

Edition 2 • Quarterly



February 2018

DITCHLING

PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE



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WELCOME TO THE

DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE



Hello again and welcome to our second Ditchling magazine.

My name is Don McBeth and I am the current Chair of Ditchling Parish Council. And, again we hope that you find something of interest in the following pages and may even be motivated to submit an article of your own for the next edition in May.



In this edition I would like to review the progress we have made as a council over the last 12 months. I would normally present this at our annual parish meeting, but we thought that this year it would be appropriate to include it in the new magazine.

It is a statutory requirement of the Parish Council, for the Chairman to report to



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the community on what has been achieved in the preceding year and to be available at a meeting of the community once a year, to answer questions from the public. The 2018 annual meeting will be held on April 9th, and the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting are available on the parish website.

I think the progress in the parish can be classified as follows:-

- 1) The Beacon Villages Neighbourhood plan. Mr Lockhart Mummery the government inspector has now prepared his report on the progress of the neighbourhood plan, and has found that it meets the basic conditions and can proceed through the planning process. The next stage is for the SDNPA to prepare a Decision Statement setting out modifications to be made to the Neighbourhood Plan. Ditchling Parish Council will then amend the plan accordingly. The final stage will be to hold a referendum, this is organised by the Lewes District Council electoral team and it is expected that this will be held in April. The community will then have the

opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been a long and laborious process starting in August 2013 and involving many local residents. As a council we would like to thank them all for their involvement and participation.

- 2) The re-surfaced and re-drained football pitch on the recreation ground is now fully operational. The Ditchling Rugby club have now left the recreation ground and are now playing on land in the strategic gap between Ditchling and Keymer.
- 3) The council have set an annual precept this year of £82,639. This is the amount of money that we have budgeted to run all of the projects and services within the parish.
- 4) The car new park in Keymer road, and Parking on Lodge Hill Lane. We have now obtained planning permissions from the South Downs National Park for a 40-space car park to go ahead. It is hoped that a 50-year lease for the site will be signed in January 2018. The Parish Council has consulted with the District and County Council regarding implementing parking restrictions in Lodge Hill Lane once the car park is completed. We have been advised that yellow lines on both sides of the lane would be an effective solution to the current inconsiderate parking that often takes place, and have applied for parking restrictions to be considered. The next parking review for Lewes District starts in September 2018 and the request will be considered at this time. If the request is approved there will follow a period of consultation and lines would not be in place for 12-18 months
- 5) Complement of councillors. We generally have eleven councillors to run the council. We had ten until recently when Mr Paul Farrands put himself forward for co-option to the Council. We finished 2017 on a positive note looking forward to a full complement of councillors for 2018.
- 6) Superfast Broadband was finally completed by BT in village centre in June of 2017. It was a long time coming but I am sure it is worth the wait. BT advised in early June that the broadband cabinets in Ditchling were in place and would be commissioned by 30th June. Once



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this process completed residents were able to order a fibre based product from their service provider to benefit from the increased speeds.

- 7) We have tentatively allocated £50,000 for the improvement of facilities in the children's play area at the recreation ground. We hope to obtain additional funding from other bodies.
- 8) You may have noticed that we now have contractors maintaining our green areas such as the recreation ground. We decided to do this after our last groundsman left. For more information see the article on the Recreation Ground- Maintaining A Community Asset
- 9) A welcome to Derek Blackhall our new assistant clerk. Michelle Warner our existing clerk, who works for two days a week, asked for some help with running the parish, so Derek was drafted in to help for one day a week. He is incidentally the person mainly responsible for putting together this magazine, but may I also thank Councillor Phil Smith for his help

in compiling the first edition. Our Parish Magazine has so far had very positive feedback from parish residents, and if you have anything that you would like to see added, and would like to contribute, please contact us. Also, if you know of any areas of the parish that did not receive a copy, please let us know and we will ensure that future issues are delivered to their door.

- 10) June 2018 will again see the Ditchling bi-annual fair. If any of you would care to volunteer to help with this, I am sure you would be most welcome.
- 11) The council have been in discussion with East Sussex County Council regarding traffic problems throughout the parish. It is a difficult process, not made easier by government cutbacks to funding for all county councils. We will continue the discussion, but are not hopeful of any immediate changes being implemented.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th April at The Old Meeting House, East End Lane, at 7.30pm

Don McBeth, Chair Ditchling Parish Council




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CLERK'S CORNER



The first matter to address is the change of email contact details for the clerks and councillors. I can now be contacted at parishoffice@ditchling-pc.gov.uk or by calling the Parish Office on 01273 844733.

