



SOMPTING SIGNPOST



The official news magazine from Sompting Parish Council

www.sompting.org.uk

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[Parish Council 07813484857](https://www.sompting.org.uk) [Harriet Johnson Centre 01903 208824](https://www.sompting.org.uk)

Over 4000 copies delivered to homes and shops throughout Sompting

WINTER 2020

CHRISTMAS CLOSING - The Parish Council Offices and the Harriet Johnson Centre will be closed from 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd December and will re-open at 9am on Monday 4th January 2021

For emergencies please use out of hours telephone 07704 601172

CHAIRS MESSAGE

Dear Sompting residents,

During these uncertain and worrying times, please be assured that Sompting Parish Council is working hard to support you as best we can.



We've introduced a lot of changes and there are many new faces at the Harriet Johnson Centre. It's been wonderful seeing our community re-start meetings and groups while maintaining social distancing and we've seen some innovative ways of allowing activities to continue.

Unfortunately, this new November – early December lockdown means many of our community groups will be unable to meet – a lifeline for people living alone. With this in mind, please be kind to your neighbours. Check in on them – a quick phone call or a knock on the door – even a note through the letterbox can make all the difference.

We're very sad that we've had to cancel our Christmas festival and the awards ceremony for the first time in many, many years. Councillors have agreed to look towards spring/summer 2021 to organise something, depending on national guidelines and restrictions.

If you are at all worried about anyone or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us here at the Parish Council (or in the case of an emergency please call the police). We have published useful numbers on page 3 of the Signpost this year for you to keep handy in case you need them.

If you or your family are struggling during these difficult times, don't be afraid to reach out to the Lancing and Sompting Food bank who operate from the Harriet Johnson Centre. The team of volunteers there have been doing some wonderful work in our community and are there to help when you need it.

As a community we have come a long way over the past few months, and I hope we can continue to support each other in the months to come. Please stay safe, follow national guidelines and look after yourselves.

As this will be our last communication before 2021, staff, Councillors and myself would like to wish all of our residents a safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Caroline Baxter

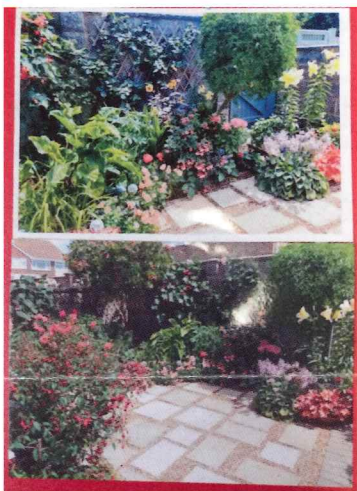


SADLY THERE WILL BE NO CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL - DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS THIS YEAR BUT WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A SPRING FESTIVAL INSTEAD



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

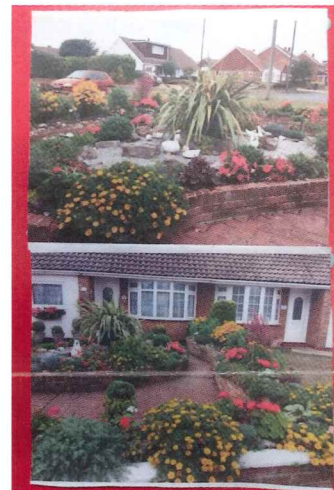
(Unfortunately due to Covid 19 we were unable to hold an award ceremony but the winners were visited by Mike Tristram who kindly delivered their prizes of planted bowls and garden gift tokens)



Left Mr & Mrs Bigg

Centre Mr & Mrs Sonessa

Right Mrs Hodd



The overall winners of Sompting in Bloom 2020 were:-
Mr & Mrs Bigg 67 Rectory Farm Road, **Bird/Bee friendly** - **Mr & Mrs Sonessa**,
Formal Garden - **Mrs Hodd**, **Container Gardening** & **Wildflower Garden** - no entries

DOUG SHERRIFF AWARD There were joint winners of the Award for 2020, these were John Gyll from Lancing and Sompting Food Bank and Steve Willeter a volunteer at Malthouse Meadow.



Lancing and Sompting Foodbank

Lancing and Sompting Churches Foodbank wish you all Peace and Joy at Christmas and we pray families and individuals will not go hungry over this time. If your income has been reduced and you're finding it difficult to put food on the table, text or phone us on 07719 196735. We will be available for you through Christmas and the New Year. You do not have to be on benefits to be entitled for our support in fact we are seeing many people on greatly reduced incomes during Covid. We can help you on a temporary basis and may be able to signpost you to other help and support that is out there. Thanks to Sompting Parish Council we now have an amazing facility at the Harriet Johnson Centre in Sompting. Also a huge thank you to the local community who have given so generously in practical and financial ways. Do look at our Lancing and Sompting Churches Foodbank Facebook page for more information or go to our website www.lancingtab.org/foodbank.

WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

Cllr Rob Wilkinson has recently joined Sompting Parish Council and is representing **Cokeham North ward**. We still have one more vacancy, so if you would like to play an active role in what happens in Sompting and become a councillor too, please visit our website or ring The Clerk for more information.



Meetings: All Parish meetings (apart from Planning) are going ahead by Zoom at the moment. Please contact The Clerk if you wish to attend any of them by 5pm the day before the meeting for logon details.

