



# EAST PECKHAM

# WELCOME HANDBOOK

First produced by East Peckham Parish Council in November 2014

Updated September 2016

Updated June 2017



## **WELCOME TO EAST PECKHAM**

Whether you have just come to live in the village, or you have lived here most of your life, we hope that you will find this “welcome pack” from the Parish Council useful. Some information will change, so we’ll try to keep the important items up-to-date via our monthly newsletter and our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

We have produced this pack to assist anyone moving into the village to settle down quickly and to be aware of the facilities and services that are available in the area. Because it has been written by the Parish Council we are starting with Parish and village information and then other useful bits and bobs about the area. Please note that the inclusion of businesses and organisations in this document does not constitute endorsement.

We hope that the information given in this Welcome Pack will help you to settle more comfortably into your new home and the village. Neighbours usually become your first contacts and advisors, but please feel free to contact any of the Councillors or Clerk for information and help.

We hope that you will quickly become and feel part of this community. We have tried to gather as much useful local information as possible, but would be pleased to hear any suggestions or improvements you might have about this pack. More local information is available via our website and through its links to other local websites. Also the website carries the most up to date version of this document. We wish you many happy years in East Peckham and hope that you will join with us in creating a vibrant and friendly community.

Chairman, Councillors and Clerk of the Parish Council  
May 2017

**EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL – WHAT ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?** We're here to help and listen. We're the first tier of local government. We're also the most fundamental, important, accessible, proactive and reactive tier of governance in this country. We can do as much or as little as we're able but the most important thing is that we can serve our local community directly and effectively without interference.

We're an independent local democratic unit and councillors are elected every four years. There are 11 councillors who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council. As your representatives we have responsibilities in the village, we know well and express our views to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Kent County Council, the Environment Agency, the Police Authority and Health Authorities. We meet monthly (except August). Our meetings are open to the public and we urge you to come to them and discover the wide variety of topics that are discussed. We pursue an active policy through direct action or grant aid measures to improve and enhance the general environment and condition of the village. We are consulted on planning applications and on such things as schools, roads and planning enquiries. We also have the power to improve the community by spending money on things, which are in the interests of the parish or all or some of our inhabitants and activities funded in this way include the playscheme and litter clearing.

We have accomplished many positive achievements in recent years and we will build upon our progress whilst remaining accessible and inclusive. We ensure that all voices are heard and will address concerns about the village. We welcome input from residents so that we can reflect the views of residents accurately when discussing matters with other agencies and when identifying parish objectives in future planning. We are very proud that East Peckham is a social village with many activities taking place. If you are organizing an event that benefits the community and you would like it included on our website do please let us know. The Council owns and maintains the Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields and amenity land at The Pound.

**YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS:** Are Mick Barton, Peter Crawford, Penny Graham, Heidi Harrat, James Hockey, Steph Watson, Serina Page, Lynton Wright, Colin Silver, Jenny Macdonald and Michael Ferguson. Councillors can be contacted via our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). The Chairman and Deputy Chairman are elected annually in May from serving Councillors.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:** There are eleven Parish Council Meetings per annum held usually on the third Monday of the month (except August) at 7:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT. Agendas are posted on the Parish Councils noticeboard in the centre of the village at least a week in advance and members of the public are welcome to attend. We set aside a short period of time at our full meetings for members of the public to speak.

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on a separate date in April or May and residents are notified by our Annual Report. Visiting guest speakers are often invited and everyone is welcome to attend to find out what has been happening in the village.

**NEWSLETTERS:** As part of our commitment towards keeping residents informed about current issues we produce a monthly newsletter which is available free of charge from the Library and the Village Stores. The newsletter can also be downloaded from our website.

**PLANNING:** When planning applications are received the plans are viewed by the Planning and Transportation Committee who will consider the impact a proposal may have on the village in general planning terms and make a recommendation as to whether an application should be approved. It is then up to the Borough Councils planning experts to make the decision. The Planning and Transportation Committee meets on the first Monday in each month (except August). Planning Applications on the Agenda can be viewed between 6.45 - 7.00 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend but are not allowed to speak unless invited to do so.

