



East Dean & Friston

Annual Village Meeting

Annual Village Meeting Reports 15th May 2025

Report by the Parish Council Chairman

This report covers the period from April 2024 to March 2025

The Council has had a full complement of Councillors for the year. However, at the time of writing, there is one vacancy as Councillor Tim Bryant has decided to step down. The Parish Council wishes to thank Tim for his input over many years, firstly as Chair of the Planning Committee and lately as Deputy Chair of the full Council. Tim has served the village well, bringing plenty of experience and knowledge to the Council and he will be missed.

We have had a challenging time with the departure of two Parish Clerks in the last twelve months. Sam Adeniji resigned in June 2024 and then we had two months assistance from Julia Shelley as Locum. We were delighted to welcome Fiona Chalk as our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer in August but unfortunately Fiona has had to step down in March due to family circumstances. Julia Shelley has returned as our Locum and I am pleased to say that at the time of producing this report we are in the process of appointing a new Clerk. More news to follow at the Annual Village Meeting.

We welcomed three new Councillors in May 2024 who are Naomi Baker, Jonathan Greenway and Trevor Larkin

The full council comprises:

Paul Seeley – Chairman

Michael Bustard – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chairman and Environmental Lead

Grant Fowler – Planning Committee Chairman and Pavilion and Recreation Ground Lead

Phillip Hill – Rights of Way Lead

David White – Rights of Way

Trevor Larkin – Defibrillator Lead

Jonathan Greenway – Tree Warden

Naomi Baker – Grants and Events Lead

1 Vacancy

All Councillor's attend the main Council and Planning meetings. Cllr. Grant Fowler, Cllr Naomi Baker and Cllr. David White also serve on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

The Council are indebted to the continued support and assistance from Mr David George, our Hon Solicitor, and regular helpers Graham Street (Bus Shelters, Speed Camera and Flag Master) and Jan Smith (Pavillion Caretaker). Ron Franklin has moved from the village and he was known for cleaning the bus shelters on the A259 in East Dean and Friston. The Council is to place a plaque on one of the new benches at East Dean bus stop in thanks to Ron for all of his hard work.

Highlights over the last 12 months include:

- Finances are healthy and the precept for 2024 / 25 was set at £77,175, up from £73,500 last year. However, this equates to £1.52 a week for a Band D property which is excellent value.
- The Parish Council has been left a bequest by a resident of the village of £25,000 which will be put towards a suitable project in due course.
- We continue to cut grass at The Greensward, Village Green, around Friston Pond and various open spaces and maintain the many public bins and footpaths around the village.
- Electric Vehicle charging points have been installed in the village car park courtesy of Wealden District Council.
- Various trees have been lopped in the village public areas.
- New benches have been installed at bus stops on the A259 in the village.
- Replacement of the defibrillators at the shops, Michel Dene Road, Village Hall and the Cricket Pavillion.
- The bus shelters have had replacement glazing installed where required.
- Celebration of D Day on 6th June at the recreation ground.
- Grants have been made to various organisations in the village and also to the RNLI and Beachy Head Chaplaincy.
- We continue to work with the Roads Company and the Residents Association on the private estate.
- We have applied to East Sussex County Council for a Road Traffic Order to introduce a 20mph speed limit in Upper Street, Lower Street, Went Way and all of the private estate roads north of the A259.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has had a very productive year and further details will be given at the meeting.

Planning remains a priority for the Parish and there have been 22 applications this year which is lower than in previous years. 29 in 2023/24, 44 in 2022/23 and 48 in 2021/22. The Parish Council recommended approval in 16 cases (two with conditions) and these were accepted by the South Downs National Park. In a further 4 cases the Council did object but these were approved by South Downs National Park.

Plans for 2025 / 26 will include:

- Progression of the Neighbourhood Plan to a successful conclusion including a referendum on the plan voted on by all villagers. This will also deliver some new policies for the Council to take forward.
- Progress of the 20mph speed limit proposals.
- Review of the Cricket Pavilion, Tennis Court and other facilities at the Recreation Ground. Any development proposals will be brought to a public meeting in due course for consideration.
- V.E. Day 80th Anniversary celebration at the Recreation Ground on the evening of Thursday 8th June 2025 including lighting of the beacon.
- Continued maintenance and improvement to all Council owned assets.
- Installation of a defibrillator at Friston.

