



Hellingly Highlights



#KeepingItLocal

Summer 2025

Chair's Annual Report

Find out more on page 05

Wealden Police Report

Find out more on page 14

Hellingly Country Park and Orchard

Find out more on page 18

Sussex Creatives

Find out more on page 26

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www.communityad.co.uk

Hellingly YOUTH HUB



Wednesdays 6.15pm-7.30pm (Yrs 6-8) / 7.45pm-9pm (Yrs 9-11)
Hellingly Community Hub



hailshamyouthservice.org



Hellingly Highlights

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9th June | 14th July
11th August
8th September
13th October
10th November
8th December

For more information
contact Fiona on:

07733 408394

Hellingly Community Hub, The Drive, BN27 4EP

The
cricketers
CAFÉ

at Roebuck Park Cricket Pavilion,
Hellingly Country Park

WE ARE OPEN ON
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS,
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

A message from the Clerk



Hello Everyone

I hope this message finds you well and that you've had a chance to enjoy some of the lovely sunshine recently. I would like to welcome a couple of newbies to the Parish Council Team, Tim Clarke - Groundsman and Debbie Rhodes - Assistant Clerk. Welcome and enjoy.

A summary of what's been going on in the Parish over the past few months – In April, we were delighted to host the Children's Easter Activity Day at the Hub. It was a fantastic event filled with creativity, fun, and a magical performance by the ever-popular Andy Hiccup. We're already looking ahead to the summer holidays, with two more exciting activity days planned - see page 28 for more details (Please note, these events will take place outdoors at Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground and are weather dependent).

Behind the scenes, councillors and staff have been working hard to maintain and improve the services we offer our community. New play equipment has been ordered for both the Country Park and Burfield Grange, and we'll keep you updated on installation dates as soon as we have them.

On Friday 4th April, our Flood Working Group, joined by MP Nusrat Ghani, met to discuss

ongoing concerns in the Parish. Encouraging progress was made, and further actions are being pursued - see page 12 for a full update.

We're also pleased to announce the Community Orchard is now fully planted. Two new benches have been installed, one of which is dedicated in memory of Councillor Steve Gander - a fitting tribute to his service and dedication.

The Cricketers Café at the Country Park Pavilion continues to thrive and is currently open Tuesday through to Saturdays.

Sadly, this will be the final edition of the Hellingly Highlights magazine to be delivered to homes, as the publishing company can no longer sustain this service due to rising costs.

Going forward, we plan to bring the magazine production in-house, with copies available at the Community Hub and other local locations (to be confirmed).

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a happy and sunny summer!
Warm regards,

Jenny Hoodless
Parish Clerk



Chair's Report

In previous years, I've commented on the continued growth of the Parish, and this year is no different.

Despite the significant number of new homes delivered over the past decade, development shows no signs of slowing. Construction is well underway on 360 new homes at Swingate Park, while work is about to begin on 130

homes on the east side of North Street, Lower Horsebridge, and a further 55 on the west side.

In addition to those under construction, other sites already have approval, including

Danecroft Nursery (80 dwellings) and Park Farm East (360 dwellings).

What was once a small rural Parish on the edge of a modest market town is rapidly in danger of becoming an urban extension. Without a commercial centre, new residents inevitably turn to Hailsham and beyond for shopping, employment, education, and other essential services.

In this era of change, it is crucial that the Parish Council remains proactive in representing the interests of both long-standing and new parishioners.

To this end, the Council is:

- Updating the Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan,
- Working to improve recreational and sporting facilities at Lower Horsebridge,
- Expanding and enhancing Hellingly Country Park,
- Taking over public open spaces on new developments when offered,
- Continuing to comment on planning applications and lobbying for infrastructure improvements.

While there are many things outside the Council's direct control, we continue to advocate on your behalf.

Summary of the Past Year's Activities:

- The Community Hub and Country Park continue to thrive. Groups like The Young at Heart over 55's Group (Mondays 10:30-12:30pm), HelliHubs parent and toddler Group (Mondays 8.30am-10am), and Hellingly's Youth Hub (Wednesdays 6:15pm-9pm) have been well received. Seasonal events (Easter, Halloween, Christmas) have been a great success, thanks to the dedication of clerks, staff, and volunteers.
- The grounds staff have made excellent progress improving the Country Park—clearing brambles and enhancing ecological features. A new community orchard has been planted with the help of local volunteers that will provide benefit for many years to come.
- At Burfield Grange, now under Parish management, improvements include new dog and litter bins. Work will soon begin on safety fencing for the play area and a new toddler playground.
- Plans are well underway for Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground.

Proposed enhancements include:

- o A junior football pitch
- o Two MUGA courts (Multi Use Games Area)
- o A walking/running path around the perimeter of the ground
- o Upgraded changing facilities

These will be on display at the Annual Parish Assembly.

- Work has begun on the refresh/review of the Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan, to reflect changes that have taken place since the adoption of the original Plan in 2021. Where changes are considered necessary you will be asked for your views.
- We continue to lobby for road safety improvements, especially on:
 - o Station Road and Church Road—Both roads present safety hazards and lack pavements, yet are the access to Hellingly Primary school as well as being a cut through for a lot of local traffic.
 - o Park Road—which is too narrow for safe passage of buses and heavy goods vehicles.

The absence of a new Wealden Plan leaves the district vulnerable to speculative development.

The proposed government reorganisation, which may replace district councils with large county-based unitary authorities under a strategic mayor, introduces additional challenges.

These developments underscore the need for a strong Parish Council to be your voice. While we've been fortunate to have committed Councillors, vacancies do arise.

If you care about the future of our area, I urge you to consider standing for election or applying when vacancies occur.

Acknowledgements:

Details of the current Parish Councillors and staff are available at the Hub entrance.

