RUSPER



Parish News

February 2021



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Website: www.rusperaikido.co.uk

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THE PARISH OF RUSPER SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH RUSPER

Holy Communion on Sundays at 8am and 11am, other Holy Days during the week at 10.30am.

Tues 2nd Feb The Presentation of Christ in the Temple [Candlemas] 9.30am

Holy Communion

Sun 7th Feb Holy Communion 8am and 11am

Sun 14th Feb Holy Communion 8am and 11am

Lent

Wed 17th Feb Ash Wednesday 9.30am

Sun 21st Feb Holy Communion 8am and 11am

Sun 28th Feb Holy Communion 8am and 11am

Information on services is updated monthly on: www.rusperchurch.org.uk
If a priest is required at short notice and Nick is unavailable, please contact the Churchwardens.

Rector	Revd Nick Flint	01293 871251
Churchwarden	Mr Chris Pearce	01403 268047
Churchwarden	Mrs Maggie True	01293 871722
Treasurer	Mr Michael Ward	01306 631786

Nick is here to minister to all who have need in our parishes. He is keen to be told if someone has moved in and to have an opportunity to visit newcomers. Holy Communion can be arranged for the housebound or those who are sick. Nick tries to take Thursday as a rest day each week, so he kindly suggests that you only contact him on a Thursday in matters of urgency.

In the most recently issued directions the Government has recognised the importance of ongoing public worship. At Rusper we continue to join our prayers 'with angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven' recognising that however few we are, worship is a continuous, mysterious, sometimes unseen reality. In addition we hope to be able to continue to provide an online alternative to tune into. Let me know if you want to be sent the Zoom code. Please be aware that the advertised services may have to change due to the current uncertainty.

For those of you still attending in person now is not the time to relax the guidance about hand washing, mask wearing or social distancing, and in the light of the most recent announcements the Bishop of Chichester has reiterated 'It is essential that those who gather for public worship disperse immediately the worship has ended, retaining social distancing and without further interaction, even outside.'

There is of course always an element of risk, however small, in any activity where we join others at the moment, no matter how careful we are obviously being. You might for the time being, want to see the online option as the norm and attend in person primarily or only if for any reason you cannot engage with the Zoom offering in the coming weeks.

I also plan to reintroduce a short said Wednesday Eucharist at an experimental time of 9.30am. These small services are ideal from a distancing point of view.

This month we look forward to the first visit to our parish of Bishop Ruth, our new Bishop of Horsham who will preach at the 11am service on February 21st

On February 2nd, the feast of Candlemas we celebrate the fulfilment of Malachi's prophecy 'The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his Temple.'

In the light of that promise we seek him here and now so that like Simeon, like Anna we shall recognise the Lord who comes. Let us make use of the sacraments of the church and let us learn to see and enjoy the potential for holiness in every moment of our lives.

Nick

Parish Register

Holy Matrimony

19th December Dean James Biffen & Sarah May Coles

Burial of Ashes

23rd December Jonathan Aistrope Kitchen

Funeral

8th January Millicent Margery Hewitt

THE WOLVES OF WEST SUSSEX!!

The village got great publicity recently with a whole page headlining **THE WOLVES OF WEST SUSSEX!!**

Apparently we villagers clocked up more hours playing the stock market online than anywhere else in the UK, with 19 hours a year! In second place were the canny folk of Burnham in Bucks who spent 11 hours a year.

Happily the article makes a distinction between the Leonardo DiCaprio movie about the excesses of New York financiers and our typical English Village!

Netflix, Bitcoin and Apple were the favourites for investment. Gold, currencies, Amazon, Tesla and facebook were also very popular.

Several villagers were interviewed including Kosta of the Star who said "There are lots of big houses in the area and people who do well for themselves, but they are not 'show offs!' Well said, Kosta!

The reporter also praises our showing great foresight ahead of Boris's Green Revolution by cleverly investing in hydrocarbon!!

