

ELMER SANDS NEWS

Issue Number Fourteen February 2006

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Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the Elmer Sands News with a particular welcome to all those new residents on the estate.

A comedian once said that a council is – A group of the unwilling, chosen from the unfit, to do the unnecessary. I don't adhere to that theory!

This year sees the 69th AGM for Elmer Sands. For all those years people have been volunteering to be guardians of the estate. Logic follows that if there are 15 council members a year for 69 years, 1035 years of service have been voluntarily given. With what results? The estate still has an immaculate old world charm with its manicured lawns, exuberant flowerbeds and well-pruned trees. Considering the potential for flooding, the hard work of many won us the protection of the shingle and Rock Islands projects. In addition, well-maintained roads and drains have continued to keep us high and dry. Financially, we are still solvent with reserves for emergencies. None of what we have inherited has happened by accident. A lot of good people have made Elmer Sands the place it is today!

This year people will be standing down from the Council and new volunteers will be needed. We cannot afford to be complacent. The war against time and nature continues, be it grass, weeds or global warming. Do you have the time, ideas or energy? Is there something you want to get done? Lack of time is the usual reason people give for not getting

involved but if I can find time with a job, children and a house to run, so can anyone.

In the scheme of things it makes my 6 years of service look like a drop in the ocean. I shall be one of those resigning this year as I feel I have achieved what I set out to do. Lately I have been co-ordinating the maintenance team and editing the newsletter so there are two jobs up for grabs.

During this last six years I have made a lot of friends and been involved with a lot of projects that have given me immense satisfaction, as well as a lot of headaches, but I wouldn't have missed any one of them!

Linda Smith

**ESL Annual General Meeting
Will be held on Monday
24th April 2006
At the Jubilee Hall
5.45pm for 6.15pm**

During 2005 the programme of work on the estate public areas, roads and drains continued. Nigel Sampson, our grounds man, did a great job grass cutting, pruning, general maintenance and tree surgery. Well done and thank you. Elmer Sands Council additionally undertook the following projects.

- Road survey, road repairs & re-modelling of two speed ramps
- Replacement street signs
- Drain replacement in Ancton Way completed
- Monitoring of parking

- Visit by Mr Nick Gibb MP re Elmer Pumping Station
- Review of estate security & continued patrols
- Garden Competition
- Christmas Lights Competition
- Compost bins on the sports field
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- New soakaway in Elm Drive
- Subscription now payable by direct debit
- Newsletters and website to keep you informed
- Conservation Volunteers –
 - Spring and Autumn beach clean up
 - Vegetated shingle surveys
 - Representation at the Arun Biodiversity Forum
 - Campaign to reinstate footpath from Poole Place to Clipping car park

Last year ESL Council consisted of fifteen volunteers, six will be standing down at the AGM. We need some new enthusiastic people to take their place. The commitment is one meeting per month, usually for around 2 hours. Council Members are under no obligation but most undertake the occasional task depending on their interests and how much time they have.

The AGM is on April 24; Doors open for registration at 5.45pm, prompt start at 6.15pm. Please think about joining. Members will personally receive official notice of the AGM, together with nomination forms in due course.



LAWN BOWLS
Have you ever thought about playing Lawn Bowls?

Well now is the time to start. A game for all, young as well as old, ladies as well as men. Did you know:

-In the reign of Edward III the game was banned because it interfered with the young men's archery practise.

-During Henry VII's reign the apprentices were forbidden to play.

-Ann Boleyn and Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, were devotees of the game.

Middleton Sports Club, Bowls Section needs new blood. A welcome awaits you if you would like to try your hand or if you are an experienced bowler and wish to try a new club or return to the game after a break or lay off.

Bowls is an easier game than most to play, but obviously, if you want to play it well it can be difficult.

You can play competitively in league matches or just in friendly roll ups. Why not give it a try?

The season starts in April but make contact now for all details.

Phone Andrew 01243 582523 or Ken 01243 583903

ELMER SANDS ESTATE
SPRING BEACH CLEAN UP
Saturday 25th March 10.00am



WEEKEND PLANT IN
8th and 9th April
Meet at the Kiosk 10.00 a.m.

We would love your help!
 We hope to plant round the compost box, clean at the entrances, top up the bark in the small playground and plant the area by the sun deck.

