



## East Preston Food & Drink Festival

East Preston's seventh fantastic Food & Drink Festival will be taking place on the Village Green on Bank Holiday Saturday, 26th 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. Amongst the stalls returning will be: Ristorante Al Mare, Taco Look At Me Now, Mr Delicious Hog Roast, Cheesology, Kung Fu Pan, JJ's Cider, the Cat Burglar Dough Company (doughnuts) and Sussex

Bee Farm. New stalls will include Chirpy Chicken, Olly's Fish Shack, Bodhi's Kitchen, The Gay Farmer and Krishna Cuisine. 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. Nic and Ben will be here with funfair rides, there will be Punch & Judy at 12:30 and 13:30 and Bubblepop will again be doing wonderful things with bubbles from 14:00 onwards.

### **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, 26th 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 them 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.

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.

We look forward to a wonderful day for the village - Cllrs Christine Bowman, Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, Helen Hill, Elizabeth Linton and Steve Toney - the Major Events Committee.



Facebook users can keep up to date with the latest Food & Drink Festival news at [www.facebook.com/epfdf](http://www.facebook.com/epfdf).

## Rose success is all relative

Much to her surprise and delight, East Preston resident Ann Brown recently won the “vase showing 3 different stages of development of the same variety of Rose: bud, perfect and full blown” class at the East Preston & Kingston Horticultural Society’s Rose Show, held on 10th June.

The surprise element of the victory was Ann was temporarily away convalescing at the time and had no idea neighbours had liaised with Ann’s daughters to enter the competition on her behalf.

Ann’s victory was all the sweeter as the class winner receives the Norman Brown Trophy, donated by her husband shortly before he died, and first presented in 2015.

“I am so surprised and delighted to be awarded the Norman Brown Trophy although my friend Vanessa Lavender should be the holder as it was her idea to show the roses! It is an absolute honour and very touching to have won. I know Norman would have been so proud.”

Chairman of the Horticultural Society, Celia Buckley, added, “The Horticultural Society holds three shows throughout the year, and anyone can enter any of the classes. We also hold



several talks and events. For more information, please look at our website.”

<https://celiabuckley.wixsite.com/epkhs>



Very sadly, soon after the above article had been written, Ann passed away. Her family agreed the article should still be published, a tribute to both their parents and the joy their roses brought to the village.

## All aboard!



The council has worked closely with Rustington Parish Council and Compass Travel to revive a bus service to the southern end of the village, and a limited service started on Tuesday, 30th May. Research at the West Sussex Records Office confirmed it was 41 years since such a service was withdrawn at short notice by West Sussex County Council, although some minibus services had operated more recently.

The service runs between the Village Green and Littlehampton Tesco, taking in Sainsbury’s, Aldi

and The Wave leisure centre as it goes. There are six westbound journeys a day, hourly starting at 09:50, and five eastbound journeys, hourly starting at 10:10. Compass services are part of the government’s current £2 a bus journey initiative, and bus passes are accepted. Journey time is about forty minutes, end to end.

Early response to the new service has been very positive: “I no longer need to take the car to Sainsbury’s,” and “Nice to see the service restored after all these years.”

Because the East Preston section is an add-on to an existing service, the route is perhaps not as straightforward as if it had been designed from scratch. However, if we decide to continue the service beyond its initial trial period, we will talk to Compass Travel and Rustington Parish Council about possibilities for improving the route.

**Timetables are available from the Council Office and East Preston Library or online at <https://www.compass-travel.co.uk/download/west-sussex-bus-services/012.pdf>.**



## Thank you Festival Committee

Every year, lots of residents enjoy a range of events organised by the East Preston Festival Committee.

With new and/or increased participation in events such as the Carnival Parade, the scarecrow competition, the open gardens and the shop-window competition, this year felt like the Festival was finally back to full post-Covid strength.

We simply want to thank the East Preston Festival Committee, a very small number of residents, for what it achieves every summer and at its other events through the year. Long may the Festival continue.

**If you would like to know more about helping to organise the Festival, please contact the Council Office who will pass on your details to the Festival Committee.**

## Beach Clean, 24th September

The council's next Beach Clean will take place on Sunday, 24th September, an end-of-season tidy up.

As you can see, following a suggestion from a local parent, we have invested in some child-sized litter-picks and bag-hoops. We hope this will make it easier for younger residents to take part.

The event will run for an hour from midday. The start point for the event will be the very bottom of Sea Road.

If you would like to take part, please pre-register to Alison by email ([admin@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)) or by calling (01903) 770050.



## Ellie Thornton Foundation

For the latest in our occasional series of talking to residents who volunteer for local charities, we spoke to Andy and Denise Thornton, East Preston residents for the past seventeen years.

