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Issue 2 Volume 3

Rye Harbour Newsletter

November 2003

Compiled By & For The Residents

Special Features

- Local Events & Meetings
- Comments & Letters
- Youth Club
- Church News
- Mary Stanford Disaster Centre Page
- Family News
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Tide Timetable
- Local Bus Times
- Harbour Master
- Parent & Toddler
- Shop Update
- Sea Defences
- Nature Reserve Competition Photo's

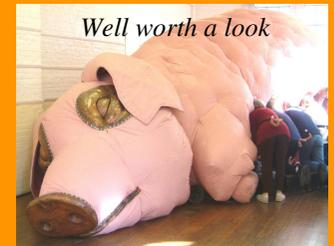
Editor's Comments

I can honestly say, I have struggled to get everything in this month even with four extra pages but as far as I am aware nobody was left out. Except me. So I will fit what I can on the front page.

Rye Harbour Youth Action Group has not only now got a wonderful co-ordinator, we have just appointed a new assistant co-ordinator, who many may know from his enthusiastic welcome at Budgens, he is keen, energetic and in touch with the children. It is so good to see a team coming together at last and certainly we have a good strong group of children attending the Tuesday evening sessions who seem to appreciate what Mel and Raf are doing.

Parent and Toddler who also now come under the same banner has been supported more by local families which is excellent

Well worth a look



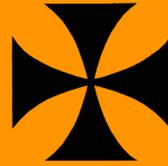
and I hope will continue and as you will see on page 41 we have now purchased a large ball pond in the shape of a pirate ship, which I'm sure Rye Harbour has seen plenty of in the past.

On Saturday November 8th we have got a stall in Rope Walk to raise money and awareness of our needs to sustain these groups, we hope to have some quality bric-brac, face painting and some local framed photo's never seen before, so do come down and support us please. Thank you.

Copy date will be **Friday 14th November**, it's good to see so much coming in, although, it would be good to get some letters.



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RYE HARBOUR NEWSLETTER

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The Opening Times

RYE HARBOUR STORES UPDATE



Mon - Fri 7 am to 5.30 pm
Saturday's 8 am to 5.30 pm
day's 8 am to 1 pm

Sun-

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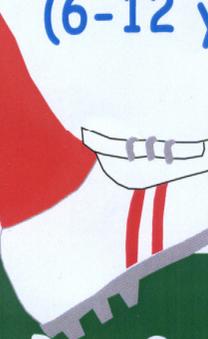


RYE SPORTS CENTRE (5pm-7pm)

SATURDAY MORNING

FOOTBALL COACHING

(6-12 years)



Rye Sports Centre (9:30am - 11:00am)

Further information from
Rye Sports Centre 01797 224747
1066 Sporting Club 01797 224601

FROM THE HARBOUR MASTERS CHAIR

I have a definite mark for the end of the summer - that is when the yellow speed buoys are lifted along the Camber and Pett level frontages. This has now been completed so it is OK by me for temperatures to fall! Fewer boats venture out at weekends and the slipway usage drops. We missed the visit by the sailing fishing vessel "Excelsior" this year, another marker for the beginning of winter. It is hoped that she will visit again early next year. We are also arranging for the visit of the "Balmoral" a vessel in the same stables as the paddle steamer "Waverly". The "Balmoral" last visited in 1994 when the "Alsford Wharf" was in receivership. Nobody told the Master who arrived with 400 passengers expecting to disembark and return to Eastbourne by coach. This was not permitted, so a very quiet vessel turned off the wharf and proceeded as scheduled to Dover. Talking of unusual vessels, we piloted in the largest vessel to date to visit Rye, importing a cargo of 2,200 tons of roadstone from North Wales. Being 87 metres in length (289ft) she



easily turned, light ship, on a 4.4 metre tide. Some of you may have noticed that, on occasions, we take these large vessels out stern first (backwards). Work has commenced on the Western Pier (or "Terminal Groyne" as the engineers wish it to be referred). A large barge arrived during October and was towed to the mouth to carry our yet further ground investigations. The project involves removing 90,000 tons of shingle from a pocket just West of the pier and the construction of a new groyne to prevent the "hole" being filled. New piling will be placed in the river along a 100 metre length at the landward end of the concrete structure. Early one morning I was telephoned by Ronnie Simons who reported that a large beech tree had fallen down blocking the access to the fish market. This old tree had marked the corner into the area for many years. Within an hour the Environment Agency was able to

chain-saw the tree, permitting once again access for the fishing crews to their boats. Another incident involved one of our fishing charter vessels that was at anchor some 9 miles off Rye. Whilst the occupants were engaged in netting a big catch the vessel was struck full on by a leisure craft journeying from Rye to Boulogne. Neither of the vessels saw each other. Considerable damage was caused to the yacht but she was able to continue on her way. How can two vessels hit each other in the middle of the Channel on a calm, hot day? September witnessed the 50th anniversary of the Hastings Diving Club. Their vessel "Seaquest" is frequently used to carry divers to the many interesting wrecks in Rye Bay. The Hastings club is one of the oldest in the country. During September I was requested to scatter the ashes of a Mr. Preece. Some of your older readers may remember him as the headmaster for the school that is now the hotel "Rye Lodge". Filming is always popular in the harbour. Recent crews have been filming for the "Boots" Christmas catalogue and a

Harbour Master's Comments Cont.

new toy that I believe is called "Haribo" or something like that. The cutter to H.M.S. "Victory" was in the river filming for a television series to be shown early in 2004. The crews looked splendid in 17th century uniform. The "emergency" exercise was deemed a success for all those that took part in it. The scenario was a ship carrying dangerous cargoes being in collision with a charter fishing vessel, both catching fire. The Rother District Council were keen to exercise their evacuations for the village as a large plume of poisonous gas was blowing

from the wharf across the village. All in all the day went well considering that just prior to the commencement of the exercise two "real" emergencies happened. Another "real" emergency happened on the Admiralty Jetty when the fishing vessel "Genesis" sank on her moorings. The reason for the sinking is not known for certain but is believed to have been caused by being held down by neighbouring boat's ropes on a rising tide. The vessel has been taken to Derek Phillip's yard for repairs and cleaning. Officers of the

