

**FAIRLIGHT CLIFFS UPDATE**

Notwithstanding our mild winter the heavy rains in the early months of 2020 have produced some worrying further cliff falls in the area of Sea Road and the path leading over the headland to Cliff End and Pett Level. There are a number of accumulations of debris from these falls, in particular in the area near to John's Seat and behind the first and third berms protecting the houses along Sea Road in Fairlight Cove.

This is a very unwelcome development, which only serves to reinforce the repeatedly expressed view of the FPT that special care must be taken to avoid new construction along Sea Road or Rockmead Road or elsewhere in the vicinity of the cliffs – i.e. in respect of properties lying within 50 metres of the cliff edge.

As can be seen by anyone walking around the Cove at the level of the beach, there appears to be a great deal of water within the cliffs, which is draining out and undermining their stability. This accumulation of groundwater remains a problem. The FPT has the situation under regular review and works to ensure the repair and maintenance of the sea defences. However, these defences cannot prevent this type of cliff fall, which is generated by heavy rains rather than sea erosion.

As a consequence, we need to ensure that any unnecessary disturbance of the cliffs by building works or by digging into the surface is avoided, and no property in the area is reliant upon soakaways for drainage.

The FPT continues to work with Rother District Council and the East Kent Engineering Partnership to consider the most effective means of maintaining the sea defences and the Rockmead Road wells and pumping system. Owing to the coronavirus we have not had the chance to meet with them yet in 2020 to plan a summer works programme but we remain in contact. Members will be provided with further information in due course when plans have been made.

A date for your diary – the regular Annual General Meeting of the FPT will be held in the Fairlight Village Hall on Sunday 22 November 2020 at 2.30pm – subject to the vagaries of the virus regulations. For further information about membership of the FPT please contact our Membership Secretary, Jill Lewing at [jill.lewing@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.lewing@btinternet.com) .

We send our best wishes to all members and other residents and hope they are keeping safe and well.

Dr Ruth Kosmin

Secretary