



Battle Town Council

The Almonry, High Street, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0EA

www.battletowncouncil.gov.uk T: 01424 772210

 @BattleTownCncl

 Battle Town Council



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Forthcoming Council Meetings

December

Tue 03 - Environment
Tue 10 - Planning & Transport
Tue 17 - Full Council

January

Tue 07 - External Relations & Town Development
Tue 14 - Planning & Transport
Tue 21 - Full Council
Tue 28 - Finance & General Purposes

February

Tue 04 - Environment
Tue 11 - Planning & Transport
Tue 18 - Full Council

March

Tue 03 - External Relations & Town Development
Tue 10 - Planning & Transport
Tue 17 - Full Council
Tue 24 - Finance & General Purposes

Meetings are held at The Almonry and start at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Minutes of all Battle Town Council meetings are posted on the website, together with information about the Council and its Standing Committees.

Message from the Chairman

I am very pleased to write that a Marketing and Town Development Officer has been appointed. One of the first tasks will be to revamp the Town Council's website to make it easier to search and navigate. The M&TD Officer will be working closely with the Council to help us to communicate more effectively with residents, including seeking residents' opinions on Council matters. The main duties also include marketing the Council services and facilities and promoting tourism.

Councillors have held several Council Awareness events to seek opinions and promote the Council's services and facilities. The main problems in Battle continue to be parking and congestion. Hopefully the congestion will decrease next year when illegal parking in the town is addressed through Civil Parking Enforcement.



The Council hosted the first Town Forum in November. Representatives from local voluntary organisations, elected representatives and service providers were invited to consider Battle's strengths and weaknesses. Friendliness was on the list of strengths. I am so pleased that the town is frequently described as friendly. The list of strengths is very encouraging, but we will acknowledge and work to minimise the weaknesses. Of course, parking and congestion cropped up in the weaknesses. It is hoped that the next forum will consider actions that could boost the High Street.

In September, Council made a unanimous decision to move the Almonry project forward to invite tenders for the repair and refurbishment of the Almonry and the rebuilding of the south wing. This process is subject to reassessment at appropriate financial stages, prior to going to tender as well as after the tenders have been received. The Council will then have all the information needed to progress to a public consultation next year.



The new Christmas lights were chosen and funded by Battle Town Council – we very much hope you like them. Mike Robertson Associates Ltd has kindly sponsored the Christmas trees in the town.

On behalf of the Councillors and staff, I extend Season's Greetings and our best wishes for 2020 to you all.
Cllr Glenna Favell

The Ghost who came to Dinner

by Alex Lutton

I watch as he brings the pumpkin in with a fanfare.
They all sing and clap and marvel at how the flame irradiates from within.

They seem happy, this little group of family and friends.
I'm pleased.

It could have been a difficult day.
But they have chosen to celebrate
Her birthday.

<><><>

I met Her, you know. We do. We pass through the ether.
She was here earlier. I think they felt Her.

Or at least they tell themselves that.
They've left an empty seat at the table.
One day that will stop but,
right now,
it's too soon.
It's symbolic.

They think it's empty but it is here that I sit, taking in the poignancy of a
festival marked by loss.

They are Her children, Her grandchildren, Her neighbours.
They miss Her.

I'd like to help them.
I'd like to tell them that it's not so bad.
That we travel gently amongst them, silently, translucently.
That She will always
Be.

<><><>

I often choose this house.
Almost a thousand years ago my own stood here.
On this very land.
Long gone

And I used to see `her, solidly amongst them, fussing, nurturing,
drying tears and prompting laughter.
Through the years.

I saw Her as a young woman, newly wed to the man now wielding the spoon
above the pumpkin.

I saw Her expecting babies, feeding infants, laying napkins on plates as She
counted aloud the numbers around the table.

And I saw Her last year, this time an observer,
letting Herself be soothed as She fretted at Her lack of energy.

The waning optimism of Her family.
They knew. She knew.

