



**Minutes of the 23rd Annual Parish Assembly of Dormansland Parish Council held at
6.00pm on Thursday 25th April 2024 at the Memorial Hall, Dormansland**

Present: Cllr Alison Hutchinson (Chair)
Cllr David Bright
Cllr Richard Dandy
Cllr Keith Coleman
Cllr Liz Lockwood
Cllr Cheryl Roux

Parish Clerk: Jacqui O'Sullivan

Apologies of absence were received from: Cllr Hilary Taylor

In Attendance: There were 20 members of the public present.

MINUTES

1. Introduction and Welcome.

Cllr Richard Dandy opened the meeting and introduced the Councillors of Dormansland Parish Council.

Cllr Dandy welcomed the contributors to the Annual Parish Assembly and the guest speaker Bill Stevenson from the RH7 History Group and also Chris and Margaret Vasey from Fairtrade. He thanked them all for coming to the event.

2. Presentation by Bill Stevenson – Chairman of RH7 History Group.

Bill Stevenson gave a fascinating talk on the history of Dormansland spanning from Iron Age through to present day.

3. Questions and answers session addressing Dormansland Parish Council

A resident asked what was happening with the development at the Hollow Lane garages and the question was directed to Cllr. Nicholas White who explained the nature of the development and where the parking would be situated for the new flats and single dwelling.

A resident asked what was happening with the planning application behind the station in Dormansland? Cllr. Nicholas White advised that this may be taken over by TDC as a development but there were no clear plans at the moment.

There were no more questions from the public and Cllr Dandy thanked all the contributors for making the meeting so interesting and the meeting was closed at 19.15.

DATED

SIGNED: (CHAIR)



TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF DORMANSLAND 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Dormansland by talented photographer Matt Young

We are very grateful for all those contributors who have submitted articles for our Annual Parish Assembly report. We also contacted many of the local groups for an update but at the time of going to print, had not received articles from a couple of these groups.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF DORMANSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

We started 2023 living in hope that the new Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) would be delivered in the late Spring. By the Summer these had been put back to the Autumn and by the Autumn they had been pushed back into the 2024/2025 financial year. It's understandable to feel frustrated when plans experience delays, especially when they have the potential to make significant improvements to road safety. Maintaining patience and perseverance has been crucial in navigating through such challenges. We can celebrate the successes such as the installation of yellow-backed road signs for children crossing and by staying resilient, persistent, and collaborative, we are continuing to deliver improvements. Cllr Hilary Taylor has played a pivotal role in driving forward road safety initiatives despite the challenges faced.

Cllr David Bright Chaired the Planning Committee as well as leading on the village environment. The planters at the triangle and opposite St Johns have been planted for a Spring display of tulips. David has worked with the Dormansland Tree Warden Fiona French in the siting of 20 new trees around the village. The Parish Council is supporting Surrey's ambition to be a carbon neutral county by 2050 which includes planting 1.2 million new trees (one for every resident) by 2030. We will be asking residents to help with watering over the summer. Trees are only part of our strategy for green spaces.

We are committed to protecting Dormansland green spaces, increasing bio diversity and safeguarding the village environment. In the last year we have invested in additional grass cutting, weed killing and overall village maintenance. We have given the bus shelter opposite St Johns some tender loving care and the same will be done to the bus shelter at Plough by the end of the Spring. We have also been making small improvements to the recreation ground by changing the appearance and functionality of the notice boards by using an all-weather surface, repairing a broken bench, adding labels to a couple of the oak trees for children to enjoy and supporting a family in the siting of a memorial bench. You may have also noticed, that after the experience of the cold snap in January 2023, the Parish Council purchased two further grit bins, and re positioned a couple of others.

In November 2023, the Parish Council decided to reactivate work on the Dormansland Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Liz Lockwood has been instrumental in the restart process and in the support of the working groups progress to date. By leveraging Liz's expertise, engaging stakeholders, seeking external support, and maintaining a long-term perspective, the Parish Council will make significant strides towards completing the Dormansland Neighbourhood Plan and shaping the future of the community in a positive and inclusive manner.

Cllr Cheryl Roux has been leading on the creation of a memorial garden at New Hache. This vision was developed at the time of the late Queens jubilee and is supported by the Parish Council, a number of residents many residents and our Surrey County Cllr Lesley Steeds. This work is ongoing.

In our conversation with residents, we floated the concept of defibrillator training, this was held in the summer. Following this, we approached the Plough and the Old House at Home to give a defibrillator a home. We were delighted by the positive response and we were able to have these both delivered and installed by January 2024. In addition, a very kind resident has donated a defibrillator and cabinet which has been cited on the Centenary Rooms.

