

# DYMCHURCH NEWS

A QUARTERLEY NEWSLETTER  
PUBLISHED BY  
DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

ISSUE 1 APRIL 2020

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**FOR INFORMATION ON THIS  
NEWSLETTER CONTACT THE  
EDITOR AT**

**[dymchurchpc@outlook.com](mailto:dymchurchpc@outlook.com)**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This newsletter reaches you in very uncertain times, with the outbreak of COVID-19 the Council are working closely with The Romney Marsh Support Hub supporting the elderly and the isolated in the Parish, the community are pulling together and it is good to

see how we are all supporting each other.

I would like to say a big thankyou to the many dedicated and talented key workers and volunteers who live in our village, they are supporting and caring for many families near and far during this time of turmoil for many of us. I would also like to thank all local businesses that are working hard to keep supplies coming into the village and the shelves filled, many are offering a delivery service to ensure everyone is being looked after .

The parish council would like to take this opportunity to share with you the great work that has been accomplished over this last year, you will have noticed the hanging baskets that brightened up the village during the summer, a big thank you goes to the Beavers who did a great job filling the planters by the main carpark, we also said goodbye to Heather Bateman and Sue Dempsey who retired as Beaver Leaders at the end of last year. They gave many years of dedicated service to the Scouts.

The Parish council hosted a welcome reception for our French Guests of the Dymchurch & District Twinning Association, in September, we also hosted drop in session through the summer months supporting and promoting many local groups. We had some superb displays from The Dymchurch Heritage group & The Day of Syn. We also provided drop-in sessions for Neighbourhood watch, Alzheimer's Friends, and the Fire Service safe & well visits.

Finally, I would like to say that we are extremely pleased as a Council to say that Recreation Ground has now been saved and is now officially a "Field in Trust" which will protect the Rec. open space for future generations to enjoy, we look forward to working with The Friends of Dymchurch Rec in restoring the Pavilion to its former glory and provide the village with a superb asset, without the support of the village, who voted for this council, this would not of been possible. Thank You.

I wish you all well in the coming months, stay safe.—Cllr. Deana Coker Chair Dymchurch Parish Council

## COVID19 SUPPORT INFORMATION

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 and 3

FOLLOW GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

DURING THE CRISIS

STAY INDOORS

PROTECT THE NHS

SAVE LIVES

MORE INFO AT [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

When we decided to publish what will be a quarterly news letter from Dymchurch Parish Council we could not have foreseen the crisis facing our country. It was decided that to protect our delivery volunteers and to follow guidelines that this 1st letter will be published on line.

If you have a neighbour who you feel would like a copy please consider printing one for them. We hope to deliver our next issues direct to your doors. You can contact the editor at [dymchurchpc@outlook.com](mailto:dymchurchpc@outlook.com)

# ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB

COVID-19

- Q: Do you have someone you trust to help with shopping?
- Q: Do you have someone looking out for you?
- Q: Do you have your medication?
- Q: Do you have enough food and supplies?

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED **NO** TO ANY OF THESE,  
THE ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB CAN HELP

The Romney Marsh Community Support Hub provides a single, coordinated and safe support service for anyone of any age in need of additional support during the Coronavirus outbreak.

We are here for you and we can offer help with:

- Hot meal delivery
- Shopping support
- Repeat prescriptions

We can also offer a friendly voice at the end of the phone and help you find support from other providers if you need it.

**01797 208590**

covid-19@rmdc.org.uk



For the latest medical advice see: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

The hub is hosted at the Romney Marsh Day Centre and supported by local councils, charities, churches, GP surgeries, community groups and local businesses.



# ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB

COVID-19

## YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS CAN YOU HELP?

The COVID-19 outbreak has increased the need for support in our community.

The Romney Marsh Community Hub provides a single, coordinated and safe support service for anyone of any age in need of additional support during the Coronavirus outbreak.

We need volunteers to help us to support the elderly, vulnerable and those in need.

### We need help with the following:

- Contacting people to ensure that they are safe, well and have all they need - including medicines and supplies
- Shopping and delivering food
- Delivering meals and prescriptions

**If you have the time to help,  
details of how to apply can be found on  
our website [www.rmdc.org.uk](http://www.rmdc.org.uk)**

**01797 208590**

**covid-19@rmdc.org.uk**



The hub is hosted at the Romney Marsh Day Centre and supported by local councils, charities, churches, GP surgeries, community groups and local businesses.

## DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL– OPEN AND TRANSPARENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Since being elected in May last year the current members of the Council have worked hard, and continue to do so with the Clerks, to ensure that Dymchurch Parish Council is as open and transparent as the law allows. The Council want everyone to have equal access to information held by the Council. The Council will over the next few months be publishing information about Council governance, accounts and future plans on their website to ensure that our residents are not kept in the dark about how the Council is working for you, after all it is your Council Tax ( well a part of it) that the Council are spending. We will not please all of the people all of the time but we will be open and honest with our decision making and actions taken. Your feed back, ideas and suggestions for the Parish are important so please contact us (details are on the back page) if you have any comments or would like further details on what the Council are doing.—

### OPINIONS MATTER,WHAT'S YOURS?

Dymchurch Parish Council working for you



Dymchurch Parish Council is now an official outlet for obtaining foodbank vouchers. Initially this will be for vouchers only but in future people will be able to collect food items from the Council offices in Orgarswick Avenue. The Shepway Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area. Read more about foodbanks at

<https://shepway.foodbank.org.uk/>

## Parish Council Freezes

### Precept for 2020/21

The Parish Council has set its precept for 2020/21 at £83,000, which equates to a 0.3% **decrease** on a typical Band D Council Tax Bill. Despite freezing the precept the Council have budgeted to resurface the Parish Car Park and provide significant support to the Friends of Dymchurch Rec in their bid to reinvigorate our recreation ground and its sports facilities for use by the whole community.

#### This year the Council have:

- ◆ Refurbished the Seawall kiosk
- ◆ Supported local events Turn the Tide ,Twinning Association & Day of Syn
- ◆ Provided summer beach entertainment
- ◆ Protected the Recreation ground for future generations with Fields in Trust status

## Where Does the Money Go?

Amongst other things, the Parish Council:

- Pay for grass cutting and maintenance of public spaces around the village
- Provide CCTV monitoring and the beach cam on the seawall
- Provide traffic enforcement for the Parish Car Park
- Promote Dymchurch as a visitor attraction by supporting local events
- Pay for Local Elections

#### Coming soon

**New** for 2020 The Parish Car Park will be accepting cashless payments by credit and debit card, processed by paybyphone



**Charges for car parking & local resident parking passes for the Parish Car Park have been frozen for 2020.**

**Local resident parking permits cost £25 available from Dymchurch Post Office.**



## DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND PROTECTED

During the Parish Council elections in 2019 the current members of the Council made a promise that they would work tirelessly to save the Pavilion and the Dymchurch Recreation Ground. Working with Fields in Trust, an independent charity with over 90 years experience in protecting parks and green spaces, that promise has come to fruition. A Deed of Dedication established in partnership with the charity and the Council means that Dymchurch Recreation Ground will be protected for people to enjoy in perpetuity. It is the aim of the Council to make the recreation ground a focal point for recreation, creativity and enjoyment for residents and visitors. The Fields in Trust website can be visited at [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org).

IT IS WITH REGRET THAT MANY OF THE EVENTS WE WERE DUE TO PUBLISH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTONED DUE TO THE COVID19 (CORONA VIRUS) PANDEMIC.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.DYMCHURCH.ORG FOR DETAILS



**Martello Tower No.24** in Dymchurch High Street has been given a makeover to make it ready for a new round of visitors in 2020. Conservation works on the parapet and on the drainage system within tower plus a freshening up of the interior were completed in late 2019 and has given the tower a new lease of life. More replica muskets have been purchased for display in the tower and a new grant from the F&HDC High Street Fund should

see some new displays in 2020.

Of the 74 Martello Towers built on the Kent and Sussex coast, Martello24 is considered to be the best surviving example, being closest to its original condition and it can be seen as it was when occupied by the military in 1806. It has been restored to its original design and layout with almost all of the original tower still in place.

Due to the corona virus we will advertise opening times later in the year. Entry is free. Bespoke visits by appointment are available for groups of more than 10 people.

The Friends of Martello24 (FoM24), the local charity that manages the tower on behalf of its owners English Heritage, are looking for more volunteer Stewards. If you have an interest in local history and like meeting people, the FoM24 would like to hear from you.

You can find our more at [www.martello24.net](http://www.martello24.net) or by emailing [peter@martello24.net](mailto:peter@martello24.net).



## AND IN OTHER NEWS.....

**GRANT FUNDING** through Active Spaces who will hold boot camps later in the year at the Recreation Ground has been secured. Sessions will be provided weekly and it is hoped that people of all ages will get involved. Active Places website can be visited here [www.activespaces.co.uk](http://www.activespaces.co.uk)

The Parish Council are **working in partnership** with w8sports to provide young people with the opportunity to get involved in team sports. The sessions are run at the recreation ground. If you would like to get involved please visit <https://www.facebook.com/w8sports> for details.