If anyone wants to see the full article then let me know and I will get a copy to you via the shop perhaps.

Ray Butler

Rusper Bluebells Under Threat - We Need Your Help

We all love the breathtakingly beautiful bluebells that flow like a silent blue lake throughout the woods of Rusper in the Spring. We are immensely lucky to have the vibrant colours and the uplifting fragrant smell of this wonderful spectacle of nature right on our doorstep, especially so this year.

Alas, these delicate nodding blue flowers are steadfastly being trampled to death by unthinking walkers who appear to have an aversion to getting their boots muddy. With so much rain and mud, the single track paths are slowly and surely turning into very muddy tracks. Single track paths have become twelve feet wide in places and a myriad of new paths snake their way across the brown leaf litter as hikers, both local and non-local, walk off the main paths in an effort to avoid the mud, inadvertently compacting the ground beneath their feet.

More and more young green bluebell shoots have been peeping shyly up since December, cossetted by the russets of fallen oak and hornbeam leaves and accompanied by emerging primroses. These young shoots are very fragile and are being destroyed by walkers: once damaged, it takes four to five years for them to recover. The newly created snaking paths will result in small islands of blue rather than the vast carpets of violet which we all love to drink in. These paths, once set, will become permanent and the bluebells will not grow back.

Volunteers have been revetting (laying branches and twigs alongside the main paths) in an attempt to steer walkers along the main track, but sadly these are now being ignored or worse still, removed. The simple answer is, if you haven't got a pair of waterproof boots, don't go through the woods. The mud is deep, messy, slippery and potentially dangerous - trainers and smart boots are not up to the job.

Did you know?.....

- Bluebells are protected under *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*
- The UK has around half the world's bluebells.
- Bluebell woods are an indicator of Ancient Woodlands from the 1600s
- In the Lake District, 25% of bluebells have been lost to trampling over the last four years
- The sticky sap from bluebells was used to bind book pages and to glue feathers onto arrows
- Common names for bluebells include; cuckoo's boots, granfer griggles, witches thimbles and crow's toes.

Please help protect our bluebells and their enjoyment by so many people by keeping to the main paths.

The Woodland Witch

Rusper Telephone Box/Library

The Telephone Box/Library is inundated with books, puzzles, DVDs etc and it is very difficult to see the books to borrow. Kindly refrain from 'dumping' items in this very small space. Obviously, if there is space on the shelves, you are more than welcome to donate your books.

Thank you.

Rusper Help

Covid-19 Pandemic

A Volunteer Group exists to help residents of Rusper Parish who are self-isolating due to the Corona virus (Covid-19) and do not have a family member or neighbour to assist them.

Volunteer support is available to help with shopping, collecting and delivering prescriptions or just being there for a phone chat.

Do you need assistance?

You can contact one of co-ordinators listed below between 08:30 and 17:30 and they will find a Volunteer who can help you or chat on the phone to you:

Michelle Cooke (Rusper Parish Council) 07973 118747 Roland Allen (Rusper Parish Council) 07710 371195

You can also email for assistance at assistance@rusper-pc.org.uk

Shopping

If you are self-isolating Rusper Stores can deliver a grocery order to you. You can call them on 01293 871366 or email them at info@ruspervillagestores.co.uk

Prescriptions

Please call one of the Assistance numbers above and a volunteer will be allocated to collect your prescription and deliver it to you.

More information is available at rusperhelp.org.uk

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

- Rusper Parish Council holds its full meeting on the <u>last Tuesday of each</u> month at 7:30pm online
- Planning sub-committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month online
- Agendas for all meetings are posted on Parish noticeboards and the web site prior to meetings
- Public and press are welcome to attend both of the above meetings –
 please contact the Parish Clerk for details of how to join the meeting online.
- All correspondence for the Parish Council and requests for copies of the minutes of meetings should be sent by email to <u>clerk@rusper-pc.org.uk</u> or by post to: The Parish Clerk, Leanne Bannister, c/o Rusper Post Office, East Street, Rusper RH12 4PX.
- Full details of Parish Council meetings, proceedings and activities are available on the web site at <u>www.rusper-pc.org.uk</u> and the Rusper Parish Council Facebook page.

