

# Our Hailsham

OCTOBER 2021



## ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT

Families from across Hailsham and surrounding areas are being urged to mark Friday 26th November in their diaries as the date when the town will officially switch on its Christmas lights (restrictions permitting).

After missing out on the big event last year due to Covid restrictions in place at the time, Hailsham is gearing up for a spectacular show in Vicarage Field featuring festive entertainment in addition to the big switch-on, which will see the town centre transformed into a winter wonderland of twinkling Christmas lights.

Santa will be handing out free sweets to children at the event as usual (courtesy of Hailsham Rotary Club) and pupils from Hailsham Community College and Grovelands Community Primary School will be carol singing prior to the official switch-on of the lights, which will take place at 6pm.

If that was not enough, there will be festive refreshments on sale including candy floss (provided by Hailsham Lions), and Hailsham FM will be playing Christmas music throughout the event.

Hailsham Parish Church will be open during the event to warmly welcome visitors after the switch-on, serving free hot beverages.

"Hailsham's Christmas lights switch-on is one of the town centre's biggest annual events and the traditional and tasteful entertainment line-up of live entertainment planned means it's going to be the best yet!" said Town Mayor Cllr Paul Holbrook.

"It's such a shame that we were unable to hold the event last year due to the pandemic and restrictions in place - disappointing for all of us. But, subject to there being no reinstating of restrictions before then, we're delighted to be able to bring this much-anticipated and amazing community event to you once again."

"The switch-on event is about bringing the community together to celebrate the countdown to Christmas with their friends and family, and we are hoping that lots of people will come along, take part and join in the fun."

# UPDATE ON STATUS OF TOWN COUNCIL SERVICES

Whilst most services and facilities run by the Town Council are up and running as normal, some remain accessible but still with restrictions or changes in place. Please note that the public will be updated as soon as any further changes are proposed.

## Reception/Public Enquiries:

The Town Council reception, located in Market Street, is open to the public and being staffed Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm. Measures remain in place within the reception area to ensure the safety of staff - including the requirement to sanitise your hands and wear face masks whilst on the premises.

Normal office opening hours of 9am-4pm (Monday to Friday, except bank holidays) will be reintroduced in the future.

## Burials & Cemetery:

Hailsham Cemetery in Ersham Road is open for graveside and ashes burials. Currently, there isn't a cap on the maximum number of mourners/attendees allowed at graveside burial services.

## High Street Post Office:

The High Street post office is currently open from 8.30am-5.30pm Monday to Friday and on Saturdays from 10am-1pm.

## Community Hall & Meeting Room Hire:

The James West Community Centre is open and available for hire/bookings from individuals, businesses, classes and community groups. Please call 01323 841702 or email [sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk) for details. Hire of the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room in Market Street and Southview Community Rooms in Western Road is currently unavailable until further notice.

## Hailsham Youth Service:

Many of the Town Council's face-to-face youth service venues/activities are operating at different/temporary opening hours. Please visit [hailshamyouthservice.org](http://hailshamyouthservice.org) for further details and current opening times.



## Public Conveniences:

An outside contractor is currently responsible for the opening, closing and cleaning of the public conveniences adjacent to the Asda car park in North Street on a daily basis. To allow more frequent cleaning of toilets, the facility currently operates six days a week (Monday to Saturday), from 9.30am-4pm each day.

## Hailsham Street Market:

Hailsham Street Market is currently open from in Vicarage Field from 8.30am to 1.30pm on Saturdays.

"We are working hard to ensure that vital Town Council services are maintained and that our most vulnerable residents are protected from COVID-19," said Town Clerk John Harrison. "Things continue to change at reasonably short notice and we thank everyone for their cooperation."

Members of the public are encouraged to follow the Town Council social media pages and official website for updates on Council services and facilities: [hailsham-tc.gov.uk](http://hailsham-tc.gov.uk).



# TEA WITH THE MAYOR MONTHLY SURGERIES

Residents in Hailsham can visit the Town Council offices and meet the Mayor of Hailsham Cllr, Paul Holbrook, at one of his monthly surgeries which relaunched in August.

'Tea with the Mayor' advice surgeries take place on the second Friday of every month, enabling residents to obtain information and advice or to make an enquiry about the services the Town Council provides, as well as discuss local issues and raise items of concern.

