



EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**EAST PECKHAM
2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

WILL BE HELD

ON

MONDAY, 04 APRIL 2016

**STARTS AT 7.00 P.M. WITH
REFRESHMENTS**

**IN THE SPORTS HALL, PIPPIN ROAD,
EAST PECKHAM, TN12 5BT**

Hear what EPPC has been up to and have your say.

Come along and meet your MP, Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors, County Councillor & fellow Villagers

Refreshments consisting of a light buffet, wine. Teas, coffees and soft drinks will be available throughout the evening

February 2016
STEPHANIE WATSON
Chairman



**If your group or organisation would like to reserve an information stand/table, simply email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01622 871309 as soon as possible to make your reservation*

Chairman's Report

As I write this report the Parish Council is still working around the clock to save the local GP Surgery in the village. Some of you will have noticed we have managed to get the local newspapers involved, the regional radio and now BBC television....Did you not see my minute of fame!!

But joking aside please be assured that we are doing all we possibly can to resist the closure. As we battle to retain this essential front line service, we are enormously grateful to Tom Tugendhat MP and Baroness Emerton for their support and for raising the issue in the Houses of Commons and Lords, we are also grateful to the support of our Borough Councillors and County Councillor. The loss of the surgery to the village is unthinkable as is the negative and detrimental effect it would have on our community. We have asked Woodlands Health Centre and NHS England to enter into discussions with us on what practical help we can offer and we are willing to consider funding, land or premises. By the time you read this I am hopeful that NHS England will have given us a six month extension providing us time to complete building surveys etc. and find a positive solution to retaining this village lifeline.

If you read the Parish Councils newsletters and look at our website and twitter account regularly, you will know what has been happening in our village over the past year. We are often asked what the Parish Council does; I hope this annual report provides a flavour of what we do on behalf of the village. Please do keep an eye on our website and social media as we may be calling for help in the near future regarding the surgery....every little helps as they say...and the more people from within the community that can offer time and or skills would be extremely helpful.

Crime figures have remained reasonably stable, but I would ask you to report any unusual behaviour or nuisance problems, at the time, by dialling 101, being the non-emergency Police line and not the next time you see our PCSO's or Community Warden, although please do make them aware also.

We are concerned with the amount of potholes and dangerous footways throughout the Parish and we have asked our County Councillor to urge the Kent Highways repair team to come to East Peckham and repair the numerous potholes on our rural roads. Cars parked on pavements are still a problem. We continue to monitor this antisocial practice, which causes problems to anyone in a wheelchair or pushing a pram.

I would like to record my thanks to Penny Graham who is Chair of our Planning Committee. The Parish Council looks after the Parish's planning interests and continues to have a busy time, whether dealing with fairly basic planning applications through to the far more complicated ones involving new housing and other development in the Parish. During the past year the Planning Committee has made recommendations to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on over 100 applications and we have ensured that we make our representations heard, although at times it feels as though it is falling on deaf ears, but we trying.

A big THANK YOU must go to Karen Bell our Parish Clerk whose hard work is very much appreciated. Karen works extremely hard for the Council and it was very satisfying that thanks to her hard work we were assessed by our peers and awarded Foundation Status under the New Local Council Award Scheme.

Finally I would like to record my thanks to my Deputy Chairman Peter Crawford and my fellow Councillors, all of us volunteer our time and take no financial payment and try to do our best for the good of the village. I hope you agree with me in that I think we are doing a pretty good job.

East Peckham remains to be a fantastic and pretty little village with a good community spirit and one place I am happy to call home.

If you have any questions that cannot be answered by reading this booklet please come along to the APM and see me or the rest of the Parish Council or email one of us via the Parish Website.

I look forward to seeing or hearing from you.

Steph Watson
Chair of EPPC



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steph Watson".

STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Mission: To develop and sustain a sense of community within East Peckham by addressing environmental, economic and social issues and delivering quality services to our residents.

Our Strategic objectives are:

- 1. To work with the Police and other authorities to nurture a safe and lawful environment, by:**
 - Supporting the police in the prevention and detection of crime;
 - Working with young people where possible to engage them in creative activities to divert them from damaging the facilities in the parish;
 - Working to develop facilities to provide spaces for young people to gather and socialise.
 - Working with the appropriate authorities to ensure streets and public areas are well lit and designed to minimise crime and ensure our streetlights are in a functional mode
 - Working with the appropriate authorities to ensure the footpaths are in a good state of repair and the public rights of way kept reasonably free from undergrowth;
 - Supporting people and local organisations in the introduction of traffic calming measures and other road safety initiatives in their immediate locality.

- 2. To work for the improvement of the built environment, by:**
 - Identifying unacceptable building proposals and registering concerns
 - Maintaining our bus shelters and other street furniture
 - Working with the Police to detect & prosecute perpetrators of graffiti or other vandalism;
 - Working with appropriate authorities to minimise detrimental effects of litter

- 3. To work with Statutory and Non-statutory Bodies seeking to improve the quality of life for residents, by:**
 - Co-operating with neighbouring parishes on issues that affect us;
 - Supporting and working with Youth Groups and Elderly Persons organisations
 - Co-operating and working with those schools our parishioners attend to improve facilities for the young.

- 4. To further develop the Jubilee Hall, playing fields and opens spaces under the parish council's ownership to provide green open spaces and contribute to sustaining biodiversity within the parish, by:**
 - Maintaining the Playing Fields and other open spaces in our ownership, by working with other authorities and agencies to improve the natural environment and sustain biodiversity and by developing the facilities
 - Maintaining and improving children's play areas including replacing play equipment on rolling basis. Maintain and improve council owned land, buildings and parish amenities, acquire as appropriate additional land or buildings
 - Continuing to build financial reserves to achieve these objectives.

- 5. To improve the environment in the Parish, by:**
 - Developing and sustaining an active footpaths policy and by working with the PROW in order to maintain our current network of footpaths in good order;
 - Identifying opportunities to open or re-open bye-ways in conjunction with PROW

- 6. To manage the affairs of the Council on an efficient and effective basis, by:**
 - Ensuring all decisions are taken on a value for money basis;
 - Being a good employer and treating employees as valued members of the team;
 - Ensuring legal obligations are met and good practice followed in respect of finances
 - Developing and implementing policies and procedures ensuring good governance
 - Consulting residents to enhance the life of our community and improve internet.
 - Maintaining Local Council Award Scheme Foundation status whilst working towards Quality Gold status.
 - Adopting and updating appropriate financial policies including management of reserves.

ACTION PLAN

- Consider the provision of additional storage in the Jubilee Hall, develop a contingency plan for Jubilee Hall maintenance, consider the renovation of the car park area at the Jubilee Hall, consider improving the landscaping of the playing fields, review the potential for further bookings for the Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields and consider new facilities to the playing fields
- Consider in conjunction with the appropriate authorities facilities for the youth and elderly.
- Establish volunteer groups i.e. East Peckham Business Forum & East Peckham in Bloom
- Review and identify financial projects in order of preference and financial reserves policy
- Review the potential for Affordable Housing
- Support groups and organisations whose activities enhance community life.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT

Aims:

- work more closely with residents, businesses and community groups;
- engage with as many people as possible who want to participate in decision making,
- monitoring services and planning for the future;
- ensure, through a wide range of approaches we increase public involvement and community engagement, to capture residents views, learn their concerns and effectively use those views as an integral part of the decision-making process;
- Ensure residents have opportunities to be heard and capacity to be effective citizens.