Cllr Richard Dandy and Cllr Keith Coleman are our conversation 'fire starters'. They ensure that local businesses and the Dormansland primary school views are represented in council decision making. Both Cllrs are experienced in business procurement and processes, this has broadened the Council's knowledge and approach in decision making. One of these decisions was to support the Village Voice, not through a grant but by paying for space as other advertisers do. Investing in advertising space demonstrates the Parish Council's commitment to engaging with and supporting local community initiatives. It fosters a sense of partnership and collaboration between the Parish Council and the Village Voice, benefiting the community as a whole.

We have enjoyed meeting residents in formal meetings, at the Coronation event, at the carnival where David and Alison volunteered, and out and about around the village. Partnering with institutions like St Piers for projects such as the art work initiative not only enriches the community's cultural landscape but also promotes collaboration and inclusivity. We are exploring further collaboration opportunities, such as supporting playground access initiatives.

Jacqui O'Sullivan our clerk, plays a vital role in supporting the Parish Council and contributing to its effectiveness. Jacqui coordinates all our activities, facilitating communication, and maintaining organizational cohesion. In October she began studying for her CilCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) and this reflects Jacqui's proactive approach to professional development. We continue to collaborate with our District and Surrey County Councillors and this underscores the importance of partnership and coordination between different levels of government. Working together, we can address community needs, advocate for local interests, and support the implementation of initiatives that benefit residents.

Reported by Councillor Hutchinson

PLANNING

The Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications by Tandridge District Council who are responsible for deciding applications. During 2023 our Planning Committee considered 93 applications (there were 96 in 2022). Most applications are for house extensions and alterations. There were two notable applications. A residential care community at Young Epilepsy which has been approved subject to agreement on technical details and development of the Hollow Lane Garage site to create

a block of four flats and a small bungalow. This application was reduced from 6 flats and parking provision was improved after representations from residents and the Parish Council.

It is important that residents make their own comments directly to Tandridge. Details of all applications and comments made can be viewed on the Planning Portal at [Planning and building - Tandridge District Council](#)

Reported by Councillor Bright

ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP

The Road Safety Committee met on two occasions in the summer. We considered a request from residents about whether to enhance the street lighting on the High Street at night. In order to do this we would need a public consultation and after debate in the Council it was decided not to proceed. Consideration was given to promoting the 20 is Plenty Campaign at the Carnival. This is the campaign that has been successful in Wales with mixed reviews. Our Council made the decision that residents wouldn't want all the roads in Dormansland village that are currently 30mph zones to be restricted to 20mph.

We asked Surrey Highways to put up more signage to warn drivers of stretches of road frequently used by horses. This request was turned down. The Parish Council ran a Slow and Wide campaign during the summer and I hope you saw our posters. Please pass horses in this way if you encounter them when driving. In September Surrey Highways ran a public consultation in response to the Parish Council's request to improve the visibility at the build out by the post box on the High Street. As a result of the consultation, we expect that yellow lines will be painted round the build out and hatched lines later this year.

We have been disappointed that the Vehicle Activated signs are not yet in place and hope to see them soon. We were pleased to see the yellow backed school signs.

The Parish Council is exploring the option of enhancing the signage coming into the village from East Grinstead so that drivers are further encouraged to reduce their speed as they pass the crossroads of Mutton Hill and Station Road.

The speed of traffic travelling through the High Street continues to be a concern but this starts with residents. If we all drive at 28 mph as we journey home, it will encourage people passing through to do the same.

Reported by Councillor Taylor

DORMANSLAND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT

A precept of £55,020 was raised from Tandridge District Council for the financial year 2023/24. The precept for 2024/25 has been raised to £56,000.

DORMANSLAND PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS & GRANTS

The 2023/24 full accounts are currently being audited and not yet finalised. Dormansland Parish Council's funds go towards maintaining the appearance of the village, providing salt in the many salt / grit bins during bad weather and general administrative costs for running the council. The current councillors do not claim an allowance. The Council have provided the funds for The Coronation event held at the Memorial Hall in June 2023. The Parish Council continued with its policy of making grants to local organisations and during the last year, the beneficiaries being:

St John's Church Graveyard	£1000
Befriending Scheme	£850
Baptist Church Graveyard	£1000

Dormansland Carnival	£500
Memorial Hall	£928.52
Meals on Wheels	£1000
Lingfield Minibus	£300
St Catherines Hospice	£1000
RH7 History Group	£200
Dormansland Primary School	£1000
CAGNE	£200

ST CATHERINES HOSPICE

St Catherine's Hospice received £1000 from Dormansland Parish Council in November 2023. December saw a significant change for St Catherine's as we moved from our old premises on Malthouse Road to our new hospice at Grace Holland Avenue in Pease Pottage. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback we've received from our local community:

"I still can't get over just how amazing the Hospice is and everyone that works and gives their time to making it the perfect resting place. Honestly you are all truly beautiful people!"



