thank you so much to the team from David Webster Decorating for giving up their time during the Christmas break to do this.

On another very sad note, we have seen an increase in vandalism at the Hub and in the Country Park, we believe that it is likely that someone knows the culprits and we would like to work together to try to stop this. It costs money to repair and replace the vandalised property, and it is an unnecessary use of Parish money. The Community Hub was built for the community to use and enjoy and not to be a drain on resources. (more on page 15).

To reassure residents, we are working closely with PCSO Joel and his colleagues to prevent

these incidents happening, the police will be making more regular visits to the Hub and the Country Park to keep a closer watch.

I would also like to touch on knife crime and how society is almost normalising it. Can we teach better ways of resolving issues, and understand the consequences of the actions BEFORE thinking about carrying a knife. Lives are being lost and we need to stop this.

On this issue we will be working with Hellingly Youth team and PCSO Joel by attending and chatting to the youth members and try to help them understand the consequences.

On a brighter subject, Spring is on its way!!! I am definitely a half full rather than half empty person but let's hope the sun is on its way so we can all get outside and enjoy the fresh air and countryside, it does make people feel so much better. During the Easter, May & summer holidays we will be hosting kids activity days.

Let's hope that this summer will bring us joy and excitement with the Euros taking place in June and July, and the Olympics during July and August it really does inspire the country when we do well, everything crossed!! Come on England!! It is a great excuse to get together with friends and family making memories and having fun.

Have a good Spring everyone

**Jenny Hoodless**

Parish Clerk



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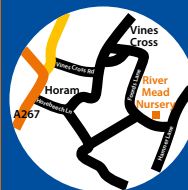
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# Your Parish Council

**CHAIR:** Mr D. G. White

**VICE CHAIR:** Mrs G. F. D. Hesselgrave

**COUNCILLORS:** Mr J Castle, Mr S Davis, Mr S Gander, Mr W Hesselgrave, Mr C Jackets, Ms H Lee, Mrs V Lee, Mr D Lewin, Mrs F Lulham, Mr D Miles, Mrs P Milne, Mr P Young

## STAFF

**Clerk/RFO & Hub Manager:** Jenny Hoodless

**Deputy Clerk & Grounds Work Manager:** Tracy Dean

**Hub Co-Ordinators:** Julie O'Neill & Claire Kirby

**Hub & Finance Assistant:** Sarah Miller

**Community Clubs Co-Ordinator:** Sue Peacock

**Caretakers:** Derek Brandon & Ruth Cooper

**Groundsmen:** Jay Pleece, Tom Milne, Paul Reynolds, Adrian Hickman

## COMMITTEES:

### Planning and Environment.

**Chair:** S Davis

**Clerk:** Jenny Hoodless & Tracy Dean (share)

**Councillors:** C Jackets, Helen Lee, D Lewin, J Castle, G Hesselgrave and D White (ex-officio)

### Parish Halls.

**Chair:** C Jackets

**Clerk:** Claire Kirby & Julie O'Neill (share)

**Councillors:** S Gander, P Milne, D Miles, P Young and D White (ex-officio)

### Cemetery and Allotments.

**Chair:** W Hesselgrave

**Clerk:** Tracy Dean

**Councillors:** J Castle, D Lewin, D Miles, P. Milne, D White (ex-officio)

T. Jenner (Union Corner Allotment Supervisor) and T. Knight (Roebuck Park Allotment Supervisor) by invitation. A representative of the Allotment tenants, by invitation

### Grounds.

**Chair:** W Hesselgrave

**Clerk:** Tracy Dean

**Councillors:** F. Lulham (Vice Chair), S Davis, V Lee, P Young, S Gander, G Hesselgrave and D White (ex-officio)

## Finance (inc Cemetery Lodge)

**Chair:** D White

**Clerk:** Jenny Hoodless

**Councillors:** J Castle, S Davis, G Hesselgrave (ex-officio), F Lulham, C Jackets and D Lewin [Note: Membership of the Committee should include at least one member of each Committee]

## Staffing Committee.

**Chair:** S Gander

**Clerk:** Jenny Hoodless

**Councillors:** G Hesselgrave, F Lulham, D White (ex-officio)

## Project Delivery Working Group.

**Chair:** D White

**Clerk:** Tracy Dean

**Councillors:** S Gander, D Lewin and P Young

## Footpaths Group (informal committee).

Veronica Lee and Frankie Lulham

## PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

**Parish Tree Warden:** Cllr. B Hesselgrave and Deputy Clerk (Tracy Dean).

**Emergency Planning Group:** Cllr. P Young and Deputy Clerk (Tracy Dean).

**Hellingly Hospital Liaison Committee:** Cllrs. G Hesselgrave, W Hesselgrave & C Jackets.

## Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC):

Cllr. J Castle

**Parish Planning Panel:** Cllr. S Davis

**Hailsham Forward Executive and Steering Group:** Cllr. C Jackets

**Movement and Access Strategy Hailsham & Hellingly:** Cllr D White

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9th December

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For more information contact

Fiona on 07733408394

Hellingly Community Hub, The Drive, BN27 4EP

# Useful Contacts

## Who do I contact for:

### Community Hub Bookings

**Julie or Claire**

Tel: 01323 449415

Emails: Julie@communityhub-pc.org.uk or

Claire@communityhub-pc.org.uk

### Hellihubs, Young at Heart Clubs & Kids Activity Days

**Sue**

Tel: 01323 449415

Email: Sue@communityclubs-pc.org.uk

### Allotments

**Tracy or Sue**

Tel: 01323 449415

Emails: deputyclerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk or

sue@communityclubs-pc.org.uk

### Hellingly Cemetery or Burials

**David Saxby** – Hailsham Town Council

Tel: 01323 841702

Email: david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

### Potholes

**East Sussex Highways**

Email: customerservicemanager@

eastsussexhighways.com

### Grass/Hedges overgrown general areas

**East Sussex Highways**

Email: customerservicemanager@

eastsussexhighways.com

### Grass/Hedges etc on Council land

**Tracy or Sue**

Tel: 01323 449415

Emails: deputyclerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk or

sue@communityclubs-pc.org.uk

### Fallen Trees or dangerously hanging branches general areas

**East Sussex Highways**

Email: customerservicemanager@

eastsussexhighways.com

### Fallen Trees or dangerously hanging branches council land

**Tracy or Sue**

Tel: 01323 449415

Emails: deputyclerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk or

sue@communityclubs-pc.org.uk

### Road Issues & Improvements

**East Sussex Highways**

Email: customerservicemanager@

eastsussexhighways.com

### Council Finances

**Jenny**

Tel: 01323 449415

Email: clerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk

### Fly Tipping

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### Vandalism

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### Sussex Police contact details

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# COUNCILLOR VACANCY

## Are you passionate about making a positive impact in your community?

We are excited to announce a new opportunity, a Councillor vacancy in Hellingly Parish Council. To help you know if this is right for you, we asked one of our newer councillors and a longer serving councillor what it is really like and this is what they had to say:

"I became a local councillor to give something back to the local community by bringing energy, passion and a hard working attitude to the area we all live in. I want to make a difference by bringing a fair and pragmatic approach for the benefit for all residents and the wider community."

