

ELMER SANDS NEWS

Issue Number Thirty-two April 2014

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Last year I was asking, "when is this cold weather going to end?", this year it was "when is the rain going to stop?". Fingers crossed, gorgeous Summer on the way!

It's been a while since I wrote the last newsletter; in my defence, I haven't really had the spare time. There have been a lot of things going on to do with the risks of flooding, requiring meetings, phone calls, emails the normal stuff which have taken up all my time. It's all going as well as can be expected and by the skin of our teeth we have not suffered any flooding this Winter despite having seen the wettest January in recorded history, and certainly the worst storms I can remember.

I suppose the main priority has been the Sea Defences which became critical just before Christmas. Luckily the cavalry, in the form of the Environment Agency, stepped in at the last moment bulldozing shingle up the beach, filling the eroded areas. Obviously this was only a temporary fix so we have been talking to the EA and a meeting is planned in the near future to discuss a more permanent solution. LS



At the beginning of the month our Free Water Butts arrived and what a momentous task it was to get them all delivered in so short a time. A big thank you must go out to all those amazing volunteers who got the job done particularly ESL Director Peter Trebble who organised the logistics of it all.

Thanks to a grant won for Elmer Sands by Kim Edden, The Secretary and I from West Sussex County Council's Community Flood Prevention Fund the estate took delivery of 450 Water Butts. Once installed - see the water butt setup diagram on Page 3 - they should intercept a lot of water to reduce flooding during future heavy rainfall.

Please note: For optimum efficiency completely empty butts manually whenever a bad storm threatens. LS

**Dates For Your Diary
2014**

**Beach Clean 19th April
AGM 12th May
Summer Fete 24th August
Hog Roast 24th August**

**Attn All Residents
Please come to the
Elmer Sands Ltd
Annual General Meeting**

**On Monday 12th May
Doors open 5.45pm for
refreshments
Meeting starts 6.15pm,
closes 8.30pm latest**

**Guest Speaker from
Environment Agency to
tell us all about the
status and future of the
Sea Defences**

**All the key issues that
concern everyone will be
addressed such as the
management of drainage,
road repairs,
common areas and security**

**Meet the current voluntary
Directors who have been
giving up their time to
manage the Estate on your
behalf and vote in new
people to represent you for
the coming year**

We hope to see you there

**Any queries please call
the Secretary
01243 584900**



MONSTER EASTER BEACH CLEANUP

Elmer Sands Beach needs us all this year! After all those horrendous storms it's in desperate need of some TLC. Our beach is looking like an explosion in a plastics factory, very sad indeed. Come and join us and bring your friends, the Easter Beach Cleanup will take place on

Saturday 19th April...
We will be meeting at 10.00 at the kiosk.

Please bring gloves – we will supply the rest.

Hot drinks and biscuits will be available when we have finished!



Dog Fouling - A Community Issue

It has been highlighted by many residents that there is an increase in the problem of dog-fouling on the Estate. Dogs are being let off leads in the dark or wandering around without owners in the daytime resulting in fouling taking place un-witnessed on the grass verges. The beachfront and pathways are particular problem areas, especially of concern because of the serious health risks, particular to young children. The ESL grounds contractor has recently discovered large quantities of dog waste bags shoved down the drain gullies causing blockages and he has had to fish these out, not a

pleasant task and definitely not in his contract!

Residents who witness incidents of dog fouling should report to the Arun District Council Dog Warden tel: 01903 737679 or visit www.arun.gov.uk

Since ADC will only act on reports that include identification of the dog owners, we need to find other ways to deter dog fouling. ESL has put up some temporary signage on some verges around the Estate but if anyone has ideas to share please contact the Secretary.

Several years ago, former ESL Directors secured a number of dog bins throughout the Estate and free weekly emptying services. Dog Walkers could take their bags home or use normal waste bins (now approved by WSCC). There is no excuse for leaving dog waste in public places.

This is a community issue and all residents need to be vigilant and try to report any incidents witnessed.

THANK YOU!

FELPHAM ART GROUP

Felpham Art group is a lively art group for local artists who provide opportunities for demonstrations, tutorials and talks held in the Village hall in Felpham, and we also exhibit our varied works at the exhibitions we hold throughout the year.

Exhibitions are held at The Norfolk Centre, Mill Road Arundel, but in the summer (weather permitting) we hold 4 seafront exhibitions as well:

The exhibitions this year are:-

March 21st to 23rd at The Norfolk Centre, Arundel 10am to 5pm daily

June 4th to 6th at The Norfolk Centre, Arundel 10am to 5pm daily

July 13th & 27th on the seafront at Felpham (in front of beach huts on greensward)

August 10th & 24th on the seafront at Felpham (same place as above)

October 17th to 19th at The Norfolk Centre, Arundel 10am to 5pm daily. Look forward to seeing you!!

So if you have the talent or want to join a friendly group and be encouraged why not pop along to one of our exhibitions or visit us at <http://www.felphamartgroup.com/>.

Elmer's Islands

Once upon a time Elmer was famous for its sands, hence the name Elmer Sands.

We had groynes then which broke down the cross currents, the design of them varied, one of them was locally called "the circus" due to its shape. They were lovely to lean against in the warm sunshine.