- Challenge ESCC regarding Exceat Bridge replacement proposals.
- Liaise with Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council and Government on the proposed Devolution Bill and the introduction of Unitary Authorities and Mayors and the impact this may have on the Parish.
- 25 Year Celebration of the Village Hall and Village Awards evening on Saturday 4th October.

The Parish Council will continue to play an active role in the village and do our best to ensure that the voice of villagers who raise valid concerns are addressed wherever possible.

Paul Seeley

Chairman of the Parish Council

East Dean and Friston Art Group

The East Dean and Friston Art Group comprises 52 enthusiastic members from around the local communities. It aims to bring together artists of mixed abilities who share a love of painting and drawing. We exchange ideas and share inspiration, develop skills and techniques and just enjoy the company of fellow artists during our weekly painting sessions. We work across a range of media and subject matter, and as a sociable group enjoy refreshments and homemade cake mid-morning.

The Group has an annual Art Show which provides an opportunity to showcase and sell works the Group members have produced, and it provides an opportunity to raise money for a local charity which is chosen annually by the members.

We meet weekly on Tuesday mornings in the Village Hall and during the summer months from the beginning of June through until the end of August we sketch and paint en plein air at various venues around East Dean, Eastbourne and other local areas.

During our indoor sessions (September – May) we host visiting tutors and hold workshops and demonstrations once a month. We also organise occasional visits to local Art Exhibitions and some of our members take part in local Open House events.

For more information contact: Sue Currie, Chair: sue_currie@btinternet.com or visit our website: www.eastdeanart.org.uk

East Dean & Friston Bowling Club

We are a very old club having been dug out by the villagers and farmers who lived in the village in 1936. We have a member who has been with us since 1970 so that is a good recommendation.

We are a small and very friendly club who enjoy meeting up for Roll Ups at any time during the week, weekends or evenings as long as there is not a match being played.

For those who reach the dizzy heights they would play in the teams for matches against other clubs, again great fun and a challenge.

It is a very easy game to learn with help always available.

We would love to welcome new players

Contact our Captain Frank Vine 07505755876

Carers Coffee Morning

We meet on the third Monday of the month 10.00-12.00 at the back of East Dean Church. There is no charge but plenty of coffee, nibbles and cake!

It is a place where those who care for loved ones can come and relax and chat, laugh or cry with others and where we all support one another. All are welcome with or without those they care for, just turn up. Steph Carter 07968 222732

Proposal for the East Dean & Friston Community Sports and Social Club

Summary

The East Dean & Friston Community Sports and Social Club (The Club) aims to create a vibrant facility that would cater to the recreational and social needs of local residents. By improving and enhancing the existing pavilion and introducing new amenities, the Club would enable the future viability of local sports clubs, foster community spirit, promote inclusivity, and address concerns such as loneliness and mental health. This proposal outlines the vision, facilities, funding strategies, and potential benefits of establishing this community asset. The Village meeting on May 15th at East Dean Village Hall serves as a platform for local residents to engage with the project and provide their feedback.

1. Introduction

East Dean & Friston Cricket Club (EDFCC) supports the initiative to develop a new Community Sports and Social Club that would serve the diverse needs of our village. It is important to note that this project will be promoted by an independent body representing all stakeholders, including the Bowls Club, the Parish Council, residents and all stakeholders, rather than solely by EDFCC. The aim is to create a collaborative environment that benefits all residents.

2. Proposed Features and Facilities

2.1. Facilities

The proposed Club would include the following key facilities:

- **Cricket Pavilion:** An upgraded pavilion that would accommodate changing rooms, showers, and social spaces.
- **Relocated Bowls Green:** The Bowls Green could be situated in the southwest corner of the recreation ground, providing easy access to all facilities and ensuring Bowls players can fully participate in Club activities.
- **Multi-Sport Facilities:** Refurbished tennis courts which can be used as cricket nets and for basketball / netball, all located on the same existing site. Provision of tennis coaching.
- **Social Spaces:** A bar, café, and casual seating areas would foster social interaction and community events.
- **Public Toilets:** Accessible facilities for visitors, ensuring a comfortable experience.
- **Remote Working Facilities:** Designated areas equipped with power outlets and seating for residents to work on laptops, promoting a productive environment for those who wish to work remotely.