My sincere thanks go to all Councillors, our dedicated staff, and especially to County Councillor Nick Bennett for his continued support.

David G White
Chairman

Councillors & Staff

Parish Councillors



HELLINGLY PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors



David White
Chairman of the Parish
Council
Wealden District Councillor
Email - cllr.david.white@hellingly-pc.gov.uk



Veronica Lee
Councillor
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Gill Hesselgrave
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Hub Co-Ordinator
Email - claire@hellingly-pc.gov.uk



Paul Young
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Natalie Rhodes
Admin Assistant
Email - natalie@hellingly-pc.gov.uk



Debbie Rhodes
Assistant Clerk
Email - debbie.rhodes@hellingly-pc.gov.uk

County Councillor



Mr N Bennett
Councillor
Arlington, East Hoathly & Hellingly



Jay Pleece
Grounds Team



Tom Milne
Grounds Team

Council Staff



Jenny Hoodless
Clerk
Email - clerk@hellingly-pc.gov.uk



Andy Sievwright
Grounds Team



Rob Bryant
Grounds Team



Sarah Miller
Deputy Clerk
Email - sarah.miller@hellingly-pc.gov.uk



Tim Clarke
Grounds Team



Derek Brandon
Caretaker
Tel: **07858152497**



Julie O'Neill
Hub Co-Ordinator
Email - Julie@hellingly-pc.gov.uk



Toby Gower
Weekend Caretaker
Tel: **07546 972535**



The Parish Council Of Hellingly

Committees, Chairs and Parish Representatives 2025/2026

CHAIR: Mr D.G. White

VICE CHAIR: Mrs G. F. D. Hesselgrave

CLERKS: Jenny Hoodless, Sarah Miller, Claire Kirby, Julie O'Neill, Debbie Rhodes, Natalie Rhodes

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Council are members of all Parish Council's Committees

under the term of ex officio. This means that they can exercise their rights and attend any Committee meeting and are entitled to all papers for that Committee meeting, they do not have to attend meetings if they wish to not exercise their right. They do not have to be named members of the Committee and can vote.

COMMITTEES

<p>Planning and Environment. Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors:</p>	<p>Clerk Jenny Hoodless & Debbie Rhodes - Joint</p> <p>C Jackets, J Castle, D Lewin, S Davis, S Pilkington and D White (ex-officio)</p>
<p>Parish Halls Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors:</p>	<p>Clerk: Claire Kirby & Julie O'Neill - Joint</p> <p>P. Young, P Milne, D Miles, C Jackets, R Brann, and D White (ex officio)</p>
<p>Cemetery and Allotments. Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors:</p>	<p>Clerk: Debbie Rhodes & Natalie Rhodes - Joint</p> <p>J Castle, P Milne, D Lewin, D Miles,</p> <p>W Hesselgrave, S Pilkington, D White (ex-officio)</p> <p><i>T Jenner (Union Corner Allotment Supervisor) and T Knight (Roebuck Park Allotment Supervisor) by invitation. A representative of the Allotment tenants, by invitation</i></p>
<p>Grounds Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors:</p>	<p>Clerk: Jenny Hoodless</p> <p>F Lulham (Vice Chair), S Davis, P Young, P Milne, D Lewin, W Hesselgrave, V Lee and D White (ex-officio),</p>
<p>Finance (inc Cemetery Lodge). Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors:</p>	<p>Clerk: Jenny Hoodless & Sarah Miller - Joint</p> <p>J Castle, D Lewin, S Davis, F Lulham, C Jackets, R Brann, G Hesselgrave (ex-officio)</p>
<p>Banking Sub Committee Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors:</p>	<p>Clerk: Jenny Hoodless & Sarah Miller - Joint</p> <p>J Castle and D Lewin</p>
<p>Staffing Committee. Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors:</p>	<p>Clerk: Jenny Hoodless</p> <p>G Hesselgrave, F Lulham, C Jackets and D White (ex-officio)</p>
<p>CIL Project Delivery Working Group Chair: To be decided</p> <p>Councillors</p>	<p>Clerk: Debbie Rhodes</p> <p>J Castle, P Young, D Lewin</p>

WHO DO I CONTACT?!



HELLINGLY PARISH COUNCIL



01323 449 415 / www.hellingly-pc.gov.uk

-
- **Hellingly Country Park & The Community Hub** • **Play Areas**
 - **Burfield Grange** • **Allotments (Union Corner & Roebuck Park)**
 - **Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground** • **Cemetery**
-

Community Hub Bookings

Julie or Claire

**Email: julie@hellingly-pc.gov.uk
or claire@hellingly-pc.gov.uk**

Policies, Planning, Cemetery & Allotments

Debbie

Email: debbie.rhodes@hellingly-pc.gov.uk

Allotments

Natalie or Debbie

Email: natalie@hellingly-pc.gov.uk

Free Clubs & Activity Days

Natalie

Email: natalie@hellingly-pc.gov.uk

Council Finances

Jenny

Email: clerk@hellingly-pc.gov.uk

Hellingly Cemetery or Burials

David Saxby

Email: david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk



Wealden District Council

info@wealden.gov.uk / 01323 443322

**Planning and Building Control - Recycling and Waste -
Benefits - Council Tax - Voting and Elections - Housing -
Tourism and Wellbeing - Parking, Streets and Travel -
Environment and Pollution - Licences**



East Sussex Highways

**customerservicesmanager@eastsussexhighways.com
0345 60 80 193**

**Potholes - Fallen Trees - Road issues
and Improvements - Grass/Hedges**



The Friends of Hellingly Church

A dance in a barn on a farm

When is it? 12TH JULY

Where is it? CARTERS
CORNER FARM

(near Cowbeech
on right hand
side going
Up - You can't
miss it).

What time
is this Barn
Dance?

