

Rendezvous

November 2012

Issue 01

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

..... to *Rendezvous*, the Parish Council's new regular Newsletter. Our aim is to let you, the residents, know about us, what we do, and what our plans are for the future months. Please read it through and let us know if it helps, and what else you might like to see covered. This first issue is a trial run; if it's successful we'll aim to deliver future issues of *Rendezvous* to all households in the Parish.

Website

The Parish Council has just launched a new website. The address is:

<http://www.parish-council.com/eastdeanandfristonparishcouncil/>

If you have access to the web, type in the address then save the home page to your favourites or bookmark – it's a long address! Then please look through the website and give us your views. The website is for Parish Council matters and related issues; it is separate from the Council-sponsored Village website which is already well established.

Community Bus

The Cuckmere Community Bus (CCB), which is sponsored by the Council, provides three return journeys from Eastbourne to East Dean every Tuesday (Service 41). It leaves Eastbourne at 10.10, 11.40 and 15.10, travels to East Dean, goes around the village and the Estate, and arrives back in Eastbourne at 10.57, 12.25 and 15.54. Just hail the bus to get on. The full timetable is available on the notice board inside the Village Hall, on the new website or by calling the Parish Clerk. Also check out CCB service 44 which passes through East Dean on the A259 on its Eastbourne, Jevington, and Polegate return run on Thursdays. Concessionary passes are accepted on all CCB routes.

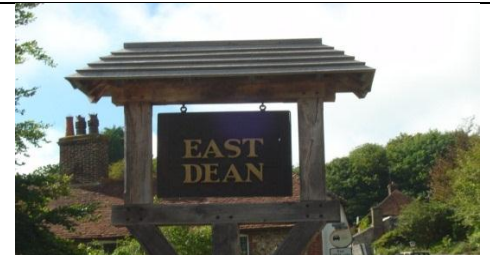


Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council is made up of nine councillors. Currently there is one vacancy. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, would like to find out more about the position, or would like to talk to someone about the role, please call the Parish Clerk or any Councillor (details overleaf) or use the *CONTACT US* link on the Council Website.

Did You Know?

The Parish Council owns the recreation ground, playground, tennis courts, Friston Green (including the pond and car park) and Downlands Way car park. It maintains all of these along with the bus shelters, the white highway finger posts, several waste bins, public seats, and 38 rights of way.



Meet a Councillor

Each month we'll introduce you to a Parish Councillor. This month it's **Rob Page** - the Chair of the Parish Council.

A Londoner (Brixton) by birth and a Master Mariner by profession he has been a



member of the Parish Council since 2008. In his previous life he specialised in the design and operation of chemical tankers and preventing them exploding. He says that commanding a large tanker and being Chairman of a Parish Council have much in common. Both take a long time to turn around and both encounter troubled waters from time to time. However, luckily the Council does not run the risk of exploding. He has lived in the village with his wife Lys since 2005, moving house and boat from Sovereign Harbour. He is the Hon Sec and a founder member of Downland Heartstart and until recently was one of its Community First Responders. "It's a great place to live and I want to ensure that it remains that way" he says.

When Did The Parish Council Start?

East Dean formed a Parish Council in 1924, and the Friston Parish Meeting merged with East Dean to form the East Dean and Friston Parish Council in 1948.

Village Action Plan (VAP)

The Council has recently approved an updated Village Action Plan (VAP) which outlines what we intend carrying out over the next several months. There are some 20 initiatives on the VAP ranging from short-term actions like simply reviewing grass cutting arrangements, and setting up monthly “surgeries” for residents to come and chat to us; to longer term ventures such as considering a new-build Pavilion in the cricket field, and to providing public toilet facilities adjacent to the Village Hall. Two of the initiatives were to set up a Council website and introduce a Newsletter – we’re pleased to say we’re well advanced with those two. The full VAP can be viewed on the new Council website, and at the monthly surgeries.

Right to Bid

Another of the VAP initiatives is to register land for potential purchase if it ever becomes available for sale (VAP/06). Under the new Localism legislation central Government is arranging a major shift in the balance of power by pushing decisions downwards and outwards to the lowest possible level to allow local communities to take charge of their lives. This legislation empowers councils like East Dean and Friston to nominate assets to be included in a *list of assets of community value*. Wealden District Council is then required to maintain this list. If the owner of a listed asset then wants to sell the asset a moratorium period will be triggered during which the asset cannot be sold. This is intended to allow the Parish Council time to develop a proposal and raise the required capital to bid for the property when it comes onto the open market at the end of that period. There is no right to buy, just a right to bid. So far we have nominated several assets including a Downlands Way shop, the Greensward, and the Village Green for inclusion on the register. We obviously don’t need to nominate assets we already own such as the recreation ground.

Friston Pond

The Parish Council owns Friston Pond and over the years it has become overgrown and contaminated with various forms of intrusive weed as well as water lilies. In particular the invasive plant *Australian Stone Crop* (*crassula helmsii*) has taken a stronghold. Following an assessment of the Pond, and with support from the Rangers of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), a successful application was made to the Sustainable Communities Fund of the

SDNPA for a grant to allow rejuvenation of the Pond. The grant amounted to £12,375 and the Parish Council will make further limited contributions as necessary. A Pond Rejuvenation Project has been set up and work is scheduled to start in November and for completion of the overall project by January 2013, with PHB Contractors

carrying out the main tasks. On completion, the Pond will not initially look appealing, but improvements will be quick and by Spring the Pond should be in full recovery. The total Project includes the provision of interpretive boards describing the history of the Pond and the flora and fauna, as well as a dipping platform for children under supervision. This is a community project and opportunities for volunteers will be available and advertised well in advance to allow residents and visitors to participate in this exciting project with the removal and replacement of marginal plants and the storage and release of aquatic flora.



Your Parish Council

Parish Council Members

Rob Page (chair)	423484
Dave Windsor (vice chair)	423880
Tim Bryant	422442
Stewart Fuller	423710
Phil Hill	07860759911
John Hine	422275
Simon Hunt	423669
Jen Sargent	422326
vacancy	

Parish Clerk

Katrina Larkin	811870
The Old Cottage Lewes Road Laughton East Sussex BN8 6BQ	

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held in the Small Village Hall, usually on the first Thursday of the month starting at 7.30pm. The December meeting will be held on:

6 December 2012

Residents are very welcome to attend, observe and participate in the proceedings. The agenda and minutes are placed on Council noticeboards and on the new Council website.

Sub-committees

Name	Chair
Financial & Gen Purposes	Tim Bryant
Planning	Tim Bryant
Rec Ground	Dave Windsor
Rights of Way	Phil Hill
Village Events	Rob Page
Bonfire	Tim Bryant

Finances to end Sept

Receipts	£42,186
Payments	£18,377
Cash in Hand	£56,195
Budgeted spend for the year	£44,249

Surgeries

Open-house Surgeries are held on the second Thursday of the month between 8am-12noon in the Shop, Downlands Way. The next two Surgeries are on 8 November and 13 December. Do come in for a chat.