



## On the Village Green

The Council is very impressed with the three new lights installed on the eastern side of the Village Green. They are of an attractive design and illuminate what was a rather dark area under the trees. We received grants for the lights from the Arun Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and West Sussex County Council which allowed us to order the more expensive lantern design rather than street lights. There was no charge to the Council.

The problem of anti-social drinking on the Green does seem to have lessened significantly and we hope that this continues.

At the same time, the Council is delighted to see the Green coming to life and being used more often for picnics, football and children's games, as well as the more formal events.



The next of these events will be the Classic and Vintage Car show, organised by local businessmen Richard Jones, Colin Bradshaw and Steve Hodgson and underwritten by the Lloyds Car Club. This is a new initiative for the Village Green and we hope to see good support for what will be a fascinating collection of cars.

**Date for your diary: Sunday 27th September** from 10am to 4pm on the Green. Entrance free. Refreshments, including a barbecue, available.

The Fun Day in Festival Week, organised by the British Legion Social Club Ltd was a great success. Part of the enjoyment was the temporary boules piste installed at the

southern edge of the Green. For many people this was their first experience of this French game. The piste was removed at the end of Festival Week and the Council has now been asked to consider installing a permanent boules piste as a new amenity for the village.



Therefore we are writing to various local organisations and traders to ask if they would be interested in contributing financially towards the cost and upkeep of this installation. Equally, the Council needs to find a partner who would be happy to promote the game of boules, to organise games and matches and generally keep an eye on the piste to ensure that it is being well used and enjoyed.

**As part of our public consultation on this request, we are asking residents to let us know their views on a boules piste on the Green 01903 770050.**

### Recycling

In April, Arun District Council enhanced its home recycling collection, effectively making the recycling bins at the rear of the Village Green car park almost redundant. Prior to the Parish Council asking for the removal of these bins, we would like to hear from anyone who believes that the bins should remain in place.

The District Council would like one clothing bin to remain in the village and the Parish Council is currently exploring alternative sites for that bin.

**Councillors** - Celeste Amoo, Len Barnett, Gordon Fleming, Anne Harberson, John Heaver (Vice-Chairman), Mervyn Howdle, Clive Maltby, Glyn Mathias, John Melser, Chris Roberts (Chairman), Alastair Sharp, Philip Sherwin, Betty Wagstaff. **Contact point - Council Cabin 01903 770050**

## Village Hall Building Update

The last Newsletter reported granting of Planning Approval by Arun District Council on 18th March 2009.

Since then the scheme has been slightly modified to guarantee a playground area of 348m<sup>2</sup> and small changes have been made to the turning bay. Following consultations with the adjacent residents, it is now planned to remove the ragged and over-mature hedge, replacing it with an 8ft high fence on which can be trained a "soft" shrub such as Euonymus, to soften the aspect.

Meanwhile tenders from seven Project Managers have been assessed leaving a shortlist of three. An appointment will be agreed in the near future.

We still await clarification of the VAT liability for the Village Hall and expect a response soon.

Once these matters have been dealt with, a Public Works Loan can be sought and the project can go ahead.

**Cllr Chris Roberts** - Chairman

## Welcome to our new Village Orderly

The Council is very pleased indeed to welcome Dennis Watts as the new Village Orderly. He has been in post for only a few weeks but already what a difference this has made. Mr. Watts is ultra conscientious in noticing and reporting any damage he sees and in keeping the Council's own areas neat and tidy.

He pays particular attention to the children's playground, the Village Green, Two Acres and the Recreation Ground. He is to be seen out and about early each weekday and we are grateful to him for taking on this challenging job. The village looks such an attractive place. Several residents have already complimented Mr Watts on the quality of his work.

## The Charity Commission and East Preston

Some people have queried the very complex inter-relationship, between the Council and the two charities, which involves the Charity Commission in the affairs of the Council, such as the present proposed building project. **The Chairman, Councillor Chris Roberts**, hopes that this report will make matters clear.

The East Preston Parish Council is the corporate Custodial Trustee of the Warren Recreation Ground Charity and manages the lands and buildings bequeathed and devised to the village of East Preston by the Will of the Reverend Reginald Warren dated 14th November 1940 and vested to the Parish Council in a further document dated 29th December 1943.

Originally known as 'The Recreation Ground of East Preston in the County of West Sussex' the land and buildings were registered as a Charity in September 1981 by the then Parish Council, and the name was subsequently changed to 'Warren Recreation Ground' in November 1991.

The Parish Council has been responsible for its upkeep and maintenance as "Custodial Trustees" since 1943 with serving Councillors as its Trustees.

The properties comprising the Warren Recreation Ground Charity include:

- the Recreation Ground itself, with some land leased to the Cricket Club for their pavilion
- the Tennis Court
- the land and buildings of the Village Hall which are leased to the Village Hall Foundation
- the Public Toilets
- the children's playground and adjacent car park
- 'Two Acres' the footpath and avenue of trees joining Sea Road to Sea Lane.

Unless otherwise noted, all the above are maintained by the Parish Council.

## The new children's playground

Whilst the new build project has received considerable public attention, the Council has not ignored the importance of the new playground, to be situated on the northern side of the site.