Cllr Stephen Gander

"I thoroughly enjoy being a councillor, it is a great voluntary position that carries a responsibility to all the residents of Hellingly that you will devote whatever time and effort is necessary to ensure that the activities of the Council are directed to service the needs of the community within the powers of the Council. Time commitment isn't really too bad, its primarily that of attending monthly meetings of the Council and the sub-committee meetings in which you choose to involve yourself. The Planning Committee is the most onerous with two meetings a month, but some of the other committees are only a couple of days in a year. Any other time commitment will be entirely voluntary depending upon the activities in which you wish to participate. You may have a particular skill, experience, talent or interest in a project the Council or Clerks are undertaking to which you would like to contribute. Being a Parish Councillor is your opportunity to make a positive contribution to your community".

Cllr Chris Jackets

So, after reading their comments, is this you, or has it put you off... Hahahaha!! As the Clerk, I have to say this is one of the best jobs I've ever had! Over the last 10 years, we have been involved in various projects for the community, we built a Cricket Pavilion and a Community Hub with a new toddlers play area.

It was such a fabulous opportunity to be involved in these and other projects. The Community Hub has certainly become the 'heart of the Hellingly community', councillors and staff introduced a library & DVD service, free community clubs for babies & toddlers, youth club and over 55's Club. Our next project is going to be sports & recreation facilities at Lower Horsebridge Recreation Grounds, more on that in the next edition. We work tirelessly on flooding issues, bus shelters, road improvements and much more. Come and be part of this amazing team, we are like a family!!!

**Jenny Hoodless, Clerk**



For more details and how to apply please email the Clerk on [clerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk).

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# Hellingly Parish Council

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The **Hellingly Annual Parish Meeting** for residents will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Hellingly Village

Lower Dicker

Lower Horsebridge

Doors open at 7pm, with the main meeting starting at 7.30pm

From 7pm to 7.30pm there will be refreshments and an exciting opportunity to view information stands from local sports & social groups that you can join and talk to their representatives. There will also be time for you to talk to your Parish Councillors.

Pelham Place

Burfield Grange

Roebuck Park

Swingate Park

Magnolia Gardens

Uplands

***EVERYONE WELCOME - REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED***  
***This is your meeting, come along, chat, and help us make a difference!***

# Adrian's Steps!!

## A HUGE thank you to our Groundsman, Adrian.

Who very kindly has created some steps, with his glamorous assistant, Paul (Groundsman) down by the bottom pond in the Country Park, near Yvonne's gate, to help people walk safely down the slope.

They have also installed some hand rails for support (not shown in the photo as being constructed at the time this went to print).



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# Father Christmas's visit to Hellihubs

**On the 18th of December, the HELLIHUBS had their Christmas Party.**

It was a very busy morning as the children were playing, enjoying cakes & squash and mums and dads having a cuppa.

As the children were playing, Father Christmas came passed the patio doors ringing his Christmas Bell much to the excitement of the children.

All the children received a small gift and had the chance to meet the man himself, by either having a photo opportunity or just having a chat. When the time came for Father Christmas to leave all the children waved him off. It was lovely to see the children have a great time.

We would like to thank Katie Greenwood for running the Hellihubs group and Jan & Julie for serving the refreshments. A special thank you also to Santa from Hailsham Rotary Club. The Parish Council are proud to offer this facility which is free of charge. There's no need to book, just pop along with your pre-schooler on Monday's 8.30am-10am

For more information, please contact Sue Peacock @Hellingly Parish Council on **01323 449415** or e-mail: **sue@communityclubs-pc.org.uk**



# Hellingly Parish Council's Public Open Spaces For All To Enjoy

## The Parish Council are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance for many areas within Hellingly.

At present we have the Hellingly Country Park, Hellingly Community Hub grounds, Lower Horsebridge recreation ground (including newly acquired land) and Lower Dicker Speedway recreation ground.

Over the next 12-24 months more open public spaces will be handed over to the Parish Council from the developers in the Parish.

Within the Country Park there are two ponds where the wildlife enjoy living, we have many different species of ducks, birds, and mammals, however, we ask for ALL dogs to be kept on leads around the ponds to protect the wildlife. Please can we also ask that you help us by picking up any deposits left by your dog.

Recently we have had a few incidents of vandalism and attempted break ins, 2 at the Cricket Pavilion and one at the container. Nothing was taken but damage had been caused.

The Hub was also a target for vandalism from a group of youths, this took place under our CCTV so we can identify the group, the police have been informed and the footage passed to the Officers. Please be vigilant when out and about and report anything to the Police that you feel is not as it should be.

Also, within the Parish the Council are responsible for two sets of Allotment Gardens, Roebuck Park Allotments which opened March 2021.

We have 25 plots on the site in the Country Park at Hellingly with Tim Knight our Volunteer Supervisor overseeing the gardens and liaising with the Clerk of the Cemetery & Allotment Committee. Should you wish to add your name to the list and live on the Roebuck Park development please contact the Deputy Clerk, Tracy, on [deputyclerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@hellingly-pc.org.uk) or **01323 449415** with your full name, address, email address and contact telephone number.

Union Corner Allotments opened back in the 1960's we have approximately 90 plots, unfortunately we also have an approximate 18 month waiting list for a plot, but should you wish to add your details please contact: Tina via email at [tina\\_jenner@outlook.com](mailto:tina_jenner@outlook.com) with your full name, address, email address and contact telephone number.

Our Cemetery can be found in North Street, Hellingly, our Groundsman Jay works endlessly during the growing season keeping the grass cut and the Cemetery looking smart. There is a War Memorial situated near the entrance where the Community join together on Remembrance Day in November each year. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission inspect the War Graves within the Cemetery annually, sharing their report with the Parish Council.



# Wealden Police

## BUSINESS CRIME REDUCTION

A week of action took place just before Christmas, to raise awareness of and help to support local businesses against business crime.



During the week a number of proactive patrols took place across the district, with Officers on hand to offer reassurances, support, tips and tools surrounding all things business crime, as well as supporting owners and staff who may have been the victim of retail violence.

We know you have invested a great deal of time, energy and money in your business premises, sadly burglars make it their own business to break in - together we can prevent it; follow the latest advice on keeping your business secure and safe online here:

[www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-business-safe-from-crime/keep-burglars-out-business](http://www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-business-safe-from-crime/keep-burglars-out-business)

## ADDITIONAL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TARGETING PATROLS



Additional patrols aimed at deterring, disrupting and identifying those involved in any anti-social behaviour (ASB) continue into the Spring months.

Teams will be out and about across the district each Friday and Saturday from 3pm – midnight.

Local residents can call the team directly on **07770 700642** to report any anti-social behaviour, including ASB driving they witness across the district.

We continue to encourage residents to report incidents of ASB to us at the time, either by calling 101 or reporting online.

All community reports help to direct additional weekend patrols in areas that have seen an increase in both ASB, and youth related crime and disorder.