Up to the end of December your funding has helped us deliver our vital services in the following ways:

- We are actively supporting a caseload of 903 people, which includes patients and their loved ones.
- Our team has made 731 home visits and 1500 telephone appointments.
- There were approximately 1500 calls into our 24-hour advice line service.
- 22 patients were admitted to our wards.
- We received 144 new patient referrals.



Thanks to you, adults in West Sussex and East Surrey continue to receive the expert palliative and end of life care they need, while their family members are supported. We are incredibly grateful to you for your generous and ongoing support.

St Catherine's Hospice new home in Grace Holland Avenue, Pease Pottage

LINGFIELD MARATHON MINIBUS, ESTABLISHED 1983.

The idea of a community minibus started in 1981. Two years later the first minibus hit the road and started to help youth groups, schools, and general groups of people to take them to various places at as low a cost as possible. This all comes at a cost of insurance, servicing, repairs, MOT, and diesel. Our annual fun run that raised £1,000's sadly ceased in 2015 as it became too costly to achieve due to a very sharp decline in race entries. To supplement the income from various groups who hire our mini bus we need to raise funds through grant applications and our annual quiz night.

The minibus committee is extremely grateful to the generous grant given in 2023 by Dormansland Parish Council. 2023 saw a rise in groups wanting to use our mini bus - these included Luca junior football club, Chartham Park Sports centre who completed a 3 Peaks challenge to raise money for a colleague's family as their colleague was terminally ill, Lingfield Scout Group, East Grinstead Lions who took a group of elderly East Grinstead residents to an afternoon tea, wheel chair resident from College of St Barnabas taken to Crawley for a shopping trip, Lingfield Running Club for cross country racing and other races further afield. Christmas 2023 saw the minibus take a group Dormansland ladies to the Christmas fair at The Red Barn pub. Our minibus has also been used for transporting wedding guests and a family trip to London Zoo. Our most recent customer is Hever Primary School where on a weekly basis our volunteer drivers take 2 groups of pupils and teachers to Edenbridge for swimming lessons. Our weekly Friday shopping trip continues for ladies with pick-ups in Lingfield, Dormansland

and Blindley Heath. Our ladies also have an annual day trip to Eastbourne. I mention the word “ ladies “ but if any men needed this weekly shopping trip then they would be given a very warm welcome.

Our fund-raising efforts will continue as we aim to purchase a new minibus within the next 2 to 3 years to keep supporting our community and any organisation that requires our minibus.

RH7 HISTORY GROUP

RH7 was formed in 1999 to encourage the growing interest in local history. Our main area of interest is that encompassed by the RH7 postcode. We meet on the second Monday of alternate months — January, March etc. — in the Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre for group discussions and lectures, generally having speakers on local and/or topical subjects.

The Group holds an exhibition every two years. The forthcoming exhibition will be titled “Let’s Join Together” and will be about the history of social groups and associations in our area. We have been reaching out to those clubs and associations currently operating in our area to obtain their assistance in preparing the exhibition displays. We see the exhibition as having the double benefit of not only telling the history of these organisations but also allowing them to advertise themselves. We will also be using the archives of the Hayward History Centre and memories of local people to tell the history of those organisations that no longer exist. The exhibition will take place from Sunday 26th to Tuesday 28th May in the Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, and from Saturday 1st to Sunday 2nd June in the Dormansland War Memorial Hall.

Obviously, holding such exhibitions costs money. As a small organisation it is important for us to ensure that we have sufficient financial support in place before we make costly commitments. We are therefore extremely grateful to the Dormansland Parish Council and Dormansland Carnival for the grants they have provided, which gave us the confidence to proceed with our plans.

LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND MEALS ON WHEELS

Lingfield and Dormansland Meals on Wheels (MOW) is very pleased that it has been able this year to service the communities of Lingfield, Dormansland, Crowhurst and Felbridge with more than 7000 freshly prepared meals as well as Fish & Chips each Friday. We have seen rising costs with food (over 14%), petrol for our deliverers, foils used to serve and equipment maintenance. We try very hard to use a local butcher and fishmonger where practical. Replacement of our only refrigerator cost more than £900.

We had a surfeit of Christmas cards from grateful clients and their families. We know they appreciate a daily visit with a delicious main meal and dessert Monday through Thursday. We’re able to help those recovering from operations on a short-term basis as well as those who can no longer manage to cook for themselves but wish to stay in their homes. On Mondays, we prepare meals for Dementia First as well as well our own clients. Our deliverers have been challenged by local road closures and flooding; someone often steps in with their 4 X 4. We are so fortunate in having more than 100 volunteers who give their time to prepare vegetables, cook, deliver meals, clean tea towels and generally keep this critical service running efficiently. We appreciate the grants and donations that are necessary to make it happen.

DORMANSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

We are delighted to share the impact of the generous £1000 grant received from Dormansland Parish Council for our local primary school. This funding has been instrumental in enhancing the learning environment for our reception class.

The grant was allocated towards purchasing items for our Early Years outdoor area. We have purchased 2 fantastic wooden storage cupboards, enabling us to organise our learning materials more effectively. The new storage has helped create an organised and stimulating outdoor environment for



the children. We also used some of the grant towards the cost of repainting the lines in the Early Years playground area. The caterpillar number line has been a huge success and has given our teachers an opportunity to further the children's maths knowledge in the playground. We extend our appreciation to

Dormansland Parish Council. Their support has not only impacted our Early Years classes but has also contributed to the overall growth and success of our school.

TANDRIDGE BEFRIENDING SCHEME / COMMUNITY COMPANIONS

It's been a busy year for the Tandridge's befriending scheme. As we approach spring, it has been a lovely time to reflect on how things are going and to see what new buds are blossoming.

Many of you will know that the befriending service has been operating for over a decade serving as a vital lifeline and has seen many strong relationships develop between the befriender and befriended over the years and continues to do so. Some of you might have had firsthand experience of the scheme or know someone who has benefitted. Last year the name of the service changed to Community Companions to show our appreciation to the volunteer befrienders but also to shine a light on how much support and companionship is needed and available in Tandridge. Community Companions remains a befriending scheme that continues to offer a service aimed at elderly people living in the district.

We held a range of events, talks and lunches last year including a fabulous afternoon tea at Titsey Tea Rooms in August where many Community Companions were joined by their befriended, which also happened to be the hottest day of the year! In November we had Befriending week followed by a lovely Christmas lunch at the Bletchingly Arms in December to round off the year. Whether it was sweltering hot or cold outside Community Companions remained consistent.

There is much value in the importance of companionship and mental stimulation through face-to-face meetings, conversations and social activities. Community Companions are volunteers who do not replace professional carers, offer medical advice, or do domestic duties but are often community connectors. The scheme has some exciting events in the pipeline for our Community Companions and the befriended. We currently have 106 individuals enjoying the company of 70 incredible Community Companions.

GATWICK AIRPORT

Gatwick Airport Limited submitted their application to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO), which is the type of planning application for a National Infrastructure Project which the Secretary of State for the Environment determines. The Planning Inspectorate manage the whole process and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State based on the evidence they have

gathered through the application documents, the written submissions by a range of individuals and bodies which represent local government and business along with the big statutory consultees like the Environment Agency and National Highways. Gatwick call the proposal to build a new runway to replace the emergency runway the Northern Runway Project and are proposing to make improvements to the nearest motorway junction to deal with the increased traffic. They propose to increase the development across their site to include more parking and hotel accommodation as well as new terminal additions to deal with the additional passenger throughput. They are not offering to make any further infrastructure improvements to the wider transport network and nor are they proposing to change the way they operate, which currently has more than twice the number of night flights than are allowed at Heathrow.

Should the DCO be approved, there may be planning conditions and obligations to make the development more acceptable, including an expectation for Gatwick to fund further infrastructure improvements or could be made to reduce flights at nighttime. This will depend on the case being put by the local authorities and councils, campaign groups and individuals. From March to July, there will be a range of hearings in public along with further opportunities to submit more information or comments about what has been said at the hearings. The decision will probably be announced in early to mid 2025.

Dormansland Parish Council submitted a written statement which objected to the additional aircraft noise and disturbance that will be experienced with an increase of more than 100,000 flights a year, should the Gatwick Northern Runway Project get permission. The submission also expressed concern at the knock on congestion and air pollution which would occur with significant expansion as the majority of the additional passenger numbers and all the additional freight being handled by the larger airport will use the road network, which is already at capacity on the M23 and M25 causing congestion on the A22 and A264 in the East Grinstead area in particular.

At the same time as the Planning Inspectorate are determining the DCO, the Government are facilitating the airspace change as part of the airspace modernisation scheme (Future Airspace Strategy Implementation – South or FASI-S). It could potentially mean that there will be rural parts of the parish which see new flight paths or have more air traffic overhead. Dormansland Parish Council are a member group of the Campaign Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions (CAGNE). Parish Forum which is playing a very proactive role for local communities in trying to ensure the reallocation of new flight routes is fair and does not impact any new communities. The next stage of FASI-S is the presentation of a range of routes which will be considered for shortlisting for the next stage. Both will be open to public consultation and Dormansland Parish Council will engage in these.

