



East Preston Village Festival 2025

Friday 6th June to Sunday 15th June

Once again, the committee has organised a full programme of entertainment and, alongside the traditional favourites, we have a Neil Diamond Tribute, the fabulous Vox Beatles, a Classic Car Show and a Family Games afternoon. Back by popular request are the French Market and Shuffleboard Evening. East Preston's Floral Club Show has found a new home in the Village Hall and there is a talk by Robin Cousins MBE, Olympic Ice-Skating Champion. There are competitions to enter based on this year's Festival theme of 'Games

& Pastimes – Past and Present', most with cash prizes, so why not have a go.

Don't miss the Community Fête on Saturday 7th June and on Saturday 14th come and cheer the costumed Parade. On Sunday 15th June, have a great family day out at the Fun Dog Show, hosted by sports presenter John Inverdale, and stay for the Party on the Green. Local charities and community groups also organise fund-raising events during Festival and by supporting these you are helping some very worthy causes.

Programmes are available from East Preston shops or visit www.eastprestonfestival.co.uk. Tickets on sale from Buds 'n' Blooms and Seaview Stores. Keep up-to-date by following the Festival on Facebook.

Council events during the Festival

Running from 6th to 15th June, East Preston Festival is the biggest event in the village calendar. The Festival was first held in 1981 and has gone from strength to strength since.

This year, the council will be hosting two events during the Festival. Firstly, on Saturday, 7th June, the council invites you to Come and Meet Your Local Councillors. This is an opportunity to have an informal chat with parish councillors about life in and around the village. The event will run between 10:00 and 12:00 at the Council Office, 122 Sea Road, BN16 1NN. You can just drop in or if you would prefer, please email clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk to book a 15-minute slot. Refreshments will be provided including home-made cakes.

Secondly, on Tuesday, 10th June, the council will welcome Ems Friendly Farm to the Village Green. The farm, based near Southampton, is "committed to ensuring that people of all ages are able to learn about, and experience the therapeutic benefits of time spent with our animals in an encouraging and engaging way". Everyone is invited to join the council between 17:00 and 19:00 to meet a range of small, friendly animals. Which animals will be with us we will only know on the day – come and find out with us.

Please support as many Festival events as you can. The Festival is run by a very small team of very dedicated volunteers and the council thanks each and every one of that team.



Alpacas visiting the Village Green in 2024

Chairman's Annual Report for 2024-25



Steve Toney
Chairman, East Preston
Parish Council

Cllr Steve Toney, Chairman of the Council, will present this report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May. Here we publish an edited version of his report.

"I start by thanking everyone who has made a positive contribution to the village during the past year. Every single day, I am aware of something happening in the village reinforcing the pride I feel in living here. So many voluntary organizations work tirelessly to enhance the village, and everyone reading this article will have their own favourites.

"The council runs on a committee system and I would like to explain a little about each committee, in alphabetical order.

"The Amenities Committee is responsible for ensuring the council's greenspaces – the Village Green, Warren Recreation Ground and Two Acres – are kept presentable and attractive for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, across the wider village, the committee is responsible for some of the floral displays – the others being cared for by East Preston in Bloom, an ever-increasing number of public seats in lots of different places and the village's wooden bus shelters.

"The Audit & Governance Committee ensures the council is meeting its legal obligations. Each year, the committee considers the findings of two internal audits and one independent external audit. I am happy to report the findings of these audits are almost always wholly positive.

"The Community Engagement Committee communicates with residents through the council's small events, publications such as the quarterly Newsletter, the ad-hoc e-newsletter, articles in All About East Preston and Kingston, and face-to-face wherever possible. If your organization would like a visit from a pair of councillors, please contact the Council Office to arrange. The committee supported the launch of the East Preston Repair Café which has gone from strength to strength since its launch last May.

