

East Preston Christmas Celebrations

Saturday 25th November 12:00 to 17:00

This year, East Preston's Christmas starts on 25th November

The East Preston Christmas Celebrations will again be a great way of starting your Christmas season. Officially, the event runs from 12:00 until 17:00, although some hospitality venues in the village will undoubtedly be offering to extend your celebrations into the evening.

The numbers on this map identify specific event locations as detailed in the timetable overleaf.

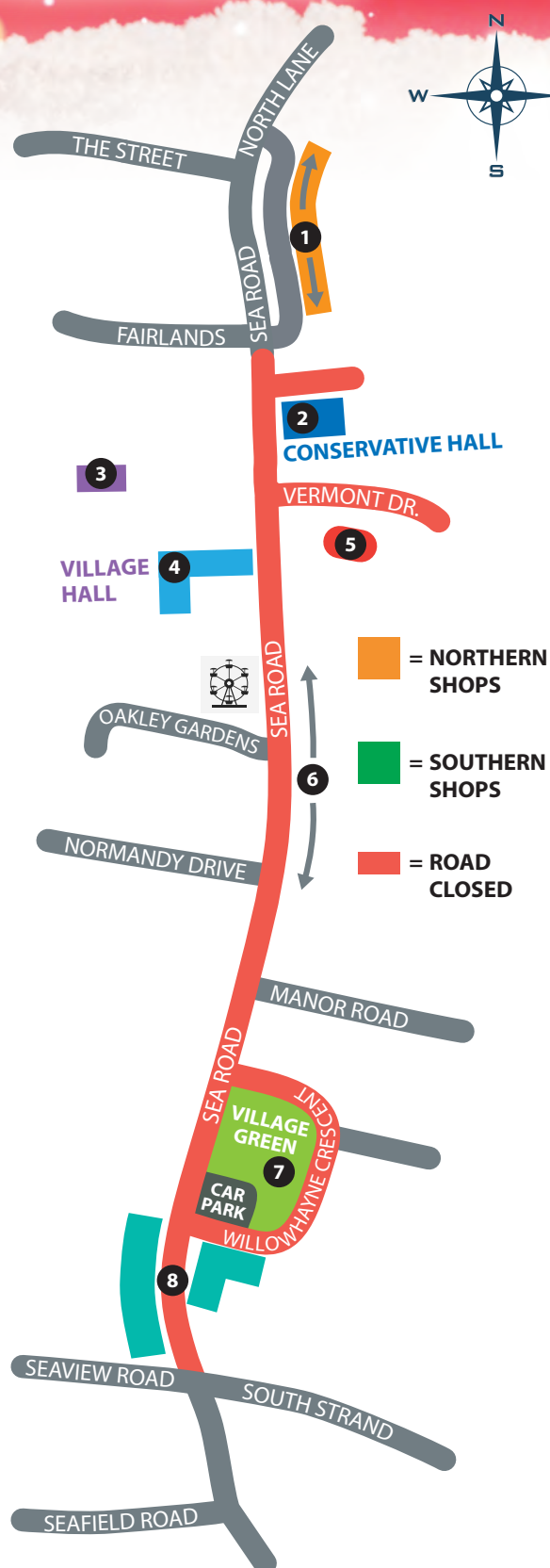
For many children, Storytime with Father Christmas is a big highlight of the event. Father Christmas will be reading stories in his temporary grotto in the hall at Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church in Vermont Drive. Storytime slots will be at 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00. All children will receive a gift bag at the end of the story. It will be necessary to **pre-book for Storytime with Father Christmas**. Tickets will be available online from 1st November – visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk> then Search for East Preston Parish Council.

There will be other children's entertainments on offer at the cricket pavilion on the Warren Recreation Ground, and more details on these and the whole event, can be found by following East Preston Christmas Celebrations on Facebook.

In and around the Village Hall will be a craft and gift fair. Fairground rides will be available in Sea Road. It has not been possible to provide a music venue as we have in previous years, but Celebration Samba will be performing outside the Conservative Hall from about 16:00 prior to helping Father Christmas lead the children's lantern procession at 16:45.

From 16:40, please join the wonderful OutSingCancer choir singing Christmas favourites around the Village Green Christmas Tree before and after the short fireworks display at 17:00. Please take extra care of any pets which are nervous of fireworks.

Please remember there will be road closures on Saturday. If you usually park in Sea Road, please could you ensure your vehicle is parked elsewhere by 09:00 on the day. This will help with the success of the event. Thanks.



Special thanks to all the community volunteers and local businesses who willingly give their time, imagination and care to the event.