The pick up and drop off charges for cars using the drive through facility at Gatwick Airport have increased to £6 per visit but you can still get 2 hours free parking for picking up or dropping off arriving passengers if you head for the long stay parking and use the shuttle bus connection to the terminals.

Reported by Councillor Lockwood



Beautiful Dormansland looking up from the Twitten from the station.

TREES – Report from Fiona French, Tree Warden

Thankfully the majority of trees that have been planted over the past few years have survived and thrived bringing colour to more areas around the village. Given a few more years they will really start to make their mark. The Parish Council continued to support the Tree Planting Initiative of Surrey County Council last year which was very welcome.

David Bright, Robbie Stewart of SCC and I identified some more areas and discussed the variety of trees to plant in addition to the iconic cherry trees. In late Autumn over a dozen trees were planted in and around New Farthingdale Close mainly in the street verge. These are classed as street trees; they have smaller root balls so their growth is curtailed and we are advised the trees are suited to a street environment. A mix of cherry, whitebeam and acers have been planted, to add colour and berries for wildlife.

Additionally, 3 trees were planted at the crossroads of Mutton Hill, Station Road and Wilderwick Road where it is quite bare. Along Moor Lane a lonesome tree was planted near the Dormansland sign which we thought would be a lovely feature. Last year David and I did our best to save this tree as it was showing signs of distress and we mulched and watered regularly however, at the end of the year it was finally flattened, literally, by a car driving over it. Unfortunately, the contractors for SCC can be careless with their strimmer so a couple of trees in the Rec were damaged and these have been replaced by the council. The new trees are all planted with extra guards to try to give more protection.

We are lucky that the village already has many lovely trees and greenery so there are less opportunities for planting. However, we will continue to look and add or replace any tree where we can.

Reported by Fiona French

Newly planted trees in Dormansland



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2023

In November 2023, the Parish Council agreed to pick up work on the Neighbourhood plan that had been started in 2015 and ended in 2018. There are many benefits to completing this work namely;



- Neighbourhood planning enables us to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which we live and work and provides protection from inappropriate development.
- Through a Neighbourhood Plan we can have a say on what new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided.
- Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for us to set out a positive vision for how we want our community to develop over a period of time.

Much work had been done in the 3 years and the work going forward will be focussed on. Firstly, removing development sites from the plan. Developing a design guide and finally completing the plan for consultation.

Reported by Cllr. Alison Hutchinson

SPEEDWATCH

Dormansland Speedwatch Needs You!

Volunteer Coordinator wanted for 1 hour a week

10 Volunteers to work in pairs to go out 2 twice a year for an hour

Full training given: Please contact Parishclerk@dormansland.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We still have 8 road co-ordinators covering 12 roads in the Village plus a separate NHW group in Dormans Park. This is a very small proportion of our Parish, and it would be great to get the village more widely covered.

Between 16th March 2023 & 6th March 2024 we have been advised of 25 crimes reported within Dormansland a slight increase from 22 last year L, 16 (an increase of 3 over last year) associated to car incidents (break ins, theft, registration plate theft etc), 9 (same as last year) associated to break ins to property. In 2024 to date, NO incidents have been reported, long may that continue J.

Please remember these statistics are only as good as the information received so please report any crimes to ensure both an accurate reflection but also greater support from Surrey Policing for our village.

With more roads participating in the scheme, we have greater chance of deterring such crimes by looking out for each other and highlighting any suspicious behaviour.

If you would like to know more about Neighbourhood Watch, whether to understand if your road has a co-ordinator so you can join the scheme or to become a road co-ordinator yourself and need to

understand what it requires. Please feel free to contact either Clive Robinson @ cliverobinson040@btinternet.com or Steve Pollock @ steve_pollock@hotmail.co.uk

DORMANSLAND WAR MEMORIAL HALL

It has been hectic, as we have simultaneously:

- been challenging inherited debts, to ensure that they are either written off or are allocated to the people who incurred them. We have already addressed over £30,000 of debts in this way, and will not rest until we have drawn a line under the remaining ones;
- been working tirelessly on the grounds: it's hard to believe that they were a completely overgrown mess when took over, to see the garden looking onto Hollow Lane take shape and to see the flower troughs in all their respectful glory;
- working on the building inside and out: we finally managed to reconnect the gas and now have heating. We have completed the renewal of the Jubilee room - which is now a beautiful smaller setting and formal space: an ocean of calm. We have cleared the car park, so it is used far more, and looks far neater and tidier. We have repaired and modernised the power and heating systems, repaired the gutters, roof, ceilings and walls;
- raised tens of thousands of pounds in grants, which we have used to transform the outside of the Hall, with beautiful new windows, repaired fascias, new rendering, fresh paint, a new porch, new tiles, and new roofing. We have long wanted to make the Hall look cared for and as a building to be proud of in the heart of the village, and are proud of the results; and
- simultaneously, wherever and whenever we can, opening our doors to community events, including our traditional Memorial Sunday service and the Christmas Market, and forming a central part of the Coronation Celebrations. We have also been delighted to continue hosting parties for young and old, and classes, including fitness, dance, theatre, music and youth sessions.