The next surgery is scheduled to take place in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Council offices in Market Street on Friday 12th November, from 10am to 12pm.

Although the surgeries usually operate on a drop-in basis, for the time being, residents are required to contact the Town Council in advance to make an appointment, either by writing to the Mayor's Secretary (Town Council Offices, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, BN27 2AE) advising the topic of concern, phoning 01323 841702, or sending an email to david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

Anyone who makes an appointment to attend the surgery will be required to use hand sanitiser and wear a face mask whilst on the premises.



"Residents are welcome to come and speak to me in person and discuss any local Town Council issues you wish to talk about," said Cllr Holbrook. "The monthly drop-in sessions are designed to give people the opportunity to engage in local issues that matter to them and voice their opinions."

"We as town councillors want to make ourselves as accessible as possible to residents, so hopefully this monthly surgery, now it has been reinstated, will prove popular again and complement existing ward surgeries held by some other Council members."

## WHY 'SHOPPING LOCAL' IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

**A message from Mickey Caira, Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager:**

"While it may be tempting to shop solely online, people need to consider all of the implications for local bricks and mortar businesses.

Many Hailsham residents haven't yet incorporated buying local into their lifestyles and it's imperative that people realise what unique benefits local products have to offer. By switching your shopping habits and supporting your local shops, you can make a big difference and really help to keep Hailsham buzzing and prevent further vacant retail units in the town.



With Christmas fast approaching, I'd like to take this opportunity to say that Hailsham's independent shops have everything you need in terms of Christmas shopping.

We have a wonderful range of shops and I would like to encourage everyone to spend locally and support our own traders as much as possible in the run up to Christmas."

# LAND & PROPERTY

MANAGED/MAINTAINED BY HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL



## PUBLIC OPEN SPACES & PARKS

Land at Butts Field; Land at rear of Retail Park (Diplocks Way); Land at Arlington Road East; Land at Blacksmith's Copse; Common Pond; Land at Ersham Road Triangle; Land on west side of Solway; Land to the south side of Quinnell Drive; Dennis King Memorial Sensory Garden; Cameron Close public open space; Orchard Park and land adjacent to Grovelands Barn

## RECREATION LAND & PLAY AREAS

Hailsham Country Park (including lake and ponds); Western Road Recreation Ground (including Beaconsfield and tennis courts); Maurice Thornton Playing Fields; Carpenters Way play area; Stroma Gardens play area; Battle Road play area; Maurice Thornton play area; Quinnell Drive play area; Maurice Thornton skate park

## ALLOTMENT SITES

Station Road; Battle Road; Harold Avenue

## CEMETERY LAND

Cemetery site at Ersham Road

## PREMISES MANAGED

1 Market Square (Square Youth Cafe/SafeHub/The Foyer); Cemetery Lodge (Ersham Road); Cemetery buildings inc. chapel; 3 Market Street; Inglenook & Fleur de Lys (Market Street); 4 Market Street; James West Community Centre; Union Corner Hall and car park; Maurice Thornton Pavilion, Grovelands Barn; 2 North Street building (inc. public toilets)

## OTHER

War Memorial (Vicarage Field); Victoria Gate (High Street)

## POST OFFICE

10 High Street

**FOR A MORE DETAILED LIST OF LAND & PROPERTIES MANAGED BY HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL, PLEASE CALL 01323 841702.**

# JAMES WEST COMMUNITY CENTRE

## AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Bookings from residents and local community groups are being taken for the hire of the James West Community Centre, which is located off Brunel Drive in the north of the town.

Community groups, businesses and other hirers are able to use the Centre for community events, sports, business meetings, memorial services and other events, as well as private function hire.

The Centre consists of an 18m x 11.7m main hall, able to accommodate an audience of around 200 seated (Covid restrictions are currently in place, so please check available seating capacity prior to booking), in addition to two separate meeting rooms. The facility also includes a modern kitchen, storerooms, toilets, changing rooms and a P.A. system.

Regrettably, the Town Council is unable to take any bookings for some activities, including children's parties for the time being.

Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager, Mickey Caira said: "Since opening just a few years ago, this



purpose-built centre has already begun to play a key role in enabling Hailsham to fulfil its potential as a vibrant and inclusive town and, now that it due to be reopened very soon, we hope it continues to be a popular community hub, offering a range of activities for local residents."