Please bring gloves and tools!

ESTATE DRAINS & SEWAGE

It has now been over twelve months since a deputation of Elmer residents met Nick Gibb MP and representatives of Southern Water Co to discuss problems associated with the overloaded infrastructure and the pumping station situated on The Hard.

A summary of Southern Water Co's action plan was detailed in the February 2005 Estate Newsletter where it was confirmed that during periods of inclement weather there was a calculated infiltration equivalent to standing water covering an area of 15 hectares (37 acres).

Further investigations were promised with the aim of identifying the source of this inundation.

In the mean time we have enjoyed an extended period of exceptionally dry weather! The downside to this phenomenon is that there has been no infiltration capable of being traced and there is the danger that 'the kettle will go off the boil' and all will be forgotten.

Your committee will of course give Southern Water Co a gentle prod to ensure that they carry out their obligations at the earliest opportunity.
Geoff Matcham

You don't have to belong to the Council to help with our estate. BE A VOLUNTEER!

I came to the estate two years ago and am now looking forward to my third year here. I am a member of the council and attend meetings once a month. Why do I do this? Because I care about where I live and wanted to help maintain this beautiful place. I volunteered for the maintenance team, which has been a learning curve. I was surprised about the amount of thought that goes into the allocation of jobs also the time involved in getting quotes for the work. The reason it takes so long is that all concerned want to get things right!

Being responsible for spending the estate's money is no easy task, as the

best value has to be got. Feedback from members on the estate is not very forthcoming unless something is wrong.

We know there are a lot of keen gardeners on the estate and we would be glad of your input and help with planting certain areas.

We are thinking about the number of memorial benches around the estate and would like to find another way of remembering past members. It has been suggested that trees could be planted with plaques placed near them. The care of the trees to be taken on by the family. Another suggestion was a memorial stone where names could be added. We would like to hear your views so we can get it right!
Ollie Burrows-Patrick

HISTORY OF ELMER SANDS

In 1957 shortly after I first came to Elmer Sands I read a short history of the Estate. It was written for the Middleton Women's Institute (for insertion in their scrap book) by Mr. Walter F Woodbridge. He had been living here almost from the Estate's beginnings in the late twenties and early thirties. I was intrigued by the story and determined to bring it up to date. So many of the early residents have moved and many have died but I am sure that there are a few people who still remember the early days. Mr John Dexter has told me a great deal and I was able to meet Mrs Strong many years ago who also was a mine of information.

I am aware that Miss Kendall has much of the knowledge of Elmer Sands but like so many of us has many other commitments and has not to date put her knowledge into writing. I would be grateful for any stories and information concerning the Estate's history so that I can continue with this very interesting project - which is not for publication, but just for the interest of all of us who now reside here.

Shirley Brown
 (Shirley may be contacted through the Secretary.)

Ju Jitsu 2006

A large number of the members of two local Ju Jitsu clubs congregated on the beach at Elmer Sands on New Year's Day. This has now become a tradition over the last 15 years, the last 2 years on Elmer Sands beach.

This year was particularly well represented as it included both the Bognor members and also the members of the newly formed club at Clymping. Under the Bognor club's Sensei Tony Richards and the Clymping Sensei Rob Jolly, the members went through their throws and attacks and showed a bemused, ever growing crowd just what they do.

Afterwards some of the members with sponsorship went into the sea for a New Year's Day dip, and they raised just over £1,100 for the local St. Wilfred's Hospice. One of the members was sponsored by his employers Rolls Royce, who matched pound for pound all that he raised.

Next year with the blessing of ESL, they would like to decorate and use the Kiosk and will be more than happy to have any local enthusiasts who would like to join them in a sponsored dip in the sea. They will once again be demonstrating just what they do in Ju Jitsu classes. It is a grand way to start the New Year and is guaranteed to give any passers by a feast for the eyes watching hand to hand combat. More news later in the year.

Garden Competition 2006

With the success of last year's competition ESL is delighted to sponsor this year's gardening competition. So all you enthusiasts start getting ready to do battle, not only with the weeds but with each other.

Once again it will be conducted in the usual friendly way between members of the estate. So come on everybody, start digging and get your gardens ready for the 2006 annual gardening competition.

Competition date to be confirmed.

Help your postman and us!

