



East Preston and Kingston Village Hall today

Having celebrated its 25th Anniversary two years ago, the Hall's management remains on a sound footing. An 11-strong voluntary Executive Committee team, all fully committed, manages the Hall on a day to day basis. This reports to the Management Committee of the Village Hall Foundation, which is a self-governing Trust, composed of long-term Hall users with several interested village residents. All residents of East Preston and Kingston can contribute to this.

Around 32 organisations make regular weekly use of the Hall. Activities are enjoyed by all age groups and include exercise for the "mind" (Bridge, Art) "body" (keep fit, dance, Pilates, Weightwatchers, yoga), and "soul" (Bay Tree Lunch Club) plus judo, karate and stage school for the younger generation. Weekends are busy with a variety of special events and family parties. The Executive Committee organises the popular winter season of Film Nights, Last Night of the Proms, Race Nights, Ice Skating and Barn Dance. Money raised from these events helps pay for the running costs of the hall as well as providing fun for the Village. It is estimated 35,000 pairs of feet pass through the Hall doors in an average year, which is not at all bad when one considers the population of East Preston & Kingston together is around 6,000.

Keeping this all running in an 18th century barn is, however, expensive! The Hall has a turnover of around £35,000 per year and needs about £22,000 for running costs, excluding refurbishment and replacement of assets. The Executive Committee has been carefully putting away the surplus and currently estimates that it can cover expected expenses for the next 20 years, the exception being the roof, which hopefully will not turn into a problem!



Another busy day at the Village Hall

The Committee believes Hall users appreciate the recent expenditure on new radiators, decoration, disabled ramp, roof repairs, window winder improvements, new entrance door and latterly a new, more efficient boiler. Although the Village Hall was started by the Parish Council, it must be emphasized that all this money is raised by Village Hall activities and donations, and is financially independent of the Parish Council.

What are the challenges for the future? All Hall users, particularly the Festival Committee, understand the difficulties caused by our inability to store equipment. Not only are there organisations which cannot be accommodated, everyone suffers by having to move equipment out of Halls and put it back afterwards. Central storage is the element most lacking and the new proposed facility will resolve this. Additionally, the Village has no purpose-built meeting room; the Poppy Room at the British Legion is small, the Warren Room is large. The new Meeting Room, under Village Hall management, will answer that need.

Village Hall History

The buildings which now form the Village Hall date back to the 18th Century. Originally a barn and stable block, together with the land now known as the Warren Recreation Ground, were left to the Parish of East Preston and Kingston in the Will of the Reverend Reginald Warren dated 14th November 1940, and were vested to the Parish Council as Custodial Trustees in December 1943.

For the ensuing 40 years, they served various purposes and latterly in the 1960s and 1970s were used as auction rooms, a rifle range and a free church but gradually fell into dilapidation.

In 1981 under the initiative of the Parish Council, the buildings were regenerated and converted in two phases to become the Village Hall as we know it today, firstly the Warren Room which was followed three years later by the Miller Barn. A third phase development was always under consideration but for various reasons has not materialised.

The Village Hall Foundation was formed as a body independent of the Parish Council and the buildings leased by the Warren Recreation Ground charity for a term of 60 years to the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation on 19th April 1982.

Need some help this winter?



A pioneering scheme called Homeshare, sponsored by West Sussex County Council, which helps older people in their own homes whilst giving key workers and other professionals a place to live, is growing here in West Sussex. A householder offers free accommodation to a homesharer in exchange for an agreed level of help around their home. The help can involve a host of tasks from cooking and cleaning through to gardening and also provides the householder with some companionship.

Homesharers come from a wide age range and a variety of backgrounds. The scheme means they are able to benefit from homely accommodation, whilst also being able to save some money because they are not paying rent.

One of our matches is Andrew, who is sixty years of age and lives with Elizabeth, a female Householder of 86 years of age. They have been living together for 10 months

now. Andrew says, "It is working out very well between us. We share occasional meals, and have common interests.

I drive Elizabeth in her car to various locations for shopping, garden centres, social events and health appointments. Our outings have given us an opportunity to share stories and become friends."

Interviews and checks are made before the two parties are introduced to each other and a Homeshare match agreement is made. "We have had some great successes. It's all about finding the right people for each other," said Dawn Blake, the Homeshare Co-ordinator.

If you're interested in finding out more information, please contact Dawn on **01903 738904** or **dawn.blake@westsussex.gov.uk**

Update on recycling

Thank you to everybody who took the time to comment on the article in the Summer Newsletter, concerning the possible removal of the recycling bins from beside the Village Green. At its October meeting, the Parish Council agreed to the removal of the bins, although a date has not yet been agreed – please remember that these bins are provided by Arun District Council, not the Parish Council. ADC has confirmed that much of the glass and other materials previously collected in neighbourhood recycling centres has been transferred to household collection bins. Recycling has grown to nearly 41% of rubbish collected for the first half-year thanks to the support of residents.

