



SOMPTING SIGNPOST



The official news magazine from Sompting Parish Council

www.sompting.org.uk

www.facebook.com/somptingparishcouncil1

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

Over 4000 copies delivered to homes and shops throughout Sompting

SUMMER 2020

SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL WILL ONCE AGAIN BE RUNNING OUR TWO ANNUAL COMPETITIONS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

Sompting in Bloom Competition - Sponsorship for this year's competition and all of the prizes have kindly and generously been donated by Sompting Estate.



Last year's competition once again proved very popular with local residents and it is hoped that even more people will be keen to get involved this year. You can enter your own, or nominate a friend or neighbour or even a display you have seen whilst out walking around the Parish. We will be looking for those that encourage biodiversity, those with colour, clever designs and much more. There are 4 categories this year :



Bird/Bee friendly Container gardening (for balconies/no garden)

Formal Garden Wildflower Garden

All of those who enter will be invited along to our awards ceremony in October !To enter, please print off and complete the form on our website and return it with photographs to the Clerk. If you are unable to access the form, then feel free to send in your nominations with a covering letter, the address of the property and photos to The Clerk at the Harriet Johnson Centre, 18 Loose Lane, Sompting BN15 0BG. Closing date for all nominations is midnight on 30th August 2020.

DOUG SHERRIFF AWARD



Ongoing throughout the summer - nominations can be for a group or person who has given an outstanding contribution to the Sompting community throughout the year - for details and nomination forms see website www.sompting.org.uk Closing date 30th August 2020

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear Sompting residents,

It has been heart warming to see everyone in Sompting going the extra mile during this crisis. Huge thanks to everyone for supporting each other during these difficult times. We've seen wonderful community volunteer groups setup, voluntary shoppers, checking in on our neighbours, support via council led activities and emergency food bank responses. Our local businesses have been excellent throughout, ensuring residents can access supplies they need. On behalf of Sompting, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to all those who have kept us safe throughout this crisis, including our NHS staff, keyworkers, care workers, shop workers, support staff, those working in essential businesses and our community volunteers and responders - you are all heroes and our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones. The Parish Council has remained open throughout with staff working from home when the lockdown was first announced but are now returning to work at the Harriet Johnson Centre even though, for the moment, we're not allowed to open to the public. Some of our Councillors have been doing voluntary work in our community and the Parish Council has been working closely with Lancing and Sompting Foodbank to provide help and support to the people of Sompting. We list important contact details for anyone needing help or wishing to volunteer on our website.

I wish everyone well. Let's all look forward to a much brighter, safer future.

In the meantime, stay safe and don't forget, you can drop off any donations for the Foodbank on Tuesday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am to the Harriet Johnson Centre.



Caroline Baxter

LANCING AND SOMPTING CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

The Lancing and Sompting Coronavirus Community Support Group was created on Facebook on 15th March 2020 - just over a week before the lockdown. As a result, the local community stepped forward and over 200 offered their time to volunteer to help others, including those who had been furloughed, enabling them to offer the extra time they now had to support the community. The group has around 1,200 members, most of

whom live in the Lancing and Sompting area and are able to offer help when needed or notify us if someone is in need of help.



Our volunteers delivered, where possible, as many leaflets as they could, before the lockdown, to let the community know that we were here to help. They also liaised with pharmacies and surgeries in order to help them and distributed posters around various shops and businesses.

We have a core pool of volunteers who act as co-ordinators for their hyper-local teams, who carry out various tasks such as collecting and delivering prescriptions, helping with shopping, a friendly check in and chat and various forms of advice where needed. They've even set up two jigsaw libraries to help those who have been self-isolating.

Two of our volunteers with access to motorbikes are able to cover the whole area and help to collect and deliver prescriptions and shopping etc., often several times a day. One has also been helping to get shopping for residents across a number of residential homes, whilst the other has also been delivering clinical samples for processing for the NHS and even helped one older isolating couple obtain medication for their ageing dog.



We have been supporting local businesses by recommending those who through telephone ordering, are able to supply the community with essentials, which our volunteers can then collect and deliver.

We have also been working alongside Adur and Worthing Councils through their volunteer scheme, and have had a substantial number of referrals from them for people needing ongoing help and support.

Many of us have never met, but through social media we have been able to create this wonderful support group and at present, great virtual friendships, which no doubt will become reality once all this ends.

Even though the lockdown is easing, we will continue to support the local community and when the pandemic comes to an end, we will still continue to do so. The pandemic may have created the group, but it won't end it - our wonderful community has shown a true spirit of coming together, and that will continue for years to come.

Some thoughts from our volunteers:



"Being part of this group has given me a great sense of achievement. The pleasure, support and relief we have given to people has been second to none."

"Being able to help the residents of our community has been incredibly rewarding, knowing we're making a difference, making sure everyone has been cared for and I've met some of the most amazing people."

"This has given me a massive boost to continue to do what I love to do, to help people and to make people happy. Without this support group, whilst being furloughed, I would not have known what to do with myself."