7-10pm. Who is
the Caller? David
Rannie (Best of the

bunch). How can I book?

You can book online (see below) or telephone
for tickets **01323 843346**. The cost of all this
a mere £15.00 or £10.00 for 16 yrs and under
(accompanied).

To book, follow this link or scan the QR code.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ETTQ>

Hellingly Friends are doing this for you out of
the goodness of their hearts.

Confession time. YOUR Parish Church of St
Peter and St Paul is in dire need of a wash and
brush up. In other words, just like your home,
once in a while some interior decoration has
to be done.

You know what it's like. You put it off and put it
off, and in the end, it just has to be done, and
it is costly.

This particular exercise will cost about £30,000.
And you know what it's like, there is more to
be done than you expect.

Hence the Dance in a Barn with a supper and
a band. Yes, a five-piece band. The Barn will
accommodate a 100 people, so make sure
you are in that number by booking early and
raising a little cash to ease the old age pains of
our Church.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Ronald Chatwin, (Chairman, protem, Friends
of Hellingly Church



The Friends of Hellingly Church are proud to present a

FAMILY BARN DANCE



7-10pm Saturday 12th July

Carters Corner Farm, Cowbeech Hill, Cowbeech

Live Band, with Caller Dave Rannie
No Experience Necessary

Licensed Bar

Admission by Ticket Only
Adults: £15.00 / 16 yrs and Under: £10.00

Including Ploughman's Supper



Follow the link to book tickets, or use the QR code.
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ETTQ>



Nusrat Ghani MP welcomes completion of upgrades to water infrastructure in Hellingly

Nusrat Ghani, MP for Sussex Weald, has joined Hellingly Parish Council at a recent stakeholder forum in Hellingly to discuss progress made on works to prevent flooding and sewage overflows that have been causing issues to local residents for several years.

Since the severe incidents in January 2023, Nusrat has been intensely involved in a series of meetings with local authorities and Southern Water representatives regarding the matter, supporting the Parish Council in pushing for full review of current infrastructure provision, clarity on maintenance responsibilities from each stakeholder, and assessment of the necessary upgrades needed to improve the situation.

At the meeting, which brought together representatives of Southern Water, Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council,

East Sussex Highways and the Environment Agency, Nusrat welcomed the news that works

upgrading the sewer including sealing 21 manholes and pipe re-lining have been completed. Assurances were also provided that work is ongoing to identify and rectify misconnections and more sewer monitors will be installed within the network.

Previously, clearing works of the culverts along Park Road have also been carried out to reduce flood risk and enable the road to be better passable in periods of heavy rain.

Nusrat Ghani said: "Having been raising the matter with Southern Water for several years, I am pleased to have helped secure this investment. However, more needs to be done to resolve and prevent the flood issues in Hellingly and I share everyone's frustration at the slow speed of improvements.

Concerns about the pumping station and the overall network capacity have been raised as well and I look forward to receiving further updates and timeline for further investment from Southern Water in due course. I would like to thank Hellingly Parish Council's Cllr David White and Jenny Hoodless for their tireless work on the matter and I will continue working with them to push all authorities to prioritise Hellingly for infrastructure upgrades."

www.nusghani.org.uk



Hailsham Foodbank

Hailsham Foodbank continues to work alongside many local agencies in supporting local people.



They give out three day emergency food parcels alongside onsite support from Citizens Advice, Community Money Advice and Energise Sussex Coast. These services cover general advice, help with benefits, debt, budgeting and utilities. There is also a Community Fridge onsite which is best stocked on Wednesdays and Fridays which is open to the whole community and is mostly end of day food from local supermarkets.

The foodbank is a charity that has to secure its own funding so all donations – time, money and food - are very much appreciated and they have very much valued grants from Hellingly Parish Council to support their work.

If you want to find out more about their work or how you can support them visit their website www.hailsham.foodbank.org.uk.

If you would like to donate an item there is a collection basket at Hellingly Hub which gets collected regularly.

Julie Coates - Hailsham foodbank Manager



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*The first 3 payments for all 2 year packages are priced at £20 per month. T&Cs Apply.



Wealden Police

Recent Reports

Community meeting in Hellingly



On Thursday 17th April, we held a community meeting inviting the residents of Hellingly down for a chat to discuss ongoing issues.

It was a great opportunity to hear your experiences, and the impact that youth anti-social behaviour (ASB) is having on the area. We wanted to make sure that your voices were heard, and wanted to provide as much reassurance as we can in regard to our patrols and other actions

Our ask to the community is to keep reporting! All reports help to build a clear picture as to what is going on, and enables us to direct our patrols where they're needed most. Feedback that we received was that there is fear in reporting – we would like to reassure you that you have the right to remain anonymous when contacting us to report a crime.



Local good work!

• One of our officers had noticed a distinctive smell, and decided to check it out... On Sunday the 9th March, two officers decided to investigate the smell whilst on foot patrol - leading them to the discovery of a cannabis farm in Hailsham. We arrested 3 individuals at the scene, who were released on bail whilst investigations continued.

• Officers have been raising awareness on rogue trading throughout the district, following numerous reports from the public. Whilst investigations continue behind the scenes, we are urging the public to remember:

- o Never let someone pressure you into quick decisions about your home.
- o Legitimate businesses won't knock on your door uninvited to offer repairs or gardening.
- o Trust your instincts - if something feels wrong, it probably is.
- o Don't accept offers for house or garden work from unexpected visitors
- o Never hand over money or sign documents for doorstep callers
- o Keep your door closed and locked when strangers knock

Op Downsway

Operation Downsway is our yearly dedicated campaign (in addition to checks 365 days a year) to tackle both road and driving related offences, as well as to enforce and educate drivers around the fatal 5 driving offences.

