



New offices found!

Last September, the council announced that its main priority for the remainder of the current term (i.e. until May) was to find a permanent office. The council is very pleased to announce that such an office has been found and a purchase price has been agreed.

The building is an existing office in Sea Road with a self-contained flat above. The purchase will require a small loan but the council has set its budget so that there will be no increase to your Council Tax as a result of the purchase.

This is the culmination of a desire held and worked towards by successive councils since before the turn of the century.

Keep an eye on the council's website and noticeboards for more news on this exciting initiative as it unfolds.



The council apologises for the Council Cabin not being open to the public since 11th January. This is due to an ongoing disagreement with the Village Hall Foundation.

The council is keen to resolve this disagreement, and has written to the Village Hall Foundation inviting it to meet with the council, most recently on 26th January, but at the time of going to press, the Village Hall Foundation has not agreed to meet with the council.

Your village needs you

Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? The next Parish Council elections are in May and all thirteen seats will be available. This is a great opportunity to help the village develop over the next four years and beyond. To find out more, or to speak to an existing councillor, please contact the council office on 01903 770050 for an informal chat.

There is also an Arun District Council pre-election briefing for prospective candidates on 21st March.

To find out more about this briefing please contact the office as above or email elections@arun.gov.uk

Friends of Langmeads

The Friends of Langmeads continue to work at creating a close working relationship with Arun District Council. That relationship continues to bear fruit with:

- Arun's Public Open Space Policy and the legal covenants being clearly established. The Friends believe Langmeads to be safe from the developers
- Spreading wood chippings on muddy paths; considerable improvement for access has been achieved
- New dog bins being provided by Arun
- Active consultation with Arun about improving access for the disabled. Ongoing discussions about: the provision of dropped kerbs; the step down from the footway; the angle of the gateway for pedestrians and options for a more easily negotiated surface with suitable drainage
- Consultation with Arun on a 5 Year Management Plan
- Visual rewards soon following the planting of snowdrops last February.

Not so rewarding is the effort put in by many (see *photo*) in planting over 100 tree whips that were donated by the Woodland Trust. Most have been pulled up or broken. Some of this might be due to animal activity, but it is thought that vandalism played a part. It has been reported to the police.



The Friends are preparing a programme of activities for 2011 – additional ideas and contributions would be well received.

So far, we are intent on:

- Planting the remaining whips in the copse, where Arun has cleared some dead and damaged wood
- Carrying out regular litter-picking
- Hosting a family picnic during Summer Half Term
- Having an information stall at the Village Market during Festival Week
- Planning surveys of wildlife and vegetation and holding related talks.

The 2011 AGM has been arranged for Thursday 14th April at 7.30pm at the Spire Room of St Mary's Church. Please make a note in your diaries. Voting is limited to paid up members. New members very welcome.

Contacts: Ron Sadler (A/Chairman) 01903 785192
Carol Cogman (Membership) 01903 770943
Sioned Vos (Secretary) 01903 770257

East Preston says, Thank you Betty Wagstaff!



How fortunate we have been in this village to have the services of Mrs. Betty Wagstaff who resigned from the parish council this year. Having moved into East Preston, she has participated enthusiastically in working to improve life in the village.

For over thirty years, Mrs Wagstaff has served the East

Preston community as a school governor, a parish councillor and a librarian. On the parish council, she remained a valued member of the Planning and Emergency Planning committees until her resignation. She was also one of the three councillors who, in autumn 2005, conceived the idea of a newsletter for the parish and continued to work on the newsletter until 2009.

In Mrs. Wagstaff's case, being involved has not just meant turning up and filling a space but rather providing fresh and critical thought and a crisp, insightful approach to situations. When Chairman of the council's Planning Committee for many years, she always went to see neighbours affected by applications to hear all opinions and remained active and well informed in this field until her resignation. Former Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Len Barnett, said: "Betty is always quiet but beneath that she is very sound in her thinking and has lots of common sense. She was very supportive of me as Chairman and I am appreciative of her friendship."

