

## What can we do for the Village?

On Thursday, 2nd May, East Preston elected its full compliment of thirteen councillors, uncontested. As all twelve councillors who had been in post for some time before the election stood again, the council takes this as a vote of confidence in what it has achieved over the past four years (*please see the Chairman's Annual Report on page 2*).

The council goes into the new four-years council term in a great position – there is a lot of continuity from the existing council, meaning projects already underway can continue without the need to go back over old ground unnecessarily. The one new councillor bringing us up to full strength, Cllr John Gunston, started to attend council meetings before being elected and will soon be up to speed.

Please drop us a line as we genuinely want to know what you would like to see change or stay the same in the village over the next four years. We do not have a magic wand and do not have control over everything people would like to see change or stay the same. But we have good working relationships with other authorities such as West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council, Sussex Police, Network Rail and the National Health Service. We can talk to each of these and other agencies on your behalf to try and make East Preston a well-positioned village for the 2020s.

### Here is a full list of councillors:

Christine Bowman .....	The Ridings
Andrea Chapman .....	Blenheim Drive, Rustington
Lisa Duff .....	North Lane
Barbara Gale.....	Sea Road
Pat Gander.....	The Street
John Gunston.....	The Street
David Moore .....	Willowhayne Avenue
Elizabeth Linton.....	Madehurst Close
Glyn Mathias .....	Tamarisk Way
Rick McElroy .....	North Lane
Danny Shah .....	Sea Road
Steve Toney .....	North Lane
Steve Wilkinson.....	Upper Drive

Members of the public are asked to direct enquiries for individual councillors through the Council Office. All named correspondence will be passed on to the appropriate councillor(s).



In this photo: (back row l-r) Christine Bowman, John Gunston, Steve Wilkinson, Andrea Chapman, David Moore and Barbara Gale.

(front row l-r) Rick McElroy, Patricia Gander, Steve Toney (Chairman), Elizabeth Linton (Vice-Chairman), Glyn Mathias, Lisa Duff

Absent: Danny Shah

Photograph courtesy of Bob Billingham, Refined Images

# Chairman's Annual Report for 2018-19



**Cllr Steve Toney**, Chairman of the Council, presented his annual report to the village's Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April.

"Here is the council's Annual Report for the past financial year.

"I was elected Chairman just over a year ago, at the beginning of April 2018. Where to start recognizing what the council has done over the past year? It might be easiest to give a brief overview of each of the council's seven committees and what they have been up to.

"The Amenities Committee looks after the council's open spaces, the Warren Recreation, Two Acres and the Village Green. In addition to keeping those areas looking clean and tidy and well-planted where appropriate, the committee is also responsible for the additional wild-flower meadow at the top of Sea Lane. The committee was the driving force for the provision of the Multi Use Games Area on Lashmar Road. Opening this officially in August was the culmination of a project first made public in the newsletter in early 2013. Lots of hurdles were overcome to bring this asset to the village. Thank you to the members of the public who helped with some funding of this project. The committee has also progressed the refurbishment of the Sea Road toilet block, which we hope will start at the end of this summer.

"At the beginning of this year, the Community Engagement Committee oversaw production of the 50th quarterly edition of the newsletter. This is a great way for us to keep in touch with you, both telling you what we have been up to and asking your opinion on some of the ideas we have. During the year, some of the committee's workload was split off to a new Major Events Committee – more on that later. The Community Engagement Committee remained responsible for last year's Food & Drink Festival, Christmas Celebrations and events during the main East Preston Festival. The committee also provided a defibrillator for the southern part of the village and a familiarization event for members of the public. Free tennis coaching was provided again for three summer afternoons, in conjunction with the Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, and will be provided again on Friday mornings this year. The committee offered the public cakes and an ear at the Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event in Festival week, as well as bringing Owls About Town back to the village that week. Two successful playschemes were offered by the committee during the year, the February one attracting a record thirty

children. The committee also arranged the spruce up of the library building on behalf of West Sussex County Council. The committee continues to follow its aim of improving the wellbeing of as many East Preston residents as possible.

"The council set up a Major Events Committee part-way through the year and that will run the Food & Drink Festival and Christmas Celebrations events in future. This committee oversaw last week's end-of-term party at which we thanked nearly 100 local volunteers, without whom the village would be a poorer place. New this year will be a Silver Sunday event in October, supporting the Age UK initiative of the same name.

"The Finance & General Purposes Committee keeps a close eye on the council's finances. The council remains financially stable and healthy and able to carry out its plans. Thank you for trusting us in this very particular way.

