

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Julia Shelley

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Alfriston War Memorial Hall

Old School House

The Tye, Alfriston, BN26 5TL

24th Sept 2026

**Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alfriston Parish Council (APC), held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Monday
21st September 2026 at 7.15pm**

Present:

Cllr D Monteath-Wilson (Chair)

Cllr J Watkins (Vice Chair)

Cllr A Harris

Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr J Spring

Cllr Embry

In attendance:

Julia Shelley – Locum Parish Clerk & RFO

There were approximately 5 members of the public present.

118 . Chair's Welcome

Cllr Monteath-Wilson welcomed everyone.

119. Public Questions

A resident had attended the Emergency Climate Meeting earlier in the year. They enquired about whether there were any further developments on the subject? Cllr Monteath-Wilson confirmed that the Parish Council are supportive of the group, which is an independent organisation, and will be interested in its activities. Cllr Rabagliati was able to share that there will be a second meeting and the details of a village WhatsApp group.

120. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Parkinson.

121. Update from MP

James MacCleary's report was read out at the meeting and is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix A](#))

Please note: Items 86 & 87 were moved later in the agenda – completed following item 131.

122. Update from Cllr Stephen Shing – East Sussex Council

Cllr Shing was unable to attend but his report was read out at the meeting, a copy is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix B](#)).

123. Update from Cllr David Greaves - Wealden District Council

Cllr Greaves was present at the meeting and later sent in his report which is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix C](#)).

124. Declaration of interest

Cllr Watkins declared an interest in AEG and Heartstart.

125. Minutes

Cllr Watkins proposed and Cllr Spring seconded a motion that the unadopted minutes of the APC monthly meeting held on 20th of July 2026, were a true and accurate record. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chair duly sign the minutes as an accurate record.

126. Finance

To approve the Statement of Finances for September 2026 as attached to the Agenda. Cllr Watkins proposed & Cllr Rabagliati seconded a motion these be approved. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

127. PCSO's Monthly Report

No report received this month.

128. Coffeehouse Conversation

The White Bridge is the subject of the September 5th Coffeehouse Conversation. Cllr Harris explained that the meeting will be an opportunity to air the problems regarding the upkeep of the bridge, look for solutions and see if a way forward can be achieved with "the village" taking ownership of future improvements.

129. To discuss Recruitment and Hours of replacement Clerk & RFO

It was confirmed that three applicants will be interviewed on the 24th of September. The post has been advertised as 25 – 28 hours per week. The Councillors discussed the hours to be offered in detail as a mismatch between hours and workload led to the resignation of the previous Clerk who considered 25 inadequate for the role. Offering a base of 25 with overtime was considered but the final decision (6 to 1) was to offer 28 hours. It is hoped that this will stabilise the position and stop the high staff turnover. *It was noted that the previous clerk did 30 hours at a lower hourly rate.*

130. To discuss request from Mr Gifford to fly his drone in the area around the Cricket Pavilion

Cllr Rabagliati provided some information on the legal requirements for drone flying. Although the Parish Council are unable to control the airspace above the recreation ground. Cllr Rabagliati believes that the Parish Council should have a no drone launch policy from the recreation ground itself. Possible wording for byelaws and notices as follows:

NOTICE: RECREATION GROUND REGULATIONS

Unauthorized takeoff, landing, or remote operation of any power-driven model aircraft or drone (including aircraft under 250g) is strictly prohibited within these grounds under Council Land Use Policy.

By Order of the Parish Council

We would need to have notices on the Pavilion and by the playground and that the Parish Council can deny launching from their land. The enquiry highlighted a weakness in the Byelaws as they refer only to model aircraft.

Action Point 1: Cllr Spring to update Byelaws and bring to a future Parish Council Meeting for adoption.

It was felt there was insufficient information to decide about the individual request.

Action Point 2: Clerk to seek further information from resident.

131. Report on Highways & Twittens – Cllr Embry

Cllr Embry had supplied a report for the meeting, highlights were read out at the meeting by Cllr Embry. The full report is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix D](#))

Cllr Embry has obtained two options to deter parking adjacent to The Furlongs. Images of the bollards were circulated.

Trees – approx. £900

Bollards - approx. £2000 (4 bollards) plus labour.

It was agreed that although trees would be visually appealing, they would be vulnerable to vehicle damage and have ongoing costs. Therefore it was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to allocate up to £3,000 of the High Street Traffic Plan reserve budget.

Action Point 3: Cllr Embry will bring a final proposal and budget to the October Meeting.

Alfriston Parish Council would like to record their thanks to Riley Grevatt, Highways Steward for all his help with the local issues.

131.1 To decide on a request from APC to ESCC Highways for additional Highways Bollard – outside No. 3 Waterloo Square. It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to make this approach.

132. Report on Allotments & Recreation Ground – Cllr Rabagliati

Cllr Rabagliati reported the following:

- 1) Despite the lack of rain in the summer, the allotments have been productive. I have read the water meter regularly, and consumption is fine. I'll shut the stop cock off in due course. I have had occasional difficulty reading the meter owing to a particular car that parks on the grass there but will place a note on the windscreen when it next happens.
- 2) Out of a total of 30, we currently have 7 plots available, plus our 2 wild plots. We have also sent 2 weed notices that will expire in October. I'd like to have the empty plots let out for next year, so want to progress the advertising in the Cuckmere News and Seaford Town Magazine, as agreed at the July meeting. I'll draft a notice that can be published.
- 3) There has been a request from the holder of plot 2b to plant a dwarf apple tree that will have a maximum height of 4 feet. I have looked at the proposed location and think that we should approve this, as it is not likely to impact any other plot in any way. Please can I have Councillors' approval?
- 4) I noted on Saturday that the grass in the play area needs cutting – please can the Clerk contact Matt of MW Landscapes and request this be done as soon as possible.

Action Point 4: Cllr Ragabliati to draft adverts for the above publications which the Clerk will place.

Action Point 5: Clerk to request MW Landscapes to mow the play area grass.

133. Report on Public Transport & Environment – Cllr Harris

Public Transport.

No issues to report. Cuckmere Buses are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, and I will be attending their AGM on 13th October, and I have been invited to a celebratory dinner at the Alfriston on 23rd October.

Cuckmere river.

Obviously no flooding issues since the last meeting in July. I will be attending the Flood Forum Meeting on 9th November. The Chyngton Brooks Intertidal Restoration Scheme now has Planning and all other consents, though I am not aware yet of when work will actually start.

Footpaths

Resurfacing of the South Downs Way at the top of Kings Ride continues, but in spite of my enquiries I have not discovered what the finished surface will be. Informally, I have been told that it will not be tarmac. A drainage system has been installed, and hopefully this will stop the problem of the road surface washing down on to Kings Ride and the Broadway in times of heavy rain.

