

The Annual Village Report

2012-13



For Birling Gap, Crowlink, East Dean and Friston

March 2013

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Birling Gap Safety Boat Association

Registered Charity No. 290115

As always we are small in numbers but big on enthusiasm, with some young crewmembers spending as much time as they can manning the boat house during the season.

We are still trying to find a suitable venue for us to run our Quiz and Bingo nights in the local area and come up with new ideas to raise some funds to cover the ever increasing cost of running the Safety Boat.

This last year has been quite reasonable, mainly because of the cold wet weather. The Open day last Easter was a washout and every thanks must go to everyone who tried their best to make the day work, including the Coast Guard helicopter and Newhaven Lifeboat who visited but were then called out on a shout.

Many thanks to everyone for their donations this year and we must thank the Hikers Rest and The Tiger for their continued support by having one of our boxes in their establishments. Unfortunately some of our other charity boxes have been stolen over this last year.

The Boathouse roof has taken a beating this winter and it will need replacing this season and there has been a small cliff fall at the end of the rails. It may be time to think about being able to move further back from the edge of the cliff.

We are always looking for new members to sit in sun and talk to the visitors we get in the summer and help with the running of the Boathouse or give a hand with the repairs.

(The younger crew are the ones who can do the getting wet bit!).

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Lamberth, Secretary

Community Bus Service 41

The Parish Council sponsors the weekly East Dean and Friston shopping bus Service 41 provided by the Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd (CCB). The service provides three return trips from Eastbourne to East Dean every Tuesday. 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.

Timetables for the Service 41 are 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).

The Service 41 started in October 2010 and passenger numbers continue to steadily increase. During 2012 over 1,600 passenger journeys were undertaken averaging 31 one-way passenger journeys every Tuesday, an increase of 10% over 2011. The Parish Council will continue to support the service during 2013.

CCB is currently considering extending the Thursday Eastbourne/Jevington Service 43 so it travels around East Dean and Friston on its way from/to Eastbourne. If this comes about it will start during April 2013. We will keep you posted.

The usual December bus run was again arranged by Vic Minards with revellers being taken to and from Wetherspoons for Christmas lunch, and a jolly good time was had by all.

The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme Passes are accepted on all CCB services.

*Stewart Fuller
Parish Councillor and CCB Driver*

Community Watch

The main objective of this informal organisation is to encourage neighbours to help neighbours. It is hoped to achieve this by putting those who need some sort of help in touch with those willing to assist in one way or another.

The kind of tasks which might be undertaken include visiting a housebound person, giving a lift to a GP or collecting a prescription, walking the dog/ feeding the cat etc.

However, our volunteers will not be asked to provide care or become involved with another person's money, pensions or financial affairs.

Since the group became active in February 2012 there has been, on average, about one request for help each week the majority being requests for lifts

The organisation was launched following a Parish Council initiative and the Council continues to support and encourage its activities as does the Residents' Association and the Church. Our Community First Responders were also anxious that a service of this kind might be available.

We are grateful to our volunteers for providing this valuable service.

Christine Jeffery

Downland Heartstart

Since we started in December 2009 our Community First Responders have dealt with 330 emergencies. During the past year - 1st March 2012 to 28th February 2013 - there have been 69 calls and the average response time has been (Call to on site) 6 minutes 7 seconds. The average time that the Responder is on site before the Ambulance/Paramedic is 10 minutes 23 seconds and there have been only 11 instances where the Paramedic or Ambulance arrived before our Responder. There have been 10 instances when our Responders have been stood down before arriving at the patient.

The Responders have not attended as many 'shouts' in the last twelve months as in previous years. There are two reasons for this. (1) The ambulance service now operates a triage system whereby a 999 call will not always be dealt with by sending out a paramedic or an ambulance. Instead the caller may be asked to contact their own GP or take themselves to hospital. So, if an ambulance or paramedic is not sent, nor are our Responders. (2) There are now five active Responders and there used to be nine. Clearly the amount of time that they can cover between them is limited and so there are cases when none are on duty when a local medical emergency arises. Two volunteers are awaiting training but more people are needed to volunteer before coverage improves. Finances are in good shape and donations continue to be received from time to time.

*Flora Richards
Team Leader*

East Dean & Friston Bowling Club

The Club was founded in 1936, and its members now await the start of play on 2nd May 2013 for our 77th Season of friendly but competitive bowling.