**ALLOTMENTS:** Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields which can be rented as a whole or a half garden.

**WEBSITE:** Our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) was set up to serve the local community. It provides basic information relating to the history of the village, details of Local Organisations, Parish Council Minutes, Accounts, and Planning applications.

**TWITTER:** Our twitter address is @EastPeckhamPC

**App:** Our App is available to download

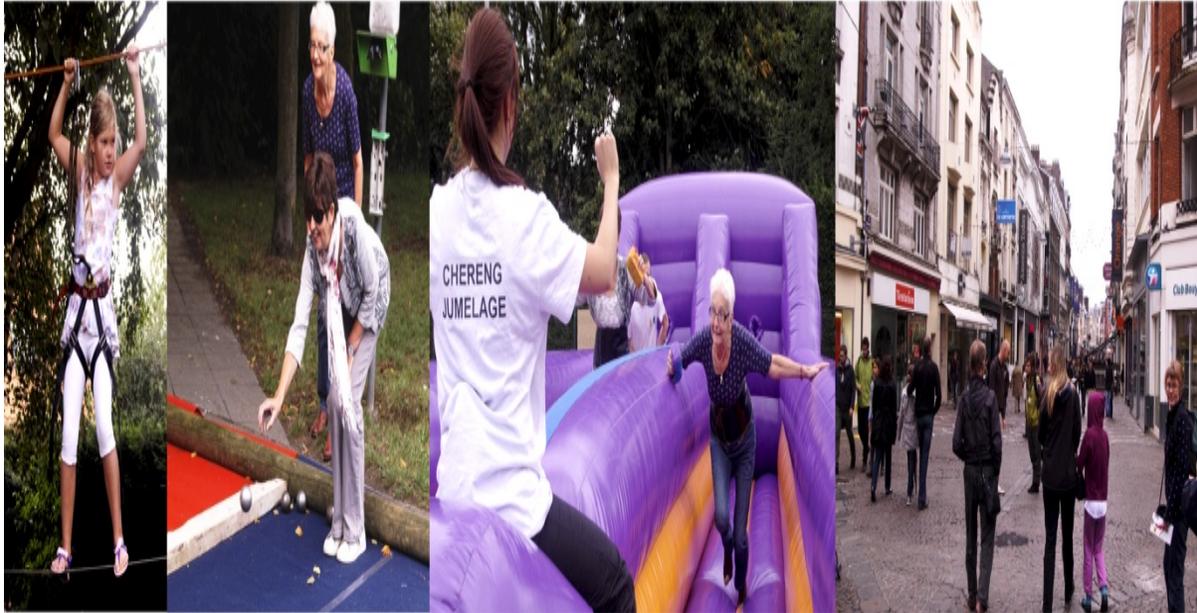
**HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL:** The Parish Office is in the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham TN12 5BT and is open weekday mornings during term times (excluding Wednesdays). Telephone 01622 871309 or email [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). Councillors can be contacted via our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

**JUBILEE HALL, SPORTS HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS:** We own and manage the Jubilee Hall complex situated in Pippin Road which comprises of the Playing Fields, a Sports Hall and Meeting Room with separate kitchen, changing rooms and toilet facilities. Activities which take place each week include keep fit, Zumba, table tennis, badminton, bowls, Mini Music for pre-schoolers, a goalkeeping school and a monthly Carers Group. We have super fitness and play equipment. The Playing Fields have a Youth Shelter, street snooker, multi sports pitch, outdoor gym equipment, playing fields and play equipment for children of all ages. This ground is also used on a Wednesday evening by the North Kent goalkeeper's school. The playing fields are an ideal location for a picnic on a sunny day and we have installed some picnic benches. These facilities will continue to be developed over a period of time to ensure that the village is well equipped with leisure areas for everyone in the village to enjoy.

**EAST PECKHAM COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR:** A defibrillator has been installed on the outside of the Jubilee Hall; it is available 24hrs a day and can be easily and quickly accessed by anyone who needs it. The emergency services have been advised of its availability and its location, anyone requiring it will be given the access code by dialing 999.

**EMERGENCY PLANNING:** We have produced an emergency plan and have a flood warden scheme. Further details are available on the website site [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

**TWINNING:** East Peckham is twinned with Chereng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. For more information please contact the Parish Office.