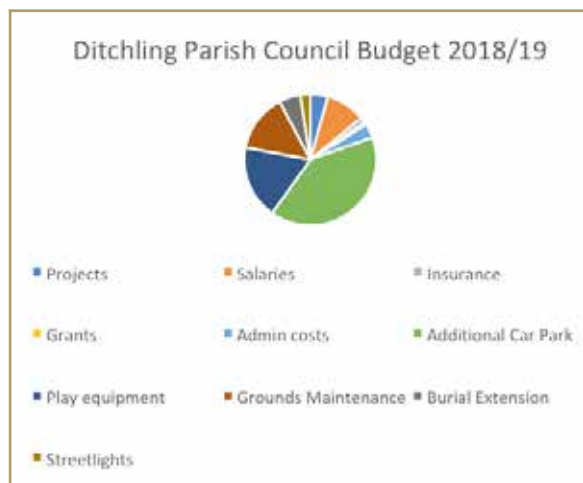
My usual working days are Mondays and Tuesdays

and I am usually found in the Parish Office at the Village Hall on those days. The office is open to members of the public from 10am to 11.30am on a Tuesday morning. Derek Blackhall is the Deputy Parish Clerk and takes overall responsibility for this magazine, he can be contacted at clerk@ditchling-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Council now has a post box at the front of the village hall, for residents wanting to drop in correspondence. The new email addresses for councillors are shown on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council agreed the Budget for 2018/19 at the Council meeting of 27 November, this forms the basis of the precept, or the amount of council tax due to the lowest tier of local government. In January each year the Parish Council submits a Precept form to Lewes District Council. The District Council then collects the amount requested through Council Tax and pays this over to the Parish Council. The amount demanded for the year commencing 1 April 2018 is £84,292. This represents an increase of 2% or £1,653 on the current year. In fact, 2018/19 will be a very eventful year for Ditchling Parish Council and

the total expenditure in the year is expected to be £282,307. This amount includes £2,500 towards the costs of implementing a speed limit reduction in Spatham Lane, if such a change is supported by East Sussex County Council; £50,000 towards new equipment at the recreation ground playground, £14,500 to extend the Burial Ground into the neighbouring overgrown field and £112,000 for the costs and fees involved in constructing a new car park at Keymer Road. Clearly the council is planning to spend significantly more than the precept received, the shortfall will be made up by drawing funds from reserves and talking out a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

The full budget can be found on the Parish Council website www.ditchlingpc.org.uk. A summary of the main expenditure headings is shown below, with the new car park and play equipment using approximately two thirds of the planned expenditure.



TELL YOUR COMMUNITY

ABOUT NEWS, EVENTS, CLUBS OR SOCIETIES

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Ditchling Parish Council Meetings 2018

Meetings start at 7.30pm, and are held in Ditchling Village Hall, unless stated otherwise.

DATE	TYPE OF MEETING
8th January	Special if required
29th January	Statutory Council
12th February	Special if required
26th February	Statutory Council
12th March	Special if Required
26th March	Statutory Council
9th April	Annual Parish Meeting
30th April	Statutory Council
21st May	Annual Council Meeting
4th June	Special if required
25th June	Statutory Council
9th July	Special if required
23th July	Statutory Council
6th August	Special if required
20th August	Statutory Council
10th September	Special if required
24th September	Statutory Council
8th October	Special if required
8th October	Finance Committee
29th October	Statutory Council
12th November	Special if required
26th November	Statutory Council
17th December	Statutory Council

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Ditchling Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting

Monday 9th April 2018 at 7.30pm
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In addition to a variety of marmalades, we will be selling jams, chutneys and other preserves. There will also be a cake stall, plant stall and a grand raffle. Coffee, tea and soft drinks and biscuits will be included in the entrance fee of £1.00 for adults. There is no charge for children under 16yrs. There is ample free parking at the rear of the hall.

This WI event has been held annually for many years and is keenly awaited by local residents. We look forward to welcoming new supporters for this popular morning where you can purchase homemade preserves and produce, or just pop-in for coffee and a chat.

