

# Rother Valley Locality News

Spring 2012  
Issue 7

Produced by the Rother Valley (Midhurst & Petworth) Locality Group of Schools



## Locality Update

Welcome to the Spring Term Edition of the Rother Valley Locality News.

The deadline for submission of articles for the Summer Term edition is:

**Friday June 1st 2012**

Please send any articles, questions, upcoming locality events you would like added to the calendar and requests to be added to the mailing list to:  
Camelsdale Primary School

[office@camelsdale.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@camelsdale.w-sussex.sch.uk)

### Learning Mentor Training

Two cohorts of Teaching assistants from across the Rother Valley have this term been involved in collaborative training to develop the role of Learning Mentors within their schools. The work, as part of our Joint Inclusion Project, is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils within our schools.

### Joint Rother Valley School Council Meeting

Pupils from many of the Rother Valley Schools met at Midhurst Rother College on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with a focus on "Learning Outside the Classroom". Schools have been paired up to carry out Learning Walks at each other's schools. A photographic record of the visits is enabling a comprehensive collection of ideas to be gathered.

At the meeting, these photos were shared and discussed. Each school selected one or two ideas to take to develop within their own school to improve "Outdoor Learning", Eco Schools work and Forest Schools work. This is an effective way of pupils taking a lead in bringing ideas to their own schools.

At Hollycombe School's Learning Walk with Northchapel School, the children looked at the woods where Forest School activities occur as well as the garden plots and the chickens, and their PlayZone. Lots of ideas were discussed.

### ROTHER VALLEY GOVERNOR FORUM

40 Governors from across the Rother Valley met at Petworth Primary School to hear from Mr Nigel Bloodworth, WSCC Senior Adviser - Support and Intervention talking about "What is an Academy". This included information on

- types of Academies
- Models

What is happening in West Sussex

How schools become an Academy

What changes/stays the same when you become an Academy  
Funding Issues

The evening was an ideal opportunity for Governors to meet and discuss the ideas for the way forward for schools in the Rother Valley.

### Moodle update

Have you visited the Moodle recently? There are pages set up for the Locality Governors, Student Council and PTA. The pages are still in development and we would welcome any suggestions or contributions for inclusion.



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#### Rother Valley Schools

[Bury CE Primary School](#)

[Camelsdale Primary School](#)

[Easebourne Primary School](#)

[Fernhurst Primary School](#)

[Fittleworth CE Village School](#)

[Graffham Infant & Duncton CE Junior Schools](#)

[Harting CE Primary School](#)

[Hollycombe Primary School](#)

[Midhurst CE Primary School](#)

[Northchapel Primary School](#)

[Petworth CE Primary School](#)

[Rake CE Primary School](#)

[Rogate CE Primary School](#)

[St James CE Primary School](#)

[Stedham Primary School](#)

We are also on Moodle

[www.rvschools.co.uk](http://www.rvschools.co.uk)

## MRC Orchestra Day

A musical day for all budding instrumentalists took place at the end of January at Midhurst Rother College. More than 50 young musicians from 10 Rother Valley Primary Schools, joined our orchestra to learn new pieces and play as together as an orchestra. Tunes such as “Oh When The Saints”, “Oompa Pa” and “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” were mastered and several young conductors took turn to lead the orchestra. The day finished with a rousing performance to parents.



## MOVING FORWARD PROJECT

Some Year 6 pupils have been taking part in the University of Chichester Moving Forward Project. This has involved them looking at their future and higher education options. This project is being run in partnership with Midhurst Rother College and extends the work already underway with the school students. The Moving Forward Project involved activities held at the University of Chichester, Bognor Campus in January, and more were held at Midhurst Rother College, Midhurst Site recently and a graduation ceremony is to be held at Midhurst Rother College in March.



## Forest School Training

Forest School Level 3 Accredited training gets underway for colleagues from across the Rother Valley from February 20th. Several new schools have now embarked on this approach to teaching and learning. The training is funded by the Locality and the South Downs National Park. Good luck to colleagues - enjoy the challenge and learning outdoors!

## Amberley and St James Schools create a sensory story for Chestnut Tree House Children’s Hospice

The children at Amberley CE First School and St James CE Primary School have presented Chestnut Tree House, the only children’s hospice in Sussex, with special sensory story boards that they created in class.

They created something for the life-limited children at the hospice, deciding to make the special boards, using a variety of materials and textures to help the children feel their way through the story.

