

ESCC annual report for Dallington Parish Assembly 2023

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council over the last year under the four strategic priorities of the Council:

Driving sustainable economic growth

Following a competitive tender process, ESCC awarded a new contract for highways and infrastructure services to Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd. The contract valued at £297m for an initial seven years from May 1st 2023, has an option to extend to a maximum of 14 years. During the procurement process bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the Council's goals to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure high quality work, provide value for money and improve social wellbeing.

Over 752 road improvement schemes, utilising the one-off additional investment agreed by ESCC Cabinet in November 2021, were completed by the end of 2022 at 398 sites with a further 100 sites expected to be completed by the end of 2022/23. This includes patching schemes, new signs and new road markings. In addition, during the first three-quarters of the year we completed 140 road maintenance projects to maintain and improve the county's roads and repaired over 17,000 potholes in the roads and pavements. There was a significant increase in reported potholes following the wettest November on record and one of the coldest starts to December. By the end of January 2023, we had more than doubled the number of pothole repair gangs from 10 to 23 and extended working hours.

In September 2022, over £41m of funding to improve bus services across the county was confirmed by Government. ESCC's Bus Service Improvement Plan was approved which has enabled the Council to reduce fares and will support bus priority and bus stop improvements, investments in infrastructure and the provision of more bus services.

Following extensive consultation, Transport for the South East, the region's sub-national transport body which is chaired by ESCC, approved their Strategic Investment Plan which is the blueprint for future investment in strategic transport infrastructure for the next thirty years.

Over the summer, over 600 people looking to get into the world of work attended Apprenticeship Roadshows in Hastings and Eastbourne, with more than 60 training providers and employers from a range of industries on hand to give advice and information. The Apprenticeship Roadshows are part of the £600,000 Transform programme, supported by the European Social Fund, and including match funding of £300,000 from the Council's Apprenticeship Levy which helps small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) access apprenticeship advice and funding. More than 3,600 students from across East Sussex gained an insight into the world of work through the Council's work experience scheme with pupils aged 14-18 from 32 schools being offered placements during the last academic year with over 1,400 businesses. More than 20 businesses have also signed up to the Open Doors scheme which gives young people real-life experience of the workplace and runs from November to June 2023 this year. Recruitment of Industry Champions has also continued, with 190 champions supporting schools and colleges in place by the end of 2022.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme provided for more than 1,800 young people during the Easter holidays, including 300 young people with additional needs. May half-term activities focused on supporting young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and those with low attendance: 1,440 young people were involved through more than 4,500 sessions. Provision was also extended over the summer holidays with over 80 providers across 144 sites, offering activities and nutritious food to children who receive free school meals.

A new Connected Families Service was launched in 2022 for families with children aged 11-17 who are on the edge of care. The service aims to enable children to live safely at home, or where care is necessary, to maintain relationships and work to support children to return home when appropriate. Connected Coaches provide proactive, tailored support for families at their point of need.

Trading Standards were involved in over 425 interventions over the first three-quarters of 2022/23 to protect vulnerable people, including installing CCTV and call blockers to try to prevent people from falling victim to telephone scams. Trading Standards have also obtained Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation orders against convicted individuals this year totalling nearly £100,000. The team also took part in Scams Awareness Fortnight, including speaking to people at local libraries to raise awareness of the types of scams which target vulnerable people.

As at mid-January 2023 1,170 guests were in East Sussex under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, with more than 400 school places allocated to Ukrainian children. ESCC is working with Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to provide support to Ukrainian families.

Helping people help themselves

A new East Sussex SEND strategy for 2022-25 was launched in November 2022 after a 10-month consultation period. The strategy outlines a partnership approach to service provision and commissioning by putting children, young people and their families at the centre of decision making. A new specialist facility for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder opened at All Saints Primary School in Bexhill during 2022, alongside a new free special school in Eastbourne; Summerdown School – which will educate up to 84 learners with a diagnosis of autism, between the ages of 5 and 16.

Reablement services are provided to help people to regain mobility and daily living skills, especially after a hospital stay. Between April and September 2022 90.7% of older people discharged from hospital to reablement or rehabilitation services were at home 91 days after discharge.

