

ELMER SANDS NEWS

Issue Number Nineteen March 2008

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‘When all at once I saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils’, I woke up this morning and there they were. Everywhere blazed with yellow and I realised it was Spring, time for another edition of the Elmer Sands News – so welcome!

The Elmer Sands
Limited
Annual General Meeting
will be held at
the Jubilee Hall
Middleton on Sea
on Monday evening
28th April 2008
time to be confirmed

Nominations for the Council of Elmer Sands Limited

If you are interested in serving on the ESL Council, you will have the opportunity to be nominated in March. Nomination forms will be sent to all Members with the Annual Report and Accounts. All you need to do is ask another resident Member to nominate you and submit the form to the Secretary. An election will then take place at the AGM. All ESL Members are eligible for nomination and are very welcome. Nominees should understand that serving on the Council means they will become a Director of the Company and that there is a commitment to attend monthly meetings and contribute to the running of the Estate on a voluntary basis.

ESL aims to maintain a diverse Council, representative of the community and welcomes all new candidates.

**Why should I volunteer?
At Elmer Sands helping with maintenance etc. is one of the reasons your subs are probably the lowest for any private estate on the South Coast – by continuing to help we can continue to keep the subs low. Remember you don’t have to be on the Council to help!**

Any questions, please contact the Secretary (see back page)

Extract from 'Doggy Doo on my Shoe' by Dawn McMillan

This whole sorry mess would be over today
if all the dog doo would just go away
if dogs could be taught so that all of them knew
just where and when they could do all their doo!
Not on the pavement
Not on the green
not out in public
where it's easily seen
Not by the river
where people run
Not near the playground
where children have fun
No doggy doos the signs always say
scoop it all up and take it away!

To report offences contact Arun’s Dog Wardens on 01903 737679. Offenders can be fined up to £1000, or issued with a £25 fixed penalty ticket.

When Elmer Had Shops

It was 1932 when I first came to Elmer, camping with my parents in the little field behind the shops in Jubilee Parade. We enjoyed it so much that my father soon arranged to put a caravan there permanently, and after several summers he moved this to Farm Close on a small triangle of land next to “Jimmies”.

A lot of people came by car to enjoy Elmer at weekends in the summer – the beach was sandy, the swimming was good – and the shops remained open at weekends selling food and almost everything you might need. And on Saturday nights you could walk along to “The Elmer” where a small band played for dancing in the hall behind the pub.

It was not until the 1950s that the buses came as far as “The Cabin”, previously they turned round in a square next to “The Elmer” (now a block of flats).

These are my memories of the shops we had to rely on, Jubilee Parade, Elmer Road; the next five businesses were in a row running west to east:
1. Household Goods – Run by the Dexter family over two generations and usually able to supply anything required.
Later run by Derek Butler.

Cont. over page

When Elmer had shops. cont.

2. Sweet Shop – run by Dudley Mason and his sister; in the summer he erected a “carousel” on the forecourt to sell his extensive range of delicious ice creams. Later this became “Jill’s” hairdressers.

3. Greengrocery, and evening fish and chips, run by Gerry Aldridge and his assistant Dorothy.

4. Broughs Chemist’s Shop for many years. When this finally closed a variety of other businesses tried there but closed again quickly; once it opened to sell baby-clothes, and once it was a carpet shop. Now Buntings Estate Agents.

5. The Garage – for repairs and petrol sales – run by Mr Newton a very lively character. In the 1950s he also opened a Milk Bar there as an added attraction! One of the houses on the way to “The Elmer” also opened as a Milk Bar for a few years: it was “the thing” to sit on a stool and enjoy flavoured milky drinks!

6. Opposite Jubilee Parade was Candy House. This was quite a large grocery shop, and alongside a small sweet and tobacco shop, where they sometimes put a few tables outside to serve teas. Run for many years by Mr and Mrs Hopwood, who also ran the camping field. When the grocery store finally closed it stood empty for some time, and later opened for a few years as a Bathroom Centre.

