

**EAST FARLEIGH PARISH**  
Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Old School Hall, Lower Road, East Farleigh at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Glyn Charlton (Chairman), Cllrs Peter Beasley, David Hussein, Jackie King, Perry O’Callaghan, Lloyd Porter, Alan White and John Wilson (East Farleigh Parish Council); Sarah O’Callaghan (Parish Clerk), Borough Councillor Richard Webb and approximately 25 representatives of village institutions and the general public.

1. OPENING ADDRESS

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Glyn Charlton, at 7.30 pm.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors Brian Mortimer and Emily Fermor (prior engagements), Paul Sapwell (Head East Farleigh Primary School), Adam McKinley (Community Support Warden), PCSO Jasmine Pay, Dennis Fowle (Priory Close Residents Association) and Sue Morris (Farmers Market and Gardening Club)

3. RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

No one present intended to film, photograph or record any items.

4. REPORT FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

No representative attended But PCSO Jasmine Pay submitted the attached report.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

The County Councillor was not present and had not submitted a report. However, the meeting noted her help over the past year with member grants towards the speed surveys and Speed Indicator Device (SID).

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

No reports had been submitted.

Borough Cllr Richard Webb reported that an election for a Borough Councillor is coming up and Borough Cllr Brian Mortimer will be standing again.

9. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

A copy of this is attached.

10. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES  
The major points to emerge from verbal or written reports from village institutions were as follows:-

10.1 East Farleigh Pre-School

Steve Shearman attended and presented a report, which is attached.

10.2 Sir John Franklyn Almshouses Trust

Richard Yaxley attended and read out the attached report.

10.3 East Farleigh Club

No one attended and no report was sent

10.3 John Bunyan Leaver Charity

Cllr Peter Beasley, trustee of the Charity, reported that they have their full complement of 25 tenants and 35 plots, all well maintained. The Charity has made £250 of charitable donations this year.

10.4 Speedwatch

Cllr Peter Beasley reported that East Farleigh Speedwatch deploys regularly and thanked the volunteer operatives for their work. He reported on the installation of the new moveable Speed Indicator Device in the village.

10.5 East Farleigh Brownies

Claire Easton read out her report: a copy is attached.

10.6 Church/East Farleigh Parochial Church Council

Peter Callway attended and thanked the Fete Working Party for their work around the Christmas Tree and the carols event. He also commented on the cooperation with the Parish Council over Remembrance in November. The main event of the year had been the falling down of the cedar tree in the Church yard – it had now been repaired and supported. The ivy on the wall on Station Hill will be removed soon and the crown of the copper beech will be raised. These are all expensive items for such a small congregation.

10.7 West Farleigh Youth Football Club

No report was sent and no one attended.

10.8 East Farleigh Primary School

No one attended, but Paul Sapwell sent a report which is attached.

10.9 Farleighs WI

The President, Pam Lindon, attended and read out her report: attached.

10.10 Priory Close Residents Association

In spite of fears it might close down, the association is continuing.

10.11 Farmers Markets

Sue Morris had sent the attached report.

10.12 Gardening Club

Sue Morris had sent the attached report.

10.13 Old School Hall

Mandy and Gary reported that the stonework was being descaled and repointed and the finials replaced, so the scaffolding should go soon. New heaters had been installed in the Hall and would be working soon. The windows on the upper floor were now finished, but funding was now needed for the lower ones. They have plenty of regular bookings but have banned late teenage/early 20's parties, after some bad experiences. There are 7-8 antique markets a year and they are grateful for use of the Club car park. They thanked the Church and the pre-school for their tolerance during the works.

10.14 Fete Committee

Adam Palmer read out the report attached.

10.15 Community Support Warden

Adam McKinley was unable to attend but had sent the attached report.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident complained about the number of potholes in Gallants Lane and asked why it couldn't be resurfaced. Borough Cllr Richard Webb would look into it.

Another resident asked for more signage requesting dog walkers to clean up their dogs' mess.

12. NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, commencing at 7.30 pm in the Old School Hall, Lower Road, East Farleigh.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.22 pm.

## EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

### YOUR EAST FARLEIGH LOCAL NEWS APRIL 2018

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is being held in the Old School Hall, Lower Road at 7.30 on 24th April. It is an evening when we share with everyone news about village activities and we finish the evening with a glass or two of wine and canapes. Please come along and join us.

So, what is your Parish Council responsible for? It is the first tier of local government and the local eye. East Farleigh Parish Council has a budget of circa £50,000, raised via your council tax, in the form of the precept. There are nine voluntary elected councillors meeting every first Tuesday of the month for a four-year term, with the current term ending in 2020. We monitor planning applications and comment where required; manage our maintenance contractors who cut publicly owned grass areas and do regular litter picking; organise Speedwatch patrols; monitor flood measures; report overgrown hedges and road repairs such as potholes; make sure footpaths are clear and many other things that crop up.

There is a huge amount of voluntary work which goes on in the village. Many of these can be heard from at the **Annual Parish Meeting**, but they include:

- The Fete Working Party who organise the lighting of the Christmas tree with proceeds from the Fete. The Fete this year will be on Saturday 23rd June and everyone is invited to help or come along for all the fun of the fair.
- Gardening club
- Brownies
- Farmers Market
- The Farleighs WI
- Speedwatch
- Many events in the Old School Hall – antique fairs, quizzes, parties and classes
- The Church: we particularly work together on the Christmas tree lighting and celebrating our war heroes in November. All are welcome to attend these events.
- The Farleighs Youth Football Club
- The School and Pre-School
- The Parish Council: my whole working life has been involved with the dairy industry.

Early on as a herdsman looking after a herd of Friesians and later as an agriculture dairy consultant, I heard grumbles from many, that local farmers are shutting people out of their fields and preventing walkers from using them. It probably won't surprise you that I do have sympathy with the agriculture community when I see people walking their dogs over farmers' fields planted with crops and letting dogs wander freely and many not picking up after their dogs. I recently noticed walkers with dogs on a field sprayed with insecticide just hours before. Shouldn't we respect private property? While I am talking about dogs and owners not picking up their mess, please try to observe and report back to the Parish Council those that are not following the country code, especially in areas where children walk and play, as it can be a huge hygiene risk.

The Parish Council has invested in a defibrillator this year, which is situated at the Old School Hall on the side of the building leading to the church. We have recently taken control of the telephone box at the top of Gallants Lane to install a second one when we have the funds. As a Parish Council, let's look back at our other achievements. We continue to lobby for low levels of development in East Farleigh but accept the effect houses in other villages have on traffic volumes. We are working with Kent Highways to try to slow traffic down. To that end, and with financial help from County Councillor Paulina Stockell, we have purchased a new Speed Indicator Device, which can be moved around and placed in

designated spots around the village. It will be in one place no longer than eight weeks, which will prevent complacency. As you receive this newsletter, and again with Paulina's help, we are having traffic speed and weight and volume surveys carried out in eight places around the village, so that we can ascertain the actual speeds that vehicles travel at, to take to highways as evidence for the need for calming measures. Along with all of this, we are endeavouring to enable a scheme for the bridge that will deter large vehicles and clearly mark viewing points, in the hope of preventing vehicles meeting on the bridge with the inevitable delays that follow. It will be noticeable that we have removed some trees on the recreation field. This was required to allow the remaining trees to flourish. We also removed an enormous bramble growth that left a void which has now been planted with fifteen new trees, kindly donated by the village fete fund. While this work is being carried out, we have taken the opportunity to renew a worn-out fence between the allotments and the recreation field. How could we ever have known that, having cut the trees down in the only dry spell since Christmas, the heavens have opened ever since and prevented the final clearing up...