East Preston Christmas Celebrations

Saturday 25 November 12:00 to 17:00

Event Guide - see overleaf for map of event locations

- Unless otherwise stated, all events run **from 12:00 onwards**
- All event details may be subject to change
- Keep up to date by liking East Preston Christmas Celebrations on Facebook



Timetable of events

NORTHERN SHOPS / CENTRAL SHOPS

- 1 - BBQ, Royal British Legion, afternoon
- Christmas window displays
- Other activities to be confirmed

CONSERVATIVE HALL

- 2 - Monthly Craft Fair
- Celebration Samba, **16:00 to 16:45**

CRICKET PAVILION, Warren Recreation Ground

- 3 - Badge-making and lantern-making for children, **until 15:30**
- Face-painting, **until 15:30**
- 1st East Preston Scouts kites, **from 16:00**

VILLAGE HALL (N.B. only hearing and guidedogs allowed inside)

- 4 - Craft and Gift Fair, **12:00 to 17:00**
- Baytree Club refreshments, **12:00 to 16:30**

OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH, Vermont Drive

- 5 - Storytime with Father Christmas, **13:00, 14:00 and 15:00** (pre-booking essential)

SEA ROAD AREA

- 6 - Outdoor Street Food stalls
- Fun fair, **12:00 to 18:00**

VILLAGE GREEN

- 7 - OutSingCancer choir around the Christmas Tree, **16:40 to 16:55** and **17.05 to 17.20**
- Short firework display, **17:00**

SOUTHERN SHOPS

- 8 - Christmas window displays
- Jukebox Jones & The Mighty Booth - Tudor Tavern, **20:30**
- Other activities to be confirmed



Being neighbourly

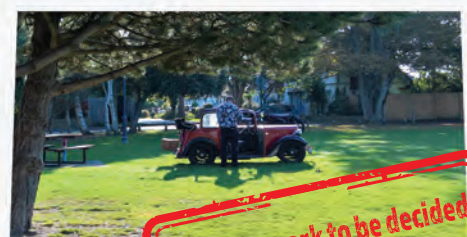
As the weather becomes more inclement, perhaps now would be a good time to check on your neighbours. Invite them in for a quick cup of tea and a chat from time to time, during which you can check they are well and have no other needs. Perhaps an occasional check around their property to see if there are any maintenance tasks they may have overlooked but which could make their life better and warmer over the winter. Running a simple errand for your neighbours can make the world of difference for them, especially if it saves them having to go out in the cold or wet.

2024 calendar

It's nearly Christmas time, so why not think about buying yourself or your friends an East Preston Calendar for 2024, full of colourful photographs of the village. Thank you to everyone who submitted photographs this year. We expect the calendars to be available for purchase by the time you read this article. £5 will secure you a copy whilst stocks last, available from the Council Office.



2024



Final artwork to be decided



A message from the Royal British Legion

The East Preston and Kingston Royal British Legion would like to make residents aware of some changes in the timings and location of this year's Remembrance Sunday Parade and two-minute Silence.

Historically, the two-minute silence has been observed at St Mary the Virgin Church, prior to the existence of the War Memorial outside the library. This was followed by a march to the War Memorial for a further two-minute silence and wreath-laying. This has since continued – however the 11 o'clock silence should be conducted at a war memorial if one is available.

The East Preston Royal British Legion Branch committee has liaised with local Veterans in order to agree a revised plan bringing East Preston into line with other Remembrance Parades nationally.

This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on 12th November. The silence will take place at 11 o'clock at the East Preston Village Memorial, The Street.

For your information the full timings are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 09:45 - 10:15 | Church Service in St Marys Church |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Parade forms up outside the Church ready to march to the East Preston War Memorial. |
| 10:35 - 10:40 | (No later than 10:40)
Remembrance Parade leaves the Church and marches to the East Preston War Memorial, The Street, East Preston. |
| 11:00 | 2 Minutes Silence and Wreath laying at the East Preston War Memorial |
| 11.45 | Remembrance Service at the Kingston War Memorial, Sea Lane, Kingston |
| 12:00 | 2 Minutes Silence and Wreath laying at the Kingston War Memorial |

Following the East Preston War Memorial Service the British Legion will be open for refreshments and we would like to welcome you for drinks.

**** Please note, as 12th November falls in the middle of the distribution period for this newsletter, it is possible you have only received this newsletter after that date.**

Neighbourhood Plan review

The review of our East Preston Neighbourhood Plan is well under way.

We have applied for a small grant which, if accepted, will enable us to utilise the support we require to meet our submission date to Arun District Council, which is planned for March 2024.

The review itself is being updated to make sure that we keep abreast of the changes that could take place in the forthcoming few years including addressing planning and design, future developments, environment, and climate change.

We are an enthusiastic group and would appreciate anyone who would like to assist us in some small way to ensure that we can provide the best review possible to maintain all aspects of our lovely village.