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Ditchling History Project is your local history society. We research all aspects of the parish's history: its families; its buildings; its industries; its arts & crafts; its church & chapels; its clubs and societies.

Ditchling History Project is your local history society. We research all aspects of the parish's history: its families; its buildings; its industries; its arts & crafts; its church & chapels; its clubs and societies. We maintain an extensive and growing database which we aim to make available online. We are 'project' based because we never cease investigating the history of this amazing parish. Historical records, the maps, census returns, trade directories, house deeds and word of mouth are some of our many sources. We are always ready to learn from those who know something of Ditchling's history both past and recent. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Our website is:

www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org.

Project News: November 2018 is the hundredth anniversary of the ending of WW1. We have previously researched and published the lives of residents who died in that war. Now we will be researching the lives of those who survived: what they were doing before they joined up; what they did in the war; what impact their absence had on the parish; and how the gaps left in essential services were filled until their return. Our aim is to produce a trail showing where they lived. We would welcome any help that anyone can give us either in the form of information or research.

Do you know?

Then: Almost a hundred years ago East Field House Prep school was destroyed by fire despite the best efforts of the Ditchling Fire Brigade and others. The school wasn't insured for such a disaster and couldn't be rebuilt. Instead it was decided that the site would

be perfect for a community hall. It coincided with a lot of countrywide fund-raising to build halls and other memorials in honour of the WW1 fallen, although this was not its specific intention. It was financed by individual donations, not from the public purse, so it was not and is not a 'Parish Hall'. In 1920 the new Village Hall opened. Then it constituted little more than today's stage and lower hall, run by trustees drawn from residents and societies. Can you see how the building retains some of the exterior walls of the old school?



Now: In the 1970s the auditorium, now called the Upper Hall, was built on to its south side adding substantially to its capacity for all manner of village activities. For many



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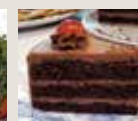
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years a room on the lower floor of the original building was let to the Red Cross as a storeroom for emergency equipment. In 2003 it was agreed that the Red Cross no longer needed it and the Parish Council, which publishes this magazine, now rents it as an office and record depository.



We share much of what we learn through our extensive range of publications and occasional papers. They range from those which are relevant to residents and visitors alike, such as our best seller 'Walk Around Ditchling Village', a guide to the parish's historic places, to those of more specific interest to residents and families such as 'In Memoriam', a record of those buried in the village churchyard and the lives of some of them. We write about the impact of national and international events on the parish, such as 'For The Fallen', recounting the lives of the residents who died in the two world wars and 'Memories of War', an account of the experiences of the parish during those wars. Our occasional papers address more niche interests such as the histories of the Recreation Ground and the Village Green. For a full list of our publications and for sales see our website. Some are also available for sale in the Post Office and local shops.



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The Monday Group

It wasn't until the early 1960's, when most of the unexploded WW2 British and Canadian ordnance used for gunnery practice on the South Downs had finally been dug up and cleared, that public access to those green and pleasant hills again became possible. However, there was first the matter of clearing the footpaths and rights-of-way to make that access physically passable.

Founded in 1961 by Westmeston resident, Harold Rowling MBE, The Monday Group took on the task and has continued uninterrupted to do so ever since, becoming what must be one of the longest running voluntary work groups in the country, largely because it is never likely to run out of jobs to do.

Broadly speaking its area of operation is all the parishes north of Brighton between Albourne in West Sussex and Barcombe in East Sussex, although, as its reputation has grown, it has from time to time responded to requests for its services from further afield and the offshoot Monday Group West, working in and around Burgess Hill, has developed.

The current total membership is about 45, comprising men and women from all walks of life mostly well into their retirement years, the younger considerably outnumbered by the sept',





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oct' and nonagenarians, Harold himself being just ahead at 95 and still remarkably active.

Whilst its clearance groups ensure that pathways remain open, occasionally even re-opening some that have been lost, the designing, building, installing and maintaining of its own stiles, causeways, bridges, steps, stairways and fingerposts as well as repairing or replacing other such structures made by ESCC, farmers and others, are its main occupations.

The Monday Group conducts its own surveys to identify sites needing attention but is also often informed of these by walkers and landowners. Even farmers, who aren't that keen on walkers, but are obliged by law to keep public rights-of-way on their land open, have come to respect the Monday Group and some are even prepared to pay for a new stile to be installed, so long as it is stock-proof.