Looking back over last season, we had a membership turnover of about 10% in spite of which we managed a "break-even" season in terms of results which was a very satisfactory outcome as we introduced new members to match-play. Much early and mid-season playing time was lost to inclement weather.

For this coming 2013 Season our facilities in terms of buildings and green maintenance are the best they have ever been, and we look forward to contesting over 30 Matches against other Clubs together with a number of our own Club Competitions.

We play at a secluded tree-lined green up Little Lane off Upper Street, East Dean, and always welcome new members.

Gerald Sweatman, Hon. Secretary.

East Dean & Friston Cricket Club

The Cricket Club enjoyed their most successful season since joining the East Sussex League back in 2007, in winning Division 4. They were also victorious in winning the Eastbourne evening knockout tournament last July by beating Eastbourne CC at the Saffrons. In addition they were semi-finalists in the Intersport Cup, narrowly losing to the eventual winners Lewes St Michael.

The Saturday XI played sixteen league matches during 2012, of which ten were won, three drawn and just three defeats and two games either abandoned or postponed due to bad weather. The Sunday XI played sixteen games and were unfortunate victims of very poor

weather during April and May with eight games being postponed for the wet conditions or teams were failing to raise a side.

We are still fortunate to have many local businesses who have sponsored the club or who have given contributions which has assisted in the printing of the fixture cards, on-going maintenance to the cricket square, mowing equipment and my personal thanks goes to every one of them. At the club AGM in November Mr Graham Primett accepted the role of our new President and Mark Pankhurst will take on the captaincy of the Sunday XI, otherwise the 2012 committee remains the same for 2013.

We wish the club the best of luck in 2013 when they will compete at their highest level yet in division 3.

David Windsor, Chairman

East Dean & Friston Gardening Club

The following is a summary of the activities of the Club during 2012.

On the second Friday of each month, excluding January and August, we held a meeting in the Village Hall with outside speakers giving well illustrated talks on gardening and worldwide gardens-related subjects. (Our Annual General Meeting was held in January and we have no meeting in August).

In February we held our Annual Lunch at the Hydro Hotel with nearly one hundred members and guests attending. The money raised from the raffle was donated to the Eastbourne Committee for Cancer Research UK.

The Club provided a replacement seat on the Greensward as a contribution to the village's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. We also provided, and spread, shingle over the large shrubbery in front of the Village Hall.

The annual Spring Holiday this year was in May, with a lively group going to Lanzarote.

In July a "Sunday lunchtime drinks party" was held in the garden of one of our members.

Three day trips were organised during the year, to Pashley Manor Tulip Festival and Merriments Garden in April, Hinton Ampner House and Garden in July and RHS Wisley in September.

In addition, members living in East Dean and Friston were able to order garden supplies (top-soil, Eco-compost and mulch) through the Club in Spring and Autumn which was subsequently delivered to their addresses.

Jerry Gottlieb, Hon. Secretary

East Dean & Friston Local History Group

2012 was another productive and stimulating year for our history group. Our monthly talks were well received by an audience of members and visitors, averaging about 80. These talks ranged from the restoration of the old Hastings cliff railway to the sad story of Hellingly Hospital and, on a lighter note, the techniques used in early visiting cards. Agriculture, prisons, battles and archaeology were also covered by our speakers. A couple of visits to places of interest were well received, and we had a very successful “open day” when our extensive archives were open to the public. Not only did many comment on how fascinating they were but we also made a profit for our club funds. To round off the year we had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Lansdowne hotel in Eastbourne.

Our publications continue to be popular with over 1200 history booklets being sold from our series, currently totalling 38 titles.

Membership is around 200, with most coming from our local parish, but a few travel further from Seaford, Eastbourne, Willingdon, Polegate, Hassocks, Hailsham and Newhaven!

Our programme for 2013 of events and meetings promises to be just as absorbing. You can join us at one of our monthly meetings at the village hall – visitors and new members are welcome. Notices are posted throughout the village or contact Lloyd & Mary Brunt at 01323 423573 for more details.

