



East Preston Christmas Celebrations

Saturday 25th November midday - 5pm



Did you know Christmas starts on 25th November?

That's the date for the 2017 East Preston Christmas Celebrations which will again be a great way of starting your Christmas season.

The numbers on this map identify specific event locations as detailed. Overleaf is a timetable of what is happening when. Why not highlight those activities you would like to join?

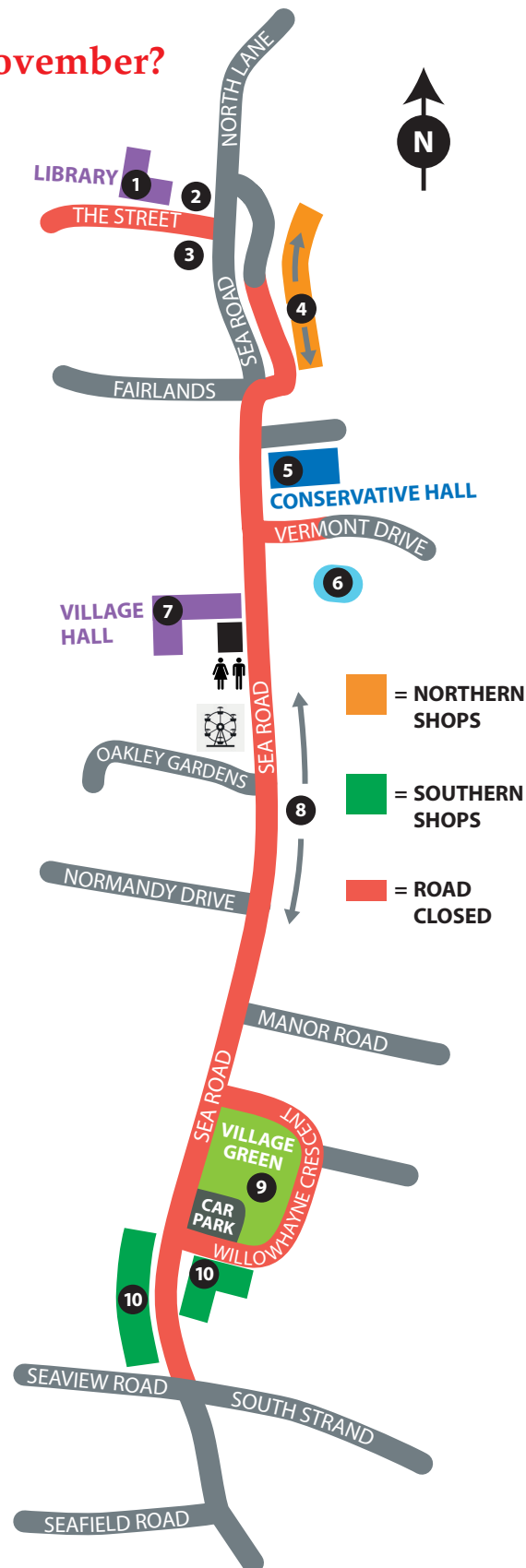
Once again we are happy to say some of the stallholders from the Food & Drink Festival will be present and will be dotted around the Celebrations area and there will be an Italian market in the service road by the northern shops.

Having spent a lot of the day in his grotto, Santa will lead our lantern procession from the Northern shops to the Village Green, assembling there to sing carols and enjoy a short fireworks display kindly part-sponsored by an anonymous donor. Lanterns can be made at Caldotec in Willowhayne Parade and at East Preston Library. *If you can bring your own jam-jar that would be great.* If you have any spare jam-jars, please bring them along to the Council Office during office hours in the week before the event.

Please remember there will be the usual road closures on Saturday and if you usually park in Sea Road, please could you ensure your vehicle is parked elsewhere by 9am on the day. This will help with the success of the event. Thanks.

Special thanks to:

- the East Preston Clinic which is again sponsoring the conversion of the Conservative Hall into the Miles Ahead Music Club offering a great variety of music between midday and 4.30pm;
- the East Preston Film Society which will be presenting the family favourite, Elf at 6pm in the Conservative Hall. Tickets have been priced at a very family-friendly £4 a head and doors will open at 5.30pm so why not stop off on your way home?