***The present children's playground - site of the proposed building project.***

The Amenities Committee is responsible for this, and the Chairman and particularly the Assistant Clerk have been busy over the past 18 months.

The Council has held consultation meetings with groups of parents and grandparents to establish what they and their children like about the present playground and what they would like to see in the new one.

We have distributed 480 Questionnaires for parents at both the Infant and the Junior school and at the East Preston pre-school. Thanks to the staff for their help in handing them out.

We have made visits to all types of playgrounds and we have discussed options and draft schemes with many different playground design companies.

The Council has to have a regard as to the overall cost and the constraints of the site itself, in trying to achieve the best possible playground which will please those who use it.

It has been agreed that in order to maximise space, the present hedge will be removed and replaced by fencing. There will also be a need for some high mesh fencing around the western edges of the playground because of possible risk from cricket balls.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) will be advising the Council about best practice. We will continue to keep you informed as matters develop.

## East Preston and Kingston Preservation Society

The Society was set up nearly 40 years ago and one of its purposes is to promote high standards of planning and architecture. The Society recently undertook a two-year project, involving the local community and supported by the Parish Council, to produce a Village Design Statement (VDS) for East Preston. This sets out the planning design guidelines for the village and for its "four character areas."

The VDS, copies of which are in the local Library, was endorsed by Arun District Council (ADC) in 2008.

The Society is pleased that the plans for the Nursery Close development broadly follow the VDS guidelines and ADC recently cited the failure to conform to the VDS as a reason to reject the building of a house in part of a garden.

The Society comments on significant local planning applications and attends ADC Planning meetings. Other purposes include promoting local conservation of notable buildings and other features, and participating in issues affecting the wider area. These include enlarging the South Downs National Park proposed boundaries to include the woods east of Titnore Lane and Castle Goring, the draft South-East Plan and ADC's core strategy.

There are regular members' newsletters, talks and slide shows on a wide range of topics, and exhibitions of old photographs.

The Society tries to protect the amenities of the two parishes and the surrounding countryside. New members are always very welcome. For more information, please contact the Chairman, Mr David Sawers 779134.

## The Children and Family Centre

The building of the Centre in East Preston has started and should be completed by the end of the year. The building itself is single storey and is being built in the south-western corner of the Junior School grounds, but will be fenced off from the school.

The Centre, of which there are a number in West Sussex, will be a place where help, information and support is available for parents from multi-disciplinary teams of professionals.



# Road Safety Report

## Good news first!

As a result of the schools achieving Travel Mark II status, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) is implementing a "Safer Routes to School Scheme" this autumn. This will consist of:

- red anti-skid surfacing together with SLOW road markings just north of the North Lane/The Street junction and just east of the North Lane/Lashmar Road junction
- pedestrian barriers at the pavement edge of the footpath crossing where Mrs Jackie Holland (the school crossing lady) operates
- dropped curbs
- enhanced "School Patrol" road signs

Mrs Holland's crossing position will be moved a few metres north. In **autumn 2011**, a full School Safety Zone is planned with flashing lights and a 20mph zone. It may be possible for this Council to negotiate an extension to this zone south towards Fairlands junction.



## The bad news!

There is only one priority at the Roundstone Level Crossing: **all traffic using Old Worthing Road and Worthing Road in both directions. All other traffic, i.e. from North Lane should give way. The white double hatched "Give Way" markings at the North Lane junction are mandatory!**

We will continue to fight for safety improvements from WSCC and Network Rail and note that they plan to widen the crossing in 2011.

## East Preston Twinning Association

East Preston is twinned with Brou, Eure et Loir in France. So where is Brou and what does twinning mean?

Brou is in north-west France and lies roughly half way between Chartres and Le Mans, a three hour drive from Dieppe. Twinning promotes friendship and encourages visits to and from the linked towns. Our aim is to broaden the understanding of the cultural, educational and commercial activities of the two towns through personal contact and also via an internet link between schools.

The Association is 31 years old and membership stands at 70. New members and families are always welcome. Exchange visits are biennial and our visitors are housed with members for a three day weekend.

Our varied social and fundraising activities have included barbecues, skittles evenings, boules, wine tastings and country walks. The Association supports the East Preston Festival, this year sponsoring "Call My Wine Bluff" and entering the procession with "Toulouse Lautrec at Moulin Rouge."

Annual subscription is £8 for individuals and £14 for families.

For further details contact Linda Rooke Chairman 01903 776031 or Geoff Barrett 01903 771017.

## Dog fouling

We know that you all love your dogs, as we do, but please don't leave your dog's mess to spoil our recreation areas.

The problem of dog-fouling is very evident on the Village Green and on the Warren Recreation Ground. This really is unacceptable. Equally unacceptable is the dirty habit of collecting the dog's mess but then dropping it into a nearby front garden rather than disposing of it in a proper bin. Please encourage these dog owners to clean up.

## Support your local shops!

**At this time of financial concern and uncertainty, the Council urges everyone to continue to support our local traders at every opportunity. We need to maintain a thriving shopping environment for the well-being of the whole village.**



### Parish Clerk

Simon Cross, Council Cabin, Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1LP

Telephone: 01903 770050

E-mail: [eparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:eparishcouncil@btconnect.com)

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