HALEWICK LANE

A public consultation concerning the demolition of the Waste Management Site at Halewick Lane had to be abandoned because of Covid19 restrictions. A meeting was held on 27th May 2020 using digital communication. We were delighted to welcome Tom Coates from WSCC, who explained that Planning Permission had now been granted for a battery storage plant and that the project would be going ahead very soon. This is likely to cause some disruption to residents, but the good news is that issues with road ownership and maintenance of gulleys and lagoons have been resolved. Sompting Parish Councillors had many questions for Mr Coates. Further questions from Councillors will be put in writing to WSCC and residents are invited to put their concerns in writing either to Mr Coates at WSCC or submit them via Carol Stephenson, our Parish Clerk, at Harriet Johnson Centre, Loose Lane, Sompting BN15 0BG.

COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN SOMPTING

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



MALTHOUSE MEADOW

Despite lockdown, some progress has been made at the meadow, courtesy of our Conservation Officer, Leighton Clay, with the introduction of Hope, Epic and Meadow, three hungry sheep who are making short work of the brambles and overgrown areas. The clearance of these areas will lend itself to autumn planting and plans are being considered on how future public sessions can be managed with social distancing in place. Apart from a few minor incidents, the sheep have taken well to living in a public space and the public are enjoying their presence with daily visitors to this beautiful place. Many thanks to our project's lead resident, Steve Willeter who has been keeping an eye on them and is always willing to help. Thanks also to Cllr Tony Nicklen, who has supported Leighton with moving the ladies from one strip to another and to members of the community, who have undertaken to keep the animals well watered during this hot weather. With the help of Cllr Richard Aulton, Cllr Cathy Glynn-Davies, Steve Willeter and Leighton we have also achieved some spring planting of a variety of trees such which are all doing well. Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Bigg who have very kindly agreed to match fund an additional bench at Malthouse Meadow. Sompting Parish Council will fund the difference. Do visit soon. It's a lovely place to walk and enjoy.

Lancing and Sompting Foodbank



We have been providing the services of a foodbank in the two villages for the last 9 years but the last two months have been so different. In normal times we provided basic emergency food parcels to people in financial crisis many of whom had problems with their benefits or mental health problems. Since Lockdown so much has changed. Now many people we see have lost income because of the closure of businesses and because they are prevented from working because they are self employed and imposed isolation. Families whose children had free school meals have benefitted from the Government's support scheme and we have seen fewer of them. The numbers of people coming to us has stayed roughly stable but the reasons they come has greatly changed. So we are supplying around 80-90 families each month with food or the means to buy it, most needing us only once or twice.

In addition the way we are helping has changed. To support the social distancing rules we have offered many people Food Vouchers from the Co-op or ASDA and more recently vouchers for meat and fresh fruit and vegetables from Dave Brown Butchers shop in Lancing. Thus fewer people have come to our distribution centres and the total amount of actual food has reduced by about 40%. We have kept in touch with people we know with ongoing needs when we have had donations of fresh food to distribute. Electric Storm Youth have provided a delivery system for us each week and the Coronavirus Community group has been a useful backup.

Sompting Parish Council have been very supportive in providing space at the Harriet Johnson Centre for storage of emergency food bags and a collection point for donations from Sompting people. They have also provided a substantial financial grant which was matched by the Sompting Big Local Hub which made a huge difference to our ability to buy food vouchers for our visitors. Individuals have also given us significant donations.

We have developed a list of organisations to which we can signpost people with additional problems which we have shared with other local foodbanks in the new network of food support organisations. We have achieved this with a small band of 10 volunteers supported by others from Lancing and Sompting Lions, the local churches and many individuals who collect food for us. We have tried to prevent person to person contact to reduce spread of the infection.

It is very difficult to predict how the future will look as the withdrawal of Government business subsidies kicks in. We foresee additional redundancies ahead and if social restriction continues that the need for our services will remain high for months to come. We have learned how to be resilient and change patterns of work with changing regulations and feel confident we can continue to support our need households, believing that the local community will continue to support us in what we do. Peter Johnston Co-ordinator, Lancing and Sompting Churches Foodbank.



BUS SHELTERS

In light of concerns about infection in public places, Sompting Parish Council commissioned Adur District Council to carry out deep cleansing at its bus shelters in Sompting, which has been completed.



PICKERS PLUCKERS & STRUMMERS

Sompting/Lancing Guitar Players united GUITAR PLAYERS or OTHER MUSICIANS @ ANY LEVEL. INTERESTED IN JOINING AN INFORMAL GUITAR PLAYERS CLUB IN LANCING/SOMPTING ?

Meeting regularly on Sunday evenings between 6.30 – 8.00pm
Play, Practice, Jam, Teach a tune, learn a tune.

Contribution to ROOM hire

Richard: E mail: Lancing103@gmail.com



Sompting Parish Council reserve the right to edit articles for Sompting Signpost



We are currently waiting to hear from the Government when we can open the Harriet Johnson Centre to the public and allow all of our groups to meet again and take new bookings for parties and events.

Watch out for details of when we are allowed to open on our website and on our Parish noticeboards which we keep updated for you, or ring the Centre Manager on 01903 208824 . We look forward to seeing you all very soon !!



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



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)
assistantclerk@sompting.org.uk (TUES, WED. THURS(9am to 12 noon)
leightonclay@sompting.org.uk (MON, TUES & THURS MORNINGS)