

Rustington

Parish Council Newsletter

Chairman's Message

As I write this final message of my first year in office as your Chairman, I reflect upon the world we live in today. In Zimbabwe there are terrible things going on, the Middle East continues in turmoil, problems in Tibet, and there is the ever watchful eye we have to keep over terrorism.

The United Kingdom is experiencing worrying times concerning the financial world. What a gloomy picture, you may think. I would, therefore, ask you to count your blessings when you consider where WE live and what a wonderful place Rustington is. And, hopefully, on reflection, you will say 'life is pretty good really', and agree that we have not much to grumble about when you ponder on those less fortunate than ourselves.

Therefore, as you go about your daily business, please be a little more tolerant of others, be grateful for what you have, and have a kind word to say to those you meet.

Much has been achieved this year in Rustington, and none more so than the completion of, what I hope all will see, as our pride and joy--Church Farm Cottage, soon to be our new Museum and much more.

Spring seems to have at last arrived, and what a picture the Village looks, with many new plant displays on view and the Ash Lane 'regeneration' complete. Thanks must go to the Traders and Associations who have sponsored many of the new displays. A successful Fashion Show was held at The Woodlands Centre on 18 April



and somewhere in the region of £1,000 was raised towards the costs of the Britain in Bloom and South and South East in Bloom Campaigns. We are keeping our fingers crossed that all will be well when judging takes place.

I really have enjoyed my year, meeting some wonderful people from the immediate area and also from neighbouring Councils. The Council is in fine fettle, and I could not work with a better group of people, both those on the Council and our wonderful staff.

To you, the people of Rustington, I would request that you keep supporting the Village in every way you can. I and the Council certainly appreciate the great sense of warmth and gratitude that many of you express on the occasions when we meet. Please support the Community Partnership and the forthcoming Rustington Carnival on 7 June – as I have no doubt that you will.

In conclusion, I would like to say what a pleasure it is, helping to represent the folk of Rustington, and I hope that I may be able to continue to do so for many years to come.

Rustington Museum at Church Farm Cottage

The renovation of the Cottage was completed on 24 April, and the results are most impressive. The next stage is the fitting out of the Cottage with purpose made units to accommodate the Museum's Collection, and this is being progressed with specialist Companies at the present time.



The recently formed Museum Management Committee is now in the process of appointing a Curator for the new Museum, who will be supported by administrative personnel already employed by the Parish Council at the Village Information Centre and, most importantly, volunteers from the Heritage Association and the local community.

The Parish Council has recently agreed to proceed with the second phase of the project, namely the construction of a Café at the rear of

the Cottage, whilst the third phase has been put on hold for the time being, pending funding becoming available at a later date. It is hoped that the landscaping of the garden will, in the main, be undertaken on a voluntary basis by members of the local community. Anyone who is interested in assisting the Council in this regard, should contact the Parish Council's Offices.

Fund-raising is continuing, and some £5,543 has already been donated to the Raise the Roof Scheme. So, if you would like to make a financial contribution to the project, please contact the Parish Council's Offices or the Village Information Centre.

About the Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month (apart from August and December) commencing at 7.15 pm in the Roger Montgomeri Room, The Woodlands Centre, Woodlands Avenue (via Council Offices' entrance). All members of the public are welcome to attend these Meetings and time is set aside before each Council and Committee Meeting commences (7.00 pm) to give members of the public an opportunity to pose questions. A copy of the Agenda for each Meeting is displayed at the Public Library and on Notice Boards around the Village and on the Council's website.

Your Councillors

Chairman

Councillor M A Warrington (West Ward)
23 Tennyson Avenue, Rustington BN16 2PB

01903 785436

Vice-Chairman

Councillor Mrs S Y Lines (East Ward)
Quince Cottage, 4 The Bramblings, Rustington BN16 2DA

07917 724785

East Ward

Councillor J W Collins, 85 Fircroft Crescent, Rustington BN16 3HT
Councillor S Perry, 7 Worthing Road, Rustington BN16 3JU
Councillor R C Steward, Canberra, 18 Botany Close, Rustington BN16 2BJ
Councillor G M Tyler, Seaward, The Close, Sea Avenue, Rustington BN16 2DW

