



East Preston Food & Drink Festival

East Preston's sixth fabulous Food & Drink Festival will be taking place on the Village Green on Bank Holiday Saturday, 27th August, between 12:00 and 17:00. This event offers a true feast of food and drink delights, as well as some children's entertainment. We hope you will want to come again, and if you have not been before, please come along and find out what you have been missing.

The council has again selected a mix of stalls - some old favourites and some first-timers. The East Preston flag will be flown high by local favourites Ristorante Al Mare and Just Because. Amongst the stalls returning will be: Mr Delicious Hog Roast, Jacob's Bagels, Cheesology, Kung Fu Pan, JJ's Cider and Charlene's Chocolate Factory. New stalls will include the Cat Burglar Dough Company (doughnuts), The Sausage Roll Kitchen, Sussex Bee Farm and Riverside Brewery. Please note these details are subject to change at short notice.

Whatever your taste in food there is bound to be something to appeal. Stop on the Village Green to eat what you have bought or take it to the beach for the afternoon and pick up something else for tea on your way back home!

There will be entertainment for children throughout the event. At 12:30, 13:30 and 14:30, Rust and Stardust Productions will be performing The Cackle-Street Cats. From approximately 15:00 onwards, Bubblepop will be doing wonderful things with bubbles.

This event will be the culmination of a lot of hard work from a very small number of people. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them here: Andy Billups, East Preston Festival Committee and anyone who has helped to spread the word, and all council staff. Special thanks to Barista Bros. and Nibbs Gin for sponsoring this year's flyers.

We look forward to a wonderful day for the village - **Cllrs Christine Bowman, Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, Pat Gander, John Gunston, Elizabeth Linton and Steve Toney - the Major Events Committee**

Please read these boring but important bits...

We have tried to keep them to a minimum but for everyone's safety there will be some road closures. With the exception of event vehicles, Willowhayne Crescent will be closed between 08:00 and 18:00. Additionally, Sea Road from the southern side of the entrance to Crown Place down to the junction with Seaview Road and South Strand will also be closed for the same period of time. "But I only live (or work) just there" or "I only need to get there" are excuses a small number of drivers use each year.

Please take this as fair warning of the road closures which will be in place on the day.

Please could you ensure no vehicles are left alongside the Village Green or in the car-park after 08:00 on Saturday, 27th August.

There will be alcohol available to drink at the event and there will be alcohol available to take home.

Sussex Police has asked us to let everyone know that if any alcohol purchased for take home purposes is opened in public it may be seized and poured away. No opened containers of alcohol should be taken beyond the area of the event, basically the area of the road closures. Your understanding and co-operation in all these matters during this time will be much appreciated.

Dog owners are strongly advised to leave their pets at home as this event has been particularly well-attended in the past. In addition to chocolate which most dog owners know is poisonous to dogs, other foodstuffs which may be dropped on the ground during the day and which are dangerous to dogs are raw and cooked onions and various cooked meats. If you do bring dogs with you, please ensure that they are kept on a lead at all times and bring some water for them. Please remember to bring some poo bags too.



Facebook users can keep up to date with the latest Festival news at www.facebook.com/epfdf

Your good health, your Majesty! ⁽¹⁾

On Sunday, 5th June, Dorothy Lee, a fourth-generation East Preston resident, dedicated a new Field Maple tree at the North East corner of the Village Green. This is to celebrate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne. Some spectators witnessed the ribbon-pulling ceremony before *The Big Lunch – A Picnic on the Green* commenced; this was an event organized by the East Preston Festival Committee in conjunction with the council. The photograph shows Dorothy with Cllr Elizabeth Linton.

Entertainment for *The Big Lunch* started with The Junior School Choir followed by Vintage Candy and ended with Juice, all local acts. In between these, music was provided by DJ (and parish councillor) Kit Bradshaw.

The weather, although forecast for rain, was dry and a good time appeared to be had by all.

The council thanks all members of the Festival

Committee and everyone across the village who helped to make the Festival another success for the village.



Your good health, your Majesty! ⁽²⁾

As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the council gave all pupils at East Preston Infant and Junior Schools a special commemorative beaker. Unlike previous gifts of a ceramic mug, some of which never reached home, the council decided to give each child a hardwearing plastic beaker suitable for hot and cold drinks.

Cllrs Linton and Moore are pictured giving beakers to members of the Infant School Council, and Cllr Duff is pictured with some Y6 Junior School pupils and their beakers.



Our thanks to Mrs New and Mr Tidd, Headteachers, for working with the council on this. The council has a small number of beakers available for sale at just £3 each. If you would like one, please contact the Council Office.



