



Come and Meet Your Councillors

This year the council has decided to host an event in the East Preston Festival. Between 10:30am and 12:30pm on Thursday 9th June, please come along to the Council Office for a cup of tea and a slice of cake with your Parish Councillors. Find out more about what we do and let us know what more we could do for you and the village as a whole. We look forward to meeting you.

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The council is also sponsoring the Circus Workshop at the Warren Recreation Ground on Monday 6th June, running from 10am until 1pm. The event is free and open to everyone; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Food & Drink Festival – 27th August

Preparations for East Preston's first Food & Drink Festival continue. Please see the flyer below but most importantly please come along on the day. For more information call 01903 770050.

Disability Action Group of East Preston

The Disability Action Group of East Preston was initially formed in September 2014 by a group of local people who wanted to support people in the area with disabilities, to address issues such as access to the beach and provision of disabled toilets.

A new committee has been formed this year, hopefully to carry these projects forward. We meet on a monthly basis in East Preston and would welcome new members, volunteers and ideas. We also hope to provide social events in the future, subject to sufficient interest. Any fundraising ideas or donations to help further these projects would be most gratefully received.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 6th June at the Guide Hall, Lashmar Road Recreation Ground, East Preston at 11am. There is a disabled access ramp, refreshments will be provided and we do hope to see you there.

For further information, date of next meeting, etc. please contact me on 01903 779664 or Richard Akhurst (Vice Chairman) 01903 773676.

David Quick (Chairman)

Thanks

Thanks to everyone who took part in the council's Beach Clean No. 7 on 3rd April. Once again we were lucky with the weather and the good turnout collected another forty or so bags of litter from East Preston beaches. The eighth Beach Clean will be on Sunday, 25th September.

* * *

Thanks to everyone who took part in and worked behind the scenes of the Queen & Country Quiz on 23rd April. The event raised about £350 for St Barnabas House and some of the more fiendishly difficult questions are still generating debate now.

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Thanks to the East Preston Silver Surfers Club for sponsoring a Winter Cherry tree in Two Acres. Whilst it is not always possible to plant trees where people would like, please get in touch if you would like to talk about sponsorship of trees.

Chairman's Annual Report for 2015-2016



**Chairman of the Council,
Councillor Joop Duijf**

Cllr Duijf presented his annual report to the village's Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April. Below is an abbreviated version:

"This year was different to my previous ones as Chairman because of the May 2015 local elections and the subsequent influence on the functioning of the Council. There were only seven candidates resulting

in all being automatically elected to the council, but this left the council with six vacancies. The council undertook the legal co-option exercise and six new councillors were co-opted from a pool of over twenty residents willing to be councillors. A lot of experience and knowledge left the council last year and it takes time to replace that but each of the new councillors brings different skills, abilities and perspectives which inform the council and ultimately the whole village moving forwards.

"It was an eventful and busy year. Just one of the council's activities was our second Christmas Celebrations event, and thanks to all involved for making this a success; most importantly thanks to the public who ultimately make it really work. Having seen so many happy people we have decided to organise the village's first-ever Food & Drink Festival and the Christmas Celebrations event again this year. The council financially supported the East Preston Festival and took part in Remembrance Sunday. Our Beach Cleans were supported by many local residents and made a big difference to our beach. For the first time, the council took part in Commonwealth Day, raising the Commonwealth flag outside the library.

"Many councillors attended training courses to educate them in the mystery of councillorship; committees were populated to get involved in the day-to-day running, guiding everything in the right direction to serve the village.

"Our Planning Committee became our Planning & Licensing Committee and meets more frequently than our other committees, due to the timescales set down in Planning and Licensing legislation. The East Preston Neighbourhood Plan is our main guideline when commenting upon Planning Applications to Arun District Council (ADC).