Objectives

This strategy is part of EPPC's commitment to creating and maintaining effective working relationships with all sectors of the community, based on trust, openness & constructive challenge.

Outcomes of the strategy will include:

- Improved communication through the establishment of new channels of engagement;
- More residents understanding the role of Councillors and getting the best effect;
- Improved engagement with local communities, with more people feeling that they are involved in decision-making and a higher percentage of people involved in volunteering;
- Improved satisfaction with local public services.

Defining the Community

East Peckham is a rural parish. The principal authorities are TMBC and KCC. Our closest towns are Paddock Wood and Tonbridge. There are approximately 1,200 residential properties and approximately 3,500 people of all ages. The community may be defined as residents, users of Parish Council Services, Head Teacher and Governors of East Peckham Primary School, young people who live and/or go to school in the Village, retail and other businesses in the community, interest groups – clubs and societies, voluntary organisations, Church Groups, Farming Community, groups of people defined by a common factor such as age, disability, faith, and other groups and Councillors and public service representatives including Council Staff.

Role of Council Members and Officers

EPPC is non-political with 11 Councillors who have various roles and responsibilities, members communicate with the public via their attendance at meetings and their work with relevant committees. Councillors have a number of different roles that embrace a range of activities. These roles bring opportunity to discuss the work of EPPC with residents and peers and encourage participation and feedback. The Council has one officer who covers the entire spectrum of Council work; we also employ 2 janitors, a litter clearer and a grounds maintenance contractor who also checks play equipment on a weekly basis. They frequently have direct contact with members of the public and naturally have to field questions and enquiries. Their ability to do this effectively and courteously is as important as any other element of the Council's work in the community and can give good feedback on the views of people on the services offered by the Council.

Provision of Information to the Community and Opportunities for Community Involvement

- Our office is open 4 mornings a week during term times; messages can be left 24/7 by telephone and email.
- The EPPC website address is widely published. The site contains all the information an individual might wish to know about the work of the Parish Council.
- EPPC issues a newsletter and annual report. Both are available on the council's website.
- Information published on EPPC notice board, public participation 'slot' at each council meeting.
- The council has prepared a Welcome Pack which is freely available in hard copy and on the website. The Welcome Pack contains information on the community and the Parish Council.
- The Council undertakes consultations for specific issues. Active feedback is sought at all times and Councillors attend such events to "spread the word" on the role of the Council and encourage people to participate in local affairs with specific local issues being explored from time to time using the full range of communication techniques available. The Council is always considering practical ways of engaging with people and community groups.

Involvement with Partnerships

This includes; Kent Association of Local Councils, Action with Communities in Rural Kent, Tree Warden, Community Resilience, Parish Partnership Panel, Transport Representative, Crime Reduction, Twinning, Youth, CCTV, Jubilee Hall, Environmental Enhancements, Allotments, Skatepark, Library, CAMEO, Carers Support, Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultation Group, Village Planting, Voluntary warden for B2015 Branbridges Road Nature Reserve, East Peckham Business Forum, Borough Cllr. Liaison and Parking. In addition non parish councillors act on our behalf, i.e. Village Historian, Allotment representatives and CCTV advisors

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision for East Peckham is one of a strong and thriving community where history and heritage are celebrated and sustained, and where our rural setting and character are preserved and enhanced. In order to meet the needs of the Parish in the 21st Century, we aspire to:

- Maintain and enhance the built and natural environment for present and future generations
- Support small scale housing and business developments that meet local needs and are in keeping with the scale and demands of a small rural parish
- Encourage opportunities for parishioners across the generations
- Ensure welcoming parish setting by improving facilities within the context of a safe and secure rural environment
- Foster partnership working between village groups and organizations for mutual benefit of all.
- Support local businesses & services that contribute to quality of life for residents and visitors.

The specifics:

- Encourage small proportion of new development focused around existing development ensuring new developments, renovations or extensions are in keeping with existing building.
- Encourage use of renewable energy and waste-minimizing technologies.
- Encourage growth of socially and environmentally compatible business and light commercial activity and redevelopment of existing redundant facilities to enhance prosperity of the Parish.
- Encourage development of local tourist trade by promoting and developing parish amenities and surrounding countryside whilst ensuring environmental impact is assessed and managed.
- Promote activities and a supportive community network to ensure a safe crime-free community.
- Encourage awareness and community involvement in projects to maintain and enhance natural environment so it is sustained for the future and seen as a model for other parishes
- Encourage and support development of variety of stimulating activities for all age and interest groups; and facilitate cooperation and understanding between groups to build community spirit.
- Raise awareness of local transport services & encourage modes of transport (e.g. car sharing and cycling) that support needs of demographic groups and are environmentally friendly.
- Work on infrastructure and behaviours to ensure roads are maintained, safe and used responsibly by local and through traffic. Manage speed whilst ensuring control measures do not have a negative impact

- Identify, maintain and develop infrastructure, key facilities and other services to enhance quality of life.
- Improve the modus operandi of EPPC and encourage broader involvement and contribution to the management of parish matters by existing groups and the general population.
- Provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish, enabling residents to be involved in the life of the community and its future development.
- Be a strong voice for residents and local businesses, working to improve the overall village area both built and natural, while preserving the uniqueness of heritage areas
- Understand and communicate views, needs and aspirations of residents and businesses.
- Increase public involvement by ensuring EPPC's activities are open, transparent & accountable.
- Support local business and economic activity in the village
- Work with TMBC and KCC to provide safe, healthy and timely opportunities for recreation, leisure and education, and provide, improve and maintain play equipment, allotments and public recreation spaces
- Support the work of village voluntary organizations through grants and practical support
- Respond to planning applications and other statutory consultations on time, ensuring that recommendations adhere to any statutory regulations, and the interests of the community.
- Promote activities which support principles of environmental sustainability and an ethical society, working with wardens to keep public places clean and safe.
- Ensure Councillors and Staff have access to quality training and development opportunities and for EPPC to continue working towards achieving "General Power of Competence".

Some of our specific aims and objectives for 2016-2017 are as follows:

- Set a reasonable and sustainable precept for 2016-2017.
- Continue to improve the viability, sustainability, maintenance and use of the Jubilee Hall
- Consider possible reduction in services by TMBC and KCC and what we can do to maintain key services in the village and mitigate any loss in services to East Peckham
- Continue our work on Community Emergency Planning
- Decide key projects and investigate national and local funding streams, some of our 2016 projects include more Village Planting, Garden Competition, Play area safety surfacing repairs, new activity for younger children's play area, phase 4 of the Jubilee Hall upgrade, more Environmental Enhancements and the topping up of our Village Minor Maintenance Fund.

LOOKING BACK AT 2015 & AHEAD TO 2016

2015 was another hectic year; here is a short summary of some of the highlights.

EMERGENCY PLANNING: Work continues on emergency planning, we have our own Community Emergency Plan and have set up an East Peckham Flood Warden Scheme.

VILLAGE PLANTING: Spring and summer hanging baskets and planter arrangements were installed in the village centre these will be followed by more planting in 2016.