7. On the eastern corner of the Layne entrance to Elmer Sands stood the impressive “Layne Stores” rather dark inside but with a wide range of goods:- groceries, sweets, papers, sweaters, buckets and spades, shoes and sandals etc.

Originally this was owned by Captain Dyer, but after the war the brothers Ken and Alec Douglas took on both Laynes Store and the Elmer Post Office, and Ken and his wife Beryl ran Laynes Store for many years later selling to a family from Birmingham who ran it until it failed in the 1990’s. It stood sad and empty for a number of years before the three houses were built there.

8. Next-door was a butcher’s shop – starting in the 1960’s, and run by Mr Twinley assisted by a succession of boys – one of which, Peter North, later took charge.

9. Next to that was a Wine shop and off Licence ran for many years by Mrs Brogie. This is now converted to a house.

10. On the end, after the war, Mr Glassridge started a shop selling heavier household goods and building materials. My mother bought her first fridge there – a locally produced LEC of Bognor.

It was jolly to meet our neighbours and chat as we shopped just down the road – but life changes and now we have learned to manipulate our trolleys round numbers of strangers in a Superstore!

Joyce Came

BEACH CLEAN-UP

If you enjoy the beach why not help to clean it up for the summer!

Meet at the Kiosk, Saturday 29th March, 10.30 am. All volunteers welcome!

Maintenance 2007

During the Annual General Meeting the work of the Maintenance Committee is reported. As not everyone is able to attend, we thought it would be a good idea to let you know of some of the work this team carries out.

Maintaining the infrastructure of the estate is time consuming and varied: the past year has seen the completion of projects that have been talked about for several years. Some of the Directors of ESL have been fortunate to serve the estate for many years, and by reading the old minutes and by being present at some of the meetings, they have been able to monitor the actual work that has been undertaken on your behalf to protect and preserve the estate. I will mention a few of 2007’s achievements: We have a contract with an excellent firm to keep all the open spaces in good condition. We have replaced the sagging fencing around the playing field, which was undertaken by volunteers (for which we thank you) and saved a lot of money. We appointed a firm to repair all the potholes in our roads, and to replace broken drains. The damage caused by vandals to the Kiosk roof and fence has now also been repaired. The fence on the Sun Deck has been replaced. We have resurfaced part of Stable Field. We keep the drains patent, which is difficult given the age and the materials from which they were originally made.

We have seen an a big increase in the building works on the estate, causing extra wear and tear to the roads from builders' lorries and cars.

We have met with the Management team of the Environmental Agency to discuss the continued care of the Rife and its environs. We liase with the Police in an effort to protect the estate, and now we are meeting with civil engineers in an effort to start making plans for the management of all the estate's water.

Now one of the Maintenance Team has undertaken the task of compiling a detailed information book to help the future Directors so we do not have to rely on memory for the many tasks that keep the estate in such good condition.

This is a fraction of the tasks undertaken on your behalf; it all costs money, and yet not everyone pays their membership fees.

The continued policy of the Council is to use the interest and dividends arising *from the estates investments, which are included under Road and Drainage Funds as reserves*, to supplement subscription income, and to realise the portions of the invested sum only when major and essential work has to be carried out to the Estate. Over the past year some investments have been realised for this type of work and will no doubt be so realised in the future should the need arise. You will notice however, if you look at the accounts for the last few years that we have managed to maintain the overall value of investments by careful management of funds.

Drain Maintenance

We thought it would be worth mentioning a few preventative measures residents can take to help stop the drains becoming blocked.

- Make sure grass clippings are cleared up.
- Control building work to prevent material blocking the drains.
- Prevent gravel from driveways washing on to the road and blocking the drains,
- Inform the Secretary if anyone notices blocked drain grids.

FREE COMPOST
First come first served!
Bring a bag and help yourself from the pile of our finest situated behind the compost box on the sports field.