## OP LIMIT – DRINK/DRUG DRIVE CAMPAIGN

Hundreds of motorists were arrested on

if you suspect a drunk or drugged driver call Sussex Police on **999** or text **65999**

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Sharing the Responsibility

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

suspicion of drink or drug-driving offences during a Sussex Police campaign during December.

Officers from across the force made 261 arrests in Sussex during Operation Limit, a national campaign to tackle drink and drug driving, which ran from December 1 to January 1, sadly a 12 per cent increase on the number of arrests made during the campaign recorded a year before.

Of these over 10 arrests were made across the Wealden district.



During the month of action, Officers across Sussex also carried out nearly 6,000 vehicle checks during the campaign, providing a visible deterrent to offenders and raising awareness of the dangers of driving after consuming alcohol or drugs.

In keeping with previous campaigns, Sussex Police will be publishing the names of some of those convicted to raise awareness and to act as a deterrent to others from committing the same offence, these can be found on our Sussex Police website.

If you suspect someone to be taking to the wheel after consuming alcohol or drugs, call **999** with details of the driver, vehicle and locations, residents can also text these details to **65999**.

### SUSSEX ALERTS – POLICE EMAILS

Did you know you can sign up to email alerts from your local Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team?

These alerts include; justice done, crime spates, campaigns, investigation updates, witness appeals, meet us in-person events and more...

Alerts are specific to your interests and local area; from reliable sources; and you're in control of how often you are contacted and who you receive information. Visit [www.sussexalerts.co.uk](http://www.sussexalerts.co.uk) to sign up today.

### STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL TEAMS

You can find and follow your Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team on either Facebook or Twitter for updates on recent patrols, community meetings, good work, arrests and more...

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/WealdenPolice](http://www.facebook.com/WealdenPolice)

X (Formerly Twitter):

[www.twitter.com/Wealden\\_Police](http://www.twitter.com/Wealden_Police)

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# Hellingly Church & The Friends

## You might remember reading the Mr Men books.

Weren't they wonderful? The author, Roger Hargreaves, had a genius for drawing characters in shapes which expressed their behaviour. Mr Messy was a scribble, Mr Tickle had long arms, Mr Happy had a permanent beatific smile etched on his features. Little Miss Tiny was even smaller than Mr Small. Meeting these characters helps us to understand what it is to be messy, tickled, happy or tiny. But Roger Hargreaves was not the first to do this.

The ancients had the same idea and two of their characters spring out from the Jewish and Christian writings: Mr Word and Miss Wisdom. Or to put it in rather more grown-up language: Lady Wisdom and the Word.

Here is Lady Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs:

*Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?  
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master worker.*

Anyone could see the beauty and order in nature. Why was the world not chaotic? Because God had injected a ruling principle into mere stuff, transforming it into creatures, order and beauty. This principle was Lady Wisdom. She is beautiful, happy and excited by the loveliness of creation, enjoying it almost like a good friendship. If we were to draw her as a Little Miss character perhaps a human paintbrush would be appropriate for she has worked with God to paint the world with beauty.

Then in the Gospel of John we meet the Word: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*

We are told that he has been around as long as God has. From his name we would expect the Word to be telling us something, as that is what words do. The Word is a person whose life tells us what God is like in a way we can begin to understand. If we were to draw him as a Mr Men character a human speech bubble would be right.

In fact Lady Wisdom and the Lord Word are two sides of one coin. Wisdom and Word, feminine and masculine; not separate characters but activities of the unknowable God that our frail minds are able to recognise.

Both characters are the writers' way of affirming that there is order, structure and purpose to the universe, that it is beautifully crafted, that the wise person tries to align their life to this purpose, as this Word is the author of every person's being, and that means living in a certain way.

So this leaves us with some matters to ponder:

- How am I progressing to the true light? What am I doing to deepen my understanding of the true nature of things?
- I have been made by the master craftsman and his helper, Lady Wisdom, who together with the Word have fashioned the universe. How well is my life aligned with the needs of creation? Do I live with it or despite it?

These are big questions! And if they can be set out quickly they need a lifetime to answer.

But Lent is coming and now would be a good time to look at them afresh. Easter is a time of rebirth and so let us use Lent to reset our lives in accordance with the desires of Lady Wisdom and The Word.

If you keep these seasons I wish you a very purposeful Lent and a happy Easter when it comes.

**The Rev'd Jeremy Sykes**

(Vicar of Hellingly and Upper Dicker)

# The Friends of Hellingly Church

**Hellingly Friends, as a Society, came into existence in December 2017 to raise funds to preserve Hellingly's only Grade One listed building.**

Sadly, officialdom dictates that such and such edifice is top quality and must be preserved, but doesn't provide funds to do it. So, Hellinglyites, we have a building, a very old one, but no money to keep it going, other than what people like to give of their own free will.

Hence The Friends, to chivy the consciences (just a little) of the residents to keep this ancient structure in one piece.

So far they have raised £31,508! spent £6,430 and £6,500 promised for an ongoing requirement, the Church Tower Clock (we have promised a total of £13,000 to this project all together). So, onward, ever onward, to keep some money in the till for the next crisis that the "old lady" gives us. Our motto is "when the roof leaks and the walls sag we are there for you". SO FAR, fingers crossed: no sagging!

Our next money raiser is on 29th June. This is something special: a drama in the churchyard!! A company of players will perform Shakespeare's comedy "AS YOU LIKE IT" with an afternoon tea in the interval. Book early to avoid disappointment.

These players are backed by the Arts Council with a £10,000 grant. The cast includes professional actors, one from The Old Vic. Just think of it coming to Hellingly- just for us!

For more information please email [hello@hellinglyfriends.org.uk](mailto:hello@hellinglyfriends.org.uk).

**Ronald Chatwin,**  
Chairman, Friends committee

SUNDAY  
MARCH

10

SS PETER & PAUL, HELLINGLY  
HOLY TRINITY, UPPER DICKER



## MESSY CHURCH @ ROEBUCK PARK

Community Hub -  
Roebuck Park  
3.30 pm - 5 pm

- \* Arts and Crafts
- \* All age short service
- \* Sunday tea for all
- \* No need to book - just come along

Messy Church is based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Come along and see what it is like. Suitable for all ages and stages.

no charge but donations welcome

Contact:

Rev Jeremy Sykes

Vicar of Hellingly & Upper Dicker

07714426286

[revjeremysykes@icloud.com](mailto:revjeremysykes@icloud.com)



# Hellingly Youth Hub Update

**Hellingly Youth Hub continues to grow and was established in 2022 at Hellingly Community Hub which is engaging with young people in Hellingly and the surrounding areas.**

The youth hub has provided a safe place for the young people of Hellingly to come, which has built up confidence, self-esteem with individuals and engaged young people in various activities throughout the year.

The Hellingly Youth Hub is open for school years 6, 7 and 8 from 6.15pm to 7.30pm and school years 9, 10 and 11 from 7.45pm to 9pm.

As the weeks have progressed, attendance of young people continues to increase in both sessions.

At the Hellingly Youth Hub, the sessions have been planned each week with activities including crafts, cooking, pool, table tennis, table football, Nintendo Switch and outside activities in the summer for 10- to 16-year-olds.