The stiles on the west bank of the Cuckmere between the White Bridge and the Stone Bridge are in poor condition, and I have reported them to East Sussex County Council. I have also reported four fallen trees lying across the footpath beside the Pleasant Rise campsite. As ever, the more reports that are submitted by individuals the better!

The White Bridge. The Coffee House meeting on next Saturday has already been discussed.

I have reported previously on the improvement to the cycle route between Berwick Station and Alfriston and Littleington to be undertaken by Wheel, Cycle, Ride (formerly Sustrans). I have no further information at this stage.

134. Report on Strategic Planning – Cllr Parkinson

No report received in Cllr Parkinsons absence.

135. Report on The Tye - Cllr Spring

Cllr Spring had supplied a report for the meeting, highlights were read out at the meeting by Cllr Spring. The full report is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix E](#))

Cllr Spring reported on the difficult situation where a memorial tree had died and was removed. This has highlighted the issue that unlike the memorial benches Alfriston parish Council does not hold a record of memorial trees on their land. Cllr Spring has been in contact with family and is exploring a replacement tree, which will thrive in the families preferred location, and memorial plaque.

Action Point 6: All councillors to inform Clerk of memorial trees they are aware of, Clerk to update memorial bench list with memorials trees.

136. Reports from Outside Bodies

136.1 Heartstart - A training course will be delivered at The Star following the donation of the new defibrillator, another course will be delivered at The Cross House at a later date.

136.2 Alfriston Emergency Group - Nothing to report.

136.3 Flood Forum - The next meeting will be held on the 9th November.

105.4 Twinning Association - An update was read out by the Clerk, a copy is attached to the minutes. ([Appendix F.](#))

136.5 St Andrew's Church - The Harvest Festival will be held on the 27th September.

136.6 Clergy House - Nothing to report.

105.7 Alfriston War Memorial Hall - Nothing to report.

136.8 Speedwatch - Cllr Rabagliati reported that early morning and late afternoon sessions have restarted following the August summer break.

137. Correspondence to The Clerk – Asking for permission from the council.

APC ratified the decision to agree to a poster in Market Square A board for a MacMillan Coffee Morning.

Request for Nativity Performance – TBC. The Parish Council agreed in principle to the event pending finalisation of the date.

138. Public Questions

The Chair closed the meeting at pm and opened to public questions. Meeting was then re-opened at pm.

139. Date of next meeting – The next meeting will be held on 19th October in the AWMH.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9pm

The Chair opened the floor for questions – none received.

Please see Appendices attached below and/or on the website

MP Parish Report – September 2026

Summer Tour

As Parliament's summer recess comes to an end, so too does my summer village tour, at least for now. I still have a handful of meetings planned for October, but I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and the many residents I've had the pleasure of meeting across the constituency.

Wherever I went, certain themes came up time and again, particularly planning, roads, water infrastructure and ensuring that local services keep pace with the needs of growing communities. Alongside these wider issues, each village raised its own unique concerns, from the disappearance of Plumpton's post box to the ongoing challenges at Bishopstone Junction. The meetings also provided an opportunity for me to update residents on the national and international issues I have been working on in Parliament, including climate policy and defence, and to hear your views on matters far beyond the boundaries of our constituency.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who took the time to attend, ask questions and share their experiences. These conversations are invaluable and help shape the issues I raise with Ministers, government departments and local authorities on your behalf. My thanks also go to the parish councils, local councils and community groups that worked so hard to organise and host these meetings. Their efforts helped bring people together and ensured that residents had the opportunity to make their voices heard.

If you were unable to attend this summer, there may still be an opportunity to join one of my final meetings in October. Otherwise, I look forward to getting back out across the constituency again soon to continue listening, learning and representing the concerns of local communities.

Our Railways

It was impressive to see Network Rail complete the clearance and reconstruction of the line so quickly following the derailment in Lewes. Having visited the site myself, I saw first-hand the scale of the challenge they faced. Their teams have worked tirelessly to deliver the repairs on schedule while minimising disruption to passengers and the local community as much as possible.

I have been informed by GTR that the Eastbourne to London Bridge service has been temporarily suspended while speed restrictions remain in place, and they have assured me that this is only a temporary measure. However, there are still important questions to be answered about why this incident occurred in the first place and I will be paying attention to the investigation carried out by the RAIB.

For too long, the South East has been treated as an extension of London when transport funding decisions are made. Our region has experienced significant underinvestment over many years, and we may now be seeing the consequences of that neglect. I will continue pressing for answers about the cause of the derailment and for the investment needed to ensure our railways are safe, reliable and fit for the future.

Remembrance and Christmas Services

As with previous years, I do try to attend Remembrance and Christmas events held around the constituency. If your parish or town are planning an event and would like me to attend, please contact helen.spearman@parliament.uk with details and I will endeavour to attend or provide a representative in my place.

Advice Surgeries

I continue to hold advice surgeries across the constituency. For security reasons, these cannot be advertised in advance. However, if you are aware of a resident who may need assistance, please encourage them to contact my office at james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk

I will also be attending further events across our towns, villages and parishes over the next few months and look forward to engaging with residents during these visits.

East Sussex County Councillor Shing
Report to Alfriston Parish Council
Parish Meeting September 2026



Good evening, Chairman and colleagues,
I am sorry that I am unable to attend this evening's meeting in person, as I am attending another engagement. By the time I return, it is likely to be too late for me to attend the meeting.
Please find my report below for your information and consideration.
I apologise for my absence and hope you have a productive and successful meeting.

Local Government Reorganisation Decision to Pause

Following the Government's decision to pause the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process in East Sussex, many residents have expressed their concerns and confusion to me.

In July, the Government announced its intention to proceed with a new unitary council covering Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden, subject to Parliamentary approval. The Government has now paused the process and launched a review following updated legal advice.

Residents deserve to understand what has changed. The Government had previously considered consultation responses and formally announced its decision, so it is reasonable to ask what the new legal advice has identified and why the process is now on hold.

There is also an important financial issue. Councils have already committed officer time and public money to preparing for LGR. Residents should be told how much has been spent, what further expenditure is committed, and what happens to these costs if the proposals are changed or abandoned.

Key questions include:

- What has changed since the Government's July decision?
- What has the updated legal advice identified?
- How much public money has been spent on LGR preparations?
- How much further expenditure is committed?
- What happens to this expenditure if the proposals change or are abandoned?
- When will residents know the future structure of local government in East Sussex?

I believe residents deserve clarity, transparency and value for money. They need to know what has changed, why the process has been paused and what happens next.

