Consultation for a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Lashmar Recreation Ground, East Preston

East Preston Parish Council (EPPC) has approached Arun District Council (ADC) to work jointly on a project to provide a MUGA for public use in the East Preston area. EPPC has identified Lashmar Recreation Ground as being a suitable public open space in the Parish on which to site a MUGA.

It is hoped funding can be achieved largely from grants and EPPC will explore grant funding opportunities whilst ADC will provide the land, manage the project and maintain the completed MUGA.

Some of the benefits of a MUGA:

- All year round usability – it will have a hard wearing tarmac playing surface
- Multi-functional – it can be used for a range of sports
- Inclusive - it can be used by all ages and abilities
- Low maintenance costs
- Encourages healthy activity

Please see the plans indicating a proposed location and an artistic impression indicating the visual impact of the MUGA. (Please note that the MUGA illustrated is not necessarily the one that would be installed.)

Alternatively, if you wish to comment on this project please write or email to either of the addresses below as soon as possible:-

Email: parks@arun.gov.uk
Postal: Michael Rowland
Environmental Services - Arun District Council
Bognor Regis Town Hall
Clarence Road
Bognor Regis
West Sussex PO21 1LD

Email: epparishcouncil2@btconnect.com
Postal: Tracy Khoo
Assistant Clerk - East Preston Parish Council
Council Office
122 Sea Road
East Preston
West Sussex BN16 1NN

There will be a Public Consultation Day to display and discuss the MUGA proposal. This will be held on Saturday 16th March 2013, at the Guide Hut (Lashmar Road Recreation Ground) between 11am and 1.30pm. If you have a particular interest in this, please come along and see the plans and chat to our representatives.
East Preston Film Society

In 2002, the then East Preston Village Hall Committee decided to start showing new cinematic feature films on a large screen. The first film shown was ‘Calendar Girls’ and as a direct result, a new WI group was formed in the village. Since October 2011, the new venue for the films has been the Conservative Hall, Sea Road, with all film events generously sponsored by Cooper Adams Estate Agents.

From the outset, the intention of those running the films has been to foster community cohesion and to plough back into the community all profits they generated. In June 2012, the East Preston Film Society was formed to ensure that films continued to be shown in the village, with profits from each film donated to a nominated East Preston cause.

Our October film was “Anna Karenina”, the proceeds of which went to ‘East Preston RBL Poppy Appeal’. November films were “Brave”, benefiting ‘Friends of East Preston Schools’ and “Hope Springs” which produced a donation towards the East Preston Churches’ Christmas Day Lunches.

“Skyfall” was screened in December and a donation went to The Martlets to be used in organising a social outing for its residents.

Tickets can only be purchased from Hedgers Newsagents and Seaview Stores. The profits from “Great Expectations” (January), “Quartet” (22nd February) and “Les Misérables” (24th March) will be used to purchase a wooden bench for the village.

The 2013 East Preston Festival committee will be the recipient of the profits from films screened on 26th April and 25th May.

Finally a special thank you to those local traders who have kindly donated prizes for the raffle draws that take place during the intermission periods of the films. If any trader would like to do likewise, please email epfilmsociety@gmail.com for further details.

Paul Amoo – Chairman of the East Preston Film Society

A new look to the Children’s Playground, Sea Road

Just before Christmas, a new Multiplay Unit was installed in the Children’s Playground in Sea Road. Following ongoing repairs to the old play unit, the Parish Council felt it was time to invest in some new equipment. The unit was funded by Section 106 money which was given to the parish as a result of new development in East Preston and the balance was funded from the Parish Council's Reserves.

The new Multiplay Unit is a colourful boat design and offers young children exciting new challenges when playing.

A new Seal Springer unit has also recently been installed.

Sponsor a Bench Update

In the last Newsletter a request was made to see whether anyone in the village would consider sponsoring a new bench for the Bus Stop in North Lane, just south of Windlesham Gardens. Several residents had requested a bench at this site.

The Parish Council has accepted a generous offer by the East Preston Film Society to purchase a new bench for this location and it is hoped the bench will be in place in early March.

East Preston Precept

The East Preston precept is the portion of your overall Council Tax that is set by East Preston Parish Council for use in the village. At the January Full Council meeting, it was agreed that the amount of precept to be paid by each household for 2013-14 would remain the same as the amount paid for 2012-13.
East Preston artists help the homeless

Homelessness may not seem like a big problem in East Preston, but many residents will be aware that local bus shelters are often used as overnight accommodation by two gentlemen in particular. Homeless people in this area will often find themselves offered short-term accommodation through Worthing Churches Homeless Project (WCHP - charity no. 1027832).

Four East Preston artists are taking part in the latest WCHP project, raising funds for and the profile of the charity. WCHP helps 500 people each year, and is currently looking for 500 local artists. Each artist is given a brief, anonymous profile of someone WCHP has helped in the past year from which each artist is asked to produce an appropriate piece of art. Finished works will be displayed as part of the Worthing Open Houses Trail and also in special cabinets around the town.

Malcolm Galloway wanted to take part because he spent six months homeless in Cardiff, “I’ve seen it from the other side. Any help to get off the streets is very handy. It’s easy to get on the streets but it’s very hard to get off them. Homeless people could easily have been an accountant, a returning serviceman or anything before becoming homeless.”

