

EPPC NEWS

October 2016

Working on behalf of the community

Dear All,

Our monthly newsletter complements our communications to residents. If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically, you can register your interest at www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk/subscribe.

Earlier this year, we were awarded Council of the Week. We have now learnt that EPPC has made it onto the longlist for Council of the Year that Steph Watson and Penny Graham have made it onto the longlist for Councillor of the Year and Karen Bell our Parish Clerk has made it onto the longlist for Clerk of the Year. Whilst being recognised nationally and being nominated for prestigious awards is pleasing we have not lost sight of what is really important which is to serve residents to the best of our abilities.

Have you ever wondered how you can get EPPC to look at a local issue or do you have an idea you think EPPC should consider? We're keen to hear from anyone who lives or works in East Peckham about matters that concern them so that we can see if we can help. Over the last year we've looked at many issues, we realize that we cannot answer every problem and we're not able to decide planning or licensing matters but if you raise your concerns with us and if it's not within our remit we'll try to get them added to the agenda at TMBC and KCC. At EPPC we want to engage with as many residents, businesses, groups and organizations that we can and from as broad a cross section of our community as possible. Alongside this, we'd like to set up a Customer Panel to provide the opportunity for you to comment on our activities and budget proposals. If you'd like to participate, please let us know.

The warm weather following earlier wet weather resulted in fast growing vegetation. We're working with our maintenance providers to ensure the Churchyards, village centre and playing fields are kept tidy. The hanging baskets in the village centre are still providing a colourful display. We remain concerned with overgrown village footpaths; however, it's not EPPC but KCC who is responsible for maintaining them. If you've any queries regarding rights of way, let KCC know by telephoning 0845 345 0210 or report the fault online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>. Similarly, don't forget that if you notice any highways issues, when out and about to report anything that requires attention to KCC Highways at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>. In recent weeks we have referred to KCC our concern regarding the weeds on the village footways and overgrown grass verges at Branbridges Road, Old Road, Church Lane and Medway Meadows.

The Weald of Kent Gym Club will soon be embarking upon a phased departure from the Jubilee Hall, this presents a great opportunity for us to offer the hall to other groups and organisations and turn it into a community hub and be the social and recreational building we want it to be. If you're looking for a venue why not come and take a look at what we offer.

We love seeing you all in our office and look forward to visits from residents. If you've an important matter which you'd like to discuss, it's probably wise to make an appointment with us in the first place, so that we can make sure that we're available for you. An email or a phone call will normally suffice. Karen is sometimes at external meetings and therefore not always available, so do ring or email first.

One more thing for us to mention this month and that is the Annual Remembrance Parade which is taking place on 13 November, as the police no longer marshal the event and haven't for some years, it's down to us as a community to do so. If you'd like to volunteer to be one of the marshals, please let us know and we will pass your details onto the Parade Organiser.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors & Clerk,



PROPOSED CLOSURE OF EAST PECKHAM BRANCH SURGERY

It is frustrating to the council and our residents that the future of the surgery has still not been concluded. Behind the scenes we are in regularly liaison with the landlord, Woodlands Health Centre, the CCG in order to move this forward and our MP, County Councillor and Borough Councillors are kept fully in the loop. We're waiting for the CCG to provide some feedback on the survey findings which was commissioned at the parish council's expense. Whilst it was pleasing to note that the survey indicated that the renovations would be possible at a guided budget of £50,000 we're waiting for confirmation from the CCG that the survey identified all of the work required in order to bring the premises up the required functioning standards of the NHS. Once we have received some feedback we and the community can strategize our next moves. We were deeply encouraged when Ian Ayres from the CCG stated at our Annual Parish Meeting that East Peckham did need its surgery and that he would work with us and the community to this effect.

FINGERPOSTS

We hope you have seen the wonderful new fingerposts. This project was commission in 2014; its completion was long overdue which caused us and our resident's considerable frustration. You will be pleased to know that the fingerposts cost very little Parish Council money but was made possible by grants from TMBC and KCC.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Parish Council has been asked many times to improve the Christmas lights. Over the years we have done our best with the limited funds that have been set aside within our budget but this money does not go far. In our 2016/2017 budget we have set aside £5,000, this together with a grant from TMBC and money carried forward from previous years will give a total budget of £6,000. We realise that this is still a significant sum of money but by focussing on the central village area it will hopefully attract more people into the village centre who will avail themselves of the shops and services on offer which in turn will help increase footfall to the local businesses which will help maintain East Peckham as a thriving and independent village.