Before further taxpayers' money is committed, we need to be satisfied that the proposed reorganisation remains the right solution for East Sussex and will deliver better value, better services and effective local representation.

Residents should receive clear answers before further public money is committed to the reorganisation process.

Exceat Bridge Replacement – Latest Update

Work on the replacement of Exceat Bridge is continuing, with the project now moving into the next important stage of construction.

Sheet piling has been completed on both sides of the river. The steel columns that will form part of the foundations for the retaining walls on both sides of the new bridge have now been installed. Work to move the ditch on the east side of the river has also progressed.

From around mid-September, the contractor will begin the bored piling phase. This will involve drilling holes approximately 30 metres deep into the ground and filling them with reinforced concrete to create the foundations for the retaining walls. The bored piling on the west side is expected to continue for around six weeks, while work on the ditch and road realignment continues on the east side.

There are currently no road closures planned for 2026. However, construction materials are being delivered to the site more frequently while the main site compound is being completed. These occasional construction vehicle movements may cause some delays to traffic.

Minor disruption is expected to continue throughout the autumn while piling works are carried out. Residents and road users are advised to allow extra time for journeys through the area.

The project team is also continuing its community engagement. In July, members of the Jackson team worked with Futures for All to deliver a two-day construction careers workshop for 35 Year 10 students at Hailsham Academy. Jacksons has also supported the Warming Up the Homeless – Eastbourne Centre with a donation of 20 sleeping bags and £500.

The next stakeholder meeting is expected to take place at the end of September 2026.

[Appendix C - WDC David Greaves Report](#)

Report – Alfriston PC - Monday 21st September 2026

1. Councillor Ward Budgets

Following the success of 2025/2026 funding given for the Ward Budgets scheme, Wealden District Council has provided further funding for councillors to continue to invest in projects in their ward

The scheme was introduced by Wealden District Council in 2025 with the aim to improve local services and facilities for residents. Under the scheme, each district councillor was allocated £10,000 to spend on projects that address local priorities and benefit the community.

During 2025/26 a total of £388,000 was awarded to local organisations and created many changes in the district. Below are some beneficial ways that funding has been spent for 2025/26.

- AV system at Ripe and Chalvington Village Hall
- An access ramp at Nutley Church Hall
- New sports equipment for Crowborough Hockey Club
- Minibus for Hailsham Boxing Club.
- New games and activities for Scouts in Pevensey Bay
- Maintenance of CCTV at the Horam Village Hall
- Refurbishment of toilets in Frant
- ANPR cameras in Withyham
- A sensory room in Danehill

Community groups, organisations and not-for-profit organisations can now apply for 2026/2027 funding through their ward councillor for funding to support [community projects](#).

A spokesman said, “This initiative is about supporting the people, places and organisations that make our district the special place it is. We’ve helped community groups protect and improve facilities that so many residents rely on every day.

“We are delivering on our commitment to keep money local, to strengthen local community organisations, and to help ensure they can thrive, rather than just survive. I want to thank every organisation that has applied and continues to make a difference.”

2. Revenues and Benefits – Back to School Cost of Living Support

The Revenues and Benefits Team is preparing to launch a Back to School Cost of Living Support Scheme in the coming weeks. The scheme will provide £50 payments to eligible families to help with the costs associated with children returning to school. The initiative supports East Sussex County Council’s Activity and Food Programme, helping to provide continued assistance to families following the end of the Free School Meals scheme for the summer holiday period.

3. Food Waste

More than 1,500 tonnes of food waste has been collected across Wealden since the food waste collection service began.

4. Copy letter received from Southern Water (August’26)

(The links haven’t transferred to this copy document but entering Southern Water’s website should enable further information and analysis should you wish)



Dear David,

[An update on our work to protect bathing waters in East Sussex](#)

With 700 miles of coastline and 88 designated bathing waters across Southern Water's region, we have a key role to help improve water quality.

Water quality is influenced by many factors and collaboration is crucial. That's why we're working alongside councils, regulators, environmental organisations, and local communities to help protect and improve your bathing waters.

Ahead of the busy August holiday season, we wanted to share with you some of the collaborative work we're doing to try and improve bathing water quality and the investment being made across East Sussex.

Bathing waters across our region

Across Southern Water's region, we now have 88 designated bathing waters, up from 87 last year.

89% of these are now rated either Good or Excellent, up from 84% in 2024. Over the last year, we've seen nine sites improve their classification, a positive step forward for coastlines across the area.

East Sussex is home to 15 bathing water sites and this year 14 have been classified as Good or Excellent, with one as Sufficient.

There are many factors which can impact bathing water quality, including leaking assets, blockages, illegally connected private pipework to surface water drains, and the influence of storm overflows. Sources outside of our control include highway, industrial and agricultural run-off, wildlife, beach activities, and water users.

The work we're doing to improve bathing waters

Bathing water quality in East Sussex is very good, with all but one of the designated bathing waters currently classified as Good or Excellent.

However, we're working hard to improve Bexhill and Hastings Pelham Beach, with dedicated improvement plans. We've already resolved several illegal connections of wastewater into the surface water sewer that flows to the beach as part of this plan.

A Bathing Water Improvement Plan prioritises key locations for targeted work and follow-up tracking and monitoring of progress.

Building partnerships with councils, partners and passionate local community groups is vital when trying to improve bathing water quality together.

In Bexhill, our investigations showed water from Egerton Park Lake was entering a nearby surface water sewer. Because surface water drains flow directly into the sea, we worked quickly with Rother District Council to understand the issue and assess any potential impact on local bathing waters. Water quality testing confirmed elevated levels of bacteria in the lake, and working in partnership with the council, the necessary repairs were made to prevent polluted water from reaching the coast.

As part of our improvement plan investigations, these partnerships have been key in many ways. In recent months, as we have

- Completed pre-bathing water season checks at our wastewater sites ensuring they are working as they should. We also regularly monitor our assets throughout the year to catch issues before they become a problem.
- Doubled the size of our Illegal Connections team, allowing us to find and fix these issues quicker. In the last year, we've fixed 29 illegally connected properties in East Sussex, which included 5 toilets, 12 sinks, 5 showers and baths and 4 washing machines.
- Trialling new surface water quality monitoring to help us better understand how roadside and farmland runoff impact bathing water quality and how we can address it.
- In partnership with Rother District Council, later this year, we'll be rolling out our Yellow Fish campaign in Bexhill and Hastings. This campaign reminds the public, that only rain belongs down surface water drains
- Ongoing CCTV investigations to find problems in the sewer network and fix these through a dedicated sewer rehabilitation programme
- We've recently surveyed two piers in East Sussex and found issues, which we're now working with the owners to fix. We'll soon be surveying Brighton Pier too.
- We're carrying out year-round water quality monitoring across East Sussex to better understand what's affecting bathing waters. We're also supporting community groups with testing kits and trialling real-time monitoring buoys, which provide live water quality data and help us respond more quickly to issues

We're funding solar powered waste bins along the coastline to encourage residents and visitors to dispose of their rubbish correctly, instead of leaving it to find its way into the sea.

