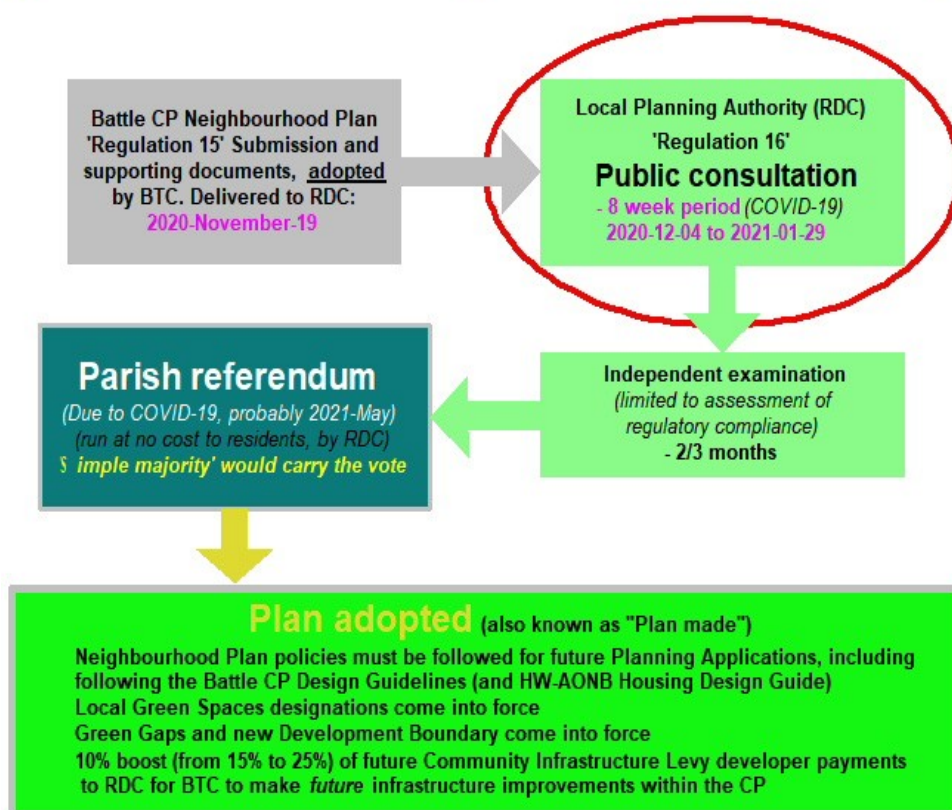


Neighbourhood Plan Takes Exciting Steps Forward

Battle Civil Parish - Neighbourhood Plan timeline



Battle Neighbourhood Plan

At long last, the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan has reached a milestone since its inception in July 2015. On 17th November, at the last Battle Town Council meeting, the Steering Group presented Councillors with the definitive paperwork (or internet "paperwork") for them to submit the documents to Rother District Council for its own Consultation. [See page 3.](#)

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Discover Battle

Have you tried the Battle Through Time Secret Spy Trail, or beautifully illustrated Battle Activity Book yet? Now really is the time to discover your town! [See page 9.](#)

Contact Us

01424 772210

enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

A Message From the Chairman

Thanks to a dedicated group of people, **Battle Civil Parish's Neighbourhood Plan** has been completed and submitted to Rother District Council, which will appoint an independent examiner who will hopefully take the decision to send the plan to a referendum. If more than half of the residents vote in favour, this will not only bring benefits for housing provision and planning within the Parish, but will also protect our heritage and wonderful green spaces. Additionally, more **funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers will go to Battle** to provide the infrastructure needed to support the increase in local population. The Council is very grateful to the members of the steering group who have worked extremely hard for so long to get the plan to this point.



Cllr. Glenna Favell, Chairman

On behalf of everyone who can now **walk, run and cycle around Battle Recreation Ground without getting covered in mud**, I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to Sue Burton, Project Manager for the Battle Health Pathway Group and members of her team. Sue has demonstrated amazing tenacity and also worked incredibly hard for several years to bring the vision of the all-weather path to reality. The installation couldn't have come at a better time as we moved back into lockdown just as the weather turned autumnal and it poured with rain. Sadly, my idea of inviting families to put on their Christmas jumpers and come to the Rec on Boxing Day morning with their bicycles, skateboards and scooters cannot become a reality this year because socialising must not be encouraged ... perhaps we will be able to meet up on Boxing Day 2021.

The Health Pathway has already resulted in an increased number of people using the Rec. However, the project is not finished yet. A **cycle skills area (pump track)** is currently being constructed at the lower end of the Rec and gym equipment suitable for teenagers and adults will be installed near to the Aeroskate and Youth Shelter. Planting around the Pathway to increase the biodiversity will take place over the winter. The picnic area, adjacent to a sensory garden, should be ready to use when the weather warms up in the spring. During winter, the grounds staff will be looking out for more tree trunks to make into seating around the Pathway.