Gradually with changes in the height of the tides there was an increase in the risk of flooding, and sadly in 1984 the inhabitants of Manor Court were badly flooded and the same thing happened the following year. Cuttings from the local press are available showing rescue boats rowing along Manor Way.

At that time there were split responsibilities for our coastal sea defenses between the National River Authority (NRA) and Arun District Council (ADC). The NRA built the first two experimental rock islands followed by a further six, financed by ADC.

The rocks for the first islands came from the Mendips in Somerset, but latterly they came by ship from Norway. The ships were moored at mid-tide and the rocks were pushed into low water and then skillfully picked up at low tide and placed into position on the islands. The work had to continue day and night which meant there were loud noises intermittently for many weeks.

Then there was the shingle backup to be distributed at and around High Water: Ships came in capable of carrying tons of this material opened a part of their hull and discharged their cargo on the sea bed, closing up the hull and then floating off at the next high tide – usually.

On one occasion the captain misjudged the tides and the ship was grounded for a number of *Cont over*.

Cont. days until a high enough tide enabled it to float off again. During this period the ship became a local attraction and when the weather was good some people were seen picnicking there.

There is no doubt that the islands have served their purpose well and hopefully will protect the shore for a long time to come. *Reg Came*

Reg's new book *REJOYCE*, a memoir, has just been published and is now available from www.lulu.com. For further information please contact Reg Came on 01243 583266.



Nominations for the Elmer Sands Council

Deadline 11th April 2014

All fully paid up Members are entitled

to serve as a Director of the Elmer Sands Ltd Council

Please contact our Secretary for more details

It is important to maintain a Board of Directors with mixed experience and knowledge

who can represent

our diverse community

You do not have to have lived here for years

Residents new to the Estate are very welcome

Nomination forms will be mailed to all Members with the Annual Report

Residents Letters:

Jo Latus writes to say: "The bunting made for the street party is kept at my house and if anyone would like to use it for an event

please call or email me on 583906 or jo.latus@btinternet.com"

BOULES!

A number of us have commented over the last year or so on how much fun the Boules Court at The Kiosk was, and how it would be good to be able to use it again this summer.

Well, one of our residents has decided to do something about. The repair work is planned so, as they say, watch that space!

She intends to hold an informal Boule tournament lasting for six weeks starting on the 7th of June.

To register, help or for more information please call Jo on telephone number 583906 or E-mail jo.latus@btinternet.com



PARKING and Damage to roads and verges

Details of the Estate's parking management system can be viewed on the website or obtained from the Office. ESL promotes driveway widening, incorporating sections of the grass verges; details of the formal application process for use of land can also be found on the website. Verges damaged by parking associated with individual properties should be re-instated by the owners. Any other damage please report to the Estate Office. The aim is to have clear roads and undamaged grass verges for the enjoyment and safety of everyone and to keep the costs of maintenance down.

Please help us achieve this goal.



Installation Information:

For your new free Storm Buffer Water butts to work properly it is essential that they are installed correctly. Please see diagram above. They will partially empty automatically but for optimum efficiency completely empty water butts manually whenever a bad storm threatens. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

There are still a few Free Water Butts available if you would like one please contact The Secretary – details on the back page.



ESBAC

Well what a winter! I expect a lot of people considered getting a boat over the last few months with all the water everywhere!

Let's hope we are past the worst of the wet weather now and can start looking forward to some beautiful spring days.

Elmer Sands Boating and Angling Club is starting to plan for the 2014 season, and have already had a successful **Work Day on Sunday 23rd March**. This was a good start on clearing up the boat yard - please come along and join us anytime you have spare time – dates to be announced!

We have boat berths available and also secure kayak storage in our large container.

The AGM this year will be held on Saturday 12th April at 11am in The Cabin, and as well as current members we would welcome anyone interested in joining our friendly club.

Later in the year we have the annual **Fete and Hog Roast on Sunday 24th August**. Please put the date in your diaries now!

For any further information please contact the **Club Secretary** on **01243 587550**

Love where you live!

Addressed to the good people of the Elmer Sands Estate

We have recently carried out works to reinstate redundant watercourses to alleviate flood problems at Elmer. You should know that additional drainage works are being programmed by us for your benefit.

The woods North of Elmer Sands are private with no public access rights. Some people have come into the woods and begun filling in the new ditches with logs. Whilst investigating it is clear that most residences that abut these woods are treating them as an unauthorised tip, with fires and damage to trees. I think they would be displeased if anyone dumped refuse on their property.

I would like to explore a longer term solution with those residents, whereby the woods are cared for and respected, and I would welcome any feedback.

Please accept these comments in the good faith that I seek harmony with my neighbours.

James Baird

jlbaird@tiscali.co.uk

Welcome to



Elmer Sands

**HAVE YOU
RECENTLY
MOVED TO
ELMER SANDS?**

Please make sure you have contacted the Estate Office and registered yourselves as new owner/s of the property

CONTACT DETAILS

secretary@elmersands.co.uk
www.elmersands.co.uk

Please ask for your copy of the 'Welcome Booklet' which explains how this private estate is managed

Registered Office
23 Arundel Way, Elmer
Sands, PO22 6JH
Tel: 01243 584900

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