Work continued on the further integration of health and social care. The Integrated Care Board (NHS Sussex) was formally established on the 1st July 2022 and is responsible for agreeing strategic priorities and resources for all NHS organisations in Sussex. The joint statutory committee between local government and the NHS, the Sussex Health and Care Assembly approved the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy with work underway to develop a joint Forward Plan which will support delivery of shared priorities. During the last part of 2022, schemes to support people who were medically fit to leave hospital into appropriate onward care settings were mobilised to help alleviate pressures on the NHS. ESCC teams

also worked with urgent community response healthcare services to support people and their carers to remain in their own homes.

Thirteen road safety schemes were completed during the first three-quarters of 2022/23 to improve road safety infrastructure. Nearly 3,000 people have also benefited from 'Bikeability' courses.

A new initiative to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency in privately rented households within areas of Hastings was launched in August 2022. ESCC was one of 13 local authorities to secure funding from the Government's Partnerships for People and Place programme. The funding will help the Council, local partners, and central government colleagues to develop new solutions which aim to reduce fuel poverty and increase the take up of energy efficiency improvements, boosting residents' health and providing environmental benefits.

Making best use of resources in the short and long term

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2023/24 was approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 7th February 2023. Councillors approved a £501m net budget for 2023/24 for the day-to-day provision of services. Spending in 2023/24 also includes part of our £725m 10-year capital programme, which includes investment in roads and highways structures, in reducing the Council's carbon emissions and in school places.

Following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 the Council developed a corporate climate emergency plan for 2020-22, which set out the baseline carbon emissions and the actions to be delivered. In January 2023, Cabinet approved an updated corporate Climate Emergency Plan covering 2023-25. The plan sets out a number of actions to reduce our carbon emissions including in property services, travel, street lighting and procurement. The outturn for quarter 2 of 2022/23 showed a 29% reduction in carbon emissions, from the baseline year 2019/20.

The Council spent £295m with 908 local suppliers over 2022, equating to 67% of total spend. In addition, during the first three-quarters of the year, 10 contracts were awarded which were in-scope of the Social Value Measurement Charter. These contracts had a total value of just over £340m with almost £198m of social value commitments secured, including apprenticeships, employability support and support for the VCSE. This equates to an outturn of 58% of applicable procurement spend, against a target of 10%.

The East Sussex Pension Fund was named Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Fund of the Year (assets over £2.5 billion) at the 2021 Local Authority Pension Fund (LAPF) Investments Awards (announced in March 2022). The award recognises the Fund's excellence in implementing best practice, leadership across pension fund operations, investment performance, governance and administration. In addition, the Fund was highly commended in the Best Climate Change Strategy category.

ROTTER DISTRICT COUNCIL CUE CARY CURTIS

PARISH REPORT

Levelling up grant £19.1 m

del la warr 17m

sidley community hub 2.1m

RDC staff

60% voted to reject, 40% voted to accept.

74% union members voted for industrial action.

Devolvement of toilets

Bexhill town council deferred until after elections.

Battle town council would consult with residents.

Parish assembly appeared to be zero support!

Enforcement

Cost neutral! But only after successful prosecutions less legal costs.

NES Ltd failure of the contract to deliver the environmental objectives.

No fly tipping data available.

Planning

The Brooks refused.

Blackfriars

Budget 12.2, forecast 15.8, 3.6 change in 10 months without a brick being laid!

Spine road was budgeted at 4.1m, work started April last year, revised cost now 8.6m

Leader of council unaware!

Normanhurst Estate

Will go to planning following elections.

Dallington Parish Church

Annual Report

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31 December 2022

St Giles Parish Church, Dallington, East Sussex. TN21 9NH

Incumbent: The Reverend Marc A Lloyd

The Rectory, Rookery Lane, Rushlake Green, Heathfield, TN21 9QJ

Independent Examiner: Richard Woodhams, Clock Cottage, Turners Green, TN21 9RA

Bank: Barclays' Bank, Heathfield

Parochial Church Council of St Giles, Dallington

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The PCC is a charity but is exempted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011.

