



SOMPTING SIGNPOST

The official news magazine from Sompting Parish Council

www.sompting.org.uk

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[Parish Council 07813484857](tel:07813484857) [Harriet Johnson Centre 01903 208824](tel:01903208824)

Over 4000 copies delivered to homes and shops throughout Sompting



WINTER 19

SOMPTING CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2019

**FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2019 - 5PM TO 7PM AT
HARRIET JOHNSON CENTRE, LOOSE LANE, SOMPTING**



Come along and meet Santa. There will be gifts

and amusements for the children to enjoy.

Mince pies and mulled wine for the adults.

Join in with the Carol singing and see the Shetland pony.



CHAIRS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Dear residents,

It is my pleasure and honour to have recently been elected as chair. I am very grateful to staff and councillors for their advice and support as I move into my new role. We are also pleased to announce Cllr Glynn Davies as our new Vice-Chair.

Our first piece of good news is that Sompting has been allocated our own dedicated PCSO and I ask that you join me in a warm welcome to Sompting.

We've had quite a few changes with Councillors this year. We currently have 11 Councillors on the Parish Council but vacancies do pop up from time to time, so if anyone is interested in being a councillor, keep an eye on our website for any future vacancies if you think you would like to work with us and help us take some new and exciting projects forward for Sompting.

As new chair, I would love to hear your ideas and comments for future projects and any local issues you would like to see addressed in Sompting. This will help us map out our plans for the New Year. It's vital you have your say so that we attend to things that really matter to you along with improvements or changes you'd like us to consider. Please email me caroline.baxter@sompting.org.uk or pop a note into the Harriet Johnson Centre.

I will also be holding a 'drop in session' on the first Monday of every month 10:30-12:00, where you can pop in and discuss any local matters in person with me. No need to make an appointment, just pop in for a cup of tea and a chat.

I would also ask that local groups, associations and charities get in touch with us to see if there is anything we can assist with, or any joint working opportunities for next year.

As we near the festive season, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best of wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I hope to see many of you join us at our Christmas Festival on December 13th.

Caroline Baxter

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Annual Awards Ceremony was held after the Full Council Meeting in October. There were two really interesting presentations - one by Stephen Chadwin from Sompting Village Primary School on conservation and one by Linda Kerrison from EPIC on Broadwater Brook, who kindly stepped in at the last minute.

The winners of Sompting Best Gardens

1st Mr & Mrs Sonessa, Roman Walk, 2nd Mrs Bigg, Rectory Farm Road,

3rd Mr Grigson,
The Haven, Church Lane



Mr Sonessa



Mrs Bigg



John and Sue Wellfare won the Doug Sherriff Award for 2019. This is awarded to a person (or group) who has given an Outstanding Contribution to the Sompting Community during the year. They do really great things by recycling items that cannot go in blue bins, therefore stopping them from being sent to landfill. They get no expenses and spend huge amounts of time collecting, sorting and sending off items.

Community Transport and other help for independent living in Sompting

Following the Transport Survey carried out in our last edition of Signpost, we would like to thank everyone who took part. We have found that peoples transport needs are broadly diverse and individualistic. We would therefore like to look for solutions that are equally as diverse. We are also aware that transport might not be the only challenge to independent living.

A new community support scheme is proposed to start next year to help residents struggling with transport needs and any other issue that hinder independent living in the comfort of their own homes. Some examples could be garden clearance, shopping, library books, light bulb changing, dog walking etc.

The project will be called the Sompting Independence and Good Neighbour Scheme (SIGNS) and is seeking to recruit volunteers from the Sompting area.

So if you are approaching retirement or have some spare time to volunteer, if you are looking for new challenges or perhaps you are concerned with the welfare of local residents or would simply like to be a good neighbour, then please contact the SIGNS co-ordinator Cllr Tony Nicklen either by email tony.nicklen@sompting.org.uk or by letter to Sompting Parish Council, or leave a telephone message on 01903 610232.



SOMPTING RECREATION GROUND TOILET FACILITIES



These have had to be closed on a number of occasions because of criminal damage and anti social behaviour. The cost of continuous repair is prohibitive to this facility remaining open. Sompting Parish Council would welcome feedback from residents as to whether the toilets should be kept open in the future. Please contact our Parish Clerk. clerk@sompting.org.uk

PARKING

Sompting Parish Council are piloting a 'Responsible Parking' initiative, working with Sussex Police (Operation Crackdown). Test Road and around Sompting Village Primary School have been selected for this. Residents have the opportunity to display signs requesting road users to park responsibly. It was recently observed that at school pick up time, the law is continuously being contravened by motorists parking on zig zag lines, despite risks should the emergency services need to access the school. This is really irresponsible and must be discouraged. Road users need to know that if they are observed they will be reported to the Police and action will be taken. The area is now under surveillance.



COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN SOMPTING

Leighton Clay is our Groundsman/Conservation Officer - he can be reached on 07733930308

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

There is so much happening in Sompting! These are exciting times in the Parish. In response to empirical evidence and in line with many other Parish Councils, Sompting have declared a Climate Emergency.