And She slipped into My Realm sometime after.

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Councillor Vacancies

Due to the resignations of Andrew Brown and Maurice Holmes, vacancies have arisen on Battle Town Council in Marley Ward and Netherfield Ward.

If you are interested in standing for co-option, please contact the Town Clerk for further information.

The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew and Maurice for their valuable contribution.

Community Cinema

Battle Memorial Hall
at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Wed, 29th January
Downton Abbey (PG)

Excitement is high at Downton Abbey when the Crawley family learn that King George V and Queen Mary are coming to visit their large estate in the English countryside.



Wed, 26th February
Judy (12A)

Thirty years after starring in 'The Wizard of Oz' beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform in a series of sold out shows.

Friends of Battle Cemetery

To help with visits to remember loved ones, the *Friends of Battle Cemetery* will provide warming drinks on Sunday 22nd December between noon and 3 pm.

Please join them in the Ceremonies Room for tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.



Benefits and Debt Advice Project

Do you need help with your benefits?

Are you worried about your finances?

Are you experiencing problems managing your debts?

If so, the Benefits and Debt Advice Project can help.

Free confidential and impartial benefits and debt advice is available 9 to 5 Monday to Friday by 'phone on 0333 344 0681 or email at benefitseastsussex@harcuk.com

Expert benefit advisers are on hand to answer your questions and provide face to face advice and support for people with complex benefit issues.

They also provide expert debt advice for people with long term physical and mental health conditions.

A small child walks towards me. She rubs her hand across the back of the chair and tickles me through the bars.
She smiles. She knows.

A man scoops her up, tiny tears, like diamonds,
sparkling on the surface of his eyes.
"Not Nana", she whispers. "No Nana", he repeats, mishearing.
She sees. He remembers.

I sense Her at my shoulder and turn. She looks at me quizzically,
and I stand
and return Her seat.
This is Her family. Her loved ones. Her celebration.
I nod, smile and leave.

<><><>

The pub is heaving.
Brimming with Halloween spirit and Halloween spirits.
Get it? Get it?

Halloween spirits imbibed at the bar.
Halloween spirits seated amongst them.
I wander, wordlessly, to the back of the establishment.
Tables filled with ghostly fare,
glasses waving precariously in tipsy hands.

Not a seat in the house.
I'll have to find an accepting lap.
The children look up as I approach.
One winks at me.
Another moves slightly to the side of the bench to make room.
I sit.

It's a squeeze but nothing a ghost can't manage.
I contemplate the half empty dishes and try to remember the tastes.
The children tease some unrecognisable vegetables across their plates.
I wonder, not for the first time, what they taste like.
Anathema to the taste buds if their reception is anything to go by.
Why serve them if they're so disliked?

An infant at the end of the table slumbers in her father's arms.
And she dreams of Life.

There is noise and energy and happy, happy vibes.
Nothing for me here.
Death has no place.
I shouldn't dwell amongst them.

I get up to leave but the children try to pull me back.
Their parents see their game
and smile benignly.
I put my finger to my lips.
They mirror my action and watch as I depart.

<><><>

As I pass the bar he's here again.
The obnoxious one.

Time for my favourite party trick.
A gentle nudge of the glass on the bar.
The contents splash across his shirt and down his trousers.
The barmaid laughs. Her least favourite customer might now move on.
I emerge through the door on to the High Street.
And listen to the Sound of Silence.

Where now?
A dog passes, leashed to his owner, and lifts his leg on mine.
One of the perils for a spectral being.

<><><>
The Abbey awaits of course.
In darkness.
I know what I will find.
The school dining hall,
devoid of Life,
will fill with Death
Those with nowhere to go.
Lonely ghosts who look upon this night as some kind of
Yuletide for the Souls.
But I should put in an appearance. Or an apparition.
Ha ha!
If you can't have humour after death what's left?
I wander towards the crenelated walls of the Abbey grounds.
The large solid doors keep out all but the most transpicuous beings.
I'm sucked into the wood and then I'm through.