The volunteers from **Beautiful Battle have replanted the flower displays** throughout the town. They look so fresh and full of anticipation of a new year; a year that I hope will bring good news regarding Covid-19 and the effect that it is having on our lives and livelihoods.

Christmas is going to be very different this year because we cannot meet up with all our friends and family. However, some members of our community are experiencing huge financial challenges, too. May I ask people who are not facing such problems to consider making a donation to **Battle Food Bank**? Please read on to find out how.



The **Christmas lights** seemed extra special this year because they lit up the town just as all our shops re-opened at the end of the recent lockdown. I extend my thanks to Jempsons Supermarket and Tiger Tees Ltd who again provided the lights in the Market Square. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the **sponsors of the Christmas trees** that look so wonderful: Arthur C Towner Ltd; Battle Museum of Local History; Mike Robertson Associates Ltd; Parker & Son Plumbing & Heating; and Mr and Mrs Venn.

With best wishes for the festive season,

Glenna

Battle Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan is a prescriptive for the future of Battle, without neglecting its important past. So we have sought to protect those aspects of the town that make Battle the town it is. **The Plan is much more than a dwellings number calculation**: it also identifies important Local Green Spaces and Green Gaps that will help them to be protected from development, to enhance our overall community feel and identity.

Additionally, for those of you concerned with our natural environment, there is a very comprehensive Green Infrastructure Report, compiled in 2018. This contains 226 pages of detailed information on our local countryside in its widest form. Please do look at it, and see how much detail has been recorded. Because of the mainly mediaeval structure in the town centre, with its long “plots “and narrow frontages, there is much historic detail that needs to be conserved. There is a useful map on the website, along with details of listed and unlisted historic buildings, the heritage charter, and information on heritage trails.



Photos Courtesy of Mr Bev Marks

Allied to the historic nature of many of the buildings in civil parish, the Neighbourhood Plan and Battle Town Council are adamant that any new dwellings must comply with two design codes: the **Battle CP Design Guidelines and the High Weald Housing Design Guide**. This will ensure that the town (including the development at Blackfriars) has buildings that mell with the general design of current housing, bearing in mind that the whole of the civil parish of Battle is within the High Weald AONB.

The Steering Group, which now comprises a hard core of six, have worked diligently to make this a Plan for the future of Battle, and that will work for all residents for the period of the Plan (up to 2028).

There have been changes along the way, starting from the very first inaugural meeting in July 2015, when there were approximately fourteen volunteers on the group. There have been five different Chairs, and one professional consultant, who joined in January 2018. We could not have carried through this Plan without her. We simply do not have the technical know-how!

Battle Town Council, and the Steering Group, do urge residents to digest the Information in the Plan. Please do make your favourable comments during Rother’s consultation. For we do need to have a “YES” vote at the referendum, which is now likely to take place in the spring of next year.

Cllr Margaret Howell, Chair

1066 Writing Competition

If only ...



Battle Town Council
1066 Writing Competition 2020

Exactly 1066 words
Fiction or Non-fiction - Prose, Poetry or Play

As many residents will already be aware, each year Battle Town Council holds the very successful 1066 writing competition which highlights the wealth of creativity we have here in our town. This year the title for the 2020 1066 Writing Competition was 'If only....' in the hope that this would help to spark imaginations of all ages into creating some exciting pieces.

The competition was open to adults living in the Battle Civil Parish and students living or educated in the Parish in 2 categories; Junior (years 1 to 6) and Senior (years 7 to 13). Adults were invited to write exactly 1066 words whilst students can write up to 1066 words - Fiction or Non-Fiction - prose or poetry. **Council are now pleased to confirm that the adult winner of the 1066 Writing Competition is Ms Alex Lutton. The judges felt that her entry was current, topical, local and uplifting.** They praised the wonderful language, good use of homonyms and the homage to Kipling.

If only: if ever there were a year to give those two words resonance it is this. 2020. If only.

Autumn is trailing its brush across the palette of the countryside and as the colours change from life's green to death's brown we feel that same change within us, a slipping, sliding down into hopelessness.

Now, you're about to stop reading, thinking that you can't take, you don't want, the bleakness, the dreichness of my words. But what did you expect? *If only* is a parable of regret, an homage to misgivings.

Each night, as we turn off the lights and peek through the curtains to check that the world as we know it is still turning, those two words roll around our brains. They seek safe harbour in a mess of thought. *If only.*

We try to remember when it all began. Not that long ago but it seems like a lifetime. A different lifetime. A time when we took for granted the simple joys and freedoms which have, like the coastline of this little island, been gently eroded then broken off in chunks by rules and regulations.