We are very close now to being able to fully reopen the Hall and all of its facilities. It is your Hall, and we want you to make it your own.

We could not have achieved any of this without the support of the Parish. It is our privilege and our pleasure to be Trustees of your Hall for All.

Reported by The Trustees of Dormansland War Memorial Hall

DORMANSLAND DIAMONDS

The Dormansland Diamonds came into being shortly after the Covid 19 lockdown in March of 2020. The Dormansland Diamonds then set up a Registered Charity #1194028 in April of 2021 which has 7 Trustees. Worth mentioning at this juncture, the Mission Statement of the Dormansland Diamonds ...known as the Objects:-

To relieve people in the Parish of Dormansland, Surrey and nearby communities who are in need, by reason of their age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or social circumstances in such ways as the trustees shall think fit, with particular focus on providing assistance to those affected by



coronavirus (covid-19).

Whilst the Coronavirus needs have diminished almost entirely over the last year, the work of the Diamonds will continue. Indeed, the focus of attention now is helping those struggling with the cost of living, particularly with regard to very high energy bills. That said, we have also assisted local residents with severe financial problems supplying them with supermarket vouchers and food parcels. This last year has seen a continuation of the help mentioned above, and we were very happy to deliver a number of Christmas hampers to those less fortunate than most of us in the surrounding area. So, heart-warming to be thanked so genuinely. In summary..... **Dormansland Diamonds are here to help and serve the good people of Dormansland.** Full details of how to contact the Diamonds can be found on the left-hand side page, inside the back cover of the monthly Village Voice. **Submitted by Steve Pollock Jan 2024**

1ST LINGFIELD AND DORMANSLAND SCOUT GROUP

1st Lingfield and Dormansland Scout Group continues to be one of the most successful Youth Groups in the area providing a wide range of activities for girls and boys from 6-18.

Although our Marquees and Gazebos have been a fixture at the Dormansland Carnival for many years, this year we took the opportunity to run an axe throwing base and also laid on games for the youngsters which proved to be a great success.

Our Summer Camp was held in the Forest of Dean with Canoeing down the River Wye, Caving, and a 100ft abseil being some of the favourite activities. The Scouts were very proficient in cooking all their meals on open fires and of course sleeping in tents for the week. A Ski Trip to Austria had been in the planning for quite a while and the recent February half

Despite the spring like conditions the Scouts learnt quickly, progressing from the nursery slopes on to the main gondola in record time. This is our 5th trip since 2003 and we very much look forward to organising another one in the future.

The group is always on the lookout for any adults 18+ who would like to get involved with the Group, if you're looking for a rewarding and fun role in local Scouting then please contact me at ianblackford@icloud.com for more information. the commitment can be as little or much as you like.

Reported by Ian Blackford - Scout Leader



YWI Dormansland Report to March 2024

YWI Dormansland meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month usually in the Parish Room. We have several sub-groups including our Drama Queens (Social/Theatre group), Kindred Krafters (crafting), Sole Sisters (walking group), Picture Perfect (cinema visits), Bravehearts (adventure activities) and two book groups - the Bookaholics & the Bookworms. Our meetings over the past year have included:

- An interactive talk on How to De-clutter your Life & Get Organised
- An introduction to Cyber-Crime & On-Line Safety
- Carnival Prep, and our Summer Raffle
- An inspirational talk 'My Time with The Royal Ballet'

- Fish & Chip evening
- Learning to play Golf
- Autumn Wreath & Pumpkin making
- Wine Tasting with Kingscote Vineyard, at our Annual General meeting
- Christmas Celebrations, with Curry & Games
- Irish Dancing
- Talk on The Vanguard Way: 66 miles from the suburbs to the sea

The Social group have been very active, and civilised, with London Theatre trips to see Lyonesse, Noises Off, and the brilliant Mrs Doubtfire. The cinema group, have got their dose of London Shows including Kinky Boots at Chequer Mead. Other film viewings include Barbie, The Great Escaper, and One Life. Impressively the adventurer's group, The Brave Hearts, is still fully intact after sessions of Bungee Aerobics, and Paddleboarding! Our Kindred Crafters have continued to create stunning installations in the village throughout the year with four Coronation pieces and another crocheted and knitted Remembrance display to honour those (and animals) who lost their lives to defend our freedoms.

