



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Without wishing to tempt fate following on the month's theme

“April showers bring May flowers”

Also, with the good weather over the Easter weekend, we are now all looking forward to spring and being able to get out and about again after what has been a long and wet winter.

Parish Councillors and Local By-election

Thanks were given at the Parish Council meeting to Lyn Cooke and Geoff Smith, who have both resigned from the Parish Council. They have worked hard for the village and their efforts for the village through the Parish Council will be missed.

A by-election to fill these two vacancies will be held on Thursday 2nd May. There will be a cost to the Parish Council of around £2685 for Rother District Council's services for this by-election. Please can I also remind you if you wish to vote in person at the Polling station you will need photo ID as well as your polling card.

Grants and Donations 2024/25

Grants and donations have been agreed by the Parish Council following the recommendations of the Grants Panel. A total of £6275 was awarded. These grants are made to local groups for projects that they are planning. Notifications and cheques will be raised at the end of April.

New Benches

The Parish Council has agreed the design of the new seat for outside St Peters and the replacement bench for the bus stop on the Circle. These will now be ordered. Thank you to the FRA for their collaboration on this project.

Speed Watch

Speed Watch reported that when doing checks recently they noticed a marked reduction in the number of vehicles speeding, both on Battery Hill and Waites Lane. Let's hope that the message is getting through to the majority of local drivers.

Knowle Wood

Knowle Wood tree work has been completed and the Knowle Wood volunteers are now continuing their excellent work.

Wood Field Playground

The new slide and swings are ready to be installed as soon as the ground is dry enough. All we need is a few dry days in April!

Parish Council Website

Work on the new website is continuing. Meanwhile, apologies for some glitches you may experience from time to time.

New War Memorial

The War Memorial Fund has reached its target, and work is progressing to plan its installation later in the year. Many thanks to all who have donated and worked towards this great achievement.

D-Day 80 – 6th June

Plans are being made for the D-Day 80 celebrations on June 6th. If any groups have plans for their own celebrations for this day, please let the Parish Council know so we can coordinate and publicise them.

The Mountain and Hoads Wood

The new owners Ollie and Lauren, who took over the site a year ago, have plans to restore the woodland by removing the invasive rhododendrons and laurels and start re-coppicing the sweet chestnut sustainably. They will be using a local forester who extracts via horse in order to do this with as much delicacy as possible. The Mountain Field will be brought back into management again with annual grazing by cows, a service offered by a local farmer. This will increase the wild flowers and help remove the bracken which needs to be controlled. There have been two incidents where articulated lorries fell off Peter James Lane into the field, leaving some hedging missing. Ollie and Lauren are working with ESCC Highways to ensure this does not happen again. They are also organic certified and members of a group who have won a large grant as part of the Environmental Agency Flood Management Scheme to "Slow the Flow" and help the residents of Pett Level by stopping extreme floods in future years.

Pathfinder Project

Southern Water will be at DISH on Monday 15th April from 10am to 3pm to answer questions about their work in the village. The latest update from Southern Water is available on the Parish Council website.

DISH – Drop In Social Hub

DISH celebrated its first birthday with an amazing cake made by Carol Sharpe. We look forward to seeing many of you on Mondays, for refreshments, a chat or information and advice. If you know of anyone who would like to join us but has transport difficulties, please get in touch and we will try to help.

Contacting Us

Please note that the Parish Council will not respond to comments posted on Facebook or other social media sites. If you wish to contact us about any matters or ask questions, please use email, face to face contact any Monday in the Village Hall between 10am and 4pm or by Royal Mail. We will endeavour to answer all reasonable enquiries.

Finally - Thank you

We would like to thank those who have expressed their support and appreciation, either verbally or via emails, for the varied work that the Parish Council does within the village.

Thank you

Issy Horsley - Chair of Fairlight Parish Council

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