We were delighted when Serina Page and Mick Barton eager to see enhanced Christmas Lighting offered to organise some fundraising events to provide additional funds to pay for the improved lighting scheme that residents have asked us to provide. Do look out for notices for events such as a Bridge afternoon, Quiz nights and the 50:50 auction. We hope these events will provide much enjoyment and be added to the annual social calendar for East Peckham.

COUNCILLORS AREAS

Parish Councillors represent the village collectively but for administrative and Emergency Planning we have divided the village into areas and an area assigned to each councillor. The areas are:

Hale Street, Bardsley Close, Hale Court, Medway Meadows, Cates Court & Maidstone Road	Peter Crawford
Smithers Lane, Pattenden Gardens, Hop Bine Close, Smithers Court, Beltring Road, Branbridges Road & Maidstone Road (A26)	Murray Hodgson
Old Road, Strettitt Gardens, Pinkham & Pinkham Gardens	Penny Graham
Addlestead Road, Chidley Cross Road, Caysers Croft & Tonbridge Road	Lynton Wright
Pound Road, The Old Dairy & Snoll Hatch Road	Serina Page
Orchard Road, The Freehold, Red Roses, Marvillion & Crown Acres (Odds)	Colin Silver
Whitebine, Golding & Henham Gardens & Crown Acres (evens)	Mick Barton
Fell Mead, Stockenbury, Bramley Road, Pippin Road & Russett Road	Steph Watson
Hatches Lane, Bullen Lane, Bells Farm Road, Grove Close & Stanford Lane	Jenny Macdonald
Westwood Road, Drage Road, William Luck Close & Cotman Way	Heidi Harratt
Court Lodge, Roydon Hall & Bush Roads, Seven Mile, Martins & Church Lanes	Michael Ferguson

COMMUNITY GRANTS

If your group or organisation would like to apply for a small grant please visit the website www.eastpeckhampc.gov.uk where you will find details of our grants policy and an application form. We have funds available specifically for grants to community groups and organisations.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

There are many projects you could help such as Christmas lights, the surgery or the skatepark. If you are interested please let us know.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR

The defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall. The defibrillator is an intelligent item of medical equipment which 'talks' to the operator and gives easy to follow instructions on where to place the electrode packs on the chest, how to administer Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and when to press the 'shock' button. An operator cannot 'shock' a patient that does not require it and cannot make a bad situation worse. SECAmb know of the location of the defibrillator so that when someone dials 999 about a possible heart attack, they can immediately see if there is a defibrillator nearby to the caller, give them the access code and direct them there.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. The complex has many regular activities and events for adults and children and is buzzing with excitement. From the under-fives toddlers' afternoon and gym sessions to activities for adults such as Keep fit, badminton, bowls, piloxing and Zumba, we're also the venue for a monthly carers group. Outside clubs include a goal keeping school. As well as a large car park and free WIFI, the Jubilee Hall has a well equipped kitchen and vending machines for the supply of hot and cold drinks and snacks. The facilities are perfect for any occasion. If you're looking for a venue, please contact us for details of availability and hire charges. Our latest programme of activities and the contact details of the activity organisers can be found on our website.

We are proud of the fact that the Jubilee Hall continues to provide a wide range of classes and facilities for the residents of East Peckham and that our Playing Fields are in excellent condition. Our aim to widen the number of indoor and outdoor activities on offer and would be pleased to hear from you if there are any outdoor activities you would like us to provide such as archery, cycling and running clubs. We would also be pleased to hear from you if you would be interested in starting up a new activity.

Children's Party Packages: We have some fantastic packages, offering hassle free solutions to make your life easier and your event a great success.

Business Event Solutions: We can offer solutions for business events such as one-to-one consultations to a classroom or meeting venue. We can provide a great space for training, meetings and exhibitions.

The playing fields are a beautiful open space in the centre of the village and are open to all residents. We want them to be a safe haven for you to enjoy the peace and quiet and for children to play safely, families to picnic, joggers to run securely, play rounder's, kick a football, fly a kite or just a place to sit and contemplate. We will continue to develop the facilities so that the village; is well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone. We are currently exploring the idea of a fitness trail around the perimeter of the playing fields to blend in with the natural environment.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. The annual rents are very reasonable and we currently have a few vacant plots.