The sessions have received positive feedback from young people and parents. The attendance now is between 25 to 35 young people per session in the school years 6 to 8. The sessions for school years 9 to 11 have grown between 15 to 20 a session. Total attendance in 2023 amounts to 1,575.

Both groups continue to feed into the Friday Night Project and attending the PGL activity weekend at Windmill Hill, which gives the young people a broader learning opportunity.

During the Easter holidays in 2023, the hub introduced school year 5s in transition to year 6 and school year 8s to move up to the older sessions to give growth to both groups. This will be repeated March 2024.

Hailsham Youth Service appointed a new Deputy Youth Service Manager, Joel Cottingham in May 2023 to further progress the service, not only for Hellingly Youth Hub, but Hailsham Youth Service as a whole.

For more information contact Hailsham Youth Service on **01323 841702** or email **info@hailshamyouthservice.org**



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# Chair's Report

## Flood Report

As I write this piece at the end of the first week of February it is raining again with more rain in the forecast. A brief check on social media tells me that Mill Lane and the fields below the Church are flooded but not Park Road and so far there have been no reports of flooding to Station Road or any disruption to the traffic on the main roads. It is probably too early to be complacent and to claim that the flooding has been resolved but I do believe that we are making progress.

Over the last six months the Parish Council has been instrumental in calling meetings of all of the agencies having responsibility for managing flood risk—the Environment Agency, East Sussex County Council, (as both the local Highway Authority and the Lead Flood Authority), Southern Water, and Wealden District Council. The purpose of those meetings has been first to identify the major areas of flooding within the Parish, second to identify the cause of the floods and third to resolve how to deal with the flood and who is to undertake the work. In those meetings we have had the support of our local MP, Nus Ghani who has by her very attendance brought pressure to bear on resolving the problems. The results of the meetings and the actions taken are reported in full on the Council Website ([www.hellingly-pc.org.uk](http://www.hellingly-pc.org.uk))



The actions are now clear to see. The overflowing sewage in Station Road has been alleviated by Southern Water fitting pumped non return valves to the affected properties, sewer monitors in the drains, and sealing the manhole covers in the roads. The severe flooding at the junction of Park Road and New Road has been alleviated by ESCC Highways clearing the road gullies and jetting the culvert under Park Road, and undertakings by ESCC to regularly inspect the drainage ponds in new road will undoubtedly continue to improve the situation.

There is still ongoing work. Southern Water having completed a survey of the properties connected to the sewer in Station Road and sealed the manhole covers in the roads. They have not yet been able to identify the major source of the surface water ingress into the sewer (a major contributory cause of the sewer floods). They are still investigating the possible use of the former Hellingly Hospital sewer connection to divert sewer flows from the new development at Swingate Park away from the Station Road sewer and pumping Station.



Work with Southern Water and the Environment Agency has yet to come up with improvements to the Cuckmere River to make the pumping station flood resilient and allow the storm water discharges to operate in times of heavy rainfall and when the river is in flood.

We are not yet there but we have made significant progress. There are other parts of the Parish, New Road and Park Road, in particular, where flooding occurs and these need further work. There are also parts of the Parish such as Mill Lane that by virtue of their low lying nature and their proximity to the river have always flooded, and will always, flood. That is the nature of the Parish. Equally good planning and regular maintenance should ensure that the position is not made any worse.

**David G White**

Chairman Hellingly Parish Council  
February 2024



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# What's On @ THE HELLINGLY COMMUNITY HUB



## MONDAYS

**Hellihubs** – 8.30am – 10am

A FREE Parent & Toddler Group run by Hellingly Parish Council

Come along and make new friends, have a cuppa and chat while your little ones play. No booking required, just pop along.

**Pilates with Jen** @ 9.30am

Contact Jen Piper on **07958 519168** or email **jen4pilates@aol.com**.

**Website: www.jen4pilates.co.uk**

**YOUNG @ HEART** over 55's Social Group

10.30am-12.30pm

'A FREE Group for the over 55's who are young at heart'.

Refreshments, Quizzes, Bingo, Activities, Games, Talks and light exercise sessions.

No need to book, just come along for a cuppa and make new friends

**Zumba Gold with Kiera** @ 11am

Contact Kiera Mission Fiit at

**kiera1.chambers@hotmail.co.uk**

**YOUNG @ HEART over 55's light exercise class with Kiera** @ 11.45am

**\*\*NEW\*\* Talk & Tea**

A FREE support Group for all ages run by The Bodle Street Ladies

Second Monday of every month 1.15pm-3pm.

Contact Fiona for more information

Tel: **07733 408394**

**Boot camp Fitness class with Daniel pt** @

6pm-6.45pm

Contact Daniel James on **07882 511602**

**Pilates with Jen** – 2 evening classes @ 6.30pm & 7.30pm

**Hailsham Nightingales Women's Institute**

– 3rd Monday of every month from 7 -10pm.

Contact Katy Layer on

**kelvinkaty@googlemail.com**

**Hellingly Bowls Club & Bingo Evenings**

Email: **joy.norman@hotmail.com**

Tel: **01323 843990**

## TUESDAYS

**Baby Ballet** – Tuesday mornings (Term Time)

Contact –

**hailshamandlewes@babyballet.co.uk**

Tel: **07842 244210**

**Zumba with Kiera** @ 6.30pm. Contact Kiera

Mission Fiit at

**kiera1.chambers@hotmail.co.uk**

**\*NEW\* 'TUNE IN'**

An Adults Mindfulness Choir with Cydney 7.30pm-8.30pm

Contact Cydney **07713 976396** or email **cydneywards21@gmail.com** (Term time)

**Hellingly Women's Institute** - First Tuesday

of every month @ 2.15pm. Contact Lorraine

Sparrowhawk on **07854 967934** or email

**Ldsparrowhawk@yahoo.com**

**Short Mat Bowls** - 7.30pm – 10.00pm

Contact Ann Robinson **01323 318696** or email

**ann-robinson1@sky.com**

## WEDNESDAYS

**Hellingly Youth Club**

School years 6-8 – 6.15pm -7.30pm.

School years 9-11 - 7.45pm - 9.00pm

Contact **www.hailshamyouthservice.org**

## THURSDAYS

**Hartbeeps** - 9.30am – 2pm (Term Time)

Classes for babies and toddlers featuring music, puppets, laughter and fun.