Environment Agency, owners of the harbour, visited during October, when presentations were given into the legal responsibility of the Agency and also of the operations of the port. The harbour is very active in all three of its main functions, Leisure, Fishing and Commercial shipping, the latter being enhanced by a new 20 year contract to import stone from Calais Quarries into Rye Wharf. I can yet see the opening of the redundant Rye Marine Terminal for additional traffic, some dredging needed first!
Carl Bagnal (Harbour Master)

Don't Forget To Visit
RYE HARBOUR'S
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 Featuring The Rye Harbour Newsletter



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Many people will recently have received a letter from the NHS about relocating the Postern Gate Surgery to the Memorial Care Centre site. There is a public consultation process with a meeting at Thomas Peacocke School on 3rd November, and all submissions to be made in writing by 17th November. The relocation will give better facilities but make it less accessible from Rye Harbour, especially for mothers with young children and elderly people. A

copy of the consultation document and comments forms will be available in Harbour Stores (or on the website www.bexhillandrotherpct.nhs.uk). Comments are very important and if you have views on the project and how it affects your family, you can go to the meeting or leave written comments at the shop. If you need to discuss anything, Steve Tollett (councillor@virtualwizards.co.uk) or Jill Stott (jillstott@aol.com) of Rye Harbour Futures Group have

Rye Harbour Boat Owners Association The string of initials, which stand for Rye Harbour Boat Owners Association. What do we do? Mainly, we exist to put pressure on the various authorities for the improvement and maintenance of Rye Harbour. That was at original reason d'être, when the harbour was under threat some years ago.

Nowadays, we carry on this tradition, but we also have a social side. We start our year in January, with the A G M, in February, a fitting out supper, in the spring. A barbecue, usually in July, and the laying up supper around October. These are usually held in the Rye Harbour Village Hall, and are very informal affairs, casual dress and free wine with the meal. The meal is provided at a very moderate cost. We publish a quarterly magazine, "Gentle Breezes", which is free to members, and keeps them informed about our affairs, and also entertains,



membership is not confined to boat-owners, but is open to anyone who has an interest in the well being of the harbour. Subscriptions are a modest £8 per year, which will cover a whole family; benefits include an information and advice service, and free advertising in a magazine for members. Anyone interested in joining can contact the honorary secretary, John Morgan at 49 Hillbrow Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 4QH or telephone 01233 627594, for a membership form and a copy of our magazine. What are concerned with at the moment? For some time, we have been trying to get some dredging done at Strand Quay, but it is a bit like beating your head against a brick wall, trying to get the Environment

Agency to do something, which they find any excuse not to do.

Another idea, which we are working on, is to brighten up Strand Quay area, with better mooring facilities for boaters, tourists and local people alike. Our draft plans are being considered together with Rye Partnership and others, to eventually produce a comprehensive plan, which might attract Euro funding.

Two of our Committee Members also serve on the Rye Harbour Advisory Committee, which advises the Environment Agency on matters concerning the harbour, one is a trading member in the harbour and the other is nominally representing the Royal Yachting Association, as it is, they who pass on nominations for appointment to HORAC on behalf of other organisations. Each member's term of office lasts for three years.

So in various ways through HORAC, by direct correspondence and action, and by contact with other organisations, we try to do our best for the Harbour.

John Morgan

Message from Di James

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for their kind wishes for Collins recovery and a special Thank You to our neighbours Alison and Barry. It's wonderful to live in a village with so many caring people.

Di James

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VILLAGE FETE COMMITTEE / VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Rye Harbour Village Hall Management committee are currently looking for members and volunteers for the following two committees that are being set up:-

Village Fete Committee

Village Hall Fundraising Committee

It is hoped that Village Organisations will come forward to be part of the Village Fete Committee along with individuals - so that we can make the fete a Village day.

The fundraising committee is solely for raising funds for the Village Hall, so that it can be maintained and run.

If you feel that you don't want to be on the committee but would like to volunteer to help out, then please get in touch. Anyone interested please contact Steve Tollett - e-mail: secretary@ryeharbourvillagehall.co.uk, tel: 223631 or pop a note through my door or the Village Hall door



01797 225006

NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2003

Monday	3.30-5.30pm	After-Schools Club (free) 11-14 years
Monday	7.00-9.00pm	Youth Club 11-14 years (50p)
Tuesday	10 -12.00pm	Parent and Child Group (£1.25)
Tuesday	1.00-2.00pm	Smoking Cessation Group (free)
Tuesday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Tuesday	7.00-8.00pm	Women's Kick Boxing Class (£3)
Wednesday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Wednesday	7.0-11.00pm	Over 16's youth club (free)
Thursday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Thursday	7.00-9.30pm	Youth Club 14+ - 50p
Friday	3.30-5.30pm	After Schools Club
Friday	7.00-9.00pm	Amateur Dramatics Group



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Charities

If you are a registered charity
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charity day on November 8th
11 am - 4 pm

Rope walk shopping centre
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TN31 7NA

For more details

Telephone
07742 401149

Or ask at
Toucan Tronics or
Chez Maureen



FISHING NEWS

ROUND RYE BAY FOR MORE



Good catches have continued this month although the second half has seen the weather break with strong easterly winds making it hard going and stopping some of the boats from fishing. The spider crabs have all but gone now from the bay making their way out to deeper water and this has helped with a working of both trawl and set nets. A few cod have been caught by most of the boats both close to shore and out in the bay so this fishery might pick up in the next month, but with very small quotas all boats this could be quite a problem. Work has started on the scallop gear, fitting up new dredges or refurbishing last

year's gear and boats will be looking to start in November, hoping for a season like last year. The scallop beds have been fairly undisturbed since the season finished with most local vessels fishing on the muddy flatter grounds where as the scallops are found on the rougher, rocky grounds. November will see big change over in fishing patterns with gill knitters swooping types of net, trawlers switching from the multi-rig trawls to scalloping and the boats left trawling from night fishing to day fishing for the mixed fishery that comes into the bay. So as usual we will have to hope and see.

Boy Ashore

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday October 18th, saw yet another jumble sale in the Village Hall in aid of the Children's Christmas Party, there was an excellent turnout and £110 was raised, many thanks to Julie who organised it, helpers and supporters.

