

# ELMER SANDS NEWS

Issue Number Twenty-three October 2009

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**In the dog days of another truly British summer I apologise for the fact that this Elmer Sands News is a bit of a 'Pumping Station Special' again** but the 353 residents who signed the petition and 90 members and supporters of ESBAC's letter prove how important it is to residents.

After 25 years of making complaints to Southern Water about the problems with the pumping station on The Hard, this year Elmer Sands Ltd. lodged a formal complaint with OFWAT, the government water regulator, citing 'the failure of Southern Water to ensure they deliver a safe and secure service...'. They have been working tirelessly ever since to secure a swift and successful result.

To increase pressure on Southern Water former council member Geoff Matcham came up with the idea of a resident's petition. That's where I came in. Since then we have both been working to keep people informed and get as many people involved as we can.

Maybe if enough of us all work together something will finally get done!  
*Linda Smith*

## 2009 ELMER SANDS DIARY

January - ESL lodge a formal complaint with OFWAT.

February – The pumps fail and Elmer Sands suffers serious flooding by untreated sewage plus numerous properties are affected when toilets back up and drains block.

April – The pump was running continuously accompanied by very loud intermittent banging. Several days elapsed before it was fixed.

May – Leak in the main pipe next to the pumping station, which was oozing sewage into the rife.

June – Explosion of main pipe next to the pumping station, which resulted in thousands of gallons of sewage pouring into the rife/sea.

July - residents hand a petition of 353 signatures to Arun District Council asking them to also put pressure on Southern Water.

August – The pump was running continuously accompanied by very loud intermittent banging.

August – ADC's Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting. Southern Water state that for economic reasons a pipe from Elmer Sands to Ford is too expensive and that it intends to temporarily alleviate our flooding problems by pumping untreated sewage into the Elmer Rife.

August – Geoff Matcham and Linda Smith challenge Southern Waters proposal on both environmental and public health grounds. Geoff submits report to justify the £1.7million to pipe sewage from the Elmer Sands pumping station to the Ford wastewater treatment works.

September – Elmer Sands Boating and Angling Club respond with a letter signed by 90 members and supporters against Southern Water's proposal.

**QUESTIONNAIRES  
PLEASE FILL THEM IN!  
It is important for OFWAT,  
ESL and Southern Water to  
find out the extent of the  
problems experienced by  
residents when the Pumping  
Station fails.**

**If your property has  
problems with **BLOCKED  
DRAINS, TOILETS BACKING  
UP or FLOODING** please fill  
in the Questionnaire/s and  
return it to ESL's Secretary  
ASAP. Thank you.**

**If you have problems with  
your drains or toilets how can  
you help?**

It may not be your problem but more to do with high water levels in the main sewer so nip round to The Hard and check the beacon!

**If it's flashing phone Southern  
Water to tell them that the  
pumps have packed up!  
Southern Water Emergency  
Number: 0845 278 0845**

Remember, the more people that complain the more chance we have of getting the sewers upgraded.

If we unfortunately experience any more flooding please take photos and log the event with Southern Water. Surfers Against Sewage advise that if you know of sewage discharging into the sea contact the EA pollution hotline 0800 80 70 60 and call them on 01872 555 950.

## Residents Letters

**Please send your letters via ESL's Secretary (for details see back page).**

You may have noticed letters from Linda Smith and myself in the Observer on behalf of all of you who signed the petition. You may also have noticed that ESL have committed a substantial part of your subscription over the last 10 years on carrying out upgrading and improvement work to the surface water drains. For their part, the Environment Agency has carried out substantial clearing of the ditches and rife.

The point of bringing this to your attention is that Southern Water, in their newsletter item enclosed are continuing to blame the problems we are experiencing on surface water, placing the onus on Elmer Sands Ltd. to prevent inundation of surface water into their sewers. They are also proposing to discharge sewage overflows from the pumping station onto our beach. Obviously we all feel this practice is totally unacceptable and must be stopped at all cost. We therefore suggest that when completing your questionnaire you leave the surface water box blank. If you feel that you have any questions do not hesitate to forward them to us via ESL's Secretary.