01903 771976
07980 577881
01903 771420
01903 856950

North Ward

Councillor T G Field, 34 Dinsdale Gardens, Rustington BN16 3NH

01903 783770

West Ward

Councillor A K Akbar, 78 Westlands, Rustington BN16 3NW
Councillor Mrs C P Broomfield, 15 Harsfold Road, Rustington BN16 2QE
Councillor J E Ceiriog-Hughes, 15 Manor Road, Rustington BN16 3QT
Councillor R S Grevelt, Mill House, 3 Overstrand Avenue, Rustington BN16 2JS
Councillor Mrs F E Harrison, 5 Highfield Gardens, Rustington BN16 2PZ
Councillor D F Murphy, 2 Arun Close, Rustington BN16 3HD

01903 732929
01903 786262
01903 770464
01903 776780
01903 776210
01903 787149

West Preston Ward

Councillor D E Rogers, 6 Preston Avenue, Rustington BN16 2DB

01903 772691

Clerk of the Council

Mrs Carole Ward, Council Offices, 34 Woodlands Avenue, Rustington BN16 3HB 01903 786420

There are currently two vacancies, one in the East Ward and one in the North Ward



Council and Committee Meeting Dates June - September 2008

Mon	2 Jun	Planning
Thurs	5 Jun	Lighting & Amenities
Mon	16 Jun	Planning
Mon	23 Jun	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	23 Jun	COUNCIL
Mon	23 Jun	Planning
Mon	7 Jul	Allotments
Mon	7 Jul	Planning
Thurs	10 Jul	Leisure & Recreation
Mon	28 Jul	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	28 Jul	COUNCIL
Mon	28 Jul	Planning
Mon	4 Aug	Planning
Mon	18 Aug	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	18 Aug	Planning
Mon	1 Sep	Planning
Mon	15 Sep	Planning
Mon	22 Sep	Finance & General Purposes
Mon	22 Sep	COUNCIL
Mon	29 Sep	Planning

Blood Donor Sessions



Regular Donor Sessions are held at the Village Memorial Hall and posters are displayed on Council Notice Boards. Please come along and support this worthwhile cause.

Citizens' Advice Bureau

The Council provides a facility at the Village Information Centre in the Churchill Car Park for the Citizens' Advice Bureau to visit on a Tuesday morning. Appointments must be made in advance through the Littlehampton Citizens' Advice Bureau on 01903 724010.

Police "Drop-In" Surgeries

The Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) monthly mobile Surgeries continue to take place at various locations in the Village, including the Village Information Centre, the Somerfield Store and the Library. The next Surgery will be held at the Somerfield Store, Rustington on 4 June from 11.00 am to 12 noon.

Bus Shelters

This year the Council has submitted a further application to the West Sussex County Council, to replace a wooden bus shelter in the Parish. The Council has already been awarded 50% grants towards the replacement of seven of the bus shelters in the Village, and is hopeful that it will again be successful. The shelter that the Council hopes to replace this year is located on the eastern side of North Lane.

Parish News...

Rustington Festival - 7-15 June

Carnival Day on Saturday 7 June is approaching fast, and everything is coming together well.

Many stalls have already been booked and the Littlehampton District Lions Club is looking forward to some sunshine to make the day perfect.

The Procession entries are coming in thick and fast, with a great deal of imagination being used to build some spectacular floats. However, with health and safety in mind, the Club does have to be very careful in making sure there will not be any accidents. A new entry in this year's Procession will be the Rustington Country Market, which is sure to be worth looking out for. All of the prizes, this year, will be presented at a special evening event at The Woodlands Centre on Friday 13 June.

The teams entering the Short Mat Bowls Tournament have all paid their entrance fees, and Peter Scott is busy making sure everything is arranged for the day. The questions for the Twinning Association's Quiz Night on the evening of Sunday 8 June are being prepared (not too difficult, we hope!!), and every team will have a good chance of being this year's champions.

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul will be expecting a large congregation for the special Songs of Praise Service on Sunday 8 June at 6.30 pm. So, if you are planning to attend, make sure you are there in good time. Reverend Zachary Allen will, most certainly, have a good address prepared for the day.

The French Street Market will be held in the Village on Sunday 15 June from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on the service road between Barclays Bank and Johnsons Dry Cleaners. Please come along and support the Market - if this is a success, then it is hoped that more Markets will follow!

The free Festival Programme is almost complete and ready to go to print.

The Club is saddened to report that Mrs Alma Leonard, who has for many years organised the selection of the Rustington

Princesses, and their inclusion in the Parade, has had a bad fall and is currently recovering at home after a spell in Zachary Merton Community Hospital.

For any further information regarding the Festival, please ring Austen Beard 01903 782366 or Don Rogers 01903 772691.