2.2. Addressing Community Concerns

Common objections to new community projects often include concerns about noise, traffic, and financial sustainability. To address these:

- **Noise Management:** We would implement sound insulation measures and restrict use during late hours to minimise disturbances.
- **Traffic Control:** A comprehensive parking and traffic management plan would be developed in collaboration with local authorities to ensure safe access and egress.
- **Financial Viability:** The Club would generate income through membership fees, rental of facilities, and hosting events, ensuring long-term sustainability.

3. Community Benefits

3.1. Fostering Community Spirit

The Club would serve as a hub for social interaction, helping to combat loneliness, especially among the elderly and single residents. By hosting events, activities, and youth programmes, we would create an inclusive environment that strengthens community ties.

3.2. Supporting Local Sports

EDFCC's strategy includes promoting youth involvement and female participation in cricket. This initiative would align with the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) mandate for future support and funding, ensuring that we stay competitive and relevant.

3.3. Collaboration with the Bowls Club

Relocating the Bowls Club to this site would make it more accessible for elderly and disabled members, enhancing their participation and sense of community. The additional members from the Bowls Club would contribute to the financial sustainability of the facility, creating a more robust community asset.

3.4. Economic Advantages

The facility would also stimulate the local economy by:

- Providing rental income from events and classes.
- Attracting independent businesses, such as a café or wellness centre.
- Creating job opportunities for facility management and coaching.

4. Environmental Sustainability

We are committed to implementing best practices in environmental sustainability throughout the design and operation of the Community Sports and Social Club. Key features would include:

- **Solar Panels:** The installation of solar panels on the roof would generate electricity for the Club and provide power for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, promoting clean energy use.
- **Rainwater Recycling and Storage:** A rainwater harvesting system would be implemented to collect and store rainwater for irrigation of the cricket and bowls clubs, promoting efficient water use and sustainability.
- **Sustainable Building Materials:** The construction would use sustainable materials to minimise environmental impact and enhance the building's longevity.
- **Accessibility:** The facility would be designed with accessible entry and exit points, ensuring ease of use for individuals with low mobility, creating an inclusive environment for all community members.
- **Architectural Aesthetics:** The design of the facility would be visually stunning and in keeping with local heritage, with an emphasis on creating a space that could win awards for architectural excellence.

5. Collaboration and Governance

To effectively manage the development of the Club, we propose establishing an independent trust responsible for overseeing planning, fundraising, and operations. This body would ensure that the facility meets the community's needs while maintaining transparency and accountability.

5.1. Stakeholder Engagement

We would actively involve local residents, clubs, and organisations in the planning process to ensure that their voices are heard. Regular meetings, surveys, and feedback sessions would be conducted to refine our vision.

6. Funding Strategies

Securing funding is essential for the success of this project. We plan to pursue various sources:

- **Grants:** Applications to the National Lottery, ECB, Sport England, and other relevant organisations would be prioritised.
- **Fundraising Initiatives:** Local events and sponsorship opportunities would be organised to raise funds.
- **Legacies:** Encouraging residents to leave legacies dedicated to the Club would provide ongoing financial support.

7. Design Specification

7.1. Proposed Features

The design would encompass:

- **Ground Floor:** A fully equipped kitchen, bar, social seating for casual interaction, and changing facilities compliant with ECB guidelines.
- **Second Floor:** Spaces for physical activities, a balcony for relaxation, and potential rental areas for local businesses.

7.2. Community Engagement Spaces

The Club would feature areas specifically designed for community events, workshops, and social gatherings, ensuring that it serves as a welcoming and versatile space for all residents.

8. Conclusion

The East Dean & Friston Community Sports and Social Club represents an exciting opportunity to enhance the quality of life and social and physical fabric of our village. By addressing community needs, fostering collaboration, promoting inclusivity, and committing to environmental sustainability, this project would become a valued asset for all residents. We look forward to hearing your feedback at the Village meeting on May 15th and working together to bring this vision to life.

