



## East Preston Food & Drink Festival

East Preston's eighth fabulous Food & Drink Festival will be taking place on the Village Green on Bank Holiday Saturday, 24th August, between 12:00 and 17:00. Each year, this event offers a true feast of food and drink delights, as well as some children's entertainment. Whether or not you have 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, Ditch Brisket, Mr Delicious Hog Roast, Cheesology, JJ's Cider, the Cat Burglar Dough Company (doughnuts), Bodhi's Kitchen, Krishna Cuisine and



Charlene's Chocolate Factory. New stalls will include Roots Vegan Streetfood, Wise Tree Oil Limited, Souvlucky (Greek), Rockhopper Roaster, The Tin Box (bar) and Big Spoon (sweet treats). Please note these details are subject to change at short notice.

There is bound to be something to appeal, whatever your taste in food. Stop on the Village Green to eat what you have bought or take lunch 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 comprising Nick Cook Circus Skills and *Never a Gull Moment* performing on and off throughout the afternoon.

### Please read these boring but important bits...

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, 24th 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.

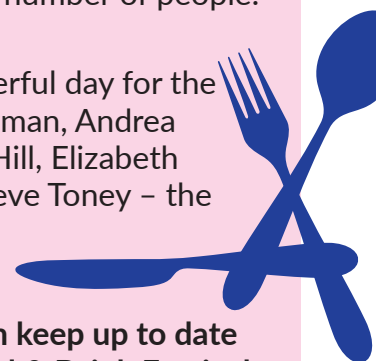
Dog owners are strongly advised to leave their pets at home as this event has been particularly well-attended in the past. In addition to chocolate which most dog owners know is poisonous to dogs, other foodstuffs which may be dropped on the ground during the day and which are dangerous to dogs are raw 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 thank them all.

We look forward to a wonderful day for the village - Cllrs Christine Bowman, Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, Helen Hill, Elizabeth Linton, Rick McElroy 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).



# Roundstone Level Crossing

On 10th July, the council led a meeting enabling residents to explain to major stakeholders the problems we experience at Roundstone Level Crossing, and to hear reasons why those problems exist and what may or may not be possible to improve the situation.

Stakeholders included Network Rail (NR), West Sussex County Council (WSCC), Stagecoach South and Govia Thameslink Rail (GTR - Southern Rail's parent company). Dr Becky Cooper sent her apologies as this was the day on which she was invested as our MP.

Despite a clash with England playing in the semi-final of the Euros, about 130 residents attended the meeting. Cllr Steve Toney, chaired the meeting; almost instantly, the meeting highlighted how differently residents can interpret a set of circumstances.

By the end of the meeting, NR and WSCC had a list of matters they could investigate such as further training for signallers to reduce the time the gates are down and improving signage and road markings either side of the level crossing. Many attendees left the meeting with a better appreciation of the factors that affect the level crossing. One resident said afterwards, "It was interesting to get the background about how the trains work and what a signaller does; that helped a bit to understand that it is not just pressing a button to put the barriers down."

Following the meeting, the council has remained in regular contact with the stakeholders and has collated suggestions from residents for the stakeholders to consider. Hopefully the next newsletter will have more details on these.

Harry Stevenson, Network Rail Public Affairs Manager, has since said, "We have already held an internal meeting with local operations teams, local level crossing managers and those who oversee the processes involved at the Lancing Signal box. This meeting was set up to determine what steps we can take in both the short and long term to try and limit the disruption that the Roundstone and Angmering level crossing barriers cause local residents."

It may have taken five years to bring the stakeholders together, but the feeling from the meeting is that it was worth it. Another resident said, "What a great meeting bringing together so many senior professionals, all very knowledgeable in their field."

We will continue to work closely with these stakeholders to see what could be implemented without compromising anyone's safety.

Our thanks to East Preston Junior School and Fuller Architects for assistance with the meeting.

## No 700



During the Roundstone meeting, there were a couple of mentions of rumours about the future of the 700 bus route through the centre of the village. We asked Stagecoach South to provide a statement for this newsletter.

"We are currently reviewing the 700 route. We know reliability is important to our customers and punctuality is currently unacceptably poor.

"The 700 is impacted by level crossings at Ferring and Roundstone. It is also indirectly affected by traffic queuing for Angmering crossing. These delays are unpredictable so are difficult to schedule around, but timetables will have to change and journeys are likely to become slower.