**BRIEF HISTORY OF EAST PECKHAM:** East Peckham is a village 12 miles north east of Royal Tunbridge Wells off the B2106, standing on the banks of the Medway. The church of St Michael stands well away from the village, about 2 miles towards Mereworth. This old church was made redundant in the 1830's after the community surrounding it moved away. The new parish church of Holy Trinity was built in 1840. East Peckham has grown from an amalgamation of 9 separate hamlets. The main cause of this amalgamation was the hop industry, and the dredging of the river Medway from Maidstone to Tonbridge which brought with it the means to transport hops outside the area. East Peckham was once one of the centres of hop growing. The nearby Hop Farm was the last stronghold of large-scale, good old fashioned hand picking of hops in Kent; the Hop Farm is now open to the public as a visitor attraction. During the 18th and 19th centuries, East Peckham was one of the reception areas for London foundlings. The children were sent here from Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital until they were old enough to be return to London.

Houses are of mixed age and style - early manor houses, Tudor, Victorian, pre-war and post-war semidetached, bungalows, and modern executive. Many of the older buildings are classified as "Listed".

**VILLAGE FETES AND FAIRS:** Each June a church fete is held at the Village Hall where there is always a good variety of traditional sideshows and refreshments. A School Summer Fayre is also held during June.

**EAST PECKHAM MAGAZINE:** This comprehensive community monthly publication costs 80p per issue. The magazine is delivered to subscribers in the Village and is on sale at The Library and the Village Butcher and Store. Telephone 01622 872015 or send an email to [serinapage@btinternet.com](mailto:serinapage@btinternet.com)

**COMMUNITY WARDEN:** The Community Warden is employed by Kent County Council and is responsible for deterring anti-social behaviour and maintaining a 'hearts and minds' daytime vigil for the benefit of the community. Contact Lara Sams, KCC Community Warden on 07969 584183 or send an email to [lara.sams@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lara.sams@kent.gov.uk)

**VILLAGE HALLS:** The Village is well served for halls which are used for many village events and are available for private hire.

Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road

(Meeting Room, Sports Hall & Playing Fields)

01622 871309

admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

The Village Hall, Bush Road

01622 871321

The Curran Hall & Methodist Hall, Pound Road

01622 872079

Salvation Army Hall, The Freehold

01622 872372

**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.

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:** There are many Public Rights of Way throughout the Parish. Kent County Council's Public Rights of Way Department endeavours to keep the Public Rights of Way clear and free from hazards.

**REFUSE COLLECTIONS:** Household and garden rubbish for recycling is collected on a fortnightly rota on a Wednesday. The nearest recycling and civic amenity site is at North Farm, Tunbridge Wells. There is also a fortnightly bulky refuse service at the Jubilee Hall Car Park. Enquiries including those for the bulky refuse timetable should be made to TMBC.

**SCHOOLS:** Below are listed the schools which are the "appointed" schools for this area. There are, however, other schools as well which parents may choose for their children to attend. There are also a number of private schools in the area:-

**Age 5 – 11 - East Peckham Primary School:** East Peckham Primary School is a vibrant centre of learning at the heart of East Peckham's village community. It aims to give children the best start in life from the moment they join in Reception class. All of the teachers and support staff strive for the highest quality and experience of education for the children in their care, and a visit to our school shows what a warm, friendly and creative environment they offer to their learners. Telephone 01622 871268

**Age 11 – 18 - Mascalls School:** Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Telephone 01892 835366

**SHOPS:** Along Old Road you will find the Pound Fish Bar, Oriental Gourmet Kitchen, chemist and surgery. Along Pound Road you will find a pottery shop, the library, the village butcher and store, a convenience store, a sandwich shop, a greengrocer and bakers. In Orchard Road there is another General Store and Post Office.

**PUBLIC HOUSES:** Your local pubs are The Merry Boys (Pound Road), The Bush Blackbird and Thrush (Bush Road) and the Man of Kent (Little Mill, Tonbridge Road). The Bush Blackbird and Thrush and the Man of Kent serve food and you will find opening times on the door and a warm welcome.

