

Forum News



September 2025

This copy of Forum News forms the notes of a meeting held at
The Academy School at 4.15pm on 17th September 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 and thanked The Academy for their hospitality and Matt Tymon for organising the room. Mike introduced Dick Turley from RNLI Selsey the Chair of Fundraising Engagement who was attending for the first time. Mike invited Dick to update us with his news of events.

➤ RNLI - Dick Turley

Lifeboat Week was from Sunday 3rd August to Sunday 10th. Sunday 3rd August started the week with a service of thanksgiving, held in the Lifeboat Station. This year was the first time since covid Selsey Lifeboat were able to hold the event in full. Support from the community was brilliant. During the week a number of fund-raising events took place in different venues in the town and on Saturday the event on Lifeboat Green was a very enjoyable day. Fun Dog Show, Classic Cars, Raft Race, walking Treasure Hunt, Funfair, Entertainment by Cloud 9, Live Music Entertainment, Headline Act- Supersonic Soul, and Fireworks in the evening.

There was an impact of parking in Kingsway and a small number of complaints about inconsiderate parking by visitors was received. John Fletcher asked if parking for disabled would be a consideration for next year. Dick replied that they would be working on parking issues, have a Transport Plan and the Fire Works display will need road closures. They will also work closely with STC regarding issues including flying flags at East Beach Shops. A Massive thank you to all the community and Volunteers who helped make this so successful. This year raised a 5-figure sum. Recruitment of Volunteers for next year is being organised.

➤ The Academy News – Matt Tymon

The school has always aspired to be first choice on this peninsula, so and Matt was able to tell us that Year 7, Year 11 and Year 10 are full and almost there with Year 9. There was a lot of hard work moving the students forward this year which paid off as the Academy had the best ever GCSE results obtained. They also maintained the same English students getting to level 4 and above and also increased students getting to level 5. Students leaving the school with really good grades has increased by 12%. That's increased their position in ESKAT in the local area. There are 46 Schools in the local group, and they are now in 2nd place. What it really means is that our young people get fantastic opportunities. When they leave, they will have fantastic opportunities to open doors for themselves. They will be in control of what courses they choose to do. All the hard work by the teachers in school, all those people in the community that have supported the students with fantastic things like the Pavilion work etc. mean they can face college. Matt said they were so proud. Jo Ford the headteacher is determined to make it 3 years in a row. As a community school they are meeting the needs of the community.

Looking ahead to next year, the school production will be High School Musical and Matt will keep us informed about performance dates. Tomorrow night is Open Evening and parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren are all welcome.

Mike congratulated Matt and the school. Their achievement was well deserved. He also updated the meeting that Daniel Watton joined Jackie Shepherd and the team that help the school with those students whose attendance is low for various reason including those that have come from other schools. At The Bridge we have an educationalist who has made good progress with a number of students, so we are glad for that partnership to exist. We are also glad that Paul Sadler from The Hidden Garden has linked in to provide garden spaces with the school and that will increase the partnership with the school.

➤ **Pavilion News - Keith Batchelor**

The Summer news was the Premier of The Selsey Academy Film Project and subsequently there have been over 13,000 clicks on You Tube video.

Next, they are planning to refurbish the small hall at the back of the Pavilion and are waiting for money from The National Lottery. The logic is, it would be less expensive refurbish and give something for the community to use.

There is a new team in Chaplin's, Josh and Daisy, who have taken over from Hannah and Lee, and we wish them every success.

In August they held a WW2 Photographic Exhibition in The Pavilion, commemorating 80th Anniversary of VJ Day telling the story of Selsey at War staged by Selsey Photo Archive. Richard Lamdin has arranged to put that exhibition in The Beacon Church for Remembrance Day in November, to allow people who had not seen it in August to have another opportunity to view it.

A number of Open Days are planned soon. A film screen has been obtained from St Thomas's Hospital in London. The screen will be used to show films of our Academy students' documentary film and possibly fire up the old projector and show some old 35mm Films. We are looking forward to getting the small hall open for next summer.

➤ **Men in Sheds - John Fletcher**

John advised us that the Men in Sheds are looking for funding to replace the old windows with double glazing windows and doors in the cabin they use.

Mike clarified that the charities that use the site next door to Men in Sheds, Youth Dream and Hidden Garden, have now had newly configured toilets. The young people have their own entrance inside. The separate outside toilet is also suitable for disabled people. This means children and adults will not have to mix, which is better from a safeguarding aspect.

➤ **End-of-Life-Care Network – Karen Pirks**

This is a group of people who have come together from various backgrounds and professions who are keen to bring later life/end of life support together to improve understanding, future planning and promoting good practice. There is an official launch on Monday 6th September 6pm, at The Minerva Theatre. The aim is to signpost trusted resources for information and show what is available in the Chichester District which involves SCF and our work on the Peninsula. Tickets are available free by booking on www.eventbrite.com/end-of-life-network-launch-tickets

This leads me onto our Hub work over the Peninsula. The Selsey Care Shop has become so busy with people coming in requesting help with their problem. Last Monday we had 50 visitors visit the shop requesting help. During a conversation with a colleague today, we agreed that solving one problem for someone can identify a further need and other problems to unravel.

The Hubs came about because of this. We had our first hub develop in the Witterings Memorial Hall and this was established following our help to set up Good Morning Calls in the area. We have come a long way from there and the back of Wittering we have now developed 16 Hubs now, all different locations around the Peninsula. If there is a group activity that is a good place to be in. We have the support of Vitale, Guardian Angel Care and Sussex Grange. They have loaned space to have hubs, and also Bracklesham Council have been very supportive. This has shown us that there is a growing need to set up another Care Shop in another area.