There are many people who regularly pick up litter in the village and my family do their share. Sometimes it can be very dangerous with the increasing traffic, so please take care if you attempt this yourself. A huge thank you to you all. I only wish that drivers of vehicles would have more consideration and not discard it in the first place. TAKE IT HOME. We continue to employ our village maintenance team who usually attend on Wednesdays and carry out a litter picking rota, mowing and spraying in the summer and general maintenance as and when required. Please let Sarah, the Parish Clerk, know if you notice a maintenance requirement. I continue to wish we could keep our verges and front of properties tidy and trimmed. East Farleigh has some beautiful walls that in the past would have been maintained for all to admire. We find an increasing number covered with ivy or hedgerows with the inevitable result of narrowing the roads, making it more difficult for traffic to pass. It is particularly difficult when buses and the excessively large lorries try to get through. If anyone can help with any of this from a personal point of view I would be delighted.

We hope to run our garden competition again this year. Hadlow College's Broadview Garden Centre has supported this now for a number of years. If you are passing Hadlow, it's worth a visit, especially to the display garden that has free entry. This competition is aimed at trying to improve the overall tidiness and beauty as we drive through the village.

If you are a dog owner, please use the dog mess bins or the general litter bins to dispose of your dog's mess, as this will make walking around the village more pleasant.

We have been really lucky this year to welcome two new co-opted Councillors, and they are Jackie King and Brian Dorton which has taken us up to our full complement. A full list is available on our website <http://www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

I hope to see many of you on the 24<sup>th</sup>, but would like to thank Sarah, our Clerk for holding us all together and to thank all the Parish Councillors on your behalf for giving of their time to manage our village. A personal thanks to Peter Beasley my Vice-Chairman and all the councillors for their support and dedication.

Glyn Charlton

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

## **POLICE REPORT**

Dear All,

I apologise that I could not make tonight's meeting. For those who are not aware my name is Jasmine Pay, I am the PCSO for Coxheath, Hunton, Linton, West Farleigh and East Farleigh. I have recently gained Barming and Teston as well.

From the start of the year there have been a few different crime reports:

Theft by finding 1

Vehicle Interference 1

Criminal Damage 3

Burglary/Theft 3

Theft of Motor Vehicle 2

Theft from motor Vehicle 2

Accosting 1

There is an increase in fly tipping in the area that I have noticed. We are advising people to download the County Eye app to report fly tipping.

I have been working closely with the KCC Warden regarding welfare visits in the area.

Last week we completed an Operation where police officers come out to my areas to assist with issues in the area. There is nothing to report back regarding East Farleigh.

East Farleigh Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting 24th April 2018

Statement from Steve Shearman, Committee Chairman of **East Farleigh Pre-school**

We at East Farleigh Pre-school have had a challenging year, with lots more rules and funding restrictions to adhere to but I am pleased to say we are winning! Our register has been full since the start of the academic year which has been a great position to be in, but as usual we will lose a good number at the end of the year, and have vacancies for the 2018/19 year.

We have a stable, experienced and caring team who provide fantastic care and early-years education, and I am amazingly proud of them, and of what they do.

We have recently been involved with the charity Fareshare working in conjunction with Tesco's in Larkfield, and have benefitted from weekly donations of surplus foodstuffs, and this has enabled us to introduce the use of these items, either for consumption, for activities or for cooking/baking. Quite often we have more than we can possibly use, and the excess is shared amongst the parents and staff. It is a fantastic scheme, and as an individual I hate to see food waste, it pleases me immensely that this food isn't just being binned!

Our Committee members have worked hard raising money, and our parents and carers have been very generous, indeed this has been one of the most successful fund-raising periods we have experienced, and thanks to that we have been in a position to invest in converting a storage area in the Old School Hall (a joint project with the Old School Samba band, and of course Mandy and Gary at the Old School Hall). We now have a secure and dry storage area, and have purchased new, strong, storage boxes along with shelving and a shelving trolley. A simple, but very effective project which has many benefits for the pre-school staff (and of course, the children). A huge thank you to Mandy and Gary for allowing us to make these changes, and thanks to Old School Samba for their contribution (which benefits them as they now have a storage area above ours).