"The 700 will be affected, either in route, frequency or both and there may be negative impacts on some customers once we've reached our decision - we'll aim to minimise this, but the circumstances are largely beyond our control. We'll communicate our decision as quickly and as openly as possible, once we've reviewed the data thoroughly."

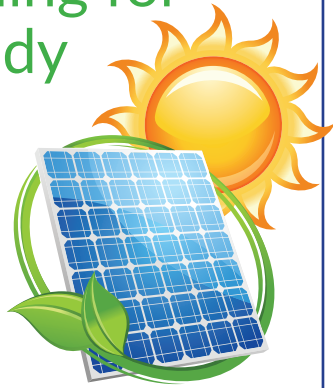


**IMPLEMENT A SAFE  
CROSSING FOR  
SCHOOLCHILDREN ON  
WORTHING ROAD, EAST  
PRESTON**



## REACH project receives funding for feasibility study

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that the REACH project (Renewable Energy Access for Communities and Households) has now received a grant for a feasibility study from the Community Energy Fund and we are asking for community support.



We are working with West Sussex County Council and renewable energy companies to set up a Local Energy Community. East Preston Energy CIC has been set up and will work on a not-for-profit basis to fund and install solar panels and batteries across East Preston, Angmering and Rustington. There will be no upfront cost to householders. The aim is to help local people by increasing the amount of cheap, clean electricity generated, stored, and used here.

A similar project in Essex already has two pilot homes with Solar panels and batteries achieving considerable savings in energy bills so we are not the first community working on this project.

### How can you help?

If you think this is a good idea and want to help us spread the message or think we should be doing something about the impact of climate change. We are looking for people

- With experience in the energy industry
- Who would like to join the board of East Preston Energy
- Have an accounting background or experience in website development
- Can help deliver leaflets and put up posters

All help would be much appreciated.

We now have some finance to help us turn our dream into a reality.

Please contact [cllr.john.gunston@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.gunston@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk) if you want to help us to show that a community working together can really make a difference.

## D Day Commemoration on the Green



Every picture tells a story. A full-sized, replica Spitfire proudly on display in the Village Green car-park.

The parish council was lucky to secure this Spitfire as part of the Big D-Day Lunch on the Village Green and she attracted many visitors.

To continue the commemoration, trio Silhouette serenaded the crowds twice with vintage music from the late 40's and 50's. Other entertainment was provided by the East Preston Infant School choir, the Disco Lady and a Winston Churchill impersonator. The weather was perfect and feedback has shown a good time was had by all.

The event would not have been possible without the support of East Preston Festival Committee and the East Preston & Kingston branch of the Royal British Legion.

## Give something back

If you are looking to give something back to the village, have you thought about volunteering with one of the many organisations in the village? Lots of residents find volunteering in the village to be, as you would expect, rewarding, fun and a good way to make lasting friendships.

Currently, both **East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation** and the **Disability Action Group** are looking for new committee members. Please contact Toni ([chair@epkvh.co.uk](mailto:chair@epkvh.co.uk)) or Jan ([jan70quick@gmail.com](mailto:jan70quick@gmail.com)) respectively for more details.

Alternatively, book a time to have a chat at the Council Office, and we will try to point you in the right direction for what interests you.

# Come and Meet Your Local Councillors – the feedback

On Saturday, 1st June, the council ran its annual Festival event for local people to come along and meet their councillors and, over a hot drink and some homemade shortbread, talk to the council about life in East Preston.

The event always provides some compliments too. Amongst those received this year were: “Thanks to all councillors for giving their time,” “The council is so hardworking,” and “I’m very pleased with the e-newsletters the council sends out.”

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.

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

**Abbreviations: EPPC** East Preston Parish Council • **ADC** Arun District Council • **WSSCC** West Sussex County Council

Comment	Response
1. How can we get tree branches cut back where they are interfering with telephone lines?	These can be reported to WSSCC online - <a href="https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/verge-maintenance/tree-and-hedge-maintenance/reporting-problems-with-trees-and-hedges/">https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/verge-maintenance/tree-and-hedge-maintenance/reporting-problems-with-trees-and-hedges/</a> - or by calling (01243) 642105.
2. How can we improve the bad parking in Sea Road?	Civil Parking Enforcement is the responsibility of ADC. Problem areas can be reported - <a href="https://www.arun.gov.uk/report-a-parking-issue">https://www.arun.gov.uk/report-a-parking-issue</a>
3. How can I apply for a disabled parking bay?	These are processed by WSSCC - <a href="https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parking/the-blue-badge-scheme/request-a-disabled-parking-bay/">https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parking/the-blue-badge-scheme/request-a-disabled-parking-bay/</a>
4. Please could we have speed bumps at the bottom of Sea Road?	This would require a WSSCC Traffic Regulation Order - <a href="https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/">https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/</a> Call in at the Council Office for someone to explain further.
5. What can be done to tackle speeding in the village?	The council supports a Community Speed Watch team in the village. The team regularly patrols at specific Sussex Police-approved sites.