East Dean & Friston Cricket Club: Our Vision for the Future

East Dean & Friston Cricket Club (EDFCC) is on a mission to establish itself as the most welcoming village cricket club in the local area. With a comprehensive strategy and a five-year plan, we are committed to enhancing our club experience for all members while fostering a strong community spirit.

Enjoyable Cricket for All

At the heart of our strategy lies the objective of providing enjoyable cricket for everyone. To achieve this, we will continuously improve member value and our net promoter score. Our Club Captains and Vice Captains will take on the responsibility of promoting our successes, sharing match reports, and celebrating the spirit of cricket both within our community and beyond. Regular, inclusive, and fun events will be planned to engage our members and address their priorities.

We are particularly focused on developing our youth cricket strategy. By 2026, we aim to hire a youth coach and establish an Under 12's team to compete in a league. This plan includes expanding our facilities to accommodate the growth of youth cricket, forming partnerships with local schools, and delivering popular initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos cricket camps. Over the next five years, we will progressively build our youth teams, expanding from Under 12s to Under 16s.

In addition to youth development, we are committed to promoting girls' and women's cricket, aiming for equality with the men's game by 2030. We may hire a female youth coach to strengthen our girls' section and evaluate the potential for fielding a women's team by 2029.

Facilities We Can Be Proud Of

To enhance our club facilities, we plan to support the redevelopment of the pavilion into a multi-sports and social club by 2028. This redevelopment will include creating an affordable business plan, submitting planning proposals, and engaging with community partners to establish governance and fundraising plans. Our goal is to open the new facility by 2028.

We are also focused on continuously improving our playing facilities to meet the ECB Bronze standard. This involves gathering feedback from players, promoting member participation in our improvement initiatives, and sharing an annual budgeted improvement plan to ensure transparency and accountability.

Strong and Sustainable Governance and Finance

Our club is dedicated to maintaining strong, fair, and transparent governance. We aim to achieve ECB Clubmark accreditation by 2025 and to become a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). Filling open positions on the committee, writing role descriptions, and identifying deputies for key roles will be crucial to our governance strategy. We will work closely with Sussex Cricket and the ECB to align our goals.

Financial sustainability is another cornerstone of our strategy. We will establish multiple revenue streams to ensure strong finances and cash reserves. This includes producing an annual budget, efficiently collecting membership and match fees, and communicating our fundraising goals clearly. We plan to launch EDFCC Legacies, establish a fundraising committee, and apply for various grants to support our initiatives.

Membership Information

We invite everyone to join East Dean & Friston Cricket Club and become part of our vibrant community. Here's a summary of our membership fees for 2025:

- **Full Senior Membership** (22 and over on 1st April 2025): £100 (an increase of £20). This fee can be paid in four monthly instalments via Direct Debit.
- **Full Junior Annual Membership** (21 and under on 1st April 2025): £10
- **Sunday Only Annual Membership:**
 - Senior: £50
 - Junior: £10
- **Non-Playing Member:** £20
- **Non-Playing Partner of a Paid-Up Member:** £10
- **Match Fees:** £10 for seniors and £5 for juniors

Community Engagement

Lastly, we strive to be at the heart of the East Dean & Friston community. Building strong relationships with local organizations, such as the Parish Council and the Bowls Club, is essential. We will ensure that our non-cricket offerings are highly attractive and maintain clear, regular communication through village and social media channels.

At East Dean & Friston Cricket Club, we are excited about our future and the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can create a vibrant, inclusive club that serves as a cornerstone of our community.