Summary of Rusper Parish Council meeting & Planning Committee meeting – **November and December 2020**

The full Minutes of these and all other meetings are available to view on the Rusper Parish Council web site rusper-pc.org.uk/meetings. These Minutes are **draft and subject to change** until they have been confirmed at our next meeting. These meetings were held virtually due to the pandemic.

Planning – 17th November 2020

Agreed responses to planning applications:

<u>DC/20/0618 Land at the junction of East Street, Burnthouse Lane and Lambs Green Road</u>: Object this application on safety issues. Cllr. Hussey will draft a response and circulate via email before it is submitted to HDC.

<u>DC/20/1941 Ghyll Manor Hotel, High Street</u>: Object to this application because it will change the visual aspect of the street scene on the approach to Grade I and II listed properties. For this reason RPC requests that the wall is rebuilt in its current format using the existing materials. RPC is also concerned that a lower wall would allow easier access to the pond, creating a safety issue. Any work that does take place should mitigate against any impact to the pond as it is an important wildlife habitat.

<u>DC/20/1993 Hillybarn Farmhouse, The Mount</u>: Strongly object to this application for the following reasons:-

- Vehicle access is not suitable as the site is on a single track lane and in a rural location (not semi-rural as stated in the application).
- The location is not sustainable as it is not close to any local transport or facilities.
- The area and access is prone to flooding and this development would increase the flooding risk.
- The impact on the views in this rural location would be adversely affected. The comments made by the Inspector to planning application DC/18/2215 also apply to this application.
- There are no services to the site.
- There would be an adverse impact on this countryside location.
- There are two other permitted traveller sites within close proximity of this site. There should not be any more needed in Rusper.

<u>DC/20/2047 Land North of Horsham</u>: Object to this application for the following reasons:-

- Only 12.5% affordable housing is being included and RPC requests that this is increased to 35% in line with the HDPF.
- There are only 1.5 parking spaces allocated to each unit, which means that over 100 spaces are not near the units.
- There are not enough electric vehicle charging points.
- The lighting scheme should comply with the Rusper Dark Skies policy as included in the Rusper Neighbourhood Plan as lighting from this site will impact Rusper. More information about the timing of the lighting is required. If lighting is necessary RPC would request that they dim when there is no activity.
- There are not enough cycle ways.
- The sustainability of the site is poor.

• The height of the land that will be built up along with the 2-3 storey homes that will be erected will have a negative visual impact and will not be in keeping with the local area.

DC/20/2161 Waterhall Country House, Prestwood Lane: Strongly object to this application on the basis that this is a commercial hotel and is encouraging employment in the parish. If HDC is minded to remove the requirement that the accommodation is for hotel staff, RPC requests that the building remains annexed to the hotel and cannot become an independent dwelling.

Update on planning decisions:

DC/20/1518 Land Parcel at Wimland Road - permitted DC/20/0943 Oaks Cottage and Acorn Cottage - permitted DC/20/1511 Bonwycks Lodge Farm - permitted DC/20/0391 Friday Farm - withdrawn

Council – 24th November 2020

Reports from other Authorities

Cllr. Hogben updated as follows:-

- HDC Members have seen presentations for all sites that have been put forward for the Local Plan. Crawley Borough Council are still objecting to the site Land West of Ifield due to the lack of the link road. However, this is still one of the more favourable sites as it is close to Crawley and most of the land is already owned by the developer. Ifield Society are still actively objecting this proposal.
- Many Conservative MPs are not supporting the Planning White Paper.
- HDC's budget has been heavily impacted by the pandemic.

