



# The Warren Recreation Ground

The Warren Recreation Ground (often referred to as the cricket pitch/field) was bequeathed by the Rev. Warren for the recreation of the villagers of East Preston. It remains a focal point for the village community, not only for formal cricket and stoolball fixtures, but also for more informal sporting contests such as the annual cricket match between the two church communities. Families and friends gather to play ball games, picnic or walk the dog. Stoolball takes place on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm (for further information call Kathy Lock – 724317). The fives court (the open walled area at the end of the Village Hall) was built in 1923 and is also often in use by young people playing tennis, football or handball. There is also a tennis court in the north west corner. The children's playground forms part of the Warren Recreation Ground and it too is much in use. On the first Saturday in August each year, the Horticultural Society holds its Summer Show there which is yet another tremendous fundraising and social opportunity in East Preston.

While the use of the Warren Recreation Ground has evolved over time, cricket has long been played on this field and this year the East Preston Cricket Club is celebrating the 150th year of its existence. On the face of it, nothing much seems to have changed at the club, although you may argue that the game of cricket itself has moved on since those halcyon days.

There is still an attractive, yet small, cricket field, prepared by tireless volunteers from the East Preston Cricket Club (EPCC). There is still a pavilion, albeit that the present building is a lot more substantial and practical than the wooden thatched construction of the 1920s. In 1896, the club formed the East Preston Cricket League, consisting of the surrounding villages. In fact, the trophy introduced in 1914, the Blauw Cup, is still on show in the pavilion. The club still plays league cricket, with two teams currently in the West Sussex Invitation Cricket League.

EPCC has a successful junior and colts section for which there are records from the 1940s. In those days, the sessions would take place on the outfield, just as today, and fixtures would be played against

neighbouring villages. As the colts grow older and more competent, they play for the senior XIs, thus extending the life of the parent club.

Cricket in Sussex currently provides enormous opportunity for juniors to aspire to the highest levels. EPCC has recognised this and having maintained a junior section for many years, has seen a number of its players enjoy county and regional representation. Last year, the membership comprised in excess of forty young people with a team of seven coaches.

The commitment of the coaching staff cannot be underestimated. Not only does it guarantee the future of the club, it also provides a focus for youngsters in the village. This season the club will be offering opportunities for under 10s, 12s, 14s and 16s in league and festival cricket (contact Jackie Burn on 775492, or [jackie.burn@hotmail.com](mailto:jackie.burn@hotmail.com)). It is worth noting that our U16s are the reigning champions in the Sussex Junior Cricket Festival.

The Warren Recreation Ground is owned by the Warren Recreation Ground charity (no. 283037) and the trustees are the Parish Council. Should an individual or organisation wish to use the ground or suggest further recreational purposes to which it could be put, these should be directed to The Warren Recreation Ground c/o East Preston Parish Council.

The Warren Recreation Ground is a valued asset to the village, one to be enjoyed year round, cherished and cared for by all.

**From this issue onwards, East Preston Parish Council in conjunction with Voice of Progress, will be publishing a talking version of this Newsletter.**

**If you know a resident who may benefit from having a talking version available on cd or cassette, please contact: Voice of Progress, Rustington Hall, Station Road, Rustington, BN16 3AY telephone 01903 776569 (answering machine). Players can be supplied if needed.**

# East Preston Festival

## Saturday 12th to Sunday 20th June

In East Preston, we are very lucky that for 9 days in the summer the Village puts on a fun-packed, extremely entertaining festival filled with diverse activities to suit everyone's taste. This year, the East Preston Festival celebrates 29 years and since its inception in 1981 has grown from a weekend event to a packed 9 day affair with over ninety events plus various competitions.

The East Preston Festival provides fun and entertainment for local residents as well as the many visitors who come to join in. Like most successful events, however, the East Preston Festival only exists due to all the hardworking people behind the scenes whose tireless efforts go on all through the year.

Festival programmes will soon be available from many local shops, the Village Hall and the Council Cabin. The biggest event in the Festival calendar is the Festival Parade which this year takes place on 19th June leaving from Vicarage Lane at 1.15pm. Please come along and cheer on all the local groups that take part in this successful and popular fundraising event which ends at the East Preston Infant and Junior Schools.

