



## Should the parish council adopt the Conservative Hall?



A few years ahead of its centenary, the current Trustees of the Conservative Hall have approached the parish council offering to give the Conservative Hall to the village through the council.

This could be the best opportunity to bring the hall into public ownership, so it continues to be a community venue, there for all the events which currently take place and more. The council would be able to build upon the improvements recently made by the Trustees. The council has some reserves which could be spent on such improvements without the need to increase your council tax initially.

The hall was officially opened in December 1928. Amongst its many former uses, the hall hosted school lunches for the village's school before it

moved to its current site in Lashmar Road. In the second half of the 1950s, village pantomimes were performed in the hall. The hall has hosted an almost infinite variety of village activities, continuing to do so alongside the Village Hall which opened in 1982.

Although no agreement has yet been reached, the council would want the Conservative Hall to run alongside the Village Hall, not in competition with the Village Hall. We hope you will agree the village needs and can support both venues. There are already some groups which use both venues; for example, the East Preston & Kingston Horticultural Society uses the Village Hall for its big Summer Show and the Conservative Hall for its talks and smaller shows.

**The parish council would like to know whether you think it should or should not adopt the Conservative Hall. Please let us know your thoughts, preferably by completing this short online survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/R8E02H/> Alternatively, email your thoughts to [clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk) or send to the Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1NN.**



Scan me to access the online survey

# EPFC awarded 2★ accreditation

East Preston Football Club is proud to announce it has been awarded 2-star Accreditation as part of The Football Association (FA) Charter Standard Programme.

Football leagues and clubs accredited by the FA have positively changed the football landscape over the last 20 years. They create ideal environments to nurture players, coaches and volunteers. The result is greater diversity and inclusivity through football.

To achieve this a club must offer all players – regardless of gender or disability – of all ages the opportunity to fully access the best of football in well-run, high-quality, safe and sustainable Clubs, and fit-for-purpose League competitions. The infrastructure must be sound, robust, efficient and effective.

It centres around the Respect standards and behaviours needed to make football in England something we can all be proud to be part of.

Accreditation shows that a club wants the very best for everybody: players, coaches, spectators, volunteers, officials and the local community.



Chairman of the club, Tim Teasel, said, "Everyone counts. Everyone is valued. A HUGE THANK YOU to all



our volunteers, this is your hard work being recognized. In case you didn't know everyone is a volunteer. Coaches, managers, kitchen, grounds man and committee. We all do this to provide football for all in our community in a safe, social and healthy way. Thank you to everyone in the EPFC family.

"As a volunteer organization we rely heavily on local business sponsors and advertising. If any business would like to join us by advertising in the stadium or 1st team programmes, or by sponsoring a team or contributing to our planned new ecologically-friendly floodlights, please contact [admin@eastprestonfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@eastprestonfc.co.uk)"

## Village Green car park

The Conditions of Use for the Village Green car park have recently changed. With immediate effect, all users need to pay. Since the introduction of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) System last June, Blue Badge holders are no longer able to park for free as the system is unable to recognize Blue Badge vehicles.

The ANPR cameras will record a user's entry and exit times and the first 15 minutes of a user's time will be free. Thereafter, a fee of 50 pence per hour is to be paid regardless of the time of day. Methods of payment are cash or the Poppay app which you can download to your smartphone.

## 2024/25 precept

A portion of the Council Tax every household pays annually to Arun District Council funds most of the work the parish council undertakes on behalf of and in the village. That portion is called the precept.

The precept sum generally goes up each year, roughly in line with inflation. Sometimes the increase is a bit more than inflation if the council has a project it wishes to undertake on your behalf.

For the fourth year running, the council has agreed to freeze the precept, effectively giving you a small amount of extra money to spend in the village.



# Boom!

In a significant move to strengthen local financial resilience and support, East Preston Parish Council has recently forged a close partnership with Boom Community Bank, promising benefits for residents and increased financial inclusion throughout the Parish.



The Council recently became a corporate member of Boom Community Bank, strategically depositing £36,000 in savings to drive local initiatives to foster positive change in East Preston's financial landscape.

Established in 2008, Boom Community Bank is a not-for-profit financial cooperative, often known as a credit union. Based in Worthing, it boasts approximately 13,000 members and offers accessible financial services, covering savings, loans, debt consolidation, and current accounts. With a dedicated focus on those typically underserved by mainstream banks, Boom actively encourages saving among its members and promotes sound financial management.

