

Forum News



November 2025

This copy of Forum News forms the notes of a meeting held at
The Academy School at 4.15pm on 12th November 2025
If you would like to know more about any of the items, please contact us at:
mail@selseycommunityforum.uk.

➤ WELCOME

Mike Nicholls welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted.

➤ Pavilion News - Keith Batchelor

The Pavilion have received 75,000 views on You Tube of the film made by the students in the summer. An addition to the film to make it more accessible for non-sighted viewers will be to add dialogue to the sections of the which are purely visual.

Fire Doors have now been fitted. The interior walls in the Heritage Hub have been prepared for insulation.

There was a problem with the sewer pipe for the Toilet, and this has had to be run into to the main sewer. We are hoping to open the small hall next summer.

A search is underway for a Pargeter to work on the front of the façade and to repair some of the plaster framework.

There is a plan to put in a new hoarding to advertise events. We now have over 7,000 subscribers to the newsletter.

Mike asked Keith to pass on thanks to Christian and the team for all their hard work moving things forward.

➤ RNLI - Dick Turley

Lifeboat Christmas Fair will be on 22nd November in the Church Hall at the same day as the First Responders. Hopefully, people will visit both venues. The doors of the boat house need repairing and as this has not been completed the Carol Service will not now be taking place. There is a new Chair – Paul Hever. Dick will bring News at the next meeting of all the events for 2026 including 165 years celebration for the Lifeboat. They have had an addition to the Lifeboat Crew, a young man who joined on his 18th birthday who signed up on Lifeboat Day. Matt Tymon knew him when as a student at The Academy, and an exceptional young man

➤ The Academy News – Matt Tymon

Part of our work since Ofsted visited the school in January is about developing things and tightening up work around students and them feeling part of the community. We have been developing a Character Curriculum. It includes things like Pride, Respect and being engaged. That runs through each Year group. Each Friday everyone gets together in their tutor groups which links into Assemblies which then links in for more work with Tutors. The character building is important to the school. We really value input from the community. The school are aware that there has been some vandalism in the area,

and the community have reached out to the school asking for help in preventing this happening. We put together an Assembly which included Police, Community Warden, and the Town Council. The outcome is the school set up an initiative where students can report anonymously things that they see in the community that they are not happy about. We stand shoulder to shoulder with Police, Community Warden and Town Council. It was very important for Matt to lead on this, and they have already had a few hits already. It also fits in very well with their Anti-Bullying week and today we have had a report from someone in Year 9 about some year 7's students going into primary schools and are behaving in an unacceptable way.

Yesterday we had our 11.00am assembly outside and all the students attended.

We do a lot of work with The Bridge who have been a fantastic help with getting some of our students back into education. We do have a few students who are finding the curriculum we offer particularly difficult. The curriculum is laid down by the government and we have to follow it, but this doesn't suit every child. What the Bridge allows us to do is to expand that curriculum and gives the students that break. Matt expressed a massive thankyou to the Bridge for their support.

Finally, Matt requested he be informed on any students in the community who are getting things right as well as students that get things wrong. This year they are encouraging the students with terms used on social media #BeKind, #BeHere, and #Behave. Matt's email address is Matt.tymon@tas-tkat.org

Mike Nicholls, thanked Matt for the kind words about the Bridge. Last Monday Mike was at an attendance meeting at the Bridge with some of the staff and outreach workers one of whom works at the Bridge and the other was a former Deputy Head who at worked at the School and they divide themselves, Danielle takes year 7-9 and Jackie takes the upper school. They have had some significant wins with getting students back into school or helping them increase attendance. The benefit of having youth workers in that role is that they are not officials and can work with families, benefitting both students and families. It was a privilege to see that still working over the past 6 years. One London Trust that will sponsor this every year.

We have a Youth Worker named Matt Lefevre who is particularly gifted in Art and Music and at Chichester High School he has some real wins with students, helping them express their emotions using Art and Music and it has some good outcomes.

Mike was at a funding meeting this morning at the Wittering's, where a lot of the students come from. Mandy Connor, who is the new Youth Worker, explained she has been travelling on the school bus talking to students about what they want, and the students have suggested a Youth Café to be open between 4pm and 6pm Monday to Friday and in the School Holidays. Some of the funders in the meeting were keen to take this forward.

➤ **The Shop – Derek Allchurch**

The Shop is a good place to come in and enjoy cross table talk. It's getting used more and is also used in the afternoons by groups from the Care Shop. Financially we are still in the black. We have lots of Art and when its sold they donate 20% to The Shop. We are in the 14th year and the "Man Upstairs" is watching over us. Mike Nicholls said it provides a safe place for bereavement support for people to come and share things they can't say to their families. It particularly helps lonely men as does Men in Sheds, and provides somewhere for them to meet.

➤ **Arts Dream**

Chris Butler who used to regularly attend the Forum meetings, is still a Director of Arts Dream. Following the death of her husband earlier in the year. Mike spoke to Chris

yesterday and she said that Arts Dream has been a lifeline to her at a difficult time. Chris was picture recently on Facebook with a group of her colleagues in Chaplin's where they were thanking them for being a ticket source selling for the plays they put on. Arts Dream also fund different groups like Art Classes and a Choir in the district.

