

Rendezvous

January 2014

Issue 08

.... with East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Hello and Welcome



..... and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Here are some diary dates in January
9 Jan – Parish Council Meeting starting with the public session at 6.30pm (note earlier start time)
25 Jan – Children’s Party (see overleaf)
28 Jan – Planning Committee starting with the public session at 7pm (note earlier start time)
30 Jan - Council Surgery at 10am at the Village Coffee Morning

Village Survey

Many thanks to all those who returned their questionnaire – returns were in excess of 30%, an improvement on the 2005 survey. All the ticks and comments are now being analysed and we will let you know the findings shortly. The results of the survey will then be the main theme for the *Annual Village Meeting* in the evening of 19 May in the Village Hall. More details on that nearer the time (but do reserve the date).

Village Action Plan

The Parish Council maintains a Village Action Plan (VAP) which is a form of Business Plan covering the next year or two. Some of the major items included in the VAP are Refurbishment of the Pavilion, Road Safety at Friston Church, Public Toilets adjacent to the Village Hall, updating the Village Design Statement, Leasing the Farrer Hall from the National Trust, and Closing the Old Village Hall Trust. Progress against the VAP is reported in Council and Committee minutes, and a summary list of the *live issues*, together with their current status, is posted on Council Noticeboards and in the on-line library. Do take a look.

War Memorial

This monument has been standing for nearly 100 years. It has stood up to the elements well but not surprisingly there are signs of fatigue, although the base and foundations seem solid. A structural and a stonemason’s survey have recently been undertaken, and once we have studied the report we will aim to undertake any essential repairs in the Spring 2014. Pending the results and formal quotations for repair, a pre-application for a grant towards repairing the Memorial has been made to the War Memorial Trust - 2014 will mark 100 years since the start of the First World War. The War Memorial is recorded within *War Memorials On-line*.



Village Fete

As you may be aware the Royal British Legion has decided not to arrange the Village Fete in the future. We have considered stepping into the breach but have decided not to do anything for 2014 but to consider organising a new style Fete for 2015, possibly on the Recreation Ground or elsewhere. Other organisations may do something in 2014.



Meet a Councillor

Here we meet Jen Sargent who grew up in Reigate marrying, at the age of 20, Roger a journalist. They moved to Uganda, where Roger worked as a Foreign and War Correspondent (a ‘stringer’ for Fleet Street) living in Uganda, firstly with Milton Obote in power then following the 1971 military coup, under Idi Amin’s terrifying regime. They moved to Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) a country with an ominous feeling of unrest and no British Embassy to flee to as, under Ian Smith, Rhodesia had no political relationship with the UK. Jen had three children all born in different countries. Further periods were spent living in Beirut, Johannesburg and Dubai. Roger aged only 50 died suddenly. From 1987, Jen worked for 25 years in Local Government as Housing Manager for a Surrey District Council, moving with Rob, her partner of many years – who sadly died last August - to East Dean in 2009. Jen has a daughter in Surrey and sons in Tokyo and Oregon, three small grandchildren and a teenage step-grandson in North Wales. Jen has a Science Degree graduating at age 65; is a Community First Responder and has been a Parish Councillor since 2011.



Emergency Self-Help Guide

To support the Village Emergency Plan we have prepared a Self-Help Guide which provides some suggestions about what you could do in an emergency and who you should contact. We also suggest a few precautions that you could take. The Self-Help Guide can be downloaded from the on-line library. Alternatively, if you would like a hard-copy please contact the Parish Clerk or any Councillor.

Parish Council Elections

Parish Councils are the first tier of local government and we are one of about 8,500 of them in England and 82 in East Sussex. We have limited variable tax raising powers and the component part of the Council Tax which comes to us from Wealden District Council is known as the Precept. It amounts to some £40,000pa. Councillors are elected for a period of four years and the next Parish Council elections will take place in May 2015. It may sound a long way off, but time passes quickly. Would you like to help in the community? Might you be interested in standing as a Councillor? Would you like to find out more about what we do? You may wish to consider these questions. In the next few editions of *Rendezvous* we will provide more information, but in the meantime why not browse the Council website or come along to a Council or Committee meeting; they are all open to the public and they all start earlier now to make attendance that little bit easier. Meeting times are on Council noticeboards and on our website. We look forward to seeing you.

Parish Council Mid-Winter Party



Calling all village children! A party is arranged for Saturday 25 January in the Village Hall. For children up to 7yrs of age 4pm-6pm with food served at 5pm. For children 7-15yrs of age 5pm-8pm with food served at 5.30pm. Come and join in the fun and good old-fashioned games including bouncy castle and live music. There is no charge. Book your place by 18 January – call

423990 or email jillmhill.edfj@gmail.com

Strengthening Local Relationships

Twice a year representatives of the Parish Council meet with ESCC officers to review items of common interest. This is under the banner of Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) and the majority of items discussed relate to Highways. The last meeting was held in October and the items covered included: possibility of footpath connecting Old Willingdon Road to Windmill Lane; reclassifying Birling Gap Road as a 'B' road as it is a bus route; untaxed vehicles on unadopted roads; Airborne; derestriction signs on the Downlands Estate and the recording of actual speeds reached; fly tipping; additional yellow lines, and highway verge maintenance.

Bus Shelters

The Council own and maintain the bus shelters within the village. To help smarten and brighten them up they will be furnished with floral displays in the spring with the help of the Gardening Club.

Website

Visits to the website have increased significantly over the past couple of months. In addition to the normal growth, the new *Clubs & Societies* section has proved popular, and there was a spike of visitors accessing the Bonfire details in early November. Why not log in and take a look, the site is updated regularly.

<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 6.30pm on:

9 January and 6 February

Residents are very welcome to attend, observe and participate in the public session. 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 Nov

Receipts	£50,870
Payments	£26,810
Cash in Hand	£56,908
Budgeted spend for the year	£45,838

It is anticipated that the full year spend will outturn close to budget.

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