Throughout its long life most of the many kinds of Monday Group structures, particularly stiles, have been designed by Harold – an engineer by profession – through a process of constant refinement and adjustment in order that they

are comfortably negotiable by walkers of most ages. A particular feature of the stile designs is that they are user-friendly. Harold is very keen on this and designs have kept pace with his advancing years. They are principally built from locally sourced green oak and held together by greased bolts and screws rather than nails to ensure strength, easy repair and longevity. All structures also have Monday Group plaques fixed to them giving details of how to contact them to report need for repairs or to make a donation. Without the ESCC grant it used to receive, the Monday Group is dependent on donations from local organisations, individuals and its own fund-raising activities.

The Monday Group is also and very importantly, a social and very sociable organisation, bringing together many retired people working together and making friends as well as providing an enduringly worthwhile public service. As a result the Monday Group has featured in several television programmes, including Countryfile.

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A MESSAGE FROM Maria Caulfield MP

The three parishes have come together and alongside local Councillors and concerned residents, we are looking at how we can improve the safety of our country lanes. Without reinventing the wheel, the work that has previously been done over many years is being used to improve the safety of Streat Lane, Underhill Lane and Spatham Lane. Other areas that are being looked at is Beacon Road and the traffic through Ditchling as a whole. By bringing together the parishes, County Councillors from both East and West Sussex and district councillors we can try and tackle this ongoing and serious problem.

This is such an important issue, as many will remember the sad case involving a local

resident who was knocked from her horse on Spatham Lane, leaving her injured and the horse having to be put down. It could have been so much worse and we don't want to see anyone else's life put in danger in such a way.

I am collecting signatures for a Parliamentary petition that I will be presenting to the House of Commons in the coming months to highlight the issue of the dangers on our country roads and the need for changes to take place.

These petitions need to be physically signed and we will be out and about in the parishes in the next few weeks collecting signatures. However, if you would like to collect copies of the petition to fill in please do email me maria.caulfield.mp@parliament.uk and I can send

you copies. If each concerned person could ask a handful of family members, neighbours or friends to also add their signature we can get a great number to really highlight the level of local concern.

I will be sure to keep local residents updated on how the campaign and the Parliamentary petition progress."



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LOCAL PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS...

The Council meets twice a month on a Monday evening in the lower hall, Ditchling Village Hall. The agenda is posted on the Tuesday/ Wednesday preceding the meeting on the village notice boards and also on the Parish Council website. In all planning matters the final decision rests with Lewes District Council or the (SDNP) South Downs National Park, for applications within the Park. Applicants and neighbours are very welcome to attend these meetings and may speak in relation to an application at 7.30pm before the meeting proper commences. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee and may object to an application, recommend an application is approved or register no comment. The Parish Council will always consider the policies in the draft neighbourhood plan in making its decision as well as the national and district policies.

Notable recent applications include:

Erection of a feed storage barn at Court Farm Keymer Road, SDNP/17/05211/FUL

This application is for a 630 square meter agricultural barn to be located 20 meters south of the existing cattle barns. A green roofing sheet is proposed to reduce the impact on the surrounding countryside. The barn will be used to store feed and bedding for cows bought to the farm for calving. The Parish Council objected to this application to our knowledge there are no cattle or calves on site and so the purpose of the building has not been proven. In addition, it was considered that the plans accompanying the application were incomplete, as the new house on site was not shown in any of the plans. The, as yet, unapproved neighbourhood

plan places importance on the protection of the strategic gap between Ditchling and Keymer; it was considered that this application represented incremental development in the strategic gap. The Council has requested that this application is determined by the planning committee rather than delegated to officers. At the time of writing it is understood that the application will be referred to the planning committee. Members of the public and Parish Councillors are permitted to speak at meetings of the SDNP and Lewes Planning Committee meetings and a member of the Parish Council will attend if the committee is considering an application falling within the Parish.