During the year 2022 the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Incumbent:	The Reverend Marc Lloyd	Chairman
Churchwarden:	Wendy M Miers	Vice Chairman

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: None

Elected Members:	Bobbie Steel	Secretary
	Charlotte Maclean	
	Jane Messer	
	Roz Pierson-Kay	
	Penelope Wrenbury	

Co-opted:	Douglas Sewell	Treasurer
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Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of ex-officio members (the incumbent and churchwarden) members of the Deanery Synod and up to 6 members of the church who must be elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members of the PCC are encouraged to stand for election to try to ensure a good balance of experience and skills, where possible.

Aims and Purposes

St Giles Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Marc Lloyd, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Giles, The Street, Dallington and the associated church grounds.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community at St Giles. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance for charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out our faith as part of the parish community through: Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Giles and the associated church grounds.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Fire safety measures have been put in place in the Church, e.g., doors, signs and phone etc.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

There are 23 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 4 of whom are not resident within the Parish. The average Sunday attendance counted during October was 24 which included the Harvest Thanksgiving. When the school are included the average attendance is 64.

Harvest Festival, in October, was well attended and followed by the Harvest Supper with 45 attending, Remembrance Service, in November, with 24 attending.

A representative attendance on a normal Sunday throughout the year is around 14/15. This is approximately 5% of the population of the Parish. The Easter Day service

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 4 times during the year. No meetings of the Standing Committee were held during the year but members (Incumbent, Churchwarden, Treasurer and Secretary) remain in regular contact between PCC meetings.

Services

The PCC is pleased that a service is held every week. A service organised by the Churchwarden takes place once a month where, as many as possible and willing, are included in the service. The music accompaniment is appropriately and sensitively compiled and produced by our Church Secretary each week. This is the pattern for the month.

1 st Week	11.00 am	CW Service of the Word
2 nd Week	6.30 pm	BCP Evensong
3 rd Week	11.00 am	CW Holy Communion
4 th Week	9.30 am	CW Holy Communion

Rereshments after the services are provided.

School

During term time our church hosts the Dallington C of E school at 9 am on Tuesdays every week to collective worship under the leadership of our Rector. Parents are also invited. The children also come to a Leavers' Service (in July). The pupils also attend St. Giles for Carol and Nativity Services (in December)

The congregation of St. Giles support activities of the school, e.g., services, school fete and parents' and friends' prayer group.

Online services and meetings and special services

Some services were held online including daily Morning and Evening Prayer. A weekly midweek meeting was held via Zoom for Prayer and Bible Study.

The Remembrance Sunday Service commenced in the Church yard surrounding the war memorial followed by the service in the Church. 45 in attendance. Reverend Lloyd took the service.

19th December Carol Service 6.30 pm taken by the Churchwarden.

24th December Christmas Eve Service 11.30 pm Rev'd Lloyd was in attendance.

Church Bells

The PCC are fortunate in having a devoted group of bell Ringers who normally enhance our worship. Ringing on the 2nd (6.30 pm) and 4th (9.30 am) Sundays of each month and at all special services and festivals.

Charities

Proceeds from the Harvest Service and Supper were taken to the Food Bank in Hailsham.

The church participated in the British Legion collection on Remembrance Sunday and the sale of poppies.

Church yards

One of our members works regularly to keep the church yard in good condition. Hedges are cut, pathways edged and weeded, grass strimmed and cut. The new Church yard continues to improve. The Parish Council has donated £600 towards the upkeep of the church yard.

Parish Magazine

The Messenger has continued which serves Dallington, Mountfield, Brightling and Netherfield. Jane Messer continues to organise and distribute the Parish Magazine which serves Dallington, Bodle Street Green and Warbleton.

Church Building

The Church has a regular cleaner to help keep hygiene standards.

Warren Harris has completed the work on the Church roof and it appears to be quite satisfactory.

Ruth Adams has completed painting the porch and all external Church doors. Small door to the Tower has also been painted. The porch is now bright and most welcoming.

Replacement of spot light bulbs still requires addressing.

Approved by the PCC on

and signed on its behalf.

Revd Marc Lloyd – Chairman

DALLINGTON COT E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Report for Parish Council April 2023.