Don't forget - Red Letter Day is Saturday 7 June

Rustington Youth Centre



The Youth Centre is stepping up its drive to become a key attraction for young people and, in particular, those aged between 13 and 17.

The Senior Club members have:-

- Lined up a packed programme of Summer activities, including Music and Art Workshops, plus trips to Paint Balling, Ice Skating, Swimming, Playzone and Knockhatch Adventure Park
- Successfully bid for Youth Opportunity Funding to buy new DJ Decks and Equipment, a Karaoke Machine and a Nintendo Wii Computer Games Console.

This is in addition to the Centre's range of existing attractions, which include:-

- Two Pool Tables
- Table Tennis
- TV Room
- Two Computers
- Tuck Shop
- Dance Mats
- Advice and Information Point
- Outdoor Multi Sports Area.

Young people are also being offered the opportunity to take part in a range of volunteer schemes, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The Senior Club is open during term time between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm Mondays and Thursdays. Entry costs £1.

All the Clubs at the Centre are run by qualified and experienced workers, with control of entry, and parents and carers are welcome to visit, have a look round, and meet the Youth Workers.

The aim of the Centre, as a whole, is to offer young people a safe environment – one where they can enjoy a wide range of activities or simply meet up and chill out with their friends.

The Centre is open for other youth/children's activities as follows:-

Tuesday	5.30 pm – 7.30 pm – Youth Club for Young People with Learning Difficulties
Wednesday	7.00 pm – 9.00 pm – Under 12s Amateur Wrestling Club
Friday	5.15 pm – 7.15 pm – Under 8s Club 7.15 pm – 9.15 pm – Under 13s Club

If you would like more information in respect of facilities available for private hire, please contact the Council's Offices.

Rustington-In-Bloom

As this Newsletter goes to Press, the unannounced Britain in Bloom judging period has ended. Obviously, no-one knows on what day the judges actually visited the Village, but the In-Bloom Committee is confident that everyone involved did as much as possible to ensure that it was at its best at all times. The date of the main judging for the Britain in Bloom Competition has yet to be received, but it will be sometime between 4 and 15 August.

As far as the South and South East in Bloom Competition is concerned, the judging date has been set for Friday 11 July from 9.30 am to 12 noon, and the actual route will include the following roads:-

Ashwood Drive, Ash Lane, Broadmark Lane, Bushby Avenue, Chatsworth Drive, Cowdray Drive, Evelyn Avenue, Georgian Gardens, Glenville Road, Merton Avenue, Mill Lane, North Lane, Old Manor Road, Penfold Lane, Sea Avenue, Sea Lane, Seafield Road, Station Road, Sutton Avenue, The Street, Windsor Drive, Woodlands Avenue and Worthing Road.

The Campaign is progressing really well, and one cannot fail to notice the major landscaping enhancement that has been carried out in Ash Lane, which is most innovative. There is also the new raised flower bed at the junction of The Street and Broadmark Lane, which has been presented to the Village by the Rustington Residents' Association, a most generous gesture. The increase in the number of sponsored areas is most encouraging, with seven new sponsored beds in The Street and a floral display on the roundabout at the junction of Worthing Road and Mill Lane. The sponsors now include Store Property Investments Limited, Owen Electrical, Ferring Nurseries, The Windmill Inn, Employment Law Services and Dolland and Aitchison.



Fund-raising is, as always, most important to ensure that the Committee is able to continue with its rolling programme to enhance the Village even further. Almost £1,000 was raised from the "Catwalk Connections" Fashion Show on 18 April.

The next fund-raising event will be the Grand Tombola Stall at the Rustington Carnival, Woodlands Recreation Ground, Woodlands Avenue, on the afternoon of Saturday 7 June. Once again, donations of any suitable prizes will be gratefully received at either the Council's Offices or the Village Information Centre.



The Committee would like to ask all members of the local community to participate in the Campaign in some small way, whether it be by ensuring that the streets are free from litter or by making that little extra effort in front gardens, any assistance will be most appreciated.

