

East Down and Arlington Newsletter

February 2020

Oh what a "Super"man!

In October 2019, Peter Bunch stood down from the East Down Village Hall committee after ten years of very active service.

Following a career as a General Practice Chartered Surveyor that spanned 30 years, Peter and wife Pat took the plunge to semi retire from their working life in North Hampshire. In 2001 they moved to Northcote Manor Farm to pursue a second career managing the holiday cottages.



Peter has always been an active member of the community and before taking up his role at the Village Hall, he was already a member of East Down with Arlington Parochial Church Council, a volunteer guide at Arlington Court, sometime Arlington Parish Councillor, author of the East Down News section of Shirwell Magazine and was East Down correspondent for the North Devon Journal (no pressure here then !!).

Peter recalls his early days on the committee with fondness under the leadership of Vicar Colin Hudspith and his wife Kate; ably supported by the likes of Anne and Michael Mant, Shirley Lerwill, Philip Done and Amanda Smyth succeeded by the much-lamented Sandra Price. Since then he has seen changes to the hall infrastructure as well as a greater use of the facilities. During his tenure on the committee, he has seen the new kitchen extension added to the Hall (headed up by Michael Mant) and whilst keen to highlight the active role played by Ian and Barbara Cooper, has also had a hand in the

general renovations which see the hall in such good condition today. He points out that it hasn't all been plain sailing; remembering the time the plastic central heating pipes were eaten by rats (now replaced with copper pipes) and sheepishly admits to once stepping down from a ladder into a bucket of water during a spring clean.

Peter is pleased to see the Hall being used frequently during the week and whilst not all activities survived the test of time, he has seen usage grow to include a gardening group, bridge club, table tennis, quiz nights, various keep fit groups, an art class, short mat bowling and a walking group. It was a discussion on one of the walking group outings that created the notion of a monthly coffee shop; an idea which still runs strongly today and continues to be a regular contributor financially.

When pushed, he does confess that the Annual Produce Show is his favourite event as it brings together people from across our widespread East Down and Arlington community. He has seen it prosper over the years and puts that down in no small part to the efforts of Shirley Lerwill, Julie Kift (including Patricks amusing post show auctions), Liz Smyth and more recently Alison Green....he even acted as guest judge in last years inaugural scarecrow competition.

A house move to Barnstaple in 2019 has prompted Peter's withdrawal from the committee as the 20-mile round trip proves a little impractical to remain actively involved. Having served 8 years as Church Warden at St John the Baptist East Down and St James Arlington, Peter will also be retiring from this post in April.

We will still see Peter around at various events although not as frequently due to the distance involved. Rod Crossman and the rest of the committee have been left in no doubt what a huge hole they have been left to fill.

We are sure you will all join us in wishing Peter and Pat all the best for their new life in the metropolis and in thanking him for his outstanding contribution to the Village Hall over the last decade.

Events at the Village Hall in February

YFC Meeting Tuesday 4th February at 7.00 p.m.
Contact Amanda Smyth 850808

Coffee Shop Thursday 6th February 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon hosted by Mike and Sally Corfield assisted by Lyn and Andy Norkett.

P.P.C. Thursday 6th February 7.00 p.m. Contact Linda.

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 17th February at 7.30 p.m. Contact Margaret Done 850432

January Coffee Shop

Well what a great way to start the year. Despite the wet weather and the road closed near the church, our regulars turned up in their droves to share their Christmas news and catch up with friends they haven't seen since oooh, probably this time last month.

January was a "bring and share" coffee morning and by 10.45 the table was groaning under the weight of food whilst the aroma of freshly brewed coffee filled the air. It was another cracking turn out and as usual the buzz of conversation continued until early afternoon.

With Christmas stories swapped and plans for 2020 discussed, it was once again time for the 100-club draw. Philip Done managed to win first prize for the second month running and Sally Corfield picked up second prize. Thanks to everybody's generous contributions, over £60 was raised towards the Village Hall upkeep.



Mobile Library Service

Next dates:

Tuesday 11th February, Tuesday 10th March,
Tuesday 7th April 10.15 a.m. – 10.40 a.m.,

If you miss the East Down slot, the library moves straight on to Kentisbury Village Hall for half an hour so you can catch it there.