<><><>
To the Living Eye the grounds lie deserted
in gloomy shadow,
the detritus of the day's Spooky Abbey festivities dotting the lawns.
A discarded broomstick, a cardboard cat, half-carved pumpkins.
A sheet balled up under the hedges, shrugged off by some tiny human ghoul.
Such clichés.
If only they knew.
And then I see Her.
She cuts a solitary figure, bathed in the security light that has somehow
sensed Her presence.
Of course, this is Her first time,
Her first
All Hallows.
She has left Her family to their heartrending celebrations
and come to find Her
Own Kind.

I approach Her and She seems surprised that I know She's there.
I reach out, silently, and She looks at my proffered hand.
She doesn't quite understand how it all works.

<><><>

Fire Safety Tips

Ensure you have a working smoke alarm installed on all levels of your home. It can give you vital time to escape a fire. Test your alarms regularly and never remove batteries to power presents!

Never leave cooking unattended. Avoid cooking whilst under the influence of alcohol and always turn off kitchen appliances when you have finished cooking.

Don't overload sockets – ensure only one plug per socket. Always turn off plugs when they are not in use, unless they are designed to be left on, like freezers.

Check that your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard (BS EN 60598). Always use an RCD on your outdoor electrical equipment. This device can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault and can be found in any DIY store.



Make sure that everyone in your home knows what to do **if there is a fire: get out, stay out and call 999.**

Green Drinks Battle



Green Drinks Battle is an informal network of people interested in talking about environmentally related topics. The group meets in the evening on the 10th of each month and everyone is welcome to come along. It's a great opportunity to socialise, share ideas and network with professionals in the green industries.

Get togethers are informal, fun and informative. Just go along, from 7.30pm onwards, to enjoy the company of like-minded people, have a few drinks and a bite to eat. Occasionally they may invite experts in various fields to speak in a more formal manner, followed by questions and discussion.

Do you consider yourself a green-minded person? If yes, that's the only criteria for going to Green Drinks Battle. Don't know if you're green, or curious about how to get more environmentally involved? You are very welcome to join them, explore how you feel about the issues discussed and decide whether it's for you. There's no pressure and constructive debate is invited.

For details of when and where Green Drinks Battle meets contact:
greendrinksbattle@gmail.com

Perception.

No longer five senses.

Just the one.

We perceive what we used to feel.

We walk in step through strands of mist
which lie, like shrouds,
on deathly shoulders.

The closed door of the dining hall is no object and I lead Her through.

I will Her to see now what Her Living Eyes would have missed.

And She does, but recoils in shock.

The real All Hallows ball.

The Ghosts who come to dine

and to celebrate

Death.

She turns and flees, dissolving into the chilled stone.

I meet Her on the other side.

<><><>

Quietly we make our way back to Her house.

The lights have dimmed now and Her grandchildren are sleeping
on adult laps.

Tears are sniffed away,
as stories are shared.

And cherished memories nudge the grief aside.

She takes Her place amongst them.

Not the empty seat at the table

but Her spot on the sofa
which they leave free,
out of habit.

Ethereal,

but

still there.

Always.

This is the winning entry in Battle Town Council's *1066 Writing Competition*, 2019. The author will be presented with an engraved salver to hold for the next twelve months.

The runner up is Amanda Kerr, who wrote an extremely touching story about Rose, a war widow with dementia.

This year, the Council was pleased to receive the highest number of entries since the competition began. This resulted in a more difficult task for the judging panel.

The winner's salver was funded by a grant from Rother District Council to commemorate the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings.

Service of Remembrance

Members of Battle Town Council felt very proud to be joined by service veterans, emergency service representatives and uniformed youth groups who marched through the town from the Market Road to the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin for the Service of Remembrance. Residents lined the streets to watch and the church bells rang out to welcome us.