Increasing bathing water awareness

The operational improvements and investigations mentioned above are crucial when trying to protect our precious coastline, but education and awareness of the role we can all play is equally important.

For the busy summer holiday season, we're launching a bathing water communications campaign across our region, with a particular focus on six locations – one of which is Hastings.

Our aim for this campaign is to:

- Educate on bathing water and update on investment, infrastructure and operational work to help maintain beaches
- Strengthen customer trust by highlighting progress and commitments to local communities and coastal destinations

Try to influence behaviour change, encouraging local people and tourists to play an active role in protecting coastal environments through responsible habits like disposing of litter/dog waste correctly and knowing what to pour down the drain

Launching very soon, we'll be sending direct communications to customers, revamping the [East Sussex bathing water section on our website](#), increased social media content and local news stories. Any support in sharing these key messages would be appreciated.

What are we doing to clean up rivers and seas?

Analysis shows that storm overflow releases do not always impact bathing water quality – only 12% of less than satisfactory water quality samples taken in 2025 were within 72 hours of a storm overflow release. However, we are working extremely hard to reduce them and in the first year of our [£1.5bn Clean Rivers and Seas Plan](#), we helped prevent 700 storm overflows across our region.

Our plan outlines when and where we are investing to reduce storm overflow releases, aimed at improving water quality across our region by 2035.

While we're working hard to reduce storm overflow releases, transparency when we do have a release is crucial. [Rivers and Seas Watch](#), which was built in partnership with digital experts and a working group, provides near real-time information on all of our coastal and inland outfalls and provides alerts on storm overflow activity.

Investment in East Sussex

We are now one year into our most ambitious business plan yet, and we're investing over £55 million between 2025-30 in East Sussex to reduce the number of storm overflow releases.

We're taking a hybrid approach by combining nature-based solutions, infrastructure upgrades and cutting-edge AI – with many of our planned interventions using green, nature-based solutions.

We know we have a long way to go but our initiatives are having a positive impact.

[See our website](#) for some of the successful interventions so far.

If you would like any more details on our bathing water improvement plans, the work we're doing to reduce storm overflow releases or on our upcoming bathing water communications campaign, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Kidd

Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager - Sussex

5. New community sports hub opens to deliver lasting benefits for Wealden residents and communities

The Wealden Community Sports Hub is now open, creating new opportunities for residents of all ages to get active, improve their wellbeing, take part in community life and build new connections.

Located near the Boship roundabout on the A267 in Lower Dicker, Hailsham, the £16.7 million state-of-the-art sports hub has been developed to meet the growing need for accessible sport and recreation facilities across the district.

The Hub has been funded by Wealden District Council, as landowner, with £3.5 million in part-funding from the Premier League, The FA and the government's Football Foundation, helping to make the project possible.

Residents and visitors can enjoy a wide range of high-quality sports and community facilities, including two full-size floodlit 3G football pitches, four floodlit netball and tennis courts, two floodlit padel courts, a children's play area, a skate park, and a perimeter trail for running, cycling, and walking. There is also a community café, flexible community space, modern changing facilities including a Changing Places toilet, 200 parking spaces with electric vehicle charging points, and a dedicated coach drop-off area.

The Wealden Community Sports Hub has been delivered on schedule and within the approved budget, creating a fantastic new space for residents to enjoy while supporting the local economy and creating employment opportunities.

Leisure United has been appointed to operate and manage the Hub on behalf of the council, bringing expertise in delivering high-quality multi-sports and community hubs.

The Hub facilities will create a modern, inclusive space that caters for people of all ages and abilities. These high-quality facilities will support local clubs, schools, community groups and residents by providing year-round opportunities to take part in sport, exercise and outdoor recreation.

6. Wealden District Council – Elections – Annual Canvass 2026

The Electoral Services Team are about to start the annual revision of the electoral register (annual canvass).

As part of the annual canvass we contact households in different ways including:

- Email
- Post
- Telephone
- Personal visit

The initial email stage is about to start and we will be sending around 80,000 emails out to residents over the next few weeks and months. The emails will be sent using the GovNotify system which is a free service that is used to send bulk emails and text messages.

A sample of the email is shown in the email trail below.

The email contains no address information or details of any registered electors. Electors are asked to visit a web site to view and check the details of electors registered at their address.

Electors with concerns about the email or any electoral registration query can speak to a member of the Electoral Services Team direct on 01892 602407 or they can email elections@wealden.gov.uk.

Further information about the annual canvass is available on the web site.
<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/annual-enquiry-form/>

If you have any questions about the canvass or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Heather

Heather Blanshard | Electoral Services Manager

Electoral Services for Wealden District Council

Phone: 01892 602416 Mob: 07985 811907

Email: heather.blanshard@wealden.gov.uk

Council Offices | Vicarage Lane | Hailsham | East Sussex | BN27 2AX

Sample e-mail:

Dear An Elector

Each year we are required to contact all households in the District to ensure the information that we hold on the Electoral Register is correct. Please respond using the details below so we can check who is eligible to register to vote at your address.

It takes just a few minutes online and all you need is your name, address and your unique security code. The link below will take you to a secure webpage where you can provide your response.

Please note, only one person per household needs to respond.

1 Visit the website

<https://www.householdresponse.com/wealden>

2 Enter your unique security code

Part 1: 123456

Part 2: 7890

3 Confirm or update your household information and submit

Include the names and nationalities of everyone aged 16 yrs and over who live at this address.

Please respond by 9 September to avoid receiving a paper form to your property. Please note, you cannot reply directly to this email. If you cannot respond online, or you have any queries, please email elections@wealden.gov.uk, or call 01892 602417.

If you would like further information regarding the annual canvass, please visit <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/annual-enquiry-form/>

Add new members of your household

You can add new members of your household to the Annual Canvass form, but they must also register to vote at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. We will send each person a form if they do not apply online.

Why am I receiving this email?