The East Preston Junior School has had the benefit of her service as their longest serving governor. Mr Andy Dale, the Headteacher, added: "Betty Wagstaff has been associated with East Preston Junior School

for more than a quarter of a century where she has been a much loved school governor. Her dedication and commitment to the school know no bounds and as Chair of the Premises Committee she has overseen many changes to the fabric of the school and its grounds. In recent years, she has guided us through the replacement of all the windows and doors, the complete replacement of the heating and all the pitched roofs. She has also seen through the establishment of a Children & Families Centre on the school site and a myriad of other smaller projects.

"Over the years Betty has become part of the fabric of the school where she is well respected and liked by children, staff and governors. Despite her advancing years, Betty's enthusiasm shows no sign of wavering, attending meetings and events at the school no matter what the weather. Her involvement in the school has always been valued as she really is one of our treasures!"



For many years, Mrs. Wagstaff worked in the East Preston library, coupled with a regular stint as a reading volunteer at the Junior School. Many older readers may remember the days when, during the Festival, the library entertained the children and on one such occasion, Betty dressed as Jess, the cat, to accompany Postman

Pat in a borrowed GPO van. To the delight of almost 100 onlookers, she was flung into the back of the van and driven off to the depot in Rustington.

This council is most grateful for the dedicated service of this ever dignified, modest and gracious lady.

Festival Week

This year's East Preston Festival Week, which runs from Saturday 4th to Sunday 12th June, is the 30th anniversary and also, sadly, Ray Leggett's last year as Chairman of the Festival. Ray and the Festival Committee are looking for someone to replace him in that role. If you are committed to East Preston and appreciate the hard work the Festival Committee does for the community, please do contact Ray on 01903 770788 for further details.

Also, the Festival Committee awards a lovely cup to the owner of the best-dressed motorised buggy in the annual Parade. This year's Parade will be on Saturday, 11th June and the Festival would love to hear from buggy users interested in taking part, as sadly none took part last year and the cup remained lonely on the shelf. Please call Vanessa on 01903 775101.

Your priorities for improvement

With elections for the Parish Council only three months away, now is a good time to let the council know your three priorities for improving the village in the next four years:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

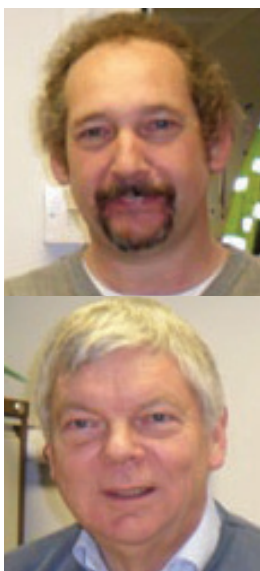
Post Code: _____

Please either complete this form and send to the Parish Clerk at the address on the back page or email: eparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Welcome two new councillors

We welcome new councillors Rob Ellis and Peter Vincent who joined the council as the successful candidates in the November by-election.

We hope that they have a long and happy association with the council and find the experience rewarding.



Many thanks to everyone who braved the Arctic conditions on Thursday, 2nd December in order to support the switching on of the Christmas lights and the various late night shopping and celebratory events on that evening. Pictured here is Henry with East Preston's biggest snowball.

East Preston a Children and Family Centre



Families come in different shapes and sizes, with different strengths and needs. Our key aim is to work with communities and key partner organisations to help offer families with children aged 0-5 the best start in life.

Our staff are here to help answer your queries on local services, including childcare and activities for your child, as well as advice and opportunities for you as a parent or carer. We link with other services, including health care from pre-birth to five (ten at larger centres), adult education, housing benefits and Jobcentre Plus, as well as local pre-schools, nurseries, childminders, schools and after school clubs.

