



Seaford Town Council

Summer 2017 Newsletter



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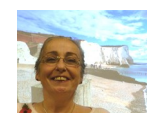
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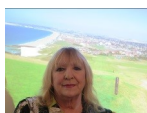
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Front cover photo of old Bönningstedt Parade courtesy of Seaford Museum.

Summer 2017 Edition

Welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of the Town Council's newsletter!

2017 has proved a busy year for the Council so far with one of the biggest projects being the adoption and first stages of implementing the Seafront Development Plan (see page 6). The former Young Mayor raised funds to install six life-saving defibrillators in the town (page 4) and the 2017/2018 Young Mayor is full steam ahead fundraising for his aim to put a wheelchair accessible swing in The Salts play area (page 10).

As the prime events season draws to a close the Council's Events team are busier than ever with planning for the 2017 Seaford Christmas Magic event, which is due to take place on Saturday 2nd December; keep an eye out for updates as the preparations get underway...procession, reindeers, Prosecco, gingerbread decorating, live music...the event will have a little something for all the family!

It may be the Summer newsletter but The View is busy taking bookings for the Christmas season. The menu is simply mouth-watering; see page 11 for a glimpse! There has been a lot of interest already so be sure to contact The View directly with any enquiries.

Any questions arising from the newsletter or feedback can be sent by email to admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or you can contact the Council Offices by phone on 01323 894 870.



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BULLETIN BOARD

Funds Raised for Six Life-Saving Defibrillators!

During her term in office, the 2016/2017 Young Mayor of Seaford, Jessica Batchelor, decided to raise money to introduce two public access defibrillators to Seaford town.

Jessica visited many local organisations, giving talks at their events about the defibrillator project, and in turn received many kind and generous donations. A donation from a resident of Seaford and the NPS Lions Club (pictured below) was received for sponsorship of two defibrillator units. A non-school uniform day was also held at the local secondary school, with all contributions donated to the project; as were the proceeds from a tombola stall at 2016's Seaford Christmas Magic event.

After the success of the fundraising activities by Jessica and then Deputy Young Mayor, Thomas Exley, the two defibrillators originally wished for were purchased and the British Heart Foundation gave a grant for a further four defibrillators; resulting in a grand total of six defibrillator units for the town!

These are public access defibrillator units, which means anyone can use a unit as it guides you through what to do therefore providing vital, potentially life-saving equipment at six locations within the town: Martello Tower toilets; The View at Seaford Head Golf Course; Seaford & Blatchington Tennis Club; Mercread Centre; St Leonard's Church and St Luke's Church.



The Council congratulates Jessica on her tremendous achievement with the Defibrillator Project, thanking all those who donated and helped support the project, and will be closely following the progress of the draft Defibrillator Bill, which Jessica helped instigate, as it is considered by Parliament.

For an update on this year's Young Mayor's project, the provision of a wheelchair accessible swing in The Salts, please see page 10.

Streetwise Visitors!

Thanks to the involvement of many

local businesses, Seaford Town Council has been able to work with a local publisher to produce an informative Town Map free of charge. As well as a street map of the complete town, a larger size map of the centre highlights important buildings and locations.

The map is available to view on the Council's website at www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk/town-guide.aspx or hard copies are available from the Tourist Information Centre at Church Street.

Tourism Signage Scheme

Seaford Town Council has been

working hard to progress the Tourism Signage Scheme project and, after final approval from East Sussex County Council of the scheme, is pleased to see that new signs are being installed across the town.

These are tourism signs (on a brown background) with the aim to help visitors to navigate their way around the town; even simple journeys like finding the town centre from the seafront weren't clearly marked but will be now!

BULLETIN BOARD

Welcome Councillor Elton!

Further to a casual vacancy arising, a by-election was held in July 2017 to fill the remaining seat in Seaford East ward; at this election Councillor James Elton was successfully elected to become the 20th Town Councillor in Seaford.