The strengthened connection between East Preston Parish Council and Boom Community Bank aims to enhance local awareness of an essential source of equitable financial services. By contributing funds and reinforcing Boom's capability to provide affordable loans, fewer residents may resort to high-interest lenders or loan sharks, which often exacerbate financial difficulties.

Chairman of the Council, Cllr Steve Toney, said, "This council is very happy to be joining other local councils in working with Boom Community Bank. We know the bank is already working with some East Preston residents and hope our liaison will enable it to work with more East Preston households in tackling debt and saving responsibly."

Graham Mayes, Operations Lead at Boom Community Bank, said, "We're delighted with the Council's recent decision to join Boom. Not only does this move ensure the protection and accessibility of the Council's funds, but importantly for East Preston residents, the investment enhances Boom's capacity to provide fair financial services throughout the Parish. The timing of the Council's support is critical as Boom prepares for an increase in demand for affordable finance and debt consolidation this year.

Graham added, "We encourage all East Preston residents, irrespective of their financial background, to explore Boom's services whether in search of affordable loans, debt consolidation, ethical savings, or simply to explore 'Money Focus', a section on our website accessible to everyone, with free-to-use financial tools, tips, and resources to support effective financial management."

Membership to Boom Community Bank is free to anyone accessing its services. You can learn more about Boom and apply for its services online or arrange an appointment to visit Boom's offices in Liverpool Gardens, Worthing.

Boom's website: [www.boomcb.org.uk](http://www.boomcb.org.uk)

For Money Focus, visit [www.boomcb.org.uk/money-focus](http://www.boomcb.org.uk/money-focus)



**CORPORATE MEMBER**



**Boom Community Bank is a trading name of West Sussex and Surrey Credit Union Limited. It is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (FRN 475226).**

**Boom's registered Address: 17 Liverpool Gardens, Worthing BN11 1RY**

# Who's Metro?

For all the high-end cars which buzz and purr around East Preston, it's a humble Austin Metro which has made the journey from the village to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Humble yes, but also very special.

Crayford Engineering was a Kent-based firm which specialised in limited-edition variants of popular cars, mainly convertibles at a time manufacturers had stopped including convertibles in their ranges. One such was a convertible Austin Metro. Owing to accusations of industrial espionage, this was so limited-edition only two examples were ever made.

In 2003, East Preston residents Margaret and Alan Dowers bought themselves a Metro convertible as Alan was looking for a project car to restore. The car was first registered in March 1981, and became known as OKR within the family. Soon after it came to East Preston, Margaret and Alan's son, Guy, was watching the sole episode of Doctor Who spin-off, K-9 and Company, and spotted a Metro convertible. A quick look at the number plate confirmed

this was OKR. The car was used by Sarah Jane Smith, one of the Doctor's longest-serving companions, later having her own series, The Sarah Jane Adventures. Sarah Jane was played by Elisabeth Sladen who, at the time of filming, had only recently passed her driving test and needed an easy-to-drive car.



Margaret and Guy at the National Motor Museum

As a much-loved family member in near original condition, for the past twenty years, OKR has visited numerous classic car shows, even spending some time on racing driver John Surtees's driveway.

OKR is on loan to the National Motor Museum for the foreseeable future as part of the museum celebration of 60 years of Doctor Who. To find out more about the museum, please visit <https://nationalmotormuseum.org.uk/>.

## Yarnbombers ask for help to tower over the village

Imagine a waterfall of poppies, cascading from the tower of St Mary's church, East Preston, this Remembrance Sunday.

6th June marks 80 years since D Day, so East Preston Yarnbombers think that 2024 is a good year to aim for an extra special remembrance commemoration. The Yarnbombers plan to have the poppies installed on the church at the end of October, to coincide with the annual launch of the British Legion Poppy Appeal. We estimate it will take more than 4,000 poppies to cover the tower from top to bottom. This will be a huge project, so we're asking for your help again.

Cooper Adams Estate Agents and the Council Office, both in Sea Road, will take in your poppies and also hold a small number of patterns and a limited supply of wool. The Yarnbombers are very grateful to both.

If you cannot knit or crochet but want to help, you could donate £2 so that we can buy a ball of wool. Donations in an envelope please to Cooper Adams or the Council Office. You get a lot of poppies from a single ball of double knit yarn!