Malcolm’s wife Liz is also taking part and added, “Thanks to WCHP, I have realised that people become homeless for so many different reasons and it’s often not their own choice. I just wanted to help, to make more people more aware of the plight of local homeless men and women.”

Jo Greenlees is taking part because “a small amount of money can help massively and I never take for granted the fact that my family and I have been lucky enough never to have been without a roof over our heads.”

The fourth of the artists, Gay Forster, summed it up quoting from B. G. Wetherby’s poem Homeless, “A homeless man or woman … could have been you instead, you are but one bad break away.”

For more information on WCHP, visit http://www.wchp.org.uk/.

Village Life

March
4th Full Council
10th East Preston Festival Antiques and Collectors Fair (Village Hall, 10am to 4pm)
11th & 25th Planning Committee (6pm)
13th Amenities Committee
16th Public consultation on proposal to site a Multi-Use Games Area on Lashmar Recreation Ground (Guide Hut, 10:30am to 1:30pm)
18th Finance & General Purposes Committee
25th Community Engagement Committee

April
8th Full Council
8th & 22nd Planning Committee (6pm)
17th East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society talk - Worthing in the 1930s (Conservative Hall, 7.15pm, £3 for non-members)
20th East Preston Festival Craft Fair (Village Hall, 9.30am to 1.30pm)

May
5th Friends of Langmeads litter pick (Langmeads Field – meet at Marjorie Bridger (Scout) Hall, The Street, 2pm)
8th Annual Parish Meeting
13th Annual Meeting of the Council
14th & 28th Planning Committee (6pm)
20th Community Engagement
22nd Amenities Committee
31st East Preston Festival starts

All council meetings start at 7pm at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road unless otherwise noted. For all meetings, please consult the noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda.

Flooding Update

West Sussex County Council, as responsible authority for land drainage, recently announced a £8.25 million fund to pay for flood related schemes to help alleviate the impact of the last two 2012 flooding events. For East Preston that means investment in a new highway drainage beach outfall and some other remedial works. This is one of nine major West Sussex schemes that has to be designed, contractors selected and then implemented, meaning it is unlikely to be completed before the autumn of 2014. This council is not happy with this timescale and will be pressing WSCC to complete this work in 2013. Before then WSCC will monitor rainfall predictions and provide temporary pumping when necessary.

This work is a direct response to the Sea Lane flooding events. We know other East Preston homes were affected, have you told us so we can make sure WSCC is aware?
Now in its 32nd year!
The East Preston Village Festival 2013
31st May to 9th June inclusive

Preparations for the 2013 East Preston Festival are under way and we are already planning the programme. Popular favourites returning are the Antiques Market, Craft Fair, Arts and Flowers Show, the Open Gardens Trail, Party on the Green, Funfair and Dog Show. Other key events feature The Phoenix Big Band and Arun Young Musicians, as well as the Call My Wine Bluff evening and Fashion Show. New events include an Elvis Tribute Evening. As usual, Festival week culminates in a lively, themed Carnival Parade with floats, bands, entertainment and the crowning of the Prince and Princess. All are welcome to take part, if you would like more information, or a form to register, please call 01903 770844. This year’s theme is ‘Village Life.’

This year, the Festival is inaugurating a poetry competition for all East Preston children under the age of eleven. We hope this will prove the first of many in years to come. The winning poems will be published in the Festival Programme, which is out in April.

Forthcoming fund-raising events include The Antiques & Collectors Market 10am-4pm, Sunday 10th March in the Village Hall; Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir with harp soloist 7.30pm-10pm, Saturday 16th March in the Conservative Hall and The Village Craft Fair 9.30am-1.30pm, Saturday 20th April in the Conservative Hall. For more details visit the Local Events page on the Village website www.eastprestonvillage.co.uk

Parish Emails
Would you like to be kept up to date with East Preston news as it happens? The Council has an email circulation list which is used to keep subscribers informed of news and events. This email list is only used for local news and event details, 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 200 households and businesses in East Preston 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 - Tracy Khoo
Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1NN
Telephone: 01903 770050 E-mail: epparishcouncil@btconnect.com
Website: http://eastpreston.arun.gov.uk
Arun District Council 01903 737500 West Sussex County Council 01243 777100
Designed and printed by PrintPlus, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton

We have had a great response to our request for volunteers and are already recruiting Festival Makers. If you would like to join the team or have any other comments, enquiries or suggestions regarding the Festival, please email eastprestonfestival@hotmail.co.uk.

Martlets bungalow site
By a majority decision at the 7th January Full Council meeting East Preston Parish Council agreed to submit a bid to West Sussex County Council to purchase the Martlets Bungalow site on the southern corner of Fairlands and Sea Road, for use as a community garden. We will almost certainly not be the only bidders for the site.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the slip that was included in the last Newsletter asking for your ‘vote’ on the community garden. Of approximately 150 responses a majority agreed that we should buy the Martlets site for use as a community garden. Since we deliver this Newsletter to around 2,900 homes and businesses in East Preston what does the silent majority think?