Paul Cox

Overview

We have 114 pupils on roll (105 and we are full)

We have four classes

- Brightling class (Year 5/6) - 38 pupils
- Bodle Street Class (Year 3/4) – 32 pupils
- Wood Corner class (year 1/2) – 27 pupils
- Dallington Class – (EYFS) – 17 pupils

We have two Ukrainian pupils in school (year 5 and Year 6).

We have 14 children on the SEN register including 1 EHCP (Educational Health Care plan)

We have 6 teachers across the school and 9 support staff members.

We have 14 children coming in (currently) for September

We will lose 18 year 6 children in July – I am confident we will pick up a few additional children throughout the year.

School attendance for September to now is 94%. This is below our target of 96% but is above National average for Primary Schools. We were hit hard in term 4 (before Easter) when we had COVID, Scarlett Fever, Chicken Pox and hand, foot and mouth - these lowered our attendance.

We are Federated with Punnetts Town. This relationship has become stronger over the last few years. We have a joint curriculum, share resources, expertise and hold fortnightly staff meetings. This relationship has helped us grow and become stronger.

We had Ofsted in January. The report is available to read on the school website. It was a very positive experience and reflected the school and the journey we are on.

We are still feeling the impact of COVID – we have children who are behind on expectations, children who are 'missing' key life skills (respect, turn taking, empathy) and a lot of children who are struggling with resilience and general motivation. We have put lots into place to support all of these and the children. We have a counsellor who works one day a week, we have two TA's whose job is to deliver interventions, we have a therapy dog who comes in, we have clear focused interventions running across the school. It is tough as most of this is funded by the school.

We have an amazing team of teachers and support staff, wonderful children and generally supportive parents.

We have had a really strong year – we have, academically, made huge progress as well as having fun! We strive- as always- to create life long learners and develop the children's skills. We have run

forest school, we have all children attend swimming, we have had opportunities inside and outside of the class. It has been a year of challenges but they have been challenges we have risen to and met!

A warm welcome for all Dallington residents

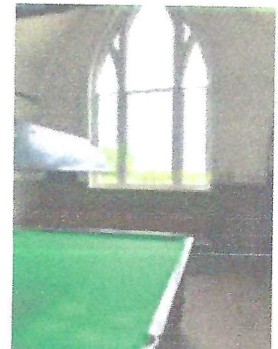
Our annual newsletter coincides with Village Halls Week (January 23th -29th), a national campaign to highlight the contribution England's 10,000+ village halls make to rural communities. This year's focus is on the way that village halls can provide warm, welcoming and inclusive spaces – and that's something that Dallington Old School Village Hall aims to do every week with the community Library Café as well as our other activities. You'll find further information on the village website at <https://www.dallington.org.uk/village-hall/> where you can also sign up for email announcements about forthcoming events. All residents are also warmly invited to our forthcoming **Annual General Meeting on 15th February at 7.00** to hear a more detailed update and contribute to the election of trustees and discussion of future plans.

What's been happening in the hall?

During 2022, the hall committee worked hard to complete improvements to the fabric of the building and to encourage more residents to make the most of their re-opened hall after 18 months of lockdown. Sadly, some regular groups were no longer able to carry on, so we offered a temporary fee waiver to encourage new groups to start. One popular new addition has been a yoga class, now running twice weekly. Private events have included children's parties and regular staff development sessions for a local residential home. We also hosted a variety of well attended public events, including quiz nights, local history talks, a Jubilee exhibition "Dallington Celebrates" displaying photographs and souvenirs from village events over the past 70 years, a Christmas wreath making workshop, and ended the year with a festive Christmas lunch for over 30 villagers.

Billiard Room

After extensive repairs the Billiard Room is once again available for hire by individuals or groups (see website for details). One hundred and fifty years old this month, the room was originally built as a second classroom for the village school, and later became the home of the grandly named Dallington Reading Room and Mutual Improvement and Recreation Society. It's now a bright and airy space again – so do come along and play!



What's next?

Regular activities include:

- Art Club: every Monday morning from 10-12. A small informal group, we welcome new members whatever your level of skill, experience or confidence. Just call in on a Monday to see what's happening and have a go.
- Library Café: every Monday afternoon 2-4 pm and the first Saturday of each month 10-12. Drop in to browse the changing collection of fiction, nonfiction and children's books or just enjoy tea, biscuits and chat (not forgetting home-made cakes and bacon sandwiches at the monthly Saturday morning sessions!) Later in the year, we hope to restart the popular produce table selling fruit and vegetables from the school garden.
- Yoga: two groups, Thursday evenings 8-9pm and Friday mornings 11-noon. See website for details.