East Preston Christmas Celebrations

Saturday 25th November from midday onwards

Event Guide - see overleaf for map of event locations

Unless otherwise stated, all events run **between midday and 5pm**

All event details may be subject to change; more attractions to be confirmed

Keep up to date by liking East Preston Christmas Celebrations on Facebook



THE STREET

- 1** East Preston Library
 - Lantern decorating, **12pm to 3pm**
 - Children's badge making, **12pm to 4pm**
 - Giant Connect4
 - Giant Kerplunk
 - Give the Dog a Bone
- 2** - Circus Seen – circus skills play area, **2pm to 4pm**
- 3** British Legion
 - BBQ
 - Zuffle, **3pm to 6pm**

4 NORTHERN SHOPS

- Christmas window displays
- Slovakian Biscuit tasting – Mrs Beeton's
- Lucky Dip and Children's colouring competition, Just Because
- Stalls in Glyn Jones x 3
- Range of Christmas food goods, East Preston Butchers
- Italia in Piazza, Italian food market
- Sussex Steel, **12pm to 2pm**
- Celebration Samba, **4pm onwards** then leading...
- Lantern parade, **4.45pm**

5 MILES AHEAD MUSIC CLUB AT CONSERVATIVE HALL *(sponsored by The East Preston Clinic)*

- Pebbles catering **12pm to 4.30pm**
- School Choir, **12pm to 12.30pm**
- Kit Bradshaw, **12.45pm to 1.30pm**
- Take 6, **1.30pm to 2.30pm**
- Rusty Ukes, **2.30pm to 3.30pm**
- Alex & The Middlemen, **3.45pm to 4.30pm**
- East Preston Film Society presents ELF - **6pm**

6 OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH, Vermont Drive

- Father Christmas, **12pm to 1.30pm, 2pm to 4pm**
(last tickets sold at 3.30pm)
- NSPCC tombola and jewellery stall, **12pm to 4pm**

7 VILLAGE HALL

- Pop-up catering & raffle (Baytree Club)
- Craft & Gift Fair.
- Outdoor stalls and games.
- Prize Draw (Friends of St Barnabas)
12pm until it runs out
- Fire engine, Warren Rec car-park

8 SEA ROAD AREA

- Charity Stalls, (corner of Vermont Drive down Sea Road)
- Fun Fair
- Charity Stalls, (down Sea Road)
- Hot Food Stalls – La Creperie, Kung Fu Pan, Happy Burgers, Bratwurst Sausages
- Ride-on train, **12 to 4.30pm**

9 VILLAGE GREEN

- Circus Seen – circus skills play area, **12 to 1.45pm**
- Go Karting, **12 to 4pm**
- Zorbing, **12 to 4pm**
- Short firework display, **5pm**

10 SOUTHERN SHOPS

- Christmas window displays
- Children's lantern making and refreshments for accompanying adults, Caldotec, 11 The Parade, Willowhayne Crescent, **1pm to 4pm**
- Punch & Judy, with balloons for children, **2.30 to 4pm**
- Children's lucky dip, Indian street food and more, Seaview Stores
- Beer Festival & Barbecue, The Clockhouse Bar

Thanks to our major sponsors:



Personal Professional Patient Care

The East Preston Clinic



Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) – Lashmar Road



The above design will soon be our new MUGA on Lashmar Road. This will provide a much needed modern outdoor facility for all ages to enjoy.

Along the way there have been many obstacles for the council to tackle, but it is finally becoming a reality.

A recent setback has been the difficulty in fundraising as this council does not own the land and the limited availability of grants at the present time. The Council has set up a Crowdfunding page to try and generate some funding towards the project. Please look at the following Crowdfunding page <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mugalashmarroadeastpreston> and if you feel you are able to donate to such a worthy facility for the village, it would be very much appreciated.

Sea Road Beach Access

The trial beach access has gone well and the Council has received very positive feedback from residents, especially those with mobility issues who have struggled to get down onto the beach in the past. At the end of October, subject to weather, the area will be restored to its original state for the winter months.

The Amenities Committee is pleased how the trial has gone and it will now be considering options for a more permanent accessible access for the future. This will involve a scheme being submitted to Arun District Council for Planning Permission.

In the meantime, an application has been made to West Sussex County Council to register the area as a Public Right of Way. A decision on whether this has been successful will be known in due course. Thank you once again to all those who completed our survey on their use of the beach access. These responses will form a valuable part of the application.

Dog Bag Dispensers

In the Council's effort to tackle dog fouling on our green areas in the village and to allow children to play safely on the grass, the Council invested in two Dog Bag Dispensers, one on the Village Green and one on the Warren Recreation Ground.