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

COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN SOMPTING

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

MALTHOUSE MEADOW



Lockdown has presented enormous challenges to our plans for Malthouse Meadow. An extensive planting programme had been planned. Some saplings obtained from the Woodland Trust, were only planted in May, but sadly suffered from the hot spring,

A few have recovered and some have been potted up in the anticipation of our winter sessions. These dates will be published on our website www.sompting.org.uk/conservation and Facebook Page. Everyone is welcome to attend and help and to use the space with their families.

In October we were able to prepare ground for winter planting and attend to the existing planting with generous helpings of mulch. Our little cordon of juniper trees in the entrance look healthy and we are hoping to plant some currant bushes nearby in the spring. This will much improve the appearance of the entrance to the meadow.

Funding has been secured for a new interpretation board at the entrance. This will offer the visitor a much greater insight into the history and the scientific and environmental value of the site.

The little flock of sheep have been strip grazing with some excellent results, including an improvement in the quality of the grass and many more wildflowers. Thanks to all those who have spent many hours keeping Meadow, Chilli and Epic healthy and happy.

The steering group will be changing to a 'Friends of' status and we invite any resident interested in preserving and developing this delightful place, to contact the Parish Council.



OTHER PARISH NEWS

Sompting Street Scene: Sompting Parish Council are aware that some areas of Sompting would benefit from improvement and are working to secure funding to enable this. If you feel that your area would benefit from some planting or there is a particular eyesore you want addressed, please contact Sompting Parish Council with your suggestions. The Parish Council held their annual 'Sompting in Bloom' contest with three worthy winners and we hope to extend this competition in coming years to include kitchen gardens, environmental and wildlife conservation gardens, and young gardeners. If you are interested in managing or promoting any of these categories, please contact the Parish Council.

Halewick Lane Battery Storage Facility: Plans have been approved to dismantle the Waste Management Site and build a battery storage facility. If you have any queries about this please contact WSCC. We are monitoring the progress and would be happy to hear your views on the project.



Repairs: A much needed repair has been completed on a bus shelter in Western Road. There is now a rolling maintenance programme for all of our shelters across the village. If you have any concerns, please contact us.

Toilet Building - Sompting Rec: Unfortunately, these will need to remain closed until further notice. Keeping this facility open for the public is an ongoing challenge and we are looking to see how this might be improved in the future!

COVID 19 HELP AND SUPPORT

Sompting Foodbank remains open on a Tuesday morning at the Harriet Johnson Centre from 9.30am – 10.30am for collections and donations. For anyone in need of food – please ring 07719 196735

The Churches coffee morning normally held on a Tuesday, is also sadly covered by the new Government legislation and will be closed until 2nd December 2020.

Help is available for those struggling to collect prescriptions, food etc. The Parish Council is delighted to say we are working in partnership with Lancing and Sompting Community Group and their bank of volunteers. Please ring 07407 195331

West Sussex County Council are continuing to provide support to the most vulnerable people in our community. If your request is urgent, for example, you are going to run out of food or medicine within the next three days, please phone 033 022 27980 so that we can make sure you get the help you need as quickly as possible.

NHS advice, symptoms etc <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

Citizens Advice For help and advice visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk for self-help information on a range of issues 0344 477 1171



Sensory Garden Project at Harriet Johnson Centre Sompting Parish Council is committed to raising the profile of the Harriet Johnson Centre in Loose Lane as a viable community hub and are actively pursuing registration of the HJC as a community asset. Together with Sompting Rec and Malthouse Meadow this will enable HJC to become significant element in the development of Sompting.

The HJC garden is neglected..... It is east facing and enclosed by the original granite walls with additional wire fencing approx. 2 metres high which also provide shelter from the wind. There are the beds that border the wall that could easily accommodate Clematis and Honeysuckle and there are established plants, Fuchsia, Lavender and Lilies already in situ and a herb garden too. There is a useable green house and two water sources, a tap and rain barrels. The Parish Council is now looking to create a sensory garden. The project will benefit the elderly, people with disabilities, children and local schools and everyone within the wider community. There is a lot of work to be done - making planters, painting recycled pallet boards, building raised beds or laying additional turf etc. We will concentrate on creating a multiplicity of biodiverse planting aimed at attracting pollinators and enhancing the sensory experience for all visitors.

HJC is under severe financial constraints exacerbated by the CV-19 pandemic which has had an adverse affect on revenues, so to begin developing the Harriet Johnson Sensory Garden it was agreed that an appeal for volunteers be launched and to ask residents to suggest/donate hardy perennial sun loving and low maintenance plants to the garden. To volunteer and to donate tools, equipment, time and expertise please respond to the ad below and we will arrange a group meeting onsite in the near future to progress the development of the Harriet Johnson Sensory Garden. *Richard Aulton - on behalf of Sompting Parish Council*

UNLOVED GARDEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Even if you don't know your forsythia from your clematis the Harriet Johnson Centre in Sompting is seeking locally based volunteers to work on a Community Garden Project. The Centre has a lovely but neglected East facing garden at the rear of the building in need of care and cultivation.

The object of the project is to create a sensory community garden accessible to all. To achieve this we need volunteer gardeners and donations of plants and tools. If this type of activity appeals to you, please e mail or phone the Parish Clerk. Details below.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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

Emergency Out of hours number 07704 601172 (or 07813 484857)



We would like to thank Sompting Community Church for their kind donation of a Christmas tree for the Harriet Johnson Centre

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 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

(suspended until 2nd Dec, due to covid 19 at the moment!)

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 leightonclay@sompting.org.uk (MON, TUES & THURS MORNINGS)