Councillor Elton is a local businessman, living in Seaford and running his own gardening company. He is particularly passionate about the beach and Cuckmere but is keen to get involved with the Council and make a positive difference where he can. Welcome on board Councillor Elton!



Seafront Stalls

In July 2017, the Council agreed to offer concession licences to local traders to have stalls on the seafront by Frankie's Beach Café on a temporary basis until July 2018.

So far there are stalls selling jewellery, adult & children's tie dye clothing, greetings cards and even temporary tattoos!

The trading is very much weather dependent (we all know the seafront weather can be a little unforgiving at times!) but please do go down and help support these local traders when you can.

The decision to offer licenses on the seafront came on the back of cancelling the bi-weekly street markets. While it was evident that the markets were increasing footfall to the town centre on market days, local traders and residents were experiencing a less than positive impact as a result, which goes directly against the Council's aim to try and promote and strengthen economic growth.

Land Sales

In 2016 the Council ran a public consultation with regards to selling off surplus land to raise capital funds to reinvest in the town through the delivery of the Council's Strategic Objectives.

The first sale of land was completed in August 2017, with a site on the corner of The Holt being sold with planning permission, raising £169,064. These funds are vital to carry out the design and rebuild of the Martello Toilets facility, which is covered in further detail on page 6.

The next site being progressed for planning permission and sale is the plot of land between Firle Road and North Way. The design for the site is being done to ensure the footpath across the site remains accessible.

All funds from land sales are capital receipts which can legally only be used to fund and implement further capital projects within the town for the benefit of the town, its residents and visitors.

Nature Reserve Future

The Town Council was thrilled to sign the lease for Sussex Wildlife Trust to take on the management of the Seaford Head Nature Reserve for 25 years, having managed the site since 2013 in line with the Management Plan 2013-2017 (the next Management Plan will be devised by the Trust in due course). The Trust is incredibly passionate about all Reserves under its care and the wildlife and habitats within; this is fantastic news for Seaford's Reserve! See details at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit/seaford-head

(front cover photo: Seaford Town Mayor, Councillor Linda Wallraven [forefront right] and Sussex Wildlife Trust Chairman, Carole Nicholson, shake on the new lease watched by Sussex Wildlife Trust Ranger, Sarah Quantrill [left of centre], and some of the local volunteers)

Seafront Improvements

In March 2017, after a period of public consultation, the Council adopted the Seafront Development Plan, including a variety of improvements and additions to the seafront such as additional beach huts, new concessions, additional sandpits, new toilet facilities, beach volleyball and football sand areas, to name a few.

In addition to the exciting improvements and developments, the essence of the Plan was to maintain and secure the non-commercialised, tranquil appeal and beauty of Seaford bay whilst ensuring users of the beach do not feel a lack of services.

Beach Huts

Visitors to the beach should by now have seen the first phase of new beach huts that have been installed on Bönningstedt Parade at the western end of the seafront. In line with the Development Plan, the first 20 have been installed, with a further 40 huts to come over the next two years, as well as the planned new Bönningstedt concession and toilet facility.



The huts are currently being sold through Fox & Sons (view them online at www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-48907458.html). Later phases of huts will include some for rent, including much-desired short-term rentals, and five accessible huts to give access to all. Already they are proving a remarkable addition to Seaford's promenade!

Martello Toilets

The toilet block by the Martello Tower is due to be demolished and rebuilt, providing the area with a modern and fresh facility. The new building will include a large concession area with inside seating, sheltered outside seating, individual toilet cubicles, a baby change unit and a separate high specification Changing Places unit.

The works are planned to begin in early 2018, with a view to the new facility being up and running by spring 2018. Portable toilets will be in place for the duration of the works being carried out.

The Shoal

Seaford's Community Bench, The Shoal, has taken the town by storm! The Council was inundated with sponsorship for the first section of The Shoal (unveiled in May 2017) and the second section (October 2017) was quickly filled up with personalised plaques. Applications are now being taken for the third and final section which is to be installed in April 2018.