"In terms of running the Centre effectively since the easing of restrictions, we will continue to follow Government advice closely, react appropriately to local situations as they arise, and maintain good communication to ensure everyone has the latest information about potential restrictions to hire in the future."

**For further information or to make a booking, contact Hailsham Town Council on 01323 841702 or by email: [sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)**

Please note that hire of the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room in Market Street and the Southview Community Rooms in Western Road is currently unavailable until further notice.

## RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN LOCAL SPORTS

A town councillor has launched an initiative in partnership with Hailsham Active to encourage Hailsham residents to take advantage of the many recreational and sports opportunities offered within the town.

"Participate in local sports, stay active and share your sporting interests," said town councillor Ross Newark, who encourages residents to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle and get involved in a specific sport by joining one of the many clubs which operate locally.

"Hailsham has a thriving sports community and is home to numerous clubs and groups suitable for people of all ages, each offering different ways to become more active and engage in activities with family members, friends, neighbours and co-workers, whilst supporting the local sports community at the same time."

"Many of Hailsham's sports clubs offer sessions for complete beginners as well as more experienced participants and will

look after all ages and abilities. Therefore, you don't have to be experienced in a particular sport to get involved and become a member."

"It's also a great opportunity to share existing coaching or volunteering skills for the benefit of others and to make new friends, within a sporting environment."

**Details of sports clubs in Hailsham and surrounding villages including membership enquiries and contact information are available on Hailsham Active's Facebook page: [facebook.com/hailshamactive/](https://facebook.com/hailshamactive/)**





# 10K-5K-1 MILE HAILSHAM RUN 2022

APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON!

Running races are set to make a big comeback in Hailsham, and event organisers are delighted to confirm that applications will be open soon for people to register to take part in 10k, 5k and 1-mile runs, scheduled for next May.

Organisers Hailsham Active and town councillor Mary Laxton have partnered with Nice Work, a specialist race management company which organises races across the UK each year on behalf of running clubs, charities and local authorities, to welcome runners to the town to participate in the popular 10k, 5k or all-inclusive 1-mile run.

**James West Community Centre**  
BRUNEL DRIVE • HAILSHAM • BN27 3FY

A multi-purpose venue for residents, businesses and community groups in Hailsham.

**MODERN AND WELL-EQUIPPED HALL IDEAL FOR SPORTS EVENTS & TRAINING, MEETINGS, PLAYGROUP SESSIONS, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, FAMILY FUNCTIONS AND MORE!**

**TWO MEETING ROOMS SUITABLE FOR GROUP MEETINGS, TRAINING SESSIONS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES**

Booking/enquiries:  
**01323 841702**  
enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

[www.jameswestcommunitycentre.org](http://www.jameswestcommunitycentre.org)

The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 22nd May 2022, commencing at 9.30am in Hailsham High Street.

"Hailsham Active and I are delighted to be co-organising the event with Nice Work, complementing our mission to create a healthier Hailsham community," said town councillor and joint project lead Mary Laxton. "Yes, it's true, we have been inspired by Team GB's recent successes in the Olympics and are bringing back the 'Run' to our great town of Hailsham!"

"In the mid 90s we hosted various Fun Runs but now, running is a growing community activity, beneficial to participants' mental health, well-being and helping to combat isolation and stress into the bargain."

"Of course, this will be a prestigious event that will bring in runners and clubs with their families from across the area, and this in turn will also benefit our local economy and town centre trade on the day."

"Furthermore, we will be encouraging all Hailsham residents with any form of disability or special need to participate in the 1-mile run especially, using any form of support that they require. It's so important to us to be fully inclusive as a community."

Cllr Laxton added: "We will be advertising far and wide to spread the word of this event and we are hoping to get a high-profile sports personality to officially start the running event."

"Now the Run is booked and commissioned, it will go ahead regardless of the weather! Let's do this together and help put Hailsham on the sporting map."

Steve Wennington, chairman of joint project lead Hailsham Active commented: "Getting people active is our objective, and we are sure the fun run will be a spur for many to start gentle exercise, working towards another wonderful fun day with the whole community. We are very grateful for the unanimous support with this project from our Town Council."

Entrants will be required to be over the age of 11 and entry fees are set at £18.50 (10k), £15.00 (5k) and £6.00 (1-mile all-inclusive race).