Celebrating Heywood Hardy



On 2nd July, the council unveiled its fourth blue plaque, each commemorating famous people who have lived in the village.

The fourth plaque has been installed at Forge House in The Street and honours artist Heywood Hardy, initially known for his paintings of horses and other animals, but towards the end of his life, also known for his modern take on Biblical scenes, often using East Preston residents as models. Some of his most famous works can be seen in a set of panels commissioned by St Mary at Clymping church (see above).

Our thanks to Emma and Paul and Barbara, who between them, live in two houses which were once a single Forge House; and to DART Ltd. for installing the plaque at no cost to the village.

For more information on Heywood Hardy, please look out for Graham Lewis's article in the September issue of *All About East Preston and Kingston*.

Do you know for a fact someone noteworthy previously lived in your house? If so, please get in touch and we will follow up your information.

REMEMBERING STEVE ROLPH

Last year the council and many local residents were saddened by the loss of the weekday Village Orderly, Steve Rolph.

As a small tribute to Steve and the work he did around the village, the council refurbished one of the benches at the entrance to the Warren Recreation Ground, and marked it with a plaque in his memory. Steve's partner, Dawn, and members of his family gathered at the bench to see the plaque for themselves. Dawn said, "It really is lovely. Thank you so much to the council." Laughing, Dawn added, "It's true it was his park and village."

The bench has been refurbished in line with the council's policy of using recycled plastic

rather than wood and should be good for at least the next twenty-five years.



In memory of
Steve Rolph
Much-loved Village Orderly
between 2012 and 2021

Come and meet your local councillors - the feedback

On Thursday, 9th June, the council ran its annual Festival event for local people to come along and meet their councillors and, over a hot drink and a cupcake, talk to the council about life in East Preston. No threat of rain this year, just clear sunshine throughout the event.

As before, with the exception of one or two very site-specific comments we thought it best to report back here on the comments recorded on that day.

EPPC – East Preston Parish Council; ADC – Arun District Council; DAG – Disability Action Group; WSCC – West Sussex County Council.

Comment	Response
1. Several hedges around the village are overhanging the footpath making it difficult to walk past them. What can be done?	WSCC – overgrown hedges and the like can be reported via the LoveWestSussex website (love.westsussex.gov.uk). The local Highways steward may then visit and speak or write to the property owner.
2. Village Green car-park should be free to use.	EPPC - The Village Green car-park is not free to run. There are unsubsidised business rates to be paid and regular drainage maintenance to stop it flooding as it used to do every winter. The council set the hourly rate to the lowest possible rate, 50p an hour, the lowest for a Pay and Display car-park in the area.
3. Difficult to get electric buggy onto Village Green.	EPPC - When the council replaced the low-level fencing around the Village Green, it included additional access points. The council is still awaiting a contractor to install plastic matting at these points, but all together this should make access much easier for electric buggies.
4. Concerned about proposed development of 54 houses in Kingston Lane.	EPPC - The proposal falls within the boundary of Kingston Parish Council and as councils we will wait until a Planning Application has been submitted before responding formally.
5. There is no point in objecting to Planning Applications as the Local Planning Authority does not listen.	A Personal Statement from Cllr Terry Chapman, Ward Councillor for East Preston and Chair of the ADC Planning Committee, "The statement is illogical. If no representations were made, as is suggested, then applications would not be scrutinised at all."
6. Reach the Beach initiative is getting nowhere fast.	DAG is waiting for plans to be drawn up so a Planning Application can be submitted and grants applied for.
7. Can we check again whether we could have bunting up in the village again?	Enerveo - we do not allow anything to be strung between streetlights, including bunting as it poses a safety risk; it is a policy we have had for some years now. As the streetlighting contractor for WSCC, it is our duty to ensure the safety of the public and are entrusted by them to enforce policies that ensure this.

The event always provides some compliments too. Amongst those received this year were: "Lovely village," "The office staff are amazing, always approachable," "Great community spirit," "most dog owners are responsible," "The East Preston Bloomers are brilliant," "The council's e-newsletter emails are great."

Thanks to Girlguiding East Preston and Angmering District, Kerry's Coffee and Deli Shop and East Preston Festival Committee for their assistance with and support of this event.

