

# DYMCHURCH NEWS

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DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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FOR INFORMATION ON THIS  
NEWSLETTER CONTACT THE  
EDITOR AT  
[dymchurchpc@outlook.com](mailto:dymchurchpc@outlook.com)



## Dymchurch Community Gardeners

The new Community Gardening group have already been busy in the village with some spring planting by the central car park. Having secured grants from both the Parish Council & from one of our District Councillors the group of green fingered enthusiasts are up and running and all set to brighten up the village. If you are interested in joining the group, please email the Parish Council.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR CLLR CHRIS MCCREEDY

As the Council reaches the end of its 4 year term of office, it is easy to forget what has been achieved during this time and I have asked our Clerk to prepare a report for the main body of the news letter as a reminder. None of this could have been achieved without the commitment of all the Councillors to improve the efficiency of the Council and improve the lives of our Parishioners and visitors alike. Some members hope to continue during the next 4 year term and some will be standing down and my thanks goes to them all.

I am aware that our District Councillor Terry Mullard will be standing down this year and on behalf of the Councillors and all the clubs and societies who have benefited from Terry's ward budget donations and his willingness to support the village whenever possible, I would like to say a big thank you and wish him all the best for the future.

Also, I would like to thank Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground for all their hard work in fundraising and the excellent public exhibition they organised which presented the detailed plans of our joint aim to build a new pavilion. Their plans will shortly be submitted to the local planning authority for approval. Finally I would like to thank our Clerk and Finance Officer for guiding us through what was at first to some, the somewhat baffling world of local Government.

## TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS 41st Year



Members of Dymchurch and Salbris Twinning Association on a visit to a privately owned chateau kindly arranged by the Mayor of Salbris

2023 will mark 41 years since Salbris in France first established a link with Dymchurch, initially via our two fire brigades, before being formalised into The Twinning Association we know today. Twinning aims to develop cultural, tourist, economic and social relations with exchanges between the two towns, occurring twice a year. In 2022 Dymchurch members were able to visit Salbris once more for a long weekend and as always, enjoyed a wonderful time visiting Châteaux, enjoying all the delights of French cuisine and the hospitality of our individual hosts.

In September Salbris members visited Dymchurch and we provided a welcoming buffet donated by our members. On Saturday we took them by coach to Gusbourne vineyard where they were treated to their finest sparkling wine and a locally sourced picnic hamper, from there we went to Tenderden visiting the very interesting museum before finishing the day with a meal in Singleton Barn. On Sunday the hosting families made their own arrangements for their guests before returning to Dymchurch for fish and chips, a favourite with the French.

The Association hold social events during the year to raise funds for hosting with a donation from the Parish Council who they represent. Please watch out for advertisements for these events in the Parish notice boards and come along for a fun evening where you can find out more about twinning. Alternatively leave your contact details at the Parish Council Offices and one of our committee will be glad to be in touch.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST FOUR YEARS FROM THE PARISH CLERK**