## East Preston and Kingston Royal British Legion



The East Preston and Kingston Royal British Legion Club, The Street, East Preston, is holding an **Open Week** as part of the Festival in a bid to attract new members. This kicks off with a fun day **'Party on the Green'**, held on the village green on Sunday 13th June at 12.00 noon. There will be a Real Ale Marquee, Boules, Tombola, Hogroast, BBQ, Kid's Zone, Face Painting, Tug of War and Live Music. The event is sponsored by **Yeomans**.

Pop in (for tea or coffee on Monday 14th - Friday 18th June between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon or lunch Mon - Sat between 12.00noon and 2.00pm, Sunday Special 12.00noon to 3.00pm) and find out more about the social club and its charity work. Other evening activities include a **Festival Happy Hour** between 6.00 and 7.00pm (Mon 14th - Fri 18th June) and bingo, cheeses and wine, quizzes and race night.

The Club is open to everyone, not just ex service personnel, and caters for all ages, with a good selection of real ales and wines, good facilities and entertainment. For any more information please contact Kevin Wright, Club Manager, on 01903 770172.

Non-members are welcome too.

## Friends of Langmeads

The parkland known as Langmeads is an area that may not be frequented by some local residents and possibly not even known to others, located as it is on the edge of the Parish and entirely screened from view by housing in Vicarage Lane, Station Road, Worthing Road and The Street.



Thanks to an initiative by Dee Christensen at Arun District Council a "friends" group has been formed with the aim of conserving Langmeads and its wildlife habitat as an informal open space to be used by the community as a place for recreation, enjoyment and study. In support of its aims, the Friends intend to do everything possible to preserve and promote its good maintenance.

Last November, following wide consultation, Dee hosted a very well-attended public meeting at St Mary's Church. She had established from over 150 responses to questionnaires, that local residents saw Langmeads very much as an informal area for recreation. The most popular uses are as a cut-through, a place to walk the dog, or purely for enjoyment and relaxation. Following the meeting, over 100 local people expressed an interest in the Group.

A community event was held on 18th February, which drew support from the local Community Police, Fire & Rescue Service, and Scouts. Despite pouring rain, some 40 adults and children turned out, cleared litter and planted over 750 snowdrops.

A committee has been formed which has drafted a constitution, opened a bank account, persuaded Arun to address the muddy paths, spread wood chippings and consulted on the provision of dog bins.

**The first public meeting is on Thursday 22nd July 2010 at 7.30pm at the Spire Room at St Mary's Church.**

## Village Life

- June 1 - Football coaching (5-16 yrs) East Preston Football Club, Lashmar Rd. 1-4pm  
7 - Full Council meeting 7pm Warren Room  
9 - Classic and Vintage Car Club 6-9pm Tudor Tavern, Sea Road.  
12-20 - East Preston Festival
- July 5 - Full Council meeting 7pm Warren Room  
7 - Classic and Vintage Car Club 6-9pm Tudor Tavern, Sea Road.  
22 - Friends of Langmeads public meeting 7.30pm, Spire Room, St.Mary's Church, Vicarage Lane
- Aug 2 - Full Council meeting 7pm Warren Room  
4 - Classic and Vintage Car Club 6-9pm Tudor Tavern, Sea Road.  
7 - East Preston Horticultural Society Summer Show 2-4pm Warren Recreation Ground  
27-30 - East Preston Twinning Association's visit to twin town, Brou

## Bicycle Shed

The East Preston Infant School has bought a new bicycle shed to encourage pupils to cycle to school. The Parish Council contributed to this through the Friends of East Preston Infant School. The school has also purchased a scooter rack that will hold twenty scooters.

## Shopping bags

With support from the Parish Council, East Preston Junior School is currently selling cotton shopping bags for £1. The aim is to rid the village of environmentally-unfriendly plastic bags. They are available at the school, or from Final Touch or **dizzy** in the northern shops. Recently, four pupils gave a presentation on the shopping bags at the Annual Parish Meeting and sold thirteen bags to residents present at the meeting.



