

The Annual Village Report 2013-14



For Birling Gap, Crowlink, East Dean and Friston

May 2014

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Community Bus Service 41

The Parish Council sponsors the weekly East Dean and Friston shopping bus Service 41 provided by Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd (CCB). The service has been running three return shopping trips from Eastbourne to East Dean since October 2010. The service started with a Tuesday run and in April 2013 a Thursday service was introduced, albeit at slightly different times to the Tuesday schedule. Recently, the Council agreed some slight changes to the timetable effective from April 2014 so that the services on both days are now the same. The latest timetable, which also takes in Jevington and Wannock, is on the Village Hall and Parish Council noticeboards, and on the Parish Council website (which also provides a link to all the CCB bus routes).

Passenger numbers continue to grow and during 2013/14 over 2,250 passenger journeys were undertaken averaging 43 one-way passenger journeys each week. The bus picks up and drops off anywhere around the village, just hail the bus or ring the bell if you are a passenger, and it will stop anywhere provided it is safe to do so. It's like a taxi service – but without the related cost.

The usual Christmas bus run was again held with revellers being taken to and from the Downs Golf Club for a festive lunch, and a jolly good time was had by all. Owing to the demand, an extra bus was laid on courtesy of CCB.

The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme Passes are accepted on all CCB services during the off-peak times. The Parish Council will continue to support the Service 41 during 2014/15.

*Stewart Fuller
Councillor and CCB Driver*

Community Watch

This organisation became active in February 2012. Its aim is to encourage neighbours to help neighbours by putting those who need help in touch with those who might give it. The sort of help that can be provided ranges from feeding the cat to obtaining an urgent prescription from the chemist. Community Watch is an informal organisation managed by a small working group consisting of representatives from the Parish Council, the Residents' Association, St Wilfred's Hospice, the Church and Downland Heartstart.

Since we started we estimate that our 20 or so volunteers have performed about 200 'tasks' – the majority of these have been giving lifts to people. But many of these 'tasks' go unrecorded and we never hear about them. The fact is that once we have organised contact between the helper and the person in need they then continue to make their own arrangement – without us knowing – which is great and just as it should be.

To describe these activities as 'tasks' is misleading as both the giver and the receiver get pleasure out of the contact. No charge is made. If a person needs help with something – even changing a light bulb – they just phone one of three local numbers (423311 or 423101 or 423484) and they will then be put in touch with somebody who can help – preferably somebody who lives nearby. This system removes any reluctance that people might have in asking a neighbour for help themselves and it is strictly confidential.

Rob Page, Volunteer

Downland Heartstart

Downland Heartstart was launched in December 2008. It is a registered charity whose Objective is to provide early first response by trained Community First Responders (CFRs) to local medical emergencies at the request of the South East Coast Ambulance Service. The objective is achieved in the following ways

- by recruiting CFRs and arranging training
- by raising funds to provide equipment for CFRs
- by promoting public awareness of the scheme

Since our CFRs went 'live' in December 2009 they have dealt with 372 medical emergencies. But when we started we had 9 CFRs although four of these worked in pairs so there were in fact 7. Now there are 5 fully trained, enthusiastic and committed CFRs, all of whom are volunteers, all of whom have other commitments and some of whom are employed.

During the year ended 31st March 2014 our CFRs have dealt with 46 'shouts'. The average response time to those in the village is about 2 minutes but of course it takes longer to get to Birling Gap or Crowlink, or when a casualty is lost on the Downs. On average our CFR arrived over 9 minutes before the ambulance crew. This is particularly significant in the case of heart attacks and strokes when speed of treatment is vital.

The number of shouts is lower than last year when there were 69. This is mainly because the Ambulance service has adopted a new system whereby not all 999 cases are dealt with by an ambulance or paramedic and in which case a CFR would not be called upon.

Our finances are in good order and we have an excellent team of CFRs. We would like more people to volunteer to be trained as one to enable us to provide better cover.

Rob Page, Hon. Secretary

East Dean & Friston Bowling Club

This year our Club, formed in 1936, is enjoying its 78th Playing Season. Our home fixtures are played on a charming small tree-lined village bowling green in a secluded spot, against a backdrop of Pavilion and seating area and with views towards Belle Tout Lighthouse and the sea. Last year we enjoyed a winning season, and a warm welcome awaits new members.