Residential development of 2 x detached dwellings & 1 x semi-detached dwelling at land rear of 16 North End SDNP/17/03477/FUL

This application for a large site which has become something of an eyesore, in the centre of the village was considered at the meeting of 11 September. The application is to restore and extend the existing derelict barn to create a 4-bedroom house. The plans show two



bedrooms on the first floor and the remaining bedrooms and accommodation to be on the ground floor. The total area of this house will be 165 square meters. Also on the site two new three bedroom houses will be built, these buildings will be in the centre of the site; all of the bedrooms will be located on the first floor, with the living accommodation on the ground floor. Both of the three bedroom houses will be 101 square meters in size. The three dwellings will use the existing access onto North End which will be widened marginally. The flint and brick wall along East Gardens will be rebuilt and there will no longer be any access to East Gardens. The Parish Council recommended that this application be approved by the planning officer, recognising the improvement to the site. It was requested that the entrance to North End be brick paved. The planning officer agreed with the Parish Council decision in this instance and approved the application. Work to clear the site commenced in November 2017.

Part Demolition of existing flat/garage and erection of a new detached dwelling at Berrymead, Spatham Lane, LW/17/0539

This application fell outside of the boundary of the South Downs National Park, which is why the application reference is LW for Lewes District rather than SDNP.

This application was for a new single storey house under a pitched roof with accommodation in the roofspace on land close to an existing garage with flat above, which was to be partially demolished to form a single storey garage. The Parish Council decided to object to this application because the proposed new dwelling was outside the settlement boundary. It was considered that the new dwelling would lead to an undesirable subdivision of the plot leading to an unacceptable form of backland development in an agricultural setting. In addition, it was felt that the site was not in a sustainable location in terms of public transport, safe pedestrian routes, amenities and facilities and therefore future residents would be heavily reliant on private car use. The planning officer refused the application noting in addition to the points made by the Parish Council that the application did not represent a one for one replacement, the proposed dwelling was not similar in floorspace, volume, massing or location within the plot to the original dwelling.



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Ditchling Recreation Ground

Managing a Community Asset

With panoramic views to Ditchling Beacon and the South Downs, this popular, spacious recreation ground is home to a variety of sports clubs and is enjoyed by dog walkers, casual sports users and families all year long.

The Sports

Ditchling Archery Club are the only formal users of the far field, beyond the cricket pitch. The Archery Club have been using the field for summer shooting since 1987. The archers practice and develop their skills with a variety of bows from April to September on Wednesday and Thursday evenings as well as Sundays. Visitors to the recreation ground will have noticed the safety signs and roped off no-go zones that are in place during shooting for obvious safety reasons. Each Spring the club holds a tournament, called a Windsor Shoot

and archers from all over Sussex compete and raise money for a selected charity.

Ditchling Rugby Club no longer uses the recreation ground for its home matches and has a new home at Keymer Road.

Ditchling Cricket Club are the main sports users of the recreation ground during the summer months, with two teams playing league matches, plus a Mid-Week XI and a Sunday XI playing friendly matches and a thriving junior section. Cricket week takes place each August, the Cricket club erects a marquee and plays five days of cricket.



Many thanks to Mr Gordon Bain for his aerial photo of the playground.

Ditchling Stoolball Club plays league games on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6.30pm, during the season, April to September.

Plumpton Athletic Juniors is a thriving club with seven teams. The younger teams train at Ditchling Recreation Ground on a Saturday morning from September to April and the recreation ground is a hub of activity as three teams of young players, proudly watched by their parents hone their skills. We hope that some of these young players will perhaps, later join Ditchling Football Club, thus improving the long- term prospects of the club.

The Parish Council have invested heavily in the main football pitch. With substantial grants from Sport England and the Philipson Trust, plus smaller grants from the Turner Dumbrell Trust and the Ditchling Village Association the pitch has been regraded and drainage has been installed. Ongoing maintenance includes spiking and slitting of the pitch, verti-cutting in the spring and autumn, harrowing, fertilising, and applying a sand top dressing. Maintaining a football pitch to the standard required by Sport England is specialist work and this part of the maintenance programme is undertaken by Lewes District Council, with the parks department ensuring that the pitch is sanded, spiked, rolled and marked out as required, the total budget for the football pitch, only, is £8,850 per year.

The Fun

The playground is inspected weekly by the officers of the council and annually by an expert consultant. During the summer month we find plenty of socks and sweaters that have been left behind, in the winter it is usually gloves. We have been speaking to Lewes District Council, East Sussex County Council, and play equipment suppliers to come up with a plan to revamp the playground and the council has now employed a landscape consultant to help with a masterplan for the recreation ground with an improved play area as phase one. There will be a public exhibition of the plans – please look out for the posters advertising this event.

