

# Forum News



September 2024

This copy of Forum News forms the notes of a meeting held at  
The Academy School at 4.15pm on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
If you would like to know more about any of the items, please contact us at:  
mail@selseycommunityforum.uk.

## ➤ **Welcome and Thanks**

The Forum meeting this month followed on from the SCF AGM and The Chairs Annual Report which was published in the September Newsletter and may be found on the SCF website. There were 18 members of the Forum who attended both the AGM and this bi-monthly Forum meeting. Mike Nicholls opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and invited any questions about the report. Carol Purnell enquired if the Money Support team had noticed an increase in requests for pension credit following recent news regarding government withdrawal of Winter Fuel payments for pensioners. Mike said we had a number of enquiries recently and we are able to do a quick calculation using a Pension Credit Calculator and help those who are in need. Matt Damon said that the DWP also offer an on-line service which is very good and he has been able to help his parents by phoning the DWP on their behalf phone 0800 991234. Mike invited news from around the table.

## ➤ **Operations SCF - Karen Pirks**

Karen is working on improving structures and processes in the SCF. There are more activities going on in over in Bracklesham Birdham and the Witterings. Our monthly Case Conference highlights issues with our clients and in particular recently, issues around discharges from hospital, and we continue to support where we support loved ones and their families.

## **Vitale Care – Daniel Ayton**

Vitale Care confirmed they are very keen to continue their support with the charity with providing a member of their team at Together Time and the new Help Hubs at Hunston and Birdham. It's been great to tell the story about what the charity does here in Selsey, Birdham and Bracklesham. We were amazed at the welcome we received at the Birdham meeting when we explained the Selsey Care Shop and what it does and about the Pop-Up Help Desk that will be supporting the community in future. Daniel lives in Birdham and was embarrassed in the past about the lack of support for the community in the area.

Mike thanked Daniel for his support and went on to explained that the work which the charity is spreading across Peninsula is intended to train volunteers in those local communities, it is not to bring that work back to Selsey. We do this in a variety of ways which is about sustainability.

## ➤ **The Shop – Sue**

The Shop is a venue for lots of activities and supports artists and craft makers. Shortly we are planning some music events and the first one is on 8<sup>th</sup> October if anyone would like to come along. We have a number of volunteers who are able to support people who come in for a chat and enjoy the company of others, our volunteers are always happy to listen. They enjoy coming in and see us friends.

Mike added that as well as the service in the mornings Monday to Saturday. In the afternoons the SCF run a variety of groups between 2pm and 4pm. On Monday there is a social interaction group for people who do not like to attend a large group but enjoy company. On a Tuesday there is a Carers Support group, plus a Bereavement support group. On Wednesday there is a Parkinsons Support group and alternate Wednesdays support for people with Dementia and New Carers. On a Thursday we run a Cancer Support Group twice a month, a Guardians support, and a women's group for ladies who have experienced abuse. Friday, we have a Men's Bereavement group for those that have lost their wife and feel completely lost, and find the support beneficial. Mike thanked The Shop for allowing the SCF to use the premises when it is not in use.

➤ **Town Council News – Philip Grocott**

Philip wanted to comment on the bereavement group. It reminded him of when his mother died and his father was grieving but could not see any benefit from joining a bereavement group. Philip persuaded him that he may have more to give to the group than need from it, and eventually his father did agree. Philip believes the Thursday Cancer Support group is very positive.

As for Council business it's been a quiet time over August.

➤ **The Academy School – Matt Damon**

Matt was pleased to announce that the school had received its best GCSE results this year. This means that the young people who chose us for their education, are moving onto better pastures, and in most cases moving on to Colleges in Chichester, Havant and nearby areas.

The reason they were able to get those results is because of Jo Ford and her team driving the curriculum. This year is they have had their biggest year group and are becoming the school of choice for many parents. They had an opening evening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and all were welcome to have a look around the school and meet the staff and look at an example of the students' work. Matt also gave a massive thank you to the Forum business members for their support enabling the students to build an electric car from scratch. They have attended several race meetings at Bristol and Goodwood racetracks, finally finishing in the top 20. It is a massive achievement for the students and Matt wanted to share their achievement with the Forum. Take a look at the "Pink Panther" car on the way out. The charity the school is supporting this year. They have several trips planned this year one of which is a skiing trip and are also offer apprenticeships supported by businesses coming into the College giving talks to the students around various business and development opportunities.