Gardens Competition



The judging of this annual event will take place during the week commencing 30 June and a copy of the Nomination Form is enclosed with this Newsletter. There are six categories with cash prizes, trophies (winner only) and shields awarded to the winner and runner-up in each category:-

1. Window Boxes, Balconies, Patio Tubs, etc. (Residential)*
(Winner £50, Runner-Up £25)
2. Window Boxes, Balconies, Patio Tubs, etc. (Commercial)*
(Winner £50, Runner-Up £25)
3. Front Gardens of any Size (Residential)*
(Winner £100, Runner-Up £25)
4. Front Gardens of any Size (Commercial)*
(Winner £50, Runner-Up £25)
5. Schools' Competition
(Winner £50, Runner-Up £25)
6. Community Garden
(Winner £50, Runner-Up £25)

*** Nominations must be visible from the road.**

The Awards will be presented at the Reception following the Council's Annual Civic Thanksgiving Service on 21 September.

Please nominate either yourselves, your friends' or neighbours' gardens, to ensure a record number of entries this year. The closing date for the receipt of Nomination Forms is **25 June.**

Tree Wardens



The Parish Council is seeking volunteers who would be interested in being appointed as Tree Wardens for the Parish of Rustington. The Tree Wardens would operate within the national network of locally-based volunteer tree enthusiasts and would be co-ordinated by the Parish Council. No particular qualifications are required, other than an interest in caring for the local environment coupled with the enthusiasm to learn more.

For further details, please contact the Parish Council's Offices.

The Village Memorial Hall 70th Anniversary

Sunday 12 October 2008

The Parish Council is marking this occasion with a special event on 12 October 2008. It will be inviting local parishioners who have a special memory or experience involving the Village Hall, for example, anyone that met their future partner at the Saturday Night Dances that used to be a regular feature at the Hall.

The Hall was the Headquarters of the local Home Guard during the Second World War and the Parish Council would be particularly interested in hearing from any persons, or relatives of persons who were involved during those critical years.



Many different Groups and Organisations have used the Village Hall over the 70 years since it was opened and again, the Parish Council would be very interested to hear from local people who have been involved, particularly in the early days.

If you are interested in attending the event and "Have a Tale to Tell", please contact the Council's Offices without delay.

70th

Parishioners' Awards

Two Parishioners' Awards can be made by the Council each year, one to an Individual and one to a Group/ Organisation - in recognition of outstanding Public Service to the Community. All Rustington parishioners or parish-based Organisations (including voluntary Groups and Professionals) are eligible to receive these Awards.

Individuals, Groups and Organisations from outside of the Parish, who make an outstanding contribution for the benefit of the community of Rustington, may also be considered for these Awards.

Details of this year's Winners will appear in the next Newsletter and the Presentations will be made at the Reception following the Council's Annual Civic Thanksgiving Service on 21 September.

Rustington Community Partnership

Following twelve months of hard work by volunteers, the Community Action Plan was publicly launched on 16 February at The Woodlands Centre.

The process involved collecting facts and figures from various websites and censuses; obtaining grass roots information from residents via questionnaires; visiting schools; talking to the public at the Carnival Fete and, on the environmental bus; as well as being present at the Open Day for the Museum Project.

The launch was well attended by Parish Councillors together with Councillors from Arun District Council and a considerable number of residents, many of whom expressed an interest in what had already been achieved and were keen to help with the next phase of the plan i.e. forming the Community Partnership.

At the Inaugural Meeting of the Partnership, Officers were elected and a Management Committee was formed, and the first constructive ideas for the work ahead were

discussed. Subsequent Meetings of the Management Committee have prioritised various items from the Action Plan which, it is felt, can be achieved in the early stages of the Partnership whilst funding is very limited. The Partnership is actively seeking volunteers to take forward some of the first stage projects, such as discouraging plastic bag usage, street seating, glass recycling, walking routes, a quiet garden, a Village jobs information board and parking issues, amongst others.

The Partnership has a small, but important, set up grant from the Parish Council which will enable a Bank account to be opened. A Constitution and a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted and will be agreed with the Parish Council prior to the Partnership launching itself into the first items of concern from the residents. It can then apply for grants from various authorities to help achieve the most expensive, but also the most needed item on the agenda, the Village Design Statement.

When residents were asked what was their biggest concern about the future of the Village, most said that further house building development in inappropriate areas was their major worry and needed to be strictly controlled. To this effect the Community Partnership needs to produce, with the help of a professional architect, a Village Design Statement. This document will be expensive but once completed, and accepted by Arun District Council as part of its planning criteria, it will be a major factor when the planning authority considers future development and should ensure that what is allowed will be sympathetic to the existing Village environment.

If you have an interest in the Village and wish to offer something to the Partnership, they will be delighted to discuss your involvement. Please contact the Partnership via email at communitypartnership@rustingtonpc.org Members of the Management Committee will also be at the Rustington Carnival Fete on Saturday 7 June.