At Malthouse Meadow, plans for a Forest Garden are in full swing. Sompting are working in Partnership with Adur District Council, Sustainable Sussex and Sompting Estate to manage the land for our community. This may include introducing strip grazing of sheep (recommended by Natural England) to manage the meadow grass. At our 2nd Consultation Meeting, residents disclosed how they have observed a reduction in diversity over decades and to combat this, the working party are planning an ambitious planting programme and have already completed useful coppicing and have planted elm and fruit trees. Plans include the introduction of fruiting hedges and a range of fruit and nut trees to support wildlife and offer foraging and educational opportunities to local schools and organisations. Do join us on the first Sunday of every month, from 11am -1pm and enjoy this beautiful space and the opportunity to be part of this valuable community project. Regular volunteers include Steve Willeter (lead resident), Keith Colin and Liane Webb (Sustainable Sussex and Sustainable Mind), Cllrs Aulton, Nicklen, Thornton and Glynn-Davies. Contact our Parish Clerk on 07813 484857 if you are interested in volunteering. It is always fun.



THE CHILLI FARM PROJECT

(Sustainable Sussex) situated at the bottom of the lane opposite the Marquis of Granby welcomes visitors and volunteers. The construction of a sheltered area is underway, along with the cultivation of a range of fruit and vegetables. Sustainable Sussex (Keith Colin and Liane Webb) are a charity supported entirely by volunteers and they produce a range of quality organic products. They are also developing a Community Farm at the southern end of Test Road. The farm will support grazing animals and cultivation of quality foodstuffs for the community. It will also have interesting circular walks along to the Nature Reserve, and an opportunity to see heavy horses used in a traditional way to support farming and also offer leisure rides to the community. Volunteers are needed and welcomed, whatever their contribution can be. Contact Keith on 07598411428



BEGGARS BUSH

Plans are underway for upgrading the area to offer a delightful walk through diverse meadowland and a picnic area. Cllr Glynn-Davies is currently working with South Downs National Park Authority, Adur District Council and Sompting Estate, to complete plans and ensure funding to bring about improvements and leisure opportunities for our community.



HALEWICK LANE

Works carried out by WSCC and ADC following our Round Table Meeting last year appear to have had good effect on drainage issues which now appear to be better managed. Following pressure from the Parish Council, seeding took place on the site which has prevented landslip in recent severe weather conditions. A notice has been served on the landowner in respect of the dilapidated barn to the northeast of the Waste Management Site. Residents are aware that plans have been approved to demolish the Waste Management Facility and use the site to store batteries from the National Grid. Sompting Parish Council are in regular contact with WSCC and are monitoring these plans and continue to investigate, to establish a clear chain of accountability. Some of you will have seen the recent installation of a public bench on the corner of Halewick Lane and Meadowview Road.



AREAS OF SOMPTING

The Parish Council is working with ADC to identify some areas which require further investment and improvements, these include Millfield and Halewick Lane. Further meetings are planned.

SOMPTING FESTIVAL 2020

Sompting Parish Council have decided to put on next year's Festival which will take place between the evening of Friday 17th and Sunday 19th July 2020.

We are eager and committed to holding a celebration of local food, art, community and music representing our diverse and wonderful community and would love for you to be involved.

If you are interested and would like to hold a stall or have other ideas for what you would like to see on the day, then please let us know!

Please contact The Chair of the Council, Cllr Caroline Baxter as soon as possible to book a stall or make a suggestion at caroline.baxter@sompting.org.uk



NEW COUNCILLOR

We welcome Ronald Vimpany as a Councillor for Cokeham North Ward



Road Safety - West Sussex County Council

West Sussex County Council has a new facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/RoadSafetyWSCC/>

As it is now winter and the darker evenings are upon us, there are several tips and advice on how to stay safe as well as links to winter driving tips.



HARRIET JOHNSON CENTRE

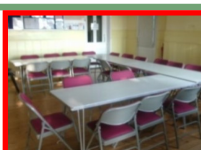
For further information phone 01903 208824 or email harrietjohnsoncentre@sompting.org.uk or see our website where you can download information and forms www.sompting.org.uk facebook. www.facebook.com/somptingparishcouncil1
SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL, HARRIET JOHNSON CENTRE, 18 LOOSE LANE, SOMPTING, BN15 0BG
Sompting Out of hours number 07704601172



Do you have a group that is looking for a venue – then why not try the Centre?

We currently have rooms available at the Harriet Johnson Centre

Tuesday mornings, Friday evenings and Sunday mornings



IT'S PARTY TIME



Do you want to book a hall for a..... **Childrens' Party, Wedding Reception**

Baby Shower

Meetings /workshops

Just contact the Harriet Johnson Centre

Disabled access and parking.

The Centre currently has lots of groups and activities during the day and evening for all ages, covering a variety of interests.

More details can be found on the website www.sompting.org.uk or contact the Centre Manager on 01903 208824

STAFF AT THE HARRIET JOHNSON CENTRE

CENTRE MANAGER - SIMONE WILLIAMS – 01903 208824
CARETAKER - RUSS TUGNUTT - 07704601172

harrietjohnsoncentre@sompting.org.uk (MON,WEDS,FRI (9am to 12 noon)
caretaker@sompting.org.uk

STAFF AT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

CAROL STEPHENSON - PARISH CLERK – 07813484857
SUE TUBB - ASSISTANT PARISH CLERK – 01903 208824
LEIGHTON CLAY - GROUNDSMAN/CONSERVATION OFFICER - 07733930308

clerk@sompting.org.uk (MON, TUES, WED 9am–12noon)
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