Back in 2019 I was asked to pop down from my regular Council at Lympe to help out at Dymchurch for a few hours to guide the new Councillors as they started their four year term of office. I never escaped!! After a bumpy first few months of office the brand-new Councillors for Dymchurch settled down and really started to get a grip of local issues. I always like to remind people that Parish Councillors are volunteers receiving no monetary rewards and giving up hours of their time to help make our local environment a better place, often with little thanks and often against some critical voices. Without these volunteers, local Parish Councils could not operate and residents would lose a place to get local solutions for local problems. I spent some time looking back through 4 years of minutes and was amazed to see what this Council have achieved, and all this through the Covid Pandemic. There is too much to fit into this newsletter so here is a taste of what has happened- I'll start with the boring un-seen stuff; New financial arrangements and accounting systems were quickly introduced along with the employment of Mr Adrian Lawson to work along side the Clerk and Groundsman Dave Henley. All financial transactions are open to scrutiny and are published monthly with the minutes. The mantra of "if you want to know what we are doing just ask" was quickly taken on board by every one working at the Parish Council. Meetings with KCC Highways to increase road safety have been held and continue. A slow process, but will not be dropped from the Council's radar. Now onto the fun stuff- Early on the Recreation Ground received protection from development through a Deed with the Fields in Trust and work to arrange a lease with the Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity is near to completion. The Village Hall Car Park was resurfaced reducing the chance of a twisted ankle in a pot hole and later electrical charging points were installed, the first in the area. A new crossing at Tesco, new notice boards, full refurbishment of village benches, seawall residents parking scheme, enforcement of the disabled drivers carpark on the seawall was achieved. Drop in events at the Parish Council, which incidentally has recently been refurbished, were held. New Christmas lights for the winter celebrations and summertime hanging baskets decorated our high street. A visitor's hub was installed at the recreation ground. New trading licences were issued for new businesses, some doing well and others falling by the wayside. The return of Donkeys to our beach this year is very much welcomed and in addition last year we negotiated the introduction of lifeguards and a huge cherry on the cake was to be awarded the Seaside award 2022 and being voted Kents best beach, and this was all done without increasing the precept for the duration of this administration. There is much more and those that know me know I could go on for hours! A lot of the work would not have been completed without working with local Councillors, KCC, Charities and funders, but it shows you what can be achieved if you put your mind to it and have the support of the community in which you serve, and we thank you for that. In May the local elections take place and who knows what will happen in the next four years. What I do know is that if we can attract a group of Councillors who want to serve their community for the good of the community we will not go far wrong.

From your Local Council Officers- Jeff Lawrence (Parish Clerk) Adrian Lawson (Finance and Projects) Dave Henley (Groundsman)



### **VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK SEASON PASS**

Seasonal passes for the Village Hall car park are now available to purchase

in person from the Parish Council office on Monday & Tuesday mornings 10am -12noon. A residents pass costs £25, for employees and employers it's £30. Passes can also be purchased online from the Parish Council website [www.dymchurch.org](http://www.dymchurch.org) where full details are available. Car park charges are in operation from 1st April, for 2023 a new £1.40 hourly rate applies, 7 days a week.



### **VOLUNTEER LIFEGUARDS WANTED**

### **DYMCHURCH BEACH**

Are you Interested in doing something new and exciting this year? Looking for a new skill to add to your C.V. or perhaps a good way to keep fit this summer? If the answer is yes, then you could join Folkestone Rescue Beach Lifeguard service, Voluntary positions are available for the 2023 season on Dymchurch beach. If you are interested in applying or would like more information, please email:

[lifeguard@folkestonerescue.org](mailto:lifeguard@folkestonerescue.org)



**PARISH  
COUNCIL  
OFFICE**

**MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS  
0930-1230hrs  
Appointments at other times  
can be arranged**

**NEW LEGAL REQUIREMENT  
TO VOTE AT A POLLING STATION  
FROM 04 MAY 2023**

There is a new legal requirement for voters at the polling station from 04 May 2023.

Voters will have to present a valid form of photographic ID to be issued a Ballot Paper. This requirement is for all elections, including any by-elections that take place after this date.

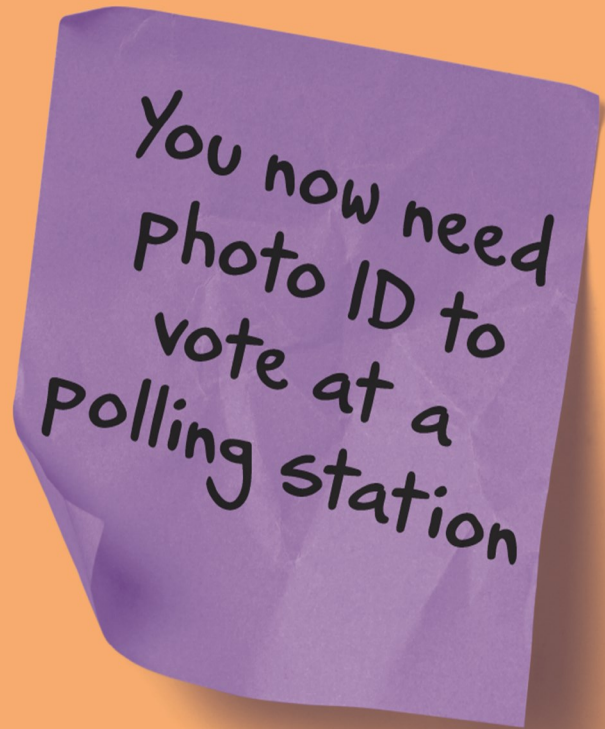
**It will be the law - If a person can not provide ID they will not be able to vote.**