Cllr. Kitchen updated as follows:-

- The cycle lanes in Horsham have been removed.
- The Transport Plan is due out for consultation soon.
- Ifield Society are doing a brilliant job objecting to the site Land West of Ifield. Cllr. Kitchen requests that MP Mr Quin is contacted by Rusper PC about this.
- Cllr. Kitchen has asked Highways to repair the road at the junction of Capel Road and Friday Street.

Weight restrictions on Rusper lanes: RPC to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order to add weight restrictions to various lanes in the parish. The roads to be included in the application are still to be decided.

Update on Recreation Ground lease: The heads of terms have now been approved and the court hearing has been dismissed.

Report from representatives

 Cllr. Fillmore reported that there are only around 10 flights each day from Gatwick.

- Cllr. Fleming is attending the Gatwick Noise Management Board meeting in December.
- There will be a testing site available at Gatwick Airport soon.
- There has only been one request for help through the Covid volunteer hub. The shop does have some capacity to deliver in certain circumstances.
- Cllr. Gatt attended the North Horsham Liaison meeting. They discussed
 the road closure. Cala Homes presented on their planning application.
 Some aspects of this were not well received such as the lack of
 affordable housing and the small amount of electric vehicle charging
 points.

Clerk's report

- James Smith has agreed to check the trees and report back if they need any work at no cost to Rusper PC.
- The Operation Watershed works on Wimland Road will take place on 14-18 December. The Clerk will write to residents to let them know that there may be some disruption as the road will be closed.
- The Operation Watershed works at The Mount have uncovered many issues in the drain network that need attention. The quotes for this are coming out between approximately £13,000 and £35,000. The Operation Watershed team will advise on what they think the next steps should be.
- There is still an issue with one of the street lights at Cooks Meadow.
 This has been passed to UK Power Networks as there is not any power supply to the light. The column is also in a bad state of repair so will need further work.
- The final version of the Neighbourhood Plan is now available.
- The Clerk advised that Community Speedwatch can take place at the moment and encouraged the co-ordinators to set up the first session.

Planning – 15th December 2020

Agreed responses to planning applications:

DC/20/2460 15 Gardeners Green: No objection.

<u>DC/20/2181 Scrag Copse Farm, Prestwood Lane</u>: No objection, but request that a wildlife statement is completed to ascertain the impact on any local wildlife, and that the following conditions are added:-

- No external lighting is added in accordance with the dark skies policy of the Rusper Neighbourhood Plan.
- That the stables are removed if they ever cease to be viable.

DC/20/2337 Friday Farm, Friday Street: No objection.

DC/20/2345 Land North of Horsham: No comment.

DC/20/1897 Shepperton Farm, Lambs Green Road: No objection.

Planning appeal

<u>DC/20/1173 Bonwycks Lodge Farm</u>: No further comments will be submitted.

Update on planning decisions
DC/20/1794 Building 4 Millfield Farm – permitted
DC/20/1993 Hillybarn Farmhouse – refused
DC/20/0882 Stafford House – permitted

Council – 15th December 2020

Grass cutting contract for 2021-2023: Countrymans to be appointed for a one year contract at an approximate annual cost of £2600.

Approval of budget for 2021-2022: Approved as drafted.

Order of definitive footpath map for recreation ground: Agreed at a cost of £11.

Clerk's report: The Government has launched a Night Flight Consultation which will be added to the next Agenda.

Leanne Bannister Clerk to Rusper Parish Council c/o Rusper Village Stores, East Street, Rusper, RH12 4PX 07871 340986

Census

The census is coming. By taking part, you can help inform decisions about services that shape your community, such as healthcare, education and transport. It's important that you fill in your census questionnaire because it gives us the most detailed information we have about our society. Without the information you share, it'd be more difficult to understand our community's needs and plan and fund public services.

Ahead of Census Day (Sunday 21 March), the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will send you a letter in the post with an access code and instructions. You can do your census online as soon as you get yours. If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let the ONS know.