You might see some members of the group walking around the village, taking photographs and generally looking at different properties and open green spaces including recreational activities and heritage assets.

If you can spare us a couple of days a month for the next six months or so, we would be grateful for your help and ideas.

Please feel free to contact me by e mail: cllr.christine.bowman@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk if you are interested. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Christine Bowman

Gardening for Wildlife – a resident's ideas

Put up nest boxes

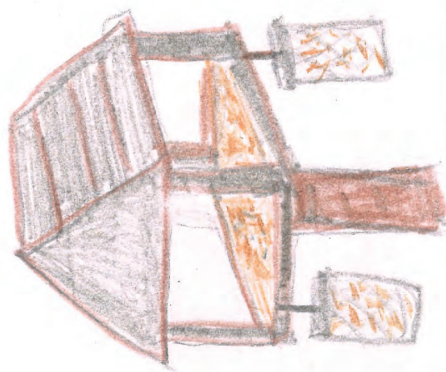


Provide water for them too.

No pesticides!



Please don't use them.



Feed the birds.

"The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and despite nature struggling to survive, more than one in seven native species face extinction and more than 400% are in decline." WWF



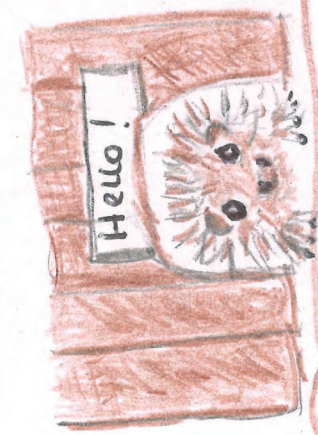
Create a log pile – a home for wildlife



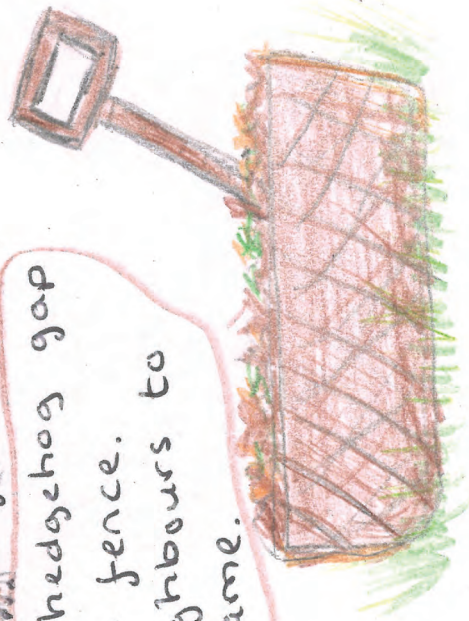
Plant a wildflower patch.



Nature needs You Now



Make a hedgehog gap
in your fence.
Ask neighbours to
do the same.



What is biodiversity?

"Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, including us. It is the amazing animals, plants and all other life forms which interact and depend on each other to survive."

RSPB

How can you help?

Create a
pond.



Even an old washing-up
bowl will do!

Create a compost heap.

Good for your plants and wildlife....

or only use peat free compost.

"Peat is hugely important to the environment."

N.Trust

The UK has lost almost
half of its biodiversity
since the 1970s.

What can I do?

As we emerge from yet another “warmest month on record” perhaps it is a good time to reflect on what we can do as individuals to contribute towards reducing the effects of climate change. With such a huge issue it is often difficult to believe that we can have any effect but why not start by calculating your own carbon footprint on <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> to see how you compare with the national average.

Once you have answered a series of lifestyle questions your footprint is compared with the UK and World average. You can also calculate your area postcode. BN16 average is around 141% of the UK average for 2023. So what can we do?

The WWF website breaks down individual footprints into four areas - home, food, travel and stuff and makes suggestions on how to reduce the score in each area. A few suggestions from the Parish Council:

Home - Why not check out energy saving information

on the West Sussex website <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/energy-saving/>

Food - Pick up our “Waste not want not” list of tips on how to reduce food waste from the Council Office.

Travel - Try using public transport like the new number 12 bus in the village. Swapping a couple of car journeys a week for public transport can really help.

Stuff - If you have a practical skill and would like to volunteer for 3-4 hours once a month to help people get the most out of their stuff, register with the Parish Council for our planned Repair Cafe.

If you have some of your own ideas why not share them with the Parish Council and we can publish them in our regular e-newsletters to residents.

Is it worth it? Well perhaps we should take some advice from Michelle Obama - “Start at your own kitchen table,” and Nelson Mandela “Everything is impossible - until you make it happen”.



The number 12 bus to East Preston



Many thanks to all our regular travellers and we hope you have enjoyed using the bus and are telling all your village friends to join you. This service is still on a trial basis so the more of you that take part the more likely it will continue. If we don't use it, we may end up losing it.