Should you feel that your current home recycling bin is not big enough for the recycling that your household produces in a fortnight, it is possible to discuss options with the District Council on 01903 737754.

The Parish Council would like to retain the clothes bin, and is looking for a new site for this. Once all bins have been removed from the area alongside the Village Green, the Parish Council will be reviewing the layout and usage of the car-park.

Parish Council requests your help...

Do you have a secure, dry garage or storage area which the Parish Council could use to store its Christmas Motifs? If so, the Council would love to hear from you.

In the past, the Parish Council has paid for East Preston's Christmas Lights to be taken down in January and transported back to the Midlands (to our Christmas Lighting Supplier) for storage until the following year. The carriage alone is a significant amount of money and the Council is looking at ways to reduce the cost and find somewhere local for storage.

The Parish Council would arrange everything and its insurance would cover the lights being stored on another premises. In return, the Council would be prepared to pay a small amount to the person/s providing the storage facility.

Greening Campaign

Many villagers will be aware of our Greening Campaign working with our neighbours in Kingston. A card was distributed with the Spring 2009 Newsletter in May and residents were asked to display this in their window to show their support for the energy-saving measures on the card.

The cards were counted and the national Greening Campaign has congratulated the village on the result:

CO2 savings: 62.595 tonnes

Water savings: 59,689 litres

Money saved: £12,026.51

These figures are anticipated, average annual savings based on just five small actions being undertaken by each household which displayed the card.

The Greening Committee is now preparing for Phase Two of the campaign, which will concentrate on long-term projects. Among the possible projects in the pipeline are improving the insulation of houses and increasing local food production.



If you would like to be involved in a project or join the Greening Committee, please contact the parish office or telephone Philippa Bower on 773969.

Further information on the national Greening Campaign can be found at -

www.greening-campaign.co.uk

Change of PCSO

PCSO Matthews has transferred to another area and we wish him very well. He made a really good start integrating into village life and making the police presence felt in many areas. Police reports to the Council were clear and informative.

As yet there is no permanent replacement and the village is being well covered by PCSO's out of Littlehampton. We will introduce the new PCSO when the appointment is made.

East Preston gets into the Christmas Spirit



This year our Christmas Street Event will be celebrated on -

Thursday 3rd December

From 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Definitely a date for your diary!

This year our illuminations will be switched on by **Santa Claus** and **Lucinda Kennard** (pictured),

Cinderella in this year's pantomime at the Worthing Pavilion. Unfortunately, Neil "Dr" Fox has had to withdraw reluctantly from this year's event, due to filming commitments.

Santa Claus will also be on hand with his bag of goodies and there will be prizes and treats on offer from many local businesses. We have a mystery Polar Bear searching for a name – more prizes to be won in that competition.

There will be the following road closures:

Sea Road from the northern end of the Village Green down to the junction with **Seaview Road** (from 4pm to 7pm) and the eastern end of **The Street at Sea Road** - as well as the two service roads (from 3pm to 7pm).

This will enable us to organise mini fairground rides in both areas and allow local businesses and the Royal British Legion more scope for all their activities, including the festive food and drinks – always very popular!

Local schoolchildren have created posters for the event and the Junior School choir will be singing. An operational fire engine, courtesy of East Preston Fire Station, will be offering rides for the youngsters.

Look out on Noticeboards and in shops for the full details of all the planned activities – too many to list here.

The event is focused on our local businesses who are such a vital part of our thriving community. The Parish Council is pleased to be working in partnership with these businesses to ensure another enjoyable evening.

As long as the weather is kind (fingers crossed), this year's event will be even bigger and better – please come along!



Playscheme for Children in February Half Term

When you are planning what to do with the children during the February half-term, there is now a new option to consider. The **Parish Council** has agreed to fund a playscheme for the 4 to 11 year olds to be run here in East Preston. It will take place on the mornings of Monday 15th February in The Barn (Village Hall) and Wednesday 17th February in the Conservative Hall.

The Arun Community Church, whose work you may be familiar with through the programmes run in Littlehampton and at Georgian Gardens School, will be running craft, music and movement sessions inspired by the story of The Rainbow Bear by Michael Morpurgo.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult, which will give those who attend a good excuse to play and get messy too. What better way to spend a couple of hours in those dismal days in February!

Booking forms will be available at the Council Cabin (in the car park of the Village Hall) and at the East Preston Infant or Junior Schools from the 4th January and must be returned with the payment of £1.25 per child to the Council Cabin by the 29th January.

