

# **WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Newsletter for May/June 2009**

### **Chairman's Report for 2008/2009 Council Year**

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 May, Dick Hill, our Chairman, paid tribute to Pauline Outen, Parish Clerk, and Sid Hitchman, who would be remembered for their work and dedication to the community. He thanked Cllr. Mrs. Cathy Slade for her help with the paperwork during Pauline's illness and welcomed Jenny Martin as Locum Clerk.

The past Council Year had been interesting, positive and productive. Another Hastoe Low Cost Housing development had been built, and thanks to the Traffic Committee, progress was being made, with West Dean the first village to utilise SID, with some interesting results. He welcomed the closer working relationship with other parishes in the Lavant Valley and hoped this could be developed. The Cemetery Committee had worked hard to tackle problems and with major works completed, the resulting improvements were a real asset. Work was also in progress to streamline Planning procedures, with a new Committee to look at each application from a local point of view and make recommendations to Chichester District Council.

### **New PCSO**

We were delighted to meet PCSO Carly Churchill-Wright for the first time, who had recently taken over from Jason Lemm. She reminded us all to be extra vigilant when parking vehicles and remove valuables if at all possible, following a series of attempted thefts. She also asked residents to look out for signs of "raves", such as suspicious convoys of vehicles. If the Police caught these early enough, they could act, but once large numbers of people assembled, it was difficult to move them on. *If you see any signs of crime, please ring 0845 60 70 999 for rapid response.*

### **Telephone Box near School Lane**

BT have told us that payment will now be by BT Chargecard "or similar", reverse charging via the operator, or credit/debit card. Calls to emergency services and free-phone numbers will remain without charge. BT has reached this decision because the box is little-used and removing the cash-box will help reduce theft and vandalism. A notice advertising these changes will appear on the telephone box.

### **West Dean Playground – Your Comments Please!**

We are conscious that the playground is past its best and would like to know whether you feel it should be refurbished or removed. If you have any views or ideas, please contact one of your local Parish Councillors or Jenny Martin, Locum Clerk, on 01243 266092.

**Next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 15 July 2009 at 7.30pm in Art Studio 2  
at West Dean College – Everyone welcome!**