Rye & District Age Concern

**Baptist Church
Hall, Rye**



**Reg. Charity
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Age concern is providing an

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Outreach Information Ser-

vice in Rye
At Rye CVS, 25 Cinque Ports Street, Rye

On the third and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10am to 12noon

There is a wide range information available, on subjects such as benefits, residential homes, sheltered accommodation, support services, clubs, transport and many more. Age concern factsheets are available and copies can be supplied on request.

The service aims to help older people, their families, friends and carers. Callers can drop in



As winter fast approaches the wildlife is changing day by day, here a few highlights of the last month.... Beach Reserve - The large flocks of Geese now seem to have moved on from the fields down towards the shore, as have most of the House Sparrows – they must have eaten most of the large seeds, but large flocks of Linnets and Greenfinches are feasting on the smaller seeds. The last flowering shingle plants were still showing with a few Yellow-horned Poppies, Viper's Bugloss and Herb Robert. One of the autumn highlights is the gradual change in colour of the saltmarsh vegetation going from bright green, through to purple and eventually brown. Interesting moths trapped at Lime Kiln Cottage during October include Beaded & Dark Chestnut, The Vestal, Mallow, Autumnal Rustic & L-album Wainscot. The latter is a relatively scarce moth. Castle Water – The new estalnd area has attracting

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Report



some wading birds, including a Stone Curlew, Greenshank, Green Sandpipers and a Black-tailed Godwit. Particularly exciting news was the appearance of the first winter Bittern in the reedbeds on 13th October. We are hoping to be able to match or improve upon last year's count of 10 wintering birds on the Reserve – watch this space! Little Egrets are present in very good numbers, with a count of 23 coming in to the roost on 13th. Also spotted there on that date was a Spoon-bill, so keep your eyes peeled when out and about on the reserve! On the 15th two Marsh Harriers were cruising over the reedbeds. A slight oddity was a lone Black Swan seen drifting alongside it's white cousins. Shore - There has been a steady movement of Brent Geese along the shore. On 16th October three Avocets stopped briefly to feed on the shore before moving off eastwards. A common Seal has been regular around the river mouth and up the river, so watch out

for the dark head showing above the water, especially as the tide comes in.

Events

Even though the weather has a more 'wintery' feel to it now, there are still plenty of schools making the journey to the reserve. Over the last month there have been five groups either focusing on the beach or exploring Henry VIII's castle, with a number of foreign students being introduced to the bird hide and pond dipping experience - there have been numerous diving beetles, dragonfly larvae, Pond Skaters, Medicinal Leeches and small fish found on recent pond dipping events. However, the marsh frogs have been evading our nets!

Our next winter lecture is on **Sat 22nd Nov**, 2.30pm at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. **Dominic Funnell**, formerly our Assistant Warden, is talking all about his career in conservation, moving him from Rye to Rainham. Now that the winter birds are starting to appear, why

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Cont.

not join us on a guided walk around the beach reserve on **Sat 29th Nov**, meeting at Rye Harbour Car Park from 10-12.30. Projects

In addition to all the sea defence work taking place we hope to start several projects on the reserve soon. Replacing our oldest hide with one that can take a whole school class and be accessible to wheelchairs. Making improvements for wheelchair users to the castle and the hide nearby. Replacing the rest of the old electric fencing on the beach with the new design that was so successful this year.

This and other work is helped by volunteers on our regular workparties – these meet in the car park at 10am on the first and third Tuesday every month. Why not come and join us...

Photographs

The Nature Reserve's photo competition attracted 99 entries and was judged and exhibited in our church at the beginning of October. The images were of a great variety of local subjects, but there were a few favourites– the old



Graham Harris (Ashford)
Rye Beach and Camber Sands 13/14 September 2003
Infra red film used to give a different but still beautiful perspective of familiar views.



Sam Ward (age 20, Winchelsea Beach)
Rye Harbour 02/09/03
The air raid shelters at the end of the Rye Harbour. I've taken the two photos from inside using the lookout views as a widescreen frame to capture the vast landscape of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.



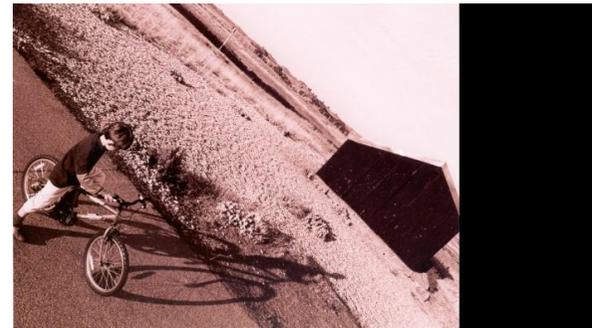
Andrew Tollett (Rye Harbour)
Rye Harbour village 8.45pm 12 Sept 2003
Usually rare convolvulus Hawkmoth. Very large Moth.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Cont.



Prize Winner

A Bryant (St.Leonards-on-sea)
Rye Harbour Sunday 14th September 7-00am
This seemed to resemble the backbone of a huge fish, retaining the shingle which seemed appropriate to Rye Harbour



Paul Francis (Rye)
Rye Harbour mid-September
For a landscape so flat, Rye Harbour has a surprising depth and range of tones as well as an "other-worldly" quality I find attractive.



Maria Mathers (Rye Harbour)
Seafront between Rye Harbour and Winchelsea
16th August 2003
The Shingle and timbers aged together with vegetation creeping through.

wooden groynes, the red roofed hut, the shore and of course fishing boats. Most were taken by local people and were of a high standard. There were 11 prize winners who were congratulated by Patrick Roper who recently starred in the BBC TV programme "This Land" and works closely with the Nature Reserve. An additional aspect to all of the images was the 25 words that the photographers chose to describe their work – it was fascinating to see their work through their words.

Many thanks to Peter Greenhalf, Sue Quatermass and Sue McGrath for contributing so much to the success of the project, and for Bogdan for collecting up the entries.

If you missed the exhibition you can see the winners on our web site and we hope to use some of the images in future projects, perhaps even a calendar. It has been such a success that we hope to repeat it next year.

By Barry, Miriam
(Wardens etc...)