Gerald Sweatman, Chairman

East Dean & Friston Local History Group



The East Dean and Friston Local History Group continues to enjoy a healthy membership, attracting a steady flow of new members and visitors. The 10 monthly talks are the staple diet, inviting firm-favourites and new speakers to give a very varied range of local history talks. Our popular outings included a walk round the Meads, led by John Surtees, and a visit to Hastings to have a ride on the Victorian cliff railway and view its engine room, with David Cooper. There are now over 40 booklets published and written by the ED&F Local History Group, mostly about the history of our village but occasionally they include wider horizons. There is also a disc of poems, written and read by the late William Armiger, about the village and its inhabitants from the turn of the century. We are indebted to many local residents who allow us to scan or archive material relating to the village and its inhabitants. Preparations are now in hand for our two yearly 'Photographic Memories' in September - a day event open to all, displaying our extensive archives and with a chance to meet local historians. We also have a small library of history books, situated in the hall. This last year saw the retirement of two long-standing committee members - treasurer Jolyon Fyfield and chairman Graham Hodgson. We are pleased to welcome Linda Keller as our new treasurer and Esther Worsfold as our new chairman. If you have any interest in local history you would be very welcome at one of our meetings, either as a visitor or a new member.

Lloyd Brunt

East Dean and Friston Parish Magazine

Although the Parish Magazine has gone through several metamorphoses since it was first launched in January 1903 as The Jevington, East Dean and Friston Church Magazine, its purpose remains at heart the same. Produced by the Church for the parish, it reflects not only Church activity but holds a mirror up to life in East Dean and Friston. There is so much of importance and value going on here that it deserves the widest possible audience, so the magazine is distributed free of charge to 920 homes and business premises, as well as to many no longer living here. We are pleased that we can also help publicise the work of the Parish Council, the Residents' Association and other key organisations who work so hard for our good.

Thanks to donations and to the hard work of our advertising manager, largely promoting local businesses, we are on the whole able to cover rising costs and do not have the constant worries that dogged earlier editors. We are grateful, too, to the volunteers who collect and deliver the magazine each month. Without their gift of time the magazine could not flourish.

There can be few places more blessed with such a rich variety of activities and with such potential for lively and interesting contributions, both literary and photographic. With your support the magazine should continue to enlighten, inform and entertain, and serve as an invaluable archive of village life.

Christine Jeffery, Editor

East Dean & Friston Residents' Association

The Association has been extremely busy this year and space constraints only allow for the briefest details. Given our wide brief we become involved in many things such as: Community Watch, where we try to help the more vulnerable residents; working closely with the local Police and Neighbourhood Watch team on scams and personal safety issues; organising a local Team Grit whereby salt is distributed to around 60 volunteers in the village to ensure that most of the local roads are kept passable after winter snowfalls; the replacement of all the street name signs; attending the monthly Parish Council planning meetings and expressing views on planning applications.

In addition and worthy of specific mention is:

Waste Collection Service

No Newsletter from us would be complete without mentioning the disastrous start to the transfer of waste collection by Wealden District Council to Kier Environmental Services. The Association will probably be best remembered in 2013 for its work in resolving the problems when this new service was introduced which was very badly managed from the start and created huge discontent for residents. As a result of daily contacts with senior management at both Kier and Wealden District Council, we were able to arrange a personal visit to the village by the Managing Director of Kier. The tour of the village highlighted the problems which were then swiftly resolved and, by and large, the new contract is now working well.

Village e-mail Circulation List

Probably the biggest single innovation by the Association in many years was the introduction of a village email circulation list. With over 400 subscribers this has been a most effective way of communicating with residents. The immediacy of this medium has proved most effective and has been used successfully to report road closures, break-ins, cold calling scams, waste collection problems to mention just a few. If you would like to receive these notifications and Public Service notices then please email your address to the Association, edfresidentsassociation@gmail.com. Rest assured any e-mails sent will only show your address as the blind copy facility (bcc) is used.

Village Fete

The Association will this year be organising the annual village fete, which will be held on Saturday 12th July. It will be held for the first time on the Greensward and will be expanded and all local clubs and societies have been invited to take a stand. The event is very much child related and there will be many attractions including Punch and Judy, children's races, and many other exciting games and activities for all the family. A beer tent and hot dog stall will provide sustenance for hungry and thirsty participants. It is hoped this will be a good family day out and also provide an opportunity to meet the various local organisations. If you would like to take a stand please contact the event manager, Peter Hobbs on 422296.