"As a family we have always believed in giving back where and when we can. For the last twenty years we have volunteered for St Barnabas and Chestnut Tree House hospices, helping to raise much needed funds. We have been amazed by the generosity of supporters.

"In 2017 we lost our beloved granddaughter Ellie. Ellie was on her way to catch the school bus when she was in collision with a van. Our lives changed forever that day, but we were proud that Ellie saved three lives by donating organs.

"Our family wanted a positive outcome from our tragedy and, in 2018, The Ellie Thornton Foundation was launched. Our primary aims are to help the siblings of special needs children so they can enjoy a day out, and to improve road safety in schools.

"We have funded body cameras for lollipop men and women, safety signage for schools and hope to give road safety talks, and Ellie Days has provided grants to a few very grateful families.



"Last year, we held the very successful EllieFest, a family festival and fun day. We are currently planning the same for 2024.

"We are actively involved in attending events to raise awareness - some of you would have seen our purple gazebo at the recent community fête - and we volunteer at EllieFest. The positive feedback we get makes it all worthwhile and we feel we are making a difference.

"The Ellie Thornton Foundation is always grateful to anyone who can spare a few hours to volunteer for us. If you would like to learn more about us please visit [www.elliethorntonfoundation.org.uk](http://www.elliethorntonfoundation.org.uk) or our Facebook page."

# Come and Meet Your Local Councillors – the feedback

On Thursday, 8th 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.

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.

## Abbreviations

**EPPC** East Preston Parish Council

**ADC** Arun District Council

**DAG** Disability Action Group

**WSSC** West Sussex County Council

## Comment

1. How can I be considered for an allotment in East Preston?

2. What can we do about inconsiderate parking in the village?

3. Please could the whole of Vermont Drive be resurfaced?

4. What is the future of the [extended No. 12] bus service?

5. Please could you ensure First Aid points at events have a supply of water to give out?

6. Could the solid white line on the southern side of Roundstone Level Crossing be repainted?

7. A business in the northern shops parks liveried vehicles on the main road when there are spaces in the service road. Could this be addressed?

## Response

There is a single allotments site in East Preston, between Roundstone Drive and Roundstone Crescent. This is owned and managed by ADC. This matter is being looked into for us by Arun District Councillor, Paul Kelly.

Ever-increasing numbers of vehicles in the area lead to increasing amounts of poor parking. EPPC does invite ADC's Civil Parking Enforcement officers to visit the village, but they can only tackle vehicles parked where there are clear parking restrictions. We have also invited Sussex Police to visit areas in the village where there is regular poor parking.

WSSC is aware of the condition of the road but has not yet given a timescale for any major repairs.

EPPC is committed to a trial of the service up until the end of March 2024. A funding decision will need to be taken three months before then, based upon the council's own monitoring and information provided by Compass Travel.

Yes, certainly EPPC can ensure this for its own events and can recommend other event organisers do the same.

A request has been submitted to WSSC.

EPPC has spoken to the business in question and explained the problems such parking caused.

The event always provides some compliments too. Amongst those received this year were: "I know people who are using the bus and are finding it useful," "Councillors and staff always listen," and "Thank you for all the work you all do."

Thanks to Girlguiding East Preston and Angmering District and East Preston Festival Committee for their assistance with and support of this event.



## Comment

8. Is there any news on when we will get double yellow lines on the main road adjacent to the northern shops service road?

9. Is there an update on the implementation of the 20mph Zone in the centre of the village?

10. Could the council consider stopping charging for use of the Village Green car-park?

11. Could the council consider providing a defibrillator at the very bottom of Sea Road.

## Response

EPPC submitted a request to WSCC in February 2022 and in March 2022 received confirmation the request had been evaluated. A year later EPPC asked for an update, and has been asked to provide information already provided.

The council agreed to pursue this and has passed relevant documentation to West Sussex County Council. We will update residents as and when we hear more.

EPPC does monitor usage of and income from the car-park. The charge was introduced to reduce the number of people who were parking in the car-park for extended periods of time and to cover the expenditure of the annual essential drainage maintenance. The hourly rate was kept to 50p and has not increased.

Yes, the council certainly can discuss this with the relevant parties and then consider how to progress this suggestion.

## Save our Swifts

Swift populations have more than halved in the last 23 years and swifts are now on the UK's list of endangered birds. Everything except nesting is done on the wing: eating, drinking, mating, sleeping, preening and bathing (cruising slowly through rain). UK swifts winter in Africa, and in an average lifetime (5½ years) a swift might fly 4 million miles.