Lloyd Brunt

East Dean & Friston Residents' Association

The Greensward: The last six months have been spent acquiring the Greensward for the village and examining options for its future ownership. Some hard work, enormous support and significant donations meant we were able to complete the initial purchase within a tight timeframe and, as we had promised, voting papers were delivered in December to 850 households within the parish to decide the way forward. 202 replies were received. 174 votes were in favour of transferring the land into a Company Limited by Guarantee and only 10 votes were for a Common Trust. As a result of this vote, the Greensward has now been transferred into *East Dean Greensward Ltd*. In order to give maximum protection to the land a covenant has been put in place, which prevents the Greensward from being used for anything other than an open village green and specifically prohibits the land from being used for development of any kind.

On the lawyers' recommendation the Residents' Association will act as agent for the company on matters of general management and maintenance of the Greensward and the Parish Council has agreed to continue the tree pruning and grass cutting subject to a 50% donation from the Association. This arrangement means that East Dean Greensward Limited will be a dormant company; we are pleased to report that many village freeholders have accepted the invitation to become members. In the event of unforeseen circumstances (e.g. the highly unlikely demise of the Residents' Association) the Company can easily

become active to continue with all management matters. Solicitors have assured us that the Association has taken all reasonable steps to protect the Greensward in perpetuity for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Association is very pleased with the final outcome, which meets the twin objectives of acquiring the land for the community and prevents it from falling into the hands of The Crown or any government body. Congratulations to the whole village for a successful result!

Community Watch: We continue to have a representative on the committee. There are now 20 volunteers ready to provide assistance to anyone who needs help in the village.

Replacement Street Name Signs: Throughout the year Peter Foster and Ron Franklin organised the replacement of a further 6 white street name signs with the new green signs which are better quality and, we believe, are more in keeping with our village. We have just two signs left to install and that will complete this project. We are now considering if we are allowed to continue this work on the public road signs in the village and are discussing this with ESCC.

TeamGrit: Once again TeamGrit has been activated. We did not purchase any additional grit this year as sufficient stocks remained from last year. The team consists of around 50 volunteers and the committee would like to publicly thank all members for their willingness to participate in this initiative and for their hard work in keeping our most dangerous roads clear during the recent snow.

Jubilee Tree: Unfortunately it was not possible to find a suitable location to plant a wildflower garden and so we have planted a flowering cherry on the Greensward in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Collective buying of Energy: As you may recall I wrote to the big six energy companies in the hope that we could arrange a collective buying discount on the supply of energy to the village. Regrettably, none were interested and one firm even went so far as to say "under current regulatory constraints they were not permitted to offer preferential rates to groups of customers". They did, however, go on to say that collective agreements were high on their agenda and I shall continue to press on this issue. We have now contacted further energy companies.

Planning: Our Planning and Development sub-committee attended most of the Parish Council planning meetings and our views were expressed in respect of a number of applications. We believe that we have a part to play in minimising any adverse effects on neighbouring properties of unduly large or insensitively placed extensions. We do appreciate, of course, the need and the right of homeowners to improve their properties. My grateful thanks are due to Lynda Dean who has been most helpful in this area especially in resolving concerns over the possibility of development on the land at The Fridays.

Village e-mail Circulation List: The village e-mail circulation list continues to be popular and provides swift notification of "Public Service" announcements such as Police Newsletters, Road Works, Computer Scams, advice of Public Meetings etc. with over 370 addresses now held. If you would like to add your name to the list then please e-mail me at the new e-mail

address of the Association, edfresidentsassociation@gmail.com. Rest assured any e-mails sent will show your address only as the blind copy facility (bcc) is used.

Welcome Packs: We continue to 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 our Secretary, Christine Holliday know on 423909 and she will arrange for a pack to be delivered.

Vacancies: We have two vacancies on the committee, so if you feel passionate about the village, why not join us? We remain committed to helping residents in any way and we are always ready to listen to any issues of concern and we will do our best to help. Thank you for your support.

Roy Webb, Chairman

East Dean & Friston Short Mat Bowls Club

Short Mat bowls is now at the end of its thirteenth winter season of playing in East dean and Friston village Hall. It is played during the months of October to March in the large hall on two mats. It is a game easy to learn with few rules, with no dress code, other than flat shoes, and is open to any person living in East Dean and Friston. Tuition is given where required and we have sets of bowls available to all who come. There are no joining fees and a fixed fee is charged for each session attended. Two-hour sessions are played on Monday afternoon starting at 2.00 pm and Friday evenings starting at 7.30 pm. It is a fun game played in a very friendly manner. This season has again been another happy and friendly one for all who have been attending on Mondays and Fridays. If you are interested in playing, short mat bowls please contact Alan Robson on 01323 423299.