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



RYE POLICE STATION

It appears that somebody is using a vehicle and touring the area looking for vehicles that are vulnerable. Please keep your eyes peeled for any strange vehicles in your area. If you see anything suspicious please call or e-mail the police.

There have been two instances of somebody trying to break into village shops over the weekend. In both cases the front door has been attacked where the glass has been broken. The first was in Cackle Street, Brede and the other in the High Street, Winchelsea. A similar method was used at both shops. Serial 186 of 7th October refers to the Brede attack and serial 204 of 7th October refers to the Winchelsea attack.

Rye Market ****Reminder**** For all those who go the market, there has been a spate of purse/wallet thefts. Make sure that you keep your purse or wallet safe.

If you have any information about the incidents please contact Police on 0845 60 70 99 and quote the serial number or e-mail at senlacnhw@sussex.police.uk

Message from Sussex Police

Coming soon to a home near you?

There have been reports in Bexhill and Hastings of a security company ringing residents saying they are carrying out security checks on homes in the area .

In the past there have been many problems with this company

The police strongly advise against doing business with casual callers.

If you require security equipment, obtain written quotes from two or three alarm installers approved by NACOSS or SSAIB. If you have any problems with casual callers, ring the police and please advise Trading Standards on 01323 418200.

Please warn your neighbours and keep us advised of any incidents

I have had a report today from a resident in the Sedlescombe area.

An antique caller (Knocker) is around again, this man flashes a card and tries to gain entry to homes.

It is worth noting that the same person who gave this message was called upon by the man who also apparently forced his way into a home in the village and conned the lady out of her miniatures.

The antique caller apparently has very white prominent teeth etc.

Please beware of such callers and do not let them in.

Please also warn your neighbours and especially elderly residents who are particularly vulnerable.

If you have such visits please try and get any vehicle registration numbers if possible.

Rye Petrol Line cutting "epidemic"

We getting many reports of petrol fuel lines being cut all over Rye as a means of stealing petrol. There were three more cases last night in the Gibbet Marsh area. This has not been reported to me by the police as yet and many of the previous cases did not come through on the N HW police reports.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN IF YOU ARE ABOUT IN THE SMALL HOURS. THESE PEOPLE NEED STOPPING OR THERE COULD BE A BAD ACCIDENT WITH FUEL LYING ABOUT.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Cont.

Police press release. I guess a lot of our members do shop in Supermarkets in Hastings

A series of distraction thefts have been occurring in the Hastings area. The incidents have taken place at local supermarkets and generally follow the same pattern. The victim is usually a lone female who is approached in the car park of the store after returning to her car. The male, who is described as a dark or olive skinned, claims to be lost and seeking directions. He usually has a local map and he distracts the woman while another person goes to her car and steals her handbag. The male is sometimes with another older man. They leave in a red older style car, possibly similar to an old Cortina or an Escort. If you have been approached by anyone in similar circumstances or have been a witness to these males acting suspiciously in and around the supermarkets in Hastings please contact Hastings police and quote crime number SH2/37657/03.

HarbourWatch

Do you want to be kept up to date with Neighbourhood Watch information about crime prevention advice and issues relating to your area.

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If you would like to receive the NHW information at a different e-mail address, then include this in the message body.

Free Family Discovery Day

Rye Castle Museum (East Street) has joined forces this year with St Mary's Church, which is celebrating its 900th anniversary.

There will be free entry to a range of fun activities for adults and children at the museum and the church. Talk to Medieval Crafts people and Archers, a Norman soldier, and a Dragoon. Make a medieval tile, watch a fishing net mender, try on a period costume, take part in competitions, quiz sheets, colour pictures, and look at new displays on St Mary's and Rye's maritime past.

Refreshments are available in the church.

Free 16-seater minibus service for Camber (in morning) to and from the museum and Rye harbour (in the afternoon)

Ring 01797 225750 for details

All this made possible by the Rye Partnership and Family Learning, East Sussex County Council.

Rye Harbour Lifeboat



Seventy five years ago this month saw the worst lifeboat disaster that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution had ever seen and is still the worst ever, when all 17 of the crew of the 'Mary Stanford' were lost when the boat capsized.

Practically every household was affected in one way or another and to this date there are members of our village that still have vivid memories of the aftermath. My mother-in-law lost a brother and cousin and over the years I have had the privilege to be able to listen to her reminisce from time to time about how bad the weather was on that fateful night.

How her mother asked her to run to Rye and let her sister know the boat had been lost, with brother 'Bailey' on board.

On the memorial in the churchyard one can read nine different surnames, they were brothers, cousins, fathers and sons. If you look around the coast of Britain you will find it much the same today at the modern day stations. Tight knit communities that are very proud to carry on traditions set by our forefathers and none more so than Rye Harbour.

Last Sunday morning (12th) most of the crew were awoken at 04:19, not by maroons as in the past but

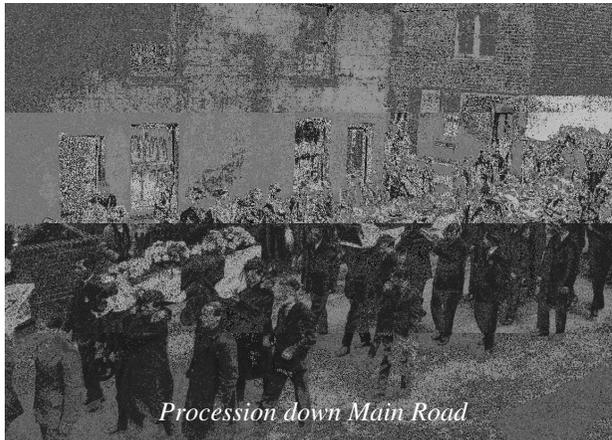
by the bleep, bleep, bleep of their pagers. This time the weather was fine and the call was from a fishing boat needing a pump in the harbour. The casualty was pumped out in a short space of time, but the same spirit was there. Someone needs help.

As the Operations Manager (new title) one of my jobs and that of my two Deputies is to assess if the conditions are suitable for our lifeboat to launch and at this time of year we are reminded that we should not be complacent about the Power of Nature.

This 75th Anniversary year sees 10 surviving siblings, 1 son and 1 daughter, as always our thoughts are with them and their families.