Confirmation of a place will be done in the following week by email or phone. In the event of over-subscription, priority will be given to East Preston residents.

Let's make this the start of something good for the children in the village!

Village Life

(Film tickets available at Hedgers Newsagents; Playscheme forms will be available at the Council Cabin and the schools in January)

- Dec. 3** Christmas 'Lights On' in the village at 5pm
- 7** Full Council Meeting 7pm - Warren Room
- 9** Film (tba) 7pm - The Barn
- Jan. 4** Full Council Meeting 7pm - Warren Room
- Film (tba) 7pm - The Barn
- Feb. 2** Full Council Meeting 7pm - Warren Room
- Film (tba) 7pm - The Barn
- 15** Playscheme for 4- to 11-year-olds - The Barn
- 17** Playscheme for 4- to 11-year-olds - Conservative Hall

Storytime for toddlers every Friday 11.10am - 11.30am in East Preston Library.

Roundstone Level Crossing

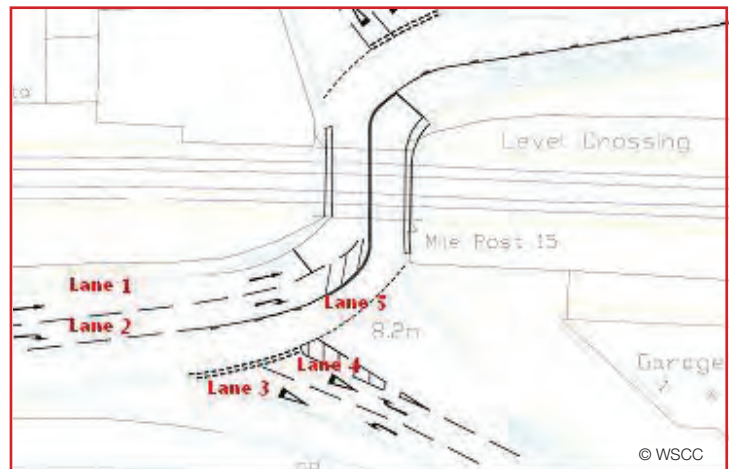
Several of you have thanked us for last edition's Road Safety Report, and in particular the clarification of the priorities at the Roundstone Level Crossing junction. In response to requests for a pictorial version of the information, we have obtained the picture (right) from the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Highways Department. It remains the intention of Network Rail, as the owner of the crossing, and WSCC to work together to widen the crossing during financial year 2010/11.

We have been in contact with Stagecoach since some of you have expressed concern that the buses do not obey the Give Way rules. Stagecoach has responded positively and is reminding all their drivers of the need to obey the priority rules. They have, however, asked us to request that drivers coming south across the railway intending to turn left into North lane indicate their intentions. This will allow bus drivers in North Lane an opportunity to proceed safely knowing your intention.

Meanwhile, we have received the following advice from Sergeant Stevens of the Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing Team:

- Vehicles waiting to exit North Lane, intending to turn left onto the Worthing Road, are required to give way to traffic on the main carriage way i.e. vehicles travelling south over the crossing.
- Vehicles waiting to exit North Lane and intending to turn right to go over the crossing, are required to give way to traffic travelling south over the crossing AND to traffic travelling east along the Worthing Road.
- Should a vehicle turning out of North Lane, fail to give way to traffic on the Worthing Road or to traffic travelling south over the crossing and subsequently cause a collision, then the driver of this vehicle should expect action to be taken against them for careless driving.
- Any driver forcing their way across the junction in contravention of the give way signs and road markings, may find themselves liable to a fixed penalty offence.

- The stop lines on the approach to the crossing on the Worthing Road and the Old Worthing Road, are stop lines for the level crossing control and come into force when the traffic control signals are illuminated.



- LANE 1: has priority over ALL other road traffic
- LANE 2: has priority over ALL traffic in lane 4 but MUST give way to ALL traffic in lane 5 continuing westbound on the B2140
- LANE 3: ALL vehicles MUST give way to ALL vehicles in lane 5 continuing westbound on the B2140
- LANE 4: ALL vehicles MUST give way to ALL traffic in lane 5 continuing westbound on the B2140 and ALL traffic in lanes 1 and 2
- LANE 5: has priority over ALL other traffic

If the gates are down then the same rules apply. Once the gates have risen then lane 4 has to give way to ALL vehicular movement from lane 5, 2 and 1 before safely driving over the crossing.

SID Report - The village hosted the Speed Indicator Device (SID) again for two weeks in October. The Parish Councillors and volunteers who went out on the roads with SID are very grateful for the support and assistance given by Sussex Police for our efforts to educate speeding drivers in our area.

Once again SID proved that there is little serious speeding in East Preston except for two specific places known to the police who can now deploy enforcement effectively in the correct locations.

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.



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