Reported by Nikkii Harris & Anne Robinson – Dual Presidents, YWI Dormansland

DORMANS EVENING W.I. - 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

Dormans Evening WI (DEWI) meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the St. John's Parish Room, Dormansland at 7.30pm and has over 60 active members. All members are affiliated to the National Federation and Surrey County Federation of Women's Institutes and therefore entitled to participate in what both offer WI members. We are proud to belong to the largest women's organisation in the UK. It's not all about Jam and Jerusalem, the WI offers women the opportunity to campaign on national issues, enjoy learning through its newly established WI Learning Hub which opened its virtual doors in January 2024 (courses offered are available to non WI members too) and make new friends. The main charitable objects of the WI are:

- To advance the education of women and girls for the public benefit in all areas
- To promote sustainable development which meets the needs of future generations without compromising those of the present:
- To advance public health
- To advance public citizenship by promoting civic responsibility and volunteering

The past year has been another busy year for DEWI - we have enjoyed a variety of speakers and outings and have welcomed several new members. Not only do we offer monthly meetings but the opportunity for members to join in social outings, 2 book groups, a craft group, a walking group, mah jong & rummikub groups and regular get togethers. Once again in July, we ran the Tea Tent for the Dormansland Carnival Committee helping to raise money for local groups seeking funds.

February 8th 2024 was a special date for DEWI - our 60th Anniversary. A party to celebrate was held, at which 2 founder members were present with others who joined in the first few years also being present. We consider ourselves to be a welcoming and friendly WI and invite those women looking for a social group in Dormansland to come along to one of our meetings (there is no charge for your first visit).

Reported by Karil Greenhalgh – President - March 2024

DORMANSLAND COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Dormansland Community Fridge came about as a result of Mary McLachlan's vision. During her time as Minister at Dormansland Baptist Church, Mary came to Quarry Community Fridge in East Grinstead as a volunteer to support the project by giving her time but also to find out what was involved with a view to opening a Fridge in Dormansland. An agreement evolved that Quarry Community Fridge would support Dormansland by sharing their stock, resources and expertise. The stock that is provided is collected as surplus stock from a number of supermarkets (mainly Waitrose) within a 20 mile radius of East Grinstead. The Dormansland Community Fridge opened on 5 January 2024 and opens from 10am to 12pm every Monday and Friday in the barn at Dormansland Baptist Church. The purpose of the fridge:-

- To provide food to residents who need additional food support in the local area
- To prevent food waste by using surplus food from local supermarkets and making it available to local residents.

Dormansland Community Fridge has already been utilised by residents on a regular basis and we hope this venture continues to be successful and useful to our community.

Reported by Lisa Felton & Debbie Marshall



SURREY POLICE

Neighbourhood policing within Surrey Police is delivered by Safer Neighbourhood Teams in each of the 11 districts and boroughs of the County. Each neighbourhood within the districts and boroughs is served by a dedicated team of officers and staff.

The Lingfield and Dormansland areas of Tandridge are Policed 24/7 by the Neighbourhood Response teams who are based at Caterham Police Station.

Neighbourhood Teams provide community engagement, targeted foot patrols and collaborative problem solving to tackle the issues that cause the greatest harm in our communities. Teams are made of sergeants, police officers and PCSOs, led by the Borough Commander, with further support provided by other team members - with specialisms in youth engagement, licensing and crime prevention.

The Safer Neighbourhoods team is currently headed by Borough Commander, Inspector Lyndsey Whatley.

There are 2 Sargent's, Wayne Stephens who covers North Tandridge and Dan Kite who covers South Tandridge. There are 4 Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (NSO'S) Kevin Stimson (north), Chris Wheeler (north), Sabrina Bosini (mid) and Lee Newman (south).

There is now 6 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO'S) Hermoine Pilbrow (north), Amy Ord (north), Stuart Wren (Mid), Lisa Cobby (Mid), Conrad Cheeseman (south) and Kerrie Furlong (rural).

We have one Crime reduction Officer, Simon Evans, who covers the whole of Tandridge and two Youth Engagement Officers, Mollie Wright and Tom Warwick who also cover the whole of Tandridge.

In the year from February 2023 to January 2024 there were 626 reported crimes for the areas of Lingfield and Dormansland which also encompasses Haxted, Crowhurst, Copthorne and Felcourt.

Of the 626 crimes reported, they are broken down into the following categories:

- 200 (32%) - domestic, violence & sexual offence related
- 93 (14.8%) - ASB related.
- 68 (10.8%) - Criminal damage/Arson offences.
- 68 (10.8 %) - Thefts.
- 44 (7%) - burglaries.
- 43 (6.8%) - Public Order offences.
- 41 (6.5%) - Vehicle Crime reports
- 9 (1.4%) - drug related crimes were reported.