Contact **kim@hartbeeps.com** or

**www.hartbeeps.com**

**Library Rhymetime 'FREE' sessions**

10am-10.45am. DATES – 7th March, 4th April,

18th April, 16th May, 30th May, 13th June, 27th

June

**Pilates with Jen** – 2 evening classes @ 6pm & 7pm

**Pilates with Dorota** @ 6.30pm

Contact **dorota.anna.jozwiak@gmail.com**

**Hailsham and Hellingly Ladies Social Club**

- 7:30pm-10pm. Contact Shirley Thomas on

**01323 507670**.

**Hailsham Photographic Society** – 7:30pm-10pm. Contact

**www.hailshamphotographicsociety.co.uk**



## FRIDAYS

**Pilates with Jen @ 9.30am**

**Pilates with Dorota @ 9.30am**

**Stretch, Flex & Tone @ 10.30am**

A light exercise class for the over 60's with Jenny West. Contact Jenny @ [jenny\\_cloisters@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jenny_cloisters@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel: **01323 848216**

## CMA Karate

Children's Classes Years 2-6 @ 5.30pm-6.45pm  
Youth (Years 7 & above) and Adults classes @ 7pm-8pm  
Contact **07880 945832**  
Email: [senseisarah@btinternet.com](mailto:senseisarah@btinternet.com)

## SATURDAYS

**Pilates with Jen @ 9.30am**

**Happy Jacks Soft Play sessions**

contact [happyjackseastbourne@gmail.com](mailto:happyjackseastbourne@gmail.com)  
DATES - 23rd March, 27th April, 18th May 2024

## SUNDAYS

**Hellingly Church 'FREE' Messy Church afternoons - 3.30pm-5pm**

DATES - 10th March, 12th May, 8th September, 10th November 2024

**\*NEW\* Calm on Sundays @ 7pm**

Meditation, Breathwork, Journaling and Healing. DATES: 21st April, 19th May, 23rd June, 22nd September, 27th October & 24th November 2024. To book your space email [hello@placetobepresent.com](mailto:hello@placetobepresent.com)

**The Hellingly Hub's 'book swap' Library** is open Monday – Friday 9.30am - 4pm  
Pop in and swap your old books for a new one

Please join our facebook page for all the latest Hub information

@ **Hellingly Community Hub**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ....



Hellingly Parish Council's

### School Holiday Activity Days



Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 10am - 2pm

@ The Hellingly Community Hub

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 10am - 2pm

@ The Hellingly Community Hub

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – 10am - 2pm

@ Lower Horsebridge Recreational Grounds

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 – 10am - 2pm

@ Lower Horsebridge Recreational Grounds

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 10am – 2pm

@ The Hellingly Community Hub

Look out for details on our Facebook Page

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# Nusrat Ghani - MP

## Where people shop, go out, or travel should not be determined by their disability or additional needs.

I'm always working to secure more funding to support improvements to local infrastructure, services and facilities to make Wealden more inclusive for all residents, and I'm pleased that we have seen some fantastic progress recently.

Thanks to a share of £7 million Government funding, Wealden is able to deliver a boost to the provision of Changing Places toilets, which is an initiative I championed during my time as Transport Minister, and introduced to 22 motorway stations across the UK as part of the Inclusive Transport Strategy. Changing Places toilets are larger accessible toilets with additional equipment and space for carers. The Ashdown Forest Centre was chosen as one of the latest locations to benefit from this investment and I'm pleased to have joined the Conservators of the Ashdown Forest at the official opening. The Ashdown Forest is a jewel in Wealden countryside and this new facility will ensure that it continues to be a welcoming destination, accessible to all visitors.

In more good news, the 1st Horam Scout Group and the 1st Buxted Scout Group have received a share of the Government's Youth Investment Fund, which will deliver a new, fully accessible scout hut in Buxted and support refurbishments of current facilities in Horam. Since last year, Horam communities have also been able to benefit from the completion of Phase 1 of the Get Active Pathway, which has increased opportunities for all-weather physical activities such as cycling, scooting and walking, and enabled those with mobility issues to have better access to exercise locally.

Additionally, easy access to transport is crucial especially in a rural constituency such as Wealden and I'm proud to have secured multi-million-pound accessibility upgrades to Eridge and Crowborough train stations.

As part of the £1.9m project, a new lift, ramp, footbridge and platform refurbishments were delivered at Eridge in 2022. Crowborough train station has undergone similar improvements last year, as part of a £4.7m investment which delivered the installation of two lifts and brand-new footbridge, allowing passengers to get from one platform to another more easily and removing barriers to travel for all members of the local community.

These are all fantastic results for Wealden and I will continue campaigning for more improvements to ensure that our local infrastructure and facilities are accessible for all and fit for the future.



# Flooding Report

## Nusrat Ghani, MP for Wealden, has welcomed the progress made on preventing flooding and sewage overflows experienced by Hellingly residents in periods of heavy rainfall.

To follow up on previous discussions held most recently in December 2023, another meeting was convened by Hellingly Parish Council and Nusrat last week on site in Hellingly, for representatives of Southern Water, Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council including Highways and the Environment Agency to provide updates on what action is being taken to address and prevent these ongoing issues.

Since the severe incidents in January 2023, Nusrat has been intensely involved in a series of meetings with local authorities and Southern Water representatives regarding the matter, supporting the Parish Council in pushing for full review of current infrastructure provision, clarity on maintenance responsibilities from each stakeholder, and assessment of the necessary upgrades needed to improve the situation.

Nusrat has welcomed the news that clearing works of the culverts along Park Road have been carried out by Highways, which has reduced flood risk and means that the road is better passable in periods of heavy rain. Additionally, Southern Water advised that the results of their connectivity study of several hundred households in Hellingly are being analysed and further action will take place to assess infrastructure failings and needs for repairs.

Nusrat Ghani: "I welcome the actions taken by Highways to resolve flood issues on Park Road, and efforts by Southern Water to investigate infrastructure failings by conducting a connectivity study. I appreciate that this is a multi-agency issue, but it is regrettable that it has taken a whole year since the major incident last January to get answers and commitments from various stakeholders. I would like to thank Hellingly Parish Council representatives Jenny Hoodless and Cllr David White for their tireless work on the matter and I will continue working with them to

push all authorities to prioritise Hellingly for infrastructure upgrades as well as to ensure that infrastructure maintenance is carried out regularly, to prevent further issues."



Flooding meeting

A promotional poster for 'wildwoman your guide to living'. The background is a sunset over water. A large white circle is centered on the page, with the text 'calm on sunday' inside it. The words 'MEDITATION', 'BREATHWORK', 'JOURNALING', and 'HEALING' are placed around the circle. Below the circle, the text 'HELLINGLY HUB, EAST SUSSEX' is written. A list of dates and times follows: 18th February 2024 - 7pm, 21st April 2024 - 7pm, 19th May 2024 - 7pm, 23rd June 2024 - 7pm, 22nd September 2024 - 7pm, 27th October 2024 - 7pm, and 24th November 2024 - 7pm. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS - £22: IAMAWILDWOMAN.COM/CALM-ON-SUNDAY'.

# East Sussex County Council

## Cllr Nick Bennett

February 2024

### Cost of living payment set for February

Eight million people on means-tested benefits will receive a cost-of-living payment in February to help with high bills. Those on low incomes and receiving benefits such as universal credit are eligible.

The £299 payment will be made directly into bank accounts, without the need to make a claim, between 6 and 22 February.

### Funding boost to bolster clean skills

Council has welcomed funding that will help boost clean skills and support the county's move to net zero. East Sussex County Council's Employability and Skills Team successfully bid for £240,000 from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to launch to Retrofit Skills East Sussex project.

As the project progresses, it is hoped that a range of activities, such as careers campaigns and subsidised training courses, will be offered to support the Retrofit Skills Plan.