The Academy has also become a centre for SCITTS which provides primary and secondary teacher training for graduates from university, or experienced professionals looking to change their career.

➤ **Beacon Church – Richard Lamdin**

The ResBite Teas are going very well with 4 churches taking in turns of hosting these. There has been a gap on the fifth Sunday and now Caraway House Care Home have offered to host a ResBite Tea in September and December. Caraway is also hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Men's Breakfast during the month which is warmly appreciated.

➤ **The Hidden Garden – Paul Sadler**

The garden is continuing with more volunteers helping out and visitors enjoying the garden. The Medical Practice have highlighting us recently and their staff have been spending their lunch breaks in the garden. Several events have been hosted this Summer and a Thank You Event for Selsey Open Gardens with the Selsey Molls entertaining everyone with their singing. At the moment we have lots of fruit donated by people in Sidlesham and Selsey which has either been picked by volunteers or people have brought their excess fruit to the Garden to be shared with others. We have also been providing the fruit to The Selsey Pantry, Care Homes and inviting people to come in and choose some fruit for a donation. Paul is keen for anyone who would like a

fruit tree planted in their garden to contact him, or Paul would like to create a community orchard and is working with residents from East Beach Walk.

In the Hidden Garden they continue their work with adults with special needs from Lambourne House and Lighthouse and they are also working with some of the students in The Academy. A new project with the Academy is called Connexions where students of various ages will be coming into the garden to learn about using the outdoor environment and enjoying the therapeutic benefits.

➤ **Selsey Medical Practice – Nicola Collins**

Its that season where Flu Jabs will begin on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, a bit later than normal as the Winters seem to be starting a bit later each year. The Covid jabs will be starting in October too and The Medical Practice will be arranging for the mobile unit to attend as it has in the past to assist people travelling further-a-field.

Mike Thanked Nichola for the unequal partnership that SCF share with the Medical Practice. They deal with 7000 appointments a month, and The Selsey Community Forum are so glad that we can partner with you in some small way and be able to benefit people together. We are also grateful to The Friends of The Medical Practice for the support they give us financially. You will all be aware that the general direction of the NHS in the future is about preventative work, community work and digitalisation we want to support all of that and that we make everything available for our residents and their health needs in the future.

➤ **The Chichester Development Trust – Liz Woodsell**

The Trust are about to get the asset transfer of The Studios which is where Black Beauty used to live when she lived at Graylingwell and Anna Sewell the author, lived in the Farmhouse part of Graylingwell Development. The stables were used as a Studio for the mental asylum patients where they could create and sell items which were sold as part of their income. CDT are trying to recreate good practice about wellbeing, The Studios will be used for people in the community for Craft, Pottery and some of these items can be sold in an integrated space, like The Shop in Selsey. The Bike Project has just opened and Liz is very keen that the Bike Lane between Selsey and Chichester is completed and opened so they can encourage people to cycle between Selsey and Chichester. The Chapel is transferring over from a catering venue to a community space. Liz frequently talks about SCF and about the work we do as best practice and Liz is very proud to be part of SCF and the work which we do here in Selsey.

Mike added that we have connections between Selsey and the CDT. Youth Dream at The Bridge and CDT have a Youth Worker in common, a lovely 23-year-old who is a psychology graduate and does a very good job.

Mike also mentioned that the Greenway Cycle Group Project have a 9-mile route agreed with just a few little bits of land to be purchased. All that's needed is the money to build it now.

➤ **Mike Beal**

**Dementia Awareness Training** - Mike is always available to Dementia Awareness Training for anyone who would like this, please contact him.

On the Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December Concert at The Selsey Emporium, free event. Come along and Sing Your Heart out and be entertained too.

➤ **Venture Club** – If you are over 60 The Venture Bus offers transport to The Festival Theatre on a Thursday. It runs from Selsey through Sidlesham and Hunston to the Festival Theatre and it is a door-to-door service.