For more information, please contact the Council Office.

6. What is being done about the potholes in the village?

WSSCC has a statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highway network, ensuring the highways are safe and the public can use them without obstruction. WSSCC looks after approximately 4,025km of carriageway. Where possible, potholes should be reported online - <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/report-a-pothole-online/>

7. Is anything being done about waiting times at the level crossings?

Please see the report on the Roundstone Level Crossing meeting held on 10th July, page 7.

8. Please could the SLOW markings at the junction of Sea Lane and The Ridings be refurbished?

This has been raised with WSSCC.



## Village Green car-park

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition asking for three hours free parking at the Village Green car-park, for domestic use only.

The petition has been passed to the council's Amenities Committee for consideration. The committee constantly monitors matters relating to the car-park, and this petition will form part of that monitoring.

In the meantime, the committee felt it worthwhile reminding residents why charging was introduced in the car-park. The council had received complaints from local businesses whose customers were often unable to use the car-park because other local businesses were

dominating the car-park, particularly during the day. Local residents also complained they were unable to use the car-park because local businesses were dominating the car-park. The council also wanted to cover the annual costs related to the car-park - business rates and annual drainage maintenance, some residents will remember the car-park would flood every winter until the council undertook serious drainage work. The hourly fee was set at just 50p as the council was not looking to raise more than the amount needed to cover those annual costs.

The council hopes it will have further news by the time of the Autumn 2024 Newsletter, due later this year.

# Arun Climate Action Day

Along with 15 other Parish Council representatives I recently attended a Climate Action Day run by Arun District Council. The aims of the event were to provide local councils with facts and figures related to climate change from global to local levels and to give us an understanding of what we, as Parish Councils, can do to mitigate the effects.

We looked at practical local action plans and shared some ideas of what we are already doing.

The event was run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and they provided a folder of resources and practical tools. The Environmental Initiatives Working Party will be using these over the next few months to ensure that the Parish Council continues to provide a lead in efforts to combat the effects of climate change.

We meet every 5-6 weeks for an hour to discuss the initiatives we have already started and to plan new ones in a variety of areas:-

Reducing carbon by encouraging parishioners to measure their own carbon footprint and establishing the Repair Cafe.

Encouraging villagers to consider renewable energy with the REACH project.

Publishing articles on how to make gardens more biodiverse and planning to turn verges in the village into havens for wildlife

Encouraging waste reduction by providing recycling points at the Parish Council office and suggesting ways to reduce food waste

We are promoting active travel and have recently been involved with producing the village walking map to inspire people to walk around our historic village.

We will be contributing ideas to the revised Neighbourhood Plan.



If you have any ideas or would like to get involved with the group you would be most welcome to join us.

## Repair Café

Our first three Repair Café sessions were a great success. Approximately 60 items ranging from a broken commemorative plate to a bicycle with flat tyres, a decapitated teddy bear to a toothbrush charger, a radio to a couple of table lamps, were all carefully examined by our talented team of volunteers. So far, we have been able to repair almost 60% of the items that have been brought in which is in line with other Repair Cafés we have visited in West Sussex. Tea, coffee and biscuits were kindly provided by volunteers from St Mary's Church for a voluntary donation

This initiative, set up and initially funded by the parish council, has been very well received by users and the feedback has been very positive and encouraging. It is our aim to become self-funding and generous donations at the last event helped to cover our costs for the day.

If you have an object that you think we could help repair, why not bring it along. You will normally be responsible for providing additional items such as plugs, fuses, zips, etc. needed for your repair. As we cannot carry a comprehensive stock of parts, you may need to make a second visit to Repair Café

for your repair to be completed. You will be expected to pay for any parts we provide. We are unable to work on any item still under warranty and would ask that you not ask us to repair anything of great monetary or sentimental value.