Jubilee Tree and crocuses

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee we planted a flowering cherry tree on the Greensward this year as well as replacing a number of fallen trees. We have also planted over 1,000 purple crocuses

at the lower end of The Greensward which were generously donated by the Rotary Club of Eastbourne Sovereign.

Welcome Packs

We deliver Welcome Packs to new residents. These packs give details of clubs and organisations, shops and restaurants and information on the Village Hall. This has been much appreciated, so if you are aware of anyone new moving into a home near you, please let us know via the email on this letter heading or telephone Lynda Dean on 422486. If you run a local club or society and would like us to include an A5 leaflet giving details of what, where and when, then please let us know and we shall be happy to include details in the pack.

Village Volunteers

From time to time we need to call upon volunteers to help with community events, such as fund raising for the village hall, emergencies in the village, team grit, distribution of leaflets, stewarding for Bonfire Night and other events such as the annual Jazz BBQ. There is no obligation and no committee work is involved, we'll just let you know when there is a need and if you can help, then that's great. Register your email and contact number with us at our email address: edfresidentsassociation@gmail.com

Cold Calling Zone

East Dean & Friston has been designated a 'No Cold Calling Zone' and there are signs at the entrances to the village, by Gore Farm Cottages and also at the beginning of Gilberts Drive, which clearly state this. East Sussex County Council Trading Standards are partners in the scheme with the Police. Any infringement should be passed to Trading Standards officers by calling the Rapid Response Team on 01323 463430 or by dialling 101 for the Police as callers are committing a crime under the Consumer Protection Act 2008.

Stones or logs to protect grass verges

Whilst we fully understand the desire to protect grass verges from impatient drivers, it is right that we report a case where a resident stepped out of a parked vehicle directly on to a large stone and then fell back onto another, seriously injuring her back which required hospital treatment. We simply ask that you balance the need for verge protection against protecting a life. There is also the problem of disruption and delay to emergency vehicles which has been caused in the past. *Grass can be replaced, a life cannot.*

Subscription

We have maintained the low subscription rates for many years but inevitably costs continue to rise. As volunteers we also have the need for public liability and personal indemnity insurance which is expensive and, unfortunately we need to increase our subscriptions. Given that the Association now represents and works for the whole village the Committee considers that it is no longer appropriate to offer discounted membership to those not living on the Downland Estate and, accordingly, from 1st April, there will be a single membership cost. The committee has agreed that the annual subscription should now be increased to £5 per person (£10 per couple). We hope that you will all still feel that this very low subscription represents good value and that you will still support our activities.

And finally... I would like to thank all those residents who take the trouble to respond to my e-mails and for all the kind words of support that I and my colleagues have received over the last twelve months. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your views at the Village Meeting on Monday 19th May and at the Association AGM on Thursday 24th July.

Roy Webb, Chairman

East Dean & Friston Royal British Legion

I represent the local Branch of The Royal British Legion as their Welfare Officer.

Central to our work is the charitable and welfare work. The Legion is called upon for help hundreds of thousands of times every year. Your local branch is part of that net of knowledge and we want to help. We are a non-political organisation whose reason for being is to help the ex-Service community past and present. We are able to offer help and expert advice where it is needed.

In your East Dean & Friston branch we have fun too - take the Derby supper. Held every May, we meet in the Village Hall to attempt to win a Derby horse and then trust it goes on to win. The evening is full of fun and laughter including a quiz and a lovely supper. We are taking an active part in the Village Fete, and in September we have an annual Bowls Match before our Annual Dinner held at the Eastbourne Downs Golf Club.

We are open and ready for even more exciting things to do - however, we need you.

Peter Foster, Welfare Officer

I am the Membership Secretary of our local Branch.

Many people believe that the RBL is a charitable organisation only for people who have served in any of the three armed services, this is not so. Anyone can join and become a supporter.

We have all heard of Help for Heroes, and what a wonderful charity that is. Help for Heroes is funding and building three rehabilitation centres around the country for disabled war veterans, but what most people do not realise is that it will be the RBL who will then finance their running costs for ever after. This is a very major task on top of all the help they already give to ex-servicemen and their families.

