

EAST PECKHAM

WELCOME PACK

First produced by East Peckham Parish Council in November 2014
Updated September 2016

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.

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
September 2016

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL – WHAT ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO? We are here to help and listen. We are the first tier of local government we are 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 are able but the most important thing is that we can serve our local community directly and effectively without interference.

We are 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 currently Mick Barton, Peter Crawford, Penny Graham, Heidi Harrat, Steph Watson, Serina Page, Lynton Wright, Colin Silver, Jenny Macdonald, Michael Ferguson and Murray Hodgson. Councillors can be contacted via our website 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 attached to the Village Butcher and Stores 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 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 twice monthly on the first and third Mondays (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. Whilst all of the plots are currently being cultivated we keep a waiting list for anyone who wishes to rent an allotment at some time in the future.

WEBSITE: Our website 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 Clerk to the Council can be seen on weekday mornings during term times (excluding Wednesdays) in the Parish Office in the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT. Telephone 01622 871309 or email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Councillors can be contacted via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

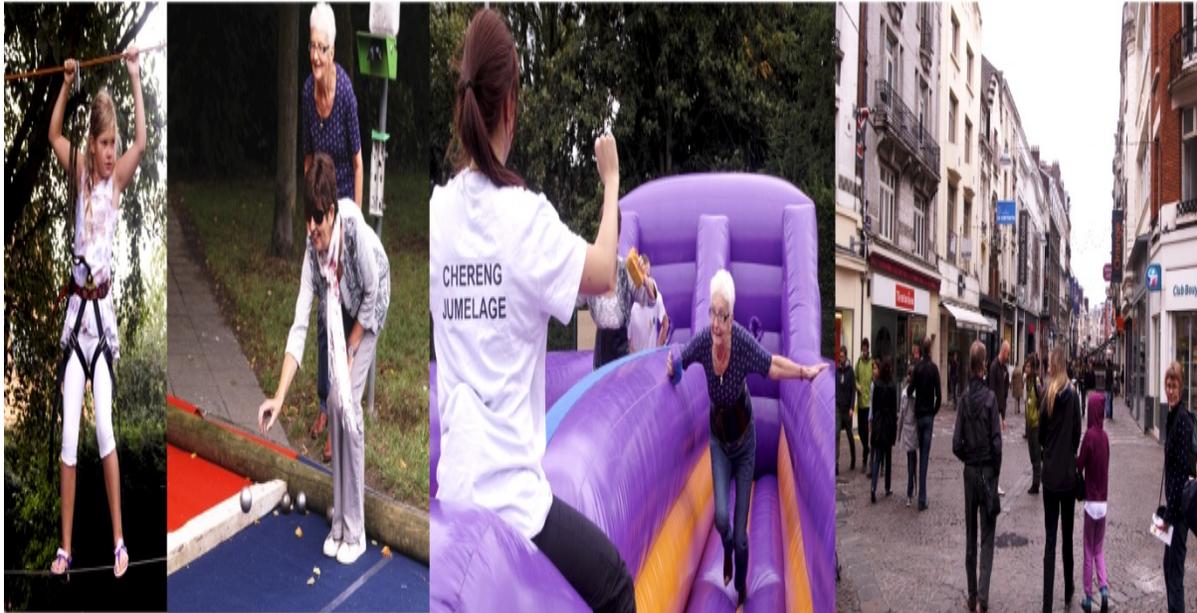
JUBILEE HALL, SPORTS HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS: We own and manage the Jubilee Hall complex situated in Pippin Road which comprises of the Playing Fields, a Sports Hall and Meeting Room with separate kitchen, changing rooms and toilet facilities. Activities which take place each week include keep fit, Zumba, gym, badminton, bowls, Mini Music, Parent & Toddler group, East Peckham and Hadlow Children's Centre, a goalkeeping school and a monthly Carers Group. Our football pitches are used by The East Peckham Football team and 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 sometimes used by the North Kent goalkeeper's school for practice and used by East Peckham football teams for practice and matches. 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 by the Parish Council to ensure that the village is well equipped with leisure areas for everyone in the village to enjoy.