In the small 5-5-side field next to the Archery

field and running alongside the Burial Ground, two small goals are provided so that groups of young people can have an informal game of football.

The tennis court is owned and maintained by Ditchling Tennis Club and is open to members. The courts are regularly cleaned and swept, although nearby pine trees mean that this is a somewhat endless task.

Dog walkers and their pets enjoy the wide-open spaces- many every day, while some are occasional visitors. Dogs are not permitted in the playground or burial ground.

The maintenance

It is important that the recreation ground is maintained to a high standard in order that the ground is suitable for the many sports played and for all residents to enjoy this remarkable community space.

There are five bins at the recreation ground, two are for dog waste only, one is for litter only and two are for all types of waste. The Parish Council contracts with Lewes District Council to empty all bins once a week. The Council also provides free scoop the poop bags and so there is no excuse for anyone to fail to pick up after their dog.

The Parish Council has not employed a groundsman since the autumn of 2016. We now use the services of a local contractor based at Barcombe to cut and strim the grass weekly during the growing season. We have a second team of contractors who will complete ad hoc jobs such as filling in the pot holes in the car park, to replacing some rotten fencing around the playground, they also cut of the hedges by hand, which gives a much better finish than a machine cut.

Following the completion of the major works to the football pitch the failing low- level fencing between the football pitch and the car park has been replaced. Signage has been erected advising that the car park is for recreation ground users only and parking is limited to 24 hours. There have been several vehicle owners who have ignored this warning and have left vehicles for up to several weeks at a time. ➔

The Parish Council works closely with the District Council to arrange to have these vehicles towed away, at the expense of the registered keeper of the vehicle.

The Groundsman's Hut by the tennis court is now used only to store a single spare streetlight, just in case, we should ever need a replacement. It seems a shame to leave this building underused, but as it has no power or water supply, it is difficult to think of an alternative use.

There are an abundance of trees including the huge ash by the former groundsman's hut and 21 further ash trees. Other species include birch, cedar, horse chestnut, Gingko bilboa, Field Maple, Spruce and willow. A qualified arboriculturalist carries out an annual survey of the trees of the recreation ground each year

and presents a report to the Parish Council. Over the past year 6 trees that were either unsafe or diseased were felled.



Before

Over the past year most of the benches in the recreation ground have been given a makeover and you will see from the before and after pictures, the difference this has made. Some benches were too broken and rotten to be renovated and where possible parts of these benches were used to repair other benches from the site.



And After

News from Ditchling Preschool

Ditchling Christmas Market



Ditchling Preschool's recent fundraising efforts saw the inaugural Ditchling Christmas Market take place at the beginning of December. We were delighted to welcome over one thousand visitors from near and far who came to visit Father Christmas, do their Christmas shopping in the barn and buy their Christmas trees. The sunken garden was transformed into a bustling food and drinks market offering a wide range of tasty meals and festive treats. The preschool children performed some lovely Christmas songs.

We are so grateful to the community for supporting the event so generously. The market was very widely supported by local businesses and so many individuals in the village. We have had such positive feedback and very much hope this will become a regular event on Ditchling's calendar.

The event raised over £6000 for the Preschool which exceeded our bravest expectations. We are a registered charity and rely on these fundraising efforts to keep us going, so a heartfelt thank you to all!

People and Communities

The topic the children are learning about this term is People and Communities. If you are

someone who has a skill that helps people, and would be willing to come in and talk to the children about it or do an activity with them, for about 10 minutes, we would love to hear from you.

We're thinking of nurses, vets, cooks etc, but it could be anything. We would also love it if any of you have a culture which might be new to the children. It would be great if the children could see someone in a sari, a kimono or any other clothing from a culture different to most of the children, or to do some cooking or sample some food which the children may not be familiar with.

Places available!

Ditchling Preschool currently has places available for children from 2.5 to 5 years. We are a small community run preschool with excellent ratios of staff to children meaning we are able to provide a warm and nurturing environment for the children. Children over 3 years old are also eligible for 15 hours free childcare a week which can be used in our setting.

To arrange a visit email ditchlingpreschool@gmail.com or **01273 846115**.

Follow us at facebook.com/ditchlingpreschool



Cambridge Weight Plan

As we approach the end of Winter and enter the season of Spring some of us will have kept to our New Year resolutions whether the aim was to drink less, save

money or lose weight to get that summer body, but somewhere down the line these resolutions often hit a stumbling block.