This is a polite request. Please could you make sure your house number is clearly visible on your house. Thanks

This poem was sent to Martyn Davies on Meridian TV. Fred Dineage and Debbie Trower, who obviously enjoyed it, read it out.

A NOTE TO MARTYN DAVIES

**I've something to pick with you
Martyn,
and Gemma too if she's at
home,
in a nutshell you'll see I'm
referring,
to, -loosely described, -it's a
bone.**

**We live by the sea here at
Elmer,
in summer, a wonderful place,
we swim in the sea every day
then,
and we used to catch a few
plaice.**

**In the winter it's cold and it's
frosty,
we sit by a lovely log fire,
we see the Meridian forecast,
and watch as the starlings
retire.**

**You tell us it's cold up in
Horsham,
but warmer of course by the
sea.
I wish to dispute the last
statement,
not so, my thingy tells me.**

**Every morn when it's cold and
it's frosty,
I leap from my bed wash and
dress:
take a look at my Maxi and
Mini,
no need to rely on a guess.**

**More often than not it's a
zero
and I think of the forecast
before,
warmer by seaside, you're
joking,**

my maxi-min says minus four.

Reg Came



How many of you drove round our estate this Christmas, to see the lights? I know I did. Elmer Sands looked lovely, brim full of festive spirit. Our Christmas Lights Competition could unfortunately only have three winners. I know that Steve Mitchell the landlord of The Cabin found it a hard task. Thank you Steve for being the judge and donating the prizes. The winners this year were 1st Mr & Mrs Andrews, 11 Alleyne Way, 2nd Mr & Mrs Tolley, 30 Elm Drive and 3rd Mr Cornwell, 54 The Layne. Congratulations!

ALAN BEVIS 1934 – 2006

Alan Bevis had come with his wife Martha in 1998 to live in the house, which his parents had bought in 1934 as a holiday home. Having known and loved Elmer all his life he had a great interest in its history, and wished to preserve its distinctive character. For some time he served on the board of directors of Elmer Sands Ltd, but then had to stand down owing to ill health. He died on the 6th January, and we extend our deep sympathy to his wife and family.

This newsletter will appear on our website:

www.elmersandslimited.co.uk



**SOCIAL COMMUNITY
EVENTS FOR ALL ESL
RESIDENTS TO ENJOY**

For many years now, the Elmer Sands Boating and Angling Club (ESBAC) has been staging various annual social community events that once upon a time, were organized by ESL. These events are open to all of you and your friends and family to enjoy and are part of what keeps this Estate so friendly and unique. The family events are held all year round and include the Summer Regatta, Summer Fete, Hog-Roast and Dance, Halloween Party and Christmas Carols with the Salvation Army at Christmas time.

ESBAC Committee members would like to thank existing volunteers who give up their time and unlimited energy in helping organise these events and to those of you who have expressed appreciation.

However, the continuation of the events relies heavily on voluntary support and financial

contributions, and contrary to popular belief, if any profit is made, ESBAC ploughs the majority of funds straight back into the next event for things like marquee hire. We are always looking for new volunteers to help lend a hand, which might include anything from leaflet dropping to setting up marquees and clearing away – the list really is endless.

To become a 'Social Member' of ESBAC it only costs £5 per annum. In becoming a Social Member you do not have any obligations but you would be very welcome to get involved with any event or water sport activity if you wish*.**

Some advantages of becoming a social member include use of the Club Hut. Although the hut is used primarily to house First Aid and emergency equipment, you can make a hot drink there, have a chat with friends and get changed for the beach!

Other advantages include invitations to the annual Dinner and Dance for ESBAC members only.

And last, but by no means least, let us not forget that in between holding these very enjoyable events, ESBAC do what they do best – sail, fish, motor-boat and compete against one another during 'friendly' competitions and

most importantly, have fun! New members are always welcome to enjoy aquatic pastimes.

But in the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our future social events and hopefully on the beach during the summer.

With all good wishes
Ray Turner, The Commodore

*** For further information about our events or types of membership, please contact Jo Hedderly, Club Secretary on 01243 586066.

**DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY 2006**

**Spring Beach Clean up
Saturday 25th March
10.00am
Estate Plant in 8th 9th April
AGM 24th April**

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**
kimeden@btpopenworld.com
NO house calls please.

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

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