"The Planning & Licensing Committee reviews numerous Planning Applications in the village and occasional Licensing Applications, our responses being considered by Arun District Council before it makes its decisions. Where possible, we try to comment upon Planning Applications in line with the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan and sometime Arun District Council agrees with us, sometimes not.

"The Personnel Committee looks after not just the requirements of the staff but also the councillors. When the council set up this committee in about 2008, it was ahead of most councils in doing so. Making this committee responsible also for councillors' needs, such as training, was definitely seen as revolutionary. Now many councils have similar committees looking after their staff and councillors. The committee's biggest task for the year was appointing a new Assistant Clerk to the Council, and that was successfully completed in December following over seventy applications being received.

"Finally, the Audit & Governance Committee ensures the council is running legally and responsibly both in its dealings with you as village residents, but also with its tenants such as the Bowls Club, Tennis Club, Cricket Club and Village Hall.

"Over the year, the council held eleven monthly Full Council meetings, supported by about fifty committee meetings. Councillors attended numerous meetings and events with other agencies such as the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, the Sussex Community Rail Partnership, West Sussex and Arun Associations of Local Councils, The Baytree Lunch Club, The Martlets care home, Sussex Police, Arun Dementia Action Alliance, Friends of Zachary Merton Hospital, Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester – the



list goes on. Knowledge gained at these meetings informs the council's decisions and direction.

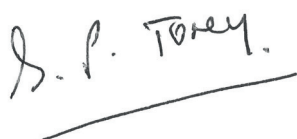
"The council also hosted a successful evening with Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, to try and address some of the concerns residents have about crime and anti-social behaviour in the village. We have also brought Chief Inspector Ottery to the village to talk to you earlier this evening. At monthly Full Council meetings now, we try to have a guest speaker and in recent months we have heard from Arun District Council's Community Safety team, the West Sussex Mediation Service and British Transport Police.

"Although this report only covers the past financial year, it would be naïve not to recognise this report also mentions the end of the current four-year term for the council. On 7th May 2015, just seven councillors were elected in an Uncontested Election. Over the following few months, those seven councillors and the council's officers worked hard to build the council up to full strength. "For various reasons, over the four years Joop Duijf, Paul Kelly and Rob Ellis all resigned and very sadly Hazel Tester passed away in March 2018, still very much missed. I thank each of them for their contribution but, more importantly, I thank all the current councillors for their hard work on behalf of the village over the past term – in addition to successes mentioned above, I would like to add an improved and tidied Warren Recreation Ground; a car-park at the Village Green which, whilst the introduction of charging was controversial, is paying for itself now and raising funds for other village projects; a quiz afternoon tea to mark the Queen's 90th birthday; support for the Christmas Day lunch at Our Lady, Star of the Sea; support for the St Mary the Virgin Christmas Tree Festival; twice-yearly beach cleans and recent support of the Keep East Preston Tidy campaign; Community Speed Watch and support of the East Preston Business Community. I could easily go on, but hopefully you will recognise the council's hand in at least some of the above achievements and will have your own favourites.

"I thank all my fellow councillors and the council's officers who work almost tirelessly it seems for the benefit of the village. They are all quiet, low-profile people, but I know they like to be thanked if you see them out and about! I would also like to thank the Clerk for all his work above and beyond the call of duty.

"Most importantly though, thank you to all of you who regularly show your faith in and support for the council. We hope to serve you by continuing to improve the village where we can.

Thank you."



## Village Life

### June

3rd	Full Council (7pm)
6th	Business Breakfast (8am)
7th - 16th	East Preston Festival
10th	Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm) Audit & Governance Committee (tbc)
13th	<b>Come and Meet Your Local Councillors</b> (Council Office, 10:30am to 12:30pm)
24th	Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)

### July

1st	Full Council (7pm)
2nd	Major Events Committee (midday)
3rd	Business Breakfast (8am)
5th	Tennis Coaching on the Warren Rec (10am)
8th	Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm) Amenities Committee (7pm)
12th	Tennis Coaching on the Warren Rec (10am)
15th	Personnel Committee (7pm)
19th	Tennis Coaching on the Warren Rec (10am)
22nd	Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm) Community Engagement Committee (7pm)

### August

5th	Full Council (tbc)
6th	Fitness and Fun 3 playscheme (10am)
7th	Business Breakfast (tbc)
12th	Finance & General Purposes Committee (10am) Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
19th	Major Events Committee (7pm)
24th	East Preston Food & Drink Festival (midday to 5pm)
27th	Planning & Licensing Committee (10am)

Most council meetings are held at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road. However, for all meetings, 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.**

## Food & Drink Festival

If you have not already done so, please mark Saturday, **24th August** in your diaries for the fourth East Preston Food & Drink Festival. In just a few short years this has become a must-attend event in East Preston's annual calendar.