➤ **Carol Purnell** - Carol commented how she continues to be impressed by this charity and by all the good it does in the community. Selsey is truly blessed to have such a setup and to have this organisation in its midst supporting all Selsey residents.

➤ **Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester – Jackie Sumner**

Jackie is the Chief Exec of VAAC which covers Arun and Chichester and is a unique model. VAAC have recently employed a new Freelance Training Co-ordinator – Kate, who used to work for Youth Dream in Selsey. If SCF have any training needs for the volunteers who work with us just let them know and they will help.

Mike said last year Jackie encouraged SCF at last years' Forum meeting to write an Impact Report to demonstrate the impact of our work on individuals and the community, and we now make a considerable effort to do this, so thank you for that insight.

Jackie replied, that this year VAAC's advised is to review our Risk Register and update that where necessary. VAAC work with development of policies, advice, guidance and fundraising and would be able to help with each of the individual projects initiated by the Selsey Community Forum.

➤ **The Pavilion Trust – Keith Batchelor**

The Pavilion is now looking very different now the auditorium roof has been retiled and the scaffolding has been taken down. Keith went on to say, the small hall at the back is next to retiled. The façade had 7 layers of paint removed and has revealed lots of cracks which they are hoping will be filled soon and then the façade repainted. They have a film project with the Academy pupils who have been asked to make a film about the history of Selsey. There are 20 vacancies and the applicants are being whittled down at present. The finished film will be shown next summer in the Pavilion, fingers crossed.

Keith has been meeting different groups in the community and giving different talks. He has recently visited one of the Dementia Support Groups run on a Thursday by SCF and was impressed how well it was run. If anyone is interested in Keith giving one of his talks just contact him. The Pavilion Trust still have vacancies for volunteers so if anyone is interested, please get in touch.

➤ **Town Council Representative – Ali Archer**

Ali is a Town Councillor and also volunteered at The Selsey Care Shop on the front desk for a year and truly didn't know how much was dealt with until she volunteered. She was amazed and very impressed with what SCF does in the community. So many people say they never knew what SCF does until they volunteer. My husband also volunteers and is also a chef at The Men's Breakfast Club.

Ali is also on The Friends of Selsey Medical Practice and wanted to thank everyone involved with the Charity for all it does for the community.

**Good Morning Calls – Amanda**

The GMS as approximately 130 ladies and gentlemen they support throughout the week with 420 phone calls a week mostly to do with loneliness. We pick up on how they are feeling and sometimes if they aren't feeling well, we are able to sort that out easily by contacting their Carer or arranging for them to go to hospital if needed. We have a few clients that have gradually deteriorated over time and now have dementia so other staff have become involved to help them. I still give them a good morning call as it's a voice that is familiar to them. It's all about listening. Amanda also volunteers in the shop and the footfall is phenomenal, you never know what type of problem will be coming through the door or the next phone call. The most important thing is keeping contact with people that are lonely.

➤ **Business Community – Neil Kimber**

Neil commented on behalf of the businesses on the high street that it's been a really bad year for all the businesses and there will be some noticeable changes over the next few months. Some food and entertainment businesses did well over the summer. The Seal will be closed for January and February for a total refurb, and another food outlet will be closed for January as is their usual custom, which will put pressure on other food outlets in the villages. A lot of businesses have experienced a lot of petty theft. Dinkies have had 3 large sweet jars stolen, a hairdressers had a customer walk out without paying having had her hair and nails done. Of course, the Dine and Dash news story has helped highlight Selsey and several restaurants have had customers walk out without paying. ITV are coming to the village to highlight the story, which is happening all over the country and is having a big affect on small businesses. The Chicken and Burger place was due to open in July where Mai Thai was but seems to have hit a stumbling block. Shop units are still empty, Seal Butchers is still up for sale, Ice Cream Rollers have opened where Beauty Bakes used to be. This time next year we will be seeing a different High Street, so please shop local and support our local businesses, even if it's just £5.

➤ **Any Other Business**

There was no other business. Mike closed the meeting by saying, we are very grateful for every compliment and encouragement we receive. We want to maintain what we do over the next 12 months consistently and give as good a quality service as we can possibly give.

➤ **Next Meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024**