Annual membership is only £14 to support this very worthy cause. Please contact me and I would be delighted to sign you up and welcome you to our Branch.

Sue Hobbs, Membership Secretary

East Dean & Friston Village Fete 2014

Over the past 10 years or so, the East Dean & Friston Branch of the Royal British Legion have organised our annual Fete on the Village Green. Due to an ageing Committee and the hard work that is involved they have now reluctantly decided to give up running this event. Our Parish Council has agreed that they may consider organising the Village Fete in 2015. However, in order to continue this long running annual village tradition, a select Fete Planning Committee has been recruited and formed under the

patronage of The Residents' Association and they will now be organising the Village Fete this year to be held on **The Greensward on Saturday 12th July 2014, from 1.00pm to 5.00pm, come rain or come shine!**

It is hoped that many residents, their family, friends and children will once again want to join in and have a fun afternoon. The Committee have already organised the usual activities, namely Punch & Judy shows, the RBL Concert Band from Little Common, children's races, and tug of wars. Additionally, there will be numerous other attractions and traditional games to be played, with some rather quirky events like Splat the Rat and Tossing the Haggis, and even possibly a Stool-ball match after the Fete has formally finished at 5pm. Many of these activities will be run by various village organisations, clubs and societies raising much needed funds for their own use. Micheldene WI will be providing afternoon tea & cakes, the Beachy Head Brewery will be selling beer & wine, and the RBL hot dog stand will be preparing food for those in need of some other form of nourishment. A Bouncy Castle and large slide may well make an appearance for the more energetic youngsters to let off some steam. However, no event like this could take place without a major sponsor, and we are therefore most grateful to local resident Mark Lambird and his Eastbourne Motoring Centre for enthusiastically supporting our Fete.

So put Saturday 12th July in the diaries and come down to The Greensward for an enjoyable fun afternoon where money can be spent supporting your local organisations, clubs and societies.

Peter Hobbs - Committee Chairman

Micheldene Women's Institute

Micheldene is the larger of the village's two Women's Institutes, and we meet on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Membership has increased over the past year and now stands at over 50, with several new members joining since January.

As well as our monthly talks ranging from hypnotherapy to town criers we are involved in many other events throughout the year, some regular and some one-offs. Last October we hosted a Speakers' Selection for the East Sussex Federation of WIs where we provided lunches in the Village Hall for almost 100 delegates from all over the county. At our annual village supper for older residents in June, guests enjoyed a barbecue followed by some gentle country dancing. Our cake-baking skills were called upon in May when we provided afternoon tea for a group of local retired military policemen following their annual church service, and again in July when we did tea and cakes for the Village Fete. The Saturday before Easter is always a busy time for us when we stage our Spring Fayre, with stalls groaning with cakes, plants, books, crafts, tombola and raffle prizes. In addition to our well-established monthly book-club we have recently started a monthly lunch-club, trying out local restaurants, pubs and cafes.

Organisation of meetings and events is done by the current Committee of eight members under the leadership of President Jan Foster. We rely on the continuing goodwill of all our members to help out by shopping, baking, washing-up, putting out chairs and clearing away, selecting speakers, arranging outings, decorating the hall, running raffles and coming up with new ideas.

We welcome visitors and new members, so if you'd like to join us please give me a ring on 423909 or email chrisfretten1@hotmail.co.uk

Christine Holliday, Secretary

The National Trust

The last twelve months have seen a great deal of change at Birling Gap. This time last year it was still a building site but the café and shop were completed and opened in July 2013 and the full launch of the visitor centre happens on May 8th this year. We have also worked closely with Wealden DC to install a new longer bridge on to the beach steps.

January and February saw seven years of erosion in just two months and for a short time the return of Heras panels and closed beach. We had to take down the sun lounge part of the café and the safety boat building as they became too close to the cliff edge. The work we have done at improving the visitor facilities has meant that we have been able to remain open throughout the winter and that access to the beach has been closed for as short a time as possible. The speed of the erosion this year has been exceptional and means we need to start to think ahead about how we continue to adapt to the changing landscape and continue to offer the visitor facilities at Birling Gap – we would welcome the thoughts of the local community to help us with this planning.

In January of this year we completed the purchase of Gayle's Farm which is a great addition to our downland properties at Birling Gap and Crowlink. We have teams due in this summer to survey the flora, fauna and archaeology of the land there, and then we are looking to improve access across the farm next year.