A big thank you to the Parish Council, again this year they have generously donated some money to us, and we will be putting this towards the cost of replacing a number of the tables we have, which are 'well used' and in some cases, held together with gaffer tape.

I hope you all enjoy your evening

Steve Shearman  
Committee Chairman  
East Farleigh Pre-school

## REPORT TO EAST FARLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

THE SIR JOHN FRANKLYN CHARITY FOR ALMSHOUSES  
CHARITY NO. 210899

ANNUAL REPORT – 2017 - 2018

### Committee

The committee members:-

Richard Yaxley	-	Chairman
Debbie McCay	-	Trustee Treasurer
Hilary Moon	-	Honorary Secretary
Paul Khan	-	Trustee Building Maintenance
Trevor Jones	-	Trustee Garden Maintenance

### Introduction

Another year has flown since my last report. Spring has started at last with a 'heat wave' and the keen gardeners of the almshouses have taken the opportunity to tend their fast growing plots.

It had been a relatively quiet year for the Committee until the snow came that caused a car to demolish one of the porches, the same one that was demolished some years ago, by a car. Fortunately no one was hurt and the Committee members set about getting it sorted and after an initial delay we have recently instructed a local builder to start the work.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all Committee members for their help in this matter and all the other work they do in supporting the charity and the residents.

### Trustee – Gardens

Trevor Jones continues in this role and whilst some of the residents are keen gardeners, we have for some time needed a gardener, fortunately we have found someone. We can now get on sorting some of the long standing gardening issues.

### Trustee – Building Maintenance

Paul Khan our Trustee for building maintenance has recently moved, however fortunately for the residents and the Committee, he is willing to continue in his duties.

This year, no major works were undertaken or required bar some minor plumbing issues and re-decorating. We are for next year, looking towards renovating the out buildings.

#### Trustee – Treasurer

Debbie McCay continues her sterling work as Treasurer, the Treasurer's duties attract a high degree of responsibilities and can be rather tedious and time consuming, in producing quarterly finance statements and ensuring incoming and outgoing payments are made on time.

As we all know the Treasurer's post in any Charity is the most difficult to fill so I am pleased that Debbie continues her vital role.

#### Honorary Secretary

Hilary Moon continues to sort out all the administration, minutes the meetings and gets onto me when I have not done what I should have. Just as well maybe, let's hope it continues!

#### Summary

With the continued support of the Committee, we will continue our work for the Charity in maintaining the cottages and the gardens to ensure a pleasant environment for all the residents to live in.

Finally, I would like to report that we have a new resident occupying No. 4 cottage. Her name is Vanda Newell and it would appear that she has settled in well.

Chairman  
Almshouses  
R.F. YAXLEY

## **1st East Farleigh Brownies**

This year has whizzed by. Naomi Evans , Julie Luck and myself are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year being part of East Farleigh Brownies.

The unit continues to thrive with a growing waiting list. This may be due in part to the older girls seeming less enthusiastic to leave as soon as they turn 10 than we had anticipated. We have the pleasure of being part of a very content unit, we pull together as a team very well. We feel this is because we encourage and all try to be considerate, communicate and cooperate with each other.

The Leadership team expanded this year when Kerry French offered to join us very recently as a volunteer. I think we caught her interest after she helped out at last

years condensed camping and organising the use of West Farleigh Sports ground for the purpose.

Kerry was also responsible for a surprise visit from the Fire Brigade at the District Brownie challenge day, a treat for both the girls and the leaders, as well as our recent visit from 2 female paramedics and the CPR training to complete their first aid badges. The year has been packed with many and varied activities. Nature or those that live in it and where were a large part of summer. Amongst other things we have completed the Stop Bullying Challenge, celebrated Votes for Women and the progression of women's rights and of course there's been the opportunity for a party or three with so many festivals to learn about.

We had a very successful bake sale. This was organised, set up and hosted by the girls. The cakes were made by the girls and donated by family and members of the community. We intend to do this again in the autumn.