Amberley decided on ‘Let’s go on a tiger hunt’ while St James chose an ant hunt story. Each follows a group of children as they go in search of an animal, tackling all sorts of obstacles and creepy crawlies as they go.

Every child from every class worked in mixed age Buddy Groups, so the older children could help the younger ones. They painted a background on each board and then different materials were stuck on to illustrate the story - mirrored plastic represents crossing ice; bubble wrap for the water; a felt flower sprayed with perfume for walking through a field; a felt pocket to represent



a hole; a glittery spider web.

The children presented the boards to Clare Slater, Play and Creative Arts Therapist at Chestnut Tree House, at a special assembly.

Said Clare: ‘Many of the children we support have limited vision and mobility, and find it hard to concentrate on a story in a standard book. These boards are absolutely fantastic and perfect for the children as they can feel the story as it is read to them.

As the story boards are portable, they can be passed around the children to hold and touch, depending on their individual needs.

‘I would like to say a big thank you to the children and their teachers for creating these wonderful stories, the fact that the children chose the topic and wrote the story themselves makes it really special. I know that they will be a huge hit with the children and we really appreciate the time and effort taken to make such beautiful materials. I can’t wait for the team to be able to use them and take the children on an ant or tiger hunt!’

## Staying Alive— Midhurst Rother College

An eager group of Year 5 scientists from across the Rother Valley went back to Midhurst Rother College for a day of investigating the human body. As part of this session under the guidance of Rachel Black, Assistant Subject Leader for Science, pupils watched a sheep lung dissection, carried out a sheep heart dissection and explored the effects of exercise on the heart. By studying the heart and lungs pupils learned how blood is pumped through our bodies and keeps us all alive.



## Midhurst Rother College

### Sustainability Day at Midhurst Rother College

At Date for your Calendar and the opportunity to tour the new College building.

An annual event in the Midhurst Rother College calendar is fast approaching. **Sustainability Day, Saturday 28 April 2012** from 10am-2pm will be open to the public, and will include tours of our new college building provided and escorted by the builders, Balfour Beatty. It is an ideal opportunity to come and support our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability event with a wide and varied number of organisations and companies involved. We plan to have more than 30 local agencies and businesses with an interest or involvement in green issues displaying their services and offering advice. If your school would like to exhibit on the day, please contact Mrs Maddie Hathaway at Midhurst Rother College (01730 812451) for further information.

For the family there will be lots of fun activities and crafts. For the younger family members there will be Millers Ark Farm Animals and pond dipping. Hope you will be able to spread the news at your school and to see you there.



**Rother Valley Olympics - Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup> at Midhurst Rother College. Each school is set to send a representing a Country to the event.**



**Preparations are underway now!**

Midhurst Rother College found it a great pleasure to welcome the Joint Rother Valley School Council to the school on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012. They were a vibrant group of young people and Johnny Culley - Headteacher at Harting School said that the meeting was successful and very productive. The photograph shows the group viewing the new building and there were lots of expressions of delight - "wow" "awesome"!

### Rother Valley Staff CPD News

#### Middle Leader Training.

Our second cohort of Middle Leaders are now embarked on their Leadership Challenges. This includes colleagues from across the border in Surrey. Perhaps you might like to consider joining our next cohort of Middle Leader Training? Please let Sally Dreckmann at Stedham or Anne Bage at Bury know if you are interested.

**Rother Valley Senco Forum** The group met on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Fernhurst and swapped many resources, ideas and expertise. There is indeed a great deal of expertise in the Locality. The next meeting is on.....



**Next Rother Valley Joint Staff Meeting....**  
**Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> 4pm**  
**Don't forget to go!!**

### Rother Valley Football League Table (9.2.12)

Team	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Difference	Points
Harting	5	0	0	32	4	28	15
Midhurst	4	0	1	30	10	20	12
Camelsdale	4	0	1	26	9	17	12
Rake	2	0	1	9	6	3	6
Easebourne	2	0	2	14	14	0	6
Hollycombe	2	0	3	17	25	-8	6
Rogate	1	0	3	12	15	-3	3
Fernhurst	1	0	5	11	41	-30	3
Stedham	0	0	4	10	35	-25	0

Rother Valley West Netball Tournament is now underway too. Good luck teams.

Petworth Area Schools Netball tournament scheduled to start from March 22<sup>nd</sup> - good luck teams!

## Children and Family Centres

Feel free to drop in and have a coffee and use the free public access computers, and freephone access to Family Information Services and other WSCC departments at either the Midhurst or Petworth Children and Family Centre.

