

# Our Hailsham

OCTOBER 2022

## HAILSHAM MOURNS THE LOSS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

The Town Council was deeply saddened by the passing of Queen Elizabeth II last month and joined residents in paying their respects to Her Majesty and marking the succession of King Charles III to the throne.

### MESSAGE FROM TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN, CLLR PAUL HOLBROOK

"It was with great sadness that we had learned of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September.

Her Majesty's eventful and extraordinary life has been dedicated to serving the people and the Town Council pays tribute to her unflagging dedication, and selfless devotion to duty, as well as her deep level of commitment and generosity-of-spirit.

Her Majesty lived a life of selfless devotion to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, and her passing is a cause for great sadness to all of us.

Her Majesty took the throne in 1952, making her the longest-serving British monarch in history, and for many - in fact, most people in the UK - she was a constant throughout our lives and reigned through some troubled times and significant social and historical change throughout her life. Her passing brings to a close a lifetime of extraordinarily dedicated public service and it goes without saying that her death marks the end of an era.

Her spirit to Public Service was an inspiration for us all and her dedication to duty to the people will ensure that she will be forever remembered.

I'd like to thank residents for attending the various special events held at the War Memorial after her passing, including witnessing the town's official Proclamation of King Charles III and announcing the new monarch. This is the first time in a generation that we have observed the proclamation of a new head of state - an important constitutional milestone to mark the succession, whilst paying their respects to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II."





## JOIN COUNCILLORS AND VETERANS IN REMEMBRANCE

Preparations are under way by the Town Council, Royal British Legion Hailsham & District branch and Hailsham Parish Church for this year's Remembrance Day Parade and Service, to commemorate those who have sacrificed their lives in the armed forces and civilian members of Britain and the Commonwealth who also lost their lives.

The Town Mayor will join fellow councillors and representatives from the Armed Forces, their families, veterans and local organisations for a Remembrance Sunday Morning Service at Hailsham Parish Church on Sunday 13th November at 9.30am.

After the Morning Service, there will be a Parade of the Hailsham & District Standard followed by Armed Forces veterans and local dignitaries together with Hailsham army and air cadets from the car park adjacent to the Charles Hunt Centre in Vicarage Field, commencing at 10.35am.

The Parade will finish at the Hailsham War Memorial, in time for a wreath laying service, playing of the Last Post and two minutes silence at 11am.

Immediately after the service at the War Memorial, attendees are warmly invited to return to Hailsham Parish Church for hot drinks as in previous years.

"This Remembrance Service is an opportunity and a time for us to reflect and remember the sacrifices made both in the past and in current conflicts and thank them," said Mayor Councillor Paul Holbrook, urging people to take time out to remember the fallen. "It is important that as a community we continue to remember those who lost their lives for their country and the Act of Remembrance continues to be of great significance to the people of Hailsham, including the members and staff of the Town Council."

"It is a privilege for the Town Council to be supporting The Royal British Legion Hailsham & District Branch again in terms of organising this year's Remembrance Day events - and marking the occasion - and I would encourage as many people as possible to come along and pay their respects."



# HAILSHAM'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Families from across Hailsham and surrounding areas are being urged to mark Friday 25th November in their diaries as the date when the town will officially switch on its Christmas lights.

Hailsham is gearing up for a spectacular show in Vicarage Field this year, 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 (courtesy of Hailsham Rotary Club) and pupils from Hailsham Community College and Years 1 and 2 of their 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), plus Hailsham FM will be playing Christmas music throughout.

Hailsham Parish Church will be open to the public directly after the switch-on and looks forward to welcoming residents and visitors, serving free hot chocolate with marshmallows.

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

"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."



# WHEELS IN MOTION FOR HAILSHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Town Council and project partners are in full swing with the organisation of this year's Christmas Market event, which takes place in the town centre on Saturday 10th December.

Vicarage Field will be home to a range of stalls selling fine food, Christmas gifts, candles, confectionery and various festive refreshments will be on sale including to tempt visitors.

The event will also feature Santa and his Sleigh as well as live music, plus there will be carol singing in Vicarage Field and Hailsham FM will be playing popular Christmas tunes throughout the day.

The Christmas Market will coincide with Hailsham Farmers' Market, which will hold a special Christmas event at the Cattle Market site in Market Street, selling locally sourced food and crafts. There will also be festive entertainment on-site and Santa's Chief Elf will be in attendance for the children.