BLOOMING IN EAST PECKHAM

We'd like to form an East Peckham in Bloom group, it will have our endorsement and comprise of residents whose aim is to enhance the appearance of the village. The Group's first step would be to become a member of 'Britain in Bloom' an organisation set up by the Royal Horticultural Society. We'd also like to encourage residents and retailers to keep their frontages clean and tidy. If you're a local business and would like to sponsor this project or make a donation, please let us know. Similarly, we'd like to hear from you if you're interested in becoming part of East Peckham in Bloom. We're looking for garden enthusiasts, carpenters/DIY'ers, artists or just residents who want to be involved.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Planning & Transportation Committee aims to represent the views of the community when consulted on planning applications and to improve transportation issues in East Peckham.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee has recently considered the following planning application

TM/16/01958/FL Works to barn to enable a change of use to an office. Works include installing a metal roof, raising floor level, constructing brick plinth, installing horizontal cladding, aluminium windows and doors. Plus creation of hardstanding area to allow for a car parking area at Addlestead Farm Barn, Snoll Hatch Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/02092/LB Remove existing flat roofed dormer windows and replace with a Velux, top hung conservation roof window at 29 Smithers Lane **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/02186/FL Side and rear extensions, conversion of a garage into habitable accommodation and front rear dormer windows at 10 Fell Mead **NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE**

TM/16/02274/FL Two storey rear extension at The Harp, 218 Hale Street **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/02395/FL Demolition of garage and new double garage/store with studio accommodation above ancillary to main dwelling at 15 The Freehold **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/02524/FL Demolition of sunroom and detached garage. Erection of two storey side/rear extension at Runnymede, 126 Addlestead Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/02547/PDVAR Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling and associated building operations at Mount Pleasant Farm, Seven Mile Lane **NO OBJECTION**

PLANNING DECISIONS

KCC has granted permission for the following

TM/16/1563 Variation of operating hours at Land at East Peckham Rail Depot

TM/00/1599/R26B Extension of period for cessation of operations until 31.10.2017 at Stonecastle Farm Quarry, Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Alleged unlawful caravan at the rear of the Former Public House known as the Rose & Crown, Branbridges Road, East Peckham: No new information received

Alleged unauthorised builders yard/landscaping business at 218 Hale Street, East Peckham: TMBC has concluded that no breach of planning control is taking place and that all works are in accordance with approved planning permissions.

Alleged unauthorised demolition of building known as the Rose & Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham: TMBC is satisfied with the compliance of the enforcement and will be liaising with the landowner regarding the reinstatement of some of the hoarding.

Alleged unauthorised building work at 5 & 7 Old Road, East Peckham: TMBC has concluded that the enforcement notice has been complied with.

Alleged unauthorised operation of a burger van from Pound Road, East Peckham: TMBC has advised that owing to the transient nature of the burger van, i.e. it is removed at the end of each trading session that planning permission is not required. The burger van is also not subject to street trading restrictions. We have however raised concerns with regard to the parking and illuminated signage.

HALE STREET PINCH POINT

Kent Highway Services has advised that it has recently brought to their attention by a local resident that the scheme involving the installation of a raised table at the pinch point along Hale Street, south of the former Harp pub, is in conflict with existing regulations and guidance. Kent Highways Services has advised that at the point of installation the scheme was safety audited by accredited auditors and deemed safe. However safety audits do not comment on the compliance of a scheme unless there is a direct safety issue. As a result Kent Highway Services has apologised for the ill advice given and would like to solve this issue of compliance as soon as possible and in this respect they are currently considering two options. The option favoured by Kent Highway Services is the removal of the raised table. The other option is to install a new 30 limit along the section of Hale Street, whilst this is being investigated a new 30 mph speed limit is likely to involve drastic changes to the road environment to ensure drivers compliance and it is unlikely that Kent Highway Services will have the budget needed to fulfil this kind of scheme.

EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURE AFFECTING ROYDON HALL ROAD

Kent County Council has advised that the temporary road closure will be in place until repairs have been carried out. The alternative route is via Old Church Road, Seven mile lane.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Kent County Council is responsible for maintaining public rights of way. Regardless of the growing season the majority of the rights of ways will be cut twice each year. Please report any problems to Kent County Council by telephoning 0845 345 0210, or by reporting the fault online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

LITTERING

Litter doesn't clear itself away. The cost of clearing up litter runs into hundreds of pounds. It's an offence to leave litter and a person is guilty of an offence if they throw down, drop or otherwise deposit and then leave it in a public place. TMBC will respond to complaints and have the power to demand a person's name and address in order to issue fixed penalty notices. It's such a shame that an uncaring few spoil it for the rest of us. Remember if you want to report a litter issue or fly-tipping, go to TMBC's website. To help keep East Peckham beautiful, can we please encourage residents and businesses to regularly clear up their frontages and collect rubbish along their roads. Let's keep our village tidy. We're aware of a number of residents who regularly collect litter and our thanks go to these unsung heroes - what caring citizens you are. If you would like to nominate a special village person, please let us know.