If only we didn't live in fear. But do we? And of what? Do we fear the common enemy we are told we're fighting or do we fear those dictating the battle plan.

Battle. What an apt town in which to live this year. Going into Battle takes on a completely different meaning for those residents of our town. But does it feel like a battle? What would we know? Except for the very old so few of us have faced nationwide adversity. We look towards a Christmas without the usual family festivities and we return to the theme: *if only*. *If only* we felt safe. *If only* we could see our loved ones. *If only* we didn't know of acquaintances, friends or family sadly affected. *If only* we could pick up a paper without the headlines screaming at us. *If only* we knew when this would end. Quick rewind: Europe 1940. The blitz. Cowering in air-raid shelters in London. Read them back again: every single one of those current *if onlys* would apply. We're the Lucky Ones. A generation since the middle of the last century who have never known true adversity, the kind of adversity which takes control of your life. We're just not used to it.

I try to remember what it used to feel like: January 2020. Before the *if onlys*... On the eve of a new year, a new decade: hugs, kisses, wishes, thanks, looking forward, looking back.....But never, never, did we foresee.....This. *If only* Life kept its surprises to itself.

Late March 2020: we wake, early, to the sounds of nothing. It's as though the world has caved in upon itself, sucked into a vacuum of silence. Stay home. Save lives. We do and, we hope, we will. So many questions:: Why? When? What? Who? How? How? How did it come to this? Sad faces through windows. Glass boxes encasing so many muted conversations, so many empty arms.

Fear creeps through the veins of a populous assaulted on a daily basis by numbers shot from the canons of twenty-four-hour media. Cases, contagion, asymptomatic, hospitalisation, recovery, died of, died with, died within...

An invasion of jargon, 2020 vernacular, words I never want to hear again:

A bubble is blown on a baby's chin.....it's not a support group.

A tier is a layer of a wedding cake.....it's not an alert level.

Masks are worn to masquerade balls, by the dentist, on Halloween.....

.....not by me, as I get up and go to the loo in a restaurant. A firebreak runs down a hill. A circuit breaker cuts off the current.

A lockdown is a nightly routine in a prison. It's not my life.

If only.....If only things were different. In our minds we rewind to happier times. Because we're not sure where fast forwarding will take us. Our hands have never been cleaner nor more empty, nor more desirous of reaching out. When did buying wrapping paper become one of the simple freedoms? And what can we wrap this year?

Let's wrap up love and friendship and give them freely to those we hold dear, but not here. Let's recognise that we don't actually need more than that love and friendship to fill our lives. Let's wrap up kindness and community spirit and throw self-indulgence, jealousy and vainglory out with that same paper.

Let's recognise all that we have and all that we have to give. Let's be a better People. That's when we banish the *if onlys*.

So, as we prepare for the Second Wave, let's make sure it's a Second Wave of Humanity. Put away the anxiety and the fear and recognise that Life has thrown us a curveball. Pick it up, rub it for luck and throw it back. Open the window and listen to Simon and Garfunkel's reverent Sounds of Silence. Because within the silence we'll hear beauty. Beauty interrupted, for sure, as a car buzzes down the road and we jump. Unprepared, unaccustomed. A plane shrieks above the clouds and we look up, trying to remember what the sound is, what it means.

But, listen harder; there is birdsong, and the hush of a breeze nudging the leaves from their branches and giving us another sound, crunch, crunch, underfoot. Nature, rich, strong, enduring, showing us not death, in the colours of autumn, but the beauty of change. A lesson in versatility, in flexibility, in acceptance of seasons past and seasons still to come. Nature's single and important *if only*: *If only* mankind could live within us and not battle against us So, can I change the narrative? Can I ask *If* and not *if only*?

Along the road from Battle in the little town of Burwash there lies Batemans, the beautiful home of Rudyard Kipling whose eloquence is enshrined within. So, with apologies to that so erudite man: If we can look upon the beauty of the world and drink in its joys without avarice, If we can recognise that all life is finite But not fear that end, If we can see the madness but find our way through, With hearts of gladness And a hope renewed.... Ours is the Earth and everything that's in it

And, less being more, we will win it.

Senior School Winner, Enyd Ford

Ash's sweaty hands clung to the handlebars of her bike and her legs kept pushing the rusty pedals forward, the all too familiar muscle burn prowling upwards from her calves. Sticky, warm air dragged across her face, dust entangled itself in her dark unwashed hair. Banging irregularly against the rusted bike frame, the plastic supply bags swung wildly in the breeze, the contents clanging together like a dinner bell. Panting hard on her left, Tobey stared desperately in front of them, as if sheer will-power could propel him faster; his fringe plastered flat against his forehead obscuring the old scar that struck through his eyebrow.