We have contacted you via email as you provided us with your email address previously. You have the right to object to the use of your email address for the purposes of electoral registration. If you no longer want to be contacted by email you should contact the Electoral Registration Officer to [Unsubscribe](#). Please include your name and address in the body of the email. Alternatively, please click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

Yours faithfully
Trevor Scott
Electoral Registration Officer
Wealden District Council
Vicarage Lane
Hailsham
BN27 2AX
E: elections@wealden.gov.uk

T: 01892 602417

W: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk>

[Unsubscribe from these emails](#)

7. Scale up East Sussex

Wealden companies with 4 to 50 employees can now apply for Scale Up East Sussex, a fully funded growth programme for ambitious businesses ready to scale with impact. Delivered by *Sussex Innovation* and funded by East Sussex County Council and the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority, the programme begins in October 2026 with a series of monthly workshops.

Bringing together 30 businesses from across Sussex, the programme is designed to address the real challenges of growth, including leadership development, revenue predictability, productivity and decision-making at pace. Sessions are led by experienced founders, managing directors and sector specialists who have successfully scaled businesses themselves.

Alongside the workshops, participants will benefit from peer-to-peer problem solving, one-to-one mentoring, and Q&A sessions with successful local founders.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

8. Powering Local Businesses – Sustainability Grant

Enterprise Nation and EDF Small Business, supported by NatWest and Square, are offering £25,000 in funding to help five small businesses invest in a greener future.

Five businesses will each receive a £5,000 grant to support meaningful sustainability improvements that can reduce both costs and carbon emissions. Funding can be used for projects such as energy efficiency upgrades, new equipment, renewable energy installations, electric vehicle chargers and energy management software.

In addition, a further five business owners will win a workplace electric vehicle charger, including standard installation, courtesy of Pod.

If you're looking to upgrade equipment, improve energy efficiency or invest in renewable infrastructure, this could be an excellent opportunity to take another step towards a more sustainable and resilient business.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

9. DevelopMentor – Free line manager training for SMEs

Free line manager training for SMEs is available through Workwhile's DevelopMentor programme, supported by the Youth Futures Foundation. The short training programme is designed for managers of young apprentices, helping them develop the skills needed to support apprentices and enable them to thrive in the workplace.

Practical topics include the role of the line manager and its challenges, inclusive management, motivation and engagement, objective setting, difficult conversations, and coaching skills.

Developed specifically for managers and supervisors in busy SMEs, free places are available to businesses across England. Starting on a rolling basis from **September 2026**, the programme comprises four 90 minute online training sessions, followed by two one hour 1:1 coaching sessions, with no coursework or assessments required.

[Click Here to Register](#)

10. Visitor Ready: Accreditation for Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism

A free, entry-level accreditation introduced by The AA, Visitor Ready is designed to help hospitality, leisure and tourism businesses demonstrate that they are safe, trusted, and compliant with government legislation and industry standards.

Supported by VisitEngland, the Visitor Ready digital badge provides assurance that a business meets mandatory legal requirements, helping to build confidence across the tourism and hospitality sector.

Approved businesses receive a digital badge for use across their marketing channels, as well as access to a secure digital wallet for storing key documents and automatic reminders when renewals are due.

Businesses can check their eligibility at [VisitorReady.com](https://www.visitorready.com), upload the required evidence, confirm key requirements and complete an application in as little as 20 minutes.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

11. One You East Sussex supported by Wealden District Council is bringing the free NHS health check roadshow to communities across Wealden this autumn.

Following the success of the previous roadshows, One You East Sussex will again be using its community outreach campervan, COLIN, to provide bookable NHS health check appointments and health advice. The appointments will take between 30-40 minutes and results will be discussed during the session. Spaces are limited and unlikely to be available on the day, so we encourage booking in advance. To make an appointment, [email](#) them or call 01323 404600.

Residents need to fulfil the following criteria to be eligible:

- Aged between 40-74.
- Be an East Sussex resident.
- Are not currently prescribed blood pressure or cholesterol medications.
- Do not suffer from Diabetes, heart, circulatory, kidney conditions or have not previously suffered from any cardiovascular events.
- Have not previously had an NHS health check in the last five years.

New to this autumn roadshow, will be checks offered from Sea Road Car Park in Pevensey Bay.

The Roadshow dates and locations are:

Tuesday 29 September – Vicarage Lane Car Park, Hailsham

Wednesday 30 September – Station Road East Car Park, Heathfield

Tuesday 6 October – Croft Rd Car Park, Crowborough

Wednesday 7 October – Luxford Car Park, Civic Approach, Uckfield

Wednesday 14 October – Sea Road Car Park, Pevensey Bay

A spokesman said, “We are pleased to offer free health checks again, a healthy community begins with everyone taking the time to care for themselves. Even when you feel fine, taking the time to have a check-up can help protect your own health. Small steps today can prevent bigger challenges tomorrow, and together we can create a healthier future for all.”

Hattie Deacon, NHS health checks lead, One You East Sussex, said, "The Wealden Roadshow has been a huge success over the past couple of years. Each session has consistently booked up very quickly, reflecting the demand across all the communities in Wealden. Feedback from attendees has been positive, with many expressing gratitude for having access to such an important health service right on their doorstep. The convenient, accessible locations and the warm, welcoming environment have helped break down barriers to healthcare and encouraged more people to take proactive steps in looking after their health."

12. Fly-tipping (information)

WDC are dealing with an alarming new trend in fly-tipping linked to serious and organised crime. Criminal gangs are stealing large HGVs, filling them with illegal waste and abandoning them at locations across the country. One such vehicle has recently been dumped in Wealden, with an estimated clean-up cost of around £20,000. We are working closely with Sussex Police to investigate the incident and identify those responsible.

13. Strategic Authority

Although last Monday's surprise announcement regarding the 'pause' put on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), work on the new Sussex Strategic Authority continues. Last week, officers attended a cross-Sussex workshop to help shape a new Prosperity Strategy for Sussex.

14. NHS Community Respiratory Service

The NHS Community Respiratory Service and East Sussex County Council are running a series of Respiratory Winter Wellness events across the county,

The event is free to attend and open to all adults in East Sussex, whether you are living with a lung condition, supporting someone who is, or simply interested in learning more about your lung health. No booking is required.

Attendees will have access to:

- One-to-one advice and support
- Informative talks from respiratory experts
- Information from local and national organisations
- Free lung function tests

Further details of other events can be found here: [East Sussex Respiratory Winter Wellness events – ESCIS](https://www.escis.org.uk/event/east-sussex-respiratory-winter-wellness-events/)

<https://www.escis.org.uk/event/east-sussex-respiratory-winter-wellness-events/>

15. CLIF Funding

Response to a letter that I sent to the CLIF Grant Funding Team:

In response to your question there is nothing to prevent an eligible organisation (e.g. voluntary or community group or other local authority infrastructure) from any ward in Wealden from applying to the CLIF programme. I attach some (PowerPoint) slides (see link below) which you may find useful for reference and please feel free to share this with anyone you feel may be interested.