We are entering the third year of our HLS agreements on Crowlink and Belle Tout. This agri-environment scheme has provided funding which has helped us manage this downland by reducing the amount of scrub and grazing Exmoor Ponies on Belle Tout which will benefit this species rich grassland.

Adrian Harrison

REPORT OF the PARISH COUNCIL

Introduction by the Chairman

Even though nothing untoward has occurred in the last twelve months it has been a busy year for the Parish Council. Just keeping up with the numerous governmental, county council, district council and national park reports and initiatives takes a lot of time.

The November 5th Bonfire & Fireworks event went well. A large number of people attended and the weather was fine (a report is given on page 13).

The Parish Council survey was well received and a lot of useful information was obtained. The resulting actions will be explained during the Annual Village Meeting.

One of the major changes impacting the parish (and many others) during the year was the introduction of the new arrangements for the collection of waste and recyclable materials. It was a significant change and we all agree that at the start it was something of a debacle owing to the lack of full and detailed planning. Although the Parish Council received few complaints they nevertheless maintained close contact with Wealden District Council during the transition and met with officials who managed the new contract. To some small extent our involvement led to the Community Dividend which is being funded by Kier; we'll hear more about that later in 2014. We're pleased to see that the new arrangements seem

to have settled down with a high percentage of first time collections, and the start of savings to the tax payer.

In addition to the routine meetings of our various committees (please see separate reports) we have attended meetings with the County Council, the District Council, the South Downs National Park Authority, the Wealden District Association of Local Councils, the Safer Wealden Partnership, the Residents' Association, the Village Hall Trust, the National Trust, the Birling Gap Safety Boat (sadly now folded) and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This council is three quarters through its current four year term. The term started in May 2011 with only three councillors when there should have been nine. But numbers quickly grew and we have maintained a full complement for most of the time and there are currently no vacancies. But this should not deter people from showing an interest in this fulfilling work so that they can be prepared to stand for election in May 2015.

I am grateful to all our Parish Councillors for the work that they have done and for the support of our District Councillor Charles Peck, our County Councillor Steven Shing, the Residents' Association, the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Trust.

Each May the Parish Council elects its Chairman for the forthcoming year but I have decided not to stand for election this time, although I will remain on the Council. There are several hardworking and competent people who can take my place and I will give whoever is elected as much encouragement and support as they have given me during the last three years. Lastly, I pay tribute to the Parish Clerk – Dr Katrina Larkin – without whom we might have veered from the path of democracy, financial diligence, transparency, good grammar and decent spelling.

Councillor Rob Page, Chairman

(a) Report of the Planning Committee

The Committee met ten times during the year to consider 27 Planning Applications and other planning related matters. A summary of Planning Applications considered are shown in the *ON-LINE LIBRARY* on the Council website. The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is the Planning Authority for the area and the Parish Council is a statutory consultee and, owing to its local knowledge, is asked to comment on all planning applications within the Parish, which lies wholly within the National Park. In making comments the Committee takes account of individual resident representations and those of the Residents' Association, and is always mindful of the standards within the *ED&F Village Design Statement (VDS)*.

During the year an Advisory Working Group was set up to review and update the VDS which was prepared some years ago. The SDNPA have confirmed that they can adopt the VDS as a *Supplementary Planning Document* if it is updated and in accord with their general guidelines. This will then give VDS design policies a weight that is potentially equal to the planning policies of the SDNPA. The Working Group's latest updated draft is well advanced and clearly on target for completion by the end of 2014. It will then be submitted to SDNP for inclusion within the framework of their overall plan, a draft of which is scheduled for early 2015.

The *Local Plan* is currently the main planning policy document, originated by Wealden DC and subsequently adopted by the SDNPA, which states the maximum number of new homes which can be built in the District and the Park. For ED&F it is only ten new homes by 2027. During the year the High Court dismissed a challenge to the *Local Plan* by a consortium of landowners and developers which, if successful, might have removed the building limits. The claimants subsequently sought leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal and this was also refused by the High Court. However, leave has now been sought direct to the Court of Appeal, and we are looking at June 2014 at the earliest for any decision on this latest action by the landowners/developers. The decision will be on whether to permit an appeal - not the appeal itself. If permission is granted, the case will then be listed in the Court of Appeal calendar. We'll keep residents updated during 2014/15.