**TAKE AWAY AND EATING PLACES:** As well as your three "locals", there are many places to eat in the area. A few of those tried and tested are; Pams Pantry, Pound Road, Pound Fish Bar, Pound Road, Oriental Gourmet Kitchen, Pound Road and The Red Fort, Hale Street

**GARAGE:** The nearest garage for fuel is in Branbridges Road, East Peckham

**POST OFFICE:** The Post Office is in Orchard Road, East Peckham

**BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES:** A selection of branches can be found in Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells

### **GARDEN CENTRES**

Brookside Garden Centre, Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham  
Wyevale Wood Garden Centre, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood

**LEISURE CENTRES:** There are two centres which are maintained by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council one in Tonbridge and the other in Larkfield. There are also public swimming pools in Tonbridge and Larkfield. There is a leisure centre in Paddock Wood (Putlands Leisure Centre) and a number of private health clubs in the area, where you can be pampered and exercised for a morning, a day or longer or can become a member and just pop in for regular work outs. Also don't forget to see what activities take place at the halls here in East Peckham.

### **NEARBY SUPERMARKETS AND LARGE STORES**

**Sainsbury's:** Tonbridge and Aylesford

**Tesco:** Pembury and Larkfield

**Waitrose:** Paddock Wood

**Co-operative:** East Peckham

**ASDA:** Kings Hill

**Marks & Spencer:** North Farm, Tunbridge Wells

**Lidl:** Tonbridge

**TRAVEL:** A car is very useful. The M2, M20 and M25 are about a fifteen minute drive from East Peckham. Gatwick Airport is about a forty minute drive. Heathrow takes a little longer.

**PUBLIC BUSES:** Bus timetables are available from the library.

**TRAINS:** East Peckham is served by South East British Rail. For trains to/from London Charing Cross consult National Rail Enquiries <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/> 0845 7484950. The nearest train stations are in Paddock Wood and Tonbridge.

**TAXIS:** One Call 07742 397121/07828 116748

**VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT SCHEMES:** There are nearly 100 volunteer schemes in Kent who may be able to help you get out and about. For more information, visit the website [www.ruralkent.org.uk](http://www.ruralkent.org.uk) or telephone 01303 813 790.

**VOLUNTARY ACTION IN KENT:** Dial 2 Ride service. There is an annual membership fee plus a mileage/petrol allowance for which users are invoiced monthly. The scheme is intended to help those with mobility issues to attend appointments-social and medical, travel to shops, day centres, family visits and places of interest. Some cars are equipped to take wheelchairs. Drivers can also provide practical help-form filling, getting prescriptions and simple DIY. Telephone 01732 357978 or visit the website [www.vawk.org.uk/transport](http://www.vawk.org.uk/transport).

**COMPAID/KENTKARR1ER:** Compaid run a dial a ride scheme. Buses are equipped to take wheelchairs. The service will collect you from your front door if you are 500m away from a public bus stop or have mobility problems or a medical condition that prevents you getting around. For further information telephone 01892 722297 or visit the website [www.compaid.org.uk](http://www.compaid.org.uk).

## Some Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Website: [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk)  
Email: [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01622 871309  
Twitter: @EastPeckhamPC  
App: EPPC

**Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council** 01732 844522

Borough Councillors

Howard Rogers  
Jill Anderson  
Janet Sergison

[howard.rogers@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:howard.rogers@tmbc.gov.uk)  
[jill.anderson@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:jill.anderson@tmbc.gov.uk)  
[janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk)

## Kent County Council

Library

County Councillor Matthew Balfour

01622 696965  
01622 871050  
01732 870253 [Matthew.Balfour@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Balfour@kent.gov.uk)

Kent Highway Services

03000 418181 (to report any problems on the highways network)

Faults on street lights

[www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults)

Faults on footway lights

01622 871309  
[admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk)

## Member of Parliament

**Tom Tugendhat**

House of Commons, Westminster

## Religion

C of E, Holy Trinity Rev Anthony Carr

Roman Catholic Fr. Behruz Rafat

The Methodist Church Rev John Butt

The Salvation Army: Territorial Envoy

01622 871278 [ht.ep.po@live.com](mailto:ht.ep.po@live.com)  
01892 833699  
01622 871332  
01622 872372 [David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk)

