



As we approach the Christmas period we start to think of the things we have to do to be prepared for seasonal festivities. Your Councillors and Parish Clerk will also be putting plans together to ensure that the Christmas lights event comes together well and they will continue to work with the committees and working groups so that normal council business continues without any break. In this busy time of year we hope we can all find a little time to keep a weather eye on elderly or infirm neighbours who may experience difficulties due to severe weather. And of course, the Parish Clerk and Councillors wish you all Good Health and a Festive Christmas and New Year.

## CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN

The popular annual event of the switch-on of the Christmas tree lights on the village green will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. Carols will be sung by children from Sandgate Primary School, mulled wine and mince pies will be served, 'snow' will fall and Father Christmas *may* make an appearance! The Parish Council welcomes Sandgatarians to join us in the festivities.

## CHRISTMAS POETRY COMPETITION

The Parish Council and Sandgate Writing Group have launched a poetry competition. This is open to 4 age groups: up to 9s, 10 – 14s, 15 – 17s, 18 years and over.

Hand submissions into Sandgate Library or email them to [sandgateparish@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sandgateparish@tiscali.co.uk). There is no limit on the number of words per entry or the number of entries per competitor. Poems may be hand written or typed. Entries will be judged by the Sandgate Writing Group, led by Joe Thomas.

**Submission date: 30<sup>th</sup> November.** Winners will be announced on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at the Sandgate Farmers' Market. The winner in each age group will receive a book token and the top three in each age group will be awarded certificates.

## ACTIVITIES IN THE LIBRARY

**Read & Rhyme Time** @ Sandgate Library - Every Monday from 10 to 11am

This group is open to all children of pre-school age to come and join Kirsten and her helpers (from the local Children's Centres). There is free time for you to choose your own books, read stories with your children or just play with some jigsaws or other small toys. The session ends with a story read by Kirsten and then everybody joins in singing some of your favourite nursery rhymes.

There is no charge for the group and we encourage all parents to take advantage of the library's services especially borrowing books. For more information, pop into the library or contact Nick at Hythe Bay Children's Centre on 01303 267802

## Craft Club

At half term and holiday breaks, there's a craft club in the library for 2 – 11 year olds (accompanied by an adult), Look for the posters giving the dates – in the library, on the two parish notice boards and on the website.

**Volunteers needed!** Are you able to help out at the craft sessions? Alyssa, who runs the Craft Club would love to have some helpers! If you are interested, please contact the parish clerk at the library/council offices.

## Volunteers also needed to help in the library

Do you have some spare time to help out in the library for a few hours a week or a month? The parish council is looking for people to assist the parish clerk with running the library. Training will be given and CRB checks done. Should you wish to know more about this or just wish to register your interest, please email [sandgateparish@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sandgateparish@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01303 248563 (9am – 1pm weekdays only).

## **TRAFFIC AND PARKING UPDATE**

Several surveys and observations over the last four years have clearly stated in their conclusions how the village should move forward to develop a more vibrant community for business and residents alike so that visitors can park with ease to shop and to eat - not divided by speeding traffic. In short - enjoy a village by the sea.

The new timed restrictions in the area of Chichester and surrounding roads has brought about the control of parking for some seventy cars. However, the remaining amount of illegal and dangerous parking has been brought to the attention of the parking agents recently employed by the district council.

A parking survey is due to be completed next year to review, amongst others, the old restrictions in the high street which remain from when the road was classified as a trunk road. Inconsiderate parking in certain other streets will also be included in this survey to be carried out by SDC. The parish council will work closely with the district council to present local knowledge and local environment issues to produce an up-to-date plan which represents the needs of the village today and for the future. Adequate signage, usage and routing to the Castle Road car park are to be discussed this year.

## **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

The steering group is close to producing a draft document. The document will represent recommendations from the Parish Plan, responses made to the recent open questionnaire and guidance given in the Sandgate Conservation Appraisal document. The group is working with the district council, planning authorities and the county council to ensure that the best of Sandgate is preserved and enhanced in any future development and improvement programme. This is a 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunity to set the scene for the future of Sandgate.

Once the draft has been approved, the group will be holding consultation events in January and these will be widely publicised. It is anticipated that the full publication will be produced in April 2013. If you have any questions about the Village Design Statement, please contact Councillor Mrs Marjorie Findlay-Stone via the parish clerk or via email to [Marjorie.findlay@btinternet.com](mailto:Marjorie.findlay@btinternet.com)

## **FREE BROADBAND – update from David Cowell**

An old boss used to say that if it was easy everyone would do it and those words have certainly rung in my ears since the Sandgate Community Trust started this initiative. "I naively thought that the backhauls and hosting sites would be installed, a switch switched and there you'd have it, free WiFi throughout Sandgate. It has taken since the end of June to identify and resolve problems mainly relating to cables and equipment but I am confident that the signals in north and east of Sandgate are now robust and dependable. There will still be areas that need additional help but these will be resolved in November when CommunityUK, the service provider, returns to install power boxes and aerials in the west of the village. Thank you for your patience and do keep trying to pick up the signal and please do let me know the outcome [david@sandgatecommunitytrust.co.uk](mailto:david@sandgatecommunitytrust.co.uk) or on 020 3239 5828.

## **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME**

Now the broadband project is nearing completion, the Sandgate Community Trust looked for its next project and a Kent County Council grant facility for three years funding for community bus services means that the deficit of transport systems from the south to the north of Sandgate could be addressed. It is hoped that the funding application will be made in December but in the meantime need has to be proved. To do this a survey has been delivered door to door and on the web [www.surveymonkey.com/s/2XTVMW3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2XTVMW3) Please take the time to complete this short, anonymous survey. The vision is a social enterprise run in an environmentally friendly way using small electric buses. It is envisaged that this will help trade for the shops in the south and north of the village, tourism and resident mobility.