If a voter does not have valid ID, they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) at the gov.uk website, in person at the Civic offices or by post. If you have any questions you can also contact the electoral commission on 0800 3280280. Your local Parish Clerk may also be able to assist with information.

You do not have to provide photo ID if voting by post, however if you vote by proxy (allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf ) they will need to show ID.

There will be an advertising campaign, and a page has been set up on the Parish Council Website– [www.dymchurch.org](http://www.dymchurch.org)

The  
Electoral  
Commission



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

or call 0800 328 0280



**NEW YEAR NEW CHALLENGE**

**2023 IS ELECTION YEAR FOR District and Parish Councils.**

Elections will take place in May 2023

Anyone over the age of 18 who is a British, Commonwealth or Irish Citizen and has lived or worked permanently in Dymchurch in the 12 months prior to the elections can stand for election and become a member of Dymchurch Parish Council.

Do you have what it takes to become a Councillor? Do you want to influence village life and make changes for the benefit of those that live here?

More information will be posted on Facebook and the noticeboards around the village as we approach the elections but if you want to know more please contact the clerk or visit

[www.kentalc.gov.uk/Becoming\\_a\\_Local\\_Councillor\\_22718.aspx](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Becoming_a_Local_Councillor_22718.aspx)

Lots of information can be found at the above website with case studies, how to apply and a timetable leading up to the elections.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted at [dymchurchpc@outlook.com](mailto:dymchurchpc@outlook.com) or ring 01303 872708



## SEASIDE AWARD 2023

Dymchurch beach is once again in the running to receive a 2023 Seaside award. The award winners will be announced in May. Good luck Dymchurch and hopefully a 2023 award flag will be flying in May

### DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

By Phone- 01303 872 708

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)

If you wish to contact an individual Councillor please contact the Clerk Council meeting dates are published. Please check our website and notice boards Council meeting are open to the public and all are very welcome to attend.

**COUNCILLORS-**

Cllr Chris McCreedy (Chair) Cllr Deana Coker (Vice)  
Cllr Dougie Young, Cllr Dan Noonan, Cllr Cathy Young, Cllr Marc Wright and Cllr Ann Goode.



### NEW KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN

Giles Barnard can be contacted on  
07969 583915 or [giles.barnard@kent.gov.uk](mailto:giles.barnard@kent.gov.uk)

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

Supporting you in the local community

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

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

VACANT

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)

### SEAWALL GARDEN TRANSFORMATION



## RITA'S TUESDAY GROUP

Come and meet new friends and share news, help raise money for Charity at our friendly group. Meeting 1st Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon. Entrance fee £3.00 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Every one is welcome

For details

Contact Rita on 07956 370 936

Email : [rowita13@hotmail.com](mailto:rowita13@hotmail.com)

Work has already begun on levelling out the garden area by the seawall, ready for several new recycled benches and planters to be installed. These changes will provide more seating for this popular spot where people can enjoy a local takeaway or rest awhile.

In order to support the funding of this area there is limited availability to dedicate a bench or planter at the Seawall Garden. For more details and to apply on a first come first served basis please contact the Parish Clerk at the Council Offices or email [dymchurchpc@outlook.com](mailto:dymchurchpc@outlook.com)