Here is what you need to know:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Deadline:</b>  | Yarnbombers would love to have enough poppies by August but sooner is better!   |
| <b>Craft:</b>     | Knitted or Crocheted  |
| <b>Colour:</b>    | Mostly red, some white, black and purple – any shades   |
| <b>Yarn:</b>      | Acrylic, any weight but ideally Double Knit or Aran   |
| <b>Pattern:</b>   | Any, there are plenty of free patterns online   |
| <b>Size:</b>      | Max size 8 inches / 20cms but we need a variety   |
| <b>Questions:</b> | Please email <a href="mailto:ep yarnbombers@gmail.com">ep yarnbombers@gmail.com</a> or message via Facebook @ EPYarnbombers |



## East Preston in Bloom plans for 2024

The group had a busy 2023, creating flower beds in Two Acres, the Village Green, and at the Library. Additionally, members have been very active weeding and maintaining many public areas in the village. In the Autumn we planted many Spring bulbs and look forward to seeing them flowering soon, welcoming in Spring.

We are enthusiastic about our plans for the coming year. Having liaised with the parish council we are developing a 'quiet garden' in the south-eastern corner of the Warren Recreation Ground. The area has been cleared of the overgrown weeds, and flowering shrubs and bulbs planted. A new bench, a replacement bench, a picnic table, and a tree are all part of the plan for providing an area of tranquillity, enabling residents to shelter from the sunshine, read, meditate, watch the cricket or generally take a break from the everyday bustle of life.

Responding to residents' concerns about the overgrown weeds and general unkempt nature of the verges in Roundstone Drive, we have started tidying and planting flowering plant borders – all with the agreement of Arun District Council. This is a large project for our small group, so we would like it to



be adopted as a community project going forward, welcoming help from residents in the neighbourhood.

We have plans to work with the parish and county councils to plant native flowers creating nature-friendly verges to encourage wildlife and pollinator highways. This is a county-wide scheme and is already popular in many areas of the county and countrywide.

We are always keen to welcome new members and to listen to residents' views and ideas for future projects. The benefits of working outdoors, making new friends and helping the environment are numerous. If you'd like to know more, please contact me on [admin@epinbloom.org.uk](mailto:admin@epinbloom.org.uk)

Patricia Gander – Secretary,  
East Preston in Bloom

## Repair reuse and recycle - The Repair Café story

We live in a disposable society so in an effort to reduce the amount of waste we take to the tip the Parish Council is taking action and is planning to set up a Repair Café to start on the second Saturday in May. Repair Café was started by Martine Postma in Amsterdam in 2009. Frustrated with our throwaway culture she produced a guide on how to produce less waste – mainly by fixing or repairing things that would have otherwise gone into the bin. The idea spread, and there are now an estimated 1,500 Repair Cafés located in 33 countries.

Repair Cafés are all about repairing things to stop them going to landfill. Visitors bring their broken items from home - clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, toys, et cetera. We're aiming to recruit volunteer handy men and women to repair these items and hopefully pass on their skills. If you have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee or you can lend a hand with someone else's repair job.



To help we need volunteers who are willing to give up 3-4 hours a month. Do you have a practical skill you would be willing to share to help repair items or could you help with the administration or making tea? If so why not contact John via the Parish Council office - call in or telephone 01903 770050 or email [cllr.john.gunston@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.gunston@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk).

Repair, reuse and recycle - let's tackle the throwaway culture together.



## Neighbourhood Plan review update

The review of our East Preston Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well, and we have now engaged Oneill Homer's services (ONH) to support the Steering Group and assist in modifications that are required to our current Plan which dates back to 2015.

There have been considerable changes to planning policies, visions and objectives; ONH is continually advising us on their relevance to this project so we can keep abreast of future Planning legislation.

We are compiling updated photos to replace ones which are out-of-date in our Village Design Statement. We are also ensuring the review refers to the excellent facilities and recreational activities we have across the village.

If you have any spare time we would welcome some extra support from parishioners, especially with regard to taking new photographs around the village or assisting us with any really good relevant photos from your albums!

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

## Warm Welcome Spaces update

The parish council, with some help from Arun District Council, has set up Warm Welcome Spaces at both the Spire Room at St Mary's Church and the British Legion.

Both spaces are open on Mondays until the end of March from 12.00 and offer a hot drink and soup and a roll at no charge for anyone who would like to meet up. Parish councillors will be present at both locations throughout the winter.

If you would like to join us you would be most welcome. We are asking that you register your interest with the parish council so that we have an idea of numbers by calling into the Council Office or by telephone 01903 770050 or email [warmspace@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:warmspace@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)

We look forward to seeing you.



## 20mph zone - an update

We spoke too soon!

We were confident good progress was being made with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Highways to introduce a 20mph zone covering The Street, Sea Road and Fairlands. At the end of 2022, nearly 300 of you voted in an online survey, with the vast majority in favour of the proposal.

