Ever thought of becoming a town councillor? Perhaps you’re already involved in local affairs and want to take the next step? Or maybe you just like the idea of doing something worthwhile and rewarding to help your local community?

Elected for a term of four years, town councillors are responsible for, take an active part in, or are consulted on many things happening in your local area that affects you and your family.

Town Clerk John Harrison said: “Most people’s impression of what a town councillor does is just attending council meetings. This is not the case. The majority of town councillors find that the day-to-day contact with local residents in their own community is the most important element of being a local councillor.

“As a Town Councillor you will need to listen and be a voice for your community, act as an ambassador for your town and keep everyone aware of local needs and concerns.

“Becoming a town councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service and, by putting your name forward, you could be in a position to make a real difference to the quality of other people’s daily lives and prospects in Hailsham.”

Questions and Answers

Q. Could I be a town councillor?
A. If you care about the area you live in and the issues facing the people who live or work in the town... YES

Q. Why should I become a town councillor?
A. There are a number of reasons but they may include wanting to be involved in shaping the future of Hailsham, wanting to ensure that their local community gets the services needed, or wanting to represent the views of local residents, businesses and community groups and ensure that local community interests are taken into account.

Q. Who can be a town councillor?
A. Generally, if you are British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, are 18 years of age or over and are registered to vote in the area or if you have lived, worked or owned property here for at least 12 months before the election. However, please email elections@wealden.gov.uk for full details.

Nomination packs will be available to collect from the Wealden District Council offices in Vicarage Lane from 23 March. If you are interested, send an email to elections@wealden.gov.uk. If you would like an informal chat about the role of Hailsham town councillor in the meantime please contact John Harrison, Town Clerk, on 01323 841702.
A number of training sessions are being organised in the new year for people who would like to consider helping at polling stations as a poll clerk, or taking part in the election counts – either for the Thursday night into Friday morning Parliamentary count which will begin at 10pm, or the Saturday District and Town Council count which will take place on Saturday 9 May. Helpers should be numerate, enthusiastic and have plenty of stamina. Poll Clerks and Count Assistants are remunerated for their work.

- Poll Clerks help at Polling Stations, greeting voters, handing out ballot papers and marking the Register of Voters.
- Count Assistants work in teams, verifying the number of ballots papers and counting votes cast.

Both roles require a responsible, non-partisan approach. Poll Clerks must be over 18 years, Count Assistants over 16 years.

More information in can be found on the Wealden website – under Recruitment for Elections 2015 or email elections@wealden.gov.uk

7TH MAY – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

This coming May will be busy for voters in Hailsham with Parliamentary, District and Town Council elections all taking place on 7 May.

But it will be even busier for the people who organise the elections in Wealden, the District Council’s Electoral Services.

That is why they are looking for people to help assist at the polling stations and take part in the election counts.

“I can’t remember a busier time for running elections,” said Charles Lant, Wealden’s District Returning Officer. “We are expecting a turnout of around 70% for the Parliamentary elections. Voters will also be casting their ballots for the eight representatives on Wealden District Council in the Hailsham and Hellingly area, as well as councillors to sit on the town council and nearby parish councils.

“We expect polling stations to be very busy on Thursday 7 May, but we will also have to run election counts overnight on the Thursday, and on the following Saturday as part of the democratic process. We are looking for people to help at the polling station and take part in the election counts. If you want to be part of the unfolding story, please register your interest on the Wealden website at www.wealden.gov.uk/elections2015.”

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MORE CHOICE FOR SHOPPERS – AS NEW BUSINESSES OPEN UP IN TOWN CENTRE

Hailsham is the place to be – that's the message coming from the Town Mayor Councillor Jo Bentley, as a number of new businesses set up shop in the town.

During the past year, the town centre has welcomed Subway in Hailsham High Street, Todd’s Barbers in George Mews, Dragon Photography in Market Street and Hot Dogs Grooming in George Street plus additional charity shops – The Salvation Army located in the Quintins Centre, Mismatch in St Mary’s Walk, the Age Concern charity shop in Vicarage Field and Kit Wilson Animal Trust charity shop in the High Street.

A number of businesses in Hailsham have expanded including Dream Doors which has moved from the High Street to larger premises in Diplocks Way, Renaissance Originals which relocated from St Mary’s Walk to a bigger retail space in George Mews, Neptune Home Design Centre which has extended it showroom in North Street and Olivia B in St Mary’s Walk.