The Parish Council **carpark is finally being resurfaced** using Parish Council funds and also a grant from the Highstreet Regeneration fund which was set up to encourage people to return to our traditional highstreets and support local businesses.

Come and join the revelries and re-enactments where you will meet the colourful 18th Century characters made famous in Russell Thorndike's series of adventure novels featuring the exploits of the legendary smuggling parson Dr. Syn alias The Scarecrow, brought back to life during a weekend of celebration on the mysterious Romney Marsh

*Plays and Re-enactments ■ Fete & Craft Fair ■ Music, Food and Drink in local, lively traditional coastal inns ■ Historic Court House ■ Martello Tower Museum Children's Activities and much more.*

The Day of Syn festivities are run by the Day of Syn Committee a not-for-profit organisation - Donations welcome

## DYMCHURCH PLAYERS

We would like to extend a massive 'thank you' to everyone who came along to see our pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk'; you helped us raise a very healthy £3,545.00 for our charities for this year which we have rounded up to £3,600.00. We really appreciate every single one of you who comes along and makes the 4 months of rehearsals worthwhile.

Having put the pantomime to bed we are now rehearsing for our spring play, Backstage Farce; this is a full length play and is absolutely hilarious. It is about a small drama group on the opening night of their show and if it can go wrong it most certainly will. The characters are very well written and this play within a play sees our very own Jessica Davis returning to the group and taking on the role of director.

The play is being staged from Friday 29th-Sunday 31st May in the Village Hall, tickets are £10 each and include a ploughman's supper, the audience is positively encouraged to bring along their own drink! As with all our productions, the final performance is a charity one where all ticket money and raffle money from that show and donations from across all 3 nights will be donated to our 3 charities for this year; Alzheimer's Society, CARM (Dymchurch) and Friends of Dymchurch Rec. Tickets go on sale from 9am on Saturday 4th April in The Smugglers Chest.

PLEASE CHECK DYMCHURCH PLAYERS WEBSITE AS THIS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS

# Dymchurch Parish Council

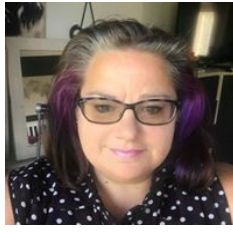
Your local council working locally for you



Cllr. Deana Coker  
Chair



Cllr. Cathy Young  
Vice Chair



Cllr.  
Sandra Leverick



Cllr. Dan Noonan



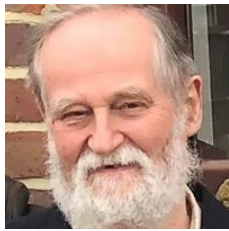
Cllr. Marc Wright



Cllr. Dougie Young



Cllr. John Carr



Cllr. John Williams



Cllr. Chris McCreedy

## DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any queries regarding local issues, or any other matters you wish to raise, you can contact Dymchurch Parish Council as follows:

### In writing to

The Clerk, Dymchurch Parish Council,  
13 Orgarswick Avenue  
Dymchurch TN29 0NX

By E mail- [dymchurchpc@outlook.com](mailto:dymchurchpc@outlook.com)

By Phone- 01303 872 708

If you wish to contact an individual Councillor please contact the Clerk  
Council meeting dates are published but are suspended at the time of writing due to Government advice during the Corona Virus outbreak. Please check our website, Facebook or noticeboards for details of future meetings.

If you have any District or County Council issues that you wish to raise please contact the following with your concerns

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

MARTIN WHYBROW

[martin.whybrow@kent.gov.uk](mailto:martin.whybrow@kent.gov.uk)

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

TERRY MULLARD

[terry.mullard@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:terry.mullard@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

IAN MEYERS

[ian.meyers@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:ian.meyers@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

**Kent  
County  
Council**  
[kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)



KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN

Jon Lodge can be contacted on 07969 583915  
or [Jon.Lodge@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Jon.Lodge@kent.gov.uk)

For help and advice on home security and safety and how to access Council services

Supporting you in the local community



## DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

OUR NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY  
QUARTER SO WHY NOT KEEP UP TO DATE BY USING  
OUR NEW WEBSITE THIS CAN BE FOUND AT

[www.dymchurch.org](http://www.dymchurch.org)

Help make our website more interesting.  
Are you a budding photographer and want to show off your artistic skills.  
If you have any photographs of Dymchurch and the surrounding area that you could donate to us for use on the website please email them to [dymchurchpc@outlook.com](mailto:dymchurchpc@outlook.com)