If you regularly attend the Memorial Service, can you please telephone Richard Tollett on 223631.

Richard Tollett



Procession down Main Road



In 1928 the worst disaster for many years occurred on the 15th November when the whole crew of the Mary Stanford Lifeboat were drowned., the whole male fishing population of the village. The Lifeboat was launched in a southwest gale with heavy rain squalls and heavy seas, to the vessel "Alice" of Riga. News was received that the crew of the "Alice" had been rescued by another vessel and the recall signal was fired three times, but apparently the crew of the Lifeboat had not seen it and the whole crew perished. After the disaster Rye Harbour Station

was closed. The seventeen men who lost their lives were Herbert Head, Coxswain and two sons James and John; J. Stonham, 2nd Coxswain; H. Cutting, Bowman and his two brothers Robert and Albert; Charles, Robert and Alexander Pope, three brothers; William and Leslie Clark, brothers; Maurice and Arthur Downey, cousins; H. Smith, W. Igglesden and C. Southerden.

Article taken with permission from 'Rye Harbour Lifeboat Station History' also with the consent of the late Bill Head



Taking the Mary Stanford away, after the disaster



Launching the Mary Stanford



Floral tributes in Rye Harbour Church



PUBLIC INFORMATION

SEA DEFENCES



Recently it has been difficult to ignore the increasing amount of local civil engineering work at Nook Point by the mouth of the river. The Environment Agency has in fact two projects planned for local flood defences, one dealing with beach recharging of the coastal section between Rye Harbour and Pett Level and the other with the River Rother. On the coastal section preliminary work has already started to build the shingle recovery section in the 200 metre stretch west of the river mouth together with upgrading the beach road. A big trench is currently being dug out for the western retention wall to be built.

The whole project was originally scheduled to last for up to 8 years with follow-up maintenance at least for the succeeding 40 years. Our primary flood defence barrier is the beach itself and its replenishment is vital to continued success. The most vulnerable area is presently that west of the old lifeboat station up to Pett Level where failure by overtopping could occur in a period as short as once in 2 years - the last breach was indeed 2 years ago.

Looking now at the river tidal flood defence project - this is on a more delayed schedule. The budget has not yet been agreed by DEFRA, the source of the funds, and is not expected before April next year. Several residents along the river frontage have, however, been in contact with Halcrows, the design engineers, since they are currently working on the Rye Harbour section. The objective is to increase the level of the flood bund from Rye Wharf along the frontage by 500 - 600mm (nearly 2 ft) to 6.022m above Ordnance Datum, reducing the estimated flood risk to once in 200 years (interestingly this is 400mm above the proposed design height of the secondary defence embankment for the coastal defence west to Winchelsea Beach). Halcrows and the EA had a display exhibition about a year ago in the Sailing Club and no-one has seriously dissented from the proposal to raise the level. However there are several practical consequences which are becoming clear from the preliminary versions of the design drawings, consequences which Halcrows have shown considerable willingness to work out with us to find good solutions.

At this stage one has to distinguish between the design and construction issues. Halcrows are responsible for the design only, whereas the EA will appoint a main (framework) contractor who will be responsible for the construction method and schedule.

The design issues so far raised are:-

- 1) Design and profile of the road ramp past Bosun's Bite so that it
- 2) minimises the effects on Bosun's Bite and Watch House/Rose Cottage.
- 3) Design of the elevated walkway access to the lifeboat station.
- 4) Raising the berm outside Mary Stamford Green & Coastguard Square and making good the turf and mature trees.
- 5) Design of the lookout outside Harbour Point to improve access and safety.
- 6) Modifying the berm outside William the Conqueror to provide
- 7) improved visibility for pub guests sitting at the tables.
- 8) Drainage of the frontage; at present the drainage after rain is
- 9) problematic and might even deteriorate with the revised ramp and lookout designs.

Halcrows have promised to let us have sight of the revised drawings once available. Arrangements will be made to have these put on display in the Village Hall through the Rye Harbour Futures Group. The construction issues, effect on the village of construction operations, heavy truck transport, etc. will be addressed at a later date by the Environment Agency and their contractor and there will hopefully be the same level of co-operation.

It is noteworthy that the work compound in the Martello Car Park for the present coastal defence work has been kept to a reasonable size with quite a bit of the infrastructure being installed at Nook Point. It is to be hoped that this approach will

PUBLIC INFORMATION SEA DEFENCES Cont..

carry on to the main phase of both the coastal defence and river defence projects. Does anyone in Tram Road have any comments as the result of the upgrading project recently carried out using a construction compound in the car park? We hope indeed to address the potential construction problems from the river defence project once the design is clear but it is already apparent that heavy trucks rumbling through the village on the coastal defences project are causing excessive vibration to the houses on each side. Perhaps we should tackle this problem with EA early on, it was a significant factor we highlighted in 2001 when commenting on the planning submission.

After the driest spring and summer for many years it is difficult to recall the trauma and devastation that occurred in Autumn 2001 in places as near as Robertsbridge. This was due to rainfall; and the fields along Rye Harbour Road were also awash for several days; the last sea inundation we suffered, however, was in 1929 when Rye Harbour was cut off for 10 days. Our 2001 breach was minor but sufficient to remind us of our vulnerability.

If there are more issues that should be raised please contact Steve Tollett on 223631 or Mike Slavin on 224916.

background

It is encouraging to see the way the main organisations with interests and responsibilities for coastal management co-operate with each other. To simplify a veritable blizzard of names and acronyms there is the South East Coastal Group, the members of which are all the coastal local and county councils in Kent and East Sussex (including Rother) together with English Nature and the Environment Agency. The Channel Coastal Observatory is the recently established data management and regional co-ordination centre for the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme. Quoting from their website 'The programme provides a consistent regional approach to coastal process monitoring, providing information for development of strategic shoreline management plans, coastal defence strategies and operational management of coastal protection and

flood defence. The programme is managed on behalf of the Coastal Groups of the Southeast of England and is funded by DEFRA, in partnership with local Authorities of the Southeast of England and the Environment Agency'. What is particularly striking is the objective to get a wide area strategic view of the dynamics of our coasts and beaches, monitoring changes over time and using the information to direct the investment programme - coastal engineering is a very expensive activity and carrying it out effectively both saves our taxes and protects us from unexpected danger. These activities have a very immediate effect on us in Rye Harbour. It is important that we remain aware of the risks to life and property from these dangers and the impacts, both positive and negative, of the coastal and river defence projects. These effects have been profound ever since the inundation of Winchelsea in the 13th century. Indeed on a wider perspective one should remember that 10,000 years ago the sea level was 30 metres below today's and that our ancestors looked out from Rye Harbour to the estuary of the Rhine and Thames draining into the Atlantic. Nothing ever stands still.

