

The Annual Village Report 2021-22

For Birling Gap, Crowlink, East Dean and Friston



*Parish Council Chair Paul Seeley with fellow councillors Mike Keller and Chris Lees
Planting one of the Platinum Jubilee Holm Oaks at the Recreation Ground
11th March 2022, the 70th day of the 70th year of Her Majesty's reign*

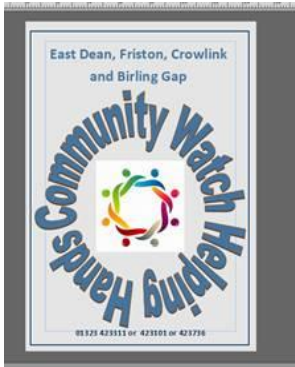
**Welcome to your
Annual Village Meeting
20 May 2022**

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Community Watch – Helping Hands

Emerging from the restrictions of the past two years, members of our Steering Group met early in March to consider a discussion paper headed 'The Future for Community Watch in 2022'. We began by focusing on our core values, which offer a free and confidential service to the community. To clarify this message, we agreed to amend our title and accompanying logo, as shown above; hopefully this removes any perceived ambiguity regarding our activities. Examples of the help offered by CW-HH volunteers appear on the reverse side of the leaflet. The list includes shopping, lift to an appointment, company for a walk or a chat, help in an emergency and for small DIY tasks. Not a finite list by any means, but an example of the support we offer.

Finally, it was agreed to re-start our programme of visiting speakers and these will be announced in time for early Autumn. Suggestions for topics are very welcome.

St. Wilfrid's Hospice have set up 'Community Links' of which we are a member. This enables the hospice to share information about forthcoming events and encourages local communities to be involved. Information is given by the Hospice Head of Community Services and provides a two-way means of communication between the hospice and our own community.

On Thursday 7th April a meeting called "Local Help for Ukraine" was held in the East Dean Village Hall. This was initiated by the Residents' Association, with the support of Community Watch. The meeting raised many questions, and a lively debate was held. It is expected that our experienced and enthusiastic volunteers will play a major role in practical matters, such as lifts to appointments at Local Government offices, doctors' surgeries, schools, as well as to social events with other communities hosting refugees. We would also make ourselves available for supporting local hosts.

Finally, we look forward to continuing to be an active part of the larger community and we are grateful to the Parish Council and all residents who encourage and support us.

For more information on any of the Community Watch Helping Hands activities, you can phone one of our call co-ordinators (423311, 423101, 423736)

Joan Colin

Steering Group Members: Christine Jeffery, Joanna Shawcross, Bob Ebrey, Lynn Sculpher, Karen Wintle, Stuart Walker.

Bus Service 41

Cuckmere Buses runs a fleet of 16-seater minibuses throughout the Cuckmere Valley area and beyond. It is run entirely by volunteers, there are no employees. There are 45 fully-trained drivers and 10 additional volunteers who all help run the fleet and keep the wheels turning.

The East Dean and Friston shopping Service 41 runs twice weekly - on a Tuesday and Thursday per the timetable below. The Parish Council kindly sponsors the service. The bus will stop anywhere around the villages it is safe to do so – just raise your arm when you see the bus approaching or ring the bell if you are a passenger and wish to alight. It's like a taxi service but without the related cost; it's the easier, more friendly way into Eastbourne and home again that's practically door-to-door. Pay the driver with cash or contactless or use your concessionary bus pass.