**Councillors** (back row) Len Barnett, Alastair Sharp, Philip Sherwin, Glyn Mathias, Mervyn Howdle, Gordon Fleming; (front row) Celeste Amoo, Simon Cross (Clerk), John Heaver (Vice-Chairman), Chris Roberts (Chairman), Betty Wagstaff, Anne Harberson. (Clive Maltby and John Melser were unable to attend this photo-call.)

## Football Fun

Nearly 50 children enjoyed a **free** coaching session with Brighton's community coaches during the Easter holidays. This was part of the 'Albion in the community' Easter coaching program, aiming to deliver football coaching to children between the ages of 5 and 16. This will now hopefully become a regular feature during the school holidays. The coaching was carried out in association with East Preston FC and took place in glorious sunshine on the main pitch. Parents were able to watch from the comfort of the main stand at the club.

The next **free** coaching session with Brighton & Hove Albion will take place at East Preston FC, Lashmar Road on Tuesday 1st June 1-4pm. Register from 12.30pm.

Thanks largely to grants from the Parish Council and the Football Foundation, East Preston FC is forming the East Preston FC Youth U14 squad next season, playing their home matches at Lashmar Road.

To find out more details please email: [u14@eastprestonfc.com](mailto:u14@eastprestonfc.com), or visit the club's website - [www.eastprestonfc.com](http://www.eastprestonfc.com)



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## Reporting Crimes

It is always worth reporting crimes which occur in your neighbourhood and which you may have witnessed. 999 is the appropriate number for anything which requires an immediate response but 0845 60 70 999 should be used for any non-emergency. It is useful to note that should you wish to pass evidence relating to a crime anonymously to the police, **Sussex Crimestoppers** tel: 0800 555 111 should be contacted.

## Recycling

Following consultation, the Parish Council has retained a clothes bin in the village. This is now located under the fig tree at the front of the Village Hall car park, Sea Road.



# Planning Applications

Nothing makes us sit up and pay attention like a planning application. Often the most well-attended Parish Council meetings are Planning Committee meetings. The Parish Council is aware that there is frustration amongst some residents in East Preston that objections to Planning Applications seem not to receive adequate attention. These notes are aimed at helping to understand the process and how best to frame an objection to a proposed development.

The Parish Council is concerned that the Village Design Statement sometimes appears not to be given the weight and value that we would hope. Aware of concerns of Parishioners over recent Planning decisions, the Parish Council has been in discussion with the Planning Authority and will continue to monitor this.

Changes in legislation have recently widened the scope of permitted development. For guidance on what is now permitted development for domestic property, see the government Planning Portal at [www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/public/tools/house](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/public/tools/house).

Development that is not permitted comes under the Planning Process and applications made to the Planning Authority (Arun District Council - ADC) are advertised, open to inspection at ADC offices in Littlehampton, and can be comprehensively searched for all available documentation under Planning at [www.arun.gov.uk](http://www.arun.gov.uk). If you feel it necessary to support or object to an application, this may be done on-line or by letter to ADC. If objecting, then the quality and applicability of your objection is hugely important to the outcome.

The Parish Council has a legal right to be consulted by ADC on all applications relevant to the village so that it may express its view to the planning authority. While the planning authority does not have to agree, it must consider the Parish Council's view. The planning authority must by law be guided by its own local development plan and national planning policies in its decision-making process unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A clear distinction is made between whether something is a material consideration and the weight it should be given. The former is a question of law; the latter is a question of planning judgement. It is important to understand that emotive and non-planning issues are disregarded when determining an application. Therefore, central to the process are material considerations and these must be

taken into account when a decision is made. The scope of material considerations include:

## Material

- Visual impact
- Privacy / overbearing
- Daylight/sunlight
- Noise, smell etc.
- Access/traffic
- Health and safety
- Ecology
- Crime (and fear of)
- Economic impact (to the community)
- Planning history
- Related decisions
- Cumulative impact
- Village Design Statement
- Land drainage
- Personal factors (*rarely*)

## Non Material

- The Applicant
- Land ownership
- Private rights (e.g. access)
- Restrictive Covenants
- Effect on property value
- Competition
- Loss of view
- "Better site" or "Better use"
- Change from previous scheme

You can strengthen your objection by asking the Parish Council to support you through its answers to ADC's consultation. You may copy your objection to the Parish Clerk who will ensure that the Parish Council's Planning Committee considers it – most Applications are considered by the Planning Committee no more than ten days before the ADC closing date for comments. You may attend the Parish Committee meeting and speak before they consider the application. By listening to the committee's debate, you may gain useful guidance to strengthening or amending your objection.