Please do ask the organisation in Alfriston, or indeed any other organisation within the South Downs Ward to get in touch with me if they would like to know more about the Fund. For information, the initial £2 million that was allocated to the Fund by Full Council in May 2025 is now oversubscribed, but we are still accepting applications and a report to Cabinet recommending that the Fund is renewed is currently in preparation.

Please do feel free to contact me directly if you would like any further information.

**Lee Shepherd, Grant Funding Coordinator, Community Led Infrastructure Fund
Planning Policy, Economy and Climate Change**

Wealden District Council

Council Offices | Vicarage Lane | Hailsham | East Sussex | BN27 2AX

07985 878 678



CLIF slides last
updated July 2026.p

16. Wealden Community Lottery

The Wealden Community Lottery, launched by Wealden District Council in March 2023, now:

- supports over 122 Wealden local organisations.
- Has raised more than £185,000 over the past three years for local organisations, helping to fund not only local projects and initiatives but also essential core and ongoing running costs.

On average, around 2,000 tickets are sold each week, giving residents the chance to be entered into weekly draws with prizes of up to £25,000. Notably, out of over 120 local authority lotteries nationwide, Wealden is currently ranked 3rd for ticket sales, demonstrating the strong local support and engagement the lottery has achieved.

This success has been made possible through the support of local champions like you, who play a vital role in raising awareness and connecting residents and organisations with this valuable opportunity.

Every £1 ticket purchased directly benefits the local area, with 50% going to a chosen Wealden good cause, whether that's a charity, sports club, parish and town council, voluntary organisation, or not-for-profit group. With your support in promoting the lottery, even more funding can be generated for the communities you represent.

This is where you can make a real difference.

By simply sharing information about the lottery with residents, community groups, and local networks, you can help unlock vital, unrestricted funding streams for organisations in your ward.

In the South Downs Ward, there are more than 2 local organisations already benefiting.

Examples of organisations including but not limited to:

- East Dean and Friston Cricket Club - raising funds for wicket improvements, to develop our Youth cricket for 5-15 year olds and to upgrade our facilities at the pavilion.
- East Dean and Friston Bowling Club - the only Bowling Club in the villages of East Dean and Friston. The green and club pavilion is on Little Lane off Upper Street in East Dean.

With your help, we could significantly increase participation and ensure more vital funds are raised within your local community.

Local organisations can sign up **for free** and begin raising funds straight away:

<https://www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk/>

You can also see the positive impact already being made here through our new Wealden Community Lottery promotional video: <https://youtu.be/9flZuOha43U>

We would greatly appreciate your support in:

- Promoting the lottery to residents and encouraging local groups to sign up for free to start raising funds (T&Cs: <https://www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk/good-causes/terms>)
- Sharing information through your networks, newsletters, or meetings
- Confirm if you require any promotional materials delivered, to help promote the Community Lottery locally.
- To connect with your local parish or town council, which can also benefit as a good cause by raising funds for specific community projects through the lottery.

In addition, we are more than happy to attend any events!

We can provide ready-made promotional materials in both digital and printed formats, including A3 and A4 portrait posters, A6 landscape postcards, and window stickers, to help you easily promote the lottery more widely. A limited number of Community Lottery fence banners are also available and are rotated across the district for display in local wards. Printed materials and banners can either be posted or provided directly to you; if you would like to receive these, please share your postal address and indicate how many copies of each item you require.

If you'd like to find out more or discuss how you can help maximise impact to raise further funding for your area, we'd be very happy to arrange a call **by Wed 30th September**.

Thank you in advance for your support. Your involvement really can make a tangible difference to the organisations and people in your community.

Kind Regards,

Kat Jenner, Partnership and Funding Support Officer

Leisure and Wellbeing Team, Wealden District Council

07985 878624

katherine.jenner@wealden.gov.uk

Council Offices | Vicarage Lane | Hailsham | East Sussex | BN27 2AX

<http://www.wealden.gov.uk>

17. Temporary changes to Southern Rail services

Briefing from Bryn Mabey, Communications Lead, Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council on the East Coastway route (introduced from Monday 14th September

Firstly, we want to acknowledge the disruption that passengers travelling on this route experienced while the recovery operation near Lewes was ongoing as we know the impact it had on journeys. While I know this will not be welcome news, from Monday 14 September we have introduced some temporary, targeted changes to **weekday off-peak services** between Ore, Eastbourne, Lewes, Haywards Heath and London.

These changes are expected to remain in place for approximately four weeks while Network Rail continues to monitor track conditions and carry out maintenance work across the route. As you may be aware, a number of precautionary speed restrictions remain in place on sections of the railway in Sussex, including on sections of the route between Haywards Heath, Eastbourne and Ore. These restrictions are necessary to allow trains to continue operating safely while infrastructure conditions are monitored and remedial work is completed, but do mean trains take longer than planned to complete their journeys.

If we continued to operate the usual timetable throughout the day, delays would quickly build up and increase the risk of short notice cancellations and alterations to services for

customers, and affect services across a much wider area of the network. By making targeted changes at quieter times of the day, we can help services run more reliably and predictably, while maintaining busier peak-time services for the many customers who rely on the railway to travel to and from work, education and other essential journeys. This approach will help keep people moving when demand is highest in the peak and at weekends, while reducing the knock-on delays that can affect customers across the wider network.

We recognise that customers will find these changes inconvenient, particularly following the recent disruption on the route, and we have not taken this decision lightly. However, we believe these targeted amendments represent the best balance between maintaining services for passengers and providing a reliable and punctual on this line and across the network.

Information on service changes:

- The temporary changes will apply Monday to Friday only. Weekend services will continue to run as normal
- The usual half-hourly service between Ore, Eastbourne and London Victoria will operate in the morning peak, until around 09:00.
- Between 09:00 and 16:00, a shuttle service will operate between Eastbourne and Haywards Heath, where customers can change trains to continue their journey. An amended service, but of the same frequency, will operate between Eastbourne and Ore.
- After 16:00, the regular half-hourly service between London, Eastbourne and Ore will resume, with the first train from London running through to Eastbourne departing at 16:24.

Journey planners will be updated with the service changes so customers can plan their journeys, and we will continue to share the latest information on our website. We know this service alteration will mean changes to journeys, and would like to apologise for any inconvenience it causes for customers, and we are very grateful for their understanding while these temporary arrangements are in place. We are also sorry for what is a short notice change in service for customers. We will continue to keep these arrangements under review alongside Network Rail as maintenance work progresses and conditions improve.

If you have any questions about these changes, want any further information to share with constituents or would like to discuss them further, then please do let us know by contacting my public affairs team at GTRPublicAffairs@GTRailway.com.