DOG FOULING

We take the issue of dog fouling, particularly in the Playing Fields, very seriously. It's a shame that just a few uncaring dog owners spoil things for others. Dog deposits provided it's bagged up can be put into any street amenity bin. Please don't use household bins. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog please contact the Community or Dog Wardens. We've a supply of dog bags which subject to availability can be obtained from the Parish Office. Please be aware that failing to clear up after your dog is an offence and that TMBC enforces dog fouling through the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 which applies to all open land within the borough to which the public have access. If you have a dog fouling complaint obtain as much information as possible as it will assist the Dog Warden. For a found, lost or straying dog telephone 01732 876181 (also out of hours service), for fouling, dangerous dog, a dog on dog attack or anything else telephone 01732 876147 or Email: dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk. If a person has been bitten then please report the incident to the Police on 101

DOG AND LITTER BINS

Complaints regarding overfull dog/litter bins or related issues should be reported to waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk or using the online forms at www.tmbc.gov.uk. There are 18 dog waste bins around East Peckham, so specific locations for the ones that may have been missed would assist.

HIGHWAYS

The preferred way to let highways know about faults such as potholes or overgrown vegetation is through the website www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults where details can be uploaded and locations pinpointed on a map. In the event of an emergency you should call 03000 41 81 81. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of all planned works for the village.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

With the problem in the village of inappropriately parked vehicles on pavements, we've joined Guide Dogs for the Blind who are campaigning against pavement parking. It's being proposed that motorists should be banned from parking on pavements because the practice forces vulnerable pedestrians to walk in the road and blocking the pavement is inconsiderate and dangerous. This is a far too common problem across the county partly because many of our roads were built in the days before motor cars and partly because of inconsiderate drivers who wish to park as close as possible to where they live. In areas where there are no parking restrictions the borough councils Civil Enforcement Officers will not be able to help and the police can only enforce against dangerous parking. If you spot a vehicle wrongly parked, please call 101 and our PCSO's will try and attend, contact the owner and get the vehicle moved on. Whilst the PCSO's cannot issue tickets they can issue advice notices.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

If you witness any incidents of anti-social behaviour, anywhere in the village, or know who is involved, please tell us, our community warden or the police. Anti-Social Behaviour can affect everyone's quality of life and should not be tolerated.

BULKY REFUSE

The fortnightly bulky service now has separate collections of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment and scrap metal. Items collected will be stripped down into their component materials and recycled.

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We really would like to see East Peckham have a business forum and would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to be involved. Our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk has more information.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

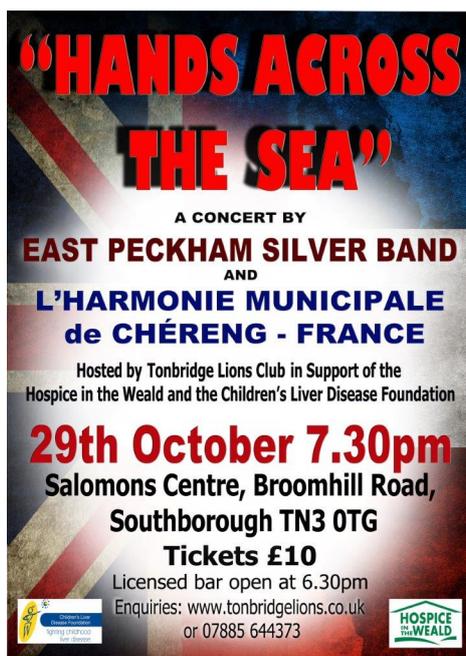
Would you like to help your community in the event of an emergency? We really like to recruit more flood wardens. If you would like to become a flood warden or find out more please let us know.

INTRODUCING STREETLIFE

[Streetlife](http://www.streetlife.com) is a website for local communities. Streetlife have a simple aim: to help people make the most of where they live by connecting with their neighbours. Over 225,000 people across England currently use Streetlife, and over the past few months they have invited thousands of residents across Tonbridge & Malling to join the conversation. Conversations on Streetlife have helped to expose doorstep scammers, find lost pets, and support threatened local services. The site also encourages real-world connections, from recommending local businesses and sharing gardening equipment, to forming book clubs and social groups. You could liken Streetlife to chatting over the garden fence, but with the benefit of being accessible wherever you are, at times to suit your routine. It's proving to be particularly useful for people who are elderly and less mobile, giving them a simple way to connect to the wider community, share their local knowledge, and find friendly neighbours willing to lend a hand. For more information visit the website www.streetlife.com

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chéreng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. Twinning activities are funded by those taking part and fund-raising with no use of parish funds. For more information on Twinning please contact Karen Bell by email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. In November the East Peckham Silver Band and the Chéreng Harmonie will be performing. Please see details below. We have a few tickets which are available from the Parish Office at £10.00 each.



