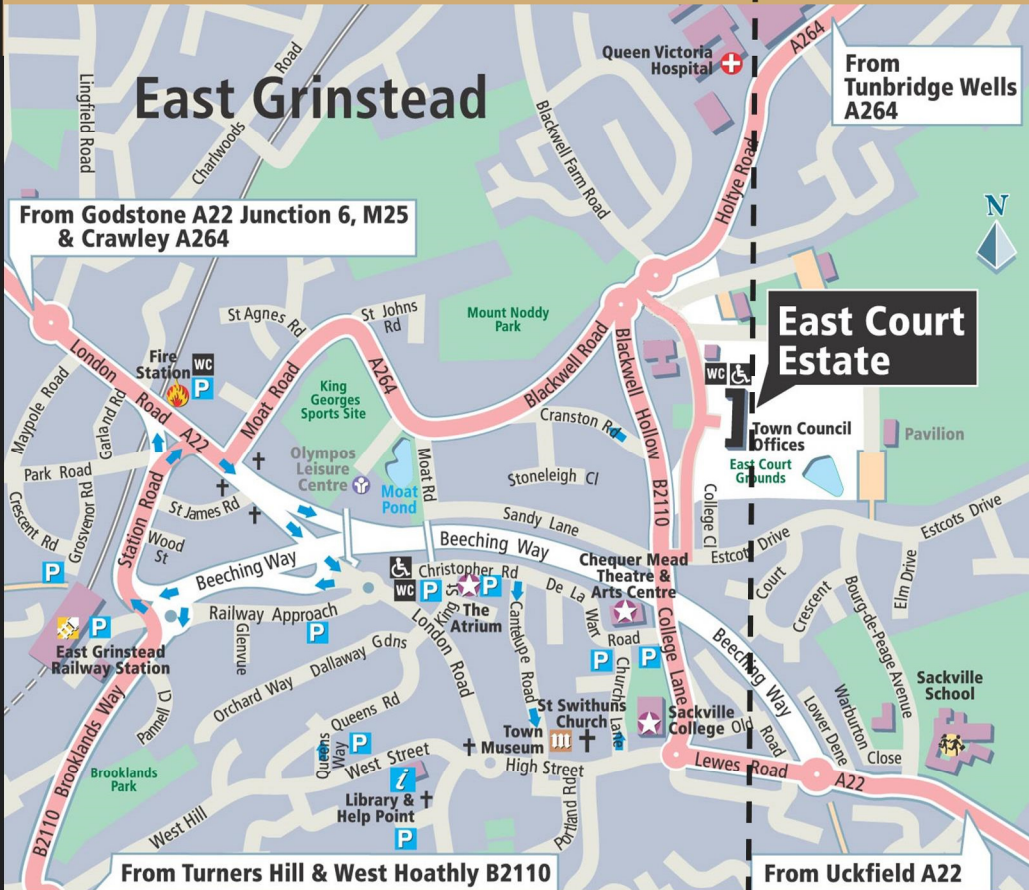
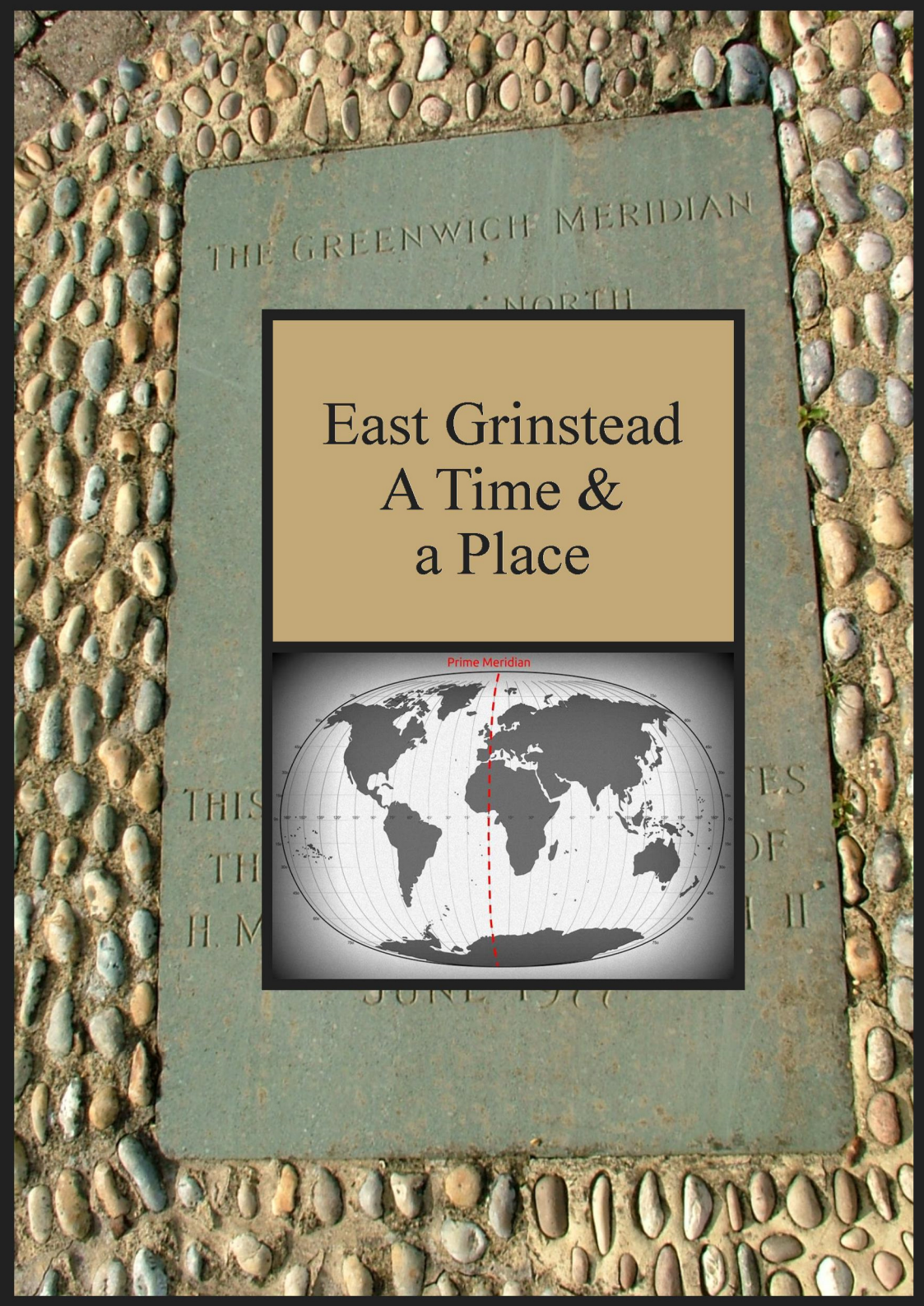