The Planning Officer is required to give primacy to the ADC Local Development Plan. Our excellent Village Design Statement, which was well received by the Planning Authority, is a Material Consideration. It is necessary to understand the procedures by which the planning authority makes decisions. Some decisions are made by the authority's Development Control Committee, while many are delegated to officers. However, if the Parish Council objects to an application, or five or more objections are received from separate households, the application will be determined by the Development Control Committee. You may attend the Committee hearing and may ask (in advance) to speak. Careful preparation is necessary. Everything you mention must be 'Material' and, if you feel very strongly about the application, you may consider the cost of professional assistance worthwhile. You are also advised to lobby your elected District Councillor.



**Contact point:** Parish Clerk - Simon Cross  
Council Cabin, Sea Road, East Preston BN16 1LP  
Telephone: 01903 770050  
E-mail: [epparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:epparishcouncil@btconnect.com)

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### Chairman's Annual Report - for the year 2009-2010

Now in its fourth year located in the heart of the village, the Parish Council, through the hard work of its officers, continues to provide a real service to the community. The office is open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 2pm; where necessary appointments can be made outside office hours. All staff work to maintain the village as a pleasant place in which to live. The Council Office is always busy with numerous callers. It provides a local conduit to a number of varied outside agencies including Arun District and West Sussex County Councils.

The Full Council met on twelve occasions to conduct the Parish business. There have been several additional meetings to discuss the Village Hall extension and new playground project.

The **Planning Committee** met on twenty occasions to scrutinise all Planning Applications and the Parish Council's opinion was referred to Arun District Council. Controversial applications have been followed with representation to Arun's Development Control Committee. The Planning Committee also supports neighbouring Councils.

The **Amenities Committee** has met on six main occasions to promote the enhancement of the Village. This committee oversees works and improvements on the Village Green, Warren Recreation Ground (WRG) and Children's Playground, Two Acres, hanging baskets and landscaping in both shopping parades. It liaises with the County Council where appropriate. Much has been accomplished on the Village Green, including the installation of picnic tables, benches and the security lights. This committee actively promotes the Christmas "Lights" event and is responsible for the Christmas lighting and village decorations. In addition, it has been active in consultation regarding equipment for the new playground, replacing that installed some nineteen years ago. Helping the team is the Village Orderly who conscientiously maintains the Parish lands.

The **Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee** met on six main occasions to manage the Parish budget. (See overleaf for the Financial Review of 2009/10.) It is worthy of note that the Parish Council's

precept - demand on council tax payers - for 2010-11 is 1% less per household than last year.

The **Audit and Governance Committee** scrutinises the Council's procedures and practices, in conjunction with the Internal and External Auditors. The External Auditor has commended the Council on its management of the Parish finances.

The **Buildings and Facilities Committee** manages the "bricks & mortar" of Parish property. These areas include car parks, public toilets and matters relating to tenants of Parish and WRG properties. It has been proactive in encouraging Arun District Council and Environment Agency interest in and investigation of the ditches and watercourses behind Nursery Close and on the Angmering-on-Sea private estate where some flooding and erosion problems have arisen.

The **Road Safety Working Group** has continued to identify traffic problem areas within the Parish and consults with County Council's Highways Department. Councillors, accompanied by a Police Community Support Officer have deployed the mobile "smiley face", monitoring speed habits and identifying potential black spots in the village. A notable achievement has been encouraging County and Railtrack to make improvements at the Roundstone Crossing. To date, the road markings have been improved and the legal right of way established. A widening of the level crossing by 4 metres in June 2011 is promised and the viability of a bridge is being assessed. A School Safety Zone is planned for 2011, establishing a 20mph limit and amber-flashing lights on the approaches to Lashmar Road. In the interim, a "Safer Routes to School" structure has been established.

