



# EAST PECKHAM

# WELCOME HANDBOOK



Updated June 2019 (5<sup>th</sup> edition)

## **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 handbook 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 handbook 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 onto other useful information which we hope you find equally of interest. Please note that the inclusion of businesses and organisations in this document does not constitute endorsement.

We hope that the information given in this handbook 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 handbook. More local information is available via our website and through its links to other local websites. 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  
June 2019

**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.

### **Our Mission Statement**

The Parish Council seeks to foster true community spirit. We aim to encourage full co-operation between councillors - parish, district & county, and to residents & local businesses, thereby promoting a better quality of life for all residents and visitors alike, whilst improving local relationships to the betterment of all in East Peckham Parish. The Parish Council's Core Values are Open, Inclusive, Representative and Fiscally Sound.

**YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS:** Are Mick Barton, Michael Ferguson, Rob Harvey, James Hockey, Sophie North, Steph Watson, Mark Williams and Emma Wilkinson. At the time of preparing this revised edition there were 3 vacancies. 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 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 Meeting of the Parish takes place on a separate date in April or May. Visiting guest speakers are often invited and everyone is welcome to attend to find out what has been happening in the village.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Website:** Take a moment and visit our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). It currently serves as a repository for agendas, minutes of council and committee meetings, standing orders, newsletters, annual reports, member's information etc. and is updated regularly with other matters that may be of interest. There are also links to Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

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

**Facebook:** You will find us at East Peckham Parish Council

**Parish Office:** Our 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 [councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

**Contacting a Councillor:** Councillors can be contacted via our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

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

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

**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.

**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, car park and toilet facilities. Activities which take place each week include keep fit, Zumba, table tennis, badminton, bowls, Mini Music for pre- schoolers, Toddler Group 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, an obstacle course, playing fields and play equipment for children of all ages. 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. Annual events of note include the Charity Bike Ride and the East Peckham 10K which is usually held on the first Sunday in August.

**COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATORS:** We have installed two defibrillators; these can be found on the outside walls of the Jubilee Hall and the Merry Boys Public House. Both are available 24hrs a day and can be easily and quickly accessed by anyone who needs it. The emergency services have been advised of their availability and location so that anyone requiring it will be given the access code by dialing 999.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** The Parish Council provides a Christmas Tree and Christmas Lights in the centre of the village; we also affix festive motifs to the streetlight columns in Old Road and Pound Road.

**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. The Primary School traditionally hold Summer and Christmas Fayres.

**EAST PECKHAM MAGAZINE:** This 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. Telephone 07969 584183 or send an email to [Sandra.edmonds@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Sandra.edmonds@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

[councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk)

The Village Hall, Bush Road

01622 871321

The Curran Hall & Methodist Hall, Pound Road

07396 568642

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. KCC is responsible for their upkeep and maintenance including keeping them clear and passable.

**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.

**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 and Chemist. Along Pound Road you will find Heavenly Glaze, the library, Blossoming Nails and Beauty, Village Butcher and Store, a Co-op convenience store, Pam's Pantry and Irelands Bakery. In Orchard Road there is a General Store and Post Office and in The Freehold you will find Headlocks Hair Design.

**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 also serve food.

**TAKE AWAY AND EATING PLACES:** As well as your three “locals”, there are many places to grab a takeaway are Pams Pantry, Pound Road, Pound Fish Bar, Old Road, Oriental Gourmet Kitchen, Old Road, East Peckham Grill, Old Road. Eating in there is Khan Spice, Bullen Lane and The Red Fort, Hale Street. Pams Pantry, the Pound Fish Bar and the Oriental Gourmet Kitchen also have space for eating mainly outside.

**GARAGE:** The nearest garage for fuel is at the larger Co-op on Branbridges Road.

**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:** Paddock Wood (Express), Pembury and Larkfield

**Waitrose:** Paddock Wood

**Co-operative:** East Peckham

**ASDA:** Kings Hill

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

**Lidl:** Tonbridge and Maidstone

**ALDI:** Tonbridge & Aylesford

**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 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 contact Kent County Council.

**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: [councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01622 871309

**Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council** 01732 844522

Borough Councillors

Howard Rogers

[howard.rogers@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:howard.rogers@tmbc.gov.uk)

Jill Anderson

[jill.anderson@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:jill.anderson@tmbc.gov.uk)

Janet Sergison

[janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk)

**Kent County Council**

01622 696965

Library

01622 871050

County Councillor Matthew Balfour

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 streetlights

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

Faults on footway lights

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

**Member of Parliament**

**Tom Tugendhat**

House of Commons, Westminster

### Religion

C of E, Holy Trinity Rev Anthony Carr

01622 871278 [ht.ep.po@live.com](mailto:ht.ep.po@live.com)

Roman Catholic

01732 353984 / 01892 825009

The Methodist Church Rev John Butt

01622 871332

The Salvation Army: Territorial Envoy

01622 872372 [David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk)

### General Practitioners

Woodlands Health Centre

01892 833331

Yalding Surgery

01622 814380

**Dental:** Dental Line

01892 517771

**Vets:** Putlands Veterinary Surgery

01892 835456

**Hospitals**

Kent & Sussex (Tunbridge Wells) 01892 526111  
Maidstone 01622 290000  
Pembury 01892 823535

**Chemist:** Field Pharmacy 01622 871409

**Emergencies**

Electricity 0800 783 8866  
Floodline (Environment Agency) 0345 988 1188  
Community Warden 07969 584183 [sandra.edmonds@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.edmonds@kent.gov.uk)  
Gas 0800 777 999  
Wastewater (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 [info@pwadvice.org](mailto:info@pwadvice.org)  
RSPCA (Cruelty Line) 0300 1234 999  
Social Services 01892 515045  
Tonbridge Job Centre 01732 583700  
Trading Standards 08454 040506  
Victim Support 01622 690103

**Police**

Police (Non-Emergencies) 101  
Website [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)  
Twitter @kentpoliceton  
Emergencies 999  
If you are deaf or speech impaired Text Police and your message to 60066

**Sport, Recreation & Social**

Allotments 01622 871309 [councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk)  
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 [serinapage@btinternet.com](mailto:serinapage@btinternet.com)  
East Peckham Silver Band 01732 359397  
Evergreens 01622 871781  
Golf Society 01622 872031  
Fit 4 U Exercise Class 01732 529654  
Friends of St Michaels Church 01622 813687  
Girls Brigade 01732 366671  
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:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk">councilmanager@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 handbook. Annual updates will be undertaken. No business or organisation is being promoted by virtue of inclusion in this handbook. 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.*