## CHICHESTER MEMORIAL HALL

The Board of Trustees of the Chichester Memorial Hall continue to conduct its duties with prudent determination. After raising the much needed funds to stop the ingress of rain, restore the building's facia and decorate the hall itself, the hires have grown appreciable to the point where they sometimes are unable to accommodate new requests. "But there are other places in Sandgate that people looking for a venue should consider" said David Cowell the Trust's Treasurer, "the Tower Theatre, for example, and the Old Fire Station and St Paul's Church Hall". If we are unable to satisfy an enquiry we always give them the contact details for these establishments". The Trust now has a healthy reserve and it is considering what its next round of refurbishment should be; a new roof and a mezzanine floor are options being considered.

## FARMERS' MARKET

The Farmers' Market held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at the Chichester Memorial Hall goes from strength to strength. New stallholders attend on a regular basis as well as the firm favourites and the job of the steering group is to maximise their chances of making it commercially viable by ensuring the residents of Sandgate support it. Do put them in your diary on your wall calendar and make sure this popular facility continues for many years to come.

**Free parking available in the grounds of Saga, Enbrook Park (near St Paul's Church)**

## DIARY DATES

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, 6pm: Christmas lights switch-on** on the village green

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7pm: Parish Council Environment Committee meeting** in the library.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10am – 3pm: Christmas Art & Craft Fair** at the Chichester Memorial Hall.  
If you would like to book a stall, contact Zoe Varian by email:  
[zoesvarian@aol.com](mailto:zoesvarian@aol.com) We look forward to seeing you!

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7pm: Parish Council meeting** in the library.  
This will be followed by a Christmas social event, with light refreshments.

**MP's surgeries: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month**  
- MP Damian Collins' surgery at the library. Call 01303 253524 to book a place.

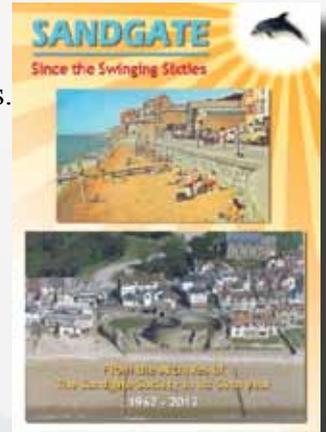
**The Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe** – for shows, plays, music nights and more,  
visit the website at [www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk](http://www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk)

**Discover Folkestone** – check out all the events going on across the district at:  
[www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk](http://www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk)

**Agendas for the Parish Council meetings will be on the website  
and on the village notice boards three days prior to the meeting.**

## SANDGATE SOCIETY

Copies of Sandgate Society's 50th anniversary book are now available. Covering the 50 years since the Society was formed in 1962, the publication blends Society issues and campaigns with the development of the village. Topics include the old high street shops, the castle, the weather, the 1866 old school, Encombe and Enbrook estates and landslips. Personalities who have influenced the environment are also profiled - like the Earls of Radnor, the Sassoons and the Rothchilds. From the Society Archive is a unique collection of photographic images, the vast majority of which have never before been published. At the bottom of each page is a yearly timeline that lists significant events. Fred Moore's contribution to the high street and the Scouting movement is also chronicled. And the back cover brings us right up to date with a colourful montage of the entertaining events from 2012. Copies are on sale every Saturday in the old Fire Station and on the Internet. Please do your best to promote this special 50th year publication to friends and neighbours - and ex-Sandgatians living away from the village.



## SANDGATE BUSINESS FORUM

The Business Forum is working towards Sandgate looking like a real Christmas village. If anyone has any good ideas which will help make our village the place to be at Christmas please email: [sally.taylor@bechtreetotalcare.co.uk](mailto:sally.taylor@bechtreetotalcare.co.uk)

## BUSINESSES IN FOCUS – Eateries

Has anyone counted the number of places to eat in Sandgate (in the whole parish)? It is a staggering ...! No, we won't tell you! The first person to email the name of every one to [sandgateparish@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sandgateparish@tiscali.co.uk) will get a surprise prize!

## HELP SAFEGUARD YOUR COMMUNITY FROM FIRE

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is appealing to residents to ensure vulnerable members of the community are safeguarded from the risk of fire. Just three breaths of fire smoke can be life-threatening and, sadly, it is often older residents or those with mobility problems, health issues or impaired sight or hearing, who are injured by fire. There is added risk if someone is a smoker, has bundles of newspapers or other flammable clutter about their home, or uses an old or unstable electric, oil or paraffin heater. Heating worries cause extra hazards, with some residents using open fires and portable heaters to dry clothing.

If you have an elderly parent or neighbour, or know someone who lives alone and is more vulnerable, help them stay safe and independent by encouraging them to contact KFRS for advice.

They will arrange a free home safety visit, which takes about 30 minutes and includes, if needed, the fitting of free smoke alarms. Both the visit and equipment they fit are free. KFRS's dedicated team can also provide specialist equipment for vulnerable residents, including fireproof bedding and smoke alarms for visually and hearing impaired people, as well as other gadgets e.g. cooker switches for residents who have become forgetful about turning off the cooker.

For further information contact KFRS on 0800 923 7000 or visit [www.3breaths.info](http://www.3breaths.info).

**Thank you for reading our Sandgate News.  
Please tell anyone you know who doesn't have email  
to collect a printed copy from Sandgate Library.**