Forthcoming events include a traditional Beetle Drive (10th February) and the next Quiz Night in March (see website for dates and details) and we are still open to suggestions for the rest of the year.

Please let us know what else you would like to see happening in the hall

We would really welcome your suggestions for new groups and activities - particularly for and by younger residents - as well as one-off events and talks. With free broadband and a printer, we could perhaps offer a regular slot for people working from home, to provide a change of scene with some coffee and company. What do you think?

About the Old School Village Hall

How is it managed?

Located in The Street, just down the road from the Primary School, Dallington Old School is a registered charity (No:289652), managed by an annually elected committee of voluntary local trustees, whose object is to maintain “a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Dallington.”

The hall is a listed Victorian building so maintenance and repairs can be challenging and costly, though we have been helped by recent grant funding. The other challenge is to attract sufficient visitors and volunteers to keep the hall going when there are so many competing demands on people's time. But we think our community would be poorer if the Old School was forced to close. Please help us to ensure it continues to thrive:

- **Come along to any of our events**

As mentioned overleaf, the Library Café takes place every Monday afternoon from 2-4pm and on the first Saturday morning of each month. Nothing to pay, just drop in, browse, borrow and exchange. For other events, you can usually find out what's on through word of mouth or noticeboards and parish magazines. But to be sure you don't miss anything, please do subscribe to the village website at <https://dallington.org.uk> to receive email alerts.

- **Share your ideas**

If none of the current activities appeal, then please let us know what else you would like to see happening. Even better, perhaps you could organise something yourself - we can help if you have a good idea.

- **Book the hall for your own use**

The main hall is available for hire at £10 an hour for private functions such as parties or staff development sessions, or £5 for regular non-commercial local groups. This covers use of all facilities including the kitchen and free fast broadband. The Billiard Room is also available for £5.00 an hour. To check availability and make a booking please visit <https://www.dallington.org.uk/village-hall/>

- **Volunteer your time – however limited**

We are always looking for new volunteers, whether to serve on the committee or in a more informal capacity. We now have a cleaner for one hour a week, but no regular staff so there are always other small tasks needed, such as ordering supplies, maintaining the outside planters, or contributing ideas, refreshments or raffle prizes for events. Please contact Jane Messer if you might be interested, even if you can only spare an occasional hour to help.

- **Help with fundraising**

If none of the above are currently possible for you, then perhaps you might be willing to contribute in some other way - for instance, by a one-off or regular donation or new ideas for fundraising? Please contact our Treasurer, Pauline Ridley, on 07702 104392 or email p.ridley@brighton.ac.uk if you can help - and if you can Gift Aid your donation, HMRC will give us an additional 25p for every £1 we receive.

We are very grateful to all those villagers who have generously donated small or large sums or given their time to the Old School over the last few years. Thank you.

And finally... do join us for the Annual General Meeting on 15th February at 7.00

All local residents are warmly invited to the forthcoming **Annual General Meeting** at the hall to hear a more detailed update from the current committee, help elect any new trustees and discuss plans for the next year.

DALLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Chairman's Report for 2022

2022 felt like the first normal year for a while after the enormous disruption and closures caused by Covid. Our Treasurer's hard work on a successful grant application during the pandemic meant that we are in a relatively comfortable financial position, at least until the next pressing building repair, the latter always to be expected in a building over 175 years old. We were able to offer a temporary fees waiver to encourage groups to start up again.

The Art Club has continued to meet regularly and there are now two popular weekly yoga classes.

A particular highlight of the year was the re opening of the billiard room, after extensive repair and redecoration. We launched it with a small fun competition over the late Queen's Jubilee weekend, and also took the opportunity to hold an exhibition of past village celebrations, accompanied by home made refreshments.

We have continued to run the weekly Monday afternoon library café and the additional café on the first Saturday of each month (the latter usually featuring bacon sandwiches and homemade cake...). The library cafes have been very successful, not only filling the gap left by the closure of ESCC's mobile library service but also providing a regular informal social event for locals.