The normality of life takes over, your job and family prioritises over all, the initial 3 day a week gym session may turn into one, the healthy packed lunches you bring to work are starting to wear thin and the simplicity of calling in for a takeaway on a Friday night starts to become increasingly popular.

The idea of weight loss naturally appeals to a large audience and although the idea of dieting can send shivers down your spine with thoughts of huge sacrifice – The Cambridge Weight Plan is proof that you can lose weight fast without having to drastically change your lifestyle.

Through every decision made you will have your own consultant guiding you through each process giving you the reassurance, knowledge and experience to help you tackle your goals and reach the heights you never thought you could.

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The way you recycle is changing

Lewes District Council is making it easier for all residents to recycle by introducing a single wheelie bin for the paper, cans, plastics, cardboard and glass that people currently sort into two plastic boxes and two bags.

Their weekly refuse and fortnightly recycling collection days will remain the same when the new service is introduced and the council teams will continue to collect food waste and garden waste as they currently do.

The new service will be introduced in stages, starting in East Saltdean, Telscombe and Peacehaven from November. The service will then be introduced across the rest of the district by July 2018.

What to do with your old recycling containers

Keep putting out your current recycling containers. The council teams will take these away on your usual recycling collection day when they deliver your new wheelie bin.

Residents who are unable to accommodate a full sized wheelie bin should visit the council's website to find out what different options are available.



To find out more visit www.lewes.gov.uk/recycling

Lewes District Council & SDNPA – news update



Cllr Tom Jones has served as your Lewes District Councillor for the last 12 years during which time he has held the Planning Portfolio for Planning on Cabinet. He also holds the appointment for Lewes District Council (LDC) on the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). He sits on the LDC Planning Service User Group, the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Group, the East Sussex County Council Planning Group and is on the Planning Committee for both the LDC and SDNPA. He has been a Parish Councillor for the last twenty years.

1. The Two Authorities.

For planning purposes Ditchling falls predominantly within the SDNP planning authority up to Folders Lane (representing approx. 85% of the parish) where it then falls within the LDC planning authority.

2. Lewes District Local Plan – Part 1 Joint Core Strategy.

The Joint Core strategy has been produced by LDC and SDNPA working in partnership for the period 2010 -2030. (However, the SDNP Local Plan should have completed its examination by the end of this year but until then carries little weight regarding planning applications).

The Joint Core Strategy document forms an integral part of the suite of planning policy documents such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), The English National Parks and broads (Circular 2010), SDNP Partnership Management Plan and the Three Beacon Parishes Neighbourhood Plan. The NHP is now awaiting the Referendum before it can be accepted and will require 51% of the residents who vote for it to be implemented.

The forthcoming Local Plan Part 2 is nearing completion later in the year and when it is all of these documents will form the comprehensive Development Plan for the District.

3. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Both LDC and SDNP now operate CIL charges which will be levied on all new development, although, there are exemptions. Details

regarding the CIL charges can be obtained from the respective web sites. At the moment the Three Beacon Parishes will receive 15% of CIL monies attributed to their parishes but once the NHP has been accepted it will receive 25%.

4. Garage Site Development Phase 2.

The garage site at Long Park Corner has been identified for delivering new affordable housing and infrastructure and is a key priority within the Council Plan.

5. Waste and Recycling.

Ditchling will receive its new wheelie bin in July this year. All items that are currently placed in separate bins/bags for re-cycling will in future all be placed in a single wheelie bin. As we approach the July deadline residents will be briefed and given instructions. Please direct all queries to Cllr Paul Franklin on <paul.franklin@lewes.gov.uk>

DITPC02-044
David Shepard Plumbing
and Heating
1/8 Page

The British Red Cross have introduced a community reserve volunteer scheme.

A community volunteer is anyone who wants to help their local community if a large -scale incident should occur.



By recruiting volunteers, the Red Cross can harness the goodwill of the public in advance of a crisis so that help can be given more effectively if there is an emergency.

No specialist skills are required. If there is an incident in your area you will be contacted by text. If you are able to assist, you reply; 'yes'. You may, then, find yourself filling sandbags, clearing roads and paths, moving furniture upstairs, or sorting out supplies. The community volunteers assist the trained volunteers and are led by an experienced team leader. To sign up go to the British Red Cross website: redcross.org.uk/reserves.