The Shoal, originally a Seaford Community Partnership project and subsequently the brainchild of inspirational gardener Gabby Tofts and local sculptor Christian Funnell, has inspired so many dedications and heart-warming messages; it has really brought together a community and will be there for every generation to enjoy for years to come.



Seaford Head - Cliff Safety

Seaford Head experienced three major cliff falls during June 2017; thankfully no-one was injured in the falls but the town and visitors to the Head must remain diligent.

You should NOT GO WITHIN 5 METRES OF THE EDGE and KEEP DOGS ON LEADS at all times when walking in the Seaford Head area.

All local authorities met soon after the falls to discuss the cliff safety and continue to monitor the area closely.

Seaford is blessed to have such a visually stunning backdrop, visible from so many parts of town, but we must all be sure to respect the dangers of the cliff and exercise caution at all times.

Remember - TAKE CARE - DO NOT GO ANYWHERE NEAR THE EDGE - PASS ON THIS WARNING TO ANYONE WHO MAY BE PUTTING THEMSELVES AT RISK.



DANGER

HIGH RISK AREA for CLIFF COLLAPSE AT ANY TIME

DO NOT go within 5 METRES of the cliff edge

AT ANY TIME

ALWAYS keeps dogs on a lead in this area



SAS Autumn Beach Clean

Each year coastline communities brace themselves against the winter conditions that create a 'Perfect Storm' of plastic pollution on our beaches.

Claire Powell has joined Surfers Against Sewage and their partners; The Crown Estate, Greggs, Parley for The Oceans and Ecover, to become a Beach Clean Leader to inspire and empower the community to take action to help create Plastic Free Coastlines.

Claire Powell, SAS Beach Clean Leader, says *"I want to encourage local people to think more about the plastic waste they produce and the effect of plastic on the sea. Along with over 300 other Beach Clean Leaders, I have joined Surfers Against Sewage and their partners to unite, inspire and empower my community to take action to help create Plastic Free Coastlines."*

The SAS Autumn Beach clean will take place during the last week of October, between 10am-12noon, as below:

Monday 23rd October meeting at the Martello Tower 74 (BN25 1JJ)

Saturday 28th October meeting at Seaford Sailing Club (BN25 2QR)

Sunday 29th October meeting at the Martello Tower 74 (BN25 1JJ)



Please wear comfy clothing; bin bags (non-plastic) and equipment will be provided. Frankie's Beach Café have kindly offered to provide everyone that takes part with a free hot drink! Claire will also read 'Duffy the Sea Turtle' at the end of the beach clean as a thank you to any younger volunteers for their efforts!

For more information on the SAS Autumn Beach Clean please follow the link to their website www.sas.org.uk/our-work/beach-cleans/autumn-beach-clean-series/

Neighbourhood Plan

Seaford has been set a target by Government of finding 565 new homes by 2030 (with 185 still to be found). A Neighbourhood Plan enables a community to decide where new development goes, what areas should be designated as open green spaces and what new infrastructure is needed. In addition to this, the Council also receives more monies through the Community Infrastructure Levy to invest back in the community.

The creation of Seaford's Neighbourhood Plan is being lead by a voluntary Steering Group, comprising of local residents and some Town Councillors. Above all, the plan must be based on evidence not opinion and will not be accepted by Lewes District Council (the local Planning Authority) until it is supported by a majority vote in a public referendum.

In July 2017 the Steering Group held an open event for members of the public to come along and learn more about the plan, its progress so far, the next steps and make comment and ask questions on proposed ideas. The Neighbourhood Plan's website www.seafordnp.uk has a wealth of information, including all the documentation that was available on the open day.

At its meeting on 19th October, the Council will be presented with the first draft of the Seaford Neighbourhood Plan for commenting on. Further to this, the draft Plan will be put out for public consultation; there will then be a further opportunity for public comment prior to a referendum later on in 2018.