In silence, the young people marched and walked behind their flags, respectful and aware of the significance of the 100th anniversary of the first Armistice parade. We may no longer have veterans from WW1 marching with us, but our gratitude to service personnel is as strong now as it was 100 years ago.



Dean Lee led the service with impeccable timing and ATC cadets read out the names of service men and women from Battle who died in the World Wars in clear measured tones. Councillor Caroline Would, a retired RAF Officer, read the lesson. Many of those who were inside the church commented on the volume of confident voices from the children as they joined in the Lord's prayer.



The wreath laying followed the service, before the march back to enjoy refreshments at Café 10, provided through generous donations from Battle Rotary Club, Jempsons, Tiger Tees Ltd and Battle Abbey School.

The Council would also like to express their thanks to Matthew Wickerson for marshalling the parade and to Battel Bonfire Boyes for manning the road closures.

Volunteers urgently needed

The leaders of Battle's youth organisations are struggling to meet the need for places. Could you volunteer as an adult helper or provide the leaders with administrative or accounting assistance? This would free up some of their time, enabling them to plan and run meetings more effectively.

If you would like to find out more, please visit:

www.senlascouts.org.uk/scout-groups/1st-battle/ or www.ggsussexeast.org.uk

Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The steering group of the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan is preparing for the first major presentation of the plan, which is known as “Regulation 14”. In this, we present large documents to Rother District Council for a six week consultation period. This is likely to take place from 6th January (so avoiding the inevitable “shut-down” over the Christmas/New Year break).

The Steering Group has been consolidating many pieces of information and altering some aspects because the goalposts have been moved. We had prepared a list of areas we wanted to protect from future development and these were called “Strategic Gaps”. We were advised by Rother District Council that this was not entirely appropriate, and that these areas should be called “Green Gaps”. Rother’s own Strategic Gap along the A2100 would remain in place, to prevent ribbon development between Battle and Hastings.

On a lighter note, we carried out a survey among the youth of the Parish (those aged 11 – 18), to see how they envisaged their future in Battle. Survey forms were distributed to Claverham College, Battle and Langton School, Netherfield School and Battle Abbey School. For example, at least 50% of those students who completed the survey hoped/expected to remain in Battle in ten years time. If they moved away, it was because of university or employment elsewhere. Positive “like” was the natural surroundings, good community feeling, youth groups. Dislikes were the lack of a swimming pool, poor facilities at night and in winter. A major gripe is poor broadband, mobile phone connections and lack of public transport in Netherfield. Rail transport on the other hand was appreciated by reason of the many towns within reach. Additionally there were some wishful comments, such as “Can Battle station be moved closer to town” and “Can new houses be pink?”

Can I make a plea now? If you have any concerns, can you link in directly to the enquiries@battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk. We shall reply as soon as possible as we have the detailed knowledge.

Margaret Howell, Chair

Long Service



Gary Champion has completed 20 years service with Battle Town Council.

Gary is the lead Groundsman for Battle Cemetery and it is obvious to everyone who visits the cemetery that he takes enormous pride in his work. Under his care, the cemetery has won a Gold award and several Cemetery of the Year awards in the annual South & South East in Bloom competition.

Community Focus

The Association of Carers

The Association of Carers, a charity that supports unpaid carers throughout East Sussex, is looking for more volunteers. Their main service is a free respite service, where a volunteer visits a family once a week and spends time with a person with support needs, enabling their carer to have a break. A volunteer might spend time chatting over tea, playing games or listening to music with the person they support. Or they may simply sit whilst someone sleeps, keeping them safe whilst the carer gets some time to themselves. Volunteers can also teach a carer basic computer skills, enabling them to do online shopping or banking, or keep in touch with family. These seemingly simple tasks make a carer’s life a bit easier, and help them feel less isolated.

Jane Caley, who works for the charity, says volunteers would ideally commit regular time for a minimum of one year. This gives people time to settle into a routine and build strong relationships. However, even if you couldn't commit for this long, they would still love to hear from you. The charity can be very flexible and work around people's lives.