After a well-earned rest in August, the Repair Café will open at the Spire Room St Mary's Church on the following dates:

Saturday 14th September	10:00 - 12:00
Saturday 12th October	10:00 - 12:00
Saturday 9th November	10:00 - 12:00

We look forward to welcoming you.



## Skydiving Anne



On 11th July, local resident Anne Baker took to the skies to raise money for Christian Aid in support of vulnerable communities around the world. The organisation helps millions of people across the world transform their lives. We asked a few questions.

### **What was your inspiration?**

When setting up the new team of Christian Aid reps at St Mary the Virgin church, we wanted something different as a fundraiser. I found myself volunteering to do a skydive, although I had never done anything like this before.

### **What did your family say when you told them?**

Don't do it. For quite a while they were not happy, but I won them round.

### **Did any of them offer to jump with you?**

No. They all said they wouldn't even contemplate it.

### **What was the best part of the fall?**

The worst part was definitely the first thirty seconds; freefalling, at 125 miles per hour, the amazing amount of wind in my face actually made it quite difficult to breathe. Then came the best part, which was the parachute opening.

### **Can you remember much of what you saw as you fell?**



Oh yes, I can remember seeing the view of Salisbury on a beautifully clear day. It was a fantastic view. The Cathedral and Old Sarum Castle were particularly memorable.

### **Now you have done this, do you have a message for other East Preston residents?**

A huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored me.

### **Finally, would you ever do another skydive?**

NO!

  **It's not too late to support Anne's challenge financially – online donations can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/annebakergnansleapoffaith>.**

## Please don't shout!

Every day during term-time, hundreds of children make their way around East Preston on their journey to East Preston Infant and Junior Schools. Many walk or cycle to school and find themselves having to cross North Lane just south of Lashmar Road.

The village is very lucky to have Vicky as our School Crossing Patroller, much-loved by the children and the parents she helps to cross the road.

Vicky loves her job but really does not like drivers verbally abusing her just for doing her job. Vicky will help anyone of any age to cross the road, and most people are very appreciative of that. We all get older, we all lose confidence and it can be very reassuring to know someone will sometimes help us to do something as simple as crossing a busy road.

There is no excuse for shouting at Vicky.



## In brief...

### Conservative Hall – part 3

At the time of writing, there is no update on this matter.

### Neighbourhood Plan

Work continues on the review of the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan. The team is currently editing the actual wording for the proposed reviewed document, removing ambiguities and obsolete text, clarifying other phrases, adding new clauses. The team is also taking new photographs in support of the amended text. There is still time to help – if you are interested, please email [cll.christine.bowman@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cll.christine.bowman@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk).

### A Village Green bench

At the end of June, a bench on the Village Green was badly vandalised and now needs replacing. The bench was dedicated to the memory of Ms Audrey Burgess, and was installed in the late 1970s. If you are a relative of Ms Burgess, or know of any relatives of Ms Burgess, please contact the Council Office. Thank you.

## Village Life

### September

- 2nd Full Council (18:30 tbc)  
3rd Merchant Navy Day  
9th Emergency Services Day  
Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting (19:00)  
14th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, Spire Room)  
23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)  
29th East Preston Beach Clean No. 22 (Sea Road, 11:00)

### October

- 7th Full Council (18:30 tbc)  
12th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, Spire Room)  
14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Personnel Committee (19:00)  
21st Major Events Committee (19:00)  
28th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)

### November

- 4th Full Council (18:30 tbc)  
9th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, Spire Room)  
11th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)  
Amenities Committee (19:00)  
18th Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00)  
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00)  
23rd East Preston Christmas Celebrations (12:00)  
25th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00 tbc)  
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.

## 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.



**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: <https://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

## Thanks to...

Sir Peter Bottomley for being a great constituency MP for the village for the 27 years from 1997.

We wish him well for the future

Paul Amoo and the East Preston Film Society for funding two new litter bins. These are located at the top end of North Lane and at the junction of Mill Pond Way and Warren Crescent. We hope they are well used and help to keep East Preston tidy

The late Alan Hultquist for his tireless efforts as chairman of the Disability Action Group.



Photo © Littlehampton Gazette

## Beach Clean, 29th September

The council's next Beach Clean will take place on Sunday, 29th September, an end-of-season spruce up, ready for the rigours of autumn and winter.

The event will run for an hour from 11:00. 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.



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