Quiz nights continued to be popular, friendly and sometimes competitive events and local history and nature talks were also very well attended. The year culminated in an informal festive wreath making workshop led by Frances Gorrington and in early December, a well attended village Christmas lunch.

I should like to record my personal thanks to my fellow Committee members for the work that they did to support the hall and the events held here over the last year, whether making bacon sandwiches, cakes, soup, opening up the hall, sorting books, serving refreshments, running special events such as the Jubilee Exhibition, devising quizzes, meeting workmen, looking after the window boxes, the list goes on. Without you the parish would not have this historic building available as a meeting place and for special events. And I must make special mention of Frances, who has acted as secretary to the Committee and Pauline our Treasurer, who not only looks after the hall finances and accounts but does so much more, including linking into the AIRS village hall network, running the weekly library cafe and generally keeping watch over the hall. Thank you both.

For the year ahead I hope that usage of the Hall will continue to increase. This is the parish's asset, for its benefit. The Committee would welcome new ideas for events, volunteers to help run events or maintain the hall- and new members! If you would like to get involved, just contact me or any Committee member.

Jane Messer

Reports for Parish Assembly April 2023

Library Café

The weekly community Library Café continues to offer a regular informal opportunity for local residents to meet up and borrow or donate books. We are open every Monday afternoon from 2-4pm and on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon.

Some weeks we may only have one or two visitors, at other times we have a crowd, particularly for the monthly Saturday morning sessions which are usually enlivened by home-made cakes and bacon sandwiches, thanks to our small team of volunteers. Regardless of numbers, a key principle of the Library is that we open every Monday afternoon except bank holidays, and on the first Saturday of every month. It is important that people know we will be there come rain or shine and that there will always be at least one friendly face to share a cup of tea and a chat. Thanks to the donations jar and occasional sales of surplus books, we cover our overheads, but this is not primarily a fund raising exercise but a vital community link. Thanks to everyone who continues to support this initiative.

Art Club

We meet every Monday morning from 10-12. The cost is £3 per session, which helps to cover hall hire charges and refreshments. We currently have a core group of about half a dozen regulars (joined occasionally by guests - including visiting grandchildren) and would welcome new members, whatever your level of skill, experience or confidence. Tutorial advice and feedback is available to those who want it but everyone is encouraged to work at their own pace and to try out different materials and techniques in a friendly supportive atmosphere. The noticeboard in the hall displays a changing selection of our work, showing a variety of styles and subject matter. More information at <https://dallington.org.uk/315-2/art-club/> or just come along on any Monday morning.

RADIO CLUB

Radio Club report for the year ending March 2023

Thank you for taking the time to read our report outlining our successes and failures during the last year. We started the year with a heavy heart, as the world was shaken by the war in Ukraine; for many decades, Amateur Radio has been in use worldwide, without any regard for Ethnicity, Politics or Religion; however, in the last year, we found ourselves unable to operate radio normally. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), both issued instructions effectively banning communications with Russian and Belarus stations, in many international competitions; Although legally we were allowed to do so, the Contest organisers did not accept Russian entries, and awarded zero points for such contacts logged. Even during the Queen's jubilee, where we were allowed to use special callsigns, being called by Russian stations was awkward, as we did not know whether to reply or not.

Our club activities can be summarised into the following areas:

1. Radio Contesting (Also known as Radio Sport!)

Our main contest of the year was held as usual, on the last full weekend of July. This is the Islands on the Air Contest (IOTA), in which we have taken part from Dallington for several years. This is a "mixed mode" contest, allowing the use of "voice" i.e with a microphone, as well as "morse code" with a suitable morse key! (And no, morse code is not dead at all- it continues to save the world – at least in American disaster movies !!!). Here are our contest scores, compared to those of last year:

	2022	2021
Number of contacts made in 24 continuous hours:	1,444	1,269
Position in England	2nd	1st
Position in the UK	2nd	2nd
Position in Europe	10th	8th
Worldwide Position	10th	9th

We are pleased with the above scores – top 10 in the world - and strive to improve them every year. To do so, would require bigger and bigger antennas!!!!

We also took part in a number of other Contests during the year, including some on VHF.

