



December 2023 Newsletter

What has the Parish Council been doing?

- Ann Hohenkirk has resigned from the Parish Council, for personal reasons. She will be greatly missed but will continue to volunteer at DISH and represent Fairlight on the Hastings Bus Group. We thank her for all the work she has done for the Parish Council.
- The Village Map has been removed. A new frame is being made by Icklesham Joinery and a replacement map is being painted by Julie Marshall of the Fairlight Art Club. The new map will be produced in the style of the original one. Thanks to the Fairlight Residents Association for their help with this project.
- The draft of the budget for April 2024-5 is progressing. It is difficult to estimate how the cost of materials and labour might change so far ahead but we are getting there. The proposed budget and precept will be voted on at the January Parish Council meeting. There will be meetings of the Finance Committee in December and January to further look at the budget before the full Parish Council meeting.
- The tree survey for Knowle Wood has been received. There are quite a number of trees that are in need of action, either felling/removal of dead or possibly dangerous branches. Several of the ash trees have ash dieback and need felling. Once we have the planning permission, we will be carrying out this work before the nesting season.
- Councillors have agreed to hold a ‘Safer Fairlight’ event on 16th January 2024. This will be a chance to discuss issues such as speeding, parking, Speedwatch, Neighbourhood Watch and reporting incidents.
- The Parish Council has now got all permissions for the new war memorial and have placed the order for it. The fund is still a bit short of the total needed for the purchase and maintenance of the memorial and further fundraising will be needed. The War Memorial Steering Group is working on this.
- A letter has been written to Rother to ask them to reconsider their closure of the toilets at Pett Level. If you would like to add your voice to this, please go to www.rother.gov.uk/budget24

or send a letter to consultations@rother.gov.uk. There is a link on the Parish Council website or on Fairlight Focus.

- An order has been placed to install new toddler swings, the slide and ground matting in the playground. Both items have been in place for a number of years and are now badly corroded.
- It is planned to hold a public meeting of the Market Garden Group in the Village Hall funded by the Parish Council. The group is proposing to arrange the meeting in January.
- It has been decided not to allow the Royal Hastings Cricket Club to use Wood Field for their matches for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your comments on this subject.
- An extension to the agreement for the use of Wood Field by the Hastings Athletic Football Club for their junior matches has been approved for the next three years.
- The Parish Council's grants scheme will be launched in January 2024 for the year 2024/5. The application forms and criteria can be found on the website. Please note that any previous recipients of grants will be asked to show how the money was spent, with photos if possible.
- Friends of Hastings Country Park (Fire Hills) are investigating installing a wild flower meadow near the Bale House for further information please go to:
www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Christmas Decorations and Lights

This annual fun competition will be judged in the week before Christmas. As before the judges will view the village in daylight as well as after dark. For fairness no household may win in more than two consecutive years. The results of your hard work decorating your property are greatly enjoyed. Have fun.

Christmas Cracker

This will happen on Christmas Day. Several tickets for Christmas lunch and much more at the amazing price of £5 have already been sold. Tickets and further information available from DISH on Mondays, the Friday Lunch Club (MOPP) on Fridays or phone Carol on 07967 396594. It is looking like a really "cracking event". All are welcome to pop in at any time during the day for a drink, Christmas nibbles, and cake, or a chat and change of scenery. DISH will also be in the Village Hall as usual on January 1st (New Years Day).

Southern Water

Representatives will be at DISH on 18th December between 12pm and 3pm. They will be available to answer questions about the Pathfinder Project, water butts, sewerage spills, overflowing manhole covers and anything else water and sewerage related.

Finally, the Parish Council would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year. See you in 2024.

Thank you

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