CCTV: We continue to make improvements to the village CCTV systems. We also work with Kent Police and have been able to share some useful footage with them

NEW FINGERPOSTS: The new fingerposts have been installed. We hope you'll agree that these bespoke posts have significantly improved the street scene of East Peckham. We hope they will set a precedent for the rest of rural Kent.

EAST PECKHAM BRANCH SURGERY: In December 2015, we were advised that Woodlands Health Centre had given notice to NHS England to terminate their contract and close the surgery. If this goes ahead, in early March 2016, appointments will cease in East Peckham and patients will then be seen in Paddock Wood. The East Peckham surgery has over 2,200 registered patients. The Health Centre is already heavily committed and we believe if it has to absorb East Peckham patients it can only have a *detrimental effect on the quality and level of service provided.*

Demographic data shows that East Peckham has an *above average number of elderly residents* which will inevitably place an extra burden on the Health Centre. These patients are often less mobile and unable to drive to appointments and there is only a very limited bus service. There is an overwhelming case for the NHS to continue to provide an East Peckham GP Surgery and we're well aware that patients and their families are worrying themselves sick. We have started an online petition which will not close until all feasible options have been explored. Further details of the petition are on our website; PLEASE sign this petition to show your support to keep the East Peckham Branch Surgery Open. Our heartfelt thanks to all who've signed so far...

The application by Woodlands Health Centre to close the surgery has been considered by the NHS GP Contracting Panel. Because the current premises are deemed not up to current standards, NHS England will not support a new lease. The NHS whilst accepting the application to close the surgery took into account our views and in particular our offer in principal to support the Practice with the funding of improvements to get the premises into a condition whereby a new lease could be offered. NHS England have therefore asked Woodlands Health Centre to delay the closure for up to 6 months whilst they approach the landlord for an extension on the lease and to explore any other potential opportunities for funding which might secure the future of the surgery. We are pleased to confirm that the landlord is agreeable to extending the lease. We have offered to pay for the cost of the survey of the existing premises, without which we will not know the extent of the work required, whether it is possible within the confines of the existing building or if we will have to look to the provision of alternative premises.

Whilst the NHS say they do not have any additional funding to support remedial work; it's hoped that with our support the Health Centre can come to an arrangement to keep the surgery open.

Twitter: During the year we set up a twitter account you can now follow us @EastPeckhamPC, we use twitter to post regular updates on our news and activities

2016

SURGERY: Please continue to support us in our efforts to Keep East Peckham Surgery Open. We promise you that we feel passionately about this issue and are doing all we can to retain this vital front line service within our community. We would like to thank Tom Tugendhat MP and Baroness Emerton for all their help and support.

PROJECTS FOR 2016: Some of the projects which we will be undertaking this year include:

- Safety surfacing renewal in older children's play area
- Contribution towards our Emergency Planning Fund and more work on Community Emergency Planning
- More Village Planting
- Phase 4 of the Jubilee Hall Upgrade which will include the renewal and improvement of the entrance corridor
- Phase 4 of the Village Environmental Enhancements
- Contribution towards our Village Minor Maintenance Fund
- New activity in younger children's play area
- Garden Competition
- Parish Council App

NEW PARISH COUNCIL APP

Why a Parish App

It's a fact that more adults use mobile apps and access the internet from mobile devices; this inspired us to harness the power of mobile in providing information and services that are more accessible and convenient to all. The app will be interactive with key functions to allow access to information 'on demand', so residents can engage with parish representatives and the local community, whilst 'on the go' or in the comfort of their own home. In essence the Parish App is a great opportunity for residents to connect, be informed, book facilities, share news and promote local events, bringing the community together.

Features will include the ability to instantly submit a photo of local events or report issues in your community. Stay in the loop with instant notifications of local news and events. The app will also allow you to view council meetings, planning applications, village contracts and read copies our 'EPPC News' plus much more.

Download the app now. Spread the word and get connected. Better communication leads to better communities and engaging in local events, sharing news and ideas helps make a better neighbourhood.

ABOUT EAST PECKHAM: East Peckham is a rural village lying between the parishes of Hadlow, Mereworth and Nettlestead and the small town of Paddock Wood in the borough of Tonbridge & Malling. The village has approximately 1,200 homes and 3,500 residents and is continuing to expand. It is well supported with village halls which include the Sports Hall and Playing Fields, educational facilities, a wonderful village centre with a variety of shops and the Library, there are 3 public houses, good restaurants and a Garden Centre. There is a network of cycle paths, walks and bridleways that connect to both the residential and commercial village areas and to our Jubilee Hall which brings both residents and hirers together. Our website, app and twitter, aim to guide you to the latest news, updates, events and Parish Council meetings, which will ensure that you know what is happening in and around the Parish of East Peckham

WHAT IS EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO? We're the 1st and most accessible, proactive and reactive tier of governance in this country. We can do as much or as little as we're able and serve our community directly and effectively. The 11 Councillors are elected every 4 years, they're your representatives and they meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of EPPC. Our meetings are open to the public and we urge you to come and discover the variety of topics that are discussed. We're consulted on planning applications and on such things as schools, roads and planning issues. We welcome your input so that we can reflect your views when discussing matters with other agencies and when identifying future objectives. We invest an enormous amount of time and effort on behalf of residents, planning for the future and continuously look for additional services and facilities to offer our community.

THE PARISH COUNCILLORS ARE: Mick Barton, Peter Crawford, Michael Ferguson, Penny Graham, Jenny Macdonald, Serina Page, Colin Silver, Steph Watson and Lynton Wright. They are volunteers and do not receive a salary but contribute a great deal of time and energy to ensure the smooth running of the community. They believe that their role is to serve the community and freely give up their time to do this. During the year we said goodbye to Lorraine Baseden, Claire Day, Peter Street and Amanda Hodgson. Whilst the Councillors are entitled to claim allowances, they have been elected to serve their community and freely give their time to do this; this saves at least £7,000, money which we would otherwise have to include within our precept.

HOW THE PARISH COUNCIL OPERATES: We continue to improve working methods and encourage more public involvement. We also have a community engagement strategy. Your first port of call for any issue should be to our Parish Clerk.

COMMUNICATION: This year has seen further investment in our website with new pages added with the intention of creating an information hub. The basic remit of our newsletter 'EPPC News' has changed little its aim is to enlighten residents with information in an easy layout. The format of 'EPPC News' continues to evolve with the velocity of change facing us. 'EPPC News' is often the principle source for regular updates on our activities and is a prime location for concise information that is digestible on more complex issues. We will continue to invest more time and energy into our communications with the aim of making EPPC the one stop hub for information that a progressive community needs. The growth of thematic areas supports this and reflects our policy of building up our reputation through links with other local authorities, village organisations and groups which we have strong alliances with. The ease with which residents can access the website and obtain information is supported by the extent to which we use email to regularly update members of news on courses to legislative issues and consultations. We also use social media to engage with our residents and you now follow us on twitter @EastPeckhamPC.

WEBSITE: To us it seems sensible that when you design products or services with the people who use them in mind, you're more likely to create something that is easy to use and that makes sense. This is the approach we're taking at EPPC particularly when it comes to our website. If you use the internet and would like to help improve the website we'd love to hear from you.

LOCALISM: A key aspect of delivering services and localism for the local community is working in partnership with other tiers of local government and other organisations. We continue to develop our relationship with key organisations and we are closest to our community to promote our important role. We are very much aware of our role as the front of house within the community.

PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES: These are varied and many and include the following

- Running the Jubilee Hall complex, maintaining the Playing Fields and outdoor equipment
- Maintenance of churchyards at Holy Trinity and St Michaels
- Maintenance of other open spaces in the village and some bus shelters
- Management of the allotments
- Consultee on all planning applications in the parish
- Act as a liaison between the community and other local organisations and Councils
- Produce a monthly newsletter and an annual report
- Nominate representatives to serve on local voluntary, public and community organisations
- Footway lighting & Village CCTV

FULL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The full Council oversees Council activities. We also have 2 committees which are Finance and Planning & Transportation Committee. We work towards improving community well-being and providing better services at a local level. Our work falls into 3 main categories, i.e. representing the community; delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve quality of life in the community. Through a range of powers, we can provide and maintain a variety of important and visible services such as allotments, bus shelters, car parks, community transport schemes, crime reduction measures, footpaths, leisure facilities, youth projects, open spaces, street cleaning, street lighting, tourism, traffic calming, village greens and litter bins. Residents are welcome to attend and speak at meetings under the 'Public' section. Agendas together with notification of planning applications, minutes and other information can be found on our website: www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Agendas are also posted on our notice board. Meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month (except August).

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME: During 2015 we were awarded Foundation Status, at the time of accreditation we were 1 of only 17 parish & town councils within Kent and 1 of only 3 within Tonbridge and Malling to have received accreditation. We are now working towards Quality Gold Status and involved in working with other councils sharing best practice and driving up standards.

THE CIVIC FUNCTION: We represent the village at various annual events. We also have an important civic role; in November, we attend the Remembrance Day Service and in March Peter and Anne Crawford will attend the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Annual Kent Civic Service.

ALLOTMENTS: Allotments are provided adjacent to the Playing Fields, there are some vacancies.

AREAS: Councillors represent the village as a whole, but do have designated areas, as follows:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Hale Street, Bardsley Close, Hale Court, Medway Meadows, Cates Court & Maidstone Rd | P. Crawford |
| • Smithers Lane, Pattenden Gardens, Hop Bine Close, Smithers Court, Beltring, Branbridges & Maidstone Roads (A26) | TBC |
| • Old Road, Strettitt Gardens, Pinkham & Pinkham Gardens | P. Graham |
| • Addlestead Road, Chidley Cross Road, Caysers Croft & Tonbridge Road | L. Wright |
| • Pound Road, The Old Dairy & Snoll Hatch Road | S. Page |
| • Orchard Road, The Freehold, Red Roses, Marvillion & Crown Acres (Odds) | C. Silver |
| • Whitebine, Golding & Henham Gardens & Crown Acres (evens) | M. Barton |
| • Fell Mead, Stockenbury, Bramley Road, Pippin Road & Russett Road | S. Watson |
| • Hatches Lane, Bullen Lane, Bells Farm Road, Grove Close & Stanford Lane | J. Macdonald |
| • Westwood Road, Drage Road, William Luck Close & Cotman Way | M. Hodgson |
| • Court Lodge, Roydon Hall & Bush Roads, Seven Mile, Martins & Church Lanes | M. Ferguson |

2015 POPPY APPEAL: The 2015 village appeal raised £3,409.62. Thanks to everyone who gave to the collection and to Ann & Brian Buckland who organised the local appeal.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS: Council Representation is as follows:

Kent Association of Local Councils	Chairman & Deputy Chairman
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Chairman
Village Tree Warden	L. Wright
Community Resilience	P. Graham & S. Watson
Parish Partnership Panel	Chairman & Deputy Chairman
Village Transport & Parking	Planning Committee Chairman
T & M CPP	P. Street (Co-opt)
Twinning Association	K. Bell (Co-opt)
CCTV	M. Hodgson
Environmental Enhancements	J. Macdonald
Allotments	J. Macdonald & S. Watson
Skatepark	M. Barton
Library Keyholder	P. Graham
CAMEO	P. Graham
Carers Support Group	A. Hodgson (Co-opt)
Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultation Group	Planning Committee Chairman
Village Planting	J. Macdonald
Voluntary warden for B2015 Branbridges Road Nature Reserve	L. Wright
Borough Cllr. Liaison	P. Graham

This gives a flavour of the wide variety of activities with which the Parish Council is involved.

PLANNING: We're a statutory consultee. Our Planning & Transportation Committee considers planning applications in terms of any impact it might have on the village and makes a recommendation as to whether an application should be approved. It's then up to TMBC to make the decision. Planning Applicants are encouraged to address us when their application is to be considered. Details of all applications can be found on TMBC's website www.tmbc.gov.uk.

AWARDS: Congratulations to the 2016 award winners, Brookside Garden Centre & Carol Hodgson

2015 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: These again provided pleasure and we thank TMBC, Brookside Garden Centre, Mark Edwards, RBS Electrical Contractors, Village Stores, Bourne Produce, Heavenly Glaze and Kent Library Services for helping us. We'd particularly like to thank Brookside Garden Centre for donating the Village Christmas tree and we offer them our congratulations for their splendid Christmas Grotto which was again nationally recognised as the best. Unfortunately, because we do not own the land in the village centre and there is no energy supply we can use, we're unable to use the land in front of the shops in The Pound. During 2016 we're planning to install a street light which will provide an energy supply we'll be able to use for future displays.

EAST PECKHAM CARERS SUPPORT GROUP: Since the group was set up by Marion Sorfleet, many people from East Peckham and the surrounding areas have sought and been helped by Marion and Carers First. We're pleased to support this group whose intention is for the help and wellbeing of the community, the group meets on the first Tuesday in each month between 10.30 a.m.–12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room where you're guaranteed a warm welcome.

JUBILEE HALL

The Jubilee Hall goes from strength to strength and consists of a Sports Hall, Meeting Room, kitchen, changing rooms and toilet facilities. Each year the complex costs less of your money to run as hall hire income is meeting day to day running costs. We do however have an obligation to maintain this community asset so in our budget we do include a building maintenance provision.

Activities include keep fit, Zumba, gym, badminton, bowls, Parent & Toddler group, Goalkeeping School and Carers Group. Why not consider the Jubilee Hall if you're looking for a venue for an activity or meeting. Currently in the Sports Hall we have some weekday morning availability,

evening availability on Saturdays and all day availability on Sundays. There is more availability for our meeting room and our hire rates start at just £6.00 per hour.

Our objective is to run and maintain the facilities as a Community Asset, to raise money through grants, facilities expansion and to have some volunteers who can put on events. We've some fantastic ideas, like, fun days, car boot sales, cinema screenings and fireworks. An integral screen will enable us to hold film shows and will be an attractive facility for hall hirers who look for value added betterment for their cash. We intend to do all we can to make sure the upward trend in bookings continues and every customer leaves happy. We'll continue to provide complimentary event organisation support, recommend local suppliers and develop a handy blog of event planning tips. We pride ourselves on providing great value and modern facilities.

We've continued with the phased upgrade of our facilities, phase 3 involved upgrading the toilet facilities we also renovated the soft surfacing in the younger children's play area. Phase 4 will be carried out during 2016 and will consist of upgrading the entrance facilities and corridor and a new activity in the younger children's play area. We've in place risk assessments for the Jubilee Hall and outdoor equipment which is also subject to an annual ROSPA inspection; we're pleased that the equipment has been declared 'good', is fit for purpose and safe to use. We have an ongoing improvement programme that will provide recreational facilities for all age groups; plans for the future include the installation of activity stations around the perimeter of the playing fields.