### Budget Setting.

In the face of extraordinary demand and pressure, this Council continues to provide vital services that underpin the quality of life for our residents, communities and businesses. The Council Plan, budget and capital programme before you today continue to be built around our priorities of:

- Driving sustainable economic growth
- Keeping vulnerable people safe
- Helping people help themselves
- Making best use of the resources we have, now and for the future

This firm foundation was endorsed by our LGA Peer Challenge and our external auditors' assessment of the value for money our services provide.

We have continued to deliver against our priorities. For example, over the past year we have:

- spent over £300 million with local suppliers;

- delivered improvements to local bus services;
- opened 11 Family Hubs;
- worked with residents to shape the future vision for adult social care through our 'What matters to you' strategy; and
- provided access to higher speed digital infrastructure connections to public sector organisations in East Sussex through the South East Grid network.

The refreshed Council Plan for 2024/25 sets out what we will do to continue delivering our priorities. We have updated the more detailed delivery outcomes which underpin our priorities to ensure they remain up to date.

These are reflected in the plan. Some of the key planned activity includes:

- overseeing the delivery of a new Economic Growth Strategy;
- implementing the new Local Transport Plan;
- piloting key national reforms for support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities;
- Developing our Carbon Reduction and Local nature plans
- continuing to develop a new Connected Families service for teenagers on the edge of care;
- developing a new service to help people think about, plan for and manage their later life; and
- our ongoing work to support the recruitment and retention of staff.

Despite our prudent planning, and the difficult decisions we have previously taken to ensure we live within our means, the escalation in need and costs that we, and other Councils, are facing has not been matched with additional funding.

This means the balanced revenue budget for 24/25 proposed today, with over a £1bn gross expenditure budget and a total net budget of £538m, for the first time, is supported by a

draw on reserves of £14.3m.

In the coming year we will spend £39m on highways taken from the capital programme and revenue. We anticipate an additional £4m from Government to support this work.

Our position is in line with the national expectations delivered by the Minister for Local Government, that Councils will use reserves to maintain services.

The revenue budget incorporates the proposed increase in Council Tax of 2.99% and Adult Social Care Precept of 2%; our residents will therefore see their bills increase by 4.99% or the equivalent of £1.62 per week for a band D property. The increase in Council Tax is not made lightly, particularly given pressure on household budgets, but we have to protect our services now and for the future. Demand for care services continues to grow and, we have little choice but to increase local taxation.

In delivering the budget we are providing over £51m of additional funding for a range of pressures that services are experiencing as they continue to deliver the quality services we all expect, including:

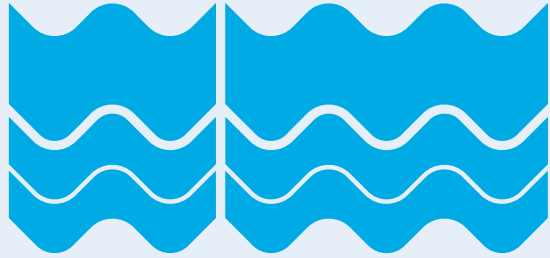
- £36m for contractual inflation and pay awards.
- £4m for population changes in adult social care
- £19m for pressures in children's social care, including Looked After Children and Foster Care Services.
- Given previous savings made, no new savings are proposed as part of this budget.

In addition the 10 year capital programme, provides investment of £837m across schools, highways infrastructure, climate change initiatives, economic interventions and IT. 2024/25 will see total planned capital investment of £96.7m.

The use of reserves is a significant step and is not a sustainable way to balance the budget. Further action will be required in the coming year to address the deficit for the medium term in order to prevent cuts to services while maintaining that balance .

Given the significant financial gap that remains in our financial plan, with a potential £45.3m deficit for 2025/26 alone, our lobbying of Government will also continue to be vital to ensuring we have the resources to support the county's residents in future. We will clearly set out what East Sussex needs and work with partners locally, regionally and nationally to make this case.

## East Sussex County Council



## Front Cover Bird Answers

**Were you able to guess the birds on the front cover?**

1. **Cormorant:** a large black bird with a long neck, often seen diving for fish!
2. **Duckling:** baby ducks with soft, fluffy feathers, typically seen with adult ducks
3. **Heron:** a tall bird with a long neck, long legs and a sharp bill. Skilled hunters who stand motionless for long periods
4. **Red Kite:** medium sized bird of prey with distinctive red colour, forked tail, and incredible eyesight
5. **Kingfisher:** a small, brightly coloured water bird with a long, pointed bill.
6. **Waxwing:** a medium sized bird with a crested head and distinctive wing markings. A very sociable bird, often seen in large flocks.

# HELLINGLY SPEEDWATCH GROUP: UPDATE

**I would like to express sincere thanks to our Hellingly team for their dedication, especially at this time of the year when we have turned out in some pretty foul weather!**

Our group, with fluorescent jackets and a camera, have now become a regular feature to be seen en post in different parts of the village every week. We have received excellent police support, either on site, or at various meetings initiated by our group, from whom there has been a consistent message that our regular appearance serves as an effective deterrent to those drivers and lorries who speed and cut through the village, in that they now know we will be out, so they are more likely to drive with more care.

While as a group we have now found our stride, we are still limited, given our small numbers, as to the area we can cover. With more volunteers we could extend our remit, especially in areas such as Grove Hill, the Drive and most especially Upper Horsebridge Road at Peakes Garden. Would anyone living in these three areas be willing to volunteer, to boost our numbers so that we can be more effective, and importantly improve road safety where you live? Most especially on Upper Horsebridge Road, where for the few sessions we have monitored here, we noted an exceptionally high rate of speeding.

The training is straightforward, and the task is not onerous, one hour a session, even if it is once a month, our times vary between mornings or late afternoons. Without more volunteers we will not be able to expand to provide for greater road surveillance that could impact upon you and your family within the community.

We are also a cheery group!

## **Deborah Gage**

Hellingly Speedwatch Co-Ordinator  
Email: [debo@deborahgage.com](mailto:debo@deborahgage.com)

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# Young at Heart Club

## Our Young At Heart Club enjoyed a fabulous Christmas lunch in December.

This lunch was cooked by Cookmere Meals and served by an amazing bunch, Jan & Julie (volunteers), Councillors Stephen Gander & Helen Lee, Council staff, Jenny, Julie, Sue, Sarah and Tracy, Thank you everyone!

Also, huge thanks to the St Peter and St Paul Hellingly Church Choir who beautifully sang Christmas carols for us all. It was truly a wonderful day and was fantastic to see the members and staff enjoy themselves.

The YAH Club meets every Monday morning 10.30am till 12.30pm at Hellingly Community Hub, The Drive, Hellingly BN27 4EP.

You do not need to book, please just come along whether it's for five minutes or for the full two hours. Have a cuppa and sit back and enjoy yourselves. There are games, quizzes, presenters and many other activities!