This year will be no exception with a good mix of new and familiar stalls. New stalls this year, subject to change, include East Preston-based Classic Ices, Don Quijote, Harries Coffee, MagPies, Purple Pod and The Spud Hut. During the event, which runs from midday to 5pm, children's entertainment will also be provided.

The event is sponsored by:



# How East Preston Parish Council works to support the Five Ways to Wellbeing



Many of you will have heard of the five-a-day advice about eating enough fruit and veg. The Five Ways to Wellbeing\* can be seen as the mental health equivalent.

The Five Ways are: **Positive connections, Be active, Take notice, Keep learning and Give.** It is a useful way of describing the things we can all do to help us keep mentally and emotionally well.

Here in East Preston, the Parish Council supports local people to embrace the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Below are just a few examples.

Positive connections	Be active	Take notice	Keep learning	Give
East Preston Food & Drink Festival	Multi-Use Games Area in Lashmar Rec	Being neighbourly	East Preston Library	Become an East Preston Festival Maker
East Preston Christmas Celebrations	Football, Cricket, Tennis, Stoolball, Bowls clubs and boule piste for outdoor sports	East Preston Beach Cleans - both council and U3A	U3A classes across and around the village	Volunteer for ad-hoc council tasks
Silver Sunday (details to follow)	Badminton, Table Tennis, dancing, martial arts and more for indoor sports	Merchant Navy Day - 3rd September	East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society talks	Support the local Scout and Girlguiding troupes
East Preston Youth Club	Outdoor table football table and table-tennis table	Remembrance Day - 10th November (this year)	Silver Surfers Computer Club	Take part in a KEPT - Keep East Preston Tidy event
Numerous other clubs and societies covering a wide range of interests	Arun Healthy Walks - every Thursday	Wild flower meadows	Visit the St Barnabas House hospice out reach project vehicle next time it is in the village	Take a neighbour shopping sometimes

Perhaps not surprisingly, many of the activities shown in the table above sit across more than one of the Five Ways. This underlines how positive an impact small changes to your lifestyle can have.

The council is committed to the mental and physical wellbeing of the village and will continue to provide and support new opportunities as they arise.

For more information, visit <https://arun.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/> or contact the Council Office.

\* Developed by the New Economics Foundation



## East Preston Festival 2019 Friday 7th June to Sunday 16th June

[www.eastprestonfestival.org.uk](http://www.eastprestonfestival.org.uk)  
[email: eastprestonfestival@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:eastprestonfestival@hotmail.co.uk)

Come along and join in East Preston's annual ten-day celebration of village life with over 80 great events and activities to enjoy. Full details of them all are in the programme, available from East Preston shops and cafés, the library and the Parish Council Office. It can also be viewed on the Festival website and you can keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the Festival Facebook page.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing the theme for this year's Festival Parade and Scarecrow Competition is 'Space Travellers'. Registration for the Parade has now closed but if you want to take part in the Scarecrow competition you are just in time, but hurry, judging is on 7th June. The subject of the Photo Competition is 'My Favourite Space' with cash prizes for the best three plus a trophy for 1st place. Entry information for both is in the programme.

Events of special interest to residents include 'Memories of East Preston' on Monday 10th June, with photos, a slide show of past festivals and village historians on hand, a Health Promotion event at Willow Green Surgery on Tuesday 11th June and a charity

stoolball match between the EP team and Junior School staff on Wednesday 12th June. Meet your local Councillors on Thursday 13th June, hear a talk on East Preston's Victorian workhouses, also on Thursday, and visit the Charity & Community Market on Friday 14th June, where you can make contact with local groups.

The Festival Parade on Saturday 15th June leaves Vicarage Lane at 1.15pm and travels along The Street, Sea Lane, Seaview Road, Sea Road and North Lane arriving at Lashmar Road at approximately 2pm.