Church Information

Flower and Church Cleaning Rota East Down

V. Horne and S. Lerwill 2nd & 9th February
P. and A. Perrin 16th & 23rd February

Village Hall Cleaning Rota



February – Wendy Down

East Down Parish Emergency Plan

We have been fortunate to secure funding to send everyone in the Parish a copy of our Emergency Plan. This has been created with the support of trained and willing volunteers to assist us all in the event of a Parish emergency.

Each household will, within the next couple of weeks, receive by post a copy of the East Down Parish Emergency Plan. The envelope will be printed "**East Down Parish Emergency Plan**" to help identify it. We hope that you will find it useful and not discard it as junk mail.

A short Open Evening will be held at the Village Hall on Monday 16th March 2020 at 7.00 p.m., everyone in the Parish will be invited to discuss the plan and suggest any further issues that we should address.

East Down Parish Council

Regular Weekly Village Hall Activities

Senior Keep Fit:

Monday 10-11am Carol Thomas 850464

Table Tennis:

Tuesday 7pm Jill Parker 850549

Art Group:

Wednesday 2-4pm Margaret Smith 850727

Intensive Fitness:

Wednesday 6-7pm John Denyer 07402 920720

Short Mat Bowls:

Thursday 2-4pm Rod Crossman 850704

QUIZ!

Changing tradition, this year's winter quiz was switched from December to the 17th January. Despite the chilly weather, a bumper crowd of over 60 people turned out to have their brains teased by our quiz masters Ray and Carol Thomas.



The evening started with a curry supper prepared by Wendy Down and ably assisted "below stairs" by Liz Smyth. With everybody suitably fuelled and raring to go, battle commenced.

The burning question was if anybody could topple our reigning champions "The Young Ones" who not only opted to include ex quiz master Ian Cooper in their ranks but also recalled Alex Caley after missing out last time.



It was a real "head scratcher" this time with lots of conferring. Who knew "a wet nelly" was a bread pudding or the HMS Bounty cargo was breadfruit saplings? (If you did, pencil the 17th July in your diary, it is the summer quiz date !!). Ultimately it was "the Kentisbury Fun Club" who eased clear to win by a comfortable margin of

11.5 points, pushing our reigning champions into second place. Well done Dave, Alison, Jerry, Jen, Tom and Charlie. The rest of the teams were closely bunched together but the honour of the much-treasured wooden spoon went to "Special Friends".

Special thanks on the evening go to Ray and Carol for another fantastic quiz, Wendy and Liz in the kitchen, Lis Kempf and Alex Caley for manning the doors and raffle tickets and all who donated raffle prizes on the evening.

A big thank you also goes out to The Pyne Arms and Besshill Farm Shop for their generously donated raffle prizes.

Love is in the air



Valentine's Day

Why not support one of our local businesses whilst planning your Valentine's Day celebration?

You can enjoy a tasty meal out in a relaxed atmosphere by booking into The Pyne Arms to sample their extensive menu, enjoy a tipple or two and cosy up to the log fire.

If you fancy a romantic night in for two, why not visit Besshill Farm Shop where you can pick up some delicious steaks along with a bottle of fine wine to enjoy at home.

If its postage stamps or chocolates you are looking for, Kentisbury post office is just around the corner and will be more than happy to help.

The Newsletter

You can contact Mike or Sally for the Newsletter:

eastdownnews@gmail.com

The Village Hall

Please make any booking requests through Ray Thomas on 02171 850464 or

ray@west-gate.co.uk

Boxing Day Football West Down 4 - East Down 6



East Down Team

Back Row:

Richard Crocker, Will Camp, Mark Fogg, Dave Norkett,
Kane Gould, Tim Norton, Martyn Kemp

Front Row:

Patrick McGuckin, Toby Gory, Steve Boni, Matt Boni,
Darren Kemp

West Down played host to this year's annual boxing day derby; a football fixture that has now been running in excess of 40 years.

The day didn't start promisingly for East Down. Already down to a bare starting eleven, they kicked off with only 10 players as Darren Kemp (a regular team member) inexplicably went to the old pitch location which hasn't been used for over 10 years.... hurray for the Christmas spirit (hic)!!!

Enduring the high winds and lashing rain, East Down started off the brighter and despite Keith Hayles having a blinder in the West Down goal, went into a deserved two goal lead through Matt Boni and a dazzling solo effort from Dave Norkett. Before the break, West Down pulled one back through 13-year-old Stan White. Halftime West Down 1 - East Down 2.