## General Practitioners

East Peckham Surgery

Woodlands Health Centre

Yalding Surgery

01622 871540  
01892 833331  
01622 814380

## Dental

Dental Line

01892 517771

## Vets

Putlands Veterinary Surgery

01892 835456

## Hospitals

Kent & Sussex (Tunbridge Wells)

Maidstone

Pembury

01892 526111  
01622 290000  
01892 823535

## Chemist

Field Pharmacy

01622 871409

## **Emergencies**

Electricity	0800 783 8866
Floodline (Environment Agency)	0345 988 1188
Community Warden	07969 584183 <a href="mailto:lara.sams@kent.gov.uk">lara.sams@kent.gov.uk</a>
Gas	0800 777 999
Waste Water (Southern Water)	0845 278 0845
Water (South East Water)	0845 850 6060

## **Services**

Citizens Advice Bureaux	08701 264856
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Hi Kent	01622 871883
Hospice in the Weald	01892 820500
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Kent Highway Services	08458 247800
Paddock Wood Adult Education Centre	0845 606 5606
Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre	01892 838619 <a href="mailto:info@pwadvice.org">info@pwadvice.org</a>
RSPCA (Cruelty Line)	0300 1234 999
Social Services	01892 515045
Tonbridge Job Centre	01732 583700
Trading Standards	08454 040506
Victim Support	01622 690103
Community Warden	07969 584183 <a href="mailto:paul.harfleet@kent.gov.uk">paul.harfleet@kent.gov.uk</a>

## **Police**

Police (Non Emergencies)	101
Website	<a href="http://www.kent.police.uk">www.kent.police.uk</a>
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/kentpoliceton">@kentpoliceton</a>
Emergencies	999
If you are deaf or speech impaired	Text Police and your message to 60066

## **Sport, Recreation & Social**

Apples Bowling Club	01622 871069
Allotments	01622 871309
Boys Brigade	01622 872372/07927 096040
Brownies	01892 51886
Cameo Coffee Morning	01622 872372
Carers Group	01622 871831
Community Choir	01622 871622
East Peckham Magazine	01622 872015 <a href="mailto:serinapage@btinternet.com">serinapage@btinternet.com</a>
East Peckham Silver Band	01732 359397
Evergreens	01622 871781
Flood Group	01622 872344
Golf Society	01622 872031
Fit 4 U Exercise Class	01732 529654
French Lessons	01622 871226
Friends of St Michaels Church	01622 813687
Girls Brigade	01732 366671
Goal Keeping School	07841 025916 <a href="mailto:northkent@hotmail.com">northkent@hotmail.com</a>
Historical Society	01622 872976
Ladies Pleasant Hour	01892 836698

Line Dancing	01622 813687
Pilates	01622 873432 <a href="mailto:felicity@fitstretchtone.co.uk">felicity@fitstretchtone.co.uk</a>
Paddock Wood Badminton Club	07547 855917 <a href="mailto:andrew.kerr@grapesdirect.co.uk">andrew.kerr@grapesdirect.co.uk</a>
Rainbows	01892 832825
Russett Players	01622 870199 <a href="mailto:russettplayers@gmail.com">russettplayers@gmail.com</a>
Scout Group ((Beavers, Cubs & Scouts)	01622 871890
Shape Up Fitness Class	01622 720879
Short Mat Bowls Club	01622 871781
Twinning	01622 871309 <a href="mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk">admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk</a>
Trainers Badminton Club	01622 871189
Walkers Group	01622 871216
Wednesday Allsorts	01622 872045
Women's Institute	01622 871991
Zumba	07595 458272

*Disclaimer: please be aware that these facts were deemed to be correct at the time of writing. The Parish Council takes no responsibility for facts which may have changed since the production of this pack. Annual updates will be undertaken. No business or organisation is being promoted by virtue of inclusion in this Welcome Pack. All details are included to give as much and as varied information as possible. If any other local business wishes to be included in the next update, please contact the Parish Clerk with the relevant information.*