Eastbourne, Gildredge Road, stop G2	1010	1140	1450
Eastbourne, Old Town, opposite Waitrose	--	1143	1453
Jevington, Eight Bells	1031	--	--
Jevington, Hungry Monk	1033	--	--
East Dean, Village Hall Green Lane Car Park	--	1150	1500
Friston, Windmill Lane	1038	1154	1504
Warren Lane, junction The Brow	1039	1155	1505
Hillside, junction Dene Side	1042	1158	1508
Dene Side, junction Peakdean Lane	1044	1200	1510
Peakden Lane (top)	1046	1202	1512
Dene Side (east)	1049	1205	1515
The Link (top of Micheldene Road)	1052	1208	1518
East Dean, Village Hall Green Lane Car Park	1056	--	--
Jevington, Hungry Monk	--	--	1523
Jevington, Eight Bells	--	--	1525
Eastbourne, Old Town, Waitrose	1103	1216	--
Eastbourne, Cornfield Road, stop C1	1107	1220	1546

Based on the above you could arrive at Waitrose at 11.03 for a quick visit and pick up the return bus at 11.43. Or get into Eastbourne at 11.07 pop to the bank and catch the 11.40 back or, for a longer visit, arrive in Eastbourne at either 11.07 or 12.20 for a shop and lunch and return at 14.50.

Passenger numbers understandably fell during the pandemic, indeed there were times when buses were not allowed to run. However, we're now back and providing a full service, and

look forward to welcoming you aboard again soon. And we provide Private Hire facilities, too!

Stewart Fuller

cuckmerebuses.org.uk

East Dean and Friston Gardening Club

The Gardening Club is a friendly organisation which provides talks and social events throughout the year.

Talks on garden related subjects are normally held in the village hall on the second Tuesday of each month, except August. Three or more-day trips to gardens and places of interest are organised each year. A Strawberry Fayre is held in June with teas and various stalls.

A newsletter with articles of gardening interest is sent to all members in the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Garden supplies are available for delivery twice per year.

For Membership details, contact Rob Taylor 01323 423622. The Annual subscription is £8.50.

The membership card lists details of speakers and some of the events planned for the year. A loyalty card for use at Tates Nursery, Newhaven (Paradise Park) and other sites will be issued by the club to all members

Tony Deadman

Chairman

East Dean and Friston Local History Group

Our Local History Group was established in 2000 to hold meetings, research, record, catalogue and publish the history of the local area. Join us for a small annual membership fee (currently £7.00) and you can:

- Hear knowledgeable speakers present talks on varied topics
- Learn about the history of the area from the many illustrated booklets we publish and sell to members at a discount
- Borrow books from our library
- Get to know people with similar interests at one of our monthly meetings. (Free tea or coffee and biscuits are served at the end of each meeting.)
- Go on the visits arranged to places of interest. You will also have access to a live zoom link for our guest speakers.

Membership is not restricted to residents of the villages and is open to anyone interested in our events. Meetings are held on Tuesdays most months at the Village Hall, Village Green Lane, just off Gilberts Drive (the road to Birling Gap).

Please contact sec@edflhg.uk for more detail

East Dean Players

You may have noticed that The Players have been quiet for some time now, for obvious reasons. However - we are still here! We were considering a Spring production but decided to postpone this until Autumn 2022.

We are very pleased to announce we can now confirm that we will be back performing this November with a comedy “Volunteers” - Brenda is running a charity shop, with the slightly addled Prue and the sight-impaired Denny. But there are changes in the charity and John Turk (the new CEO) is keen on a new image - younger staff. Brenda has to cope with her customers, a community service offender and the new regime.

East Dean and Friston Village Hall Trust

The last two Covid fuelled years have been a challenge for the Trustees and Hall Management.

On occasions hours of work went into adapting Hire Agreements, Risk Assessments, Special Conditions and the like to ensure compliance with mandatory and advisory government restrictions only for them to be changed, in some instances a matter of a few days later and so we start again! Compliance also required us to provide sanitiser stations, put up a seemingly endless volume of posters. These, again, were frequently changed from one week to another. I suspect a number of us went '*poster blind*' during that period!!

Hopefully all that is behind us! Over the last few months it has been good to see the regular clubs and societies returning to recommence their activities. Inevitably, there have been one or two clubs who have decided, at least for the time being, not to continue.