"The council commented on a number of applications including some controversial ones. Sadly the Planning Inspectorate overturned ADC's decision refusing demolition of Slater's Cottage at 3 The Street, a unique 1850s building in the centre of the village. Sir Peter Bottomley, MP, was sadly unable to influence this decision. Concerns about the proposed redevelopment of the Bradbury Hotel site in Station Road led to a rethink and eventual withdrawal of the scheme completely – the future of this site remains unknown. The council has expressed its concerns about traffic management in this

area, but West Sussex County Council at present will not investigate further until the hotel site redevelopment has completed. Who knows when that will be?

"The council has been involved in getting parking restrictions in place at the western end of Worthing Road and discussions concerning the future development of the A259.

"Our Amenities Committee has started improvement of the Warren Recreation Ground based upon a four-year plan. At the end of March, a new roundabout was installed in the children's play area specifically to be inclusive for all children. The committee has also started to create wild flowers meadows in the Village.

"Our Finance Committee has kept any increase to our portion of your council tax to 2%, and has done much work to ensure the council's reserves are secure and working hard for the village in the future.

"As contributions from central government to both the county and district councils diminish, in order to preserve our reserves for inevitable future expenditure, the council took the difficult decisions to try and end the lease of the South Strand toilet block, returning it to ADC, and to stop providing streetlighting for the Angmering-on-Sea estate.

"A number of residents approached the council upset at the Village Hall Foundation's decision not to reinstate the Millennium Collage following extensive redecoration of the Village Hall. The council tried to mediate in this matter, unsuccessfully.

"The council supported the re-launch of a village Youth Club and attendance numbers confirm this is a success.

"The very visible problems of dog fouling and parking on verges continue in the village – if you have ideas, please let us know.

"Most councillors have represented the council at numerous meetings and events and duly reported all this to Full Council.

"I would like to end by thanking our councillors, District and County councillors, the council staff and in particular those parishioners who attended our meetings, visited our surgeries and were involved in other ways.

"I hope we will see you at our meetings in the coming year and please tell us what we might be able to do better.

"Finally, should we all work together to try to keep our village clean? no dog poo, no litter, no dustbins in the street except on collection day. Thank you for that!"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joop Duijf'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joop Duijf – Chairman

Councillor Vacancy

Owing to the resignation of Rob Ellis, for personal reasons, there is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Remembering the basic tenet of the Parish Council is to make East Preston an even better place to live, a wide range of skills can be used by becoming a councillor.

If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact the Council Office for more information. And if you are able to pop along to our Festival event on 9th June (see front page), you will be able to chat to existing councillors about what the role involves.

The council thanks Rob for his councillorship and achievements over the past five and a half years and wishes him every happiness for the future.

East Preston Festival

This year's Festival runs from 3rd to 12th June and already some events have sold out. Programmes have been delivered across the village but if you have not received one, they are available from several shops and businesses in the village including the Council Office.



Please note the following information from the Festival Committee relating to the Festival Carnival Procession on 11th June:

The procession leaves Vicarage Lane at approximately 1.15pm and travels along The Street, Sea Lane, Seaview Road, Sea Road/North Lane and Lashmar Road. It will be led by Littlehampton Sea Cadets (TS SUSSEX), Celebration Samba, the East Preston Prince and Princess and followed by many local charities and community groups. Just before the Procession, our local firemen will be pulling the fire engine along the Procession route in aid of charity.

Vicarage Lane will be closed to all but residents in both directions between 11am and 1.30pm and the following road closures will apply during the procession:

The Street from 1.10pm to 1.30pm
Sea Lane from 1.20pm to 1.45pm
Seaview Road from 1.30pm to 1.50pm
Sea Road/North Lane from 1.45pm to 2pm
Lashmar Road (dispersal) from 2pm to 2.30pm

By necessity, timings are approximate.