A scar from a happier time. A time when most people didn't run for their lives. Throwing a look to her other side, Ash watched any remaining colour shrink from Sunshine's cheeks as she glanced behind them. Ash didn't need to look behind her to know they were nearer, their excited wails previously a far off symphony now dug into her brain, cruelly twisting it's nails into her and clawing away at her eardrums; but it didn't stop her twisting her head round. Ink black eyes stared at her, framed by pale skin carved into a satisfied snarl that curled around yellowing fangs; bloodied remnants of its previous meal wedged between them a clear indication of where the three would be headed if they didn't speed up. Veiny jagged wings sweeping against the cracked road propelled the creatures forward, bony hands stretching forward in a pre-emptive embrace, luckily not quite near enough yet to see the flesh crusted under the long splintering nails. Pounding inside her, her heart seemed to press further and further against her chest: an invisible weight threatening to crush her. She could see tears smeared across Tobey's face as he reached his arm up to push back his fringe; Sunshine's chest contracting rapidly with her un-even breathing but, turning her head towards Ash, she still managed a strained smile.

But suddenly they heard a horrible crunching sound, a clank as metal met tarmac, followed by a groan. Tobey lay on the ground tangled around his bike; the chain fallen next to him. Immediately Sunshine threw down her bike and ran over to him; Ash followed closely, cursing herself; she should've known those bikes were too old. As she got nearer, she could see Tobey's leg twisted at a funny angle through the wheel. Delighted by the newfound convenience of the meal, the pursuers screeched, gnawing their teeth together and extending the shrapnel like claws, ready to tear open their bodies and wear their blood like war-paint. Churning oceans of panic exploded inside Ash, smashing against her insides, eroding away her senses, pulling her down into a merciless whirlpool of defeat. They were getting nearer. Before, they'd had the advantage of a head-start, but now there was no chance of running, and even if she could Tobey certainly couldn't, and, as cliché as it was to say, she couldn't live with herself if she left him as a sacrifice to her own survival, and Sunshine certainly wouldn't- Thwack.

Sunshine yanked her axe out of the creature, flicking specks of black-violet fluid across her jacket, barely glancing as it fell to the floor with a squelching crack and she resumed her wide stance; her body between Tobey and the rest of the hoard. 'Ash, I need you to stand behind me on the other-side of Tobey, if they are going to try and circle around us and I can't hold them all off on my own.' As she spoke, she pivoted to the side before smashing her axe low into another's legs.

Quickly, Ash took up her position and pulled her hockey stick out of the strap on her backpack; the rusty nails she had hammered through glinted iodine-brown in the sticky midday sun and she tried not to think of the last time she'd had to use it. Sure enough, two of the creatures broke away from the group and circled towards her, long lanky hair snagging against their claws as they scrabbled towards her. Stepping nearer to one, she raised her weapon and knocked aside its outstretched hands before diving behind it and striking it across the side of its head and, as it hit the ground, she beat the hockey stick across its head again; she had been caught out before by not finishing one off and was not about to make that mistake again. Rapidly she spun round but was greeted by those blood-dyed talons that scraped along the line of her collar bone.

Stumbling backwards, lungs desperately seizing oxygen, she ducked another strike, hurling the weapon against its knee and swinging back around to launch the stick into its skull. A smack sounded as another creature hit the ground. Turning, she saw Tobey, having freed himself from the bike, had tripped it on the loose bicycle chain and was now hunting for his crowbar, despite the limp in his left leg. Turning her eyes back, she noticed Sunshine battling against a group of three, both monster and her own blood gushing down the handle of the axe. Swiftly she ran over with Tobey wincing at her side and slammed her weapon into the side of the nearest one, sidestepping out of the way as another lunged outwards, snarling and gnashing its teeth in a malicious grimace, before falling at her feet, an axe hanging from its jawbone.

Panting, Ash sat down on the burning tarmac. The others followed suit and silence they stared at the carnage around them. Ten. They had never seen such a big group before; the creatures normally stayed in groups of four or five, but here there were double that amount. Gently, Sunshine got up and picked up the bags, counting the supplies they had nearly died for, separating the damaged cans from the salvageable ones. Ash could think of a hundred new worries to add to her ever-growing store: new, larger groups of monsters, Tobey's leg, damaged supplies, the delay the attack had caused, the three mile walk back to the base, Perhaps if Ash hadn't been so tired and worried she would have noticed something was off. Perhaps if she had remembered never to advertise what supplies you have; she would have noticed them before they grabbed her.

If only she'd remembered humans could also be the monsters.