Please note that Vicarage Lane will be closed to all but residents' traffic in both directions between 11.30am and 1.30pm and that during the procession other road closures will apply as follows:

**The Street from 1.10pm to 1.40pm;**

**Sea Lane from 1.15pm to 1.45pm;**

**Seaview Road from 1.30pm to 1.50pm;**

**Sea Road/North Lane from 1.40pm to 2.15pm;**

**Lashmar Road/Roundstone Drive from 2.15pm to 2.30pm**

*Enjoy the Festival!*

## DANGER UXB!

On Thursday, 28th March a small group of local residents assembled on East Preston beach to watch a team from the Joint Services Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team tackle an explosive device and make our beach safe again. The device, believed to be a World War II incendiary device, was found by Zoë Steel, a lifelong East Preston resident and lover of all things connected to the beach and the sea. Zoë found the device on Tuesday, 26th March, but two earlier attempts to dispose of it safely were hampered by the tide. Initially, Zoë just photographed the device and sent the photo to the RNLI which advised her to call the Coastguard immediately. Littlehampton Coastguard officers were also present, keeping the public away from the device. The Littlehampton Coastguard covers about fifteen miles of coast from Ferring to Pagham Harbour and also ten miles inland on the River Arun.

The device was subjected to a controlled explosion at about 11:20, the EOD team having been on site for almost an hour. Members of the public were not allowed any closer than the top of the beach to watch the near-silent explosion.

Members of the Coastguard present asked the council to advise residents not to touch anything suspicious they find on the beach but to call the Coastguard immediately on 999.



## Thanks to....

everyone who took part in East Preston Beach Clean no. 13. The next Beach Clean will be on Sunday, 29th September.

.....  
PCSO Rich Moorey and Chief Inspector Kris Ottery for both attending recent meetings to talk to residents about Police matters.



## Correspondence Corner

If you would like something considered for publication in this section, please email us or write in, marking your envelope or email, Correspondence Corner.

Our latest entries in Correspondence Corner are:

### REMEMBER AND RESPECT THE SPEED LIMIT

I feel the good people of East Preston (and beyond) need reminding of the speed limit in the village, in particular Sea Road. All drivers know the speed limits within a built-up area and therefore some drivers are knowingly breaking the law. We have a children's playground and elderly and sight-impaired residents. Sadly, it's an accident waiting to happen. Surely it's better to take a few minutes longer to get to your destination safely than to not get there at all?

Thank you.

JH

### GRASS VERGES

Linda and I moved to East Preston over 7 years ago. We chanced upon the Village when we were on a day out to the coast. We were so impressed with the place that, on that day, we decided we would move here to retire. We love the village and that is why residents will see us out clearing the verges after the strimmers have been at work leaving the grass cuttings littering the pavements.

Some residents don't understand why we do the things we do. We hope that the above explains why! In these days of financial cuts we feel that community spirit and pulling together can really benefit everyone.

VR

## Village Green Car Park

With effect from 1st June, smartphone-users will be able to pay for use of the Village Green car-park by the Just Park app. This can be downloaded from the Just Park website or your usual app store. Hopefully this will make parking in the Village Green car-park more convenient for many of you.

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

## More Free Tennis Coaching for Adults

Once again, the council is linking up with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club to offer three sessions of free tennis coaching this July.

Head coach at the club, Andrew Cook, will be offering to teach tennis, to anyone not already a member of the club, at the Warren Recreation Ground court on Fridays 5th, 12th and 19th July. Each session will start at 10am and last for approximately an hour. Tennis racquets and balls will be provided if necessary. All standards of player are welcome whether you are a beginner or just a bit rusty and want to improve your skills.

An attendee in both 2017 and 2018 had this to say, "Taking part in the free tennis coaching has been great fun and changed my mind about learning a sport in my middle years!" Another said, "Such a pity so few of us took the opportunity. Don't be scared; it's really good fun."

There are 8 places available for each session and priority will be given to anyone who has not attended a previous class.

If you would like to take part please contact Alison on [eparishcouncil3@btconnect.com](mailto:eparishcouncil3@btconnect.com) or 01903 770050 to reserve your place. A £5 deposit will be required, refundable on attendance.

## Fitness and Fun 3

On Tuesday, 6th August, the council is again inviting parents, grandparents and carers to join their children in a fun morning playscheme led by Bee-Fit.

Feedback from recent playschemes has included comments such as: "There was a good variety of different activities", "Tina and David were very engaging", "Very good value" and "Happy to come to each one that is put on".

Tickets are just £4 per child and the event runs from 10am to 1pm, children's refreshments provided.

Booking is essential. Please download a booking form from the News section of the council's website and return it to the Council Office or the Infant School (before the end of term).



**Contact point:** Parish Clerk – Simon Cross, Assistant Clerk – Dawn Reid  
Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1NN

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