The Centre is located at 92, St Mary's Drive (BN16 1JB). We are also hoping to take our services out into other parts of our community, so please let us know what you need and where, by coming in to register and talk with us. You will be very welcome!. Call 01903 270470 to be involved in developing family services in your community.

Caroline Martin, Centre Manager

Village Life

March 7th - Full Council meeting - 7pm - East Preston Infant School
March 12th - 60's & 70's Music & Dining Club - Village Hall
visit www.party-line.co.uk for more information

April 4th - Full Council meeting - 7pm (venue tbc)
April 9th - 60's & 70's Music & Dining Club - Village Hall
April tbc - Annual Parish meeting - details will be posted on the council website and noticeboards nearer the time

May 5th - Local Government elections
May 9th - Full Council meeting - 7pm (venue tbc)
May 14th - 60's & 70's Music & Dining Club - Village Hall

Storytime for toddlers every Friday 11.10am - 11.30am in East Preston Library.

Toy library at the Children and Family Centre.

Please check www.eastprestonvillage.co.uk for regularly updated listings.

If you have an event in June, July and August that you would like to be included in this list, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Poetry Corner

Local resident Bryan Turner submitted two poems for inclusion in a newsletter, and we are happy to publish the first of those here:

*When you have a notice for us all to see
And you pin it to a Local Tree.
Do not forget that Dogs sniff around
And can step on that fallen pin on the ground.*

If there are other budding poets living in East Preston, we would be delighted to consider other short poems for publication, space and content permitting.





The 2011 Census is coming 27th March

Help tomorrow take shape

On 27 March 2011, the Census will take a snapshot of society in England and Wales. From

7th March a questionnaire will

arrive in the post asking you about your household and all the people living there. Your household is one of around 25 million in England and Wales taking part.

The 2011 Census is all about numbers

It asks about work, health, national identity, citizenship, ethnic background, education, second homes, language, religion, whether you are married and so on. This information helps the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to produce population estimates.

Why should this matter to you?

Hundreds of decisions are made based on census data, from the pipe networks needed to get fresh and waste water in and out of households and the number of school places needed, to the location of leisure centres and the type of products stocked on the shelves in local stores.

Decisions which benefit you every day

Census statistics feed into the amount of money the Councils of Sussex get allocated from central government.

So what do you need to do?

Simple. Just answer the questions.

You can complete your 2011 Census online, or complete the questionnaire by hand and post it back in the pre-paid envelope.

Everything in the census is strictly confidential. It will only be used to help build an accurate picture of the population so that public sector organisations and other users can plan their services and activities over the next ten years. Your questionnaire is turned into numbers by ONS and is never seen, or used, by any other local or national government body.

What help is available?

A range of accessible formats will be available to help those with sight, hearing, literacy, language and other difficulties to complete their census questionnaire. Guidance notes will be available in 57 languages.

In addition there will be a telephone helpline and from 6th April Census Collectors will be visiting households who have not returned their form to assist if required.

For more information visit www.census.gov.uk/The-accessible-census

The 2011 Census should reflect the needs of all the people who live in Sussex so when you get your questionnaire please take the time to fill it in. You'll need to complete on approximately 27 March 2011, even if you do it before, on or after census day it really is important that you are counted.

Please remember to do it as the few who don't could get fined up to £1,000.

For more information visit www.census.gov.uk

Fond farewell to Jackie Holland



After over three years of invaluable service, Mrs Jackie Holland has decided, reluctantly, to hang up her lollipop. Jackie has been a much-appreciated and much-loved school crossing patrol person in East Preston and she will be sadly missed. The Parish Council thanks Mrs Holland for the wonderful job that she has done and wishes her all the very best for the future.

If you are interested in taking on this very rewarding role, please send your details to the Parish Clerk at the address below, and he will forward them to WSCC.



Contact point: Parish Clerk - Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk - Tracy Khoo
Council Cabin, Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1LP
Telephone: 01903 770050 E-mail: eparishcouncil@btconnect.com
Website: www.arun.gov.uk/eastpreston

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