Junior winner: Olivia Matthews

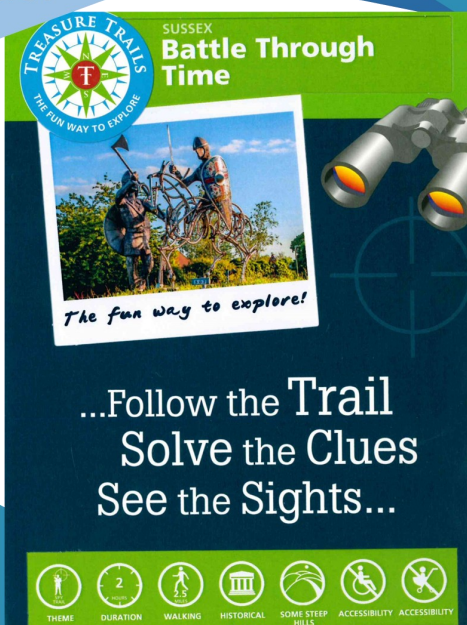
If only you were here again I would never have felt the pain
 If only we could say our goodbyes I wouldn't regret my lies
 If only I could have one last hug when you were snug s a bug
 If only I had shown you my love before you were up above
 You are the only one I really miss, I wish I could give you one last kiss
 I miss you so much and love you!
 I will never forget you and I will miss you till the day I die Nana xxx

Battle Town Council would like to once again, thank everybody who took the time and effort to submit their stories to the 2020 competition. There were some fantastically creative entries and we look forward to welcoming next years competition!

Explore Battle !

Are you ready for an
 adventure in
 Battle?

£6.99 collection
 £9.99 online



This fantastic Spy Trail
 is available to purchase at the
 Battle Museum., Almonry and selected retailers.
 You can also download at www.treasuretrails.co.uk

Battletowncouncil.gov.uk



Explore, Create and Learn!

Looking For Something Fun To
 Entertain Your Small (and Big) Ones This Summer?



£5.00 per book

This beautifully illustrated book brings together children and adults of all ages to discover all the fun of the wonderfully historic town of Battle. Available to purchase at the Battle Museum, Almonry building and selected retailers.

Battletowncouncil.gov.uk

[/Battletowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/Battletowncouncil)

Your Local Food Bank

The festive period can be a wonderful time for many, however for others it can be incredibly testing, stretching some already tight budgets. Foodbanks across the country have been working hard throughout the year to ensure those in need receive the help they require.

This year has of course, been particularly difficult but the wonderful volunteers at Battle branch of Bexhill Food bank and the people and associations from the local community have well and truly risen to the challenge.



For those in a position to do so, donations may be made at boxes in Jempsons Supermarket; Nationwide Building Society and the Tesco Express. Financial contributions can be made to: Bexhill Foodbank (Battle Branch): sort code 40-23-18; account 4231 5114

On Tuesdays the team at the Foodbank weigh-in donations and re-stock the store cupboard. The volunteers make up bags of food for clients who come in to **collect them on a Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm from The Benedicta Whistler Centre, St Mary's Church, Battle, TN33 0AN.**

Now that the season is upon us, the team is hoping to make Christmas that little bit more special this year for those in need. Currently, the foodbank team has sent out a list of special Christmas things to make up Christmas hampers. These will then be given out nearer to Christmas and will hopefully help to make a real difference to those struggling to make ends meet.

As always, the Foodbank is grateful for donations of foods and toiletries that are given out every week. Please note that throughout these difficult times, Battle branch of Bexhill Foodbank has remained open to help those in need.

Email : info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk website : <https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

E-vouchers may be obtained from the Rother Community Hub : 01424 787 000 (option 4).

Food Bank Hamper List

Christmas Puddings and Yule Logs

Shortbread or Biscuit Selection Box

Crackers for Cheese

Jars of Pickles / Chutney

Christmas Chocolate / Sweets / Chocolate

Christmas Cake and Mince Pies

Tubes Pringles

Tins of Salmon / Tuna / Crab

A Message From Battle Fire Station

FREE SMOKE ALARM & FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME TELEPHONE ASSESSMENTS



Do you have working smoke alarms?



Do you know what to do in the event of a fire?

Are you sure you are safe from fire?



We are still here to help...

***To book a **FREE** telephone assessment
please call 08001777069***

Firstly and most importantly, make sure you, your friends and relatives all have working smoke alarms. A working Smoke alarm is the most effective means of detecting a fire. Smoke alarms Save lives!

If you, your friends or family do not have one, or wish to receive fire safety advice and checks for your home, then please contact the free help line number on: 08001777069. It is a free service and we will be happy to help.

Over the Christmas period along with the normal messages we provide about fire safety we also ask you to look out for the following things, of course the list is not exhaustive:

- Decorations can burn easily – so don't attach them to lights or heaters.
- Keep candles, lighters and matches out of children's reach.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Never use candles on or near Christmas trees and keep away from curtains and furnishings.