Alan L. Robson

East Dean & Friston Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show

Last year's Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show was held on August Bank Holiday Monday and was sponsored by Beachy Head. The show was a great success with over 450 exhibits with Cllr Stephen Shing presenting the prizes. The top award, the RHS Banksian Medal, was awarded to Patrick Coulcher. The children's section was also well supported; the aged 8 and under cup was won by Anna Branson and the 9-12 age group by Joshua Veitch.

This year's show will be held in the Village Hall on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 2013, and we look forward to all you gardeners exhibiting again. Last year many entered for the first time, so don't hold back - put your exhibit into the show.

Jeff Willcocks

The National Trust

It has been another busy year at Birling Gap with the planned demolition of the West Wing in summer 2012. This work is now complete and the next phases of development for the site are underway. The team are excited about the works to open an ice cream parlour by Easter 2013, a shop and extended cafe by August 2013 and then by Easter 2014 the new visitor centre. Our new garden which is being installed by the South Downs National Park Volunteer Ranger Service is nearing completion and we will be working with Kew at Wakehurst place to source coastal plants tolerant to the extreme conditions of the site. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum as we complete the various works in the coming year, please do bear with us.

Despite the weather in 2012 the cafe at Birling Gap attracted 100,000 people with a further 200,000 coming to the site. The countryside team also worked hard during 2012 to manage the chalk grassland and heathland, many may have seen the Exmoor ponies grazing Belle Tout for three months at the end of 2012: they have done a good job in helping the staff to control dominant grasses. We hope to see the ponies again in 2013.

Zara Luxford
Property Operations Manager, South Downs East

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Village Celebrations 2012

Probably like the Queen with the patriotic scenes that we saw from London last June in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee, we can now also reflect back on a special extended Bank Holiday weekend with memories of our very own village events.

Planning started on 5th October 2009 with a few of us gathered around a bottle of wine. The Planning Team then grew in numbers each time we met. TEAM 2012 was formed and by last March it numbered 18 excited members. We became reportable to the Parish Council and co-opted as part of their Events Sub-Committee. The Council granted us financial aid since most of the functions were open to the public and no charge could be made.

Additionally, two local residents provided much valued sponsorship, namely Maurice Horlock of Horlock & Holdcroft Financial Consultants from Uckfield for the Cocktail Party, and Mark Lambird Managing Director of the Eastbourne Motoring Centre Ltd for the Big Jubilee Lunch, with thanks to them both.

After a few meetings and many more bottles of wine, we formed a structure for our celebrations which we put to a Public Meeting here in our Small Hall a year before the big event. Many more people then became involved in addition to TEAM 2012, far too many to mention but I am most grateful for their help, particularly the army of helpers who distributed our Jubilee Programme throughout the village.

However may I thank again John Dann for his strenuous efforts in displaying the bunting around the Village Green and entrance to Village Green Lane; Sarah Drury and her Art Group

for the numerous Crowns on poles decoration that we used on every occasion; the First Responders who were on special duty for us over that weekend; and all those in the Village who decorated their houses in some way, with John Eve mounting the most patriotic display.

As is usual in our village, since we do like to party, we extended the celebration period and started a week earlier on Sunday 27th May with the East Dean School Reunion organised by Christine Fuller and Lois Pelecanos with over 70 former pupils attending, some travelling in from far and wide to join local residents. A lovely nostalgic time was had by all.

Next on Thursday 31st May was a Black Tie Cocktail Party at the Belle Tout Lighthouse, with thanks to Barbara & David Shaw. 65 persons attended this stunning iconic building, but 43 are still on a waiting list for the next time. Thank you Sue for your calm approach in dealing with these disappointed party goers.

On Friday 1st June, Henry Branson then had the task of organising a Stoolball match and what a great turn out that evening on the Recreation Ground enjoying this 500 year old game.

The Family Fun Afternoon on Saturday 2nd June in the Horsefield was another huge success with thanks to Charlie Davies-Gilbert as the mastermind behind all the activities that were enjoyed by so many people, including a Wedding Reception Party complete with Bride & Groom pulling their weight in the Tug-of-War competition, and many excited dogs entered in the Dog Show.