"The Finance & General Purposes Committee looks after the money the village has entrusted to the council to keep the village a good place to live. This involves careful budgeting, careful spending and ensuring the council's bank accounts are earning what they can. The only exception to this final statement is the relatively small amount of money the council has invested with Boom Community

Bank which provides financial services to village households which might not otherwise be able to access such services. Once again, the council did not put up its portion of your Council Tax for the coming year.

"The Major Events Committee runs the council's bigger events – at least when the weather permits it to – the Food & Drink Festival, Funday Sundays, the Christmas Celebrations each November. Sadly, the weather in 2024 resulted in the full cancellation of the Food & Drink Festival and the partial cancellation of the Christmas Celebrations and we thank every member of the public whose understanding of those cancellations helped the council to realise it had made the right decisions.

"The Personnel Committee does not just look after the council's officers but also councillors themselves, ensuring all have refresher training each four-year term but also more specific training is available if needed.

"Finally, the Planning & Licensing Committee considers a number of applications each year. At the time of writing, in the council year 2024/25, the committee has considered 33 planning applications and one licensing application. Additionally, the committee supported two neighbouring councils on applications to which they were objecting.

"Each of those committees has worked tirelessly throughout the past year, doing the best they can for the whole village.

"We are now half-way through the current term of office for this council, the next local elections scheduled for May 2027. If you have thoughts about becoming a parish councillor yourself, now might be a good time to start finding out more about the council works. Meetings of all the above committees, with the exception of the Personnel Committee for hopefully obvious reasons, are open to the public as are the monthly Full Council meetings. Agendas for these meetings are published in the week before each meeting, in council noticeboards and on its website.

"I thank every councillor and officer for making this job a relatively easy one.

"Above all, thank you to any of you who regularly show your faith in and support for the council. We hope to continue to improve the village where we can. Thank you."

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "S. P. Toney".

** Please note, as 12th May falls in the middle of the distribution period for this newsletter, it is possible you have only received this newsletter after the Annual Parish Meeting.

REPAIR CAFE EAST PRESTON

In May, East Preston Repair Café will mark its first birthday. Started by the parish council, led by Cllrs John Gunston and Helen Hill, the Repair Café first opened its monthly doors on Saturday, 11th May last year. Unsure whether anyone would ever bring anything along, the council and its volunteers could not have been happier with that first session.

Since then, the number of items brought along has increased each month, with forty-two members of the public attending the March session, the vast majority of items fixed there and then. Attendees are offered refreshments by members of the St Mary the Virgin Social Committee.

To celebrate this first anniversary, we would like to share with you just three quick stories.



Jackie's grandfather found this teddy bear, Teddy, in a London street days after Jackie had been born. Conscientiously, he handed it in at the nearest police station (remember when you could

do that?!). Unclaimed, Teddy was returned to Jackie's grandfather and he passed it on to his newly-born granddaughter. Earlier this year, Jackie felt it was time Teddy had a little rejuvenating work done. Not only did Teddy have all four paws refreshed, the sewing team also gave him a matching scarf. "The ladies were very helpful coming up with some good suggestions but allowing me to make the final decisions. I am very pleased their excellent repair work has given my teddy bear a new lease of life!"

Alison bought a secondhand manual lawnmower but could not work out how to

adjust the blades. One quick visit to the Repair Café, the blades were sorted and now Alison says, "Thanks to the friendly and helpful team at the Repair Café, I can mow merrily all day long."



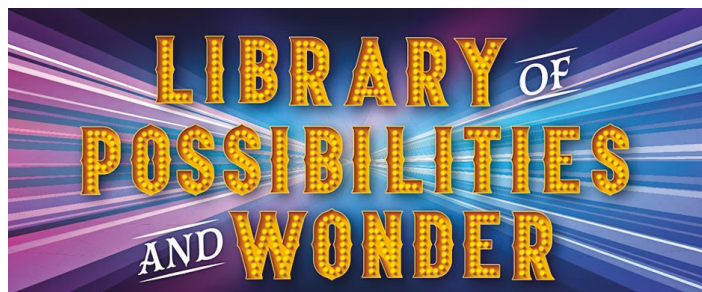
Pauline brought a beer stein in Munich in 1964 when travelling around Europe. It travelled back to Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, and was a gift for her father who loved making his own beer. He

died in 1978 and Pauline's mother gave it back to her. At that time, Pauline and her husband were living in South Africa. They came to live in England that year, and the beer stein came too. "You can imagine my dismay when, after all these years, I managed to knock it off the window sill. I took the broken bits together with what was left of the base to the Repair Café and I was simply amazed it was repaired on the spot. However, I was told not to drink out of it! Thank you - wonderful memories restored!"