“The new businesses and expansion of existing ones will help to increase the vibrancy of the town centre, and give residents and visitors even more choice,” said Mayor Councillor Jo Bentley.

The town centre received a further boost recently when a brand new Poundland® store opened in the High Street – an amalgamation of the former Wealden Beds, Stead & Simpson and Sussex Stationers retail units.

Currently there are considerably fewer empty shop units in the town centre, and a many of those that are vacant are under negotiation. Boots The Chemist will be taking over the premises in Vicarage Field formerly occupied by Sovereign Meats and opening it as an opticians’ outlet.

Councillor Bentley said: “The arrival of new retailers is good news for local residents and businesses, who will ultimately benefit from new shoppers that will be attracted by Hailsham’s growing offer. We are now looking forward to draw additional businesses and investment into the town, and to ensure that Hailsham continues to develop and thrive as a town centre.”
LIFE-SAVING DEFIBRILLATORS FOR HAILSHAM

Hailsham will soon have 24/7 access to Public Access Defibrillators as part of a campaign by three local councillors for four of them to be installed outside key buildings in the town (subject to the relevant planning permission).

The money needed for the purchase of three PAD units will come from Wealden District Council’s ‘Community Dividend’ fund, from which district councillors Chriss Triandafyllou, Nigel Coltman and Town Mayor Jo Bentley (who are also Hailsham town councillors) have decided to award their individual dividend money to Hailsham Town Council for the purpose of purchasing three PAD units for the local community.

It was agreed in November that the Town Council will support Councillors Bentley, Coltman and Triandafyllou by covering the shortfall required for the purchase and installation of the three PAD units (including heated and secured cabinet). Town councillors and other supporters are currently raising further money to acquire an additional/fourth PAD unit.

Day-to-day maintenance of the four PAD units will be carried out by the Town Council and advice will be sought from the ambulance service on suitable locations for the PAD units to be fitted.

Town Mayor Councillor Jo Bentley said: “My colleagues and I have agreed to invest our Community Dividend money to purchase these defibrillators so that they are available around the clock for anyone to use on a suspected heart attack patient once 999 has been dialled and contact made with the ambulance service.

“Public access defibrillators are important pieces of equipment which can mean the difference between life and death, as following a cardiac arrest the chance of survival decreases by 23% per minute. It is therefore crucial that medical treatment starts as soon as possible. PAD units should be available wherever medical treatment is more than 5 minutes away.”

Town Clerk John Harrison said: “As a Town Council, we feel that the provision of PAD units will be of enormous benefit to the whole community – residents and businesses – and if even one life is saved, the investment will have been worthwhile.

“In the event of a cardiac arrest an ambulance should always be called. However, if there is someone present who has the capacity to administer CPR or use one of these defibrillators within the first few minutes while the ambulance is on its way, the survival rate of the cardiac arrest victim is made considerably higher.”

FACT: Statistically each year one person in approximately every 600 suffers a heart attack.

TIP: If someone collapses with a heart problem, anyone calling 999 will be told where the nearest defibrillator machine is located and will be given a key-code so that vital treatment can begin straight away.

HELP: For advice on health matters visit http://www.nhs.uk/

The Town Council will be organising free training sessions in partnership with the ambulance service on the use of PADs and how to become a community ‘First Responder’ volunteer in the near future.

Community First Responders (CFRs) make a valuable contribution to the local community and we all know that in a number of medical emergencies the first few minutes are critical. If effective treatment can be carried out within those first minutes, lives can be saved.

MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BECOME CFRs.

www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk
Want to report an urgent repair needed on Town Council maintained buildings and grounds?

The direct access facility is available out of normal working hours (before 9am/after 5pm and for 24 hours during weekends and bank holidays).

The number to call, if an urgent repair is needed outside of office hours, is:

07743 763923

*This service is provided to deal with genuine urgent repairs to Town Council maintained properties and grounds, which arise when the Council offices are closed.

Young people from the Square Youth Café will take part in various activities in the near future to raise money for the British Heart Foundation and its lifesaving research, and will also be taking part in basic CPR training to raise awareness on how to help someone who has cardiac arrest. More details will be posted on the Square Youth Café website soon (squareyouthcafe.com).

**COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS**

**SOUTH & WEST WARD**

Jo BENTLEY (CON) – 01323 840386
Margaret BURT (CON) – 01323 840345
Nigel COLTMAN (CON) – 01323 841925
Bill CRITTENDEN (HI) – 01323 840021
Amanda O’RAWE (CON) – 07525 351580

**CENTRAL & NORTH WARD**

Bill BENTLEY (CON) – 01323 847685
Nicholas COLLINSON (CON) – 01323 846040
Jennifer COOK (CON) – 01323 844463
Paul HOLBROOK (LD) – 01323 841978
Charlotte COLLINSON (CON) – 01323 841702

**EAST WARD**

Stella HENSTOCK (CON) – 01323 842763
Michael RYAN (CON) – 07429 422470
Barry MARLOWE (CON) – 01825 732364
Mary ROWE (HI) – 01323 841978
Margaret SKINNER (CON) – 01323 841702

**UPPER HORSEBRIDGE WARD**

John PUTTICK (HI) – 01323 449352
Dawn RYAN (CON) – 01323 847804
Stephen MCAULIFFE (NP) – 01323 841702
John BLAKE (LD) – 01323 846297

**Political Party Key:**

CON: Conservative; HI: Hailsham Independents; LD: Liberal Democrat; NP: Non-Party

* Postal addresses of councillors are available at the Town Council Offices or via www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk

www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk
HAILSHAM FIREFIGHTERS TACKLING ACCIDENTAL KITCHEN FIRES

Hailsham firefighters have been out and about telling people to take extra care in the kitchen. This follows 26 accidental kitchen fires in the Hailsham area since 2011.

Night time is a particularly dangerous time when people are tired or when residents become easily distracted by family commitments. The majority of these kitchen fire incidents took place within single occupancy premises (20 incidents), 5 were in houses of multi-occupancy and 1 was in sheltered housing.

The causes of these fires were due to cooking, combustible materials being too close to the heat source, faulty appliances, an accumulation of flammable material (e.g. too much dirt or grease) and one was a result of faulty electrics.

Mark Webb, Operations Manager at Hailsham Fire Station explains that their messages have been well received by the public. He said: “We are visiting around 400 homes in those areas that have experienced this type of accidental fire and, so far, the response has been extremely positive. Crews are promoting our Home Safety Visit service as well as offering kitchen safety advice which could potentially save lives.”

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service would like to remind the public of the following safety information when cooking in the kitchen:

• Take pans off the heat so the handles don’t stick out over the edge of the hob or over another ring
• Take care if you’re wearing loose clothing, as it can catch fire easily
• Don’t cook if you have been drinking alcohol or taken prescription drugs – you may get drowsy or lose concentration
• Double check that the cooker is off when you have finished cooking
• Keep your oven, hob and grill clean – built-up fat and bits of food can start a fire
• Ensure your smoke alarm is working properly and tested regularly.

If you have not got a working smoke alarm or would like further information on any aspect of fire safety in the home please call 0800 1777 069 to see if you are eligible for a Home Safety Visit. To request free fire safety advice visit esfrs.org/communitySafety/

CALLING ALL HAILSHAM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Are you a local based community group or charity and wish to benefit from sharing experiences and ideas with other local groups?

The forum, which meets monthly, currently consists of over twenty community organisations including Hailsham Farmers’ Market, Hailsham Bonfire Society, Hailsham & District Twinning Association, Hailsham U3A, Hailsham Lions, Hailsham & District Sports Alliance and the East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People.

Councillor Nick Collinson, who helped set up the forum said: “The aim is to bring together people from a wide representation of voluntary and community groups in Hailsham to discuss issues of mutual interest and share information on local and national developments of interest including new funding opportunities, in addition to exchanging ideas, knowledge and experience and enabling partnership working with other organisations.

“We welcome all representatives from community groups and charities in Hailsham to join us at the forum.”

If you are interested in attending the next forum meeting, contact Michelle Hagger at the Town Council on 01323 841702 or by email: michelle.hagger@hailsham-tc.gov.uk.

HOME-START EAST SUSSEX OFFER NEW SERVICE FOR FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN

Home-Start East Sussex has been awarded £4,892 by Sussex Community Foundation in its latest round of grant-giving. The grant will pay for the training of volunteers to support families with children under the age of 11 with a disability. This could include taking the child out for quality one-to-one time or going out with the whole family being an extra pair of hands.