The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 3rd June held on the Greensward was a great winner with a crowd estimated to be in excess of 500 joining in the fun, complete with their Gazebos and lunchtime meals and then dancing to the music of the Blue Brothers Tribute Band who were terrific. After an early period of rain and wind, the sun came out at 2:20pm as ordered with thanks to the Rector, at one of his 2 special Jubilee church services held that morning, who may have given guidance to the weather to behave itself.

And finally on Tuesday 5th June we had the East Dean Players Entertainment here in the Village Hall, celebrating also their 65th Anniversary, with a performance of DISTRACTED GLOBE by Nick Warburton and directed by Cheryl Veitch followed after the interval by a performance of GOSFORTHS FETE by Alan Ayckbourn which was directed by Avril Brewer. A really lovely evening with plentiful food and wine to finish our Jubilee Celebrations.

To recognise this Diamond Jubilee, the Gardening Club has provided a new seat on the Greensward and the Residents Association have planted a new tree also on the Greensward. Also Micheldene W.I. and East Dean W.I. planted two fruit trees in Gilberts Drive.

So that's it for this particular Celebration but the one thing that we could not organise was the weather and indeed we were most fortunate with brilliant sunshine throughout the week that we should really expect in early summer.

In our wonderful village, we have now celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, her Golden Jubilee in 2002, a Royal Wedding in 2011 and now her Diamond Jubilee, and of course who will ever forget our Millennium Celebrations on New Year's Eve, with a meal in the Farrar Hall first and then onto the Village Green where 300 or so folk saw in the new 2000 year in traditional style at midnight, followed in July 2000, our Millennium Festival Month, when we organised 29 events in 31 days.

I wonder now what the next excuse will be for an extended party here in our village?

Peter Hobbs

Royal British Legion

Currently the war in Afghanistan still provides a tragic reminder of the suffering endured by our service personnel and their dependants. Since the war started in 2001, there have been over 3,000 coalition deaths. The British Forces have suffered 440 fatalities and over 2,000 wounded in action, and a further 4,000 have suffered from disease or non-battle injuries.

Nowadays, not so obvious from the press and TV coverage is news of the considerable numbers who are wounded and maimed in conflict and those with psychological and psychiatric problems. Alongside other Service Charities, the RBL (formed in 1921) provides financial, social and emotional support to those who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces and to their dependants.

Last year, was the 30th anniversary of the **Falklands War** which lasted for about 2 months. The effects are still being felt by many today. Of the 28,000 British airmen, sailors and soldiers involved, a total of 255 British men and women were killed and 777 were wounded.

23 bodies remain in the Falklands including that of **Lieutenant Colonel H Jones VC** and are buried at the "Blue Beach" Military Cemetery at San Carlos. During my time in the Falklands 3 years after the war, I flew down by Chinook helicopter to the **Cemetery** overlooking San Carlos Water and what a poignant and emotional graveyard it is. Also, many of the bodies of the men who died at sea were never found and the ships on which they served and died have become their everlasting and official memorial.

So once again the plea is that the **RBL Needs You** to support its initiatives whether or not you have served in the armed forces, and our thanks should go to our Chairman Ron Naylor and his Committee for maintaining an active branch here in the village. To raise funds, we have a Barn Dance next month, a Derby Supper in May, we shall organise again the Village Fete in July, and a Bowling Trophy match and Supper in September. Then in November we have the Remembrance Sunday Parade and the laying of wreaths on the Village Green followed by a Service in East Dean Church. Finally, a very special thanks to Hilary Pringle for the enormous work that she does every year with the Poppy Appeal which last November raised a magnificent sum of £3,278.

Peter Hobbs

Group Captain RAF Ret'd, and President ED&F RBL

St Wilfrid's Hospice

St Wilfrid's Hospice is a local charity providing skilled and compassionate care and treatment for all patients with complex needs as they near the end of life.

Over the last 29 years we have cared for over 15,500 patients and hope to continue to cater for the growing needs of our community. At present an estimated 3,000 local people a year need our support - our current facilities enable us to support just 1,000 of them.

Our latest initiative – Campaign Reach – is concerned with responding to the growing demands of our community and transforming end of life care. We are currently in the process of constructing our new Hospice in Broadwater Way, a project which will enable us to care for twice as many patients. However, in order to furnish and equip the building, provide the staff needed and continue to deliver impeccable care we need to raise £5.3 million. Currently, we receive just 15% towards our running costs from the NHS and, as such, can only function with the support and fundraising efforts of our local community. We are extremely grateful to all our supporters for making this Campaign possible.