Community events such as Morning Coffee, Afternoon Tea and the Village Lunch have all started up again. These provide a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends, make new and enjoy the wares on offer at a very reasonable price! Not, of course, forgetting the Village Market which is a wonderful asset for the VHT and has given a focal point during the various lock-downs as well as providing a source of essential supplies from time to time.

We have had no hire income basically for two years. We have, however, availed ourselves of all the government grants to support us. We have reduced spending as much as possible and, even in the present financial climate, the Trustees have been able to freeze the hire charges for this current year to help our regular clubs and societies to get back on their feet.

I am pleased to say a full programme of community events has commenced; these include Bingo, Quiz Evenings, Film shows (matinees and evening shows) and much more. Please keep an eye on the notice boards around the Village which will show what is coming up to entertain you!

Finally, thank you for your support without which none of this would happen!

Bill Hallett

East Dean & Friston Village Hall Trust.

Residents for a Climate-Friendly Parish

Let's get our voices heard before it's too late – if not for ourselves then for the sake of our children and grandchildren - for a more climate-friendly parish. **Climate change is already here with some of the changes now inevitable and “irreversible”.**

Join the new informal network of Residents (of Birling Gap, Crowlink, East Dean, Friston & Gayles) for a Climate-Friendly Parish (RCFP). Being informal rather than formal, it hopefully allows people to commit to it in whichever way and to whatever level they choose rather than feel obligated to do something.

Many of us are convinced that more could be done across our parish to contribute to preventing global warming getting worse, mitigating and adapting to climate change. It's been in the news a lot recently, often as a headline, and will continue to do so following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) publication on 9 August of its latest global report right up to the United Nations Climate Conference, the Conference of the Parties (COP26), in Glasgow this November. This IPCC report, its first global assessment on the science of global heating since 2013, is aimed at policymakers and summarises the physical science behind climate change.

With yet more factual information such as this, the RCFP network can write with calls to action to key organisations and people with responsibilities for the parish of East Dean & Friston, e.g.:

- the South Downs National Park (SDNPA) that also acts as our local planning authority and is in the process of taking over the Seven Sisters National Park from the county council
- parish land managers such as the National Trust, Forestry England, tenant farmers
- East Dean & Friston Parish Council via the lead councillor for Environment
- other parish landowners such as the Davies Gilbert Estate, Wealden District Council, Friston & East Dean Church Dioceses, East Dean Greensward Ltd., East Dean & Friston Village Hall Trust, and the local highways authority, East Sussex County Council
- bodies with wider geographical responsibilities like Sussex Wildlife Trust, Friends of the South Downs, the Council for the Protection of Rural England – Sussex and, specifically, the South Downs Network ('critical friend' of the SDNPA), of which the RCFP can become an organisational member
- East Dean & Friston Residents' Association
- the local MP.

No time-consuming meetings, membership fees or official roles required! A letter can simply be drafted by a network member for countersigning by others, if they wish to do so, and sent by email to the intended recipient.

Contact ourbitedf@gmail.com

REPORT by the PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

It is now three years since the last Annual Village Meeting was held in 2019 and several changes have taken place within the village in the intervening period. The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted everyone, and the Parish Council remains indebted to all in the village who rose to this enormous challenge and helped and assisted others in the community. The PC would like to place on record our thanks to all the businesses, the village market and other organisations who came together to assist every resident in our community.

We are now reaping the benefits of a first-class vaccination service supplied by the NHS and it is time to look forward to a more positive future. Before considering what is in store over the coming year, I would like to highlight some of the activities and changes that have occurred within the Parish Council over the last three years.

The Parish Council continued to operate remotely during the pandemic. We have said farewell and thank you to councillors Kevin Godden, Lesley Durso, Nigel Day, Daniel Wild and Beatrice Wheatley and tree warden Peter Williamson all of whom served the Parish for part of this period. We have welcomed new councillors, Simon Thorogood, Grant Fowler, Chris Lees, Hollie Milligan and Mike Bustard. Two by-elections were held during 2021 and four of the five named above were elected via that process. The next scheduled election will be in May 2023 when all Councillors will be considered for re-election if they choose to stand.