Annual Report from the Chairman of the Council

- Councillor Mike Warrington

It seems hardly possible that it is nearly a year since my fellow Councillors elected me as Chairman of this Council, and it gives me a great sense of pride and pleasure to be able to address you all at this time. I am extremely proud of the achievements that the Council continues to deliver. Therefore, before I give you the details of last year's activities, I would like to take a few moments to thank the people who have helped with many of those achievements.

Firstly, to Sue Lines, my Deputy, who is always there to listen, support and to give advice from time to time. To my Councillors, who work tirelessly and voluntarily, attending many Meetings over the year and often having to make challenging decisions. A big thank you to you all.

Secondly, to all the Council staff, who again work many hours, often over and above their contracted hours. Their commitment is truly commendable. As you know Carole Ward, our Clerk of the Council, heads up the Team. Her expertise and knowledge of her job role is truly astounding. They say behind every successful man there is an equally successful woman - not to be sexist - and Carole is certainly mine and the Council's. Carole is ably supported by Elaine, Ellie, Caroline and Lucy, with backup at the Information Centre by the three staff members there namely, Angie, Emma and Jules. David and Steven our Ground Staff, our Caretakers Bill, who has slotted into his job role well at the Youth Centre, and Pat at The Woodlands Centre, also do invaluable work.

I would also like to thank the District Councillors who regularly attend the Full Council Meetings, updating us on all matters concerning our community.

Special thanks must go to Peter Moor our County Council representative, who has attended more Meetings than I care to remember!!! Peter, you are a great ambassador. There are not many Meetings you have been unable to attend and you have meticulously kept us up to date with all matters from County Hall that concern Rustington.

To you all THANK YOU.

I would now like to put some 'meat on the bones' and report to you in more detail on what has gone on in Rustington during the past 12 months.

The major project, as most of you will be aware, is the Museum Project, which is at Church Farm Cottage in The Street. Councillor Graham Tyler is continuing to oversee this Project having originally 'championed' the idea. I am happy to report that Phase 1 is nearing completion and on course to be completed by May of this year. The workmanship is superb and once finished the Cottage will be a joy to behold. Once the workmen are off site, work will then continue to fit out the interior, and it is intended to have this work completed, with a new Curator in place, to open the Museum to the public in September.

Work is continuing to look at ways of funding Phases 2 & 3, - the garden, café and craft building. We are looking to have funding in place during the next few months.

I am sure you will join with me in congratulating the whole team involved with the enormous success of the Project so far.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

This has been, at times, a difficult and challenging year for this Committee. Under the Chairmanship of Councillor Graham Tyler, the Committee has been, perhaps, one of the most active during the year. Apart from overseeing the running of the day to day finances of the Council, this year has seen the financing of the Museum Project Phase 1. I congratulate Graham and his Committee for doing such a fine job in increasingly difficult times. Everyone is mindful that this year may well prove to be THE most difficult financially for some time, and to produce a Precept that not only provides for all the essential items of expenditure during the coming year, but one that provides for the running costs of the Museum and the long overdue enhancement of the Public Toilets in The Street by the Parish Church is a terrific achievement. And all for an increase of only £1.39 per month on a Band D property representing excellent value for money.

Lighting & Amenities Committee

This Committee continues to go from strength to strength under the Chairmanship of Councillor Tim Field.

The Committee is responsible for so many things around the Village including Public Toilets, Public Seats, Beach and Bus Shelters, Noticeboards, Street Maps, some of the Street Lighting, the Floral Displays - including the Lamp Post Hanging Baskets, and the Trees in the Village Centre. With an ever increasing population and also with visitor numbers up, it is commendable that as a Council we are not only able to maintain but enhance our Public Toilets - which seems to buck the trend.

The Floral Displays are the envy of many far and wide and as a result of our successes last year in South and South East in Bloom, we have been invited to take part in Britain in Bloom this year. One can already see the preparations being made for this year's floral displays with thanks going to Fred Spanton and his In Bloom Committee for the efforts being made to make this year the best yet. Major changes are currently taking place to the Ash Lane permanent landscaping displays and these should look superb when complete. Thanks to the Residents' Association for their kind donation of the new raised floral bed in the Village, and to Owen Electrical for the floral displays at Woodlands Avenue/The Street junction. The Residents of Church Farm Gardens are also creating a new garden display - so one can see that this year, as always, is truly a Community Project.