Mike confirmed that a group will be inspecting some premises tomorrow where we hope to be setting up another Care Shop within the next year. This will be in the Witterings to cover the whole of the peninsula for Later Life Care. The truth is the areas of Witterings and Selsey have the largest number of vulnerable older people who are referred to social services in these districts, so there is clear need. Taking services to where people are. We have already supported about 900 people in the Hubs apart from the visitors who come into the Selsey Care Shop.

During the Summer the staff at the Bridge ran weeks of holiday activities, a mixture of arts and crafts. There were many different activities in Selsey during the Summer, including an Art Exhibition at Medmerry and entertainment which provides holiday makers the opportunity to join in different activities in the town.

➤ **The Shop – Derek Allchurch**

Derek begun by saying The Shop is in its 14th year, which seems incredible when it is all run by volunteers. In the mornings it is open for people to come in and have a cup of tea or coffee and meet with others and have a chat and talk about Christianity, but you are not required to do so. There are paintings displayed around the walls from local artists or craft work too. In the afternoons SCF and The Care Shop hold the weekly support groups in The Shop. There is always something going on every day.

Mike thanked Derek for all those 14 years that he has been involved in The Shop.

➤ **SCF - Mike Nicholls**

The Thrive Gym have begun to give out £1500 per month to help different charities. On Friday the Lions organised a golf charity day to help the Dementia work that SCF do, and we are so lucky to have that mutual sense of helping each other in the town.

In addition to this Forum meeting, Karen organises a meeting at the Medical Practice between the managers of the Care Homes and Care at Home Agencies in the area and 7 of them come together. Through our Robins Service we have organised visitors to visit those residents in the Care Homes who do not have family living locally, and particularly those approaching end-of-life.

Caraway House organise a Ladies Breakfast, completely free of charge, for women who are carers or have been carers and are now bereaved. We actively work with the Food Bank and UK Harvest Food Hubs and give Money Support to people. So far this year we have had over 2,500 interactions with people needing help around Money Support like completing documentation, Lasting Power of Attorney and Attendance Allowance applications and help with debt.

We do provide 3 Buddy Transport journeys a day where we take people to medical appointments which may not sound a lot but these are volunteer drivers and some of the journeys may be taking someone for an appointment at the GP Surgery, St Richards, or for a cataract operation at Shoreham or QA, and it's a commitment they are willing to make.

We have been blessed with 3 mature students from Chichester University which means we have 9 more hours we can offer individuals for counselling support and quite of few people who have been bereaved.

The Lions this year have invested £5,000 in the work we do in The Care Shop this year. This year they organised a trip to The Watercress Line for people, many of whom were frail

and some of them were fit. They recently raised £2000, a portion of which is allocated to the Christmas Day Lunch.

➤ **Any Other Business**

Dick Turley informed us that next year there is a National Lifeboat Day on Saturday 11th October. Christmas Fair in the Church Hall 11nd November.

Next year Friday 5th June 2026 it will be 165 years anniversary of the Selsey Lifeboat, and they are going to do something special to celebrate.

Lifeboat week will be 26th July to 2nd August.

Selsey Lifeboat have recently been on Saving Lives at Sea, so go to catchup to see previous episodes.

Karen Pirks mentioned we are always looking for Volunteers like many other organisations we could do a joint thing together. June 2nd to Monday June 8th and there may be some financial support.

➤ **Next Meeting – Please note this will be Wednesday 12th November at 4.15pm at The Academy.**



The poster is titled 'Hub Help Desk Locations' and features a green recycling symbol icon. It lists various locations and their corresponding help desk schedules. The locations include BIRDHAM, BOSHAM, BRACKLESHAM, CHICHESTER, HUNSTON, LAVANT, SELSEY, SIDLESHAM, and WITTERINGS. Each location entry specifies the days of the week, times, and the venue. At the bottom, it provides a contact number and monitoring hours.

Location	Days	Times	Venue
BIRDHAM	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays	10.30am - 11.45am	Pump Café, St James Church Centre, Birdham PO20 7HG
BOSHAM	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	10.00am - 12noon	St Wilfrid's Hospice, Bosham PO18 8QB
BRACKLESHAM	1 st Thursdays	2pm - 4pm	Bracklesham Barn, PO20 8HU
CHICHESTER	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday of the month	2pm - 4pm	Graylingwell Chapel, Bloomfield Drive, Graylingwell Park, PO19 6BZ
CHICHESTER	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays	1pm - 3pm	Guardian Angel's Care, Eastgate Square PO19 1ED
HUNSTON	Fridays - weekly	11am - 1pm	Hunston Community Club, Hunston, PO20 1AW
LAVANT	3 rd Thursdays	1pm - 3pm	Sussex Grange Care, Lavant Road, PO19 5RD
SELSEY	Tuesdays - Fortnightly with Food Hub	2pm - 3pm	Beacon Church, PO20 0PD
SELSEY	Thursdays - weekly	12noon - 1pm	Selsey Methodist Church, PO20 0RD
SELSEY	Thursdays - weekly		Selsey Medical Practice, PO20 0QG - by appointment only
SIDLESHAM	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays	1pm - 3pm	Sidlesham Memorial Hall, PO20 7RD
WITTERINGS	Tuesdays - weekly	10am - 12noon	Downview Hall, East Wittering PO20 8NS
WITTERINGS		3.30pm - 5.30pm	The Witterings Medical Centre, East Wittering PO20 8BH

Help Hub Contact number: 07379 789 721
(phone monitored Monday - Friday 9.30am - 1pm)