The fatal 5 driving offences are so named as they are the main contributors to serious and fatal road traffic accidents on the roads of Sussex each year.

1. Excess speed
2. Not wearing a seatbelt
3. Distractions ie: using your mobile or a hand-held device
4. Drink and drug driving
5. Careless and inconsiderate driving

During the months of April to September, residents can expect to see a number of proactive enforcement patrols and stop checks, as well as educational days and events held across the district - please keep an eye out on our socials over the coming weeks for activities, results and more in your area. As always, communities are continually encouraged to report road or driving related offences to us either online or by calling **101**. In addition to being able to take action as a result of your reports, all reports help to provide Sussex Police with offence data and mapping which aids in directing our Operation Downsway activities in areas which have seen an increase in offences and collisions.

Sussex Alerts – Police emails

Did you know you can sign up to email alerts from your local Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team? These alerts include; justice done, crime spates, campaigns, investigation updates, witness appeals, meet us in-person events and more...

Alerts are specific to your interests and local area; from reliable sources; and you're in control of how often you are contacted and who you receive information. Visit www.sussexalerts.co.uk to sign up today.

Stay in touch with your local teams

You can find and follow your Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team on either Facebook or Twitter for updates on recent patrols, community meetings, good work, arrests and more...

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WealdenPolice



STRETCH, FLEX AND TONE

Improve your flexibility, strengthen muscles and joints, maintain balance and co-ordination.

Working to music the class includes low impact aerobics and dance. Suitable for active 60 plus. Fully trained instructor. No floor work
Friday mornings 9:45am main hall Hellingly Hub

Cost £7 one hour class.
To book a place please contact Jenny West
01323 848216 / 07578023667
jenny_cloisters@yahoo.co.uk



Sussex Police Rural Crime Team

Since its inception in 2020, Sussex Police's rural crime team (RCT) has worked to make positive inroads with the rural community across the county, seeking to provide a reassuring presence and dedicated point of contact.

The RCT has two units, one based in Heathfield, East Sussex and the other in Midhurst, West Sussex. Although based in these locations, each respective unit can be sent anywhere in Sussex. There is always RCT officers working between 8am-midnight.

The East Sussex unit currently has one Police Sergeant, six Constables and a few PCSOs. Covering the whole county is a huge job for the rural crime team, most of their work takes the form of investigating rural crime reports and supporting their Police colleagues (e.g. response or neighbourhood policing).

The RCT have a wealth of knowledge on specific countryside legislation that enables crimes to be dealt with effectively and robustly.

The team also carry out pro-active engagement by attending country and agricultural shows to offer support and advice to the rural community.

The main message to remember is, not every crime in a rural area is a rural crime. The main areas of business for Sussex Police's rural crime team are:

Agriculture

- The most common crime is livestock worrying
- Support farmers after break-ins/theft of machinery and fuel, advise on future security of property
- Investigate damage caused by inappropriate use of quad bikes/off-road vehicles
- Support farms and countryside businesses when there are instances of activism or protests on their land (e.g. animal rights)

Wildlife

- Illegal hare coursing
- Poaching
- Crimes against protected species
- Heritage
- Damage to the actual fabric of a listed or

historic building (recent examples: Bronze Age burrows damaged, and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery being disturbed)

- Illegal metal detecting

Equine

- Thefts from working stables or equine centres
- Theft of horses themselves
- Instances of animal cruelty are dealt with in partnership with the RSPCA

RCT also supports agencies such as the Environment Agency and Local Authorities with environmental crimes such as instances of fly-tipping, illegal waste carriers and contamination of land or water courses.

There is a dedicated neighbourhood watch style tool called DISC that is available to countryside-based businesses only. It allows information sharing of suspicious activity and the reporting of incidents (much like the DISC system used for retail crime).

Rural crimes should be reported via the usual channels, either by calling **101** or online. Call **999** in an emergency. Crime reports for the attention of the RCT will be triaged on arrival and dealt with by officers as appropriate.

To send supplementary information to the RCT in support of a crime report, you can use the following email address:

ruralcrime.team@sussex.police.uk

This email should not be used to report a crime.



Sussex Police



FESTIVAL of TRANSPORT

Supporting Local charities

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

Sat, Sun & Mon

BROAD FARM HELLINGLY
EAST SUSSEX BN27 4DS

10am - 5pm

A Great Day Out For Everyone

Classic and Vintage Vehicles
 Steam Engines, Stationary Engines
 Buses, Tractors, Motorcycles
 Commercial and 4x4 Vehicles

Funfair
 Auto Jumble
 Trade Stands
 Working Exhibits
 Childrens Attractions

Arena Events
 Free Parking
 Dogs On Leads Welcome
 Toilets Available On site
 (Disabled Access)

Food Hall
 Beer Tent
 Hot and Cold Food

Entry Forms and General information from:
 Miss Boyd
 Tel: 07536 915114
 Email: secretary@hvcub.co.uk
 Web: www.hvcub.co.uk

Entrance Fee:
 Adults £10
 Seniors £8
 Children £3
 (Under 5s FREE)

Online Ticket Sales

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT THE GATE (CASH AND CARD ACCEPTED)

Organised by Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club Ltd



babyballet
 where everyone loves to dance

COME AND JOIN THE FUN

Classes Held Here!

with babyballet@ Hailsham & Lewes (Eastbourne) at Hellingly Community Hub

Every Tuesday morning during term time

9.20am: Tinies (18m-3yrs)
 10.00am: Tots (6-18m)
 10.35am: Movers (3-4yrs)
 11.15am: Tots (6-18m)

Book a 3 week trial for just £18
 Book online or call Miss Natalie - 07842244210

www.babyballet.co.uk

National Garden Scheme

There will be 9 gorgeous Gardens open in Hellingly on Sunday 29th June between 11am – 5pm.