You can help save swifts by putting up a nest box. They need an unobstructed flyway at least 5m above the ground



to which they zoom in at high speeds. You can buy a swift box at an RSPB shop or if you want to find out more [www.rspb.org.uk/makeswiftswelcome](http://www.rspb.org.uk/makeswiftswelcome).

Another way to help swifts is by planting wildlife-friendly flowers and not using any kinds of garden chemicals. A pair of swifts may gather 20,000 aphids, midges and other insects a day!

Please help Save Our Swifts.





# Christmas is coming

- at least it is if you're a Yarnbomber, and we have already started our Christmas project. This year sees us working in partnership with the East Preston Men in Sheds for the first time, but we would also love to have some help from village residents.

Remember the Christmas Tree in 2021, when you knitted and crocheted a mountain of granny squares for us? Well, this time we want you to do the same but with plain RED squares. Of course, we're keeping the plan a secret but hopefully you will trust us to "pull it off".

We will be launching the project at the Horticultural Show on 5th August when you can collect a kit of yarn and patterns. Please note we are asking you to use our yarn, so we get a co-ordinated look. There are many, many shades of red!

It was such fun to have the villagers involved when we did the tree, and we are really looking forward to 25th November when we will have the "Big Reveal".

The Parish Council has kindly agreed to act as a collection point for kits and for finished squares and we are indebted to them.

We'll answer any questions when you pick up your pack at the Village Hall on 5th August!

Thank you all for all your support of our previous projects.

*East Preston Yarnbomers*

\*\* Please note, as 5th August falls in the middle of the distribution period for this newsletter, it is possible you have only received this newsletter after the project has launched.



## Overgrown vegetation

Recent weather has caused a welcome growth spurt for many people's gardens. Sometimes though, overgrown vegetation can cause an obstruction to pedestrians and buggy users. In addition to checking your own property, please help to keep our village looking nice and tidy. Remember there is a balance to be struck between providing a hospitable environment for wildlife, being villagey and keeping pavements and footpaths accessible.

**If you notice any seriously overgrown vegetation please report it to the Highways Department at West Sussex County Council, online at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/trees-hedges-weeds-and-grass/>**



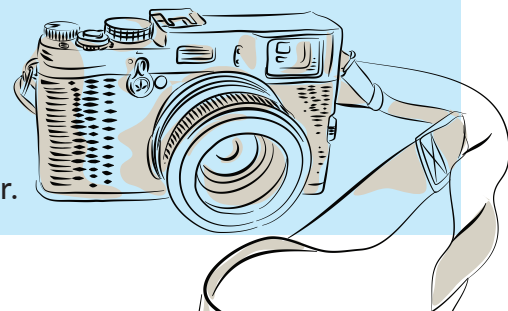
## 2024 Calendar

Last year, the council produced its first East Preston calendar. We have learned some lessons, and this year we would again like your help to make it great!

The council would love to see your photos from all seasons of East Preston, all angles of your favourite places around the village.

We prefer to use pictures which do not show specific businesses, and prefer photos without people as we cannot always get permission to publish these. Please get snapping our beautiful village and send your entries to [cllr.lisa.duff@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lisa.duff@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk) before the 8th September. If you cannot email an entry, please drop a copy into the Council Office.

Where possible, we will use some of the best photographs submitted. We hope to have the calendar on sale before this year's East Preston Christmas Celebrations, which is on Saturday, 25th November.



## Recycling coffee pods

The Environmental Initiatives Working Party is always looking to reduce waste in the village. You may be aware you can recycle soft plastics in local supermarkets or the Council Office. This includes items such as clean food wrappings, and dishwasher and washing machine tablet refill pouches. The wellbeing clinic opposite the Council Office now collects bras for recycling.

The council has now registered with Podback to recycle your used coffee pods and a collection bag will be in the entrance to the office.

Podback says "Everyone wants to do the right thing and recycle as much as possible. That's why the biggest names in coffee pod systems, Nespresso, Nescafe Dolce Gusto, and Tassimo



came together to create Podback." For a full list of the 20+ pods which can be recycled, please visit <https://www.podback.org/about>.

Podback's mission is "To create a world where every coffee pod enjoyed is recycled."

Please bring your clean dry coffee pods to the office and continue this great work!

## As easy as riding a bike

If you are lucky enough to be able to ride a bicycle, why not join us to enjoy the benefits of cycling in East Preston?

Active travel has been proven to increase physical activity and improve wellbeing. Removing car journeys contributes to reduced congestion as well as reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality. Economically, healthier employees are more productive and there are also personal savings for individuals who switch from motorised transport. Some people may also benefit from a social connection with the neighbourhood to help reduce loneliness.