*Geoff Matcham*

hello...just revisited elmer after many years, i loved it as a child, we had some amazing holidays, mainly staying in east drive. in those days there were many shops, including a butchers, bakers, sweet shop, (the candy stores) off-license and the amazing general grocers called LAYNE STORES ,

does anyone else remember all this? and does anyone have any pictures , its hard to understand there were a lot of shops...now just the mace stores and a shop selling flowers, this saddened me, but the new houses all looked wonderful ...well done to all ..i will return ..just love it, so unspoilt and clean , from peter in orpington, kent. Prbartle@aol.com

"May we take this opportunity of thanking you all so much for the time and effort you put into making Elmer Sands a very happy place to live. Also we appreciate the industrious efforts of the Boat Club Members. They have made such a difference to the social life of Elmer Sands".

Mr & Mrs Lemaitre

[www.elmersands.co.uk](http://www.elmersands.co.uk)  
Where you can access details of the Estate, the Company and how everything is managed, also download forms, documents and submit queries.

Hello there - i hope my email finds you well.

I spent most of my childhood holidays in Elmer - wonderful - but have not been back for many years. I am aware of the rock islands that were put out to sea to help rebuild the beach ... and i wondered if i could ask you to email any photographs of the islands when they were first put there and also over time up to the present date... i would absolutely love to see the difference just for my own memory/interest. I appreciate this is probably a bit of a chore so it would be great to receive even two or three photos if you

are very busy and short of time. Thank you for considering my request.

JEM

[jemmag@btopenworld.com](mailto:jemmag@btopenworld.com)

## Outstanding Estate Management Fees 2009

There are a small number of outstanding Estate Management Fees still to be settled for 2009. Payment was due by 31<sup>st</sup> January 09, so please ensure that you have paid the fee for your property this year to avoid lapsed membership. ESL facilitates a number of options for payment including direct debit and electronic transfer. Members who wish to discuss alternative payment methods should contact ESL's Secretary Thank you.

## It's a swine of a virus!

Fed up with hearing the one about the man who knew he had swine flu because he had a bit of crackling in his ears? Me too!

But seriously, there are a lot of very worried people out there at the moment, not helped by headlines screaming out that this is the modern version of the plague although this month, health experts admitted that the virus is far less lethal than first feared.

To instil a bit more confidence, very shortly the first swine flu vaccines are due to be given to key target groups, such as pregnant women, people with weak immune systems and people over 65.

For more information go to the **National Flu Pandemic Service** [www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu) **If you think you have Swine Flu call the swine flu hot line on 0800 1513 100** in the first instance. *Cont.over*

*Continued.* If you need to get Tamiflu, it's worth noting that you can't just pop along to the local chemist. The nearest collection points are in Bognor: Boots the Chemist, and the Day Lewis Pharmacy, Hawthorn Road – according to a friend of mine. You also may need identification.

So what can we do now? Well first appoint our flu friends – just in case – then I suppose think of a few bad swine related jokes to keep our spirits up.

## ELMER PEOPLE

*Following a comment by a reader, 'More information about individual people on the estate would be nice' I have started the ball rolling with an article about two of our local 'treasures'. Please contact me if you have any ideas for further articles. LS*



### Reg & Joyce Came

Reg Came was a very happy young man, he had asked his sweetheart, Joyce, to marry him and she had said, “yes”. His mood quickly changed however when she added, “you know you will be expected to be a Punch and Judy man”!

Joyce came from a theatrical family, grandfather had manufactured magical apparatus and her father, Hector Seager, was a well-known Punch and Judy man. He worked in London and took his bookings from the finest agencies, even performing at Windsor Castle for Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

After Reg learned that he could earn half a week's wages (four guineas) for a Saturday afternoons performance he perked up a bit. He had also done some amateur dramatics, which he thought would help matters, also it was pointed out that this was a lot easier than acting because you were hidden inside the ‘fit up’ – the box you stood in – so he felt inclined to agree. Thus started a lifelong profession as a ‘Professor’ or Punch and Judy man.

To get him started Hector gave Reg a number of old puppets and his assistance in making a fit up – it had to be tailor made to suite the operator - then Joyce began his training. A talented thespian herself, after years of listening to her father she knew the script off by heart including every pause and intonation. For two years, under her expert eye, he practiced every evening. Eventually he progressed to a live audience, giving free performances at children's homes.