Upcoming Events Calendar

To engage our members and the community, we have an exciting lineup of events planned for 2025:

- **Inheritance Tax Seminar:** Thursday, 24 April, 2025
- **Season Kickoff Friendly Match:** Saturday, 3 May, 2025
- **VE Day - Nearest the Pin Competition:** Thursday, 8 May, 2025
- **Test Match Trip to Trent Bridge (England Vs Zimbabwe):** Thursday, 22 May, 2025
- **East Dean History Walk & Cricket Tea:** June
- **Mid Week T20 and Curry (Intra Club T20):** Wednesday, June
- **Sussex Junior Game:** Sunday, 13 July, 2025
- **Intra Club T20 & BBQ:** Sunday, 13 July, 2025
- **Tiger Inn VS Sussex Ox:** Wednesday, 16 July, 2025

- **Village Fete Crockery Smash:** Saturday, 19 July, 2025
- **Darts Tournament:** Date to be decided later
- **Quiz Nights:** Date to be decided later
- **Teenage Cancer Trust Charity Race Day:** Friday, 8 August, 2025
- **Intra Club T20 & BBQ:** August Wednesday
- **Neil Gamble's Fundraising Match:** Sunday, 3 August, 2025
- **President's XI vs Sunday's XI:** Sunday, 24 August, 2025
- **Mid-Season Fundraiser 6-a-side Match - Bank Holiday:** 25/08/2025 (moved to Sunday)
- **Club Awards - Dinner Night:** September - October

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our events and making lasting memories together!



Bus Service 41

Cuckmere Buses runs a fleet of 16-seater minibuses throughout the Cuckmere Valley area and beyond. It is run entirely by volunteers, there are no employees. There are over 40 fully trained drivers and 8 additional volunteers who all help run the fleet and keep the wheels turning.

The **East Dean and Friston shopping Service 41** runs twice weekly - on a **Tuesday and Thursday** per the timetable below. The Parish Council kindly sponsors the service. The bus will stop anywhere around the villages it is safe to do so – just raise your arm when you see the bus approaching or ring the bell if you are a passenger and wish to alight. It's like a taxi service but without the related cost; it's the easier, more friendly way into Eastbourne and home again that's practically door-to-door. Use your concessionary pass or pay the driver - cash or contactless. (The maximum single journey fare on all our services is capped at £3 until the end of 2025).

Timetable – Service 41 - Tuesday & Thursday			
Eastbourne, Gildredge Road, stop G2	1010	1155	1450
Eastbourne Old Town, Waitrose	--	1158	1453
East Dean, Village Hall	--	1205	1500
Windmill Lane	1038	1209	1504
Warren Lane, The Brow	1039	1210	1505
Dene Side, Hillside	1042	1213	1508
Dene Side, Peakdean Lane	1044	1215	1510
Peakdean Lane (top)	1046	1217	1512
Dene Side (east)	1049	1220	1515
The Link (top of Michel Dene Road)	1052	1223	1518
East Dean, Village Hall	1056	--	--
Eastbourne Old Town, Waitrose	1103	1231	--
Eastbourne, Cornfield Road, stop C1	1107	1235	1546

Based on the above you could arrive at Waitrose at 11.03 for a quick visit and pick up the return bus at 11.58. Or get into Eastbourne at 11.07, pop to the bank and catch the 11.55 back, or for a longer visit, arrive in Eastbourne at either 11.07 or 12.35 for a shop and lunch and return at 14.50.

Our comfortable buses are also available to hire for special occasions, afternoon teas, outings or an excursion. Check out our website, then give us a call.

Would you, or someone you know, like to join our team as a volunteer driver? Check out our website then give us a call.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard soon.

Stewart Fuller
cuckmerebuses.org.uk
01323 870920



East Dean Downlands (Roads) Ltd

EDDR

EDDR is a not-for-profit private limited company. It was set up in March 1984 with the prime objective of looking after the maintenance of the private roads and gulleys on the East Dean Downlands Estate. These activities were taken over from the previous owners after the roads had fallen into a poor state of repair, and this was followed by the legal transfer of appropriate covenants and enforcement rights to EDDR.

The roads are classified as 'private streets' meaning they are public highways with public rights of way. However, as the roads are not adopted by the Highways Authority (ESCC), they need to be privately maintained. That is where EDDR comes in. Although we do not own any of the roads, we arrange for the road maintenance, including resurfacing, pothole repairs, and gully and drain clearances. We operate in partnership with the Estate residents – we do not have a stated duty to maintain the roads but a right to do so, and an expectation from the residents that we will indeed maintain them.