➤ **Befriending – Ronelle Juleff**

Monday mornings we hold a Coffee Morning at The Venture Club. The Venture Club kindly transport our clients to our groups 4 times every week.

Alternate Monday afternoons we hold a Movies for Memories and Lunch Club at the Methodist Hall.

Thursday is Together Time at the Methodist Church Hall from 10.00am to 3.30pm.

Consisting of Tea and Cake, Sing Song, Raffle, Games, Lunch, more Tea and Cake.

Friday Afternoon again at The Venture Club for Tea and Coffee, for a chat and we play games and our friends with Dementia are welcome. It's a very friendly group.

Sunday is ResBite Tea which takes place at each Church which take a turn in providing Afternoon Tea and a Quiz.

Mike Nicholls recently held a Tea Party for 2 of our older Volunteers, Ronelle and her colleague Janet, and it was lovely to have the two of them together. He said that Ronelle has been doing this for 12 years now and he was very grateful.

We have good partnership work with Caraway House Care Home during the last year. They have now offered to host an evening Film and Supper Club for older people and Richard Lamdin will be hosting that on a Tuesday evening in the 3rd week of January in the new year. Mike has also raised an idea about the possibility of hosting a Saturday Afternoon Tea at Caraway House for lonely people, and we are just waiting for them to make a decision.

➤ **Town Council – Philip Grocott**

Next week there is a By-Election in the North Ward and Philip encouraged people to vote. There have been some representation to The Town Council about Anti-Social Behaviour in Selsey, and this worries us all. It's the acts of a small group that create a reputation that for the rest of the children in Selsey which is very unfortunate. Everything and anything that can be done to change that image is worth investigating.

We have recently lost our Clerk on the Council, and we have a temporary Clerk, Jenny Reary sitting in until a new appointment can be made. Other than that, it is Budget Setting time in the Council, and this takes leads us up until Christmas and apart from that it is a quiet time. Please let me know if there any issues.

Mike said that the event on Remembrance Sunday, was very well organised by Jenny and the use of microphones ensured everyone outside could hear the service. Please pass on our thanks to her on our behalf.

➤ **Selsey Community Forum – Mike Nicholls**

Mike was at a meeting with a group of funders this morning this morning at raised a few issues. What we find at The SCF and Youth Dream, because we hold a lot of clients personal data we have to take care of our internet security. It is not easily acquired through grant funding and SCF don't like using donations because donors prefer service delivery. Mike raised this with funders this morning that we need £10.000 for this, and they

are happy to look at that for us. Also, in a our SCF Trustee meeting last night Neil Kimber raised an issue about the need for Support of Alcohol and Drug Addictions. Mike also raised that this morning with the funders, and one of the trustees at the meeting, said they would take this forward so there may be a small possibility that we may be able to get some funding for a Support Worker in that area and Mike was surprised with the way it was received, although it is at the embryonic stage at the moment.

Linda Edwards reminded people of the SCF Christmas Fair on the 29th November at The Town Hall, from 9am to 1pm. There will be 22 different tables and organisations that will be there including The Friends of The Selsey Medical Practice. This is also the day of the Switch On of the Christmas Lights and the High Street will be closed during the day. Also The Christmas Day Community Lunch this year is to be held at The Beacon Church, which is free and can be booked at The Care Shop.

➤ **Selsey Medical Centre -Nicola Collins**

Please encourage people, especially in groups, to get their Flu and Covid Vaccinations this year. There is a particularly nasty strain of the Flu that is affecting people very badly and we are coming up to the height of the Flu season. The vulnerable are particularly affected. Matt said the students have all had their Flu jabs today.

➤ **Selsey Buddies**

You may have heard of the Selsey Buddies who meet at the Selsey Centre on a Monday and a Friday. This is an enterprise which is for people with dementia and has qualified Carers to support. They have now renamed as The Care Pod and they are experimenting in the new year. This is a therapy course for young adults from 18 – 30, with additional needs. They are going to experiment to see if that is viable in Selsey. On the back of that, we are also talking to a group of volunteers who are keen to run a friendship activity on a weekly basis for people between 30-50 who still have children living at home for all sorts of reasons.

➤ **Selsey Care Shop**

We are trying all the time to make what we do as efficient as possible but also keeping all we do as inclusive as possible. 20% of the population do not have access to the internet. Philip said 80% may have access to a computer but do not have IT skills. Clarion Housing are sponsoring a morning hub in January, where we will have 2 volunteers who are experienced with using computers and they will be able to support and instruct residents people who live in The Rookery.

Matt remarked that he was watching a TV programme where you were required to scan a QR code but not everyone is able to do that. Philip also remarked that Strictly Come Dancing also require you to Scan the QR code to vote, and they must be losing a lot of callers phoning in.

The meeting agreed that one of the worst culprits are the Banks when you phone up Customer Service its very difficult to speak to a person rather than a Chat Bot.

➤ **Next Meeting – Please note this will be Wednesday 25th February at 4.15pm at The Academy.**

