

April '23 Peasmarsh Periodical



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The second [Regulation 16] public consultation on the Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Development Plan concluded at the end of March.

The consultation was conducted by Rother District Council so the burden of collating the responses falls on it, not the PNDP group. These should be available by the time of the next Periodical as that is when the Examiner is due to start his work.

To repeat last month's key point : **our electoral system is important for good democracy**, refreshing the various levels of councils that govern us. The election for Rother councillors is on May 4th, the Thursday before the Coronation. To reduce election fraud we will have to have an **accepted photo ID** in order to vote in person. More information is available on page 2.

Page 3 has an article explaining why there will not be an election for our Parish Councillors. More importantly, it **seeks volunteers to be co-opted onto the Council** in order to bring its numbers up closer to the legal maximum and reduce the risk of Rother having to take direct control of our parish affairs.

As a result of the changes to the Parish Council, there will be two council meetings in May – see page 5 for more information.

Finally, an early warning : the Annual Assembly of the Parish will be on Wednesday May 31st in the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm.

Local Elections

The local elections for Rother District Councillors will be taking place on **Thursday May 4th** in the Memorial Hall. There is no election for our Parish Council.

We will need to present an **accepted form of photo ID** in order to vote such as one of the following :

Passport,

Driving licence / Blue badge,

certain Travel Cards [e.g. older person's bus pass],

Identity card with PASS mark

Defence identity card.

If you don't have a suitable form of ID and intend to vote in person then you can apply for a **Voter Authority Certificate** but be quick : you must apply by **Tuesday April 25th**. The application is undertaken online :

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

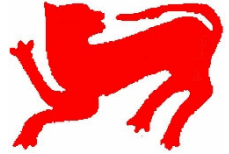
Note that there will not be an election for our Parish Council : see the article on the next page.

Horse and Cart Open Again

It was good to see that the Horse and Cart opened again from the start of the Easter weekend. In fact, it was more than open that first night : it was teeming with customers both old and new [and old and young!]

Mike and Carly want us to feel at home in a traditional village pub. They will be open seven days a week with food served initially from Thursday to Sunday. They have a good range of drinks – including Harvey's Best – and a reasonably priced wine list.

We are lucky in Peasmarch to still have our pubs [there are none left in Northiam] so let's support them as much as possible.



Uncontested Parish Council Election

Why is the election uncontested? Our Parish Council is allowed to have a maximum of nine councillors so a contested election is required when more than that number of people are seeking election to the council.

Well, the sad truth of the matter is that it is uncontested because, other than five of the existing councillors – Robert Barham, Ray Hollman, Peter Lamont, David Pankhurst and Gina Sanderson, no other resident wished to stand for election.

The council is now reduced to only five councillors as three of the existing councillors – Ben Clinton, Mick Coleman and Hilary Pankhurst – decided not to stand. All eight deserve our thanks for the amount of work put in over the last four years.

Having only five councillors leaves the parish council in a precarious position as it may not be able to undertake many of its functions and statutory duties if insufficient councillors are able to attend a council meeting. **Our parish business could ultimately end up being administered by Rother District Council.**

However the council has the ability to co-opt [but not conscript!] members so volunteers are still needed to fill the four vacancies. The more councillors there are, the better the council will be able to function.

There is no point complaining about what the council does if you don't argue your point from inside. This is your chance to do so.

If you would like to find out more then contact any of the people mentioned above or Amy Head, the parish clerk. Follow this link to the Peasmarsh Parish Council website for contact details :

<https://www.peasmarsh.org.uk>

Notices and News

Peasmarsh Flower Festival

This year's festival, themed on **Music in Bloom**, will take place over the weekend of the Spring Bank Holiday :

Friday 26th to Monday 29th May

10am to 5pm Peasmarsh Parish Church

As always, in addition to the flower arrangements, there will be delicious refreshments available, a plant stall, a children's competition and a raffle.

For further information, to become involved in flower arranging or to volunteer, please call Deirdre Bull :

07826 723 409

Chamber Music Festival

The internationally recognised Peasmarsh Chamber Music Festival celebrates its 25th year in 2023.

The festival will take place in late June :

Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th June

Most concerts will be in our parish church although two will be in St Mary's, Rye. The full programme is available on the festival website :

<https://peasmarshfestival.co.uk/>

What's On in Peasmarsh

The next two pages will help you find something of interest. Most are **regular events** but there are some **one-off events** returning to the parish as well. All are in the **Memorial Hall** unless noted otherwise :

bookings.peasmarshmh@gmail.com.

Lunch Club – call Sosi on 07798 556 999

Run by Sosi from Hands of Hope on the first Monday of the month from 11am to 2pm – coffee, lunch and entertainment for just £7.50. Popular with older people, the club supports independence and wellbeing and has a positive impact on nutrition.

Film Club – call Hilary on 01797 230205

The Film Club meets on the second Friday of the month : doors open 7.15pm and the film starts 7.30pm. The film on May 12th will be **Mothering Sunday** [Mr and Mrs Evan give their housekeeper Jane the day off as they are going to their neighbours to celebrate his engagement ... but to whom? ...]

New Members always welcome - come along for a trial showing!!

Parish Council Meeting

From June 6th the new Parish Council will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The public may attend but not participate but there is a 15 minute slot for public contributions at the start of the meeting : **have your say!**

May is a transition month so there will be two meetings : the last meeting of the old council will be on Tuesday May 2nd and the new council will meet on Wednesday May 17th. Both are open to the public as above.

Flower Arranging – call Dierdre on 01797 230208

The Flower Arranging group meets every second Wednesday of the month from 10am to 12 noon.

Pilates – email lizzietuff@gmail.com

The Pilates group meets every Thursday from 11.15am to 12.15pm.

There is more 'What's On' over the page ...

What's On in Peasmarsch [continued]

Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul

Holy Eucharist is celebrated in our parish church on alternate Sundays at 10am. We typically start in Peasmarsch with the first Sunday of the month and alternate with Beckley.

Yoga – call India on 07946 043 919

The Yoga group meets every Tuesday evening from 5.15pm to 6.30pm.

Variety Class – call Julie on 07877 088 318 or email canz2004@yahoo.com

The Variety Class group meets every Friday morning from 10.30am to 11.30am. Include chair/line dancing, singing and dance routines.

Healing Angels – call Lindy on 07594 660 950 or email mlindyalton@yahoo.co.uk

Reiki, Massage, complementary therapies and more at the hall, bookable by appointment.

Dress Making Group – call Celia on 07778 181 346 or email celiapollington@aol.com

A regular activity on the 4th Monday of the month from 1.15pm to 3.15pm, starting January 23. Mixed ability classes – all welcome.

Games Club

Warmth, company, board games and hot drinks every Thursday from 2 to 4pm [**but not May 4th**]. Come along or come and help.

Road Race

The annual 'Rye 10' road race takes place on the Sunday of the coronation weekend [May 7th] around our lanes – it should really be the Peasmarsch 10 – starting and finishing at Jempson's.

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