The ONS aim to make things as easy as possible for everyone, but if you need help taking part in the census, there's a wide range of support services available. You can request support for yourself, or someone else, including:

- -guidance and help in many languages and formats
- -a paper version of the questionnaire, if you prefer
- -accessible census guidance, for example, in braille

There is a help area on the census website. It covers everything from who to include on the questionnaire to how to answer each question. If you cannot find what you need there, there's a dedicated contact centre where census staff will be on hand to give help over the phone, in a web chat or on social media.

If you need help, visit www.census.gov.uk

RUSPER CHRONICLE GROUP

We hope you enjoyed reading the Rusper Trail Leaflet 'a village through time' inserted in your last Parish News.

The leaflet was created and written by the Rusper Chronicle Group. If you would like another leaflet, please pick one up from the village shop.

There are 19 more trails for other villages in West Sussex. These can be found on the Horsham Museum Website.

A big thank you to Ray Butler for all his help in refurbishing the stand for the Millennium Plaque at the entrance to the car park.

Joan Frazer

Rusper's Farming History

Rusper's history as a village goes back a very long way, possibly from before the Norman Conquest. Throughout time farming has been an important but never easy way of life for the families living in and around the hill on which the village has grown. Surrounded by trees at the very north of the Sussex Weald, the earliest residents were the foresters, charcoal burners and huntsmen making their living from this woodland, often servants of big coastal estates. These men were also farmers, clearing trees to form fields to support their families, putting down roots in this village they called home.

From the earliest times large landowners like the Duke of Norfolk bought land around the village, letting out farms to their retainers or others who could afford the rent, poorer families worked on these farms. When the railway arrived in the nineteenth century, estates were purchased by wealthy locals (often from Horsham town), or incomers attracted by Rusper's ease of access to the coast and London.

Rusper farms have always consisted of small fields surrounded by the woodland and deep gills that are a feature of this part of the Weald. Good grass could be grown especially suitable for cattle, but the land was usually cold heavy clay and trees were always waiting to reclaim the fields. Even with our modern farming methods today little has changed. It is unlikely that even the best farmers made fortunes, although there are many in the churchyard that did succeed – usually by finding extra outlets for their talents.

Farming has changed a lot and today only a handful of residents put agriculture down as their occupation. As an example, sixty years ago on one road in the village there were nine farms, now there is one! However, Rusper is still essentially a farming village with tractors roaring past the church at harvest time, but we are at a tipping point. Until very recently the drive from Rusper to the towns of Horsham or Crawley was through fields and woods with wild flowers growing by the roadsides. It was still possible to see the landscape our ancestors saw in the thirteenth century. Now suddenly, these fields and woods are in most cases gone or under threat, swallowed by acres of concrete and new houses. Times have changed for our village.

Lynn Heydon



Hello there and Happy New Year from all of us at Age UK WSB&H! Here we go again! As we enter our third period of lockdown, we just wanted to let you know that although the doors to our centres are temporarily closed, we are still very much here for over 50's throughout West Sussex, Brighton & Hove.

We wanted to share the services we're offering during this 3rd period of lockdown, so you can spread the word and signpost anyone who may need our support.

- Telephone befriending.
- Help at Home & Doorstep Deliveries.
- Home from Hospital.
- Information and Advice.
- Wellbeing support.
- Keep Warm and Well this Winter

We have made it through the Christmas and New Year festivities, albeit rather different for many, but hope is tangible now for a more positive 2021 with the vaccination roll out. This third lockdown is hard going for everyone, so do please reach out, bake some goodies and pop round to a neighbour for a socially distanced catch up on the garden path or pick up the phone. I often see how appreciated a quick chat is, so let's cheer each other up - we are after all, in this together!

Best wishes

Gaby Aldrich,

Village Agent Colgate/Rusper, Age UK West Sussex Brighton and Hove.

Keep warm and well this Winter!