Crime figures for your area can also be viewed via the Surrey Police Website www.surrey.police.uk

In order to have a true reflection of the needs and issues of our communities in order to tackle them people need to report issues to us. This can be done online or by calling 101. You can also follow us @TandridgeBeat and there is lots of useful information available on the Surrey Police Website www.surrey.police.uk



Lingfield United Trust

LUT Chairman's Report to Dormansland Parish Council meeting, March 2024

Background

The objects of the charity remain.

- The provision and maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation.
- The provision of Grants for assistance to those meeting the charity's criteria and resident within the parishes of Dormansland, Lingfield and Baldwins Hill.

I set out below the works that Lingfield United Trust has carried out in these respects over the past year:

The Provision and Maintenance of Almshouse Accommodation.

We continue to maintain our 2 Almshouses known as 'HoChee Cottages' in Plough Road, Dormansland. Our residents remain those who were in occupancy since the refurbishment of the almshouses in 2013 and in one case, prior to that date. We continue to support them in any way they require and check their wellbeing. However, as always, we are reliant on their next of kin to report any significant issues we would not otherwise be aware of. We have put in place assistance in the garden and this assists with pruning and heavy jobs that are required.

Maintenance works that the buildings require are dealt with immediately and we have recently replaced a boiler in one property and carried out minor odd jobs as necessary throughout. We also installed a new garden shed and planted a commemorative tree remembering our Clerk Marlene Hughes and a rose bush chosen by Maureen Abbott to remember her late husband Joe.

The Provision of Grants.

At Christmas 2023, the Trustees of Lingfield United Trust were able to distribute 121 payments. This year we increased our distribution payments to £100 per couple and £80 per single recipient. We gave a total of £10,560 as Christmas Grants. Once again, we sent application forms to those who had applied the previous year, as the distribution points used prior to the pandemic, are still not as accessible as they have been previously. We also advertised locally for applicants. We continue to pay grants for assistance to vulnerable and needy residents and families in Lingfield and Dormansland parishes and we have received referrals and supported financially at least 8 families and additionally organizations such as the Dormansland War Memorial Hall, and the Lingfield Youth Hub. Grants have also been made to Lingfield Primary School and Dormansland Primary School to assist pupils on the Pupil Premium Register. We continue to be successful in attracting additional funding from the Henry Smith Charity and this year we made an application for further assistance towards the Warm Hubs initiative which six local premises remain involved with. We were again successful in attracting £4000 for this year and the same sum for next year. This has been distributed to each organization on a pro rata basis in accordance with the amount of time they were open for shelter and refuge and apportioned as a result of a questionnaire completed by the organizations involved.

Trustees and Clerk.

We currently have 7 Trustees who have been in place for the duration of this year, and I attach a current updated list for your information. I am grateful for all their work and support on behalf of Lingfield United Trust. Enid Marten has announced she will be standing down as a Trustee at our AGM in June 2024. Enid has seen the Charity through many changes and has always been a valued and respected member of the Charity team. She is held in very high regard by those involved with LUT and it is with tremendous appreciation for her loyal and strong support over 35 years to Lingfield United Trust, and formerly Lingfield United Charities, that I know I speak for everyone in thanking her for her contributions and I know that she will be missed a great deal.

I will also be standing down at the AGM after 16 years with LUT. I have seen the Charity evolve from LUC to LUT and the refurbishment works to HoChee Cottages has been a highlight of my time as Chair and Trustee. I resign knowing that LUT is in safe hands with those who remain and those potential new Trustees who have expressed interest in joining them. I am working towards handing over and processing the administration that involves. As yet, it is undecided who will take over as Chair.

I am helped in this handover process by our new Clerk, Anna Baker, who joined us in the summer of 2023. We are very lucky to have her, and she has picked up the reigns from myself with alacrity, after I stood in as Clerk after the sad and untimely death of Marlene Hughes in March 2022. Our heartfelt thanks Anna and our appreciation of the marvellous job you are doing. After an article about LUT that Anna wrote and which was published in the local magazines, Community News and Dormansland Voice, we have had expressions of interest from several local people to become Trustees, so we will be evaluating those and hope to fill our vacancies promptly.

As always, the Annual Report and Financial Statement will be audited and sent to the Charity Commissioners in due course.

CONCLUSION

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Dormansland Parish Council for their commitment and their time and for residents who regularly engage with us.

As a Parish Council we would like to thank all residents who support making Dormansland a pleasant and safe place to live.

Jacqui, David, Cheryl, Richard, Hilary, Keith, Liz and Alison