The Rev Thomas Duncanson, Chaplain

REPORT OF the PARISH COUNCIL

Introduction by the Chairman

There have been three quite significant events which have occurred in our Villages in the last twelve months. These could not have escaped the notice of those people who are usually unaware of what the Parish Council does. First there were the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Council was the main sponsor but left the arrangements in the capable hands of Peter Hobbs and Team 2012. Then there was the bonfire and fireworks on 5th November organised and paid for by the Council assisted by a number of enthusiastic volunteers. And finally was the renovation of Friston Pond which is described under the Rights of Way Committee report.

There is no doubt that the possible purchase of the Greensward by the Residents' Association took up a lot of our time and was of interest to many. The Council, as the Local Authority, believed, and still does, that it should have purchased the land instead of the Residents' Association. This did not happen. Nevertheless at least the ownership is now in local hands and the Village Green status, organised by the Council in 1974 gives it adequate protection against future development. The Council has agreed to continue organising the mowing of this land for the remainder of 2013 at least.

The disagreement over the ownership of the Greensward has not affected the Council's otherwise good working relationship with the Residents' Association and its involvement in local issues is appreciated. The Council also works well with the Parochial Church Council and the Village hall Trust and a councillor is a trustee of the latter.

The Council was quietly active in a number of ways which may not be apparent to everyone. For example:

- We have recently adopted a revised Emergency Plan which will only be implemented following the inability of the emergency services to get to the village.
- We have regular meeting with the County Council to discuss speeding limits, pothole repairs, mowing and strimming of verges and other matters that are not the Parish Council's responsibility.
- Our regular surgeries held on the last Thursday of each month in the village hall are now supplemented by evening sessions from 6pm on the first Thursday of each month. We hope that these give residents the opportunity to express their concerns or make suggestions. They can of course also address the full Council or its committees during the public session which precedes these meetings.

We are delighted that Neighbourhood Watch is about to be re-launched under the leadership of Dave Cooper and will continue to support it in any way that we can.

Wealden District Council has recently agreed to register the Village Hall site in its register of Assets of Community Value. The effect of this is that should it be put up for sale the Parish Council would be invited to buy it.

Councillors have worked very hard during the past twelve months to ensure that East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap & Crowlink, remain great places in which to live. I am grateful for their diligence, patience and good humour. There is currently just one vacancy – no experience is necessary, just a desire to protect and improve what we have.

I am indebted to the Parish Clerk – Dr Katrina Larkin – for making sure that everything that we do is democratic, legal, ethical and transparent; for explaining complex matters in simple terms and for organising the Council in such an efficient manner.

*Councillor Rob Page
Chairman of East Dean & Friston Parish Council*

(a) Report of the Planning Committee

The Committee met every month during the year, except August, to consider Planning Applications and other planning related matters. From the start of 2013 a summary of Planning Applications considered are shown on the Council website.

A major organisational change during the year was the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) taking over from Wealden District Council as the Planning Authority for the area. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee of the SDNPA and, owing to its local knowledge, is asked to comment on all planning applications within the Parish, which lies wholly within the National Park. During the year the Planning Committee was asked to comment on 40 applications, and in doing so it took account of individual resident representations and

those of the Residents' Association, and is always mindful of the standards within the Village Design Statement.

During the year the Wealden District Council's *Core Strategy* was subject to independent review by the Planning Inspectorate (an executive agency of central government). This review made some amendments but made no change to the proposed additional housing limit of only 10 net new homes for East Dean up to 2027. The updated plan is now called the **Local Plan**, and carries statutory force thereby giving protection against speculative developers. The SDNPA have formally adopted this **Local Plan**.

Another major development during the year was the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning. This was born out of the Localism Act and aimed to put power back in the hands of local communities. It is an optional exercise and the Parish Council was initially keen to be fully involved. However, no other Parishes within the Wealden section of the National Park were minded to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan which would otherwise have afforded the benefits of a contiguous group. In addition, the SDNPA are working on their own Local Plan, which will not be ready before 2015, and their current guidance includes "*Where there are no conceivable development sites or changes in land use anticipated, neighbourhood planning may have less relevance*". As the **Local Plan** above shows a limited housing growth for the Parish, the Council concluded that all these factors would lead to little benefit over the current planning process and hence no further activities associated with Neighbourhood Planning will be undertaken.