We are funded by annual receipts from residents on the Estate. For 2025 the fee is a modest £125 per household, noticeably less than some other private estates. The fee is set by the shareholders at the AGMs to meet the ongoing road maintenance programme. We are grateful to the vast majority of residents who pay the annual fee in full; it is most regrettable that a small minority are not so community spirited.

The roads were originally built of concrete, now layered with tarmac. They were not designed for the high volume of vehicles nor the large number of heavy trucks we see today. This high usage inevitably leads to a higher degree of wear and tear and potentially could adversely impact the underlying sub-structure. The company has therefore introduced a build levy which seeks additional one-off contributions from households undertaking significant development works.

Estate residents are encouraged to become shareholders in EDDR, over 40% are already. Shareholders who have fully paid current and past annual fees are entitled to vote at the AGMs. To become a member (there's no charge), please email us.

The company has three directors - Robert Corbett (Chair), Brian Howe (Ops) and Stewart Fuller (Co. Secretary), and we are supported by an Administrator – Caraline Marchant. We need more support, please. Stewart is standing down at the AGM in March 2026 and we are looking for someone to take his place. If you're interested in the position of Director and/or Co. Secretary, or would like to help out in any other way, please email us and we'll arrange a chat.

Finally, emails are a quick and easy way to communicate with you. We hold email addresses for over 70% of households on the Estate on our secure database. This allows us to send global emails or target specific roads. If we don't hold your email address and you would like us to communicate with you via email, please let us know. To find out more about us please take a look at our website. Thank you

Stewart Fuller, Co. Secretary eastdeanroads@hotmail.co.uk eastdeanroads.org.uk

Fitness Classes for Over Fifties

Wednesday 9.00am--10,00am

These classes are run in the two winter terms and everyone in the class is over 60,70 and 80 !

We are a very friendly class with members who have been with me for many years.

The class starts with an Aerobic Routine aiming to make the heart work harder improve the circulation and aiming at co-ordination to help the brain as well as body.

Exercises then follow designed to strengthen, tone, stretch, and the flexibility of all our joints and muscles.

A very important ingredient of the class is to have fun.

Further details Frances Mace 423137

East Dean & Friston Village Show

Did you know that there has been a Flower Show in the Village from 1907 until the start of the First World War? Restarted in 1947 by the Cricket Club as a fund-raising event to be held on August Bank Holiday Monday in conjunction with a cricket match.

78 years later the Flower Show is organised by a stand-alone committee dedicated to running the Show for the enjoyment of the village. The committee raises funds to run the show via seeking sponsorship from local businesses, selling advertising in the Schedule and on the day admission charges and selling afternoon teas with home baked cakes and scones.

Other than the children's classes which are open to all children and grandchildren who have a relative living in the village, entries are restricted to residents only from East Dean & Friston.

There were 80 entries in 1947 and last year we had 140 entries – we have over 100 different classes including vegetables, flowers, fruit, baking, preserves, pot plants, flower arranging, needlework, crafts and photographs. All judged to RHS rules by qualified RHS judges. In total there are 23 trophies to be won, all having been given by local villagers, past and present. We look forward to welcoming you to the Show on August Bank Holiday Monday 2025 or even better, why not enter one or more of the classes?

East Dean Greensward Limited

East Dean Greensward Limited (EDGL) is a Company Limited by Guarantee with a single asset – The Greensward on the Downlands Estate – but no shareholders, only members. The purpose of EDGL is to ensure the continuing amenity value of the Greensward for the enjoyment of all residents and to protect it against future development. Any householder in the parish can become a member of EDGL at no cost.

In 2023 EDGL introduced a native wildflower meadow at the southern end of the Greensward with the aim of bringing summer colour to the area and more pollinator-friendly flowers. An interpretive board was added to inform residents about the initiative. This year the area has been extended with a more natural boundary and resown. We hope for a similar bright display.

After much public support, we are continuing to use part of the upper end of the Greensward as a no-mow area to give wildflower species already present a chance to flower and reseed. There is no fence or any restriction on access. Such species as cowslip, dog violet and pyramidal orchid are now increasing in number. The area will be left unmown for the spring and summer before an autumn tidy-up.