We would like to thank those in the community, Gary and Mandy, the Parish Council and the Farmers Market for their continued support. We are always appreciative and open to thoughts, ideas and contributions to sessions. Once again, thank you.

Clare Easton. Brown Owl.

## East Farleigh Primary School



### Parish Council Report April 2018

On behalf of the Children, Head teacher and Governing Body.

The School and Governing Body very much appreciates all contact with the local community, we welcome visitors and are happy to engage with local organisations and businesses. We are extremely grateful for the continued support and help which we receive from the Parish Council, especially for their recent donation. Many Thanks.

The school itself has continued to prosper this year. We have 7 classes and 26 full and part-time staff. We have a full roll with the vast majority of the children coming from the immediate area and the southwestern area of Maidstone. East Farleigh remains a popular school for both prospective parents and pupils. We continue to receive well over 100 applications each year. We frequently receive very positive comments about the village and local environment. We are generally oversubscribed and regularly have to turn applicants away. After 28 years, Mr Sapwell will be leaving the school in May being succeeded by Mr Mark Rivers.

We continue to improve and maintain our facilities. This year we have created a new meeting room, completed the library conversion, and begun constructing a new outdoor play area. We have recently refurbished the toilets and our outdoor classroom and chickens remain a popular feature of this predominantly rural school.

We try to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to all our children and have a good range of extra-curricular activities compared to many other local schools. These clubs are run either voluntarily by staff or funded through the government PE funding initiative. This year we have continued to run a series of open-afternoon sessions for parents. Our school choir, of over 30 pupils, enjoyed singing as part of the massive Young Voices choir at the O2 arena in London.

We continue to run educational visits and have regular swimming sessions to Mote Park for our Year 3 pupils. In June, our year 6 pupils will take part in a residential visit to Swattenden Outdoor Adventure site at Cranbrook. We have held services in the church at both Christmas and the end of the summer term. The children have taken part in a wide range of sporting events across Maidstone with most in Key Stage 2 and upper Key Stage 1 who wanted, being able to participate in at least one sporting competition should they wish.

We have been supporting both local and national charities. We have taken part in Children in Need and Cancer Research UK events. Our Harvest Festival donations were once again, given to Maidstone Christian Care for their Food Bank. At the beginning of March, we celebrated World Book Day with fancy dress and fun reading activities with all the children.

We have had visits from local community groups including Maidstone Mediation Service, the Fire Brigade and the local Magistrate's service. The children have also received training in road safety and cycling proficiency.

We would like to thank the Friends of the East Farleigh School for their support and we acknowledge the support we receive from many of the parents and their extended families. The Friends have held a number of very successful events throughout the year including, a Christmas Fair, a quiz night, an Easter egg tombola, children's discos and pupil movie nights. Donations from the Friends of East Farleigh enable us to provide additional funding and support beyond our normal budget.

The Leavers service will take place in the church at the end of July.

We would particularly like to acknowledge, and thank, East Farleigh WI for their continued support listening to children read throughout the school. This assistance has been of great benefit to the children and ensures that there is always a helper to hear the children read.

Thank You

P Sapwell  
Headteacher

WI

This has been a very exciting year for me as the new President of the Farleighs WI. We have been very busy with many events and fundraising for the Hall for improvements. It started with a trip to London and an interesting guided tour of the Crown Courts, Lincoln Inn Fields and the Old Bailey. Then later in June we had a very enjoyable Safari Supper which because of its popularity has become an annual event. Lovely food and great Company. It is good to spend time with different members.

We played Petanque in July at the White House on a warm Summer Evening and then had a buffet supper. The Hall Committee organised a Cream Tea at the end of July with Pete and Co, a local band, but although the tea was delicious and the music enjoyable the weather was very wet and disappointing. There was the Harvest Supper evening with the group Chicory Tips, as usual this was a very popular event, and everyone enjoyed. We had a Pamper Beauty Evening with demonstrations and advice from Arbonne beauty consultants all attendees receive a goodie bag. In November we held a fundraising event, a Table Top Sale with tables being hired by other Organisations and individuals, all our crafts made during the year by members were on display for customers to buy. The Kent Messenger came to view, and we even had a picture in the local paper.