HAVE YOUR SAY

E-mail: clerk@ditclling-pc.gov.uk

Write to:
Ditchling Parish Council,
Ditchling Village Hall,
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Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School – Artsmark SILVER Award

Over the past couple of years we have been working very hard to achieve the Artsmark Award. This process has been a very exciting one as we have had many opportunities to work with different artists and to take part in a number of art projects.

The children have enjoyed the increasing variety of clubs/activities on offer to support and enhance their learning. Staff have worked hard in developing the whole child and our vision statement: 'Learning together. Building success' shows our commitment to valuing this holistic approach.

As a school we have worked closely with Ditchling Music of Arts and Crafts on a number of projects including:

- Weaving and natural dyes workshop (to create a display in our hall representing the Christian ethos of the school).
- Lettering project using wood and paints (to make signage around the school representing our Christian values).
- The Big Steam Print (a printing workshop using a steam roller to create 4 large prints representing the seasons).

We have also taken part in the Brighton and Hove Children's Parade for the first time. With strong support from parents we were able to showcase our school well. From music recitals, multicultural days, carefully

planned trips, enrichment activities, parental involvement and extra-curricular clubs, we have demonstrated how committed we are to giving children in our school a more rounded experience. Involving pupils every step of the way has been an important tool in increasing their self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience to learning, alongside making links between our Christian and British values. This builds a strong foundation for children to learn across the curriculum so that they can be successful in all they do.



Beware of bogus callers

Although all crime is an unpleasant experience for all victims, there is one particular type of crime that comes pretty near to the top of the despicable list - the bogus caller. Police call this burglary artifice. However, most people would call them con men.

Such a simplistic term tends to distance them from the devastating effect this cowardly crime can have on the victim, who tends to be the more vulnerable and trusting member of society. Below are some tips that may help you recognise a potential bogus caller. If you have some elderly relatives and neighbours encourage them to read the tips.

➔ Bogus callers will:

- Call unannounced
- Usually work in pairs
- They will not generally have any type of uniform or arrive in any official van
- They will not be willing for you to study their identity (if they have any)
- Will try and make you feel under pressure
- If they gain entry into your home, one will stay with you whilst the other one will go to another part of the house
- If they are working alone, then they will ask you to do something which separates you from them

➔ Official callers will:

- Try and make an appointment where possible. They will have your personal details on record and will be able to write/phone for an appointment
- Will only be too happy for you to look at the I.D. they carry
- Will usually wear a corporate rate uniform, and may have an official van
- Will understand if you do not let them in, and should not put you under pressure
- If in the house, will only go to one point, e.g., the gas or electric meter, kitchen stop cock
- Will want you to stay with them

What you should do:

As soon as there is a knock on the door STOP and THINK. Who is it? Am I expecting them?

Do not let them in unless you are 100% sure they are who they say they are.

IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!!!

Finally, if you have a visit from anyone who you think is a bogus caller, or you see people down your road who might be preying on your neighbours, then ring 999, and take a description and details of any vehicles that might be involved.

Anyone working officially will not mind being checked by the police. For the victims of con men, or whatever they are called, life will never be the same again.

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Ditchling RFC: a new ground, a new division, a call for new players, and a beverage blessing!



After three long years, many, many meetings and demanding specialist reports, Ditchling Rugby Club were able to play their first game at the new ground, at Keymer Road, on 25th November 2017.

Father David kindly blessed the ground just before kick-off against local rivals Burgess Hill 1st XV, we sadly lost 22-12.

How this almost 12-acre field slipped under our radar for so long beggars belief, it's right next door to a cricket club clubhouse that sits empty for most of the winter, has as good a view of the Downs as you could ask for and most importantly, is only a hop, skip and a jump from The White Horse. I would like to thank St James's Montefiore CC for their support with our application and hospitality in welcoming

us, who knows but we might be able to provide them with the odd opening batsman or strike bowler in exchange for a fly-half or ideally a couple of props.

Father David suggested blessing the new ground over a pint of Harveys, as can be seen below.

We are always on the lookout for new players, please contact me on **07767 883348** or **justinwallden@hotmail.com** for further details.

*From left to right is Rob Becvar (Chairman),
Father David, Justin Wallden (President)*



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