

East Preston Parish Council Newsletter



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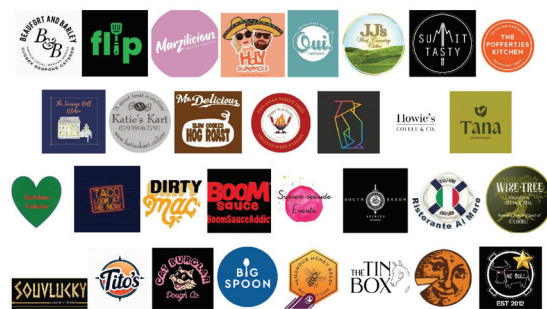
Summer 2026

East Preston Food & Drink Festival 2026

Doesn't a year roll around quickly these days?!

East Preston's tenth much-loved Food & Drink Festival will be taking place on the Village Green on Bank Holiday Saturday, 29th August, between 12:00 and 17:00. This annual event offers a banquet of food and drink delights plus some live entertainment for children of all ages. We would love you to come along and find out for yourself.

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, Rockhopper Roaster, Mr Delicious Hog Roast, Cheesology, JJ's Cider, Taco Look At Me Now, Potty for Puds, Katie's Kart, Tana Mediterranean, Wise Tree Oil Limited, Souvlucky (Greek), The Tin Box (bar) and Big Spoon (sweet treats). New stalls will include: Flip Food, Beaufort & Barley, Oui Crêperie, South Saxon Spirits and Happy Wok Sticks. Please note these details are subject to change at short notice.



The council believes everyone will find something appealing, whatever their food and drink tastes. Feel free to sit on a Village Green hay bale to eat what you have bought or take lunch to the beach for the afternoon. You can always pick up something else for tea on your way back home.

There will be live entertainment throughout the event comprising a circus skills area for children and some busking.

Please read these boring but important bits...

There will be some road closures, for everyone's safety, although we have tried to keep them to a minimum. 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 to..." 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, 29th August.

There will be alcohol available to drink at the event

and there will be alcohol available to take home. Sussex Police has advised alcohol purchased for take-home purposes must not be opened in public; if it is, 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 is a popular and well-attended event. In addition to chocolate, which most dog owners know is poisonous to dogs, among other foodstuffs dangerous to dogs are raw and cooked onions and various cooked meats. If you do bring your dog(s) with you, please ensure they are kept on a short lead at all times and bring some water for them. Please remember to bring some poo bags too.

Keep up to date with the latest Food & Drink Festival on Facebook and Instagram



facebook.com/epfdf



[@ep_food_drink_festival](https://www.instagram.com/ep_food_drink_festival)

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, Elizabeth Linton, Rick McElroy and Steve Toney – the Major Events Committee

Come and meet your local councillors 2026

As it has done for several years now, as part of this year's Festival, the council invited residents to join councillors at the office for a chat, a hot drink and a cake.

The weather on Saturday, 6th June was not great to start with, so the council set up tables and chairs in its new community building at 118 Sea Road. The first guests arrived just before the opening time of 10:00, the last left just after the closing time of midday.

This year's hot topic was the state of Sea Road following the recent microsurfacing. This work was initially completed at the end of April with a promise affected ironwork (i.e. drain covers and the like) would be lifted within two weeks. Road markings would follow on from that. Following a lot of chasing with WSCC officers and our county councillor, Roger Elkins, we were informed in mid-June the ironwork works would take place during the week beginning 22nd June; the works were completed that week despite the record-breaking temperatures.

The licensing hours for one of the businesses in Willowhayne Crescent were questioned. The council is a consultee on licensing applications in the village and had made the point Willowhayne Crescent businesses were in a predominantly residential area and operating hours should reflect that. Any final decision on licensing applications is made by Arun District Council.

The use of the Warren Recreation Ground for cricket was questioned. As residents may know,

the council is trying to work with both the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group and East Preston Cricket Club to find amicable solutions to the concerns raised by both sides.

One resident suggested an electric car-sharing scheme could be brought to the village. The council asked for and has received more information to consider. Ahead of a more formal consultation, do you have any views on this?

Another attendee said the council was lovely but questioned why there is no walkway around the Village Green yet, something to improve accessibility to the Village Green, much as the community boardwalk has done for the beach. The council has been working with a local landscape architect and thanks everyone who contributed to his public consultation back in September. Progress has been slow as the council wants to get this right.

Several residents simply called in to thank the council for the work it does around the village. This included a former resident who had only returned to the village two weeks previously after about eight years away.