Refreshments will be served at Brook Cottage in aid of Hellingly's St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church. Ice creams will also be available at Globe Place. Combined Entry £8.00. Everyone Welcome.

- Hellingly NGS Garden Trail**
- Broad View
 - Brook Cottage
 - Globe Cottage
 - Globe Place
 - May House
 - Pond Cottage
 - Prior Cottage
 - Rosemary Cottage
 - Priors Grange



Your perfect garden awaits

Visit our ngs.org.uk to discover more





The Hellingly Country Park and Orchard

To those of you old enough to recall those lyrics, no I am not referring to the “Hounds of love”.

Instead I refer to the blossom, the flowers, especially those currently featuring on the trees in and around the Country Park.

Our Hawthorn trees are displaying fantastic, vast clouds of blooms and the Horse Chestnuts have their brilliant white panicles standing proud.

We are in the middle of tree pollen season as those of you who suffer with hay fever will be able to testify to. Many trees are doing their thing this time of year. The Oak, Sycamore, Wingnut, Hazel and Willow have less showy, inconspicuous flowers, usually of a green/ yellow colour. Take a closer look and you will discover them.

This brings us nicely on to the Community Orchard which finally became a thing in early March. Some of our freshly planted trees are already in flower. Mostly the apples, with Discovery, James Grieve, Laxtons Superb and Worcester Pearmain making their presence known.

Not to be left out the Morello Cherry is also starting to flower.



For those who are interested, the majority of our apple varieties are from pollination groups three and four.

Egremont Russet being the sole representative of pollination group two. Not the end of the world but we will be adding a few more trees in the future, anyone fancy a Christmas Pearmain? Give it time, it will not be too long before the orchard will be awash with blossom at this time of year.

An eager and eclectic group of volunteers came forward to assist our groundsmen Andy, Tim and Tom to make our orchard become a reality. Everyone involved got stuck in and all of the trees were planted over a two day period. It would be great to see a band of volunteers flourish along side the fruit trees, assisting with pruning and picking as those tasks come to fruition.

The orchard also features a commemorative bench and plaque in memory of Councillor Steve Gander. Recently departed and sadly missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him.

Other projects were also completed in March. The top soil and turf were laid to the front of the cricket pavilion terrace, that turf has already taken root and has had its first cut. The new terrace will be a huge asset to the Country Park and especially those who enjoy the sound of leather on willow.

The wildlife area is coming along nicely with the Honeysuckle almost tall enough to be trained to the wigwams. The compost and mulching site has worked well with the mulch applied to the dog park and the compost dug in at various sites around the park and parish.

The cutting back which took place around the banks of the pond is showing early, promising results with bright, fresh growth in profusion. The Yellow flag Iris and purple Comfrey being amongst the first to show their true colours. Blue Bell Wood has proven to be a bit of a slow starter but that was only to be expected.

It will take a few more seasons for our work to show tangible results. That said the pre-existing Blue bells, Enchanter's Nightshade, Lesser Celandines and Wild Arums are more noticeable now that they are not drowned in a sea of brambles.

As such we shall continue to battle the brambles in that specific area.

There was a fair amount of clearing towards the end of 2024. This was part of a plan and that plan dictates that we are at the limit of any more noticeable clearing. Maintenance will be on going as one would expect and there are a few new items to come. These new items relate to developing wild flower areas and improving the "meadow" area behind Bradley Drive. Creating a meadow from very little can be a costly exercise but don't worry.

We have a cunning plan. A plan so cunning that even the most cunning of cunning foxes would never guess what it is.

With temperatures slowly rising the park is quite literally springing into life. The once barren branches of the trees now covered in fresh, verdant foliage.



The ducks and geese are back in residence on the ponds with eight new goslings in tow and a host of wild flowers are beginning to light up the undergrowth. There is much to look forward to.

Let us hope that those who have recently blighted not just the Country Park but the Parish as a whole with their mindless vandalism, will take stock of what is around them and realise just how lucky that they are to have it to enjoy. That damage and pointless vandalism is not just costly but incredibly disheartening to those who strive to keep our local environment the green jewel that it is.

It ruins play equipment, benches, signs and property that the wider community appreciates and is then often prevented from enjoying themselves. If those responsible are reading this, please give us all a break and stop.

In the last issue of Hellingly Highlights I commented on a tree directory, a green page on the Hellingly Parish Council website and some substantial work to revive the lower pond.

We are running a bit behind on these projects. It was hoped to find a professional contractor to assist with saving the pond from its own success and clear some of the reeds and rushes from the pond's interior. This proved harder to achieve than first thought.

I am sure that you would agree that this work must be carried out with sensitivity and care. We await a response from our chosen contractor.

The "green stuff" page on the website is near to completion and the tree directory has now been completed. QR codes have been attached to the relevant trees in the Country Park. That QR code is also shown on this page.

The code will take to the Tremendous-trees website. Tremendous trees details many though not all of the trees currently growing in our park.

A map shows the location of those trees and a further page details some of the wild flowers that you may find either in the park or around and about the parish. Varieties detailed in the wild flower section will be up dated as the seasons roll by. It is hoped that the tree directory and wild flower notes will prove to be an informative addition to your enjoyment of Hellingly and its Country Park.

Tremendous-trees was built by yours truly during the winter months and so apart from the conifers listed it was not always quite so obvious to decide which dead looking stick was which! That will serve as my disclaimer, it is intended as a guide and not as a world authority on trees!

And so summer now stretches out ahead of us. Let's hope that it is a fantastic one so that the groundsmen can go on holiday pre-tanned! Please enjoy your park and the fine weather, do not be afraid to interrupt the groundsmen from their toil (we really won't mind) and ask questions or come up with suggestions.

At the end of the day it is your park and we are merely the custodians of Hellingly's green crown jewels.