As with all Council meetings, the Planning Committee agendas and minutes appear on the Council noticeboard in Downlands Way and on the Council website. All meetings start with a Public Session where residents may contribute by way of statements and/or questions or simply by listening in. During the year 44 members of the public attended the meetings. Do come along sometime.

Councillor Stewart Fuller, Chair

(b) Report of the Recreation Ground Committee

The recreation ground continues to be well maintained. The wooden bollards at the perimeter of the ground have been concreted in to prevent their removal, thus not allowing unwanted vehicular access. The locks on the access gate to the ground and pavilion have been changed from key operated padlocks to combination locks. An additional memorial seat has been donated and is currently in the pavilion awaiting fixing alongside other seats at recreation ground. The annual Bonfire night celebrations were held very successfully on the recreation ground in November. Clearance of the site was carried out very promptly following the event.

A plan to refurbish and update the pavilion has been drawn up and quotes obtained for the cost of carrying out these works. It is intended to carry out the works in stages as and when there are sufficient funds. Quotes have also been obtained to carry out an asbestos survey and subsequently an asbestos register. The survey will be carried out within the next few weeks. Revised rates for hiring the pavilion have been agreed and are now in place.

A new net and posts have been purchased for the tennis court and it is planned to obtain a new basketball hoop and net during this financial year. The play and activity area is well used and continues to be maintained and inspected on a regular basis.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the Recreation Ground Committee and others who have contributed to the maintenance and upkeep of the recreation ground and pavilion throughout the year.

Councillor John Hine, Chair of the Committee

(c) Report of the Rights of Way Committee

Another busy and satisfying year with a very pro-active and committed ROW team.

We have undertaken routine repair and maintenance of the numerous footpaths and bridleways and with the help of the Church Pathfinder group trimmed and cleared overhanging shrubs and brambles to a number of the more congested footpaths. We have recently also bark chipped a number of footpaths that have become muddy and slippery over the very wet winter period this year.

We have successfully managed our application for the Recreation Ground to be registered as a QEII Field in Trust which gives it even greater protection.

With the support of the South Downs National Park and the Sustainable Communities Fund we have successfully completed the refurbishment and rejuvenation of Friston Pond and removed the all invasive *Crassula* and water lilies as well as adding the dipping platform and information boards for the many visitors to the area.

We have also completed and published our first 3 walking maps of the area, short, medium and long routes, which are available in the local stores and coffee shops as well as being featured on the SDNPA website from where they can be downloaded. Many thanks to Flora Richards for all her hard work in walking the routes and writing up the descriptions.

Through our regular meetings with East Sussex County Council we continue to play a proactive role in keeping our paths and verges strimmed and cut as well as ensuring that our roads including pot holes are attended to on a timely basis.

My personal thanks and appreciation to the members of the Rights of Way Committee, therefore, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Councillor Phillip Hill, Chair of the Committee

(d) Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Committee met four times during the year. Its responsibilities include preparing the financial budget and plans, and ensuring associated monthly reporting to Council, organising the mowing contract, HR issues, and maintenance of various Council assets including the Downlands Way car park and pavements, Friston Church car park, the War Memorial, Flag Pole and Council Noticeboards.

During the year arrangements were made to close the Old Village Hall Trust and transfer the balance held to help pay down the loans taken out in 1999 to assist with the construction of the present village hall. In addition to the funds from the OVHT the council made an additional payment of £22.6k to fully clear the loans. At the year end the council was debt free.

For the year the Council recorded a cash deficit of £13.5k. However, if the above debt pay-down transactions are excluded there was a cash surplus of £9.1k. Year-end cash at bank (reserves) stood at £19.4k and this is being carried forward to help meet the approved budgeted deficit of £4.8k for 2014/15. The result for the year is detailed in the appendix.

In approving next year's budget, there has now been **no** increase in the precept for five consecutive years.

At the end of 2012/13 the Pavilion was major item of discussion. During 2013/14 it was decided not to proceed with a replacement or re-siting of the building but to carry out a refurbishment programme on the existing structure. Funds of £5k are included in the plans for each of the next two years, falling to £2k pa thereafter.

During the year the Council made a successful pre-grant application for repairs to the War Memorial on the Village Green. However, before works could be initiated the question of ownership of the memorial was raised (Council or Gilbert Estate) and currently this issue has not been resolved. Discussions and reviews continue into 2014/15.