* * * * *

An unexpected bonus of the event was a donation of eight casual office chairs and a sofa from Brennan & Chatterton. In recognition of this kind donation and with the agreement of the company's directors, the council has made a small donation to this year's Chairman's Charity, Chestnut Tree House children's hospice.

Are you feeling the heat?

The parish council is changing the Christmas Celebrations for the better.

Please come and join us at East Preston & Kingston Village Hall on **Sunday, 22nd November**, between 11:00 and 16:00. There we will have everything under one roof (and one large marquee).

We are calling the event East Preston's Cool Yule!

We look forward to seeing you then so please put it in your diary now.



Beach Clean

The council's next Beach Clean will take place on **Sunday, 27th September**, an end-of-season spruce up, ready for the rigours of autumn and winter. The event will again run in conjunction with the lovely volunteers at KEPT (Keep East Preston Tidy).

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) or by calling (01903) 770050.

Remember KEPT usually meets in The Great Dane on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 for a coffee, a chat and a litter-pick. Everyone welcome.



A tale of two Hickeys

A lot of residents are grateful each year for the Garage Sale Trail organised by East Preston Festival Committee and, in particular, Sue Hickey and Alison Roberts.

Sue is married to Roy and they moved to East Preston about eight years ago, both instantly getting involved in village life through the Festival Committee and the Bowls Club respectively.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the village, many will know Laurence (of Laurence Hickey Property Services) and his wife, Nicola who have both taken part in the Garage Sale Trail in both 2025 and 2026.

Good organiser and ambassador that she is, Sue spends the Garage Sale Trail day visiting every official entry, thanking them for taking part. Both last year and this year, she and Nicola have chatted about their slightly unusual surname, but this year, the conversation was different. Laurence mentioned he had an Uncle Ron, who had a son, Roy. Sue replied her father-in-law had been called Ron, at which point, everyone involved realised Roy and Laurence were long-lost cousins, their fathers being brothers.

An evening at The Great Dane was planned; Roy and Laurence met for the first time in many, many years. Both couples got on like the proverbial house on fire and will be maintaining the family connection and bringing other relatives into the fold.



Roy and Laurence think they last saw each other about 50 years ago at Laurence's mum's greengrocer's shop in Morden, Surrey; Roy's mum worked there. Roy, that little bit older, remembers Laurence being born and being around as a very young boy, but nothing much beyond that.

"It's amazing and wonderful," Roy said. "Extended families drift apart, just because people have busy lives. Having this door to some of my extended family reopened for me is great. For it to have happened like this, wow!"

As Laurence summed up, "You never know what hidden gems you'll come across at an EP garage sale!"

Eyes down!

The council regularly tries to engage with all ages of the community. Join us on **Sunday, 4th October** at East Preston Junior School for an afternoon of bingo.

Buy a book of bingo games to be in with a chance of prizes for a line or even a Full House.

Great fun for family and friends hosted by a professional bingo caller.

Bring your own refreshments and snacks, and dabbers will be available to buy!

A great opportunity for some fun and a few laughs with traditional bingo calling and speed rounds!

Wild Science

The council is pleased to announce it will be welcoming Wild Science into the village on the morning of **27th October**, probably between 10:00 and 12:00.

Billed as the UK's "Premier Mobile Animal Encounters", Wild Science will be setting up a petting zoo at the Marjorie Bridger Scout Hall in The Street.

Wild Science's dedicated team is passionate about keeping kids entertained and captivated.

Details to be confirmed, but we invite families to drop in at their own pace to meet and handle a broad mix of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.



For more information or to book either of these events, please contact the Council Office

Experiencing work at the council

Earlier this year, the council was approached by local resident Ocean asking whether she could do some work experience here. Ocean is at college in Horsham and has a healthy interest in politics. The council agreed Ocean could spend some time with us. In return, we asked Ocean to write an article for inclusion here.

“Over the course of four days, I gained a more thorough understanding of how the council supports the community. Before I started work experience, I knew the parish council existed but I knew very little about what they did. But after learning about the different committees, I now know how they contribute to the local area.

“On the first day, I learned about the financial side to the parish council and attended a monthly full council meeting. Finance officer Adrian and councillor John taught me about how a lot of money comes from the precept and the events the council hold; they budget carefully to ensure money is spent effectively and maintain transparency for the public. Furthermore, actually going to a full council meeting helped me understand how decisions are made and how councillors respond to concerns raised by the public. I was particularly interested in how the councillors represent the different interests of the local community.