Government strategy is to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey by 2040. Cycling, e-biking or walking can help tackle the climate crisis – even if you swap the car for active transport just one day a week - according to a study published in 2021 led by researchers from the University of Oxford's Transport Studies Unit. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959378021000030>)

Within the village we are lucky enough to have a large number of cycle hoops for secure cycle storage at the northern shops, the Conservative Hall, the Village Hall, the back of the Village Green car-park and the southern shops.

THINK! the Government's designated road safety campaign suggests doing five things to stay safe on the roads: make good and frequent observations, choose the most suitable riding position for each point in your journey, communicate intentions clearly to others, understand priorities on the road and be

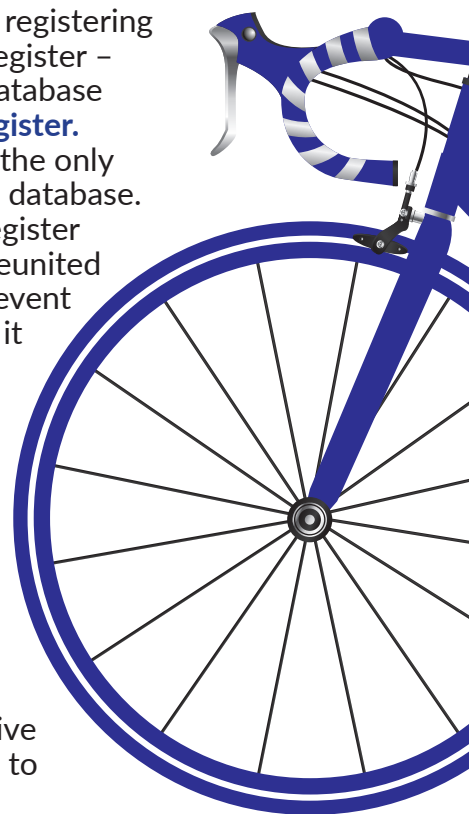


Cllrs  
Gunston  
and  
Wilkinson  
ready to  
cycle

prepared. More details at <https://www.think.gov.uk/cycle-safety/>

In case you are worried about theft, please consider registering your bike with Bike Register – The National Cycle Database - <https://www.bikeregister.com/>. BikeRegister is the only Police approved cycle database. Registering on BikeRegister means you could be reunited with your bike in the event of it being stolen, but it does not help make it a harder target to thieves. To reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of cycle theft, you can purchase a variety of security kits from the website, all for under £30.

We hope that you'll give some serious thought to getting on your bike.





## Village Life

### September

- 3rd Merchant Navy Day
- 4th Full Council (18:30)
- 9th Emergency Services Day
- 11th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Warren Recreation Ground AGM (19:00)
- 25th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)

### October

- 2nd Full Council (19:00)
- 9th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Personnel Committee (18:00)
- 24th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Major Events Committee (19:00)

### November

- 6th Full Council (19:00)
- 12th Remembrance Sunday (11:00, wreath-laying)
- 13th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Amenities Committee (19:00)
- 20th Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00)  
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00)
- 25th East Preston Christmas Celebrations  
(12:00 to 17:00)
- 27th 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.

## Still blooming

This new community group started in March 2022. This project was borne out of a need to address social isolation amongst the community, increasingly after the pandemic. Our aim was to promote people's wellbeing by encouraging people of all ages to make new friends, becoming more active and enjoying the outdoors. At the same time, we wished to improve the community spaces in East Preston by new planting projects and maintenance of public areas.

We were very fortunate to have the support of East Preston Parish Council who helped us fund early projects. By the beginning of the summer we had formed a committee.

Since then, the group has flourished and not only have we organised working parties to tidy, weed and maintain public areas in the village, we have created new floral and plant beds in the northern shops, the Village Green, Two Acres and around the library. We have also planted many additional spring bulbs around the village.

## NEWS FLASH

We have just been awarded £10,000 by the National Lottery Community Fund for new projects in the next year. This is fantastic news. We would welcome ideas for projects to further enhance the village. Please contact us on [admin@epinbloom.org.uk](mailto:admin@epinbloom.org.uk) or Pat on 07590 220331.

## Council e-news

Would you like to be kept up to date with more East Preston news?

The Council has an email circulation list which is used to keep subscribers informed of local news and events. Subscriber details are not shared with any other organisation.

Please send us an email, details below, if you would like to subscribe to our email list – over 900 households and businesses already subscribe.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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



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Unless otherwise noted, this issue was written by Simon Cross, Lisa Duff, Patricia Gander, John Gunston, Elizabeth Linton, Alison Roberts and Denise Thornton.