EAST PECKHAM COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR: We are proud that East Peckham was one of the first villages in the borough to have a defibrillator. The defibrillator has been installed on the outside of the Jubilee Hall, 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 or from the Parish Office.

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chereng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. The East Peckham Twinning Association (EPTA) is independent of the Parish Council and twinning activities are funded by those taking part and by fund-raising with no use of parish funds. 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.

EAST PECKHAM MAGAZINE: This comprehensive community monthly publication costs 70p 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

COMMUNITY WARDEN: In 2003 Kent County Council & Kent Police introduced a partnership to provide Rural Community Wardens. The wardens are responsible for deterring anti-social behaviour and maintaining a 'hearts and minds' daytime vigil for the benefit of the communities they serve. East Peckham has a warden who also covers the nearby villages of Hadlow, West Peckham, Wateringbury and Mereworth. Contact Lara Sams, KCC Community Warden on 07969 584183 or send an email to 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. The Parish Council endeavours to keep the Public Rights of Way clear and free from hazards with assistance from the KCC Public Rights of Way Unit.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS: Household and garden rubbish for recycling is collected on a fortnightly rota on a Wednesday. Enquiries should be made to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522. The nearest recycling and civic amenity site is at North Farm, Tunbridge Wells. There is also a fortnightly bulky refuse service, details of this are on the website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

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 2 ½ - 5 - East Peckham Pre-School: The Pre School operates from the Village Hall in Bush Road which has close links with East Peckham Primary School, telephone 01622 872931/07999 802635

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 a 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: East Peckham is served by Arriva Buses. Bus timetables are available from the library. The 208 has had its 4 year tender accepted and so is secure until 2015. There are extra journeys to the hospital on the timetable now.

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

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT: Are you without a car, disabled, elderly or find public transport difficult? If so you may be interested in some of the schemes that are in place. They include:

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 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.

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.

Some Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Website: www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01622 871309

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council 01732 844522

Borough Councillors

Howard Rogers

Jill Anderson

Janet Sergison

howard.rogers@tmbc.gov.uk

jill.anderson@tmbc.gov.uk

janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk

Kent County Council

01622 696965

Library

01622 871050

County Councillor Matthew Balfour

01732 870253 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

Faults on footway lights

01622 871309

admin@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

Roman Catholic Fr. Behruz Rafat

01892 833699

The Methodist Church Rev John Butt

01622 871332

The Salvation Army: Territorial Envoy

01622 872372 David.Boyle@salvationarmy.org.uk

General Practitioners

East Peckham Surgery 01622 871540
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 paul.harfleet@kent.gov.uk
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 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
Community Warden 07969 584183 paul.harfleet@kent.gov.uk

Police

Police (Non Emergencies) 101
Website www.kent.police.uk
Twitter @kentpoliceton
Emergencies 999
If you are deaf or speech impaired Test Police and your message to 60066

Sport, Recreation & Social

Apples Bowling Club	01622 871069
Allotments	01622 871309
Boys Brigade	01622 872372
Brownies	01622 872418
Cameo Coffee Morning	01622 872372
Carers Group	01622 871831
Community Choir	01622 871622
East Peckham Flood Group	01622 872344 sue.chalkley1@btinternet.com
East Peckham Magazine	01622 872015 serinapage@btinternet.com
East Peckham Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs & Scouts)	01622 871890
East Peckham Silver Band	01732 359397
East Peckham Walkers Group	01622 871216
Evergreens	01622 871781
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 northkent@hotmail.com
Gym club	01892 835918
Historical Society	01622 872976
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	07547 855917 andrew.kerr@grapesdirect.co.uk
Shape Up Fitness Class	01622 720879
Short Mat Bowls Club	01622 871781
Trainers Badminton Club	01622 871189
Women's Institute	01622 872292
Wednesday Allsorts	01622 872418
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.