In early December the Hall Committee organised a 60s Evening with Pete and Co playing 60's music and dancing. At the December WI Meeting the Committee entertained the members with many sketches. A finger buffet was provided, and the evening then ended with Carol Singing.

The new year started with a Whist Evening for the members. We have organised a visit to the FCC Waste Plant for recycling in Allington to help us learn what we should be putting in our different bins. There are future events of a Murder Mystery evening with our Drama group performing a play served with refreshments, Greyhound racing with a meal, tenpin bowling to try, a trip to the Dickens Festival at Broadstairs, and again the Safari Supper.

We had a Tea Tent at the East Farleigh Fete, a cake stall at Rainham Cricket Club. We have used all the activities to help raise money to refurbish our Hall, we hope to have a new Kitchen shortly and then we need to concentrate on the outside of the building.

We have supported the local school East Farleigh to help to listen to the children read and we got to know many of the children.

I will mention a few of the very best Speakers that have been enjoyed. Blooming Green - demonstrated how to assemble a hand tied bouquet with wild flowers grown at their nursery. It was very inspiring!! Alan College - a local Artist. He made it look so simple to paint with the result of lovely picture with ducks. Joe Mendel - Houdini - We learned a great deal about the American illusionist and stunt performer. Janice Ramsay - Antiques - We learnt a lot about how to sell our precious items.

We continue with the Art Class and Craft Club. Each of them meeting once a fortnight on a Tuesday morning. We hope to start a dance class as soon as we find a dance teacher. We are always open and welcoming for new members.

### **East Farleigh Farmers' Market report to the Parish 2018**

At the risk of repeating myself from last year, I'm afraid that support for our market has been falling and we are risking its loss if things don't improve in 2018.

We no longer have a greengrocer, baker, cheese or fish stall. Locally produced food is a very important part of a Farmers' market and I have been struggling, with little success, to find replacements over the past few months. Communigrow, a charity from East Malling has recently been attending to offer limited seasonal produce in return for donations, which in turn benefit their own project. If anyone has ideas for further recruitment, they would be very welcome!

The market now has equal numbers of craft and food producers which is not ideal. People will buy food on a regular basis but only treat themselves to craft items occasionally.

I publicise the market via Grapevine, the Kent Messenger, the Farleighs website and nearby village publications. We now have a Facebook page, the mysteries of which I am still unravelling!

A 'Facebook savvy' volunteer to take responsibility for keeping this site vibrant and up to date would be much appreciated.

On a positive note we are continuing to support local charities each month and in 2017 donated a total of £905 to 11 charities including several new ones - the Young Lives Foundation, West Kent Befriending Service, Maidstone Red Cross and the Involve Kent Men's Shed project.

I would ask that if everyone could encourage their friends and neighbours to visit the market, which is only held for three hours once a month, then we could increase footfall tremendously and ensure that our venture flourishes.

Sue Morris – Market manager

### **EAST FARLEIGH GARDENING CLUB**

Report to Parish Council April 2018

We are a very informal gardening club with just a £2 per year subscription.

There is no committee and organisation therefore falls to me so meetings are not held on a regular basis.

In 2017 we had two Plant Swap days in April and October, when members donated and selected seedlings and split or unwanted bedding plants and shrubs. Together with a chat, cake and hot drink these proved sociable occasions.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June a large group visited Goddards Green in Cranbrook on a glorious summer's evening.

The gardens, of about 5 acres, surround a beautiful mediaeval Clothier's Hall. They were laid out in the 1920s and have been redesigned over the past 25 years by the current owners to combine traditional and modern planting. The hall itself is not normally open but after our garden tour the enthusiastic owner, John Wotton treated us to an unexpected tour of his home which was a delight.