Comment	Response
8. Could more village activities be listed in the village noticeboards?	EPPC – wherever possible the council includes posters for local events in its noticeboards, but sometimes there are just too many events and not enough space. We are hoping to produce a list of regular activities to include in the noticeboards, space permitting.
9. Certain businesses need to improve their shopfronts.	EPPC - the council does not involve itself with shop front appearance and would hope that all traders would take pride in trying to look their most attractive.
10. The Festival Committee should be allowed to use the Village Hall free-of-charge for the week of the Festival.	EPPC – whilst the council can raise this with the Village Hall Foundation, ultimately this is a matter for the two organisations to decide between themselves.
11. Please could the council install a bicycle rack on the Council Office forecourt?	EPPC – yes, we shall investigate this.
12. The potholes in Vermont Drive are always shocking and any repairs are soon demolished by the amount of traffic using the road.	EPPC – we have referred this to WSCC on numerous occasions. The way in which roads are prioritised for resurfacing is changing in the new year, and hopefully this will finally see Vermont Drive resurfaced.
13. When potholes are repaired, the detritus is not always cleared away and this can cause damage to vehicles.	Question submitted to WSCC for comment.
14. Could more people in the village look after the areas in front of their properties, litterpick and weed?	EPPC – East Preston residents, what do you say to this?
15. Could householders ask contractors not to park on grass verges in the village? Unattractive and obstructive to people with reduced mobility.	EPPC – difficult and unattractive as it is, sometimes contractors have to decide between partially obstructing a pavement or wholly obstructing a road, which may lead to emergency services not getting to where they are needed.

East Preston in Bloom

Many of you will have seen the EP Bloomers (as they are affectionately known!) around the village, generally tidying up public areas. Areas we have weeded include the beds at the northern shops, frontage of the Conservative Hall, areas by the Sea Road toilets and Warren Recreation Ground and the car park and pavement areas in the southern part of the village.

We aim to become a community-led voluntary group, liaising with the council and other organisations to improve and enhance the attractiveness of the village. Working outdoors in friendly groups enhances our wellbeing and encourages lively conversation. Rose, Carol L, Carol B and Pat have formed a committee with a vacancy for one more. The group has adopted a constitution written by the committee.

We are now moving forward with new projects. We recently weeded the two flower beds adjacent to the northern fish and chip shop. This area was very overgrown, and we have planted drought- tolerant shrubs, including lavender, hebe, and rosemary.

In early autumn we plan to create a small woodland glade on part of the Village Green, using shade-loving, native plants.

We are liaising with WSCC to enhance the garden areas in front of the library. We intend to add planters providing year-round colour. In the Autumn, we will plant spring bulbs in the grass areas to around the building.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers: Barbara, Carol L, Terry, Carol B, Christine, Patrick, Jenn, John, Pam, Linda, Lyn, David, Yvonne, Rose, Sandra, Sheila, Sue. Their commitment and hard work is so much appreciated – all done with a cheerful smile! Thank you also to Cooper Adams for storing our brown bins and for the generous donation of gardening gloves and kneelers.



We have other ideas and welcome suggestions from residents and businesses. If anyone is interested in participating actively in our group or would like to donate towards the purchase of plants and planters, please contact Pat Gander at cldr.patricia.gander@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk.

East Preston Men in Sheds

This new group continues to go from strength-to-strength and we thank Adrian, David, Kelvan, Ken, Neil and Tony for becoming its initial committee members. A constitution has been drafted and this should be approved by the group when it next meets, on 6th September.

The group has formulated plans for a potential venue and is currently working out how much that will cost and sourcing funding. Donations welcome, financial only at this time, please contact the Council Office if you can help. Later donations of potential kit will certainly be considered too.

The group remains eager to start some hands-on projects but, in the meantime, meets on the first Tuesday of every month (except August) at 14:30 in the upstairs room at the Royal British Legion building in The Street.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact the Council Office.

Simply the best

Were you able to get out and see this year's summer display by the wonderful East Preston Yarnbombers. Taking the Platinum Jubilee theme and running and running and running with it, the Yarnbombers, with a little help from a few friends, created an incredible pair of thrones, complete with built-in crowns and Corgis, set in front of an array of tree decorations. We believe, the group's efforts even made it on to national television. Thank you again, all Yarnbombers.



Pictured are the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cllrs Steve Toney and Elizabeth Linton.

Correspondence Corner

Please could we request that people trim back to their boundary any overhanging branches and shrubs and hedges, we would be grateful.

There are a lot of hedges that are beyond people's property boundary, making pavements narrower, and also overhanging tree branches and shrubbery, which means having to walk on the grass or road, or risk getting poked in the eye or head by branches and shrubbery. This is even worse for anyone with reduced mobility or maybe needing to steer a wheelchair or a pushchair.

It is particularly bad in North Lane, on both sides of the road, and Sea Road.