The full council comprises:

Paul Seeley – Chairman
Simon Thorogood – Vice Chair and Tree Warden
Tim Bryant – Planning Chair
Mike Bustard – Environmental Lead
Grant Fowler – Pavilion and Recreation Ground Lead
Phill Hill – Defibrillator Lead
Chris Lees – Rights of Way Lead
Mike Keller – Queens Jubilee Celebration Lead
Hollie Milligan - Digital communication lead

We are also ably supported by our Clerk, Mrs Katrina Larkin, and Mrs Debbie Picknell who is our Administration Officer.

The Parish Council are indebted to the continued support and assistance from Mr David George, our Hon. Solicitor and regular helpers, Jan Smith, Ron Franklin, Cliff Hirschfield and John West.

Thanks go to Mike Keller who stepped down as Chair of the PC in June 2021 having served as Chairman since 2017.

Looking back over the last three years some of the key outputs from the Parish Council have been:

- Continued management of the planning approval process and liaison with South Downs National Park on all aspects of planning. My thanks go to Tim Bryant and Mike Keller for chairing this committee during the last three years. Thanks also go to Mrs Debbie Picknell for managing the applications and keeping the minutes.
- The Parish Council has been fully audited during the period and I am pleased to confirm that the PC received a clean bill of health. Our Finances remain in a good position and the PC approved a precept of £71,500 for 2022/23 which equates to a figure of £71.88 for a Band D property. The increase this year was to ensure adequate funding provision was made going forward for elections over and above the once every four-year cycle. Our Clerk is responsible for many Council activities but is instrumental in producing papers for and taking minutes at the monthly Council meetings. My thanks go to Katrina Larkin, Clerk, for managing the many work streams on behalf of the Parish.
- Rebuilding of the bus shelter on the north side of the A259 at Friston and the south side of the A259 at East Dean.
- Achieving the build out to the south side of the A259 at Friston to enable safer crossing of the A259 for pedestrians at this busy road intersection. Both projects were run by Phillip Hill and my thanks go to him for overseeing them.
- Implementation of a Speed watch group within the village under the auspices of East Sussex Police and use of speed equipment on the A259 and Gilberts Drive.
- East Dean Responders ceased to operate and donated several defibrillators to the village. The PC has installed two additional units – one at the Pavilion and one outside Sheppard's Café. We also donated a unit to Beachy Head Chaplaincy and this was gratefully received.
- The East Dean branch of The British Legion also disbanded and the Parish Council took over organisation of the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the war memorial. Our thanks go to John Dann for continuing to give the exhortations and to Eastbourne Silver Band for playing The Last Post and Reveille.
- Footpaths within the village have been well maintained and the continued use of bark chippings on several paths has been appreciated by many residents. Thanks go to Chris Lees and Phillip Hill for their continued efforts on keeping all of our paths in good condition.
- The fenced bin store outside the hairdressers in the shopping precinct at Downlands Way was removed as it had become a general dumping ground.
- In agreement with East Sussex all bins throughout the village have been dual badged for waste and dog waste. This has allowed some bins to be re-sited and dog waste bins are now provided at The Link and along Old Willingdon Road at its intersection

with the footpath that goes through to The Ridgeway. We have one new dog bin that requires a site and would be pleased to hear from anyone in the village who is prepared to have one sited adjacent to their property. The bins are emptied weekly.