At the practical level there is currently an extensive survey project to profile the beach by measuring elevations at 5m intervals through the whole stretch from Bexhill eastward to Rye Harbour. This will be periodically updated in an effort to measure the shingle drift. As a matter of observation the beach shingle between the old lifeboat house and the river seems particularly low this year - the renewal occurs as the result of storm events and the last major event was perhaps a couple of years ago. The survey measurements will have a strong practical effect on the management and timescale of the beach replenishment - if insufficient shingle arrives in the recovery section then the project will have to be extended.

Useful website addresses:-

www.channelcoast.org

www.shepway.gov.uk/html/council/coastline_protection/Default.asp

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

<http://www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/>

PUBLIC INFORMATION SEA DEFENCES Cont..

Coastal defence schedule – Pett frontage

The table below (published with permission from the EA) shows the proposed schedule of work for the Environment Agency on the Pett coastal frontage defence project for the next five years. The work will be carried out in the winter season only and the programme is provisional, depending on several factors, not least the weather! To put the shingle recycling numbers in perspective, 30,000 m³ is about the average volume moved in recent winter seasons. The big civil engineering work nearest the village is the construction of the secondary defence on Harbour Farm in 2005/06.

Mike Slavin

Winter Season Outline Construction

2003/04 Pocket groyne construction, Repairs to river training wall and recycling 30,000m³ of shingle

04/05 Construction of timber groynes at Cliff End, works to slipway and outfall and recycling 90,000m³ of shingle.

05/06 Construction of secondary defences on Rye Harbour farm and shingle recycling (quantity will be determined each year from now on).

06/07 Construction of first set of timber groynes at Winchelsea Beach and shingle recycling.

07/08 Construction of second phase of timber groynes at Winchelsea Beach and shingle recycling



PUBLIC STATEMENT RE: SEA DEFENCES

WORK BEGINS ON PETT FRONTAGE COASTAL FLOOD DEFENCES

Early this month the Environment Agency started its work programme on the Pett Frontage Coastal Flood Defence scheme.

The scheme, that is part funded by the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), will protect villages of Cliff End and Winchelsea Beach and the low-lying Pett Levels. The large area of developed and agricultural land at risk of flooding includes 390 properties and 600 hectares of farmland.

The first year of the work will cost £950,000 and will form the first phase of the eight-year project to provide flood defence to this length of Sussex coastline.

The scheme is being constructed within a site of international environmental importance. The first phase of the project will be completed by the end of February 2004 before work impacts on nesting birds.

The first year programme of works consist of repairs to the Rye Harbour and the construction of a temporary steel sheet pile groyne to enable the replenishment of shingle along the frontage that has been deposited at the eastern boundary by natural longshore drift.

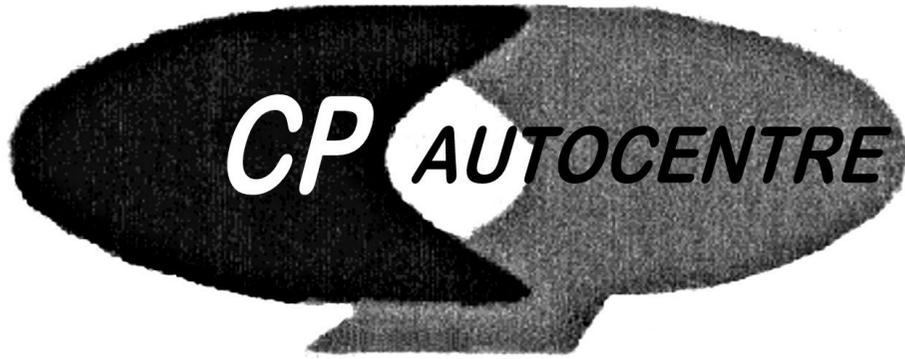
There have been two significant flooding events along the frontage in recent history. In 1990, waves impacting on the front face of the seawall at Dogs Hill in Winchelsea Beach stripped away the concrete block revetment. This resulted in erosion of a section of the soft clay embankment and localised flooding and also, in 1998, there was again significant overtopping of the flood defence.

Following a study commissioned by the Environment Agency it was found that a breach in the defences at Cliff End or Winchelsea Beach could result in rapid and deep flooding to a number of properties that lie immediately behind the defence line. Environment Agency Area Flood Defence Manager Andrew Pearce said, "The Agency is delighted that this scheme has now started. The unique nature of area has necessitated careful economic, environmental and technical appraisal of defence options. .

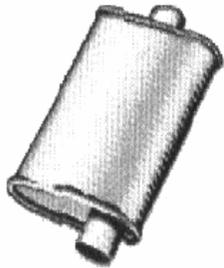
"This scheme will provide the much needed reduction in flood risk but also create new habitats that will enhance the already important environmental features for which the area is noted."

The Environment Agency contractor for this first phase of work is Van Oord ACZ/ Mackleys who will be based at Rye Harbour car park.

