



**EAST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 8th 2007, at 7 p.m.**  
**Village Hall, East Dean**

Annual report from the Chairman for the year ending April 2007

Yet another year has passed and the usual matters have been dealt with by your Parish Council. Some of these things may be mundane, but nevertheless they are essential. The cleaning and dredging of the pond on Pond Green needs to be done every three to four years to prevent it silting up, and care has to be taken not to damage the clay lining. The Humphreys of Newhouse Farm have done this for as long as I can remember. Grass cutting has to be done a number of times during the growing months: the County Council organise some of this but a lot of help comes from Tim Calloway and Ian Stevens. Our thanks go to them for this voluntary effort which makes a huge difference to the appearance of the village. The annual village clean-up took place in November and many people turned up to help. Watch the notice board for the date and time this year if you would like to help. If we have enough helpers the whole job can be done in about two and a half hours.

Bonfire night was once again a great success. It was well attended both by villagers and by many visitors from outside the parish. Many thanks are due to Martin Gibbard and Tim Calloway for putting Pond Green back to normal afterwards, including re-seeding the site of the fire. We are as always grateful to the Gibbards for the use of their garden for the fireworks display.

As usual various planning matters have been dealt with during this last year, in particular those relating to the proposal by The Goodwood Estate to redevelop Manor Barns and the adjacent dairy. The proposal is to convert the flint barns into nine residential units and to build a new cattle and dairy unit at Ides which would include two further residential units for agricultural use. Most of this is already well known in the parish but I now record the position taken by the Parish Council. The Parish Council is generally in favour of the plans, but with certain reservations regarding traffic management, light pollution, and loss of privacy. There have also been discussions with The Goodwood Estate regarding the re-siting and re-building of the East Dean Garage. These are on-going as we do not want to lose this business in the village.

It has been necessary to put up our annual precept by £50 per annum to £700. This is wholly due to the increase in our annual Parish Council/Village insurance, and looking at the current premium we may well have to do the same next year. The current premium is £412 and that is well over half our precept. This year we might also have needed an extra £1035 in the event of us having an election, to cover the costs incurred by the Election Officer, but fortunately this was not necessary.

The refurbishment of the Village Hall has been completed. It is up and running and the official re-opening was on Saturday, 21st April at 12 noon. We are grateful to the Duke and Duchess of Richmond who kindly accepted our invitation to cut the ribbon. This was a lovely village occasion, attended by a large number of people in glorious sunshine. Our thanks go to all who took an active part in bringing this project to a successful conclusion. A huge amount of voluntary work has been put into this and many people have been extremely generous in their support. Without all this help the project would not have succeeded, and it is very satisfying for us all to see the result. It is a most attractive building with very good facilities which are of great benefit to the whole village.

A collection by Kate Shaw within the village raised £450 which was handed to Chris and Elaine Kelly on their retirement from running the West Dean Stores in January this year. We wish them well in their new home in Singleton; we thank them for their excellent service to us, particularly in the years since the demise of our own village store, and we look forward to seeing them around. We also welcome their replacement Geoff and Jane Collier.

It is sad to have to report that this year we have lost some friends who were very dear to our community. Anne Talman died in April 2006 followed by her husband John in January this year. They were a very well known couple who lived in this village for many years. Our condolences go to Desmond Talman and his family.

In September last year we were sad to lose Mrs Freda West, the head of one of the oldest families in the village. Her home-made wine always won first prize in the Horticultural Show. Our condolences go to the many members of her family, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

It was a great shock to us all to lose Dr Martin Shaw in January altogether unexpectedly. Martin retired a few years ago as head of the Lavant Road surgery and had been GP to most of the village. In particular he was loved by the many people he had looked after since they were born. Martin made a very positive contribution to village life; he was a long-serving church warden as well as an enthusiastic member of the Horticultural Society of which he was chairman. He was well known by everyone in the parish and is already sadly missed. Our condolences go out to Kate Shaw and to all the family.

Our thanks go to Michael Hall who as our County Councillor and District Councillor has attended most of our meetings and has been most helpful and supportive. Mick was born and went to school in East Dean and therefore knows our parish very well. We are sorry he is standing down as our District Councillor as he will be a hard act to follow. We will still see him around, however, as our County Councillor.

Finally I should like to thank all those on the Parish Council who have been so supportive over the last year. They are: Tim Calloway; Rob Chalmers; Kate Shaw; Tim Weeks; Peter West; and Lesley West. Please watch the [New] Parish Notice Board at the Village Hall for the time and date of future Parish Council meetings. The next two are on Monday 16th July at 7.30pm and Monday 1st October at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. You are most welcome to attend in our new bright and warm hall.

With best wishes to you all,  
Max Davies  
Chairman, East Dean Parish Council.