Seaford is greatly indebted to the many volunteers who have helped get the Plan to this stage.

Planning Updates

In September, Lewes District Council's Planning Committee met in Seaford to debate the revised planning application for 183 dwellings and associated developments on the **FORMER NEWLANDS SCHOOL SITE** on Eastbourne Road; the District Council granted outline consent at this meeting.

Sport England has lodged a formal objection to the granting of outline consent based on the loss of sports facilities. In light of this, the Secretary of State will legally have to consider the application prior to consent being issued by the District Council and decide whether the application should be 'called in' for determination by the Secretary.

Seaford Town Council has written to the Secretary of State supporting Sport England's objection, furthermore raising concerns about the potential impact on local health services and the DCLG Policy Guidance 'Health and Well Being in Planning (2014) being ignored in the District Council officer's report to the Committee and the debate on the application itself at the Committee meeting. Further updates will be released as and when known.

The Town Council is keeping its eye on a proposed **MAJOR DEVELOPMENT** at **NEWHAVEN HARBOUR** which will be clearly visible from Seaford seafront and Tide Mills. The Town Council has submitted a request to East Sussex County Council to be a formal consultee on the application. Again, further details will be shared once known.

The application for change of use of the **AVONDALE HOTEL** to a House of Multiple Occupation was objected to by the Town Council; a decision that was echoed by the District Council in light of the loss of visitor and tourist accommodation, directly against the Lewes District Local Plan.

2017 Grants Scheme

Seaford Town Council offers financial grants to local organisations to recognise and support the valuable contribution made by these organisations and voluntary groups to the well-being of our town and community. In the 2017/18 scheme the Council were thrilled to be able to support the local community with grants totalling in excess of £22,000.

The grants spanned a variety of purposes from contributing towards events such as Motorfest and Seaford Bonfire Night, to family counselling and advice services, essential transport services, sporting equipment and coaching, life-saving equipment and supporting much-valued and well-used local clubs and community groups.



Photo: Mayor of Seaford, Councillor Linda Wallraven (three from left), and Chair of Finance & General Purposes, Councillor Mark Brown (front central), with the recipients of the large grants: Seaford Bonfire Society, Lewes District Citizen's Advice Bureau, Seaford Lifeguards, Waves Seaford Ltd, Seaford Community Events Committee, Community Transport for the Lewes Area, Seaford Musical Theatre and Musical Theatre Juniors.

The Salts - Skate Park

The Council recently invited tenders for the design and build of a concrete skate park within The Salts Recreation Ground as the current skate park, with freestanding obstacles/ramps, is no longer fit for purpose.

Following a public consultation, the decision was taken to replace it with an impressive new concrete park funded with S106 monies from the Martello Place development, as well as other grants.

The new design will accommodate a wide range of users (skaters, scooters, inline and BMXers) and as many abilities as possible. It will encompass a circuit with good flow, some unique terrain and offer many of the expected features of a great skate park.

A public consultation is to be held for feedback to be given on the designs received; a questionnaire will be available on the day and available online. The Council is keen to get as many users of the park involved as possible, so is urging parents and families to encourage users they know to take part in the consultation.



On Saturday 14th October, between 10am and 2pm, Council officers will be in the Salts Café itself to raise awareness of the project and with the new designs to be reviewed and commented on.

Richard Lamprell, of Seaford Skatepark Association, is keen that as many people as possible submit their views *"This is an excellent opportunity for you to be involved in choosing not just who builds our skatepark, but exactly how it turns out, and what obstacles it includes, so make sure to come down and have your say!"*

Civic

The **MAYOR OF SEAFORD**, Councillor Linda Wallraven, officially celebrated her induction as Mayor at a **CIVIC SERVICE** held on Sunday 9th July at St Andrew's Church in Bishopstone Village.