Please visit our website for more information <https://www.esfrs.org/your-safety/safer-homes/>

Project updates

The Almonry



The [schedule of repair and renovation works on this heritage building](#) to bring it up to current health and safety standards, made accessible to all residents and visitors and upgraded to comply with the Equalities Act 2010 has been approved. Subject to the availability of funds, a tender of £573,193.53 from Vulcan Ellis will be contracted to carry out the works. Applications for grants from the Covid-19 Emergency Heritage and Rother District Council Community Grant funds are currently being made and a request for a loan facility of £600,000, as previously agreed, will shortly be submitted to the Public Works Loan Board to cover the remaining cost of works. Interest will only be paid on funds drawn down and it is hoped that works will commence early February 2021.

Recreation Ground

The exciting development of the [Battle Health Pathway](#) project., built by C J Thorne & Co Ltd, has sparked a great deal of interest amongst residents of Battle; already proving to be an incredible asset to the town and wonderful addition to the recreation ground.

As many residents may have noticed, the eagerly awaited [Cycle Skills Area](#) installation, by Clark & Kent Contractors, is also progressing very well, despite the extremely wet weather of late, and should be completed prior to Christmas.

The Council's sincere thanks are extended to the dedicated Battle Health Pathway Group for the years of planning and successful fundraising.



Many of you will know that the existing [Pavilion](#) is in great need of updating. Tenders have been received and, subject to funding being obtained, the building will be demolished to make way for a larger, fit for purpose facility with a proposal for a great community hub serving refreshments for users of the recreation ground.



Battle Skate ramp

Agreement has now been reached with East Sussex County Council, owners of the existing ramp and site, for a 14 year lease and contribution of £1,500 towards a new skate ramp. The Town Council has set aside some funds and a small amount has been raised by the community. The remaining funds will need to be raised prior to removal and replacement of the existing facility. The Council has agreed to coordinate this but [needs public support to ensure funds of approximately £20,000 is raised](#). Once a new skate ramp is in place it will be added to the Council's assets for maintenance and safety.

Beautiful Battle

2020 has been a strange gardening year. For many, this was part of their outside exercise. As with everyone else, Beautiful Battle was horticulturally challenged through two lockdowns and tiered restrictions. Before the first lockdown, BB was fortunate to receive half its order of plug plants. Luckily these were for the containers rather than the hanging baskets which were due the following week and subsequently lost. BB potted on the plugs at Uckham Lane



June 2020: After Gardening

Nurseries and grew them on. By then, everyone's movements were seriously restricted. It looked like there would be no possibility of planting out and Beautiful Battle would lose all the plants. With exercise

allowed by the Government, some intrepid Beautiful Battle gardeners ventured out, socially distanced, emptied the tubs, containers and barrier baskets and added new compost ready for planting. The theme for the Town was red, white and blue for VE and VJ Day. Beautiful Battle planted out white and blue petunias and red geraniums.

Beautiful Battle and Battle Town Council shared the initial watering duties resulting in a wonderful display throughout the town. Similarly, Beautiful

Battle received Polyanthus plugs and



November 2020 —social distancing before lockdown

spring bulbs before the second lockdown. **These were planted out in November and will ensure that Battle will have winter and spring colour throughout the Town.**

If your local group or organisation has some exciting plans for the year ahead and would like to feature in the next newsletter, Battle Town Council would love to hear from you.

For more information please contact enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01424 772210

Battle Photographic Society



Battle Lights 2019, Photo Courtesy of Battle Photographic Society

BPS continues to meet using Zoom technology with illustrated lectures, some by lecturers living great distances from this area, competitions and photo workshops, to maintain contact with the membership. The AGM was held on Zoom in September, when a new Chairman and Treasurer were elected. **BPS won the Saxon Shield for Most Improved Club and was 3rd overall out of 19 clubs at the Sussex Federation Projected Digital Image Competition 2020 on 07 November and 2 members received Highly Commended out of seven Merit Awards.** Special Interest Groups for Black & White, Flowers & Macro, Landscapes, Projects, and Street photography & phonography have recently been set up, each led by an experienced photographer.

Members provide their photographs which are then discussed, again using Zoom meetings and are shown on the BPS Facebook page. Outdoor photoshoots will be arranged next year when the Covid restrictions are relaxed.

Battle Town Council invited Peter Greene and Liz Blackwell to provide a complete photographic record of the development of the Battle Health Pathway between July and October, and the Cycle Skills Area currently being constructed in the Recreation Ground in North Trade Road. **It is hoped to organise a photographic exhibition in Battle once these community facilities are formally opened.** Photographic support was also provided at the recent Remembrance Day Commemoration Ceremonies in Battle at St Mary's Church, at request of the Dean.

Beginners and experienced photographers are welcome to join BPS. Support is given to those wishing to gain accreditation from the Royal Photographic Society, etc. A full programme has been produced, using Zoom at present but keeping in mind the possibility of holding live meetings in the Shephard Room at the Memorial Hall. Some form of Christmas celebration will be held in December.