Submitted under the government-funded Traffic Regulation Order scheme, the proposal successfully passed two assessments by WSCC Highways; but when a Highways officer visited the site he became concerned with the scale of the proposal and after subsequent cost analysis said it could not be progressed through that scheme.

Our response has been to say we wish to scale

back the current proposal to cover the Sea Road stretch only, which we believe presents the greatest risk to personal injury, so it can go ahead without further delay.

We will then be able to proceed with another submission under a different government-funded scheme to include The Street and Fairlands and consult further regarding the possible inclusion of other roads which many residents said they were also concerned about.

At the time of writing, we have put this to Highways and await an answer.

Meanwhile, further public consultation has taken place on the proposal to extend the double-yellow lines on the main road by the northern shops. Already supported by Sussex Police, the response to the public consultation was judged very favourable by Highways and the scheme will be implemented in due course.

## D-Day

The 6th June will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the decisive turning-point in the Second World War in Europe.

To mark this anniversary, on the 2nd June, the council is helping to host a Big D-Day Lunch on the Village Green, in conjunction with East Preston Festival Committee and the East Preston & Kingston branch of the Royal British Legion. More details will follow in due course.

Do you have any family memories of D-Day and its impact upon the village? Perhaps you remember the 6in gun located to the south of South Strand or seeing soldiers undertaking final training in Kingston Gorse? Perhaps you had a father or uncle who took part in the Normandy Landings or in the Home Guard.

We would love to hear any memories you have and we will publish the best in the next Newsletter. Drop us a line, call us or email us to the details shown on the back page.

## East Preston Men in Sheds: Update

East Preston Men in Sheds (EPMIS) has Planning Permission for the erection of a workshop in the grounds of East Preston & Kingston Village Hall. The next stage is to gain funding for the project. Although we have been fortunate to have obtained some funding for equipment, a larger grant application to the National Lottery Fund for the build has recently been turned down.

However, the group is proactively applying for funds from other organisations and companies. We now need to raise funds to enable us to dig out the concrete base and then finance the wooden building and required services. EPMIS has set up a GoFundMe on our website. [www.epmis.org.uk](http://www.epmis.org.uk)

Any help you can give us will be much appreciated – 'every little helps'.

Neil Ellis - Chairman East Preston Men in Sheds

## Spring starts with Funday Sunday



Following successful events in the past few years, the council is organising another Funday Sunday for the afternoon of 21st April.

If you have not been before, you can look forward to an afternoon tea with live music and optional dancing. The event will run from 14:00 until 17:00 and tickets will be £10 per person. Entertainment will be provided by Mel the Pocket Rocket, who will perform hits from the 1950s through to the 1980s – all designed to get you dancing.

Tickets can be booked online (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/funday-sunday-tickets-808853511627>) or by calling Alison in the Council Office. Book early to avoid disappointment!

## The number 12 bus to East Preston



The No 12 bus has been running for six months now. We have received some lovely feedback, such as this: "Just to say how wonderful the no 12 bus is. I use it at least twice a week as it is very reliable, long may it continue to service the residents of East Preston."

However, to continue to service the residents of East Preston, the bus needs to have more passengers. Residents are encouraged to use the bus and, if our numbers increase, we may be able to add a weekend service but it depends on you.

Please use it or lose it.

## Village Life

### March

- 4th Full Council (19:00)
- 11th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00)
- 18th Community Engagement Committee (19:00)
- 25th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)

### April

- 8th Full Council (19:00)
- 15th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Personnel Committee (19:00)
- 22nd Major Events Committee (19:00)
- 29th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)

### May

- 13th Annual Parish Meeting (time tbc)  
Full Council (time tbc)
- 14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Finance & General Purposes Committee (19:00)
- 20th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Amenities Committee (19:00)
- 31st East Preston Festival starts

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.

## Council Events in 2024

### Scheduled events for the coming year:

- 7th April East Preston Beach Clean (11:00)
- 21st April Funday Sunday (14:00)
- 1st June Come and Meet Your Local Councillors (10:00 to 12:00)
- 2nd June Big D-Day Lunch (12:00 to 17:00)
- 4th June Alpacas on the Village Green (17:30 to 19:00)
- 24th August East Preston Food & Drink Festival (12:00 to 17:00)
- 23rd November East Preston Christmas Celebrations (12:00 to 17:00)



## 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](mailto:clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk)

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

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

Unless otherwise noted, this issue was written by Christine Bowman, Simon Cross, John Gunston, Keith Harris, Elizabeth Linton, Graham Mayes and Steven Wilkinson