The service was lead by Father Trevor and all those in attendance joined in with hymns, finished with 'Sussex by the Sea'; all appropriate as it was also 'Sea Sunday'. A retiring collection of £220 goes towards the Mayoral Charity of the Seaford Lifeguards. Councillor Wallraven thanked all those who attended and St Andrew's for hosting the event.

The Mayor has now set a date for her **CAROL SERVICE**; Friday 8th December 2017. Further details will be released nearer the time but the service will be open to all who wish to attend; there is no need to book. A retiring collection will again be made for the Mayoral Charity, Seaford Lifeguards.



Pictured above left to right: Father Trevor; Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mrs Amanda Hamblin; Mayor of Seaford, Councillor Linda Wallraven and Peter Gwilliam, Seaford Lifeguards, at the Civic Service.

The 2017/2018 **YOUNG MAYOR**, Thomas Exley, announced that in his year in office he would be raising funds to install a wheelchair accessible swing in the play area at The Salts.

Thomas' fundraising is thundering along, kick started with the huge success of the **SEAFORD SUMMER MAGIC** event, on the Martello Fields, which raised a staggering £2,000! The day was jam packed with live entertainment, a grand raffle, a dog show, a pop-up restaurant catered for by students from the local school (pictured below right), food and drink outlets, stalls and a fun fair. Photos of the event are available on the Young Mayor's Facebook profile. Thomas offers his sincerest thanks to everyone who attended, donated towards and helped support the event.

Thomas gave a massive thank you to Martin and Jane from the Blatchington Branch Garden Railway (pictured below left) who opened their 5 inch gauge garden railway for two days in September to raise money for the wheelchair accessible swing project, hauling in a whopping £485!

Next on Thomas' list for fundraising is the Cream Tea on the Bluebell Railway trip which sold out in days of being announced - Bon Voyage to all passengers!



Personnel

In the summer, an external consultant was appointed to carry out a review of the Council's staffing structure and job evaluations. The main purpose of this was to ensure that the Council offices and Greenkeeping team (not The View at this stage) are sufficiently staffed and structured to deliver on its planned projects and objectives over the coming years. As a result of the review, there are changes across the board; the new staff structure is available to view on the Council's website although a summary of key changes is included below.

At the golf course the Apprentice Greenkeeper, Nathan Sutliff, has been offered permanent employment as an Assistant Greenkeeper having proven a real asset to the course at Seaford Head.

The Council has appointed an experienced Responsible Financial Officer, Karen Singleton, who is on a part-time, self-employed two-year contract. Formerly Support Services Manager, Lucy Clark's role has been retitled as Finance Manager, allowing the role to focus more on the management of the Council's finances. After carrying out the role on a temporary basis since the start of the year, Simon Andrews has been employed in the role of Finance Assistant. Also joining the Council permanently is Sue Treadwell, who has been temporarily covering the Administration Assistant/Mayor's Secretary role since May.

The Projects & Facilities team has undergone a complete restructure, with all members of the team seeing changes to their roles. Emily Piper has taken on the new role of Projects & Facilities Manager, Sharan Brydon the role of Projects & Facilities Coordinator and Lyn Collins, the role of Projects & Facilities Assistant. Separate to the review but occurring at the same time, the Projects & Facilities Manager, Craig Williams, has handed in his notice so the Council is currently advertising to fill this role; the Council wishes Craig all the best going forwards and thanks him for his committed contribution.



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2017 REMEMBRANCE

Saturday 11 November - 11am, Armistice Day two minutes' silence
Seaford War Memorial, Sutton Road

Sunday 12 November - 10.30am, Remembrance Sunday Service
Seaford War Memorial, Sutton Road

Tuesday 14 November - 10.30am, West Indian & Canadian Service
Seaford Cemetery, Alfriston Road

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



SEAFORD CHRISTMAS MAGIC



SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2017

10am - 6pm

Seaford Town Centre



www.seafordxmasmagic.uk