2. Satellite Communication

This year's Satellite activity shifted away from the International Space Station, (ISS), to a Geo-Stationary Satellite launched with Qatari funds, known as Oscar 100. Over the year, we have achieved well over 500 contacts with other Amateur Satellite users, through Oscar 100, all over the footprint of the Satellite, which spans from the Northern tip of Brazil, through to a lot of Africa and the Middle East.

3. "Moonbounce" and "meteor scatter"

Yes, we have been sending signals to the moon, bouncing them off it, and back to Earth, communicating with other Amateur Radio enthusiasts. We have also been doing the same off Meteorites, using short burst "data" communication, to establish contact by bouncing our signals off a meteor, namely the Perseids meteor. How "geeky" can we get? The answer is "hugely geeky" but impressive too, don't you think? ☺.

What's coming up?

The King's Coronation; we will be allowed to use special radio callsigns throughout May 2023 to commemorate this event.

If you are interested in discussing anything above with us, please contact Kevin or myself through Irene, or simply stop and speak to us when walking your dog and wondering what is going on in the field. (By the way, no harm was done to any animals during any of our activities in this report; we love animals almost as much as we love Radio ☺, and take health and safety extremely seriously, on and off the field).

Once again, thanks for reading.

Garro (Callsign: GOPZA) and Kevin (Callsign: G1KAW)
From the Radio Club.

20 April 2023

Tree Warden Activity Report 2023

Threats to Trees and Hedges at Ajeers and Adjacent Farmland

A developer, Westridge Construction Ltd., has acquired the brownfield industrial site at Ajeers Yard together with the adjacent farmland that used to belong to the Young family. Sadly, an area of naturally regenerating woodland has been lost through landscaping before an application for a Tree Protection Order could be made to protect the trees.

The quarry at Ajeers is surrounded on two sides by semi-mature Oak trees and the acquired farmland has old hedges containing a variety of mature trees. These are extremely important for biodiversity and landscape character which would be lost if the trees were removed or damaged.

After lobbying from me and concerned parishioners, a temporary Tree Protection Order was granted by Rother District Council (RDC) in July 2022. The TPO lapses after 6 months if it isn't confirmed by the RDC Planning Committee, and many parishioners wrote to RDC to express their wishes to see the TPO confirmed.

By January this year 7 letters supporting the TPO and 1 objection (from an arboriculturist on behalf of Westridge) had been received. In the face of the objection the RDC Tree Officer has made a robust defence of the original TPO and has gone on to refine the descriptions and increase the number of trees protected. However, one block of trees at the back of Bakers Cottage/Forest View has been removed from the protected group of trees. It is not known why.

A revised TPO was issued on the 9th of January with a closing date for comments of 20th of February. Regrettably, I wasn't made aware of this in time, and I don't know if any letters of support from parishioners were sent. I hope they were.

Black Poplars

You may remember that in February 2020 we planted 16 rare native Black poplar (*Populus nigra betulifolia*) at various locations throughout the parish: at Barn Cottage, Herrings Farm, Highlands Rose Farm, Stream Farm, and Wish House.

During last year's hot dry summer, I'm sad to say that at least 7 of those rare trees succumbed to drought or were severely damaged by livestock. I hope all of the remaining trees are protected from cattle, sheep, and deer – particularly if this summer also turns out to be dry and hot.

Dallington Forest Walks

Thanks to great organising by Brenda Booth a walk in Dallington Forest was arranged on Sunday 26th March. Despite the miserably wet and windy weather we had a good turnout – and didn't lose anyone in the forest or in the mud!

Tree Warden Activity Report 2023

Brenda is organising more walks and if you'd like to come on a walk and/or be involved in helping to organize the walks, please contact her at: – brendaboothkent@aol.com

Tree Group

We are so lucky in having wonderful trees in our parish, including many fine specimens that provide rare, important, and irreplaceable habitats. We need a small group of volunteers to perform simple visual surveys of notable trees to make a register for the parish. Please contact me if interested.

More Tree Wardens

Our parish needs more Tree Wardens and I'm looking for people with an interest in trees to join me in the role. You don't need to be a tree expert, I'm not, just enthusiastic. Please contact me if you can help.