This year, approximately 350 struggling families will be supported by various Home-Start East Sussex services across the county. New volunteers will begin training in January in Crowborough, Hailsham and Bexhill.

“Volunteering is immensely rewarding. I have developed new skills and get great satisfaction from knowing I am giving something back to the community” said Alex, a current volunteer. “I have met some lovely new people through the volunteer support group and other HSES events.”

Anyone who would like to find out more about HSES services or volunteering should call 01273 612025 or visit homestarteastsussex.org.uk
MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM (NPT)

Some issues affect us all no matter what the season – such as burglary – and although incidents are relatively rare in Wealden, it is still worth taking some simple crime prevention measures to reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

The majority of burglars are opportunistic: they will look for properties where they think they can enter unobserved and ‘work’ undisturbed. Three simple actions should help deter these types of criminals – Light it, Lock it, List it:

**Light it**
- Make sure your house looks occupied – even when it isn’t
- Use an automatic timer switch to turn interior lights on and off.
- Fit motion sensitive floodlights to target outside areas.

**Lock it**
- Keep your front and back doors shut and locked – even when you are at home.
- Fit window locks and ensure French windows and patio doors are secure.
- Never leave door keys, car keys or other valuables in reach of a letterbox or window.

**List it**
- Register your property at immobilise.com – it’s free of charge and can increase your chances of being reunited with your property.
- Install an app on your phone/tablet so that it can be traced.

Vehicles parked on the pavement are another perennial issue, and they can pose a serious safety risk by forcing pedestrians to walk in the road.

You can report incidents of inconsiderate parking and obstructions to Operation Crackdown. Please include the registration number of the vehicle, its make, colour and location, and a letter will be sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle concerned.

Operation Crackdown also takes reports of anti-social driving and abandoned vehicles. For more information visit operationcrackdown.org

Follow us on Twitter: @WealdenPolice @HailshamPolice
Facebook: Sussex Police Wealden District

UPDATE FROM THE HAILSHAM WORKS! TEAM

We held a graduation ceremony in December for our latest group. The Mayor of Hailsham showed her support by attending and presented attendance and achievement certificates to all the young people.

**Case Study: Rhys**

When Rhys started with the project, he was totally unsure about his future and what would be the best direction for him. He was clear that he did not want a desk job, but had thought about woodwork in some form, possibly tree surgery. We worked with Rhys to develop his CV and try to start putting together an application for Plumpton College to do tree surgery. Rhys was keen to do the course, but unhappy that this would also entail doing English and Maths as part of the course.

A chance meeting with Louise from WorkingRite led to a discussion about a local opportunity that she was supporting the employer to fill. This was to involve working with larger wood projects. Outdoor garden furniture and gates. Rhys did interview practice with us and researched the employer via the website. He went to interview and succeeded in securing the opportunity.

Rhys is now working for JAKK country Furniture Designs, a local employer, he travels to work on his pushbike and is enjoying the opportunity to expand and develop his woodwork skills.

If you know anyone aged between 16 and 24 who is currently unemployed who would benefit from some support to get them back to work – please contact Jan on 07437 017037.

www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk
OUR RESPONSIBILITIES
Street Lighting, Public Open Spaces and Common Land, Recreation Grounds and Playing Fields, Allotments, Children’s Play Areas, Cemeteries and Burial Records, Square
Youth Café and Youth Advisory Services, Police Community Support Officers (one sponsored PCSO).

For all enquiries relating to the above list of responsibilities, please contact Hailsham Town Council on (01323) 841702, where a member of staff will be happy to advise you.

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SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

ANNUAL TOWN (ELECTORS’) MEETING: Wednesday 18 March (Hailsham Pavilion) (main part of meeting starts at 7.30 pm)
TOWN COUNCIL (& TRUSTS): Wednesday 25 March (meeting starts at 7.30 pm)
COUNCIL PROJECTS & ASSETS: Monday 27 April (meeting starts at 7.30 pm)
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: Tuesday 10 March; Tuesday 31 March; Tuesday 21 April (meetings start at 7 pm)

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE: Thursday 12 March (meeting starts at 7.30 pm)
PARKS, OPEN SPACES & SPORT: Wednesday 29 April (meeting starts at 7.30 pm)
FESTIVITIES & EVENTS: Monday 2 March; Monday 20 April (meetings start at 6 pm)

[All meetings are held in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room/Council Chamber and are open to the press and public, unless otherwise stated.]

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