

Rendezvous

November 2013

Issue 07

... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome

..... remember BST ends on 27 October. Here are some diary dates in November

5 Nov – Bonfire Night – meet on Village Green 6pm, procession to recreation ground 6.30pm, bonfire lighting 7pm, Fireworks 7.15pm; BBQ, bar & soft drinks

7 Nov – Parish Council Meeting – starting with the public session at 7.30pm, preceded by a discussion with the Birling Gap Safety Boat team (see over)

26 Nov – Committees – Recreation Ground 6.00pm; Planning 7.30pm; Finance & General Purposes – 8.15pm. All start with the public session, so do pop in

28 Nov – Council Surgery at 10am at the Village Coffee Morning

30 Nov – two days to the deadline for returning your Survey questionnaire

Our Anniversary

Did you know – *Rendezvous* is one year old. The first edition of the newsletter was sent out on trial in November 2012 following which it has since been included with the Parish Magazine on a bi-monthly basis. Let us know if there are other topics you would like covered – see Q 6.7 of the Village Survey. Past editions of *Rendezvous* are available in the Council's on-line library.

Finances

Our financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Each year, starting in October, we review our finances and prepare a budget for the forthcoming financial year together with a three year forecast. For this budget round we will therefore be looking forward to 2017/18. Our income is primarily from the precept (local tax) and currently amounts to £40,890pa. The Parish Council has the power to increase the precept, but has kept the figure unchanged for the past four years. However, owing to a recalculation of support from Wealden, it will reduce by 2% in 2013/14 to £40,000pa. In last year's



budget round we were determined not to increase the precept for the next three years, and we are still of that view. That would be eight years with no increase (in fact a 2% decrease). And all this against a background of forever increasing costs. To help hold the level of local tax unchanged, we are undertaking a detailed review of all our cost lines, and other income sources. This will include reviews of the number of meetings we hold, the structure of the loans taken out to help finance the Village Hall, activities carried out on behalf of the community - increasing some and (possibly) reducing others, general maintenance and administrative costs, and even hire charges for the Pavilion. Our current aim is to keep the precept unchanged, yet again.

Community Bus

The Cuckmere Bus (CCB) operates three return trips from Eastbourne to East Dean every Tuesday and Thursday. For the six months to September the number of one-way tickets issued was 776 on Tuesdays (up 4% on last year) and 329 on Thursdays (this service started in April 2013). Timetables are on the Village Hall noticeboard, and on the Council noticeboards and website. Concessionary bus passes apply to all CCB services.



Meet a Councillor

Here we meet Joe Cullinane who, with his partner Angela, moved from Pinner to East Dean in October 2012, and Joe became a Parish Councillor in April 2013. Between them they have 4 children and 6 grandchildren with

more on the way. Joe started his working life as a researcher in the film industry. After working on *Waterloo* for the Dino de Laurentiis studio in Rome, he decided on a complete career change and joined a mechanical services company in London. This was at the tail end of the buzzing 60's. He went on to start his own similar business in the late 70's which he sold on the death of his wife in January 1993. He then opted for an 18 month furlough rather than the daily grind. Then back to it, and for the last 18 years he has been with a five-man team running a residential property investment company with a portfolio in excess of 500 homes. At the age of 70 Joe decided it was time to pursue DIY, photography, gardening and attempt, through the Parish Council, to maintain the idyll that is East Dean.



Season's Greetings

As our next issue isn't until the New Year, a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR** to you all.

Birling Gap Safety Boat

The future of this valuable service is in question. It has been operating for some 28 years helping to save lives and helping people enjoy the cliffs and beach at Birling Gap; what a shame if we lose it. Members of the Safety Boat Team will be discussing their difficulties with the Council on 7 November at 6.30pm in the Small Hall. If you would like to hear the issues, or help the service, possibly by becoming a volunteer, why not come along and join in the discussion.

Standing Committees

The Council has five Standing Committees (see right-hand column) which meet at varying times throughout the year. The public are very welcome to attend any of the meetings, and at the start of every one there is a session at which the public may ask and answer questions and comment on any item of business. Let's take a look at what these Committees are responsible for. The **F&GP** looks after the money – it prepares the annual budgets and forecasts, and monitors and comments on financial performance. It organises the mowing contract for those areas of grass and Rights of Way for which the Parish Council has accepted responsibility. It also organises the maintenance of the car park area at the Downlands Way shops, the War Memorial and railings, the flag pole and various signs and noticeboards. It also looks after HR issues relating to employees. **Planning** reviews all planning applications, comments on them to the SDNPA, and records all recommendations and final decisions. It aims to ensure that the public are made aware of all local planning applications so



anyone interested may come along and have a say at the monthly meetings. The **Recreation Ground** looks after the maintenance of the Pavilion, the playing field (except for the cricket pitch), the public seating, the children's play area and its weekly checks, and the tennis court. **Rights of Way** looks after maintaining the footpaths and

bridleways, cleaning and maintaining the four bus shelters and the public seats and benches not on the recreation ground. It also arranges the maintenance of Friston Pond and Friston Green. Finally, **Village Events** arranges the Annual Meeting of Residents and the annual Bonfire, and any other events agreed by the Council (maybe the Village Fete next year). It seeks to arrange the events primarily for the benefit of the Parish community. Dates of Committee meetings are on the Council noticeboards and website, and are available from any Councillor. Three meetings are on 26 November – see top of first page - why not come along to one (or more) to see what goes on?

New Councillor

We are delighted to welcome Dave Cooper, Chairman of the Village Hall Trust, as a member of the Parish Council. We are now up to our full complement of nine Councillors, three of whom are also Trustees of the Village Hall, and this can only strengthen the bond which already exists between the two groups.

Website

The Council website has recently been updated. Some pages have been slightly rearranged and more links have been added to make it easier to page-hop. A new section has been added – there are a number of *Clubs and Societies* using the Village Hall and we are pleased to support them by providing details of their activities and contact information. Why not log in and take a look.

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

Your Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Rob Page (chair)	423484
Phill Hill (vice chair)	423990
Tim Bryant	422442
Dave Cooper	422486
Joe Cullinane	423834
Stewart Fuller	423710
John Hine	422275
Simon Hunt	423669
Jen Sargent	422326

Parish Clerk

Katrina Larkin

The Old Cottage, Lewes Road
Laughton, East Sussex, BN8 6BQ
01323 811870

Parish Council Meetings

The next two Council meetings will be held in the Small Village Hall at 7.30pm on:

7 November and 5 December

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

Standing Committees

Name	Chair
Finance & General	
Purposes	Stewart Fuller
Planning	Stewart Fuller
Rec Ground	John Hine
Rights of Way	Phillip Hill
Village Events	Tim Bryant

Finances for year to Sept

Receipts	£26,362
Payments	£16,653
Cash in Hand	£42,557
Budgeted spend	
for the year	£45,838

The precept (local tax) is received in two equal instalments of £20,445 in April and October.

Email Register

The Parish Council has an email register for use in sending out urgent or important items or where timescales are short. If you would like to be included on the register please send an email, with your name and address in the subject line, to:

edf.email@yahoo.co.uk