



## Battle Town Council extends Season's greetings to all who live or work in Battle, Netherfield and Telham!

### Message from the Chairman

**Restructuring** In August, Council members met to discuss ways in which the Council might become more efficient and effective in serving the needs and aspirations of the people of Battle. As a result, formal Council business will now be handled by four committees – Finance & General Purposes, Planning & Transport, Environment, and External Relations & Town Development. We have also set up working groups to progress specific policy proposals. Working groups for the refurbishment of The Almonry, the development of a new website and the 950th commemorations of 1066 in 2016 have been set up. Another one for Sport & Leisure is being formed. The Council will continue to work in partnership with Beautiful Battle to improve the appearance of the town. We hope that this new way of working

will provide Battle residents, through their community organisations, an opportunity to contribute to working groups.

**Cemetery Update** Over a year ago, the Council began the process of getting the necessary permissions for the extension of the cemetery. The Environment Agency has consented to the scheme and some of the required surveys are completed, but other surveys have to be undertaken before plans can be drawn up and planning permission sought. The Council is applying for a low interest loan from the Public Works Lending Board so that the cost of extending the area, refurbishing the listed chapel and renovating older parts of the cemetery can be spread over 20 years. Residents are invited to express their views to Cllr Glenna Favell, who is taking a lead role on this project.

### Recognition for Battle Air Cadets

Battle Air Cadets have been given their own squadron status and are now 88 (Battle) Sqn. The organisation is sponsored by the Royal Air Force and gives boys and girls aged 12 to 20 years an opportunity to have fun, adventure and gain incredible experience, such as: different kinds of flying; parade and drill; Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; camping; outdoor adventure training; sport and music. All the activities are supervised by qualified staff. 88 (Battle) Sqn is twinned with an Australian Sqn and intends to send some cadets to Australia in 2016. Members of 88 (Battle) Sqn collected over £3,000 for the Poppy Appeal this year. Battle Air Cadets meet on Mondays and Thursdays at St Mary's Church Hall in Battle from 6.45pm to 9.30pm and costs just £10 per month.



### Award for Museum Volunteer

Roy Calthorpe, a long-standing volunteer at the Battle Museum of Local History, has been awarded a prestigious Marsh Trust Award for Volunteers for Museum Learning in the South East, beating off stiff competition. He received his award at a ceremony at the British Museum on 13th November.

Roy has a particular talent for engaging the interest of visitors of all ages, particularly young people. He is on hand for school visits; demonstrating strategies of the Saxon and Norman warriors, often in costume himself! On Tuesdays in August, the museum acts as host to 1066 Falconry and Roy encourages children to create artwork inspired by the birds. He also regularly gives talks to local organisations. Roy plays a big role in

both creating and sustaining the public's interest in the history of the town. There are a variety of opportunities for volunteering at the Battle Museum of Local History throughout the year. If you would like to find out more, please email [admin@battlemuseum.com](mailto:admin@battlemuseum.com) or contact Margaret Emeleus on 01424 772058. Although the museum is closed for the winter, it will be open from 6 to 8.00 pm for Battle Gala Night on Thursday 11th December.

# An Effortless Way to Recycle your Christmas Tree

For the second year, the retail team from St Michael's Hospice will be offering a Christmas tree collection service, picking up trees from all over Hastings and Rother on the weekend of 11th & 12th of January 2015.

For a small donation (suggested minimum donation of £5 per tree) your tree will be collected from your doorstep and taken away for recycling. Don't forget to take off your decorations first, though! The trees will be taken to Port Lympne Reserve, where they will be used for building shelters for a variety of animals and as scratching posts for the big cats.

To sign up for the Christmas tree recycling scheme and make your donation please visit: [www.stmichaelshospice.com/christmastrees](http://www.stmichaelshospice.com/christmastrees) or call the St Michael's Hospice Donation Centre on 01424 728728.

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## Ward off the Winter 'Blues and Twos'

The emergency services were asked to provide some advice to help keep us all safe this winter.

### Hot tips from Battle Community Fire Station

Make sure that you can be seen in the dark - it is a really good idea for children to wear reflective clothing.

Allow plenty of time for your journeys so that you don't have to rush in the dark and take extra care when it is icy or wet.

If you have a chimney and you haven't yet done so, get it swept to avoid your chimney catching alight.

### Arresting thoughts from Battle Police Station

If you are likely to be home after dark, use timed lighting that comes on around sunset, however, to avoid alerting potential burglars to an obvious pattern, alternate the rooms that you use it in.

Check your vehicle before bad winter weather arrives - ensure the tyres, lights, wipers & washers are in good order and carry essentials to protect yourself should you break down or become stranded. Check the East Sussex County Council website ([www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk)) for travel advice over the winter.

### Hearty ideas from SECamb

Wear several thin layers as they keep you warmer than one thicker layer and can easily be removed as you warm up.

Don't just stock up on Christmas chocolates - stock up your medicines cabinet, too - cold remedies, pain-killers and indigestion tablets are useful to have in the home all year round.

Finally, please remember that 999 is for emergencies, but in case you do need an ambulance, make sure your house name is visible and you have an outside light.

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## A Reminder to Dog Owners

With paths in woods and meadows turning into mud baths during the winter, many people have to walk their dogs along the twittens and paths around the town and in the recreation grounds. Please remember that dogs MUST be kept on a lead in the High Street, Market Square, Market Road, Mount Street, George Meadow and in the recreation grounds in Battle and Telham.

As a dog owner, you may feel that your dog is well behaved and doesn't need to be on a lead. Most dogs are well behaved, but unfortunately some are not and something unexpected can spook even the best-trained dogs. Likewise, the majority of dog owners are responsible and pick up after their dogs, but a few do not. For these reasons, the bye-laws were passed to protect users of the recreation grounds. If your dog is on a lead, it cannot run off or foul the grass without you noticing.

Children can ingest very unpleasant germs if they put their fingers in their mouths after touching a ball that has rolled through dog poo. This can lead to stomach upsets or even toxocariasis, which can result in blindness. Please help to protect the children in our community by worming your dog regularly and making every effort to pick up its poo.

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## In case we get bad weather ...

Many modern telephones will not work if the power goes off for an extended period. Before any bad weather arrives, consider buying a cheap plug-in 'phone to use if the power fails. Another useful device in a power cut is a head torch, which leaves your hands free. They each cost less than £5.

### NETHERFIELD WARD

**John Boryer 838651**

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**Sylvie Pry 838229**

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### MARLEY WARD

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### WATCH OAK WARD

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### TELHAM WARD

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**Maurice Palmer 775737**

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### Forthcoming Meeting Dates

#### Full Council

16th Dec 2014; 20th Jan 2015

#### Environment Committee

27th Jan 2015

#### External Relations Committee

3rd Feb 2015

#### Finance & General Purposes Committee

13th Jan 2015

#### Planning & Transport Committee

17th Dec 2014; 7th Jan 2015

**THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**HAVE YOUR SAY** - Let the Council know your views and ideas about Battle, Netherfield and Telham. Phone: 01424 772210

Email: [carolharris@battletowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:carolharris@battletowncouncil.org.uk)

Write to: The Acting Town Clerk, The Almonry, High Street, Battle, TN33 0EA or contact your Councillors directly.

**Please note that the Council office will be closed from noon on 24th December 2014 and will re-open on 5th January 2015.**