His professional life started properly in 1952 when the coronation of our present Queen Elizabeth provided the opportunity for street parties in every community. He was instantly in demand but instead of getting four guineas he did two shows a day at fifteen guineas each – he was on his way.

In retrospect the story of Punch and Judy was originally a pretty brutal one. I was privileged to watch a film of Reg's farewell performance when he retired in the 1980's. It surprised me. I've fond memories of sunny days sitting on the grass watching and shouting at the funny little puppets. How easy it is to forget – Mr Punch was actually a bit of a bully who spent the whole show

either throwing people out of windows or hitting them over the head with a piece of wood.

Mr Punch – his original name was Punchinello - started life as a real hunchback wearing a mask with a hooked nose and exaggerated chin who entertained Italian crowds around 800 hundred years ago. He entertained adults with rude political jokes, aimed at mocking the upper classes – early political satire. After travelling through Europe, Punch eventually found his way to our shores and was thriving by the 1800's.

The first show featuring an early version of the Punch character was recorded in this country on May 9th 1662 when Samuel Pepys watched a marionette show given by an Italian puppet master in London's Covent Garden. ‘Professors’ traditionally reckon this date as Punch's UK birthday.

Eventually it developed into the Punch and Judy show for younger audiences we know today, with adult jokes replaced by slapstick humour and inappropriate cast members removed. The performances became hugely successful although it has continually changed, especially with the advent of political correctness.

Of course when you meet Reg and Joyce, now both well into their eighties, there are plenty of clues to their somewhat extra-ordinary lives - the Mr Punch door knocker, the collection of old prints and figurines in their home, and even the humorous hand drawn Christmas cards they send, all of which depict Mr Punch. He's still so much part of their lives that when I ring their doorbell I half expect it to say, ‘That's the way to do it!’





### ESBAC Summer Fete & Hog Roast

We would like to thank all those who supported the ESBAC Summer Fete and Hog Roast. It was one of the most successful we have had in recent years. This would not have been possible without the generous donations of prizes for the raffle and all of you who turned out to support us on the day, also a big thank you to all those who worked behind the scenes getting it all organized! *(Delighted to see the maggot racing was back. LS)*

The next Boat Club event will be the

### **HALLOWEEN PARTY**

*At The Kiosk*

*On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October*

*From 6.00- 9.00pm*

There will be a Fancy dress competition and much more. Our flyer will be dropping through your door with all the information shortly.

### Plant Swap

A note to all you green fingered gardeners out there... Planned for March or April 2010 (date yet to be confirmed), we will be holding a plant swap and sale. Also to be launched at the Plant Swap will be the 'ESBAC Vegetable Growing Competition' which will be judged at next years Halloween Party.

Watch out for a newsletter in the New Year with further information on all our events for next year.

**E.S. Boating and Angling Club** For further information please contact the Club Secretary,

**Jude Williams on tel: 582980**

### **Parking Improvements**

The Council of ESL is pleased to report that the introduction of the new Parking Management Scheme has achieved some improvements. The grass verges and roadways have mostly been kept clear of vehicles and the Council would like to thank residents for their support and co-operation with this. Penalty tickets continue to be issued in cases of non-compliance, but unfortunately a small minority of residents are still ignoring the rules, causing obstruction to neighbouring properties and costly

damage to the Estate's fragile infrastructure, which impacts on the Membership funds. Unlike ESL Members, those who do not contribute to the cost of maintaining the Estate (Non-Members) are not permitted to use the Company's private land for temporary visitors parking. A complete review of the Management of Parking is set for January. Members who wish to offer feedback prior to January are invited to do so in writing. The ESL Council will then present details of the review at the Company's Annual General Meeting in April 2010.

To submit a report or offer feedback via e-mail, please visit the Company website [www.elmersands.co.uk](http://www.elmersands.co.uk) or write to 23 Arundel Way, PO22 6JH.

Thank you to all residents who observe the Estate Policy and are considerate with their parking.

### **Contact ESL**

Please route any queries through the Company Secretary, who can be contacted by phone, through our web site, or in writing, at **23 Arundel Way, Elmer Sands, PO22 6JH. Tel: 584900** [www.elmersands.co.uk](http://www.elmersands.co.uk) **NO house calls please.** **NEW RESIDENTS-** If you have not received your Welcome Pack please contact the Secretary

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