Some additional native tree species were planted last year at the southern end. In addition, replacements for trees that have died are made, often sponsored by a resident.

During consultations for the Parish Neighbourhood Plan, many residents expressed their wish for greater public use of local greenspaces, for recreation and amenity as well as for their wildlife value. The EDGL Board is now looking at options for the Greensward, including two picnic benches and perhaps a few social events in addition to the Annual Village Fete. Further ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

If you would like to participate in the Greensward management or become part of the Board, please contact us. If you prefer just to provide feedback, your views on wildflowers, tree planting, benches, etc. are very welcome. For all enquiries, please contact our Secretary at greenswardeastdean@gmail.com or visit the Greensward pages on the Residents' Association website at <https://edfra.org.uk/the-greensward-company/> for further information.

East Dean & Friston Local History Group

The Local History Group has had another very good year and the membership has grown,, now approaching 140. The group meets in the Village Hall on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.30p.m, with the exception of August and December.

The lectures are varied, given by outside speakers and our own members but always of a high standard. In addition, this year we have organised visits to The Dovecote in West Dean and to Polegate windmill both with fascinating histories. We also had a well-attended lunch at the Langham Hotel in August.

A unique feature of our Club is the production of booklets relating to Local History which are regularly commented upon favourably by our speakers and visitors. These are written by members on subjects of their own choosing for which they have a real interest. We now have nearly 70 booklets and we are indebted to Lloyd Brunt, our Publications Secretary, for their production.

At our recent AGM, it was agreed that would hold the subscription at £10 per year with a rate for visitors of £4 per meeting. Not only does this cover our Speaker costs, Hall hire and incidentals, it also provides tea and biscuits at every meeting for which we must thank our wonderful tea team!!!

David and Vivienne Lester retired from the committee at the AGM in March but we are delighted to welcome John Dann as our Chairman. John Wilton, our Programme Secretary, has provided us with an excellent programme and we look forward with enthusiasm to future lectures. He plans to continue to organise visits and our Summer Lunch but wishes to step down as programme Secretary at the end of this year.

We have a very small committee to whom I must offer my grateful thanks for all their hard work and enthusiasm. We would welcome some help by way of two committee members to spread the load. As I write this, we particularly need a Secretary and a Programme Secretary. Mike Keller remains as our Membership Secretary and in addition to maintaining the Database and communicating with the membership, he produces a U tube edition which is available to members who have missed the meeting or wish to see the lecture once more. As Treasurer, Linda Keller keeps the finances in order and ?????? Examines our books. To both we extend our grateful thanks

We are a very friendly group and we always welcome new members, just come along to any of our meetings and introduce yourself to our Treasurer, Linda Keller who is on the door.

John Dann - CHAIRMAN

Micheldene WI

We are a friendly and welcoming group that meet on the **first Monday of each month in East Dean and Friston Village Hall at 19.00 for 19.30.**

Our monthly meetings are varied. Sometimes we invite an interesting speaker or hold activity evenings. Our Quiz, music and themed evenings and the all-important Christmas Party are very popular. We also offer an additional range of activities that vary according to the interests of the members and are a great way to get to know members in smaller groups. These include the Walking group, Book Clubs, Gardener's group, Bridge Club, Craft Group, Family History Group and the supper club.

In addition, we take trips to theatres and exhibitions, gardens, craft fairs and local places of interest. We have a full programme of events planned for the coming year and are always looking to try new things, welcoming suggestions from members.

We are a registered charity and raise a significant amount of money each year for local charities, as well as helping in practical ways to support the local Women's Refuge and Matthew 25 Mission.

Come and meet a group of diverse and interesting women who would love to welcome you at one of our meetings.

East Dean and Friston Residents' Association

Chair's report 2025

It is that time again where, as Chair, I get to reflect on what the year has held and the significant things that have happened.

We are really fortunate that our committee remains strong and totally committed to working for the benefit of our community.

Last year we focused on publicity in an attempt to attract more members, and to share with current members what we have been up to on their behalf. We hope that you have visited our excellent website, edfra.org.uk, and have enjoyed reading the biannual Newsletter. I am delighted to say that membership has increased by nearly 12 percent over the last year.