Jane said: "Anyone over 18 is invited to volunteer with us. Many of our volunteers are slightly older, often retired, or people who have themselves been in caring roles. We'd love to recruit some younger people, and provide opportunities to build rewarding intergenerational relationships. We understand that work and family life can make volunteering difficult, but it might suit people who work part-time, or parents whose children are at school during the day."

The charity supports volunteers every step of the way, and volunteers are not required to carry out any personal care – the role is simply about providing company and keeping someone safe.

To learn more visit associationofcarers.org.uk or call 01424 722309.



Battle Photographic Society

Battle Photographic Society and its predecessors, was formed in 1962 and aims to provide an informal, social atmosphere in which members can enjoy their photography and exchange experiences, ideas and views in the company of other photographers. The Society also encourages and supports members who wish to achieve external distinctions, such as those offered by the Royal Photographic Society.

The new season got off to a great start at the beginning of September with a Members' Evening, when seven new members were welcomed. Membership now totals 67. A series of lectures and a workshop were followed by the first Projected Digital Image competition, which the new members were encouraged to enter.



Members of BPS contributed prints and gave assistance to Battle Wildflower Meadows Group, in conjunction with Crowhurst Environment Group to create a photographic display of insects and wildflowers in the Library throughout Battle Festival in October and particularly at Dr. John Feltwell's well-attended lecture "Turning the Clock Back – Restoring Meadows" on 3rd October. Also displayed were photographs and an explanation of the ongoing work to "Rethink, Rewild and Restore" our wildflower meadows. Thanks are due to everyone who helped with this project.

More lectures and competitions will continue throughout the winter. Non-members may attend lectures for a nominal fee. One highlight will be the Christmas Social Evening in December. Humorous prints will be judged by all those present.

Some of the best speakers in the area have been booked; there will be competitions for prints and projected digital images and workshops on various aspects of photography to increase members' knowledge. Informal outdoor photoshoots are organised frequently. Meetings are held on most Mondays in the Shephard Room at the Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30pm.

More information is on the Battle Photographic Society's website: www.battlephotographicsociety.co.uk

Battle and District Historical Society

On Thursday 5 December 2019, TV historian and author Dr Robert Hutchinson will talk about 'Henry VIII's Gangster' – the person who did all the dirty work for the king. His books include works on Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell, the Spanish Armada and Colonel Blood.

Professor David Bates will talk on 'Writing a Biography of William the Conqueror' on Thursday 16th January 2020. Professor Bates, the new President of the Society, is a renowned historian of Britain and France from the 10th to the 13th century. His most recent book is a radical revision of the life of William the Conqueror.

Both meetings will take place in the Wynne Room of the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

For Christmas reading, try a couple of histories, available at Rother Books. Keith Foord's "Conquest to Dissolution" (£15) is a fascinating explanation of what happened in Battle after 1066. Extra stocks have been ordered in of Battle's best selling book of 2019, "Battle at War 1939-45", with very surprising true stories, an ideal stocking filler at £8.50.

Battle Museum



Volunteers will be busy over the winter, getting the displays ready for the 2020 season which begins on 1st April. Next season's special exhibition will be about rare books of Battle. All the 800 odd displays have to be cleaned in order to maintain the standards remarked upon by the 12-13,000 visitors a year and by the Arts Council England. Their stocks of useful heritage leaflets for visitors eg Hidden History of the High Street, have to be re-edited and reprinted.

The Battle at War exhibition in the Library resulted in many new leads about the photos and, most importantly, a member of the public walked into the Museum with a photo of Battle's Violet Akehurst, 490th Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery. She died in November 1941, aged just over 16, the youngest woman to die in military service on the Allied side in the Second World War. Her photo is shown. A wreath will be laid at her grave in the Lower Cemetery in Battle Cemetery.