The Council has had several frustrated reports from residents who have seen dog owners taking several bags at a time from the dispensers to top-up their own supply. May the Council remind those who are doing this, these dispensers were sited to enable people using the recreation areas to clear up any dog mess left by inconsiderate dog owners and as a backup for dog owners if they find themselves without a bag.

To the minority abusing this facility, please remember you are not going unnoticed and word does get back to the Council!



Village Life

December

- 4th Full Council (7pm)
- 7th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 11th Finance & General Purposes Committee (10am)
Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
Audit & Governance (tbc)
- 28th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am)

January

- 4th Business Breakfast (8am)
- 8th Full Council (7pm)
- 9th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am)
- 15th Personnel Committee (6pm)
Amenities Committee (7pm)
- 22nd Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)

February

- 1st Business Breakfast (8am)
- 5th Full Council (7pm)
- 12th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
- 26th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)

N.B. The full schedule of committee meetings for 2018 has not yet been set. If there is a particular meeting you are interested in, please contact the Council Office.

Council meetings are usually held at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road. 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.

Why are the Roundstone Level Crossing gates down so often?

As this is a question we and our Kingston Parish Council counterparts are often asked, we accepted an invitation from Network Rail to visit the signal box at Lancing. Our host was Stuart Schooley, Network Rail's Local Operations Manager.

This signal box is staffed 24/7 by three signalmen and covers the line between Portslade and Angmering, a total of eleven level crossings, ten railway stations and just under 12½ miles as the crow flies. Signalsman training comprises a thirteen-week course followed by further training on site. This second phase can take between six and eight weeks to complete.

Network Rail has two main responsibilities with regard to a level crossing – firstly, to ensure the safety of road and rail users and secondly, to ensure trains run to time. Volumes of road and rail traffic have increased exponentially since the network was built causing problems for road and rail users alike.

The length of time the gates are down depends mostly upon the speed of the train. On the Up line (i.e. heading east) the majority of services stop at Angmering station and the signalmen can judge more easily when to lower the gates at Roundstone. On the Down line (i.e. heading west) a higher percentage of trains do not stop between Worthing and Barnham, are therefore travelling faster and, for safety's sake, the signalsman will lower the gates when the train is further away and earlier than for an Up line train. Stuart and his team are all vigilant in ensuring the gates are raised as soon after as possible

but obviously sometimes more than one train needs to go through the level crossing. This situation can be exacerbated when trains are delayed for whatever reason.

There is no money around for a bridge, nor is there the space for one without going to the east of the village and then there are problems with how such a bridge would integrate with the road network into the village. Asked why it was not possible to have automatic barriers as at Toddington, Stuart replied those barriers acted on obstruction detection and would probably end up being down longer than the gates are currently. Furthermore, the busyness and complexity of the Roundstone Level Crossing meant it was far safer to have the gates controlled by human beings watching the level crossing on CCTV than to have automatic barriers.

The excellent work done by Stuart's team was recently highlighted when a cyclist got herself trapped on the level crossing on her way to work in the village one morning. The signalsman was able to reopen the barriers to allow the woman out but this did result in a delayed train and further delay to motorists. Film footage can be seen on the council's Facebook page, 6th October.

All of us who attended the visit came away believing the signalmen do an excellent job at keeping road and rail users safe and trains running to schedule.

There are unfortunately no easy, affordable answers to the length of time the gates are down at the Roundstone and Angmering station level crossings.

Sea Road Toilets Refurbishment

The project to refurbish Sea Road toilets, which will include a new Disabled Toilet facility is progressing well.

Local groups SENCAT and the Disabled Action Group (DAG) have been taking part in the design phase and the Council's architect has now drawn up a specification for the refurbishment.

The next phase will be to go out to tender for the work. **If any local builders are interested in tendering for the refurbishment work, please let the Parish Office know so a tendering pack can be sent to you.**

The Council is excited to see this project develop over the coming months.

Thanks to....

Thanks to everyone who supported the second East Preston Food & Drink Festival, Merchant Navy Day and Beach Clean No. 10. Special thanks to BMI Goring Hall for the donation of litter picks.

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Thanks to Linda and Vic for cleaning the signpost at the top of Golden Avenue.

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Thanks to the kind and generous members of our community who have contributed financially to the provision of the Multi-Use Games Area for Lashmar Rec.

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



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