



## **EAST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Chairman's Annual Report for the year ending April 2008**

The Annual General Meeting of the East Dean Parish Council was held on 12th May in the newly refurbished Village Hall. I am now pleased to present a review of our year together with reports on ongoing situations of note.

As usual we dealt with a number of planning applications, the most important being, of course, those for Ides Barn and Manor Farm Barns. These went through in the end after years of consultation. We hope that the end result will secure the farming activities in this parish, as well as establish a development that is in keeping with our village architecture and day to day life.

We are pleased to report that the Village Hall project received an award from the Heritage Lottery Trust. This was in the Highly Commended category, the same as that awarded to Pallant House Gallery, Chichester.

Bonfire Night is always a special night in our annual calendar, and this year was no exception. It was supported by a very large number of people both from the parish and elsewhere. Thanks to the Gibbards in Fallowfield we were able to stage a good fireworks display, and a lively trade in pumpkin soup and hotdogs was done by Tim Weeks, Gilly Crawford-Rolt and helpers. Their proceeds go towards the Village Hall. As usual a hat was passed round towards the cost of the fireworks and a record collection has ensured a good display for 2008.

A big "thank you" to all who helped on 28<sup>th</sup> October with our annual village clean-up day, which was followed as usual with a relaxing few pints in the Star & Garter. This effort makes a noticeable difference to the appearance of the village. We also had the willow trees pollarded; this needs to be done every three to four years, otherwise they get out of control.

We are sad to announce the death in January this year of Kay White who lived in the Pheasantry at the end of New House Lane. She and her late husband were eminent people in the canine world, and Kay was very fond of her dogs. Her cheerful face will be greatly missed.

We seem to be continually fighting to retain our rural identity. At the moment we have the threat of the Post Office closures, and of the down-grading of St Richards Hospital. If both of these go ahead valued local services will be lost and we will all have to travel further to access them, endangering our sense of community. On your behalf we have

written to all parties concerned including our MP Andrew Tyrie. I can report that he has been most helpful and responded fully to letters voicing our concern. We will just have to wait and see what happens next.

Our next project is to replace our bus shelter which blew down in a storm a few weeks ago. We intend to replace it with one of similar size, rustic in appearance, and hopefully storm proof. We welcome any suggestions as to the design and construction of the new shelter. Please speak to a member of the Parish Council.

The East Dean Archive Project is gaining strength. It aims to preserve the history of every aspect of our village life to the present time. This will be collected, recorded and stored in a variety of ways; written manuscripts, photographs, recordings, film, or DVD, whatever suits the purpose of the particular item. If you would like to be involved, or have something of potential interest, please get in touch with Janet Holt (811257), Kate Shaw (811207), Martin Gibbard (811397), or Karen Barrett (811427).

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their support over the last year. Sincere thanks to our County Councillor, Mike Hall, and our District Councillor, Henry Potter, for taking a genuine interest in us and attending our Parish Meetings which now, of course, are always held in the Village Hall. I must also say a particular thank you to Tim Calloway, Martin Gibbard and Ian Stevens for their grass cutting activities. You all help to keep this parish and village a lovely place to live.

Have a great summer!

Max Davies  
Chairman, East Dean Parish Council

**Dates to remember:**

Every Monday morning 10.30 to 12.30 East Dean Village Hall. Coffee morning and Mothers and Toddlers Group. All are welcome.

East Dean Church Fete. Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 2.30 at The Old Vicarage, to be opened by Sir Donald Sinden.

East Dean Gentlemen's Lunches: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. To reserve a place contact Max Davies on 811377 as numbers are limited.