As part of this year's Christmas Market celebrations, the Town Council's festivities team will once again be organising a 'Find the Elf' competition for families and children and there will also be a 'Best Dressed Elf' contest for primary school age children to enter, with the judging and announcement of the winner taking place at the Farmers' Market site that day.



Hailsham Parish Church will be hosting Wealden Brass Band's Christmas Concert at 2.30pm on the day (free entry).

**Market traders can benefit from booking a stall on the day and are encouraged to do so by calling 01323 841702 or emailing [kaylee.butcher@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:kaylee.butcher@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)**

Councillor Nigel Coltman, Vice-Chairman of the Communities Committee said: "We're certainly getting into the Christmas spirit here on the Committee. We received encouraging feedback from both shoppers and stallholders in previous years and are looking forward to doing it all again this December and making the event an even bigger success."

"We're also excited to have built on the programme of festive entertainment and look forward to welcoming stallholders who can help us continue to make Christmas in Hailsham really magical."

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[hailshamtowncouncil \(HailshamTC\)](https://twitter.com/hailshamtowncouncil)

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group meetings  
and training  
sessions

### Fleur de Lys Meeting Room



Includes access to small kitchen, use of garden and free Wi-fi facility

**£10**  
per hour

**from £20**  
per session for  
community groups and  
voluntary organisations

for commercial and  
private hire

BOOKING & MORE INFORMATION:  
**01323 841702**  
[enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk)



# REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF EMPTY SHOPS

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

According to a recent vacancy rate survey conducted by Springboard, the percentage of vacant ground floor units in Hailsham currently stands at 5.1%, a significant drop from the 6.2% recorded in April 2022. This also compares to a current regional/Southeast average of 9.9% and national average of 11.2%.

Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager Mickey Caira said: "The percentage of vacant commercial units in Hailsham has decreased considerably during the last quarter and still falls below the current regional and national averages, which is excellent news for Hailsham. Hailsham is definitely the place to be for all shopping needs."



Cllr Nigel Coltman, Vice-Chairman of the Communities Committee said he is delighted to see Hailsham's business activity strengthening and expects to see continual improvement in the future: "The Town Council and Hailsham Forward have key priorities to work with local businesses to deliver plans to help address the issue of empty shops further and work towards a 100% occupancy rate for retail and business units."



## GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Grant application forms are available for non-profit organisations, registered charities or other agencies in Hailsham intending to request funding for new or improved facilities, activities or projects from Hailsham Town Council's 2023/24 grants budget.

All grant applications will be considered by the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee in early 2023 and notification of the decision on your application will be released in the spring of next year.

Application forms and grant award criteria are available by writing to Michelle Webber at Hailsham Town Council, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, BN27 2AE or emailing [michelle.webber@hailsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.webber@hailsham-tc.gov.uk). The deadline for grant aid applications will be the end of January 2023.

An advertisement for the James West Community Centre. The top part features the logo and name 'James West Community Centre' in white on a blue background. Below this, the address 'BRUNEL DRIVE • HAILSHAM • BN27 3FY' is listed. A large, diagonal banner reads 'A multi-purpose venue for residents, businesses and community groups in Hailsham.' Below the banner are two photographs: one of the exterior of the brick building and another of an indoor sports hall with a green court. At the bottom, an orange banner contains the text: 'MODERN AND WELL-EQUIPPED HALL IDEAL FOR SPORTS EVENTS &amp; TRAINING, MEETINGS, PLAYGROUP SESSIONS, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, FAMILY FUNCTIONS AND MORE! TWO MEETING ROOMS SUITABLE FOR GROUP MEETINGS, TRAINING SESSIONS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES'. The contact information 'Booking/enquiries: 01323 841702' and 'enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk' is provided, along with the website 'www.jameswestcommunitycentre.org'.

# MAYOR VISITS NEWEST ALLOTMENT SITE

The Mayor of Hailsham has revisited the newest allotment site in Hailsham, which celebrated its 5-year anniversary of opening last month.

The allotment site located off Harold Avenue, one of three owned by the Town Council, contains 23 small plots which were allocated to tenants on the allotment waiting list from September 2017.

Plans for the allotment site were given the thumbs up by the Town Council several years ago, resulting from an offer by developer Redrow Homes of an allotment site within their development for 128 dwellings on the land east of Battle Road.