Access to the Council's website continues to grow with >25k pages viewed during the year. *Rendezvous*, the Council's bi-monthly newsletter, had its first anniversary in November, and by the year-end there had been nine issues - all of which are available from the *ON-LINE LIBRARY*. Residents' ideas for topics to be included in either or both the website and the newsletter are always welcome.

As with all Council meetings, the Finance and General Purposes Committee agendas and minutes appear on the Council noticeboard in Downlands Way and on the Council website. All meetings start with a Public Session where residents may contribute by way of statements and/or questions or simply by listening in, so do come along sometime.

Councillor Stewart Fuller, Chair

(e) Village Events Committee

The Committee met three times during the year, in June, August and November. Its main tasks were to organise the 2013 Bonfire event, and the 2014 Annual Village Meeting.

The Bonfire was, as ever, a hugely popular event. I would especially like to thank Mr Paul Johnson and Councillor Phill Hill, who both put a great deal of work into the preparations, and the team of bonfire enthusiasts who work as marshalls on the night. Their work is vital to the staging of a safe and smooth-running event. Volunteers to join their ranks are always more than welcome. This year the team of helpers was joined by local volunteer First Aiders whose input was also invaluable. Clearing up after the event is an unglamorous but essential finale and this year it was completed without a hitch.

The Parish Council pays up front for this event, but thanks to generous sponsorship from a number of local businesses, led by our principal sponsor Emslie & Tarrant, and from donations made by residents on the night, a profit can be made. This year the weather was kind, and a profit was made, so the Council will pass on a donation to a charity from the proceeds.

A decision was made to shift the Annual Village Meeting in 2014 from March to May, so as to be able to report on the financial year just concluded, as most parishes do. The Council will see how it goes, and before deciding on a permanent change.

Councillor Tim Bryant, Chair

East Dean and Friston Parish Council - 2013/14 Actual

Appendix 1

Receipts		68,779
Payments		
Council Office	15,033	
Parish Liabilities	42,723	
General Administration	3,872	
Rights of Way	4,171	
Recreation Ground	6,673	
S137 Benefits	6,725	
VAT on Payments	3,070	
		82,267
Deficit for the Year		(13,488)
Opening Reserves		32,848
Closing Reserves		19,360

General Administration	
Parish On-line	20
Public Relations	1,180
Noticeboards	152
Subscriptions	27
Village Events	109
Councillors' Expenses	72
Memorial seat	793
Cuckmere Community Bus	1,277
Other/provision	242
Total General Administration	3,872

RECEIPTS	
Precept	40,092
Support Grant	798
Bank Interest	6
Pavilion hires	521
Grants/donations	2,330
Downlands Way Maintenance	62
Village Hall Rent	323
Bonfire	4,309
Receipt from OVHT	13,472
Other	181
VAT on Receipts / Reclaims	6,685
TOTAL RECEIPTS	68,779

Rights of Way	
Friston Pond - Maintenance	993
Bus Shelters - cleaning	600
Bus Shelters - materials	200
Bins	246
General Maintenance	447
Mowing Council Owned Greens etc	1,685
Total Rights of Way	4,171

PAYMENTS	
Council Office	
Clerk's Salary (gross)	12,534
Employer's NICS	668
Travel and Course Expenses	419
Audit Fees	430
Office & Computer Allowance	889
Postage, Printing and Stationery	93
Total Council Office	15,033

Recreation Ground	
a) Pavilion	
Caretaker's & Cleaner's Wages	173
Winterisation	40
Utilities	306
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	23
General Maintenance	2,410
Total a) Pavilion	2,952
b) Sports Ground & Play Area	
General Maintenance	1,074
ROSPA Inspections	80
Mowing Recreation Ground	2,090
Wheelie Bins	477
Total b) Sports Ground and Play Area	3,721
Total Recreation Ground	6,673

Parish Liabilities	
Insurances	1,622
Annual Loan repayment	3,475
Terminal Loan Repayment	36,036
Village Hall Rent	323
SALC Subs	478
Memorial Maintenance	725
other	64
Total Parish Liabilities	42,723

Benefit of the Area (S137)	
Bonfire	3,169
Mowing Privately Owned Greens	2,250
Miscellaneous	1,306
Total Benefit of the Area (S137)	6,725