If you would like to volunteer to work in the Museum, you will find a friendly crowd, dedicated to promoting the town and its heritage. Usually the work involves being on duty half a day a week, 10-1 pm or 1pm to 4.30. There is a wide range of jobs to be done, including community and educational work, but being comfortable interacting with the public is essential. Full training is given. If you have social media skills, we also want to hear from you. Just ring Margaret Emeleus for a chat on 01424 772058, email enquiries@battlemuseum.com or pop in for a talk at Late Night Opening on 12 December.

Beautiful Battle

Beautiful Battle celebrates its 15th anniversary this autumn. Its origins began in 2004, when a resident suggested planting 3000 daffodil bulbs. Tony Perkins funded a plan, which, with local help, he executed with military precision. Station Road in Battle was selected to be the first beneficiary of the 'Beautiful Battle touch' to enhance a main entry to the town for visitors.

Over the years, Beautiful Battle continued to take on neglected areas of Battle and transform them into small floral gardens. Containers, tubs and hanging baskets were added. After a bumpy start, due to its guerrilla gardening approach, Beautiful Battle forged a lasting bond with Battle Town Council and now works closely with the BTC ground staff and the Town Clerk's Office.

The Town Council enters Battle into the Royal Horticultural Society's South & South East in Bloom competition and BB has managed the entries, winning nine Gold and eleven Silver Gilt awards since 2004 in the Town and Small Parks categories.

In 2009, Beautiful Battle was awarded the Queen's Award for Volunteers by the Lord Lieutenant. BB created a new garden to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. In the same year, the group started the mammoth task of clearing the overgrown area in front of the library.

Beautiful Battle has over 100 members and around 15 dedicated volunteer gardeners. Their work is sponsored by 50 local businesses and Battle Town Council is the major contributor for the management of the Almonry and Abbey Green.



Beautiful Battle continues to look for volunteer gardeners. The group meet on Thursday mornings for a couple of hours gardening followed by coffee. If you would like to participate, you are very welcome and can contact BB through the website www.beautifulbattle.org or through any committee member.

Congratulations to Battle Air Cadets



Many congratulations to 88 (Battle) Squadron, who have recently received the Marshall Trophy for the most improved Air Cadets Squadron in the UK. They were awarded the trophy for sustained improvement over a three year period and beat 360 other squadrons across the UK to win this highly acclaimed award.

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, made the long trip down from Cadets HQ in Lincolnshire to present the award. As the final judge of the award, she said she was highly impressed by the increased numbers of cadets joining the Squadron, their recent successes in regional competitions, for example in flying, sport and drill, their presence in local parades and town events and the outstanding levels of leadership shown across staff and cadets alike. She was particularly blown away that all this was achieved without the Squadron having a stand alone facility of their own.

If you are interested in finding out more about 88 (Battle) Squadron, please contact adj.88@aircadets.org



Battle Memorial Hall

The late summer and early autumn has, once again, been a busy period for the Hall. Apart from providing a service to the many groups, organisations and private individuals who regularly hire the variety of spaces available, the Management Committee had to wrestle with the problem of a leaky roof above the main hall area. On inspection, it was discovered that previous repairs had simply masked the problem and that a more substantial project would be required in order to provide a long term solution. How to deal with the asbestos covering the roof was a critical issue. To remove it would have been very expensive and require the closure of the whole building for a limited period. Working closely with a specialist contractor, the Hall Committee therefore opted for a solution involving the formation of a new spread roof over the entire area. The asbestos was left in situ as a sandwich, with rafters to form a vented cavity, the whole then being covered with single ply roofing and multi-foil insulation.