Our floral Contractors, Ferring Nurseries, do a fantastic job and the dedication and loyalty of Michael is amazing. Thank You.

It is not all about competitions. As a community we take great pride in how the Village looks. The Village always looks great, no matter what time of year or season we are in. The competitions are a bonus and we wish for great achievements this year, which will be the result of many in the community all doing their bit.

The Lighting & Amenities Committee is also responsible for the Christmas Festive Lights in the Village, in partnership with the Chamber of Trade and Store Property Investments Limited, the major freeholder of the shops in the Village. The lights last Christmas were further enhanced creating a wonderful Festive scene in the Village centre. What a shame the weather did not play ball on the Christmas Shopping Saturday.

It is hoped that this year there will be further enhancements creating and even better Wow Factor.

Leisure & Recreation Committee

Again Chaired by Councillor Graham Tyler this Committee is responsible for invaluable work concerning the Youth Centre, The Woodlands Centre and the Woodland Park Sportsfield.

The Youth Club continues to thrive and has good membership numbers for all the groups. This is an invaluable asset to the community, particularly in these times when one often hears of difficulties with the youth in the community. Thanks must go to our Youth Worker and all those who currently do so much good work with young people.

The Woodlands Centre, as ever, is a most popular venue for so many groups and activities within our area and bookings continue to rise creating a valuable income source.

The Woodland Park Sportsfield, adjacent to The Angmering School, is again a most valuable site for the youth in our area to enjoy football. Currently, Rustington Otters and Rustington Park Youth use the football pitches regularly over the year and in excess of 700 young people are able to benefit from the facilities there. The Committee is looking at ways of helping the various clubs who use the site to raise funds to upgrade the Changing Rooms and Shower amenities as the current Pavilion is rapidly approaching the end of its shelf life!! Again, Graham, my thanks to you and the Committee for your continued good work.

Planning Committee

The Committee continues to be Chaired by Councillor Bob Grevett, and he and his Committee have an increasingly difficult task coping with the ever increasing numbers of Planning Applications to consider. Particularly with regard to the number of redevelopments of demolished homes and backland development, something that this Committee has always objected to. Our Village is continually under threat from increasing numbers of homes and from Developers waving large cheques under the noses of home owners. A difficult one to deal with I will concede, but one that this Committee deals with in a most professional way. Thank you for your continued efforts in helping to protect our environment.

Allotments Committee

Chaired by Councillor Mrs Sue Lines, this Committee performs sterling work in helping to provide excellent Allotment facilities for those in the community at the three sites within the

Village. At times this has been difficult in the face of a certain level of vandalism particularly at the Penfold Lane Site where considerable damage was done to many allotment tenants' property recently. I am, however, pleased to report that the culprits were apprehended and are being dealt with by the Courts. The Allotment tenants take great pride in their achievements, gaining much pleasure from their time spent tending their crops. This is not just a pastime for the elderly and retired, as there are increasing numbers of younger people who are enjoying the allotments and, at times, we have a waiting list. The Sites are regularly inspected by the Committee, and it is a pleasure to see such a high standard being maintained.

The Council is represented on many outside bodies helping to advise and make significant contributions where appropriate.

These include the Citizens Advice Bureau, Youth Centre Management Committee, the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, The Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Rustington Sports and Social Club and The Sussex Associations of Local Councils.

The Council also supports the Rustington and District Twinning Association and we are again welcoming our German friends from Kunzell in May.

The Council is also investigating ways in which our 'business' can be run more environmentally friendly and we will be working with the Arun District Council to discuss and progress this.

You will all have been delighted at the 'go ahead' for the new Community Hospital on the old Littlehampton Hospital site. Many have fought long and hard, including Parish Councillors here, and it is very satisfying that everyone's efforts have paid off. This facility will benefit all in the community. However, this still leaves doubts as to the future of Zachary Merton. We anxiously await the outcomes of future meetings of the PCT to see what is going to happen.

Finally, I am happy to report that the Community Action Plan has been launched. A Partnership has been formed and it is hoped that over a period of time many good ideas and projects will evolve which will benefit the whole of the community. This Council continues to support this project, although has now taken a 'back seat' in being directly involved because, as the name implies, it is a Community Project. I look forward to hearing of some good ideas over the next few months and years and encourage those who are able to take an active part in making this project a success.