Our janitors Debbie Jenner, Paul Kent & Margaret Phillips continue to maintain the Jubilee Hall & Playing Fields to high standards, they're often called out during anti-social hours and we thank them for all they do. Michael Hayes our litter warden does a smashing job keeping the village and Playing Fields tidy, we're delighted with the positive comments we receive about his work.

PLAYING FIELDS

The Playing Fields are non-income generating community assets and also consist of the tennis court, Ball Park, youth shelter, the fitness equipment and the children's play areas. The cost of their upkeep is included within our budget and they are open and free to use all year round.

We continue to receive complaints about dog fouling which is nasty and antisocial. We urge you to notify us, TMBC's dog warden or the community warden if you witness any incidents of dog fouling. Subject to availability, we have dog bags which we are happy to provide free of charge.

There has been some vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the Jubilee Hall Car Park and on the Playing Fields. Consequently we've had to spend a great deal of our time and your money dealing with incidents which cause intolerable disturbances to nearby residents. If you witness any acts of vandalism or anti-social behaviour report it to us, the police, or the Community Warden. The CCTV system has been upgraded and provides images which are identifying those responsible.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

We're grateful that progress has been made on our defences; we will continue to do all we can to see how we can improve the existing protection and exert pressure on others to do the same.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN: In the case of an emergency the plan will spring into action. If you are a vulnerable person and think you will require additional help and support during an emergency and have not yet advised us, please let us know.

SANDBAG CONTAINERS: These are located in the Jubilee and Curran Hall car parks. The containers will be opened should there be a risk of flooding. Unfortunately we've been thwarted in our efforts to install a sandbag container in the Little Mill area we've therefore had to shelve this plan for the time being but if you know of a potential site we'll be pleased to open discussions with landowners and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY IN AN EMERGENCY? Do you have a 4 Wheel Drive? Would you be willing to deliver sandbags? Do you have a generator? Do you have skills, which can be called upon? If you can help in any way please let us know.

FLOOD WARDEN SCHEME: If you would like to become a flood warden or find out more please let us know. Free training is available and all flood wardens will be given a flood preparedness kit.

FLOOD WARNINGS: Residents can sign up to the Environment Agency's floodline service by calling 0845 988 1188 or by visiting the Environment Agencies website.

FLOOD GUIDANCE: It's not always possible to eliminate flood risk but steps can be taken to reduce flood damage and assist with recovery. Useful guidance notes are on our website.

DEFIBRILATOR: We've installed a defibrillator on the outside of the Jubilee Hall which can be accessed by anyone who needs it. The emergency services know its location and anyone requiring it will be given the access code by dialing 999. We run a FREE training programme for anyone wishing to know how to use it. The aim is to train as many people as possible. We've an excellent trainer and everyone who has attended the training has benefitted from the instruction.

FINANCE

2014/2015: Our finances are in good shape and public money carefully looked after. Our cash holdings at 31.03.15 amounted to £218,298, after deducting reserves of £76,015; our net reserves were £142,283. Our audited accounts for the year ended 31.03.15 are on our website.

2015/2016: Our accounts for the year to 31.03.16 will be published on our website.

SECTION 137: This allows us to spend up to £7.45 per elector for the benefit of people within East Peckham on activities or projects not specifically authorized by other powers. Items funded using these powers in 2015/2016 include litter clearing and donations to groups and organisations.

EPPC HELPING GOOD CAUSES: During 2015/2016 we made donations to the Royal British Legion, TMBC Y2 Summer Crew, Russett Players and to the Crime Prevention Panel.

COMMUNITY GRANTS: If your group would like to apply for a grant please visit our website where you will find details of our grants policy and the application form. Since the introduction of our grants scheme, we've awarded grants to the Girls Brigade, Scout Group, Boys Brigade, Twinning Association, Russett Players, East Peckham School and East Peckham Pre-School.

2016/2017 FUNDING: We receive funds from a number of sources, these are

- **Concurrent Functions Grant:** A grant from TMBC towards our expenditure on footway lighting, churchyards and open spaces. Our grant for 2016/2017 will be £9,513.
- **Council Tax Support Grant:** A grant from TMBC which will be £8,669.
- **Jubilee Hall Hire:** Hall hire income meets the day to day running costs of the Jubilee Hall.
- **Precept:** Collected for us by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council as part of the Council Tax. Our 2016/2017 precept is £112,951, an increase of 2.42% on our 2015/2016 precept which was £110,274. However because of the way in which the Council Tax Base Rate has been calculated, the net increase for a Band D Council Tax Property is actually 0.77%. Although any increase is regrettable we believe that our budget is sustainable and realistic and allows us the opportunity to provide the village with projects and activities that the vast majority of people will welcome and appreciate. A full breakdown is on our website.

USEFUL INFORMATION

PARISH, BOROUGH OR COUNTY COUNCIL - WHO DOES WHAT?

Parish Council:

admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01622 871309

Allotments, Bus Shelters, Car Park (Jubilee Hall), CCTV, Christmas Lights, Jubilee Hall, Parish Seats, Playing Fields, Tennis Court, Play areas (Playing Fields), Footway Lighting, War Memorial, Village Administration

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council:

www.tmbc.gov.uk

Tel: 01732 844522

Bulk Waste Collection, Curran Hall Car Park, Council Tax, Dog Waste Bins, Dog Wardens, Environmental Health, Fly Fly Tipping, Housing, Licensing, Pest Control, Planning Permission, Public Toilets, Recycling, Refuse Collection, Register of Electors, Street Cleaning

Kent County Council:

www.kent.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 041 4141

Community Warden, Education, Grit Bins, Highways, Libraries, Potholes, Reg. of Births, Deaths, Marriages, Rights of Way (footpaths/bridleways), Social Services, Street Lighting, Trading Standards

Free Kitchen Caddies for Food Waste



Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is supplying residents with free kitchen caddies, to help with the disposal of food waste for their green lidded bins. Pick yours up from the Parish Office

EAST PECKHAM RIVER WALK: Find out how the River Medway has played a role in the lives of people throughout the ages on this 4.7 km walk which starts and finishes in the village. The walk is fairly flat but there are a few steps up and down the bridges that cross the river. Look out for the Man of Kent Pub, the River Bourne and the Hop Farm.

EAST PECKHAM FOOTPATHS: Overgrown hedgerows are a blessing for insects, birds and wild animals for walkers it can mean difficult progress. Why not pop some secateurs in your pocket and make use of them whenever you feel the need. If you come across any problems please let KCC know. The network of paths in The Parish is well used and we're thankful to landowners, who help keep paths clear. It's depressing to report that dog fouling remains a problem. Dog mess around and on paths is inexcusable it's not merely unpleasant it's a health hazard and **illegal**. Most rights of way users have due regard to fellow users, occasionally there's a need to remind folks that the 'rules of the network' are that cycles give way to horse riders and both give way to walkers.

POTHOLES AND HIGHWAYS: KCC looks after more than 3,000 miles of roads across Kent. It's a massive job but fixing potholes is their priority. If you spot a pothole report it and KCC will sort it.

GRIT BINS: Kent Highways owns and fills the grit bins around the parish. The salt and sand mix is for use on the highway. If you witness large amounts being taken for personal use, contact the Police on 101.