Village Life

June

2nd	Business Breakfast (8am)
3rd-12th	East Preston Festival
4th	170 Years on Track (10am-5pm, Angmering railway station)
6th	Full Council Disability Action Group AGM (11am, Guide Hall)
9th	Come and Meet Your Local Councillors (10:30am-12:30pm, Council Office)
13th	Planning Committee (6pm)
27th	Planning Committee (6pm)

July

4th	Full Council
6th	Business Breakfast (8am)
11th	Planning Committee (6pm)
13th	Amenities Committee (7pm)
18th	Community Engagement Committee (7pm)
23rd-24th	50 Glorious Years (East Preston Football Club)
25th	Planning Committee (6pm)

August

1st	Full Council (tbc)
3rd	Business Breakfast (tbc)
8th	Planning Committee (6pm)
22nd	Planning Committee (6pm) Finance & General Purposes Committee (7pm)
27th	East Preston Food & Drink Festival (12midday to 6pm)

N.B. The full schedule of committee meetings has not yet been set.

All council meetings begin 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. *Please note the above list may be subject to change*

170 Years On Track

Did you know Angmering railway station opened on 16th March 1846? That makes it 170 years young this year. To mark this birthday, the council is working with the Sussex Community Rail Partnership (www.sussexcrp.org) on a birthday party at the station. Similar events will also take place at both Ford and Goring-by-Sea stations as they too are 170 years old this year.

On 4th June, Angmering station birthday events run between 10am and 5pm and will include model railway displays, live music, stalls, Daleks and free vintage bus rides into the heart of East Preston for easy access to that day's East Preston Festival events.

Please pop along and show your appreciation for our local railway station.



Village Bulbs & Floral Displays

As we hope you will agree, the village always looks its best during the Spring and Summer time due to its lovely floral displays.

A special note of thanks should be made this year to the East Preston Festival Committee for donating and planting more Spring bulbs around the village and to local residents for their help with planting other verges.

The village's other colourful floral displays and hanging baskets are thanks to the ongoing hard work of Ferring Nurseries, who carry out the planting and maintenance for the Parish Council.

For the first time this year, there are going to be some new Meadow Plantings around the village – the Village Green, Two Acres and at the top of Sea Lane. It is hoped these displays will not only add more floral impact to the village but will also bring lots of other benefits to wildlife. Local group SENCAT (pictured above) spent a lovely sunny afternoon on the Village Green scattering seeds across the prepared beds.

The East Preston Festival Committee has sponsored and helped plant the Two Acres meadow planting.

This England

East Preston resident Juliet Lockwood is delighted her *Roots of East Preston* article is going to be published in the forthcoming Summer 2016 issue of *This England* magazine. In Summer 2014, Juliet had a previous article in the same publication, but there were too few copies available and some people were disappointed. Pop into a local newsagent to pre-order a copy of the new issue.

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



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Community Speed Watch update

Several months into East Preston's Community Speed Watch team, we are pleased with just how successful the team has been. We are not judging our success by the number of motorists we have reported for speeding - although there have been some - but rather by the reduced number of speeding vehicles we are reporting. Our most successful day so far was one on which no vehicles needed to be reported to Sussex Police - long may it continue.

Unfortunately, on other days we have been forced to report a small number of drivers who stopped and thought it a good idea to try and disrupt our monitoring session, by questioning our authority to carry out the sessions and generally making themselves a nuisance. These drivers have been visited by the police, cautioned about their behaviour and hopefully this will not happen again.

Equally unbelievably, the team has also been abused by parents who have just dropped off their children at school. Next time you feel like shouting abuse at our Speed Watch team, just think how you would feel if your child or grandchild was run over by a speeding car. You would probably ask why the police or council had done nothing to reduce the amount of speeding around the village. Thankfully, with the help of Sussex Police and the support of the majority of the village, we are doing something about it.

Happy and Safe Driving to one and all.

East Preston Community Speed Watch Team

Rubbish bags & seagulls

The council would like to remind residents to be mindful when they put out their plastic rubbish sacks. Residents who put out their rubbish sacks the night before are causing a problem with seagulls getting into the sacks and scattering rubbish over the streets. This is not only unsightly but also a health hazard. Please help to keep East Preston clean and tidy by putting out sacks first thing in the morning if you are able or better still, in a dustbin. Thank you.