David Greaves

21st September 2026

[Appendix D - Cllr Embry Highways Report](#)

APC – Highways Report 21st September

CityFibre

There are currently no permits visible for roadworks relating to CF on the East Sussex Highways platform. I continue to chase CityFibre for dates regarding the remaining works that they are due to complete along Whiteway, Rope Walk and River Lane post summer.

East Sussex Highways

On Tuesday 1st September, Diana and I attended the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting with Sam Crowhurst and Riley Grevatt at the ESCC Highways offices in Ringmer, with Cllr Shing also in attendance. Many topics were covered, and updates include:

- Beachy Head Marathon

This is due to take place on Saturday 24th October 2026. I've been in contact with Peter Martin, Head of Events & Seafront for Eastbourne Council, to discuss the impact on the village, and have reiterated our request that runners and traffic marshalls are respectful of residents, drivers and pedestrians when coming through the village.

I am waiting for him to come back on a couple of points, after which time we will be able to share more details with residents so that people can plan accordingly.

- Alfriston Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

We continue to reiterate our frustration with the diversion route of The Furlongs being used on the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for Alfriston, despite parking along this road making this a one-lane road.

- HGV Infringements & Coach Signs

ESCC has advised that they are satisfied with the existing signage for HGVs and coaches in relation to the village of Alfriston. We have reiterated to Sam that the village continues to experience HGV infringements, and coaches ignoring existing signage, both of which bring serious traffic problems, and put pedestrians, drivers, and old buildings at risk of damage.

Cllr Shing, and the police, are well aware of this issue, and I have also spoken with MP James MacCleary's office, who have been trying to tackle this problem which impacts other rural villages.

I would suggest that we ask for additional signage (which should include width restrictions as well as weight) to be added for consideration in the next Highways programme of works (i.e. 2027-2028), which currently includes a request we have made to them to resurface the village roads.

In the interim, we would urge residents and traders to report any infractions to the police using Operation Crackdown (<https://operationcrackdown.org>). If we are able to present the Council with data to evidence the issue then this will strengthen the argument that additional funding and measurements are required.

- Give-Way Sign at the Youth Hostel

The placement of the give way road markings at the Youth Hostel continues to be problematic, as from the stopping point going towards Seaford, you cannot see if there is oncoming traffic on the other side of the road. Riley is going to visit the site, and send photos to the Road Safety team requesting that the give way markings are moved further back.

- Walk-Round with Riley (Part 1)

Following our SLR we had a walk-round of the village with our Highways Steward on 4th September.

Starting at the North end of the village by the Alfriston / Lullington Road junction we made our way into the market square, back along West Street, and around the back of the village to the Star Lane / Weavers Lane junction. In great detail, all issues were captured and raised by our steward, including:

- Overgrown vegetation to be cut back
- High path to be repaired
- Various road markings to be reinstated
- All potholes to be addressed and poor road conditions captured
- Missing drainage gullies to be reinstated
- All blocked gullies to be cleared / jetted
- Road sweep to be carried out on West Street
- Missing curb slabs along The Furlongs to be reinstated

We are arranging a date for part 2 when we will cover the remaining roads and footpaths. I would like to note our thanks to our Highways Steward for being so diligent in capturing all of these issues in such detail.

The Dene Car Park

The EV charging stations have finally been connected, and are available for use. Whilst chasing Tina Ford at Wealden DC for an update on these, I also requested that they address the poor condition of the road at the East entrance to the car park, and I have asked that they remove the old no entry post with no sign on it that remains as a legacy from the old road layout.

Verge Damage on the Furlongs: Parking Deterrents to Prevent Further Damage to The Furlongs / Cuckmere Court Grass Verge

Option 1: Planting vegetation

- Requires a Licence for excavation (S171), at a one-off cost of £447
- Requires a Cultivation licence (S294) £68, to be renewed every 2 years
- Would suggest 2-3 cherry trees (i.e. prunus) of a small / dwarf variety. Cost per tree would be between £50-120 depending on maturity.
- Cost of planting would include labour, tree stakes, and compost, to be carried out by Dan Larkin
- Additional cost of maintaining the trees on an annual basis (add to existing log of trees maintained by Dan Larkin)
- Damaged trees would need to be replaced

Option 2: Installation of Passively safe bollards

- Requires a Licence for excavation (S171), at a one-off cost of £447
- Requires a Licence for planting of bollards (S115) £68, to be renewed every 2 years
- Cost of each bollard (from Glasdon) ranges from £288 to £451 exc. VAT.
- Impactapol material is lightweight so the bollards can be installed by a single person, with costs ranging between £100-350 per bollard (Google and Checkatrade).
- Once installed maintenance is minimal, as the materials used do not need repainting / do not rust.

CLLrs discussed the options available and decided on Option 2.

It was agreed that the Manchester Bollard is the most suitable, as this replicates the style of existing bollards dotted throughout the village, and has a reasonable price point of £322.50 excl. VAT. It has been selected from ESCC's suggested firm Glasdon, and is compliant with compulsory Passive Safety Standard BS EN 12767:2019.



Cllr Rabagliati kindly offered to assist Cllr Embry with measurements, spacing, and number of bollards required (the current assumption being 4), to be presented at the October meeting.

Exceat Bridge

The project is progressing well, and communication remains strong. In the latest newsletter, we were advised that there are no planned road closures for 2026 which is good news. However, they have advised that the deliveries of constructions materials to the site do have an impact on traffic flow, so have requested that drivers take this into consideration when using this road, allowing additional time to get to their destination.

I will be attending the next stakeholder meeting, which is to be held on Tuesday 29th September.

131.1

Additional Bollard at Number 3 Waterloo Square

As per appendix B, the resident of Number 3 Waterloo Square has asked the Parish Council to raise a request with ESCC to have an additional bollard installed along this section of the pavement. This is to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement, in response to him experiencing access issues to his front door, and vehicles striking him.

I would like to reiterate that any incidents involving contact with vehicles mounting the pavement should be raised to the police using Operation Crackdown (<https://operationcrackdown.org>).

Please can Cllrs discuss, and then vote if they are happy for me to proceed with raising this to the Road Traffic and Safety Team at ESCC Highways, who will investigate, assess, and decide if this is the appropriate action to be taken.

All Cllrs AGREED for me to proceed.