Just some of the items the Repair Café has fixed in the past year include: picture frames, litter picker, dog toy, garden fork handle, electrical goods of all shapes and sizes, bicycle tyres, radios, evening bag, more teddy bears, violin, mandolin, clocks, various items of jewellery, a homemade ironing board, commemorative chinaware, a golf cart, baskets, trivet stand, sewing box, a military CBE, numerous vacuum cleaners and so the list continues. More recently, the Repair Café has offered a very successful and popular knife-sharpening service.

Cllr Gunston said, "The Repair Café has been successful beyond our original hopes. It has now reached the point where it is going to become independent of the parish council. Some councillors and officers will still be involved, but unofficially. The number of items saved from landfill is something the whole village can be proud of. If you any repair skills and would be willing to donate some time each month, please get in touch."

The next Repair Café runs at the Spire Room, St Mary the Virgin church, Vicarage Lane. Doors open at 10:00 and last entry is at 12:30. Forthcoming dates are: 10th May, 21st June and 12th July after which the team will take a well-earned break, returning in September.



2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the West Sussex Library Service. Although there had long been a reading room in the village, East Preston's current library was opened in January 1961.

As part of the 100th anniversary celebrations, libraries across the county have been looking to the future through the Library of Possibilities and Wonder initiative.

Members of the public were invited to try virtual reality (VR) headsets, providing them with an opportunity to explore a range of interactive adventures jumping through the pages of a virtual library. Sessions were open to people of different ages and backgrounds.

There were five book themes to choose from – space, cooking, countryside, history and smuggling – and each experience was narrated by Marty, a bird based upon the martlet seen on Sussex heraldry. The experiences are designed to have a universal appeal so are gentle, accessible and have a picture-book quality to them.

Cllr Andrea Chapman attended one session. Cllr Chapman said, "It was great to be able to immerse myself into the stories. I particularly enjoyed the history book as there was lots going on in the background. Thank you to Sarah, Ella, Harri and Alice for making it such an enjoyable experience."

The headsets will be touring around all West Sussex Libraries. For more details visit <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/whats-on-in-libraries/>. The initiative was made possible through an Arts Council England and National Lottery grant.



East Preston in Bloom

East Preston in Bloom is looking for two people to join our team. We need a Secretary and a Treasurer, or maybe you would like to do both? Do you have the skills required?



Maybe you know of someone who may like to help who may not read this newsletter. If this is the case then, please kindly show this to them.

We are a friendly group of people that you may have seen around the village planting, weeding, and generally tidying the flower beds. We are also responsible for some recent garden installations around East Preston. We meet every two months in the British Legion to discuss future work parties and social events. If there's a day you can't make, this can be catered for.

If you are interested in acting as Secretary or Treasurer, or even joining our gardening group, please contact us via the Parish council. Thank you and have a great day.

Thanks to...

Everyone who took part in the Beach Clean on 6th April and to The Lighthouse, Paul Wicks Garden Services, KEPT and Arun District Council for additional support of the event

Mark, Naomi, Margo, Valerie, Paul, Pam, Chris and Linda for their community volunteering at this year's Warm Welcome Space sessions. Once again, over 300 light lunches were provided across the thirteen weekly sessions run from January to March. Thank you too to each and every attendee and to all the support received from the Royal British Legion branch

Sue, Linda, Naomi, Michał, Wendy and Kelvan for their community volunteer contributions to the council's Environmental Initiatives Working Party which has spent the past 4½ years undertaking schemes large and small within the village, all with the aim of reducing the village's carbon footprint



How can you work with the Parish Council?