For further information contact Jo Hunt or Joe Giacomelli on 01903 832203 or 01903 832235 or Duty Press Officer on 07693 03 80 09



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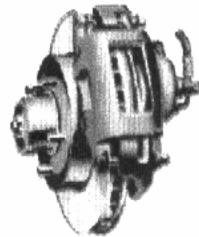


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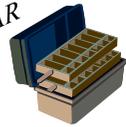
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Characters Of Rye Harbour

Cyril was born in Rye Harbour in Dover Cottage in Tram Road in 1928. He is the first born and his sister was born 7 years later. He went to the village school until he was 11 years old and there were 2 teachers. He passed the 11+ and went to Rye Grammar School where Thomas Peacock is now. It was a very good school. Cyril was a bit lost when he went there as he was the only boy to go from Rye Harbour. In



1940 after only one year the whole school including teachers were evacuated to Bedford, with the exception of one teacher who was called up for National service. Lessons were held in a private house, a hall 1/2 a mile down the road and science laboratories at Bedford School, which is a well known large Public School. Cyril was boarded with an older couple whose son was in the Army in the North African Campaign who eventually returned safely in 1945. Cyril got to know him subsequently. Cyril had quite a good life with a lot of swimming in the summer in a pool fed by the river at one end and running out the other. They had school on Saturday

mornings, Cyril thinks to keep them out of mischief! On leaving school Cyril was called up for National Service and joined the RAF and after three years came out. He had finished up at Dishforth just off the A1 in Yorkshire - servicing the radio content of the planes coming back from Berlin during the airlift when the Russians blocked people coming back by road. His National Service was frustrating as there was not enough to do and there was very little money. He came back to Castle View which his father had built for his larger family (the view has disappeared behind the large grown trees!). Cyril worked on the farm with his father and two uncles doing general

farm work, later moving on to sheep and shepherding which he says he does not do anymore (so what were you doing Cyril when you slipped over in a patch of sheep dung last week?). Gradually Cyril took over the management of the sheep flock from his father and Graham did more of the lorry work. At the time of starting the farm work Cyril joined the Rye Harbour Men's Club and still belongs. They have a room with two billiard tables where they play billiards and

snooker. In the Autumn of 1972 a For Sale sign appeared on the property, to be sold by the Church Pastoral Aid Society. Cyril's mother was Treasurer to the Church and was able to get the address of the Trustees. Cyril wrote to them and had a response. The Chairman was coming to Fairlight to open a new Church Hall and invited them to meet him to discuss the problem. Ten members went to meet him only two of whom are still alive - Cyril and Malcom Clark. As a result the whole building which comprises the Men's Club, Social Club, Village Hall and Cottage were given to the village in March 1973 by the Trustees. Maurice Cutting who died last year and Alf

Hancock (Rosemary's father) were another two of the ten. In the 1950's and 60's the family were growing mangold-wurzel for animal feed and other vegetables for human feed which were hoed by people like Mrs. Pope (Val's mother), Molly Southerden and Pat Gawn (Nanny Pat).

Stock has to be reared, transported and slaughtered to very high standards applied by the Ministry of MAFF which is now DEFRA (Department for the Eradication of Farming and Real Agriculture) and face unfair competition from imports that do not have to apply those high standards. It is highly likely that Foot and Mouth was caused by illegal imports. Cyril had Foot and Mouth in Rye Harbour in the

early 50's and stock was slaughtered here but not in Camber. One of Cyril's uncles was looking in Camber and they managed to convince officials that there was no connection between the stocks. In 2000 Cyril had 500 breeding ewes in Wiltshire and had to go and live in a local pub and lamb them on site. Another farmer there had 500 Herdwicks from Cumbria which was hard hit by the Foot and Mouth and when it was over was able to take the Herdwicks back for restocking.

Cyril met Molly in 1983 when she was the sister of the Men's Surgical Ward in Hastings and Cyril's mother was dying in the Women's Ward which Molly had taken over for the weekend. After

Cyril's mother died he took a box of chocolates over to say thankyou to the nurses. Cyril and Molly were married in December 1984. They could not adopt in this country so arranged to adopt in Srilanka. They flew out and had to go to an office to be approved and two month old Nirosha was handed to them in court. She was very tiny as Srilankan people are small. Nirosha went to Nursery in Ferry Road before going to Playden School. She now travels to Ashford to Highworth Grammar School where she is given lots of homework involving work on her computer. Cyril keeps well away from computers! Yet another fascinating character of Rye Harbour. Thank you Cyril.



Rye Harbour Sailing Club News



It was great to see such activity in the harbour last Sunday. It included a visit from a large life boat. Dinghies a catamaran motor boats large cruiser yachts jet skiis---all having an exciting time. We would like to see more people join the sailing club enabling them to use the club house facilities Two yachts have been sailing around the Greek Islands with seven RHSC members. The winds began light but finished with a flourish--83 mph winds recorded in Athens with many boats damaged. All our members enjoyed the sun, sea and fascinating islands. Soon we will be well into Autumn when we have the Bonfire Firework Barbecue evening by the river. It is to be held on 1st November

at 6.45 pm. We hope for a dry night with many people from the village attending. It is a night for the village. We hope to cover the high cost of fireworks and the most recent huge jump in insurance costs.

Ken Halpen



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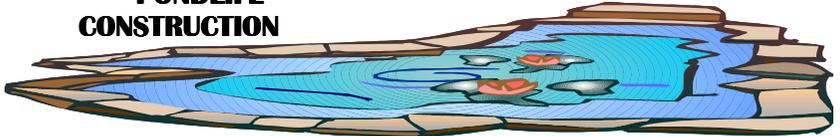
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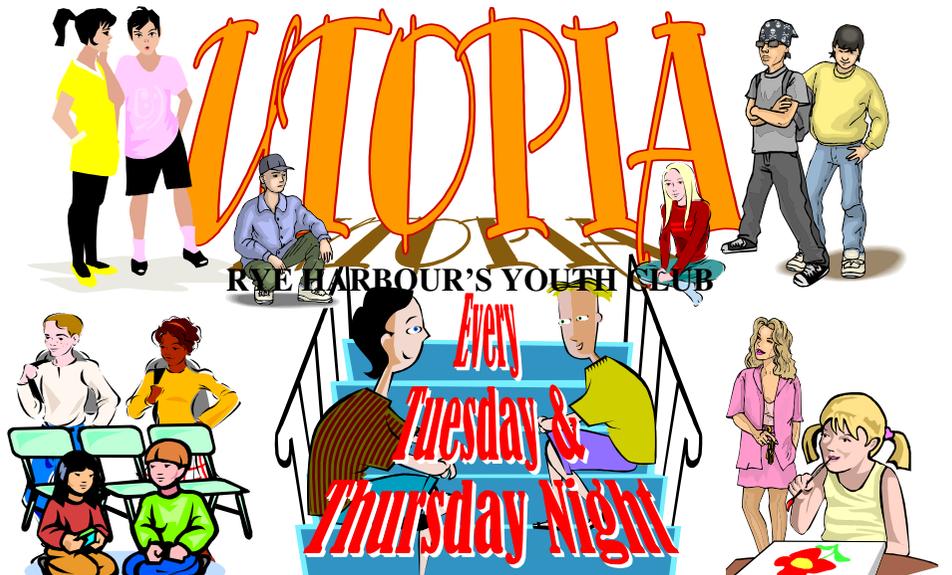
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Rye Harbour Church News

An enquirer has asked recently, what is the Rye Harbour Church doing to try and help others in the world?