RECYCLING FACILITY: Household Waste Recycling Centres are provided by Kent County Council for disposing waste which is too large or bulky to be accepted by normal collections. Your nearest site is at North Farm, Tonbridge Wells.

POLICE INFORMATION: If you see something out of place, or someone you don't trust, give the Police or community warden a ring. Something you see could be the piece of Intelligence they need to solve a Crime. Both the Police and Community Warden are there to help you live in the comfort and in the way you want to.

A BRIDGE OVER THE STREAM by Margaret Lawrence: Copies of this book written to celebrate the centenary of the Parish Council are still available at £5.00 each from the Parish Office. All proceeds go to the Primary School.

THE LIVES THEY LEFT BEHIND by Margaret Lawrence: Written in tribute to the East Peckham men of two wars are available at £10.00 from various outlets within the village including the Parish Office. All proceeds go to Help for Heroes.

Clean For The Queen: Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council are organising a Clean for The Queen campaign to help clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday. They're calling on individuals, volunteer groups, local councils, businesses and schools to do their bit. To get involved email waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk or call Tamsin Ritchie on **01732 844522**.

Local Plan: Last year Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council undertook a Call for Sites exercise in which they requested people submit details of land for consideration as suitable for future residential and commercial development. Once the borough council has completed the evidence base and assessment of these sites there will be a Public Consultation and liaison with local communities looking at site allocation choices. East Peckham Parish Council will be involved with these consultations and will keep residents informed. Further details will be available on our website.

Householder's duty of care - What is this?

The Waste (Household Waste) Duty of Care (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 introduced a new duty on householders. Under which, householders are required to take reasonable measures to ensure that household waste produced on their property is passed on to an authorised person. There's not a requirement for the householder to complete and retain a written description of the waste (the 'transfer' note). This should lead to better waste management and help reduce illegal waste activity such as fly-tipping. The household duty of care regulations is not there to 'scare people'. The regulations are an extra weapon in the armoury to eliminate fly-tipping. They are all about householders; working with their council to combat fly-tipping and making sure rubbish is dealt with properly and responsibly. Every year, councils spend millions of pounds clearing up household rubbish that is dumped by people posing as legitimate waste carriers. If we cut the waste available to the fly-tippers, we cut out their business. All household waste can be disposed of at local Household Waste Recycling Centre free of charge. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will also come and pick up bulkier waste

What are considered to be 'reasonable measures' to comply with the duty of care?: It will be up to the courts to decide what constitutes reasonable measures, although householders are encouraged to make a simple check with the Environment Agency in order to ascertain if the person that they are passing their waste to is a registered waste carrier.

What are the penalties for non-compliance with the household duty of care? If fly-tipped waste is traced back to a particular household, the householders could be fined up to £5000.



REPORT FROM TOM TUGENDHAT MP

Unlike many contributions to this year's East Peckham Annual Report, I do not have a whole years' worth of work to report. I was elected as Member of Parliament for Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Malling last May, so I hope 11 months will do!

Having Sir John Stanley as my predecessor in the seat was daunting as I know full well that he served this community with extraordinary dedication. I hope I can measure up to his exceptionally high standards. With the support of so many friends in our community, I am sure I will be well on the way.

I spent a great deal of my first few months as an MP dealing with the consequences of Operation Stack. Both the M20 and M26 pass through our community and we face the worst of the backlog of traffic. Many commuters from across East and West Malling use the M20 to travel to work and the congestion played havoc with any journey. Traffic was regularly at a standstill and the effect of closure was apparent.

After months of campaigning with other Kent MPs, we persuaded the Chancellor to contribute £250 million for a new lorry park near the coast. The benefit this will bring everyone in Kent will, I hope, end some of the scenes we saw last year. The sooner this is built the better. We've all had to be very patient for a long time.

After the winter we have had, the focus on our flood defences has been one of my greatest priorities. They are being improved and I and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council are keeping the pressure on the government and the Environment Agency. I've developed a strong relationship with the Environment Agency, and impressed on them the good will they will reap by helping build defences for all residents and businesses in East Peckham, Golden Green, Tonbridge and Hildenborough, as well as all other villages that were affected by the dreadful flooding in 2013. I know what dreadful experiences people endured over Christmas in 2013 and I do not want to see this happen again. We must work hard to ensure we're ready.

These issues cut across most of the 28 parishes I represent, along with the town of Tonbridge. But I have made it my goal to take up more specific issues on behalf of local residents. Saving the Doctors surgery here is very important to me and I was delighted to have played a part in this. I spent much of the first few weeks of the year in correspondence with NHS England and Woodlands Health Centre to find a solution. I am pleased that an initial 6 month extension was offered. Both NHS England and Woodlands Health Centre agreed with us that the matter had been handled poorly. Now the battle to save the surgery in the long term begins. I am grateful for all the work of the Parish Council here to help find a solution. Thanks also to all local residents who wrote to me about this – it is incredibly helpful to hear from those directly affected.

I have also made the most of my time in Westminster, representing your views to the Government in the House of Commons. The role of an MP allows me to tackle some of the national issues in society which I am passionate about. I am a Member of Parliament's Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. We recently published a report into Kid's Company, which has implications for all charities. These bodies do a tremendous

job in communities large and small but we must make absolutely sure that they are run properly and that the previous funds the public donates to them are used to best effect. I have continued to take on individual cases brought to me by residents. I have opened a local office in Tonbridge which helps me do just this. The postal address is below and I host advice surgeries there, so please get in touch with my office to book an appointment. The telephone number is 01732 441563 and I can be contacted by e-mail on tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk. I am here to serve our community and look forward to helping with any query as best I can.

I am also sending out a regular newsletter by e-mail. If you would be interested in receiving this, please drop me a line and let me know.

We are incredibly lucky to live in beautiful West Kent. It has beautiful countryside and good connections to London. Yet there is still much work to do to better the quality of life for all. Please get in touch with me if you have any ideas or suggestions you would like me to take up. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Tom Tugendhat MBE MP

Member of Parliament for Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Malling

130 Vale Road

Tonbridge

Kent

TN9 1SP

EAST PECKHAM SALVATION ARMY

Our hall is situated in The Freehold. A church foremost and a charity, we are kept very busy.

Over the last year many families and individuals have been helped through various challenging situations. Support from the village community has enabled this help to be provided – Thank you.

We now have a clothing bin situated in the hall. It is placed outside when the hall is open. Special large bags can be provided for you to fill if required. Please call us if you would like some bags.

The hall may be small but it is often a hive of activity. On a weekly basis, we hold fellowship time every Sunday at 5-30pm. This is an opportunity to enjoy a good chat over a cup of tea and biscuit. A service follows at 6pm.

CAMEO, Come and Meet Each Other, coffee morning is held weekly, on a Thursday from 10-30am – 12noon. This is a great way of making new friends. The hall is usually filled with the noise of good conversation and laughter. All are welcome to pop in for a cup of tea or coffee.

On the last Thursday of every month a 2 course lunch is served at 12noon. There is no need to book, just turn up. The suggested donation towards the cost of the meal is £3.

Besides the monthly programme there are special events held throughout the year including the very popular Saturday morning breakfasts, Film nights, Quiz nights and much more.

The annual Open House at 19, Westwood Road will be held on Saturday the 2nd of July from 11am – 4pm.