- The PC issued a licence for the weekly fish and chip van at the shops to operate and the take up of fish and chips by residents has been encouraging to the service provider.
- The Pavilion has been redecorated and maintenance to the playground equipment has been undertaken. A new perimeter fence and gates were constructed around the play area. Thanks go to Grant Fowler for his work in this area.
- The Council made several grants to local organisations during this period. We also contributed to moving of the cricket square and it is pleasing to see that this work is complete.
- The Council planted two Holm Oaks at the Recreation Ground to celebrate the 70th day of the 70th year of Queen Elizabeth's reign on 11th March 2022.

Looking ahead the Parish Council will be reverting to face-to-face Council meetings and all are welcome to attend and participate in the public sessions.

- The PC is in the process of installing another defibrillator outside the South East Water Pumping Station on Michel Dene Road. South East Water have provided us with a power supply and also undertaken all of the installation works to date.
- The PC has invested in a mobile illuminated speed detection sign which will be installed by East Sussex Highways in the early part of 2022/23. The first two sites are on Gilberts Drive but we intend to have a further two sites installed this year on the A259.
- We have been working with East Sussex and Wealden to have the bus stop reinstated at the junction of Downs View Way and the A259. This has been agreed and should be in place during the first half of 2022/23. Our thanks go to Stephen Shing, Independent County Councillor for working with us to deliver this outcome.
- The PC has been coordinating the Queens Jubilee celebrations for the week of 30th May to 5th June. The activities planned are well advertised and thanks go to Mike Keller for his chairmanship.
- The PC is working with Wealden DC to see if we can install electric charging points for electric vehicles in the village car park and also in Downlands Way shopping precinct.
- The PC is in the process of re-starting the Village Plan which stopped due to Covid. This is an opportunity for all residents to have a say in the future use of land within the PC area. Further details will be announced in due course.
- We intend to apply to the Local Government Council Award Scheme to ensure that the PC operates to the highest standards. There are three levels of award and the council has to work through all three. The PC expects to achieve the first level, Foundation, in 2022 and the second level, Quality, 12 months later with the final level, Gold, following thereafter.

The monthly village coffee morning on the last Thursday of the month recommenced in April in the village hall. This is an opportunity for you to meet your councillors and raise any concerns or issues with them.

The PC has been working with the Church, Residents Association and many other voluntary groups in the village and further afield to address the refugees who have been displaced due to the war in Ukraine. As and when further guidance and direction are made by Central Government the PC will play an active part in helping those displaced.

Paul Seeley

Chair of the Council

Draft Final Accounts

2021/22

	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual
SUMMARY			
Receipts	76,853.78	78,570.00	65,810
Payments			
Council Office	17,538.56	16,586.00	20,011
Professional Expenses	4,141.51	3,223.00	9,771
Councillor Expenses	172.05	372.00	837
Major Projects	19,481.76	28,178.00	12,544
Asset Maintenance	7,745.16	7,205.00	4,097
Services	19,181.56	15,581.00	15,775
Defibrillators			1,890
VAT on payments		6,764.00	3,854
Total Payments	68,260.60	77,909.00	68,779
Surplus/Deficit	8,592.68	661.00	2,968
Opening reserves	57,168.23	65,761.00	66,422
Closing reserves	65,760.91	66,422.00	63,454

RECEIPTS			
Precept	60,234.00	61,245.00	61,245
Support grant	77.50	-	0
Pavilion hires	165.00	-	825
ESCC verge cutting	341.00	341.00	341
Downlands Way Mtce	-	-	0
Village Hall rent	375.00	-	0
Bonfire/carols	-	-	
Revenue grants	465.00		320
Capital receipts	7,000.00	11,972.00	
CIL Receipts	3,125.23	329.00	392
East Dean in Bloom			
Other	2,122.83	10.24	2
VAT on receipts/reclaims	2,948.22	4,673.00	2,685
TOTAL RECEIPTS	76,853.78	78,570.24	65,810

2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual
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PAYMENTS