Commenting on the provision of allotments as a vital service offered to the local community, Cllr Holbrook said: "It is often



overlooked that there are three different allotment sites in Hailsham maintained by the Town Council, and we should celebrate them all as they are a way for people to keep fit and active and grow their own healthy food."

"I'm really pleased to be at the Harold Avenue allotments site again today, and I speak on behalf of our proud tenants that having an allotment instils a genuine sense of pride in the community."

## RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO REPORT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In light of recent reports from local businesses concerning groups of people engaging in antisocial behaviour and a small number of thefts in the area, the Town Council would like to make people aware of the consequences of letting crime go unreported.



Unfortunately, whilst the crime rate in Hailsham remains relatively low in comparison with other areas, there has been an increase in antisocial behaviour in recent months, some incidents of which the police have been called. Furthermore, the Town Council has been made aware that only a relatively small number of antisocial behaviour incidents have been reported, which leaves the police little leverage to increase patrols in the area accordingly.

The Town Council encourages local businesses and residents to report any acts of antisocial behaviour to the police as soon as possible by calling the non-emergency 101 phone line, or by visiting the Sussex Police website: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb/report-antisocial-behaviour/>.

By providing information and reports, residents can play a significant part in the future planning of local policing, plus, all reports will go some way towards helping the police bring any offenders to justice.

The recent spate of antisocial behaviour in the town centre follows two separate incidents of vandalism of Town Council property - the spreading of paint over children's play equipment at the Western Road Recreation Ground and the defacing of walls, fixtures and fittings in the North Street public toilet facility, both of which resulted in an appeal for information by the Town Council.

Add to that, concerns expressed by residents about an increase in antisocial behaviour incidents and injury to local wildlife at the Common Pond in Bellbanks Road, from which the Town Council has been working with the local police and urges the public not to misuse the local beauty spot.

"Antisocial behaviour can be a real issue for the local community and not reporting it is potentially making matters worse," said Town Mayor Cllr Paul Holbrook. "Quite often the issue is raised in discussions about the effect that the non-reporting of such incidents is having on the area."

"Hailsham has seen a noticeable increase in problems of antisocial behaviour recently. Unless people report these incidents at the time, the local police may assume there is not a problem and resources will not necessarily be allocated accordingly."

Councillor Holbrook added, "The Town Council regularly engages in meetings with the local police to discuss these concerns, but we strongly encourage people to pass any information on to the police who will log this 'intelligence'. Quite often, action cannot be taken on one complaint or one incident of antisocial behaviour - it requires a build-up of information and that's why it's crucial that all incidents are reported as early as possible and through the appropriate channels."

# ANNIVERSARY OF POPULAR COMMUNITY CENTRE

September marked the 4-year anniversary of the opening of the Town Council's state of the art James West Community Centre, located in Brunel Drive.

Officially opened by Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex Mr Miles Jenner in 2018, the Town Council continues to provide excellent facilities at the centre for people wishing to hire a suitable local venue for community events, sports, business meetings, toddler play sessions, youth activities, children's parties and social events, as well as private function hire.

Since opening four years ago, the purpose-built centre - named after the founder and Chairman of the Hailsham & District Sports Alliance (now Hailsham Active) who passed away in November 2016 - continues to play a key role in enabling Hailsham to fulfil its potential as a hub of community life, offering a broad range of activities that meet the requirements and interests of sports clubs, businesses, community groups, public sector organisations and residents.

The centre offers excellent facilities and, modern and well-equipped, the main hall has a capacity of 200 people seated. The centre also includes two meeting rooms (10 and 16 seated-person capacity), both of which are regularly available and ideal for meetings, training sessions, seminars and conferences.

Kitchen facilities are available (including crockery and cutlery) and the centre also includes storerooms, toilets, changing rooms, a P.A. system and ample on-site parking.

"The Town Council truly believes that the people in our communities are our town's greatest assets," said Town Clerk John Harrison. "Community centres, such as this one, are at the very heart of all things local."



"A valuable asset to Hailsham, the James West Community Centre has many local groups, clubs and people of all ages using the facilities on a regular basis. We are extremely pleased with the response to the community centre opening in 2018 and feel confident that the centre is an essential hub of the community, bringing people together."