This is a lovely village with lovely greenery, some of which just needs to be brought under a bit of control. If any residents have difficulty doing this, there may be people in the village willing to help them back occasionally.

MS

♥ Your Village

- > What does living in a village mean to you?
- > Could it be a more peaceful, prettier place to live with a slower pace of life?
- > Could it be knowing your neighbours better than you probably would in a town or city?
- > Could it be working together towards community goals?

Probably it is all of the above things and more.

There are many groups working across the village to make life a much better place for all residents. One of these is KEPT (Keep East Preston Tidy) which is a small army of volunteers who go around collecting litter dropped by other people. "A high low level issue" was how John Wintle of KEPT described the problem of litter in the village at a recent meeting of the Parish Council Environmental Issues Working Party. To find out more about KEPT, please visit the group's Facebook page or email John at keptsussex@gmail.com.

Imagine the difference if we all took responsibility for clearing the litter and weeds

from the front of our own properties (and those of any neighbours who may be unable to manage their own).

John had some useful suggestions: ♥ always carry a plastic bag and use it to pick up litter and place it in the nearest bin ♥ if it can be recycled take it home and put it in your own recycling bin ♥ build litter-picking into a daily walk - good for your health and the community ♥ borrow a litter-picker from KEPT or the Council Office ♥ adopt a local area and try to keep it litter-free ♥ join with friends and neighbours to adopt a street ♥ dog-walkers please use the many dog bins dotted around the village ♥ follow KEPT on Facebook for more news and ideas.

During our Parish Council walkabouts Councillors are constantly told by parishioners how lucky we are to live in East Preston. We all know "every little helps" so, as temporary custodians, let's all do a little bit extra to help keep the village tidy and litter-free.

♥ Your Village

A Christmas Invitation – Christmas Tree Festival 2022

Many of you will recall the Christmas Tree Festivals of 2014, 2016 and 2019. It was a highlight of the year. Around 2,500 visitors came through St Mary's Church in 2019.

Now Covid restrictions are lifted, we are experiencing increasing interest in our proposal to hold another one this year - from 9th to 11th December.

It was the generosity, inspiration and creativity of those that sponsored and decorated trees that created the stunning experience for everyone to enjoy.

What is not to like?

For just a few days, the Grade 1-Listed St Mary the Virgin Church is transformed into the personification of Christmas in a symphony of lights. You can raise the profile of your activities and your part in village life. Or, of course, you can decorate in the traditional way should you prefer.

Here is the Tree - Mendous Invitation and Challenge

It is really easy - simply sponsor a 5ft - 6ft tree for a minimum of £50. And then decorate it. OR you could sponsor a tree and have it decorated by a group such as the Scouts/cubs, Guides/brownies, Schools, Sea Cadets etc.

Thanks to the generosity of Quercus Nursery, the maximum number of 43 trees have all been donated to the Friends Of St Mary's, saving us nearly £1000. Almost 100% of the gross takings from this event will go to the Friends EPIC Appeal, which is ringfenced to pay for the repair, maintenance and preservation of the oldest building in the village. Whilst the Festival takes place in a church, this is a festive, seasonal, non-religious, all-age community event.

All the sponsors and decorators are invited to the Big Switch On ceremony, and you can take your tree away on the 12th December to use in your home or business.

We anticipate a big demand for the 43 trees, so if we are oversubscribed there will be a ballot. Applicants will be advised in late September if

they have been successful. The closing date for applications is Friday, 16th September.

In the meantime, if you want more information to reserve a tree, please contact Malcolm McLelland on 01903 412961 or richardmcllelland@sky.com

Malcolm McLelland,
Chairman, Friends of St Mary's

Village Life

September

- 3rd Merchant Navy Day (10:00, East Preston Library)
- 5th Full Council (19:00)
- 9th Emergency Service Day flag-raising (10:00, East Preston Library)
- 12th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting (19:00)
- 25th East Preston Beach Clean No. 18 (11:00, Sea Road)
- 26th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)

October

- 3rd Full Council (19:00)
- 9th Funday Sunday (14:00 – 17:00)
- 10th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Personnel Committee (19:00)
- 24th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Major Events Committee (19:00)

November

- 7th Full Council (19:00)
- 14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Amenities Committee (19:00)
- 21st Finance & General Purposes Committee (10:00)
Audit & Governance Committee (11:00)
- 26th East Preston Christmas Celebrations (12:00 – 17:00)
- 28th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)

Please consult the Noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda and venue.

Please note the above list may be subject to change.



Please contact the office if you would like a large print version of this newsletter.



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