Council Office			
Clerk's salary (gross) (Gross)	13,701.04	10,927.80	11,770
Employer's NICS	724.57	338.57	516
Clerical support	2,403.84	4,470.84	6,562
Travel expenses	293.94	-	63
Office phone/broadband/power	236.00	432.00	608
Office equipment	91.99	246.00	334
Commercial printing	-	-	0
Post/stationery/officeprint	87.18	171.00	158
Total council office	17,538.56	16,586.21	20,011
Professional expenses			
Insurances	1,398.43	1,122.39	1,124
Audit fees	521.85	463.00	474
Village Hall rent/hire by council	375.00	964.00	679
Subscriptions	647.34	674.00	698
Fees/clerk's training	52.30	-	0
Election expenses	389.34	-	6,796
VH hire by council	757.25	-	0
Total Professional Expenses	4,141.51	3,223.39	9,771
Councillor expenses			
Councillors course fees	125.00	-	283
Chair's expenses	21.05	38.00	
Councillors expenses	26.00	334.00	554
Total councillor expenses	172.05	372.00	837

	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual
Projects			
EDF Cricket - moving wicket		14,143.00	
War Memorial	900.00		
Pavilion - refurb	3,542.58		2,850
Playground upgrade - new fence	3,950.00		
Friston Build-out	3,600.00	7,000.00	
Other projects (Jubilee beacon 2022)	3,550.00	3,700.00	656
Neighbourhood Plan/Traffic	2,092.38	3,173.00	9,038
Total projects (funded from revenue in 2021/22)	17,634.96	28,016.00	12,544
Defibrillators (funded from capital)	1,846.80	162.00	1,890

	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual
Asset Maintenance			
Pavilion			
Pavilion - refurb	-	-	
Pavilion - general mtce	12.09	350.00	171
Cleaner's wages	472.57	50.00	497
Winterisation	-		
Fire extinguisher mtce	37.50		31
Utilities	1,029.04	236.00	192
Total Pavilion	1,551.20	636.00	891
Sports Ground & Play Area			
General Mtce	138.98	2,160.00	1,120
Safety inspection	107.40	80.00	
Safety Surface	-		
Tennis court equipment	-		
Replacement playground kit	846.30		
Total Sports Ground & Play Area	1,092.68	2,240.00	1,120
Other Asset Maintenance			
War Memorial	12.00		
Other Village green assets	-		
Public seats	673.40		317
Downlands Way Mtce	-		122
Friston Pond Mtce	2,035.00	3,337.00	517
Bus shelters- cleaning, mtce	558.93	650.00	600
Notice Boards	487.78		60
Minor asset replacement	80.97		60
Other/provision/project	1,253.20	342.00	
East Dean in Bloom			410
Total Other Assets	5,101.28	4,329.00	2,086
Total Asset Maintenance	7,745.16	7,205.00	4,097

	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual
Services			
Mowing:			
- PC owned (Friston)	1,480.80	1,265.00	1,234
- Rec (see PC owned)	2,078.41	1,673.00	1,632
- Private	2,815.19	2,405.00	2,346
- Verges (incl Fridays)	2,318.40	1,980.00	1,932
- Extras	192.00	495.00	350
Downs View Lane Hedge		246.00	240
Total Mowing	8,884.80	8,064.00	7,734
Other Services			
Donations	2,116.77	2,047.00	2,753
Commercial printing	260.00	350.00	280
Public Relations/Services/AVM	204.92		
PC Website	571.20	355.00	409
Cuckmere Bus	2,515.20	1,049.00	2,068
Tree Maintenance	412.80	180.00	
Village Fete	311.82		
[Village Events]	-	124.00	
(Bonfire) Carols	103.04		62
Dog/litter bins	1,200.00	1,000.00	926
Footpath Maintenance	816.99	40.00	
Path & Highway Signs	146.98		152
General ROW Maintenance	471.81	1,285.00	
Other	165.23	88.00	78
Churchyard mtce	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000
Contingency			313
		7,518.00	8,041
Total Seviles	19,181.56	15,582.00	15,775