Battle Memorial Hall



Having reported in the last newsletter the successful re-opening of the Hall on 1st September it was hugely disappointing to have to close again in early November. The Management Committee was grateful to the Town Council for a grant which enabled the Hall to supplement its cleaning equipment by purchasing a “fogging” machine. This has enabled the whole building to be comprehensively sanitised before opening each day. Whilst this reassured many hirers to return in September, particularly the various exercise groups, some were naturally cautious and have deferred further bookings for the time being. Others simply cannot meet because of the size of the membership of their group and the need to follow social distancing

rules but **we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as circumstances permit.**

However, we were delighted to demonstrate the importance of the Hall to the community by accommodating Battle Abbey School which has needed extra space during this period of restrictions. As an educational activity this was able to continue in the Hall and we were pleased to develop a very successful working relationship to our mutual benefit.

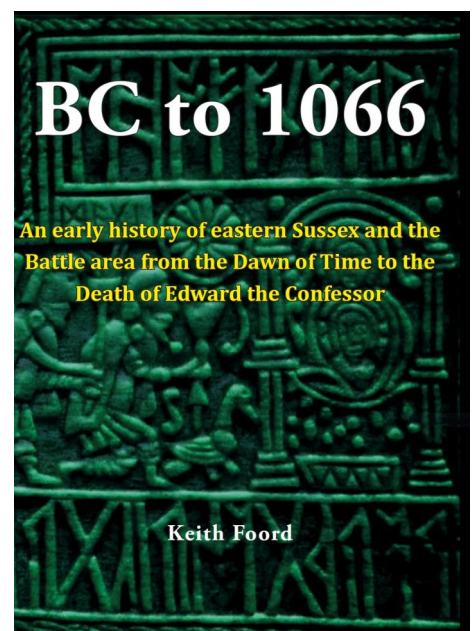
Though many of the other usual Christmas activities in the Hall have been cancelled, the Battle Theatrical Society (formerly Battle Light Opera Group) will be putting on performances of the Radio Play “A Christmas Carol” at the Hall with a cast of just five in order to comply with the Covid-19 regulations. They desperately want to bring some Christmas cheer to the town that is missing the traditional pantomime. Whilst the audience number will be limited to 50 for each performance, this comical and fast moving play will be performed four times on 19th and 20th December at 2-00pm and 5-00pm each day with tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/batts.

History Keeps Going in Battle

The Town’s two historical organisations- the Battle & District Historical Society and the Battle Museum – are keeping going during the Covid crisis .

In addition to its monthly talks which continue on Zoom, the Society has recently published “**BC to 1066**” (pictured), by Keith Foord, a review of the [history of this area before the town existed](#). Keith explores the area before the Battle of Hastings: the rich Bronze Age history, the Roman occupation, and the establishment of minster churches.

For more information please visit the website at:
www.battlelocalhistory.com



History Keeps Going in Battle

Ever open to the sea and maritime raiders, settlements slowly grew and the people became skilled sailors, in demand by Earls and Kings. The Battle of Hastings did not occur here by accident and the plots and succession intrigues up until the death of Edward the Confessor, which led to the battle, are re-reviewed with new insights. At £14 in Rother Books (which the Society supports as much as it can) this might be suitable as an unusual stocking filler?

Battle Museum is getting ready to open next year in support of the town, following the success of its partial reopening of the Museum for October over 15 short sessions in a Covid compliant format. **The Museum attracted 405 appreciative visitors and children in that short period; , contributions in the form of donations and shop purchases being well over double the rate in a normal year.** All being well with the planned Almonry works, the Museum looks forward to seeing you as soon as possible next year.

Battle Horticultural Society



Images from spring, summer and autumn shows

With a very full and interesting programme agreed for this, our 153rd year, the only downside is the pandemic, which will dictate, once again, how much of that programme we can complete. It is hoped that the restrictions can be lifted in time for one of our highlight events, our Spring Show in March.

In the meantime, we are all clearing our gardens, planning and preparing for 2021. Also, within the next two or three months we will have our own website up and running which we hope will be very useful, not only for our members, but also for the general public. For more information please call Colin on 01424 774666.



Battle and District U3A

Despite the difficulties we are all experiencing, our members are continuing to pursue a range of educational, social, and creative interests.

During these challenging times, our programme of monthly speakers is being delivered on a range of topics via zoom. Members do not even need to have zoom installed, as a click on a link provides easy access. Support is also on hand for anyone who needs help using the technology.

Over the next four months talks will be delivered on subjects including

'The Climate Crisis', 'Watching the Detectives - A History of British TV Crime Fighters', 'Whatever happened to Christopher Robin?' and the work of the 'Air Ambulance'.