I hope to organise further events this year.

Sue Morris

East Farleigh Fete Committee Update 2018.

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Last year's emphasis on the musical content at the Fete went down very well with our visitors, so this year we have decided to build on that success with another "Fete de la Music".

It will be held on Sat 23rd June from 1pm to 5pm, which is an hour extra to give each set of performers extra time to perform.

So if you know of some talented performers who might be interested in performing at this year's Fete please let us know.

Recently Barbara Dagger has stepped down from the committee and we'd like to thank her for all her help with the Fete over a good number of years.

On the plus side this year we have welcomed two new people to the committee, Ian Chapman and Ian Wilkinson, both of whom have been a great help already.

If you'd like to help with organising the fete or would like to help on the day we'd love to hear from you.

As per last year we will erect the Marques on Friday evening starting at 7pm, please come, many hands make light work!

Last year we managed to make over £1200 Profit from which we have donated to various village based good causes...

- + Helping with the purchase of trees for the Rec boundary with the allotments.
- + a promise to purchase the material to replace the wood mount for the graveyard memorial plaques.
- + Funding the purchase of the defibrillator housing which is to be sighted at the Old School Hall.
- + Part funding of vital maintenance work required on the children's play area in recreation ground.

If there is some village community project that you know requires some funding then please let us know.

Finally we'd like to help everyone who helped last year especially the Wi for their Tea and Cakes and the Primary school for the use of their facilities.

Adam Palmer  
Village Fete Committee Chair

I work for Kent County Council as a Community Warden. There are about 65 across Kent.

My role is to act as trusted friend, providing a visible, reassuring presence in the community. Listening to and encouraging residents to resolve problems and enhance their quality of life. If I can't solve a problem directly my role is to refer people to the appropriate agencies that can help. I promote social inclusion and assist vulnerable people.

This year I have 6 priorities: Domestic abuse, antisocial behaviour, substance misuse, road safety, serious & organised crime and safeguarding vulnerable people.

I act as the 'eyes and ears' for local residents, tackling low level crime and antisocial behaviour. We are accredited to Kent Police. I can also help by offering advice on home security and property marking.

As well as working closely with local Parish Councils and Maidstone Borough Council, I also work with other professional authorities to ensure residents are able to access the support they need. For example:

Kent Fire & Rescue Service  
Kent Trading Standards  
Schools  
Environmental Protection  
Social Services  
NHS

The aim is to enable residents to take a proactive approach to work together to build safer and strong communities and improve the quality of life for vulnerable residents. I also help to tackle social isolation with the help of voluntary agencies and local charities. During the last year I have been supporting residents with dementia; hoarding; food parcels, self-neglect and welfare visits, some requiring hospital treatment.

We are able to give a number of talks on: Road Safety, Anti Bullying, Think Jessica, Internet Awareness, Beat the Bogus Caller and Stop the Scammers.

Community Wardens across the County have identified residents that have paid £100k's in scams. They have been working closely with Trading Standards in order to educate residents and help reduce the likelihood of becoming an on-going victim of crime.

In Britain £3.2 million people hand over cash to mass marketing scams run by organised criminals. It is now estimated that £10 billion is sent in postal scams alone. Evidence shows that out of 1.4 million residents living in Kent, 42% are likely to be a scam victim at some point...up to 600,000 residents – Across Kent Wardens have been visiting 1500 residents on a 'Suckers List' seized by the Police.

Our role is to provide advice, support and signposting to agencies and partners where needed.

#### Volunteer Support Wardens

Are you passionate, enthusiastic and up for a new challenge? Do you like meeting new people, want to learn new skills and provide valuable support to local residents? Kent

County Council, working in conjunction with the Kent Association of Local Councils is introducing an exciting new Volunteer Support Warden role in selected areas in Maidstone. The role will be challenging but rewarding and you'll be making a real difference to local communities. For more information and to find out which areas this role is being launched contact Community Wardens on 03000 413455 or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens](http://www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens) .