Having achieved a lot around the village, the Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP) has taken the decision to disband as the members believed they had achieved so much of what they initially wanted to do and that future projects could be organized by Parish Council committees.

Over four and a half years, this very proactive group, consisting of local residents and councillors, has completed projects such as; planting hedglings, putting up bird boxes, hosting a talk by Southern Water, surveying parishioners, enabling hedgehogs highways in the village and mapping sightings, encouraging the planting of wildflower beds, producing the walking map, setting up a very successful Repair Café as well as contributing numerous articles to the quarterly newsletter and a green thought for the day for the regular newsletter. Lastly, the Greener Buildings fund we suggested has contributed to greening projects at the bowls, tennis and football clubs, the Village Hall and the Scout Hall.

How can you bring your project or idea to the parish council for discussion?

There are seven committees which meet with varying frequency. If you would like to know when they are next meeting then please see the 'Village Life' section in this newsletter.

If you have any queries, ideas, projects you would like to discuss then there are several routes to take:

- **Go to the Parish Council Office** and speak to a member of staff – they are all very helpful. East Preston Parish Council, Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1NN. Telephone: 01903 770050 (Phone ahead of visiting to avoid disappointment). Opening hours are Monday to Thursday between 10am and midday.
- **Send an email to the Clerk** – Simon Cross – clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk or the Assistant Clerk – Dawn Reid – asstclerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk. You could address it them or the chairperson of the committee you want to discuss matters with.
- **Go to a meeting** – if you want to address the full council or a committee then speak to the Clerk first, particularly if you are wanting to speak.
- **Meet the Councillors** at our Annual Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event, details on the front page of this newsletter.
- **Informal meetings** - the office can arrange an informal meeting with members of the public upon request, with notice this does not need to be during office hours.
- **Look on the Parish Council's website** – it has details of councillors, Minutes from previous meetings, and general information about East Preston, news and events.
<https://eastpreston-pc.gov.uk>



Committee	Chairperson	How often do they meet?
Amenities	Steve Wilkinson	Every 3 Months
Community Engagement (CM)	Elizabeth Linton	Every 2 Months (opposite to ME)
Major Events (ME)	Elizabeth Linton	Every 2 Months (opposite to CM)
Finance and General Purposes	Rick McElroy	Every 3 Months
Audit and Governance	Glynn Mathias	Every 4 Months
Personnel	Lisa Duff	Every 3 Months
Planning and Licensing	Christine Bowman	Twice a Month
Full Council Meeting	Steve Toney	Once a Month

Village Life

June

- 2nd Full Council (19:00)
- 7th Come and Meet Your Local Councillors (10:00)
- 9th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)
- 10th Come and Meet Ems Friendly Farm (17:00)
- 23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Major Events Committee (19:00)

July

- 7th Full Council (19:00)
- 14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00)
- 21st Personnel Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)
- 28th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)

August

- 11th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Amenities Committee (19:00)
- 18th Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00)
Major Events Committee (19:00)
- 23rd East Preston Food & Drink Festival (12:00 – 17:00)
- 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.

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.

New coordinator for Community Speedwatch



Following the articles in the past two quarterly newsletters, the council is pleased to report the village Community Speedwatch team has found a new coordinator.

Gavin Bernard, seen here on the right receiving the speed gun and bodycam from outgoing coordinator, Keith Harris, has lived in the village for several years and felt this was an ideal role through which he could give something back to the village.

Now there is a new coordinator in place, you will see the team out and about a lot more again. Please remember, the team operates as volunteers, following Sussex Police's guidelines and the team's visibility is of paramount importance.

There is room for some more people to be part of the team now. If you are interested, please contact the team via the parish council office or stop for a chat with members of the team if you see them.

We wish Gavin luck and longevity in the role and thank all past and present community volunteers.

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: <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