“The second day focussed on community engagement and major events. This showed me the importance of communication between the public and the council. I learned about how the council takes suggestions from the public – using the [Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee] clock as an example; councillor Elizabeth insisted I look at it – but also the careful planning that goes on behind the scenes of the events. What could appear as simple events actually required thorough planning and research, preparation and teamwork to make them happen. This helped me to greatly appreciate the effort that goes into things such as blue plaques, festivals and smaller events; when I used to think it was just a convention these events would naturally come together.

“On the third day, I explored planning and licensing as well as learning about personnel and the community fridge. Planning and licensing demonstrated how the councils shape the local area while balancing the needs of the residents. I learned that decisions need careful consideration as they have a long-term effect on the community. I was also interested to learn about the responsibilities of personnel and the importance of supporting councillors and the council staff. The community fridge project stood out to me because it highlights how the council help tackle food waste, while also indirectly supporting people who may be struggling. Councillors Kit and Lisa were my guides for the day.

“My fourth and final day focused on local amenities and the work being done to support young people. I learned about the range of sites the council help to maintain, including public spaces that residents use every day. It was nice to see the results of the effort the council put into the community. As a young person myself, it was encouraging to hear about the effort on providing the youth small events as part of this community. Currently, the council are looking for ways to reach out to the youth and give them a say in potential activities. Learning about both amenities and how they want to also support the youth showed me how much they invest not only in physical amenities but also in the different groups of the community. Councillor Andrea and assistant clerk Dawn looked after me today.

“Overall, these past four days of work experience has given me a much greater appreciation for the role the parish council play in everyday life. I learned that there is more to the parish council than meetings. From managing finances and organising events to supporting vulnerable residents and young people. This experience has helped me recognise the importance of local government. Thank you everyone at the parish council for welcoming me and sharing your knowledge and experience.”

The parish council thanks Ocean too. It was an equally valuable experience for us.

Shaping our age-friendly parish: Have your say (60+)

As part of the council's wish to become an Age-Friendly Parish, we are gathering the views of residents aged 60 and over to help us understand what would make our village a more supportive, inclusive, and accessible place to live. National guidance from the Centre for Ageing Better highlights the importance of listening directly to people when shaping local services, activities, and community spaces. Your feedback will help us identify what is working well, where there are gaps, and what changes or new opportunities would make the biggest difference to your wellbeing, independence, and sense of connection within the parish.

This survey is designed to support older residents in our community. We kindly ask that only those aged 60 and over complete it. Please tick the answer when applicable.

Thank You

The survey can also be accessed here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/t/ILY7V7/>

or by scanning this QR code.



1.

Do you attend any organised activities in the village?

☐ Yes ☐ No
2.

How do you find out about these organised activities?

.....
3.

If you do not join in any organised activities, why is that?

.....
4.

Does reduced mobility stop you from doing what you would like to do?

☐ Yes ☐ No
5.

What clubs or activities would you like to see offered in the village in the future that aren't currently available?

.....
6.

Are you aware of the University of the Third Age (U3A) and its range of affordable activities in the area?

☐ Yes ☐ No
7.

If we had a place where all this information could be found under one roof would you access it?

☐ Yes ☐ No
8.

How are your IT skills?

☐ I have none ☐ I need help ☐ I get by ☐ I'm fine
9.

Would you make use of a village space where you could use a computer—with support available—to do things like online banking or shopping?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please feel free to comment further upon this subject. If you are happy for us to respond to your comments, please provide a name and email address or telephone number.

Village Life

September

- 7th Full Council (19:00)
14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting (19:00)
21st Community Engagement Committee (19:00)
27th East Preston Beach Clean No. 27 (11:00)
28th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)

October

- 4th Autumn Bingo (14:00-17:00)
5th Full Council (19:00)
12th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Personnel Committee (19:00)
19th Major Events Committee (19:00)
26th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
27th Wild Science (10:00-12:00)

November

- 2nd Full Council (18:30)
9th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Amenities Committee (19:00)
16th Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00)
22nd East Preston's Cool Yule (11:00-16:00)
23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00)
Audit & Governance 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.

Correspondence corner

We are living in an increasingly divisive country and this seems to have spread to our lovely, much-loved village.

With all my East Preston heart, I believe this needs to change.

Please can villagers try and understand the needs of the whole village so it can return to a happier East Preston of the past. I have seen too many negative and frankly unkind comments on social media recently and none of it is necessary. Please remember - kindness and gentleness truly cost nothing.

LE

be kind

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.



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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

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