At half time the weather calmed down and East Down eased clear through goals from Matt Boni and debutant Kane Gould. The 4-1 cushion caused East Down to relax and despite the acrobatics of goalkeeper Richard "the cat" Crocker and a goal line clearance from Toby Gory, West Down deservedly pulled a goal back through Rafe Mathews.

The game then opened up and East Down goals from evergreen 67-year-old Steve Boni and a second for Kane Gould were balanced out by responses by Dean Embury and a second for Stan White meaning the score finished 6-4 to the victorious East Down eleven.

Stand out performances came from Keith Hayes in the West Down goal and Steve Boni who at 67, turned up expecting a limited role but played the full 90 minutes and bagged a goal in the process. Credit also goes to referee Paul Hillier who (without the aid of VAR !!) had an excellent game.

The day was rounded off with refreshments (both liquid and solid) at the Crown Inn before celebrations continued in the Pyne Arms.

The Pyne Arms

February Opening Times

Monday **Closed all day**

Tues – Friday 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m.

(food served noon to 2.30 p.m.)

5.00 p.m. to close

(food served 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.)

Saturday **12.00 noon to close**

(food served noon to 2.30 p.m.)

(food served 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.)

Sunday **12.00 noon to close**

(food served noon to 4.45 p.m.)

To confirm opening times, please call 850055

See Facebook for any special events or changes to times. For further information, including menus, visit www.pynearms.co.uk

Charlie Dixon Counselling & Psychotherapy

**Approachable, relaxed counsellor providing
reassuring support & solutions to your
problems.**

**Based in Kentisbury, offering flexible
appointments, including evenings.**

Free introductory appointment.

**Please get in touch to discuss how I can help
you on:**

07870 281356

charliedixoncounselling@hotmail.com

www.charliedixoncounselling.co.uk

February events in other parishes



KENTISBURY GARDENING GROUP ALL WELCOME

Wednesday 12th February Garden Design Project and Seed Ordering. 2.00 – 4.00 at Little Ley, Kentisbury (Jen and Jerry's)

A cosy afternoon in working up some ideas for a neighbour's garden. Also, time to browse the seed catalogues and order seeds. Bring along your new seed catalogues.

For those of you interested in the garden design the theme is sea and waves. The bed alongside the wall is approx. 40 feet x 2 feet, north facing and semi shaded and a blue river effect is desired. The decking is shaped like a ship's bow so plants of varying heights and those which give movement are needed to give the effect of waves crashing against the prow. Our aim is to produce a mood board so bring along your old gardening mags for cutting up and your favourite gardening books for inspiration.

New members very welcome and most of our events are practically based and free.

For more information contact Jenny on 01271 883175 or jenny_burnett@outlook.com

Kentisbury

Friday 14th February, 10.00am – 3.00pm Cushion Making Workshop – Kentisbury Village Hall

Our village hall cushions could do with a revamp so we need some volunteers to lend a hand. You don't need to like or be able to sew as we'll need some people to cut, pin and iron the fabrics.

Do you have any plain unwanted curtains that you could donate to create new cushion covers? If you have some spare time please come along to our cushion making workshop on 14th February in the Village Hall. Bring scissors and your sewing machine if you have one.

Newsletter

Tea and coffee provided. Bring a packed lunch. If you can't make the session but have materials to contribute please call Nerys on 01271 883340.

Shirwell Village Hall Quiz

Know a
Pointless answer?

Could you outrun
The Chaser?

Then come and test your knowledge at the
Shirwell Village Hall Quiz!

Saturday 8th February at 7pm for 7:30 start

£7.50 per person

6 people per team

Raffle

Sausage & Mash Supper with a Crumble Pudding

Please bring own Drink

To book a team ring

Debbie Lewis on 01271 850603

Sally Pine on 01271 850405

Future events in other parishes

Kentisbury Gardening Group



Wednesday 29th April 10am-4pm

Willow weaving workshop – make your own plant supports

Kentisbury Village Hall

£37.50 to include all materials.

Tea and coffee provided. Bring a packed lunch.

Numbers are limited so to book your place email alison.mc.smith@gmail.com

J.P.'s Tractor Run

Advance notice for all that this year, we will NOT be holding an East Down Tractor Run.