FANTASTIC VENUE AVAILABLE IN EAST PECKHAM VILLAGE CENTRE?

The Weald of Kent Gym Club has announced a phased departure from the East Peckham Jubilee Hall. This represents a great opportunity for local community groups and organizations who are looking for a fantastic venue.

We have two rooms available, a larger sports hall and a smaller meeting room and can cater for most activities such as sports activities, children's parties, book clubs, meetings, group gatherings

Surrounded by 15 acres of playing fields we offer very competitive hire rates, a large car park, FREE WIFI, kitchen, vending machines, projector and screen and a hot drinks machine.

Whatever your activity we look forward to receiving your enquires. Please email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk for more information

OCTOBER 2016 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

03 October 2016	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
04 October 2016	Carers Support Group, 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
08 October 2016	50:50 Auction, Viewing 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., Auction from 1.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall (Proceeds Christmas Lights)
17 October 2016	Meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
01 November 2016	Chicago Bridge Afternoon (Proceeds Christmas Lights)

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Telephone/answerphone: 01622 871309, Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Our office is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. We love seeing you and look forward to your visits. If you've an important matter which you wish to discuss, please make an appointment so that we can make sure we're available. Karen works part time and is sometimes at external meetings and not always available, so do please ring or email first. If you'd like to speak to a Councillor please write, phone or email and a Councillor will contact you; alternatively you can contact a Councillor via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

UK Power Networks

On 6th September a new national phone number “105” will be launched by electricity network operators for customers to call should they need to report or get information about a power cut in their area.

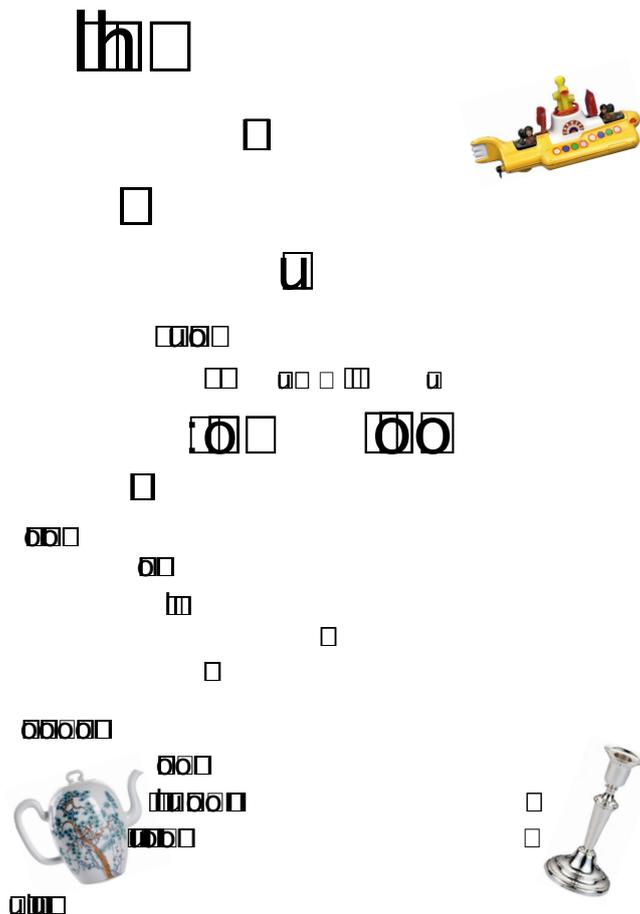
Key points to note about this service are:

- Dialling 105 will put customers through to their local electricity network operator – the company that manages the cables, power lines and substations that deliver electricity into homes and businesses in their area.
- 105 is just one of the ways that customers can contact their electricity network operator. They can also contact them by phone or via their website, and most network operators are on social media too.
- 105 is a free service for people in England, Scotland and Wales.
- Customers can call 105 no matter who they choose to buy electricity from.
- Customers can also call 105 if they spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put anyone in danger. If there’s a serious immediate risk, they should call the emergency services too.

Vulnerable customers who would like to sign up to our Priority Services Register can still call 0800 169 9970, email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk or apply online at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL App

We are delighted to announce the launch our new app, which is a fantastic new way for us to be able to engage with you and for you to find out what is happening in the parish and discover the latest news and information about EPPC services, events and meetings. The App is FREE to download from Google Play or Apple I Tunes. With regard to compatibility it requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



Letter from Matthew Balfour

Letter from Matthew Balfour