The Hall Committee was able to meet the cost thanks to the balance of a recent legacy, but such large expenditure has compromised the ability to implement another priority – the replacement of ageing cinema equipment. This was purchased some time ago as part of a scheme to provide tiered seating. Although this was successful and the project completed, the popularity of the monthly films was such that requests were made to continue with them. Audiences continue to grow with films specifically for children now being shown and organisations such as the Battle Festival taking advantage of the equipment. However, it is reaching the end of its natural life and about £8,000 is required to replace it. Having committed the bulk of its reserves to the roofing project, the Hall Committee is looking elsewhere for funds and is grateful to both the Battle Muffin and Rotary Clubs who have already made donations as well as a grant from the Town Council. An application has also been made to the District Council for a grant from its Community Fund, which, if successful, should enable the new equipment to be installed early in the New Year.



As mentioned above, the Hall continues to attract hirers for a wide variety of events and activities, large and small. Most recently the Wynne Room was used for a 70th Birthday Party and was dressed in a way which demonstrated just how much potential the space offers for private parties, functions, receptions etc.

If you would like to know more about the Hall and the facilities available contact the Hall Manager, Lisa Keenan – 01424 772044 or email battlememorialhall@outlook.com

BBFC Walking Football

Battle Walking Footballers enjoyed a great morning when they took part in their first competition at Bexhill Leisure Centre. Playing against three other local teams, the Battle crew ended top of the table with a record of W4 D1 L1 before drawing 1-1 in the play-off final.

The reward for their endeavours was a well-deserved hot cup of tea and first choice from the tin of chocolate biscuits.

The Battle Walkers meet at 10:30 every Tuesday morning at Battle Recreation Ground. New players, over 50, are always made welcome. Call Gary on 07870 854116 if you are interested or just arrive for a 10:30 start.



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To advertise in future editions, please contact Jane de Garston at the Town Council on 01424 772210 or email via enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

*The Council Chamber and Arbour at
The Almonry, High St, Battle have been approved
by East Sussex County Council
for the solemnisation of marriages
in pursuance of Section 26(1)(bb) of the Marriage Act 1949
and the registration of civil partnerships
in pursuance of section 6(3A)(a) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004.*



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Community Focus

1066 Cycle Club



The 1066 Cycle Club - *Encouraging, Friendly and Progressive* - started on Abbey Green 10 years ago and is still going strong.

There was no lycra in sight when the 1066 Cycle Club celebrated their 10th Anniversary! With cuppas and cakes being an integral part of many rides, the club members celebrated appropriately with an Afternoon Tea held at the Powdermills Hotel, Battle on Saturday 26th October.

Back in 2009 Sue Burton, from Battle, and Denise Lomas, from Robertsbridge, had a vision to encourage safe and enjoyable cycling in the 1066 area. With small grants from Battle Town Council and Active Rother (Rother District Council) the 1066 Cycle Club was launched, or Cycle Battle and Cycle Robertsbridge as it was known then.

The Club now has nearly 80 members and prides itself on providing well organised and varied rides for a range of abilities. The club is unique as the lady members number similar to the gentlemen members. Not many cycle clubs can claim that!

To date, 100,000 miles have been covered by members on their road, mountain and electric bikes on club rides. As well as riding locally in Rother, East Sussex and Kent, there have been many trips away including Surrey, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the Isle of Wight. They have also been abroad to France and the famous Dieppe Raid. These trips have been real adventures for those who went.

New members are very welcome. To find out more, visit 1066cycleclub.org.uk

Netherfield Village Forum

Since becoming Battle Town Councillors in May, Maurice Holmes and Hazel Sharman have initiated a monthly Forum for Netherfield residents to come and air their views. It takes place in the Cafe section of the stores, but is not just a talking shop about any concerns they may have about the village. Residents can also come and discuss views, opinions and suggestions for the advancement of the community.

A village cannot survive in isolation. It requires involvement from all, as everyone's judgment is of equal value and can help determine how things are taken forward in the future. Hazel will listen and act, but some problems can take time or may not be solvable. Any issues that can't be addressed there and then, will be furthered through the local authority machine to some sort of conclusion.