As we enter a period of increased Covid-19 restrictions, Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove partnering with West Sussex County Council (WSCC), we have received funding to deliver nutritious home-cooked meals, wellbeing and energy advice to over 50's across West Sussex, Brighton & Hove. Our Winter Warmer campaign runs from now, until the end of March 2021.

For a suggested donation of just £2, we can deliver delicious frozen meals and desserts direct to your door by a friendly volunteer, along with energy checks, information and advice.

Please call us on 01903 731 800 if you, or someone you know might be interested in finding out more about our Winter Warmer campaign, or any of our services. Alternatively email us at info@ageukwsbh.org.uk

We can deliver up to 2-3 times each week if freezer space is an issue and menus change regularly. Please contact Age UK West Sussex Brighton & Hove to discuss any specific needs or dietary requirements.

Donations To Rusper Parish News

DONATIONS. This month we have received 4 donations. Thank you. Just £5 from every household is fine and if you are not sure when you last gave please e-mail me or phone Valerie Bowles 871412.

Bank code 30-94-41 Account number 00007348 Account name PCC RUSPER-MAGAZINE

Thank you

Valerie

Deliveries of magazine

Most of the people delivering the magazine are happy to do so, and will do their best to wear gloves and masks. If you do not get your magazine can you contact the person concerned or Judy Butler? Otherwise you can pick one up from the shop or the Church.

If you DON'T want it delivered perhaps you could let Judy or myself know.

Many thanks,

Sue

RUSPER CHURCH 200 CLUB

Thank you to all those people who continue responding to the request for new members during this difficult time. The Rusper Church 200 Club is one of the few continuing forms of income to our lovely church during these challenging times. You can continue to help by joining the 200 Club or buying additional shares. All the details about the Rusper Church 200 Club including past winners, the rules and an application form, are on the Church's web-site at www.rusperchurch.org.uk under "THE CHURCH IS YOU" tab. Just print off and complete the Application Form and then either e-mail it to me at johnmichaeljory@yahoo.co.uk or send it to me at: Elsinoro, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, RH12 4PR.

Many thanks to all of you who have been regularly contributing to enable us to make a significant contribution towards the running costs of the Church over the past few years.

The results of recent draws are:

	December 2020 January 2021			
1st Prize - £200 2nd Prize - £75 3rd Prize - £50 4th Prize - £50	6 70 192 37	Pam S June R Elaine Valerie B	46 100 96	Michael W Gilly H-J Stephen F
John Jory				

RUSPER GOOD NEIGHBOUR LINK

Please do not hesitate to ask if you need transport to a doctor or dentist, chemist, hospital or any other emergency visit. The names listed below are the contacts who will take your call and probably drive you. However, if busy, they will ask someone else from our list of volunteer drivers. Please contact:

Angie Hill	871274
Carrie Johnson	871553

Church Cleaning:

February 5 th	Judy Easter	01403 251 979
12th	Angela Hill	01293 871 274
19th	Mary Dawe	01306 627 663
26th	Sue Matthewson	01293 871 266

EDITORS

Please remember to let the editor <u>underlined</u> below have all items for the March edition by **14th Feb 2021**.

Fiona Lear	Rutland Lodge, East Street fionalear@btinternet.com	871509
Louise Holford-Walker	Sweet Briar mlhw@btinternet.com	871600
John Jory	Elsinoro	<u>871752</u>
	ichamichaelien/@yahae ee ul	le.
	johnmichaeljory@yahoo.co.ul	ĸ
Dawn Shurville	dawnshurville@gmail.com	07986993304

Please contact:

Treasurer: Valerie Bowles (871412) <u>valeriebowles39@btinternet.com</u> with donations towards the cost of publishing the Rusper Parish News

Advertising and Editorial Manager: Sue Matthewson (871266) sue.matthewson@btinternet.com

General Enquiries: Judy Butler (871845) ray.butler@sky.com

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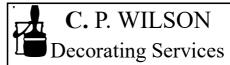
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