Transport can be provided to any activity or service. Please contact David Boyle to make arrangements.

It is simply not possible to mention all that takes place at the Army in this report. Details of all the activities that take place in the hall can be found in the Parish Magazine and in the notice board outside the hall. If you would like to be kept up to date and receive a monthly newsletter please contact Territorial Envoy David Boyle on 01622 872372 or E Mail david.boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk

Reports from Parish Councillor Penny Graham



East Peckham Library

Please use our Library so that we keep it alive. You can order and renew books online. The Library hosts a number of services including internet access. There is Baby Rymetime every Tuesday 10:30 to 11 am. A Book Lovers group meets on the first Monday of every month 11:00 to 12 noon.

More details from Penny Graham on 871494.

Health & Social Care

We as a Parish Council endeavour to monitor health and social care issues that are relevant for residents in our Community. We provide facilities every month for the Carer's Support Group. We have campaigned on your behalf to keep the branch GP Surgery in the Village.

We also participate in **Healthwatch Kent**, a forum for the public to give their comments and feedback on the services provided by the NHS and KCC. Healthwatch has a FREE Information and Signposting service that can help you navigate Kent's complicated health and social care system, to help you can find and access the services that are available for you. Call Healthwatch on 0808 801 0102 or email info@healthwatchkent.co.uk

More details from Penny Graham on 871494.

EAST PECKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

East Peckham is twinned with Chéreng a small town located in the department of Nord of the French region Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Chéreng is located in the township of Lannoy part of the district of Lille. The population of Chéreng was 3,033 in 2007.

This year has provided many opportunities to share occasions with our friends in Chéreng, those of note have included the Chéreng Walking Group visiting East Peckham during spring 2015 and a visit from East Peckham residents to Chéreng in September 2015.

An event of note this year is the return visit of **LE HARMONIE DE CHERENG.** The French Band was last in East Peckham in November 2012. The return concert will be held on Saturday the 29th October 2016 and staged at the Salomon's Estate near Tunbridge Wells. The Victorian Theatre is a wonderful venue and has a seating capacity of up to 230 in an ambient setting. A bar will be available. The Tonbridge Lions will promote the concert and provide the tickets which will be priced at £10.00 each. Advertising posters and tickets will be available soon.

Twinning is very much a part of East Peckham and we hope that we are able to count on your support. The Committee is unable to put on events without a great deal of help, we will of course support individuals, groups and organisations with twinning activities and can provide a link with our friends in Chéreng. We would like to create a bank of volunteers who we can call on from time to time, if you can and would like to help in any way please let us know, for instance you might be able to provide overnight accommodation to French guests, if you can speak French, you might like to start a French beginner's class, perhaps you would like to help with hospitality when our Chéreng visitors visit or help with walking tours.

For more information please send an email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01622 871309

Karen Bell
Secretary & Treasurer East Peckham Twinning Association



POP UP SKATEPARK
NEWS FROM PARISH COUNCILLOR MICK BARTON



Since I became a councillor I have had a lot more interest in the village and the everyday things happening in it. Didn't realise the meetings would be so interesting, and some of the decisions that have to be made.

I am slowly arranging things to get a pop up skate park unit for the kids (young and old) to try their skills. I am arranging a leaflet drop, and hope that the event will take place on May 14th 2016. It will be installed on or around the Jubilee hall / playing field area subject to weather, there will be a couple of ramps and jumps, it is expected to last for around 4 hours and hopefully subject to cost (which will be self-funded) there will be a burger / ice cream van in attendance. There are various funding organisations I have contacted for the funding of the project, Action with Communities in Rural Kent and Funding for All, being two of them. If there is enough interest we will start the fund raising as soon as possible after the event. That's where YOU the kids and parents can help, doing whatever you can to raise much needed cash as our aim will be around £ 50/60,000. Any event you can come up with, IE having a bake off, kids mini run jumble sales etc. will all help. I hope as many of you parents will bring your kids along and support the event.

I should also like to bring to the villagers attention that the EAST PECKHAM GOLF SOCIETY is looking for some new members. We meet every month and play on the last Saturday at a different venue. Playing the different courses is great, as you can't get too complacent.

From Councillor Mike Barton

APPLES BOWLS CLUB

Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Jubilee to hall to play short mat bowls. Open to all aged 14 years and over, this is a fun game for all. Bowls is not just a game for more senior members of the community. The youngest club member is aged just 20.

No previous experience is necessary as club members are on hand to guide you as you learn.

All you will need to bring with you is a pair of smooth bottomed, clean shoes or slippers. This is important as shoes that have been worn outside or do not have a smooth bottom will damage the mat. The club has bowls that you can use.

Apples play in the West Kent Bowls League. As a small club we hold our own against some of the much larger clubs we compete against and are currently in division 2.

The first 2 sessions are free of charge, thereafter there is a monthly fee of just £10. Concessions are available for students.

If you would like to come along on a Thursday evening, try the game for yourself, please call Gwen Hopkins 01622 872378 or Joseph Boyle 01622 872372 for further information.

THE RETURN OF THE GARDEN COMPETITION

Attention all keen gardeners - good news: By popular request the Garden Competition is back, but don't forget, 'you have got to be in it to win it'. To enter the competition please complete an Entry Form (see below) to be received at the Parish Council Office by the closing date 1st June 2016.

The competition is free to enter and open to all residents of East Peckham. Three Parish Council judges will be basing their opinions and voting for just one category, 'The Best Front Garden', which will take place on Saturday 4th June 2016.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, to be presented at the Annual Holy Trinity Church Fete being held on 11th June in the grounds of the Village Hall.

So come on gardeners fill in the form and let's see your beautiful front gardens and let's make East Peckham blooming marvellous.



GARDEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

'The Best Front Garden'

Closing Date 1st June 2016

Competition open to all residents of East Peckham

Entry Form to be posted through Parish Council Office letter box

Name

Address

.....

Tel:

Mob:

Email:

EAST PECKHAM (PARISH) MAGAZINE (2016)

An autonomous publication completely independent from any other organisation, relying totally on written and photographic contributions from the residents of East Peckham, local advertisers, clubs and associations.

Publication is 12 monthly magazines for an annual subscription of £7 or 70p per issue over the counter from The Village Stores, Library, and East Peckham Newsagents & Post Office. To our subscribers we offer free local delivery to your door, only made possible by our loyal and voluntary distributors.

Contact details of the team behind the scenes and monthly deadline information are printed on every inside cover of every issue. We are now fortunate to have a webmaster, who has made a start on our webpage www.eastpeckham-magazine.co.uk Still in its early stages, if you have any ideas or a contribution to be included on the website please contact John (details on inside cover of the East Peckham Magazine).

Our regular monthly editorial contributors are:

Felicity Milligan, who has our health and fitness at heart and does her utmost to literally keep us on our toes.

Hilary Newman, who tirelessly provides us with his 'Garden Notebook' page keeping us informed of the local flora and how to care for our favourite plants and shrubs. If you are a keen gardener or a novice, this page is not to be missed. For 2016, the Garden Competition is back, and not surprisingly Hilary will probably have a few gardening tips up his sleeve.

Lynton Wright, 'Birder' or 'twitcher'? Probably both, but if you want to know the difference, then why not ask him? An unmistakable character, you may have spotted him in and around the village often sporting a pair of binoculars slung over his shoulder. Lynton provides our Nature Page and requests that you send in your wildlife sightings to him so that they can be shared with our readers.