Have any questions feel free to contact me on **01323 449415** or **[sue@communityclubs-pc.org.uk](mailto:sue@communityclubs-pc.org.uk)**

**Sue Peacock**  
Community Clubs Co-ordinator



# Parish Council Grants

**In November the Parish Council awarded Grants to local Groups and Organisations who applied, an amount is allocated for Grants under s137 of the Local Government Act each year when the budget is set.**

There is a criteria that needs to be met to apply for a Grant, these are:

- The Parish Council, when considering grants, will give priority to those groups and organisations which can demonstrate that other fund-raising efforts have been made.
- Grants will normally only be given towards specific items of expenditure – i.e. equipment or capital projects.
- Requests for grants must be accompanied by either accounts, or business plan if a new organisation or group.
- Grants will not be made for retrospective projects.
- Grants will not normally be made available to commercial or national organisations, statutory bodies or groups from outside the parish unless there are identifiable benefits to residents of the parish.
- All successful applicants will be required to complete an End of Grant Report Form. This will be sent out with the approval letter. Copies of invoices & receipts will be required.

We had 16 applications in total amounting to £13,720.00 these were awarded to many good causes within the Parish of Hellingly or supporting organisations that benefit Hellingly residents these included:

Hellingly Brownies, Guides and Rangers  
Wealden Citizens Advice  
St Wilfrid's Hospice  
Cuckmere Flood Forum  
Hailsham Cricket Club  
Hellingly School PTA  
Hellingly Bowls Club  
Friends of Hellingly Preschool  
Animazing C.I.C.

East Sussex Ukraine Support  
Link Football Coaching  
Air Ambulance Charity Kent, Surrey & Sussex  
Hailsham Foodbank  
2nd Hellingly Brownies  
Baby Bank & Beyond  
East Sussex (WRAS)

The East Sussex (WRAS) will use their grant for training of staff. Two members of staff will visit the new BDMLR (British Divers Mirine Life Resue) Cornwall Seal Hospital to undertake training in seal handling and feeling, they will also visit the RSPCA West Hatch, Taunton, Secret World in Somerset, Dorset Wildlife Rescue in Poole and Mousehole Wild Bird Hospital.

WRAS 24 hour Rescue Line **0300 1026999** – 24 hour emergency calls or 10am-5pm for non emergency calls and advice.







# Easter Half Term Craft Day



**Come along to our  
Eggsellent Easter Fun Day  
on Wednesday 10th April**

**At The  
Hellingly Community Hub**

**2 Sessions Available**

**10am till 12pm**

**12:30pm till 2:30pm**

**Suitable for children under 10 years**

**£2 for Children (under 1's FREE)**

**this includes a surprise Easter Craft Pack**

**Adults are FREE**

**To book please complete a booking form which is  
available from the Hub or Website**

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



# Coffee Time

## Deliciously Creative: Leftover Easter Chocolate Recipes

As Easter festivities wind down, you may find yourself with an abundance of leftover chocolate treats. Don't let them go to waste—turn them into delightful creations with these simple and delicious recipes.

### 1. Chocolate Bark Medley:

Melt assorted chocolate pieces and spread them on a tray. Top with crushed nuts, dried fruits, and a sprinkle of sea salt. Once set, break into bite-sized pieces for a mouth-watering treat.

### 2. Chocolate Dipped Pretzels:

Dip pretzel sticks into melted chocolate, then roll them in colourful sprinkles or crushed cookies. Allow them to cool for a quick and addictive sweet-and-salty snack.

### 3. Rocky Road Rice Krispie Treats:

Combine leftover chocolate with marshmallows and rice krispies for a twist on the classic treat.

Add chopped nuts and mini marshmallows for an extra gooey texture.

### 4. Chocolate Covered Strawberries:

Dip fresh strawberries into melted chocolate and let them set. These elegant and easy-to-make treats are perfect for a sweet, fruity indulgence.

### 5. Mocha Milkshake Magic:

Blend leftover chocolate with vanilla ice cream, milk, and a shot of espresso for a rich and satisfying mocha milkshake. Top with whipped cream for an extra indulgent touch.

These recipes are a delightful way to repurpose your leftover Easter chocolate into new and exciting treats. Get creative in the kitchen and turn those sweet remnants into memorable delights!



**MUSIC BOX**

# RENAISSANCE BRASS

LONG MAN BRASS

Music Box Wealden is proud to introduce *The Long Man Brass Quintet* in a programme of Renaissance and Baroque brass music.

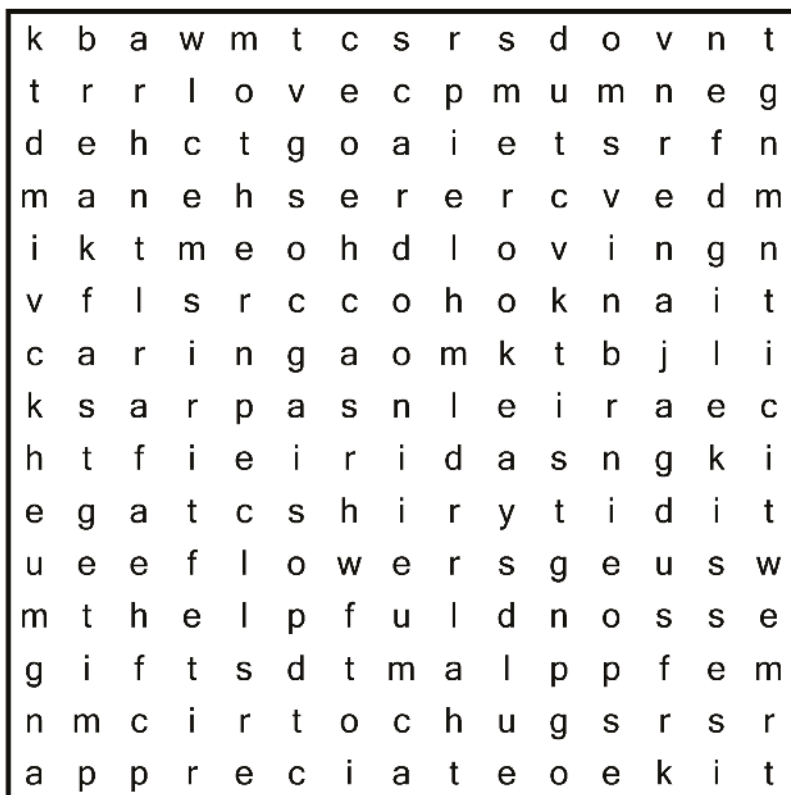
**TICKETS**  
Adults £12, Under 18s FREE  
FREE to Music Box Wealden members - see our website for details

**24 March 2024, 3pm**  
Hellingly Church  
Hailsham  
BN27 4HA

musicboxwealden.co.uk  
longmanbrass.co.uk



# Mother's Day Word Search



Mother

Special

Card

Gifts

Loving

Home

Kind

Kisses

Love

Mum

Flowers

Breakfast

Chocolates

Helpful

Caring

Candy

Hugs

Appreciate

# Sussex Wildlife Trust

## The Wheatear by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

It's been a long winter, but rest assured that our summer migrant birds will soon be with us. As you read this, beating hearts and beating wings are powering tiny bodies through north African skies.