Crown jewels that are not locked behind glass but open and free for all to enjoy.

Rob Bryant
Groundsman



Hellingly Lions Cycle Speedway

The new season is underway with the team training on Thursdays at 6:30pm at the Lower Dicker Recreation Ground.

New riders are always welcome, just turn up in a long-sleeved top and trousers and bring a helmet and gloves.



The first Home fixtures are on Sunday 8th June and Sunday 15th June both 2pm starts.



**Hellingly
Cycle Speedway Club
Riders Wanted**

Training sessions
every
**Thursday
6:30pm
at the Lower
Dicker
Recreation
Ground.**

There is no cost involved with
bikes. All equipment is available
free of charge. If you require more
information
please call 07774 092469



Success for Hellingly Rugby Club

Congratulations to Hellingly Rugby Club who are league champions with a crushing victory 71-15 against St Francis.



A brilliant end to the season and a huge well done to all this involved with the club this season.



BRIDGE THE GAP

Since the closure of the Hailsham and Hellingly Bridge Club following the Covid-19 epidemic in 2020, some bridge players have been left without a club and may be glad to learn of a substitute not too far away.

Heathfield Bridge Club meet on a Tuesday evening @ 7:15pm in the small hall at Union Church in the town centre. All standard of players are welcome, but if you are a complete novice and wish to learn, tuition at a gentle level can be provided. The current members are very friendly- no pressure!

For further details, please email David Higgon at drhiggon@googlemail.com or telephone **01323 843346**, or just turn up.



Join Us at Hellihubs – A Fun, Free Play Group for Parents and Children

Looking for a relaxed and welcoming space to bond with your child and connect with other families?

Hellihubs is a free, drop-in playgroup designed for parents and carers to enjoy quality time with their little ones while meeting new people. Running every Monday (excluding bank holidays) from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, Hellihubs provides a fun and friendly setting where both parents and children can enjoy play, socialising, and learning.

Our group provides a fantastic opportunity for children to interact with others of similar ages and explore a variety of play stations. From a creative craft area to a musical zone, ride-on toys, and much more, there's something for every child to enjoy.

These activities help spark creativity, coordination, and social interaction while allowing parents to chat, relax, and build connections with fellow parents and carers.

Hellihubs is led by our wonderful volunteer,

Katie, who brings a wealth of experience working with young children. Her warm and friendly approach ensures that every visit is both enjoyable and rewarding for families.

While you're at Hellihubs, enjoy hot drinks, squash, and a selection of biscuits to keep you refreshed as you socialise.

We kindly ask for a donation to help support the group and keep this wonderful service running. Find us at the Hellingly Community Hub at Roebuck Country Park, where we offer ample parking for your convenience, baby change facilities, disabled facilities, and a warm, friendly atmosphere.

We're also easily accessible by public transport, with the 1X, 51, and 51X buses stopping nearby.

Whether you're looking to make new friends, provide your child with exciting playtime, or simply enjoy a cup of tea & a chat, Hellihubs is the perfect place to be.

We look forward to seeing you there!



HELLIHUBS

Where: Hellingly Community Hub

When: Every Monday 8.30am - 10am
(excluding Bank Holidays)

Free!

Hellihubs is designed for parents and carers to enjoy quality time with their little ones while meeting new people.

Our group offers a fantastic opportunity for children to interact with others of similar ages and explore a variety of play stations.

We look forward to welcoming you!

01323 440415

natalie@hellingly-pc.gov.uk

What's On @ THE HELLINGLY COMMUNITY HUB THIS SUMMER



MONDAYS

Hellihubs – 8:30am – 10am

A FREE Parent & Toddler Group run by Hellingly Parish Council

Come along and make new friends, have a cuppa and chat while your little ones play. No booking required, just pop along.

Pilates with Jen @ 9:30am

Contact Jen Piper on **07958 519168**

or email **jen4pilates@aol.com**.

Website: www.jen4pilates.co.uk

YOUNG @ HEART over 55's Social Group

10:30am-12:30pm

'A FREE Group for the over 55's who are young at heart'. Refreshments, Quizzes, Bingo, Activities, Games, Talks and light exercise sessions. No need to book, just come along for a cuppa and make new friends.

Talk & Tea

A FREE support Group for all ages run by The Bodle Street Ladies

Second Monday of every month

Contact Fiona for more information

Tel: **07733 408394**

Boot camp Fitness class with Daniel pt

@ 6:00pm-6:45pm (OUTSIDE FROM MAY)

Contact Daniel James on **07882 511602**

Pilates with Jen – 2 evening classes @ 6:30pm & 7:30pm

Hailsham Nightingales Women's Institute

– 3rd Monday of every month from 7 -10pm.

Contact Katy Layer on

kelvinkaty@googlemail.com

Hellingly Bowls Club & Bingo Evenings

Email: **joy.norman@hotmail.com**

Tel: **01323 843990**

TUESDAYS

Baby Ballet – Tuesday mornings (Term Time)

Contact –

hailshamandlewes@babyballet.co.uk

Tel: **07842 244210**

Hellingly Women's Institute - First

Tuesday of every month @ 2:15pm.

Contact Lorraine Sparrowhawk on

07854 967934 or email

Ldsparrowhawk@yahoo.com

Yoga with Zenia – 6pm – 7pm

Contact Zenia on

07966 287623 or email

elementalswellbeing@gmail.com

Short Mat Bowls - 7.30pm – 10.00pm

(September - April)

Contact Ann Robinson **01323 318696** or email

ann-robinson1@sky.com

WEDNESDAYS

Hellingly Youth Club

School years 6-8 – 6:15pm -7:30pm.