The route is being planned by 'Hailsham Harriers' running club member Darren Gillett, which will hopefully be authorised by East Sussex County Council and other statutory agencies.

Organisers are now seeking sponsorship support from local businesses and organisations, all of which will be mentioned in event publicity and on the lanyards of the medal that each entry receives.

If you are a local business and wish to sponsor the event, please contact Ross Newark via the Hailsham Active Facebook page.

Any excess funds made from ticket entry will be held by Hailsham Active and used for improving access to sports activities in the local community.

Entrants will be able to register for their chosen run early next year via [nice-work.org.uk](http://nice-work.org.uk), details of which will be announced by the Town Council nearer the time.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Further Praise for Public Toilet Facilities

The Town Council has received positive feedback from residents on social media in recent months, who have praised the Council's cleaning contractors for their work in keeping the town centre public conveniences consistently sanitised and deep-cleaned throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

The public toilets located in North Street were open to the public to use during the lockdowns in 2020 and earlier this year and, despite a reduction in opening hours and the impact of the pandemic, the Town Council's contractors have managed to keep them in a safe condition for residents and visitors throughout.



## Free Publicity for Community Groups

The Town Council is inviting all non-profit-making organisations, voluntary groups, sports clubs and registered charities in Hailsham to publicise themselves on the Council's website and public notice-boards. All eligible organisations will be listed free of charge in the Community & Residents section of the website and on the notice-boards located in Vicarage Field and the Town Council offices in Market Street.

To advertise your group, call 01323 841702 (during office hours) or send an email to [terry.hall@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:terry.hall@hailsham-tc.gov.uk), including a description of your organisation and relevant contact information in your message

## Retail Unit Vacancy Rate in Hailsham

Latest figures show that Hailsham town centre falls well below the current regional and national averages of vacant ground floor commercial units.

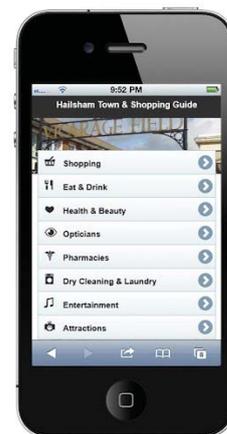
During the past few years, the town centre has welcomed a range of new businesses, including those which have expanded and subsequently relocated to larger premises and retail spaces.

According to a recent vacancy rate survey conducted by Springboard, the percentage of vacant ground floor units in Hailsham currently stands at 6.7%, which compares to a current regional/Southeast average of 12.1% and national average of 11.8%.

## Updated Online Guide for Shoppers

An online shopping and services directory set up to support local traders and companies, continues to grow and more businesses are encouraged to get on board.

A number of local businesses are featured in the smartphone accessible Hailsham Town & Shopping Guide, which has been recently updated by the Town Council to include newly open shops and businesses.



The directory, details of which can be found at [hailshamforward.co.uk](http://hailshamforward.co.uk) and is accessible to smartphones via scannable QR codes is the first comprehensive online service Hailsham Forward has produced in partnership with the Town Council.





## FURTHER IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT HAILSHAM CEMETERY

Additional improvements and repair works are scheduled to take place at Hailsham Cemetery in Ersham Road over the course of the next few months.

The improvements, weather permitting and scheduled to start in October, will see the first phase of the 3-4 year project to overlay all the footpaths in the cemetery with tarmac.

The initial works phase may cause some minor disruption to the public, but this will be kept under constant review.

The footpath renewal work follows a myriad of other improvements carried out at the cemetery during the past year, which have included the refurbishment of the New Garden of Remembrance with the re-laying of paving slabs, installation of a new weed membrane and new gravel.

Work was also carried out on the old chapel, with a full re-roof incorporating new slate tiles, guttering and leadwork. The chapel doors were subsequently repaired and repainted.

Furthermore, some ground has been cleared and reclaimed at the south end of the cemetery.

"Hailsham Cemetery is a quiet, secluded burial ground run by the Town Council and maintained for maximum peace for those visiting loved ones," said Councillor Trevor Powis, chairman of the Assets Management Committee.

"We want to ensure that our cemetery provides a fitting and appropriate place for people to visit their loved ones which is why we continue make improvements by carrying out any upgrades and repair work necessary on site. By doing this, we can ensure that the cemetery remains a place the community can be truly proud of."