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



## HAILSHAM FARMERS' MARKET

- EST. 1997 -

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS & CRAFTSPEOPLE

MEATS FRUIT & VEG PLANTS CRAFTS CAKES HANDMADE CARDS HONEY AND MORE!

Every second Saturday of the month  
**9AM - 12.30PM**

Cattle Market Site (Market Street)  
**FREE ON-SITE PARKING**

[www.hailshamfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.hailshamfarmersmarket.co.uk) | Facebook: 'HailshamFarmersMarket'

CAROL  
SINGING

SANTA  
& HIS  
SLEIGH

FESTIVE  
MUSIC

FREE ENTRY

Vicarage Field

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

9AM-3PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

FESTIVE  
REFRESHMENTS

FREE  
PARKING

CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS

Hailsham

# Christmas market

Carol singing  
gifts and more | Market stalls selling food,  
'Find the Elf' Competition

Taking place alongside the Hailsham Farmers Market  
Christmas Market at the Cattle Market site, selling locally  
sourced food/crafts | Entertainment | Santa's Chief Elf

Santa & His Sleigh | Candy floss  
'Best Dressed Elf' competition

Christmas music from Hailsham FM  
Wealden Brass Free Concert (2.30pm, HAILSHAM PARISH CHURCH)

Something  
for everyone...

See you there!



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Residents are warmly welcomed to observe Council and Committee meetings, with the exception of confidential meetings, specific items of confidential business and informal workshops. At these meetings, residents are invited to address members during the 15 minutes set aside for this purpose at the start of each meeting.

A full schedule of Committee meetings, in addition to bi-monthly meetings of Full Council, is available to view on the Town Council website: [hailsham-tc.gov.uk](http://hailsham-tc.gov.uk). A copy of the agenda for these meetings is displayed on the notice boards outside the Town Council offices and in Vicarage Field, as well as online.



## TEA WITH THE MAYOR ADVICE SURGERY

Residents can visit the Town Council offices and meet the Mayor of Hailsham Cllr Paul Holbrook at his monthly surgeries.

'Tea with the Mayor' advice surgeries take place on the second Friday of every month (10am-12pm), enabling residents to make enquiries about the services the Town Council provides, as well as discuss local issues and raise items of concern.

**Surgeries operate on a drop-in basis, with no appointment needed.**



## URGENT REPAIR EMERGENCY CALL-OUT NUMBER

The Town Council operates a 24-hour phone line for residents to request an urgent repair for town council-maintained buildings and grounds. The direct access facility is available out of normal working hours (before 9am and after 4pm and for 24 hours during weekends and bank holidays).

If an urgent repair is needed outside of office hours, the number to call is **07946 211045**.

This service is provided to deal with genuine urgent damage to/repairs needed for Town Council-maintained properties and grounds, which arise when the council offices are closed.

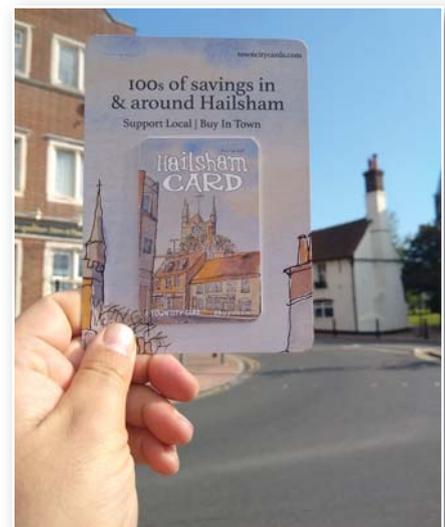


## HAILSHAM CARDS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT POST OFFICE

The 'Hailsham Card', a loyalty card scheme launched to give customers a greater incentive to use town centre shops, is available to purchase from the town centre post office located in the High Street, among other locations.

Operated by Town City Cards and fully supported by the Town Council, the Hailsham Card offers 100s of exclusive discounts and offers to shoppers, diners and other service users in and around the town.

Membership costs just £12 and cardholders can use the card to receive discounts in all the local businesses that are part of the scheme (including any online businesses) together with any other towns across Sussex that are signed up to the scheme, including Eastbourne, Hastings and Bexhill.



# 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.**

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# Hailsham Christmas Lights Switch-on



**CAROL SINGING**



**FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS**



**ALL WELCOME!**

**FRIDAY 25TH 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 serving free hot drinks/marshmallows

**LIGHTS SWITCH-ON  
AT 6PM**