#### Other Meetings:

Councillors have attended County and District meetings where mutual matters are discussed. These include the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, the Joint Eastern Arun Highways & Transport Working Group and the Arun Eastern Parishes Group comprising Angmering, East Preston, Ferring, Kingston, Littlehampton and Rustington. The Council is also represented on the Arun Community Hospital Stakeholder Forum, the East

continued overleaf →

## Chairman's Annual Report continued -

Preston Junior and Infants Schools, the East Preston Youth Centre, the new East Preston Children & Family Centre, the Greening Campaign, the Sussex Police Neighbourhood Management Forum and also the newly formed "Friends of Langmeads" initiative.

### Village Hall Extension project:

Following several feasibility studies over the past fifteen years and a real need to expand the Village Hall and provide a proper Council office, it was agreed in 2007 to proceed in partnership with the Village Hall Foundation to extend into the WRG car park and relocate the playground and install new equipment. Since then the Council has progressed the project

through consultations with the Charity Commission, commissioning plans, obtaining Planning Approval, appointing Project Managers, seeking grants for playground equipment and negotiating the complexities of VAT liabilities and Trust deeds. Tender documents have been sent to six potential contractors and will be considered in June. Subject to the responses and a workable agreement of leases and Charity Commission approval, a bid for financing will be made to the Public Works Loan Board and building should commence during the summer. It is hoped that the new extension will be ready for use by the end of the year.

**Councillor C J Roberts**, Chairman

## Financial Review of 2009/10

During the year ending 31st March 2010, the Parish Council worked to a budget of £179,284, of which it spent about £167,000 (year-end accounts are being finalised at the time of writing.)

Benefits to the Parish are: a well-staffed and equipped Parish Office in the village; a school crossing patrol in North Lane; a Village Orderly to care for the Parish Council lands; flowering plants throughout the village; maintenance of and improvements to the Warren Recreation Ground, including the public tennis court and the children's play area as well as the Village Green and Two Acres; the toilet blocks in Sea Road and South Strand, and four bus shelters around the village. Additionally, the Parish Council produces a well-regarded quarterly Newsletter. It funds Christmas lighting in the village, and supports the lights-on event. St Mary the Virgin Church and the East Preston Youth Centre receive grants from the Parish

Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard and activities for the young people in the village respectively.

The Parish Council has set a budget of £176,000 for 2010/11.

1st East Preston Scouts, East Preston Cricket Club, East Preston Football Club Juniors, Sussex Crimestoppers and Sussex Victim Support have already received grants from the Parish Council in the new financial year.

An addition to its funding regime is the proposed new building on the northern side of the Village Hall, to provide additional storage for the Village Hall, a community meeting room, a permanent Parish Office, and a new children's play area.

**Cllr Alastair Sharp**, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

### East Preston Parish Councillors 2010/11

Mrs Celeste Amoo	91 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1LN	Tel: 786928
Len Barnett	2 Myrtle Grove, East Preston, BN16 2SW	Tel: 787821
Gordon Fleming	78 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1NP	Tel: 786394
Mrs Anne Harberson	14 The Framptons, East Preston, BN16 1BD	Tel: 859202
John Heaver (Vice-Chairman)	16 Russells Close, East Preston, BN16 1BP	Tel: 786324
Mervyn Howdle	11 Kenhurst, East Preston, BN16 1LL	Tel: 778715
Clive Maltby	22 Hillview Crescent, East Preston, BN16 1RG	Tel: 786162
Glyn Mathias	Thalassa, 16 Tamarisk Way, East Preston, BN16 2TF	Tel: 859191
John Melser	1 The Nookery, East Preston, BN16 1PT	Tel: 787030
Chris Roberts (Chairman)	14 Vicarage Lane, East Preston, BN16 2SP	Tel: 770844
Alastair Sharp	98 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1NP	Tel: 856397
Philip Sherwin	Lauriston, The Circle, East Preston, BN16 1PG	Tel: 856388
Mrs Betty Wagstaff	26 Copse View, East Preston, BN16 1AY	Tel: 786095

Members of the public are asked, where possible, to direct enquiries for individual councillors through the Clerk. All named correspondence will be passed on to the relevant councillor(s).