Hailsham Cemetery offers spaces for the burial of coffins, as well as two Gardens of Remembrance and a separate space available for the interment of cremated remains. The cemetery also includes an area for 'meadowland burials' – for unmarked 'green' burials in bio-degradable coffins with no monuments or headstones.

The cemetery grass is cut around the graves on a regular basis and to a generally high standard. The rest of the cemetery is maintained and repaired regularly by the Town Council's Cemetery Superintendent, and the Council endeavours to inspect and assess the condition of the cemetery as often as possible.

**Hailsham Cemetery is generally open from 'dawn until dusk'. If you are intending to visit and wish to enquire about where a particular burial plot is, please call the Burials Officer on 01323 841702 (9am-4pm, Monday to Friday), who will be happy to assist.**

**Alternatively, send an email to: [david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)**





# SET UP PITCH AT HAILSHAM STREET MARKET

Organisers of the Hailsham Street Market are encouraging local small businesses to give trading at the market a try, whether they are experienced traders or a first-time, budding entrepreneurs who would like to sell their wares to new customers.

Hailsham Street Market, organised by the Town Council, takes place in Vicarage Field on Saturdays from 8.30am to 1.30pm, and items on sale include selling locally produced items such as food, as well as and unique gifts, crafts, confectionery and more.

Some of the local producers operating at the new market already sell goods in other local markets in the southeast.

The continuation of the Hailsham Street Market, which was launched in August 2013, is just one of many projects being carried out by the Town Council's Communities Committee, aimed at improving retail opportunities locally and increasing footfall within the town.

Furthermore, the Communities Committee agreed last year to reduce the cost of having a market stall from £25 to £15 for traders, to increase pitch take-up at the markets.

"I'm delighted that Hailsham Street Market continues to operate," said Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Cairn. "It goes without saying that we have seen a decline in trading activity since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, as has been the case for many street markets across the southeast and nationally."

"Furthermore, whilst Hailsham has seen some growth in terms of the number of new shops and other businesses opening here over the past year, the market has not shared in this growth."

"The acquisition of new stallholders is our main aim for the rest of the year and 2022, and part of our work in terms of helping with local economic recovery, we are keen to support local businesses and new traders the chance to sell their goods in the town centre at our street market."

"By supporting local producers, growers, suppliers and offering them the opportunity to sell locally - markets are an ideal way of showcasing the diverse range of products available in Hailsham and, as well as calling out for new traders to benefit from selling at the market, I'd encourage shoppers to come down to Vicarage Field on Saturdays and support independent trade."

**Pitch hire for the street market costs £15 per market. To book a stall call 01323 841702, email [nikita.clarke-cox@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:nikita.clarke-cox@hailsham-tc.gov.uk) or visit [hailshamstreetmarket.org](http://hailshamstreetmarket.org) for more information and to access the market trader application forms.**

## HAILSHAM STREET MARKET



**EVERY  
SATURDAY**

**8.30am-1.30pm  
VICARAGE FIELD**



# Your Hailsham Town Councillors

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**VACANCY**

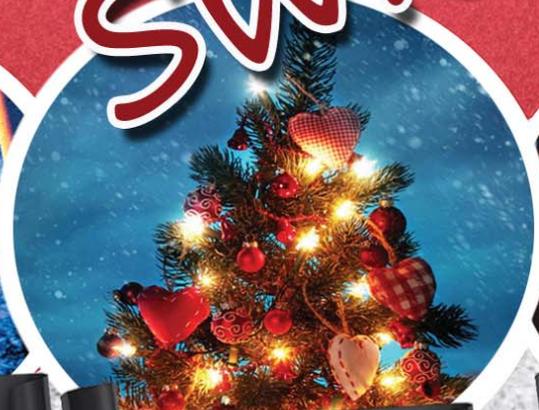
**VACANCY**

# Hailsham Christmas Lights

## Switch-on



CAROL SINGING



FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS



ALL WELCOME!

**FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER**

Vicarage Field - from 4pm

Santa & Sleigh (Hailsham Rotary Club) • Candy floss

Carol singing from local school pupils • Festive music from

Hailsham FM • Hailsham Parish Church open - free hot chocolate (after switch-on)

**LIGHTS SWITCH-ON  
AT 6PM**