### Opening Hours

**Midhurst Children & Family Centre**  
Ashfield Road, Midhurst, GU29 9JX

**Monday** 9:00am – 3:30pm

**Tuesday** 12:30pm – 3:30pm

**Wednesday** 9:00am – 12:30pm

**Thursday** 9:00am – 3:30pm

**Friday** 9:00am – 12:00pm

If you require any further information or to book an appointment please contact  
Karen Bishop 01730 716699  
Kate Staker 01730 716697

[midhurst.office@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:midhurst.office@westsussex.gov.uk)

**Petworth Children & Family Centre**  
South Grove, Petworth GU28 0ED

**Monday** Closed all day

**Tuesday** 8:30am – 4:30pm

**Wednesday** 8:30am – 12:30pm

**Thursday** 8:30am – 4:30pm

**Friday** 8:30am – 12:00pm

If you require any further information or to book an appointment please contact  
Mandy Gibbard 01798 871199

[petworth.office@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:petworth.office@westsussex.gov.uk)



## A FASCINATING LOCAL TREASURE FOR CHILDREN TO VISIT

Bignor Roman Villa is the stunning remains of a Roman home and farm with world-class mosaic floors in a spectacular Downland Setting. In 1811 local farmer George Tupper uncovered the Summer Dining Room Fountain after striking it with his plough. The site still remains in the Tupper Family ownership to this day. Education is an important part of Bignor Roman Villa catering for over 100 school groups every year.

During the **guided tour** the children learn how mosaics were created and to begin to understand the process of the Roman heating system and much more. The **workshops** include activities such as; name the artifact, mosaic making, wool spinning and writing on bee's wax tablets just like Roman children did. Outside the children have a chance to grind corn into flour using the quern stones, explore our maze and can partake in the farmyard game in what would have been the actual farmyard when the Romans were at Bignor. For further information contact:

**Bignor Roman Villa**

Bignor Pulborough West Sussex  
RH20 1PH

Telephone/ fax 01798 869259

[enquiries@bignorromanvilla.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bignorromanvilla.co.uk)

## 2012 Chichester Aquathon and Triathlon

Venue: Westgate Leisure Chichester, Via Ravenna, Chichester, PO19 1RJ

CONTACT: Enter on-line or download an entry form from [www.chichester.gov.uk](http://www.chichester.gov.uk) (from January 1st 2012) or contact Westgate Leisure Chichester on 01243 785651

*Chichester Aquathon*  
Saturday 14th July 2012

DISTANCE

Tristar Start (7-8years)	66m Pool swim	600m run
Tristar 1 (9-10years)	133m Pool swim	1.5km run
Tristar 2 (11-12years)	200m Pool swim	2km run
Tristar 3 (13-14 years)	333m Pool swim	3km run
Tristar 4 (15-16 years)	400m Pool swim	3km run

PRICE

BTF Member £15.50    Non BTF Member £18

*Chichester Try a Tri*  
Sunday 15th July 2012

DISTANCE

400m Pool Swim    30km Bike    5km Run

PRICE

BTF Member is £25.50    Non BTF Member £34

*Chichester Triathlon*  
Sunday 15th July 2012

DISTANCE

600m Pool Swim    42km Bike    10km Run

PRICE

BTF Member is £35.50    Non BTF Member £44    Team £63

## Dates for Brighton and Hove Albion FC Football in the Community Courses:

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2012 - Midhurst Rother College Easebourne Site, Easebourne

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012 - Midhurst Rother College Easebourne Site, Easebourne

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012 - Fernhurst Recreation Ground, Fernhurst

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012 - Fernhurst Recreation Ground,

Fernhurst



Football in the Community holiday courses are open to boys and girls aged 6 to 15 (school year 2 to 10) of all abilities. Through many different training drills, skills and games, they focus on all round player development, individual and unit skills, and most importantly, on having fun! All coaches are FA qualified and are CRB checked for child safety. Places are just £5 per person per day.



## Dates for the Rugby in the Community course detailed below:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

August - Midhurst Rother College

Rugby in the Community holiday courses are open to boys and girls aged 6 to 15 (school year 2 to 10). Players new to the game as well as those with rugby experience are welcome. All coaches are RFU qualified and are CRB checked for child safety. Places are just £5 per person per day.

**Ben Polhill**

Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer  
Sport & Leisure Development

Chichester District Council Tel: 01243 53 4857

**The Governing Body and WSCC do not support or recommend the advice, products or services offered nor the organizations offering them. Individuals should satisfy themselves on the suitability of any of the advice, products or services and on the nature and standing of these organisations**