Beach cleans in 2024

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Beach Clean on

Sunday, 24th September. Some people felt there was more litter than there had been for a while, some people felt there was less litter!

The council has set its dates for 2024, Sundays 7th April and 29th September, both running from 11:00 until 12:00. Please note the return to the slightly earlier start time. We have listened to attendees and this seemed to be your preference.



Wrapping up another festival

On 10th October, the East Preston Festival Committee held its annual Donations Evening, at which it hands out the profits from the year's Festival to local and national organisations. The good work of these organisations, which benefit East Preston residents, is often unrecognised by many.

This year, the Festival Committee awarded donations to almost forty organisations benefiting for a wide range of our residents, from very local groups such as New Beginnings (for widows) and PatientLink (getting people to medical appointments), to more regional organisations such as Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance and national charities such as the Children's Liver Disease Foundation and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Most organisations send a representative who explains a bit about the work the organisation does and how the donation received is likely to be spent. There are often inspirational tales within this part of the evening.

The 2024 Festival will run from Friday, 31st May until Sunday, 9th June, and the theme will be "The Sea". If you would like to discuss organising a new event, please contact the Festival Committee, eastprestonfestival@hotmail.co.uk.

Warm welcome spaces 2024

There's a distinct chill in the air in the mornings and evenings now, confirming our hot summer is giving way to the autumn.

The council is going to re-run its Warm Welcome Spaces initiative again between January and March 2024. Earlier this year, we were able to provide a hot lunch once a week for people who otherwise may have been unable to afford to eat and heat their homes. Every little helps, and guests were very appreciative. Some weeks local musicians kindly donating their services free-of-charge to give a little entertainment too, and we know new friendships were forged during the sessions.

This year, the initiative will run at two venues, St Mary the Virgin Church, starting on 1st January, and the British Legion, starting a week later on 8th January.

We are still working out the finer details, but if you are interested, please contact the office by email, warmspace@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk or telephone, (01903) 770050, or just by calling in during office hours. We will then contact you in December when we are ready to take bookings.



Railway club

In the first of another occasional series, we look at one of the many societies in the village.

The East Preston Railway Club started in 2018, the brainchild of "The Stationmaster", Kelvan Gale. Kelvan is a retired electrical and electronic engineer who used to service trains around the county. He formed the Railway Club so likeminded enthusiasts could meet up and discuss railways. The club covers all aspects of the hobby, from model engineering to the real thing. Members meet at 19:00 at the British Legion on the first Thursday of every month.

The group also goes on local trips, most recently to the Worthing & District Society of Model Engineers where members were able to drive the trains at Field Place, Durrington.

If you would like to join or learn more about the Railway Club, please call Kelvan on (01903) 776622.



Village Life

December

- 4th Full Council (18:30)
- 11th Finance & General Purposes Committee (19:00)
- 18th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Major Events Committee (19:00)
- 21st Council Office closes for Christmas and
New Year (12:00)

January

- 2nd Council Office reopens (10:00)
- 8th Full Council (18:30)
- 9th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
- 15th Personnel Committee (18:00)
- 22nd Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)

February

- 5th Full Council (19:00)
- 12th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Amenities Committee (19:00)
- 19th Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00)
Major Events Committee (19:00)
- 26th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)

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.

20mph zone

Late last year, we asked residents whether or not you would support a 20mph Zone to cover The Street, Sea Road and Fairlands. Nearly 300 of you took part in an online survey, with 78% of you in favour of the proposal, 19.1% of you against and 3.25% unsure.

That support was enough for the council to agree to refer the proposal to West Sussex County Council. County Councillor Roger Elkins gave his support and the proposal was submitted to West Sussex County Council Highways for further consideration.

Following that, West Sussex County Council Highways has undertaken additional data capture of vehicle speeds in the area and the results look sufficient for the implementation of the 20mph speed limit.

The proposal is not guaranteed yet, but we wanted to share progress with you. We are quietly hopeful though and believe once a 20mph Zone is in place it will be easier to extend it into some of the other roads you have suggested. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, after a prolonged delay at the Highways end, a proposal to extend the double-yellow lines on the main road by the northern shops has been agreed by Sussex Police and will be back out for public consultation shortly. Look out for posters in the area when that happens.

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.



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



Contact point: Parish Clerk - Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk - Dawn Reid
Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1NN

Telephone: (01903) 770050 E-mail: clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk

Website: <http://eastpreston-pc.gov.uk/>

Arun District Council (01903) 737500 West Sussex County Council (01243) 777100

Designed by Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton BN17 5LF

Unless otherwise noted, this issue was written by Simon Cross, John Gunston, Ritchie Leccia (RBL), Elizabeth Linton and Alison Roberts.