Well, that concludes my Report and all that remains is for me to say how proud I am of all that not only this Council achieves, but many folk in this wonderful community of ours, and I am sure that this will continue for many years to come. I thank you most sincerely, my Council, and all those who help to make Rustington the great place that it is today.

Annual Report from the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee - Councillor Graham Tyler

I feel very privileged indeed, as I near the end of my year of Office, as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to be able to provide you with my Annual Report on the Council's financial position and how your money has been spent maintaining and improving services for which your Parish Council is responsible.

During the past financial year, the major items of expenditure have included:-

- the purchase of new chairs for the Village Memorial Hall, together with an external storage facility to accommodate the chairs
- a new set of stage steps in the Village Memorial Hall
- the redecoration of the Kilhams Hall in the Youth Centre, the John de Bohun Room and Rear Foyer at The Woodlands Centre
- new furniture for the Council Offices Reception Area
- the purchase of the land at the Southern Water Pumping Station in Broadmark Lane on which the mobile public toilet unit is sited
- the purchase of a replacement bus shelter in Sea Lane
- a further contribution of £5,000 towards the Christmas Lighting Scheme
- the installation of new heavy duty fencing along the southern boundary and a major section of the northern boundary of the Conbar Avenue Allotment Site
- the costs incurred as a result of personnel restructuring and additions
- security costs
- the Village Information Centre running costs
- the Community Action Plan consultation and production process
- loan servicing costs
- maintenance costs for Church Farm Cottage, prior to the commencement of the renovation works in November 2007

And, I am delighted to be able to tell you that everything has been borne within the confines of the 2007/2008 Budget set by the Council!

I turn now to this financial year, which commenced on 1 April 2008. The Council set its 2008/2009 precept at £560,000 which, in effect, means a £88.02 annual charge on a Band D property. This represents an increase of £1.39 per month on the previous year's charge for a Band D property, but it is felt that this can be justified by the Council's plans for the forthcoming year, which include the following, on a Committee by Committee basis.

Allotments Committee

Expenditure of £9,000 has been allocated for the installation of heavy duty fencing and gates for the eastern boundary and entrance to the Penfold Lane Allotment Site. As you may be aware, this particular site has been the victim of extreme vandalism over the past couple of years, and it is felt that the time is right for some major enhanced security measures to be introduced.

Leisure and Recreation Committee

Externally, the major areas of expenditure for this Committee continue to be the maintenance of, and improvements to, both the Woodlands

Centre Grounds and the Woodland Park Sportsfield, with extensive electrical works planned for the Pavilion at the Sportsfield, in the interests of health and safety. The Committee also meets the net expenditure costs of the Youth Centre which, it is estimated, will amount to some £17,300, although the income is increasing year on year, which is most encouraging. Another specific item of expenditure for this year is the remaining 50% of the cost for the new ride-on mower which was purchased on an interest free basis last year.

Internally, the major item of expenditure continues to be the general day to day maintenance costs incurred at The Woodlands Centre. Provision has also been made this year for the purchase of new chairs in the John de Bohun Room, the replacement of a defective heating boiler, together with some specific redecoration work throughout the Centre during the year.

Lighting and Amenities Committee

This year's major items of expenditure will include a further replacement bus shelter in North Lane; the maintenance of the amenity areas throughout the Village by Ferring Nurseries; the maintenance and cleansing of the Public Toilets; the Christmas Lighting Scheme contribution and; last but definitely not least; the complete refurbishment of the Public Toilets in The Street; together with other improvements, if affordable, to those at The Woodlands Centre. It is estimated that this particular Project will cost in the region of £35,000.

Finally, as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, I would now like to report on its spending plans for the forthcoming year.

The major items of expenditure will include the annual insurance premium, which is likely to exceed £20,000 this year; all of the administrative and related costs; grant aid for local organisations; the production and circulation costs of the quarterly newsletters; the Council's annual community events; the running costs of the Village Information Centre; the proposed re-design costs of the website; the set fee loan servicing costs and the security costs covering all of the Council's properties and land.

True to form, I've kept a special 'gem' for my grand finale!! And, this relates to not only the estimated running and administrative costs of the new Museum at Church Farm Cottage, but also Phases 2 and 3 of the project.

The position of Curator has been advertised, and it is hoped that the successful applicant will be appointed in May 2008. Existing members of the Council's personnel will be taking on the reception and cleaning responsibilities, which will obviously mean less expenditure for the Council in this regard. Other general operational costs will be met from within the provision of £35,000 made in the Committee's Budget.

continued overleaf...

...continued from previous page.