Wheatears are our earliest returning African migrants. It's a fast 3,000-mile flight from sub-Saharan Sierra Leone to Sussex for a 1-ounce Wheatear, and they've been recorded migrating at 500 miles a day. The dashing males arrive first, their soft, sun-bleached shades of pink and buff topped with a dapper black bandit's mask. At Sussex Wildlife Trust's Southerham nature reserve near Lewes, you'll see them scurrying over the grazed downland turf or perched along the valley's fence lines.

When they fly, Wheatears flash the white rump which gives them their name. Because Wheatears have nothing to do with wheat or ears. Their original name...well, courtesy prevents me from writing their old English name in such an upstanding publication – but let's just say they were named after their white behinds. Victorians and vicars bird watching in mixed company blushed when they were called upon to identify one, so their name was subtly censored.

Wheatear is a more palatable name for a tragically palatable bird. In Sussex, Wheatears were considered a local delicacy and were served at the finest banquets in Lewes, Brighton and Eastbourne. Sussex shepherds would trap them to increase their income; in the late 19th Century the birds fetched 3/6d a dozen (£17.50 today). Shepherds could earn £14 per season (£1,260 today) trapping Wheatears - half their annual wage. Around the town, shepherds were eventually banned from trapping Wheatears as it distracted them from their sheep.

Gluttonous gourmets were so desperate for fresh Wheatear that they would prowl the downs and take birds straight from unmanned traps, leaving a pile of coins for the shepherds. In 1900, outspoken and outraged Sussex conservationist W.H Hudson wrote, "It is not fair that Wheatears should be killed merely to

enable London stockbrokers, sporting men, and other gorgeous persons who visit the coast, accompanied by ladies with yellow hair, to feed on them at the big Brighton hotels."

But the damage was done. Trapping and the gradual loss of their sheep-grazed downland habitat caused the birds to disappear from the Sussex downs. The Wheatears we now see around Lewes unsurprisingly don't hang around. Each spring they briefly return to their old downland haunts, flash their behinds at the people of Sussex and keep on moving. From Lewes, they'll head onwards to breeding sites in northern England and northern Europe. But for some of these birds, their amazing migration continues for a further 2,000 miles across cold oceans to Greenland and Arctic Canada.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at [sussewwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](https://sussewwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)



Wheatear ©Derek Middleton Sussex Wildlife Trust

# Hellingly Cricket Club

## Hellingly CC Fixtures 2024

Hellingly Cricket Club are again putting out two teams in the Sussex Cricket League this summer.

The fixture list is for the League games and does not include other games such as The Oakshott Cup, which is the world's oldest T20 cup.

We run a full bar and occasional BBQ's. We play at the Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground, which is also home to the Hellingly Rugby and Bowls Clubs.

We look forward to seeing you.  
Paul Reynolds  
Chairman, Hellingly Cricket Club

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> XI			2 <sup>nd</sup> XI		
27 <sup>th</sup> April				<i>Lewes Priory III (Friendly)</i>	H	1.00
4 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Iden (Friendly tbc)</i>	H	1.00			
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Bells Yew Green II	H	1.00			
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Westfield	A	1.00	<i>Pevensey II (Friendly)</i>	H	1.00
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Robertsbridge II	H	1.00	Tun Wells Superkings	A	1.00
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Firle	A	1.00	Tun Wells Superkings	H	1.00
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Selmeston & Alciston	H	1.00	Buxted Park IV	A	1.00
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Crowborough	H	1.00	Uckfield Anderida II	A	1.00
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Linden Park III	A	1.00	Uckfield Anderida II	H	1.00
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Rotherfield	H	1.00	Bells Yew Green IV	A	1.00
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Dicker	A	1.00	Heathfield Park III	H	1.00
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Bells Yew Green II	A	1.00	Bells Yew Green IV	H	1.00
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Westfield	H	1.00	Heathfield Park III	A	1.00
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Robertsbridge II	A	1.00	Tun Wells Borderers II	H	1.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Firle	H	1.00	Tun Wells Borderers II	A	1.00
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Selmeston & Alciston	A	1.00	Buxted Park IV	H	1.00
17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Crowborough	A	1.00	Crowborough II	H	1.00
24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Linden Park III	H	1.00	Crowborough II	A	1.00
31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Rotherfield	A	1.00			
7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Dicker	H	1.00			
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept						

# Hub News Spring 2024

## Have you visited the Hellingly Community Hub? If not, you have been missing a fabulous local venue right on your doorstep!!

You can find us halfway along The Drive in Roebuck Park next to the beautiful Country Park with the children's play areas, cricket pitch, dog agility park and fishing ponds. An interesting area to explore in the springtime.

As well as being the home to the Parish Council Offices, The Hub is Hellingly's latest modern community facility which is available to hire during the weekday, evenings, and weekends. We have a large main hall, with its own fully equipped kitchen. Two smaller meeting style rooms which have use of a kitchenette. Our rooms can all be hired by the hour subject to availability. The Hub provides an ideal venue for any occasion from exercise classes, meetings, training days, children's parties, charity days and other social events.

The Hub has seen a big rise in bookings from the business sector and therefore updating our sound system was the next logical step.

Hirers are now able to easily link their laptops to the projector, use the upgraded microphones or Bluetooth their music via the new speakers. We are delighted with the quality of the sound in the main hall. We are also able to provide hands free table microphones for any conference needs you have. Prices are available on request.

Cllr Chris Jackets, Chair of the Halls Committee said "This is the Parish Councils latest initiative to support local organisations and businesses providing all our hirers with the latest technology. The build of the Hub was always intended to offer a facility for all the community to use and we are proud to have delivered this."

## Hellingly RABI Farmhouse Breakfast Event

### Over 200 people enjoyed a freshly cooked breakfast at The Hub, Hellingly all to raise funds for farming people in need.

A small army of volunteers, led by Gill Hesselgrave, prepped, cooked and served breakfast to a hall full of people.

This breakfast event first began over 20 years ago in Gill and Bryan Hesselgrave's sitting room and has gradually grown to what it is today. The event is held as part of the fundraising efforts of the East Sussex Committee of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) who provide financial, emotional and practical support to those in need in the farming community.

Enjoying a breakfast made with British and, where possible, local produce seems a fitting way to support those farmers.

A huge thank you to those who supported the event by attending, providing food and particularly to the volunteers whose hard work on the day meant that everyone left feeling full and with a smile on their faces. The event raised a fantastic £2000. To find out more information on the work RABI do please visit [www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk)





## Looking for a venue?



The Hellingly Community Hub has a large main hall and two smaller meeting rooms available to hire and provides an ideal venue for any occasion.

**Children's parties – Wakes – Business Meetings –  
Training Courses – Exercise Classes – Fundraising Events  
Quiz Nights and much much more**



## Why our venue?

- Out of town venue with lots of parking
- Very competitive prices
- Free Wi-Fi
- Use of projector, sound system & flip chart on request
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Wheelchair accessible and baby changing facilities
- Electric car charging points

To book or to find out more information, please email us at **hubbookings@hellingly-pc.org.uk** or call us on **01323 449415**, or visit our website **www.hellingly-pc.org.uk** and complete an online booking request form and we will get back to you with further details.  
The Drive, Hellingly, East Sussex BN27 4EP

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# HELLINGLY HOMES



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