Rhys Watkins Memorial Tree - APC Meeting Notes

Background, chronology and proposed Council response

Background and history

- The Watkins family moved to 1 High Street, Alfriston in 2003 and became closely involved in village life, including the preschool, allotments and Alfriston Players.
- Their son Rhys Watkins died in 2012, aged 12, following a brief battle with cancer.
- In 2013, with the agreement of Alfriston Parish Council, the family planted an Indian Horse Chestnut on the Tye in Rhys's memory.
- For the following 13 years the tree became an important place for the family and others in the village. They visited it on birthdays, anniversaries and other significant occasions and spent time there together.
- During summer 2026 the tree unfortunately died.
- In early August, the Tree Warden identified the dead tree and discussed its removal with the Clerk, following which it was cut down.
- At that point APC did not have a record identifying the tree as a memorial tree, and the Watkins family were therefore not contacted before it was removed.
- The family discovered the removal afterwards, which caused considerable distress.
- Phoebe Watkins contacted APC on behalf of the family on 6 September, seeking an explanation and asking for a replacement memorial tree.
- Trevor Watkins subsequently asked APC for a written explanation of the circumstances surrounding the decision to remove it.
- As Tye portfolio holder, I contacted Phoebe and have been working directly with the family on how we can put matters right.
- I also wrote personally to Mr Watkins apologising for the distress caused, explaining what we presently understand happened, and confirming that the matter would come before Council.
- I have told the family that APC should improve its records and procedures so memorial trees and similar commemorative features are clearly identified in future.
- The family have responded constructively. Although devastated at losing the original tree, they want to work with APC to establish a replacement memorial for Rhys.

Proposed points for APC to agree

- Acknowledge and apologise to the Watkins family for the distress caused by the removal of Rhys's memorial tree without prior consultation.
 - Agree to replace the tree, working with the family on the species, precise location and planting arrangements.
 - Ensure that the new tree is formally recorded by APC as Rhys Watkins' memorial tree.
 - Create or update a proper register of memorial trees and other commemorative features on the Tye so this cannot happen again.
 - Ensure that before future tree removal, the Council checks that register and, where appropriate, contacts the relevant family.
-

- Continue working positively with the Watkins family so that the replacement is something they are comfortable with.

Suggested wording for the meeting

"Nobody intended to remove Rhys's memorial; the tree had died and was removed because we did not know what it represented. We cannot undo that, but we can apologise, replace it properly with the family, and make sure our records and procedures prevent this happening again."

Village Fete - Report for APC

Summary

Pre-event planning and organisation

- Booked around 30 stallholders early in the year to ensure a good range and sufficient numbers, and provided them with the necessary logistical information.
- Booked food pop-ups and musicians.
- Completed the required paperwork, including insurance, permissions, risk assessments and the fete map.
- Organised materials, signage, marketing, promotion and sponsorship.
- Set up a bank account for the event.

Community and school involvement

- Actively involved the school to encourage participation from younger people.
- Lucie McCloy ran the Pimm's tent with the school team.
- Anne Shaw ran the Dine Out Draw.
- The musicians - Mat Baker, Dave Payne and Quattro - gave their time free of charge.
- Liz O'Neil organised the rotas and sweets for the games, with help from Alison.

Set-up and delivery

- Day-before and on-the-day logistics were delivered following the agreed briefing.
- Key support came from Jon Spring, Bruce Sutherland, Mark Wadlow, Mandy Sutherland, Mandy Foss and Tony Clarke, with Steph Wadlow also helping.
- Around 25 additional volunteers helped for shorter periods on rotas, including tokens and games.

Other thanks

- Sarah Lloyd ran the dog show.
- Trish Berwick and Jilly Byford gave their time as judges, with Sarah Morgan on the microphone.
- Mark Farrar provided the commentary /announcing on the day.
- Treasurer Louise Hughes.
- Special thanks too for Gayle Hudson for arranging and enabling the whole event and all of the hours she put in.

Points noted

- A significant amount of work was required both before and during the fete.
- There was an effort to involve more local businesses and groups, including the horticultural group.
- Business participation was limited, despite local businesses benefiting from the promotion and increased visitor numbers generated by the fete. Perhaps more can be done next year to get more engagement.

Alfriston Village Fete & Dog Show 2026

A BIG thank you to the team who helped pull together this year's village fete & dog show on August Bank Holiday Sunday. Too many to name but a great joint effort in manning games, marshalling, handing out tokens, putting up gazebos, running the show and more. It was a fabulous day out for villagers and visitors who brought their dogs, played old fashioned games, listened to music, browsed some great stalls and enjoyed food and drink provided on the day. It also brought visitors into the village for local shops and pubs which is always good for business.

We are grateful to our village pubs, cafes and restaurants for donating generous vouchers for the Dine Out Draw and to Rager & Roberts for their sponsorship grant towards the printing and signage costs.

Many charity stalls were able to raise money for their own causes including St Wilfrid's, Friends of Alfriston School, The Rotary Club, National Trust, Help for Heroes, Motor Neuron Disease Research, Children with Cancer and more. We were also able to collect almost £3,000 centrally through the dog show, raffle, games & stalls. £1,000 was donated to Raystede Animal Rescue which is based outside Lewes and supports around 2,000 animals in need each year. They have more than 400 animals on site and are struggling to find sufficient funds in the current environment, so our donation was very welcome. The remaining funds were donated to local causes including the AEG, St Andrews, the Clergy House and Village Hall.

We hope you enjoyed the day – a few pictures below!
Gayle Hudson



Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Twinning Association

Our official twinning event in September was a huge success. Twenty-six visitors from Veules-les-Roses braved the high seas and by Friday evening, Alfriston's Old Chapel Centre was filled with the happy sound of people catching up with each other's news in various mixtures of French and English. A busy Saturday followed, with Sussex hosts offering a wide variety of visits and activities in the area, after National Trust volunteers had shown the group around the Clergy House in the morning. Despite these attempts to exhaust the French, our guests bravely turned up in the evening for a barn dance with excellent musicians, and a caller who had the skills to keep us dancing despite the language challenges and our inability to tell left feet from right. Our energy revived at half-time with superb freshly cooked fish & chips, and we continued dancing until it was time to leave the hall. That hilarious and most enjoyable evening was still being discussed on the Sunday, when we met for the (slightly!) more formal lunch at "The Alfriston". This was another enjoyable occasion, with the 3-course meal enjoyed by 58 people who had still not run out of things to talk about! Most of our French friends went home on the Monday – our houses now seem rather empty, but we already have an invitation, and are looking forward to the "return match" in 2027.

For our next event, members are cordially invited to:-

Coffee, Croissants and Chat

Thursday 15th October 2026, 9am

at Robert & Angela's house, details from the email address below

Donations welcome

We have members in the Cuckmere Valley, Alfriston and Seaford. New members are always welcome, and there is no need to speak French, or to have a huge house- just come along and say hello!

For all enquiries, including contacting our membership secretary Robert Morrison, please note our new email address ***acvtainfo@gmail.com***