The weather was good in July and 2024's fete was a resounding success, with many residents commenting that it was the best ever! We raised money for the community and have purchased two new oak benches. Having asked residents for their ideas we have located one on the Link and one will soon be located near to the Village Hall.

The start of this year has been an extremely busy one. The RA committee organised a Burns Night Extravaganza and with help of family and friends laid on a full three course meal and entertainment for 84 of our residents. It was a fabulous evening and with your generosity we managed to present the charity **Coats 4 Kids** a cheque for £500.

February continued our events schedule and local band Duality entertained us for a lovely evening of music and dance. It was a great way to dispel those winter blues and great value for members who received a £5 discount per ticket.

Profits from our events are put back into the community. We will continue with the initiative to allocate £2000 this coming year in support of the local village clubs and organisations. Over the past 12 months we have supported the Greensward wildflower project, the Open Art exhibition, the Parish Magazine and the Village Hall Trust. Alongside this we have purchased traffic mirrors and PIR lights to help with safety around the village and funded educational events around environmental issues.

Over the years we have always tried to ensure that our membership fee is great value for money, indeed we have not put up the cost of membership for some time now. At last year's AGM we voted to raise the subscription fees. However, we are currently financially secure and in light of the ever-increasing cost of living we have decided to keep the fees the same for one more year.

After much work the East Dean & Friston Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority (March 2025). Officers there will check that all the

necessary documents are in place, and then put it out for a second public consultation, perhaps in late summer. The Residents' Association have played a large role in keeping residents updated with current information via emails and the RA website.

I hope you have benefitted in some way from all the hard work that goes into running what is **your** Residents' Association. I would like to say a massive thank you on behalf of us all, and from me personally, to all our members without whose support there would be no EDFRA.

Warmest wishes Lesley Durso

Short Mat Bowls

This is a game which is as its name implies and with the aim to get close to the jack.

We meet every Monday and Friday afternoons 2.15pm--4.15pm in The Village hall

No equipment is required only a flat soled pair of shoes or trainers

It is an easy game to learn, and instruction is given.

It is a fun and relaxing afternoon with a break in the middle for a cup of tea

Cost £5.00 per session

Further Details Frances Mace 423137

Table Tennis Club

The table tennis club are a friendly group of all ages who enjoy playing regardless of their ability. We range from beginners to more experienced players.

We now have 4 tables which are always in use so no one needs to have to wait a turn (but many need to rest at times).

We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7.30-9.00pm in the large village hall from September to May. After our sessions, many of us retire to the Tiger to rehydrate!

Please come and join us. For more information call Steph Carter on 01323 422124 or 07968 222732.

East Dean & Friston Village Hall

Our Village Hall provides a wonderful space whatever event you are planning. With two Halls of very different sizes, a modern kitchen and excellent parking facilities, we can accommodate most types of event.

This year we are celebrating our 25th anniversary of the hall opening and will celebrate this later on in the year, details will be advertised nearer the time.

We are especially proud of our Community Events. We have a small events team, and while it is headed up by Trustees, they are supported by a large team of enthusiastic volunteers from the village. Thanks to them, monthly coffee mornings, afternoon teas and village lunches are organised offering home-made treats, warmth and company, and all are amazing value for money!

The events team and volunteers also organise regular Film events, Quizzes and Bingo Evenings in addition to special events. Most include meals and are often completely sold out, a testimony to their popularity!

Details of events are always available on our website www.edfvillagehall.org.uk in the Village Quarterly Diary and on the Village notice boards.

Additional volunteers are always appreciated and if you are interested in getting involved either regularly or occasionally, please contact one of the Trustees. Local clubs and societies meet regularly in the Hall and in addition, our Hall Manager, Tina, and her assistant John, are happy to discuss private events such as weddings, birthday celebrations and wakes to ensure that your special day is a great success. For further details please contact Tina, her email address is tina@edfvillagehall.org.

Bill Hallett Chair of the Trustees East Dean and Village Hall Trust

If you would like a copy of an individual report, please contact Phil Burgess (Clerk to East Dean and Friston) at clerk@eastdeanfriston-pc.gov.uk