As many of you will be aware, this Project is very close to my heart, and I really would like to be able to see it through all three phases to a successful conclusion.

Once complete, this Project will provide the local community and, of course, visitors to the Village, with a fantastic community facility consisting of the Museum, a Craft Workshop, Café and Community Garden.

So far, the renovation of the Cottage has been funded from a very generous donation of £100,000 from Store Property Investments Limited, the major freeholder of the retail outlets and office accommodation in the Village, with the remaining £150,000 coming from the Council's own Reserves.

In order to move forward with Phases 2 and 3, a further £300,000 will be required, and the Council is actively looking into ways in which this funding can be obtained.

I am sure you will agree from the information I have given you tonight, that whilst the Precept percentage increase seems extremely high, the actual cash increase is relatively low, and can easily be accounted for. I believe that Rustington still remains a good 'value for money' Council, which operates to ensure that the Village continues to be a most pleasant and attractive place to live.

In concluding my Report, I must thank all of my fellow Councillors and, in particular, the Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, for their unceasing support and commitment.

As has been the case in the past, the Council will continue to be faced with challenging decisions, which it will always respond to for the benefit of the local community, whilst striving to enhance the Village and its facilities even further for the foreseeable future.

I would also like to thank all Members of the Council's Personnel, who definitely provide the moral fibre of the Council. In particular, I would like to thank Ellie and Caroline who have carried out their duties in respect of the Council's Accounting System in a most professional and effective manner.

We need your help

Please help us to maintain the Parish at its high standard.

We rely on members of the public to be vigilant and to help us by reporting any problems, so that we can take action before damage becomes extensive.

ESTIMATED NET EXPENDITURE Years Ending 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009

		2007/2008 Revised Estimate as at 1 Jan 2008	2008/2009 Estimate
Leisure & Recreation Committee	Expenditure	87,700.00	99,050.00
	Income	13,350.00	13,300.00
		<u>74,350.00</u>	<u>85,750.00</u>
External Facilities	Expenditure	48,503.00	56,250.00
	Income	45,220.00	45,320.00
		<u>3,283.00</u>	<u>10,930.00</u>
Internal Facilities	Expenditure	100,621.00	131,200.00
	Income	14,310.00	13,200.00
		<u>86,311.00</u>	<u>118,000.00</u>
Lighting & Amenities Committee	Expenditure	311,062.00	351,521.00
	Income	10,000.00	5,500.00
		<u>301,062.00</u>	<u>346,021.00</u>
Finance and General Purposes Committee	Expenditure	15.00	15.00
	Income	-----	-----
		<u>15.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>
Emergency Planning Committee	Expenditure	7,740.00	11,780.00
	Income	3,540.00	3,500.00
		<u>4,200.00</u>	<u>8,280.00</u>
Allotments Committee	Expenditure	7,740.00	11,780.00
	Income	3,540.00	3,500.00
		<u>4,200.00</u>	<u>8,280.00</u>
Totals		<u>469,221.00</u>	<u>568,996.00</u>

Request Corner...

From time to time requests are received from other Local Authorities for information for the local community to be included in our Newsletters. The following has recently been received from the West Sussex County Council:-

Making the most of Waste

In the 1990s, West Sussex residents just threw everything into their dustbins. Now, to protect the environment and to save money, we're increasingly turning rubbish into resource.

We recycle so much more and throw less away. Recycling clean and dry materials is the most environmentally friendly and economic way to reduce waste as the recyclables can be reprocessed and turned into raw materials or new products. Garden waste is also being collected to be turned into organic soil conditioner.

But there will still be black bag rubbish which we can't recycle in some way which currently goes to landfill, a method of disposal which through tax and penalty fines is becoming too expensive to continue. And as the UK National Waste Strategy 2007 clearly states, landfill is the least sustainable way of dealing with rubbish. So the County Council, with support from the District and Borough Councils, is

setting up a long-term contract to deal with this rubbish which will be awarded in Spring 2009.

The technology choice for the waste treatment plant will be the best and most suitable for the County and should be known later this year. It is expected that this will produce gas or electricity as well as achieving extra recycling by recovering additional recyclables from the rubbish as well as turning some biodegradable waste (the waste that easily rots) into a compost-like material for land reclamation projects.

Working together, West Sussex local authorities will reduce landfill by being leaders in waste prevention and recycling, and by making the most of what we throw away.

For more information on the Materials Resource Management Contract, please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk or email wastes.management@westsussex.gov.uk