School years 9 -11 - 7:45pm - 9:00pm

Contact **www.hailshamyouthservice.org**

THURSDAYS

****NEW** Rhymetime with Alison**

10am-10:30am

A FREE Parent & Toddler Group run by Hellingly Parish Council. Come along for nursery rhyme singing and instrument playing. No booking required, just pop along.

DATES: DATES 12th & 26th June, 17th & 21st

July & 14th & 28th August

Pilates with Jen – 2 evening classes @ 6pm & 7pm

Pilates with Dorota – @ 6:30pm

Contact **dorota.anna.jozwiak@gmail.com**

Hailsham Photographic Society

7:30pm-10:00pm.

Contact

www.hailshamphotographicsociety.co.uk

FRIDAYS

Pilates with Jen @ 9:30am

Pilates with Dorota @ 9:30am

Stretch, Flex & Tone @ 9:45am

A light exercise class for the over 60's with Jenny West.

Contact Jenny
 @ jenny_cloisters@yahoo.co.uk or
 Tel: **01323 848216**

SATURDAYS

Pilates with Jen @ 9:30am

Happy Jacks Soft Play sessions Saturday mornings
 contact happyjackseastbourne@gmail.com
 DATES - 21st June, 12th July

SUNDAYS

Hellingly Church 'FREE' Messy Church afternoons - 3:30pm-5:00pm
 DATES - 14th September 2025, 9th November 2025

PLEASE JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION
 @ **Hellingly Community Club**

The Hellingly Hub's 'book swap' Library is open Monday – Friday 9:30am - 4:00pm
 Pop in and swap your old books for a new one



BABY BANK & BEYOND
 (South Wealden) CIC

Have you heard of a baby bank?

Baby banks collect pre loved baby & children's clothes, equipment & toys & pass them on to families in our community who need a little help.

We cover Heathfield, Hailsham, Polegate, Eastbourne and Lewes.

If you can't afford the basics for your child & aren't sure where to turn, **we're here to help.**



CAN WE HELP YOU?

Please contact us confidentially:
Nicky@babybankbeyond.org
 Text/Whatsapp: 07355 445502

 Baby Bank South Wealden CIC
 [Babybank.southwealden](https://www.instagram.com/Babybank.southwealden)

Baby Bank & Beyond (South Wealden) CIC
 Community Interest Company Number 14748986



JOIN US AT OUR 55 AND OVER 'YOUTH' GROUP

YOUNG AT HEART

Hellingly Community Hub
 10.30am-12.30pm
 Every Monday (excluding Bank Holidays)
 Tel: 01323 449415

Warm Welcome	Social Time
Guest Speakers	Crafts & Games
Light Exercise	Refreshments
Disabled Access	Bingo & Quizzes

No need to book - Just turn up!




Claim your FREE online business listing on the CommunityAd business directory today!



Get your business listed and help direct more locals to your business.

Simply sign up here: www.communityad.co.uk/add-your-business



Sussex Creatives



Sussex Creatives, a group of local Artists, presented a very successful Artists and Makers Exhibition at The Hellingly Community Hub featuring a wealth of talent and variety of artistic style over the recent weekend.

The local mayor, Paul Holbrook, was one of the many to attend the preview evening where the welcoming atmosphere allowed conversation to flow, bringing art lovers from all walks of life and the community together.

The entrance was by donation, with all funds raised going to Demelza; a charity in the South East of England that provides specialist care for children and young people with serious or life-limiting conditions, and their families, across Kent, South East London, and East Sussex.

The hall was organized in such a way that you naturally flowed around the room, yet with

enough space in each "pod" to stand back and admire the work.

Field and Flame provided the tasty outdoor BBQ food which was freshly cooked to order.

A big thank you goes to Pam Robinson; for manning the kitchen for the duration of the event, and making endless cups of tea and coffee. The entrance and refreshments raised £130 for Demelza after expenses.

"The variety of artist's distinct styles made the exhibition a memorable and enjoyable experience for the local community."

"I felt really comfortable talking to the Artists, no-one pressured me into buying anything... but I did, there was some amazing work on display!"

"A beautiful diverse display of many methods and styles were pleasingly displayed. It was nice to chat to the Artists and discuss their work."



breath

flow

get fit for life

Pilates with Dorota

Hellingly Community Hub
 Pilates Classes Thursday 6.30pm
 Friday 9.30am
 07811447477

you can find me on 

Hailsham
 Pilates
 with Dorota




Do something amazing
 Give blood



**HELLINGLY
 COMMUNITY HUB IS
 NOW A BLOOD
 DONATION CENTRE**

To book please go to

www.blood.co.uk

**13th June, 5th Sept,
 19th Sept, 3rd Oct**

**Your local blood
 donor centre is
 closer than you
 might think.**

If you're the **giving type**
 book now at blood.co.uk



30TH JULY & 20TH AUGUST
10AM - 2PM

JOIN US FOR OUR 2025

FAMILY FUN DAYS



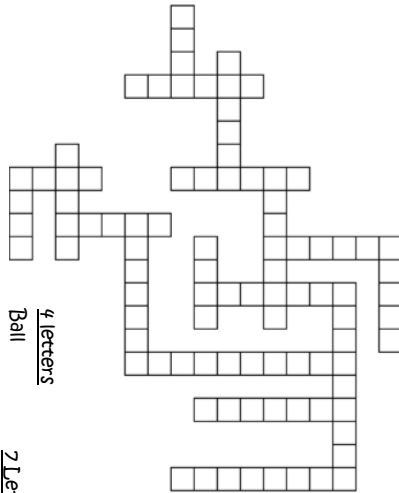
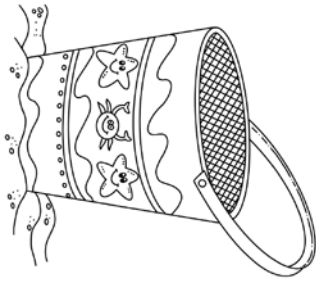
LOWER HORSEBRIDGE
RECREATION GROUND

FUN FOR THE FAMILY
LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS • GAMES •
SUSSEX POLICE • AND MORE!!