Topics which have benefited from these meetings include the cutting of the grass verges, mowing the grass recreation areas in the village and urgently needed work on the road surface being vigorously pursued with ESCC. The last will take some time due to the mechanics involved in highway maintenance. However, perseverance is part of our process.

We are fortunate that Janette offered the shop as the place to hold the Forum, helping tremendously and making us very welcome. They are generally held on the last Thursday of the month at 4.30pm. So if you want to bring along a change or changes for the better in Netherfield, please come and join us and maybe enjoy a cup of Janette's excellent coffee or tea. CllrHSharman@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

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Free Parking for Christmas Events

Parking in Rother and Abbey car parks will be free on Saturday, **30th November** for **LIGHTS SWITCH ON**.

Battle Town Council made a decision to provide white Christmas lights this year. Rather than buying new lights, a contractor will supply them as this will enable the town to change the designs in future. The decorations that are mounted on buildings have been refurbished and set with white lights. Jempsons and Tiger Tees have kindly agreed to provide white lights in Market Square, too.

Rudolf will bring Father Christmas down the High Street at 1.50pm. Santa will be meeting children in Battle Memorial Hall until 4.45pm, when he will make his way to Abbey Green for Christmas Carols and the big switch-on. There will be fairground rides on Abbey Green during the afternoon and Santa's sleigh will be parked there, too, so that children can have their photos taken.

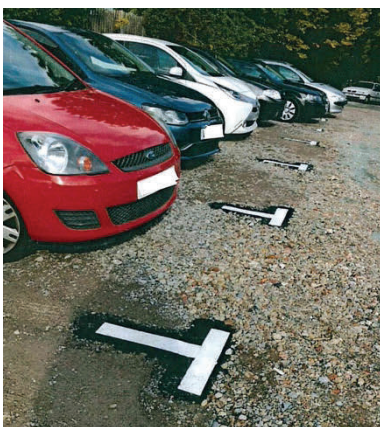
Please support the Charity Market in the Wynne Room, upstairs in the Memorial Hall.

Thursday, 12th December is not just polling day, it's **GALA NIGHT** in Battle! Parking in the car parks will be free from 6 pm. Traders will be in fancy dress and there will be festive entertainment and music around the town. Father Christmas will be back in town, but this time he will be in the Almonry, next to the museum.

The Christmas Tree Festival will take place at St Mary's Church on 30th November & 1st December and also 7th & 8th December.

Parking in Rother and Abbey car parks will be also be free on Saturdays, 7th and 14th December.

Overflow Car Park Improvements



The Town Council are pleased to report that essential repairs and improvements to the overflow car park in Mount Street are complete. Thermoplastic lining has been applied to identify designated parking bays, which, it is hoped, will allow free movement around the car park and prevent vehicles being blocked in. Users are requested to park only within the marked bays.

There are no plans to introduce parking charges for this area.

Councillor contact details

Councillors can be contacted by email using the prefix listed below followed by @battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Alternatively, please telephone the Town Council on 01424 772210 and leave a request for the Councillor to call you back.

Marley Ward

Cllr Vikki COOK	CllrVCook
Cllr Claire DAVIES	CllrCDavies
Cllr Lesley SAMMS	CllrLSamms
Vacancy	

Netherfield Ward

Cllr Hazel SHARMAN	CllrHSharman
Vacancy	

Telham Ward

Cllr Margaret KILOH	CllrMKiloh
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Watch Oak Ward

Cllr Bernard BROWN	CllrBBrown
Cllr Glenna FAVELL	CllrGFavell
Cllr Jill GYNGELL	CllrJGyngell
Cllr Allan RUSSELL	CllrARussell
Cllr Dale WHEELER	CllrDWheeler
Cllr Caroline WOULD	CllrCWould

Staff contact details

Town Clerk

Carol Harris	01424 772210
clerk@battletowncouncil.gov.uk	

Assistant to the Town Clerk

Jane de Garston	01424 772210
asstclerk@battletowncouncil.gov.uk	