To start with, it is not realised as a whole that, in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine there are substantial groups of Christians, whose roots go back to the times of the apostles.

Some of these groups are often under persecution particularly in Palestine. They are however standing firmly behind Jesus Christ and holding on to the faith, which has been handed down over the years.

Rye Harbour Church has through an organisation, 'The Bible Lands Society', supported several children through their education and well being. In particular we have a named young person with whom we can know and identify, by keeping in touch.

We could extend this work if anyone, Church goer or not, is interested in making a contribution, perhaps to support both a boy and girl through school, a few coppers in a tin will soon mount up.

Also the Church through the Flower Festivals supports other practical work, both at home and abroad.

The Church Committee

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Rye Harbour Church News

How do we remember? A note on the calendar, a "post-it" sticker on the fridge, a knot in the handkerchief? Our memories often fail us and even the most important dates sometimes lose their significance as the years go by. Woe betide the husband who forgets his wedding anniversary, but it happens! Woe betide humanity if we forget the painful lessons of history, but we do! Orthodox Jews have ways of remembering critical events in their religion, by wearing miniature scrolls (phylacteries) on the heads and left hands, small pieces of parchment, bound in leather cases, which have biblical texts written on them. Another way to recall events is to include them in a celebration or a ritual. So we have birthday parties, anniversary dinners, Bonfire night. During the month of November, we are encouraged to remember in particular people whose lives have been notable or dear to us. All Saints Day celebrates those heroic men and women of the Church whose quality of life and closeness to God enriched their societies and have left a legacy to inspire us. The Saints were not perfect people and their personalities and

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

gifts were very diverse but their walk with Jesus in love and devotion allowed Him to transform their natures and to pour out his grace through them. In particular, All Saints (2nd November this year) includes those little known people, one of whom may have touched your life and drawn you closer to God.

All Souls time (3rd November this year) provides an opportunity to remember with gratitude those whom we have loved and whose journey through this life was completed by death. Of course, few relationships are perfect and part of our remembrance may include the need for forgiveness and a putting to rest old hurt or grievances. Through Christ who holds us all in a single embrace, even this is possible.

9th November is Remembrance Sunday when we shall commemorate the Fallen, the significance of their sacrifice being as important today as it was when they met their death in whatever theatre of war. There will be a 9.15 a.m. service at the Church of the Holy Spirit on that day. On

16th November we shall keep the 75th Anniversary of the Mary Stanford Lifeboat tragedy with a service at 3 p.m.

Christians have the simplest way of recalling their Saviour. Bread and wine, blessed and shared, together with scripture read in a fellowship of faith, are the visible signs of Jesus not as an historical hero but as living Lord. Whenever we do this in remembrance of Him, He stands in our midst in generous love and renewing of grace. In our needy world, the power and effectiveness of this sacrament to heal and renew us with His life is often forgotten. But we are asked to do it until He comes again.

So much to remember and so much for which to give thanks. Hugh Moseley

The Church of the Holy Spirit needs help! First and foremost, new members of the congregation. Then a rota of volunteers to keep the Church clean (names to Sylvia Alford - 222650) Then someone to play our new electronic organ for monthly services (2nd Sunday of each month, 9.15 a.m.). Let's put our Church, your Church, back on its feet!

Hugh Moseley

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CHRISTMAS Bazaar

06th December 2002
 RYE HARBOUR
 VILLAGE HALL
 11:00 to 14:00



- Craft Stalls
- Cake Stall
- Refreshments
- Santas Grotto.
- Tombola
- And more

In aid of the Village Hall.

Rye Harbour Parent and Toddler Group

Congratulations Sarah, What a lovely baby 'Oli' is, so content to watch his big brother Ben play and seeing all of the other boys and girls at Mother and Toddler group. Hello to three new boys, all called Bradley. It makes remembering names easy! We are getting a Pirate ball pond, which will be lots of fun. Christmas will soon be here, and we will be having a Christmas party on December 17th with an

entertainer. Sonny, still remembers lasts years clown, and chuckles at the thought of him. Come along every Wednesday, tea coffee and a chat. We are a friendly lot. Every first Wednesday of the month a health visitor comes to weigh baby and answer any of your questions. See you Wednesday.



Ann Satchell

WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE GET UP TO THESE DAYS ?

Just look at what they can get up to
 SAILING - CANOEING - MOTOR BOATS with RYA and BCU QUALIFICATIONS - OFFSHORE YACHTS - MOTOR VESSELS and the SQUARE RIGGER 'ROYALIST'

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Mondays and Fridays 7 - 9 p.m. Boys and Girls 12 - 18 years
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Family Announcements

Congratulations

BIRTHDAYS



We wish Arthur Berry much happiness and many happy returns on his birthday
19th November

Happy Birthday Michelle
With Lots of Love and Best Wishes from Mum, Dad and all the Family



Many thanks on behalf of Emma, from Denise and Jim for the collection in the Harbour Stores.

Thank you to Bernie for the two Age Concern lunches we had in the Conqueror, they were very much enjoyed.

Darts have started again; we all enjoy our Thursday evening get together.

Many people in the Village have had trouble from badgers causing havoc in their gardens, well I can go on one better than that, I had a badger who scratched his way into my garden, got into my chicken house and killed seven bantams and left me with two. I am an animal lover but have gone off of badgers.

We are still waiting, for a write up from the person who complained.



GET WELL SOON

Viv Ennis has been in Brighton hospital but is out and about now, and looking quite well we are pleased to say.

Kath Goodburn is in hospital at the time of writing, only for a couple of days we hope.

Reports were written By Nanny Pat



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