BRING YOUR PICNICS AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS!!

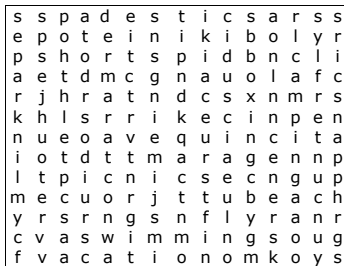
Summer Wordfit Crossword



- 4 Letters
 Ball
 Camp
 Park
 Play
- 5 Letters
 Beach
- 6 Letters
 Waves
- 8 Letters
 Spade
- 9 Letters
 Bikini
- 10 Letters
 Bucket
- 2 Letters
 Shors
- 2 Letters
 Summer
- 2 Letters
 Camping
- 8 Letters
 Holiday
- 8 Letters
 Parasol
- 8 Letters
 Picnics
- 9 Letters
 Swimming
- 9 Letters
 Popsicles
- 10 Letters
 Sunglasses

www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk

Summer Word Search



- beach park
 bucket camping
 spade picnic
 swimming vacation
 bikini shorts



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Summer Sudoku

Fill in the grid with numbers 1 to 9 making sure no number is repeated in every row, every column and within each mini grid.

	5			2	4		9	
2		4	6		7			
	9		7				8	
1				9	8	4		
			7	6	1			
			1	4		9	7	
							4	
4	1	5		2	7	9		
8	6	9		1	3	5		



www.kidspuzzlesandgames



Hellingly Community Hub Continues to Thrive as a Popular Local Venue

The Hellingly Community Hub is fast becoming one of the area's most valued and versatile venues.

With more individuals, local organisations, and businesses choosing the modern space for everything from team meetings and training sessions to children's parties and community events.

Since opening, the Hub has seen a steady increase in bookings and footfall, with many praising its accessible layout, high-spec facilities, and welcoming atmosphere.

A Space for All

Currently, the Hub hosts a wide variety of regular hirers, including fitness instructors, local groups, charities, and education providers. From Pilates classes and wellbeing workshops to birthday celebrations and networking events, the Hub's three flexible rooms offer a clean, professional, and cost-effective solution for a wide range of needs.

The main space, The David White Hall, features a high-quality conference system, projector, underfloor heating, flip charts, Wi-Fi, hearing loops, and use of a large kitchen attached. Two additional meeting rooms offer ideal environments for smaller group sessions, planning meetings, or breakout activities. Julie O'Neill, one of the Hub Coordinators, commented:

"We're incredibly proud of what the Hub has become, a true centre-point for the local community.

Whether you're hosting a toddler group, business meeting, or birthday party, our aim is to make the process simple, affordable, and enjoyable for everyone involved."

Accessible & Affordable

With ample free parking, electric car charging points, modern kitchen facilities, and competitive hire rates, the Hub has become a go-to location for anyone looking to host an event in the Hailsham, Hellingly and the local area.

The venue continues to receive glowing feedback from hirers and visitors alike, praised not just for its quality and convenience, but for the warm, inclusive community spirit it fosters.

Interested in Booking?

Whether you're organising a business workshop, celebration, class, or community gathering, the Hellingly Community Hub team is ready to help.

To enquire about availability, arrange a tour, or make a booking:

Visit: www.hellingly-pc.gov.uk/community-hub.

Or contact the team directly by calling **01323 449415** or emailing hubb bookings@hellingly-pc.gov.uk.

Let the Hellingly Community Hub be the perfect backdrop for your next memorable event.



Beginner's Flow Yoga
with Zenia



Find your flow with this gentle, inclusive practice

6-week yoga block
Pay for 5 upfront,
first class included for FREE!

~~£48~~ **£39**

Bring: a yoga mat – water – yourself!

Hellingly Community Hub: Green Room
Every Tuesday starting 27th May
6 – 7 pm

Book on 07966287623
elementalswellbeing@gmail.com
or Scan the code to pay



SCAN ME



BOOT CAMP
OUTSIDE HELLINGLY COMMUNITY HUB

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
6-6.45PM

These classes will improve your Cardiovascular Fitness, Strength, Flexibility and Mobility, and help reduce your Body Fat Percentage.

Please book at
mail@wealdfitandtherapy.co.uk or
07882 511602

Just £50 for all classes in a Month or £8 payg



Jenn PILATES

Pilates. Classes
with Jenn

Problem Solving Movement

Hellingly Hub
Monday - 09.30
Monday 18.30

Monday - 19.30
Thursday - 18.00
Thursday - 19.00
Friday - 09.30
Saturday - 09.30

www.jen4pilates.co.uk
Facebook: jen4pilates
Instagram: jen_4_pilates







Looking for a venue?



The Hellingly Community Hub has a large main hall and two smaller meeting rooms available to hire and provides an ideal venue for any occasion.

**Children's parties – Wakes – Business Meetings –
Training Courses – Exercise Classes – Fundraising Events
Quiz Nights and much much more**



Why our venue?

- Out of town venue with lots of parking
- Very competitive prices
- Free Wi-Fi
- Use of projector, sound system & flip chart on request
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Wheelchair accessible and baby changing facilities
- Electric car charging points

To book or to find out more information, please email us at
hubbookings@hellingly-pc.gov.uk
or call us on **01323 449415**, or visit our website
www.hellingly-pc.gov.uk and complete an online booking request form
and we will get back to you with further details.
The Drive, Hellingly, East Sussex BN27 4EP

****NEW** CONFERENCE SYSTEM NOW AVAILABLE**