Retiring Chairman

The ESL Directors would like to express their sincere thanks to Louise McMurchie for her contribution on the Council over the last 5 years and more recently as Chairman. The Company has been very lucky to benefit from her expertise and commitment and would like to wish her well for the future.

Driveways

Please note that if a homeowner wishes to incorporate a portion of the grass verge (owned by ESL throughout the Estate) into a driveway extension, there is an official process to follow. Details can be obtained from the Secretary or accessed via the website. The old style Accessway Licence is soon to be replaced by a Supplemental Deed, which will incur a small cost to the homeowner. Full details will be available on the website in shortly. All existing Access Licences will continue to be valid. ESL is keen to

encourage driveway extensions to keep the roads and verges free from vehicles.

Applications for Accessway Licences that have not been carried out

There are some homeowners who have been granted an Accessway Licence but after many months and in some cases years, have not carried out the work they originally proposed to extend the driveway. In most of these cases, parking continues to take place on the verge and/or road outside the property and it is badly damaged as a result. Would these members please kindly cease their non-compliant parking and repair any damage caused and/or carry out their proposed driveway extension without further delay, as per the terms of the Licence Agreement. Many thanks.



ESBAC UPDATE 2008

This season there is a vacancy for Sailing Officer, if anyone would like to volunteer for this position please contact the club Secretary.

Summer Fete - traditionally the Fete and Hog-Roast have always been held in August, however, this year it will be held in July (final date still to be announced).

For more information about ESBAC Sailing and Fishing, as well as forth coming events please see the Boat Club notice boards.

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

Jude Williams tel: 582265

A BIT MORE HISTORY

Further to the 'Short History of Elmer Sands', which appeared in the 'Elmer Sands News' of September 2007 it might be of interest to readers to hear a few further details.

Following the flooding in Elmer Sands in 1984 and 1985 the residents of Manor Court invited the local MP, Michael Marshall, to view the resulting damage. Michael Marshall happened to be chairman of a government finance committee and it was largely due to his efforts that the funds for the rock islands were obtained.

The rocks for the first two islands came from the Mendip Hills in Somerset and were brought in on large lorries. The rocks for the other six islands came from a mountain in Norway through which a tunnel was being made.

These rocks came all the way from Norway by sea on two barges at a time, one barge towing the other. On arrival here the rocks had to be lifted by crane within a short time while the tide was out. Inevitably this involved working through the night sometimes.

The whole operation took many, many months. Only one consignment was lost at sea, when the barges overturned in rough weather. Thus we have a little

piece of Norway off our beach. Incidentally Michael Marshall was also a theatrical and film historian who wrote 'Top Hat and Tails', a biography of Jack Buchanan.

Mention should also be made of E.S.S.O. (Elmer Sands Social Organisation), which ran the social events at Elmer sands during the 1980s. A small group of residents formed a small committee to initiate more social events. It started with a barbeque on the Hard, followed by events throughout the year – fireworks and a bonfire in November, in December Carol singing at the Kiosk and Father Christmas arriving on the tractor bringing small presents for the children. There were pancake races on The Hard, and at Easter and Easter Bonnet Parade. After the August Fete there was a barn dance.

A Tuesday Club was started which was held at Invicta Warren during the winter months, by kind permission of the previous owners, at which there was card playing and darts. A whist league began which is still in existence today after twenty-five years.

A number of these events were later arranged very successfully by the Boat Club.

Ron Jessop

BYE till next edition - LS & SB

The Company Secretary
Please route any queries through the Company Secretary, who can be contacted by phone, e-mail or in writing, at

**23 Arundel Way, Elmer Sands,
PO22 6JH. Tel: 584900**

kimedden@btopenworld.com

NO house calls please.

NEW RESIDENTS- If you have not received your Welcome Pack please contact the Secretary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

**Beach Cleanup 29th March
AGM 28th April
Summer Fete JULY
Hog Roast JULY**

www.elmersands.co.uk

Please note that the new Estate website is up and running and user friendly. You can access details of the Estate, the Company and how everything is managed and can also download forms and documents and submit queries.

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