Many of our members engage in a variety of Interest Groups that encompass sports and exercise, music, history, current affairs, the environment, and literature. In the current situation many of our groups are finding creative ways of keeping in touch and where permitted, continuing activities.

Our regular newsletter ensures members are kept up to date and we have recently started zoom quizzes which are proving extremely popular. If you are retired or semi-retired and would like to find out more about us, please contact: Graham Davies (Membership) on 01424 316916 email graham@ellicombe.co.uk OR Diane Wilson (Chair) on 01424 773226 email w1dvcaudi@gmail.com.



Thanks Again to our 2020 Community Volunteers

Here in Battle, our wonderful community has shown strength and unity when it is really needed. Thanks to a fantastic response to the Council's call for volunteers; a growing number of incredible individuals have generously given their time and effort to help the vulnerable in our community remain in their homes when it was needed.

Battle's volunteer team successfully followed Government instruction to maintain social distancing, whilst providing important services to those who require assistance. From collecting shopping and medicines to simply being a friendly voice at the end of the phone.

We all hope that 2021 will bring less stressful times for all, however it remains important to remember the huge value in our incredible volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to help your local community, why not look into Battle's Resilience Plan (see page 18).

A Message From Your MP

I know it's not been the best of times but, if every year is for living, forgive me if I draw some positives out of a difficult time for Battle town and its residents.

Out of adversity comes community. Residents have looked out for one another, with offers to shop and look out for those unable to leave home for periods of time. Your High Street has had many heroes. When many shops had to close again in November, novel ways to sell were created. Your Chamber of Commerce have banged the drum for 'shop local, shop later or shop local online.' I spent a November Saturday visiting many of the traders and we produced a video to encourage residents to remember the shops on the doorsteps. The High Street has many new, and welcome additions. Lovely people who are passionate about their produce and services. It has everything you would want, and need, from a town centre.



MP Huw Merriman

The High Street has many new, and welcome additions. Lovely people who are passionate about their produce and services.

I'd also like to salute all of the Councillors, and Carol, Jane and Helen, at Battle Town Council. It's never possible to please everyone with everything which is done. The manner in which they've rallied around the community, whilst continuing to build big plans for the Almonry despite the pandemic, shows what a fantastic group of community leaders the town has. So a thriving High Street, an altruistic community and civic leaders with big hearts and ambitions. It's years such as this one which test the fabric of a community. Yours has passed the sternest of tests on this basis. Merry Christmas to you all. Here's to a New Year which shines more light and happiness on you and your town.

Contact Your Councillors

| | |
|--|--|
| Cllr Andrew Brown CllrABrown@battletowncouncil.gov.uk | Cllr Margaret Howell CllrMHowell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr Vikki Cook CllrVCook@battletowncouncil.gov.uk | Cllr Margaret Kiloh CllrMKiloh@battletowncouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr Claire Davies CllrCDavies@battletowncouncil.gov.uk | Cllr Allen Russell CllrARussell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr Glenna Favell CllrGFavell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk | Cllr Hazel Sharman CllrHSharman@battletowncouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr Jill Gyngell CllrJGyngell@battletowncouncil.gov.uk | Cllr Dale Wheeler CllrDWheeler@battletowncouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr Chris Hartley CllrCHartley@battletowncouncil.gov.uk | Cllr Caroline Would CllrCWould@battletowncouncil.gov.uk |

Upcoming Council Meetings

January

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Tues 5th | External Relations and Town Development |
| Tues 12th | Planning and Transport |
| Tues 19th | Full Council |
| Tues 26th | Finance and General Purposes |

February

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Tues 2nd | Environment |
| Tues 9th | Planning and Transport |
| Tues 16th | Full Council |

March

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Tues 2nd | External Relations and Town Development |
| Tues 9th | Planning & Transport |
| Tues 16th | Full Council |
| Tues 23rd | Finance & General Purposes |

April

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Tues 6th | Environment |
| Tues 13 | Planning and Transport |

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, **meetings are currently being held online via zoom** and start at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and should contact **the Town Clerk by noon on the day of the meeting** for the access code via email to enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk.

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

Can You Help?



Battle, Netherfield and Telham Community Resilience Plan

In a large emergency, the residents of Battle, Netherfield and Telham can help themselves in a way that compliments the emergency services. There are many ways in which you would make a difference, and we are asking volunteers to come forward so that we are prepared for any situation.

What can I do?

- Become the team coordinator, who is the focal point for the community in response to an incident.
- Train to be a team member, working closely with the team coordinator to activate the support of the community.
- Become a general volunteer. We are hoping that hundreds of people will come forward to do this. If you have special skills, access to tools or transport then please let us know.

If you would like more information or keen to volunteer please contact enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk or visit battletowncouncil.gov.uk

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Battle Town Council

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