The Rambling Old Shepherd keeps us guessing and writes on a pot pourri of subjects, always of interest and sometimes mind blowing! He keeps his identity to himself. Have you guessed the name of this gentleman yet?

Other regular slots are afforded to the three churches of East Peckham, namely, the Holy Trinity, the Methodist and Salvation Army. From the latter, earlier this year, we sadly said our goodbyes to Joan Boyle who was a friend to everyone, always giving warmth and a smile to all. Now it is our turn to remember Joan with warmth and a smile.

Often received is editorial from residents past and present, but a special mention must be given to Le Doyen and Eileen Corke who continue to write for our enjoyment.

Our 'Page 3'..... Always an old photograph/postcard relative to East Peckham. Our thanks to everyone who have thoughtfully sent these in to provide us with a comprehensive library of postcard pics to keep us supplied for some time to come, but do please keep sending them in, we do not want to run out.

Very importantly, we try to keep you informed with current Village News, What's On, bi-monthly Diary Pages and local contact details. To do this we need the help of our village clubs, associations

and organisations, so please give us a thought if you wish to spread your news. Many of our readers say how much they enjoy reading the 'Your Letters' page, but if you do not write to us, then we do not have any letters to print!

During the past year Phil the printer from Tonbridge retired and we were introduced to Bob the printer from Pembury. We strive to produce an informative and attractive magazine and at no extra cost Bob made our magazine look even more beautiful and professional, but even so it still costs a great deal more than 70p to produce and print each magazine. We do not receive any funding, and so it is to the W.I. that we say thank you for their generous donation. We also extend our thanks to our local advertisers for their loyalty and support. To all of our subscribers thank you. We need each and every one of you. Without all of you we would not be able to produce an EAST PECKHAM MAGAZINE. How lucky are we? To live in a country where we have a voice, let us not take that for granted. So please let us hear from you.

Serina



DIRECTORY

On these two pages is a list of village contacts, this list is certainly not complete. If you are a member of a group which is providing a service to the community please let us have your details.

PERSON/ORGANISATION

East Peckham Parish Council
Chairman, Steph Watson

MP Tom Tugendhat
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Borough Councillors Howard Rogers
Janet Sergison
Jill Anderson

Kent County Council
County Councillor Matthew Balfour

Hospitals

Tunbridge Wells
Maidstone
Pembury

Emergencies

Electricity
Environment Incident hotline
National Floodline
Community Warden
Gas
Police
PCSO'S Toni Matthew
Kim Hockney
Waste Water (Southern Water)
Water (South East Water)

Services

Citizens Advice Bureaux
Local Press - Community News column of The Courier
Crime Stoppers
Dental Line
Field Pharmacy
East Peckham Library
East Peckham Surgery
Hi Kent
Hospice in the Weald
Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre
Putlands Veterinary Surgery
Social Services
Trading Standards
Victim Support
Woodlands Health Centre
NHS Direct/Emergency Prescriptions

Education

East Peckham County Primary School
East Peckham Pre-School

Mascalls

CONTACT INFORMATION

01622 871309 admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk
01622 870154 stephanie.watson@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
01732 844522 www.tmbc.gov.uk
01732 850329 howard.rogers@tmbc.gov.uk
janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk
jill.anderson@tmbc.gov.uk

01622 696965 www.kent.gov.uk
01732 870253 Matthew.Balfour@kent.gov.uk

0845 155 1000
01622 290000
0845 755 1000

0800 783 8866
0800 807060
0845 988 1188
07969 584183 lara.sams@kent.gov.uk
0800 777 999
101 (NON URGENT), 999 (URGENT)
07772 226146 toni.matthew@kent.pnn.police.uk
07969 584194 kimberley.hockey@kent.pnn.police.uk
0845 278 0845
0845 850 6060

08454 040506 www.adviceguide.org.uk
01622 872015 dripage@btinternet.com

0800 555 111
01892 517771
01622 871409
03000 41 31 31
01622 871540
01622 871883
01892 820500
01892 838619 info@pwadvice.org

01892 835456
01892 515045
08454 040506
01622 690103
01892 833331
111

01622 871268 headteacher@east-peckham.kent.sch.uk
01622 872931/07999 802635
eastpeckhampreschool@hotmail.co.uk
01892 835366

Religion

C of E, Holy Trinity Rev Anthony Carr	01622 871278	ht.ep.po@live.com
Roman Catholic Fr. Behruz Rafat	01892 833699	
The Methodist Church Rev John Butt	01622 871332	john.butt259@btinternet.com
The Salvation Army: Territorial Envoy David Boyle	01622 872372	David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk

Recreation & Social

Apples Bowling Club	01622 871069	
Allotments	01622 871309	admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk
Boys Brigade	01622 872372/871126	
Brownies	01622 872418	
Cameo Coffee Morning	01622 872372	David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk
Carers Group	01622 871831	
Community Choir	01622 871622	
East Peckham Golf Society	01622 872031/07860947031	
East Peckham Flood Group	01622 872344	sue.chalkley1@btinternet.com sharondavies31@aol.com
East Peckham Guide Group		
East Peckham Junior Football	01622 873391	
East Peckham Magazine	01622 872015	serinapage@btinternet.com
East Peckham Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs & Scouts)	01622 871890	preasom@btinternet.com
East Peckham Silver Band	01732 359397	
East Peckham Walkers Group	01622 871216	
Evergreens	01622 871781	
Fit 4 U Exercise Class	01732 529654	susiefitta@gmail.com
French Lessons	01622 871226	
Friends of East Peckham Primary School	01622 870154/07944212262	
Friends of St Michaels Church	01622 813687	p.lawrence.801@btinternet.com
Girls Brigade	01732 366671	
Goal Keeping School	07841 025916	northkent@hotmail.com
Gym club	01892 835918	jackyleman@wealdgymnastics.org.uk
Historical Society	01732 605934	l.kirk@talktalk.net
Ikkle Pikkles Toddler Group	07872 929056/07786 244307	
Ladies Pleasant Hour	01892 836698	
Line Dancing	01622 813687	
Lunch Club	01622 873434	
Pilates	01622 873432	felicity@fitstretchtone.co.uk
Paddock Wood Badminton Club	01892 836731	andrew.kerr@grapesdirect.co.uk
Shape Up Fitness Class	01622 720879	deestevenson@live.com
Short Mat Bowls Club	01622 871781	
Street Singers	01622 831686	street.art@btinternet.com
Trainers Badminton Club	01622 871189	
Tree Warden	01622 871338	lyntonwright@gmail.com
Twinning Association	01622 871309	admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk
Women's Institute	01622 871991	
Wednesday Allsorts	01622 872045	
Zumba	07595 458272	

Hall Hire

Jubilee Hall (Meeting Room, Sports Hall & Playing Fields)	01622 871309	admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk
The Village Hall	01622 871321	
The Village Hall Manager	01622 872015	drjpage@btinternet.com
The Curran Hall & Methodist Hall	01622 872079	
Salvation Army Hall	01622 872372	David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk

Our office is in the Jubilee Hall and is open Monday to Friday (excl. Wednesdays between 9.00 a.m.–12.00p.m.

Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, web: www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, Twitter: @EastPeckhamPC



EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

 @EastPeckhamPC