During the year Councillor Tim Bryant resigned as Chair of the Committee owing to business commitments and Councillor Stewart Fuller was unanimously voted in as Chair. 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, so do come along sometime.

Councillor Stewart Fuller, Chair

(b) Report of the Recreation Ground Committee

The Recreation Ground and Pavilion were regularly maintained to respectable standards in 2012. A number of the wooden bollards located around the perimeter of the ground were reinstated to avoid bogus vehicles from entering the ground and some broken fence posts surrounding the children's play area were replaced and cleared of some overgrown ivy. The bonfire site has been cleared of metal debris and some small particles of asbestos cement have been removed from the ashes. Some trees were cut down in order that more light was brought into the ground and that the flint walls can be maintained. The pavilion has been regularly maintained with new flooring laid in the kitchen area and the fire exit door refitted. The extended areas of the pavilion have had their roofs repaired and re-felted and my thanks go to the various contractors who have kept the building in decent working order, sometimes against all odds, especially this year when the weather was exceptionally wet. The playground continues to be very popular with the younger element especially

through the spring and summer seasons. We hope to have some old swings replaced during the spring and the area remains in good working order so as to comply with ROSPA safety requirements. The memorial seats around the recreation ground continue to be maintained by the Parish Council.

Finally, I wish to thank my committee, Cllr John Hine, Cllr Stewart Fuller, Cllr Jen Sargent, Mrs Jan Smith and Mrs Chrissie Tyndall for their co-operation and assistance over the past twelve months.

Councillor David Windsor, Chairman

(c) Report of the Rights of Way Committee

Having the continuity of the same ROW team this year I am pleased to report a very busy and successful year for the ROW team.

With the support of the South Downs National Park, the Sustainable Communities Fund, PHB Contractors, Mr and Mrs Aldridge and a few hardy volunteers we have successfully completed a major rejuvenation of the Friston Pond. As I write this report we are only awaiting Planning Permission for the erection of 2 notice boards detailing the History of The Pond and also the Flora and Fauna in order to complete the project.

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 some of the more congested footpaths.

We have maintained our good working relationship with the contractor for mowing and strimming of Parish Council grounds and through our regular meetings with ESCC have been able to ensure a proactive approach to the strimming and cutting of verges and footpaths in and around the village as well as to ensure swift responses to our concerns over potholes and drainage issues.

The ROW team are currently engaged in developing a series of walking maps around the village and also a contribution to the new Village Brochure.

My sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to the members of the ROW Committee and also to the few hardy volunteers that braved the winter weather to support the Pond Project and thereby ensure its considerable success.

Phillip R Hill, Chairman

(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.

Although the financial year 2012/13 still has several weeks to run indications are that the year-end will turn out close to budget.

The largest cost activity during 2012/13 was the work carried out on Friston Pond. Following an extensive assessment of the pond's condition, and with support from the Rangers of the SDNPA a successful application was made to the Sustainable Communities Fund for a grant to allow rejuvenation of the Pond, returning it to its former glory. The grant amounted to some £12k, with the Parish Council only having to meet a relatively modest amount owing the notional values attached to the high level of volunteer support received.

A significant item considered during 2012/13 was the possible replacement and re-siting of the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground at a potential cost of some £200k. Before moving forward on this issue the committee decided to obtain ballpark figures for a new build or refurbishment of the pavilion on the present site, and this will be reviewed later in 2013. This is a major item on the Council's Village Action Plan, along with other major initiatives to be considered including the provision of public toilets, either as part of any new Pavilion project or adjacent to the Village Hall. Whatever the outcome of these proposals, the question of funding will be a major consideration over the next year or two.

The need to develop communication is a regular discussion topic within Council and hence a new budget line for this topic has been created. During 2012, under this new heading, the Parish Council website was launched and the Council's bi-monthly newsletter *Rendezvous* was introduced. Residents' ideas for topics to be included in either or both the website and the newsletter would be welcomed.

The Council's expenditure budget for 2013/14 has been approved at £45,838 which, together with planned receipts of £6,984, results in **no** increase to the precept (the Parish Council's portion of the Council Tax) for the fourth consecutive year. The Budgeted receipt from Wealden is £40,890, resulting in a planned surplus of £2,036 which will increase reserves. Main items of expenditure for 2013/14 include council office (£15k), loan repayments, insurance, subs (£8k); communications (£2k); mowing (£6k); maintenance of pavilion and playgrounds (£4k); bonfire (£3k); Friston Pond (£2k); maintenance of shelters, seats, Downlands Way (£3k) and the community bus (£1k). Planned receipts come from Bonfire activities, contributions and rents.

During the year Councillor Tim Bryant resigned as Chair of the Committee owing to business commitments and Councillor Stewart Fuller was unanimously voted in as Chair.

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

East Dean and Friston Parish Council - 2013/14 Budget

Receipts	47,874
Payments	
Council Office	14,595
Parish Liabilities	8,430
General Administration	3,695
Rights of Way	8,000
Bonfire	3,400
Recreation Ground	6,101
S137 Benefits	617
VAT on Payments	1,000
	<u>45,838</u>
Surplus for the year	2,036
Opening Reserves	35,655
Closing Reserves	37,691

Receipts	
Precept	40,890
Bank Interest	10
Recreation Ground - lettings	400
Cricket club donations	150
Village Website	46
Downlands Way Maintenance	435
Village Hall Rent	343
Mowing Contributions	1,200
Bonfire	3,400
VAT on Receipts / Reclaims	1,000
Total Receipts	47,874

Council Office	
Clerk's Salary	12,409
PAYE & NICs	420
Travel Expenses	570
Audit Fees	700
Office Allowance	216
Computer Maintenance/Software etc	200
Printing and Stationery	80
Total Council Office	14,595

Parish Liabilities	
Insurances	1,587
Village Hall Loan Repayments	5,500
Village Hall Rent	343
SALC Subs / SLCC	465
Information Commr	35
Downlands Way Maintenance	500
Total Parish Liabilities	8,430

General Administration	
Parish On-line	20
Public Relations	1,700
Councillors' Course Fees	300
Chair's Expenses	25
Village Events	100
Councillors' Expenses	200
Village Website	150
Cuckmere Community Bus	1,000
Other	200
Total General Administration	3,695

Rights of Way	
Friston Pond - Maintenance	600
Friston Pond - Project	1,500
Bus Shelters - cleaning	600
Bus Shelters - materials	150
Public Seats	200
Bins	150
Footpath Maintenance	200
General Maintenance	700
Mowing Contract	3,900
Total Rights of Way	8,000

Bonfire	
Fireworks	2,000
Torches and Glow Sticks	700
St John's Ambulance	200
Site Clearance	400
Other	100
Total Bonfire	3,400

Recreation Ground	
a) Pavilion	
Caretaker's & Cleaner's Wages	250
Winterisation	80
General Maintenance	2,000
Total a) Pavilion	2,330
b) Sports Ground & Play Area	
General Maintenance	500
ROSPA Inspections and Insurance	200
Mowing Contract	2,171
Tennis Court Equipment Replacement	100
Replacement and New Equipment	800
Total b) Sports Ground and Play Area	3,771
Total Recreation Ground	6,101



East Dean & Friston Parish Council

Committee Timetable 2013 V.5 14/03/2013

Committee	Time	2013											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Council The Village Hall	Thurs 7.30 pm	3rd	7th	7th Thurs	4th	ACM** 9th Thurs	6th	4th	No meeting	5th	3rd	7th	5th
				AVM* 14th									
Planning The Village Hall	Tues 7.30 pm	22nd	26th	26th	23rd	28th	25th	23rd	27th	24th	22nd	26th	17th
Finance & GP The Village Hall	Tues 8.15 pm				23rd			23rd			22nd	26th	
Recreation Ground The Village Hall	Tues 6.00 pm			26th				23rd				26th	
Rights of Way The Village Hall	Tues 6.00 pm		26th		23rd		25th		27th		22nd		17th
Bonfire The Village Hall	TBC												
Village Events The Village Hall	TBC												

NOTES:

A Public Session is held at the beginning of each meeting.

All meetings are held in the Village Hall, Village Green Lane unless otherwise stated.

* Annual Village Meeting

**Annual Council Meeting

Meetings may be subject to change. For up to date information, please contact the Parish Clerk, Katrina Larkin

Phone: 01323 811870

Email: eastdeanclerk@btinternet.com

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