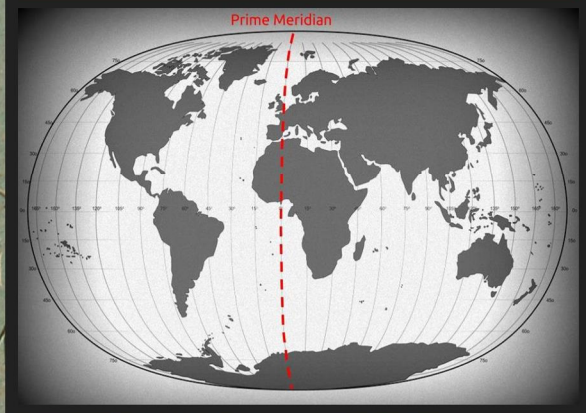
The Greenwich Meridian Line is actually in the wrong place! Anyone tracing the meridian line as it passes through East Grinstead, whilst using a modern smartphone with GPS systems will notice that the markers appear to be some distance away from Zero degrees. The original line which the marker follow, was drawn up using a basin of mercury which was thought to be parallel to the earth, however this did not take into account that the planet has a bulge and uneven gravity. So you will not be standing exactly on the modern Prime Meridian, but here in East Grinstead we are happy to be a little different, so we think we'll leave it the way it is. You just might need to take two 'selfies' and celebrate twice!



Leaflet produced by East Grinstead Town Promotions
 (A service of East Grinstead Town Council)
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East Grinstead
 A Time &
 a Place



"Time is the Longest distance between two places"

Tennessee Williams

Every place on Earth is measured in terms of its distance East or West from the Prime Meridian Line. Longitude 0°.

The line itself divides the Eastern and Western hemispheres of the Earth - just as the Equator divides the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

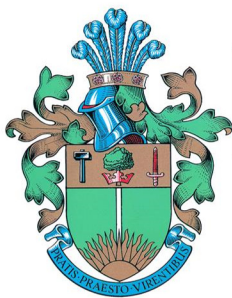
The Greenwich Meridian was chosen as the Prime Meridian of the World on 1st October 1884 at a conference in Washington attended by 25 countries.



Before this, almost every town in the world kept its own local time. There were no national or international conventions which set how time should be measured, or when the day would begin and end. However, with the vast expansion of the railway and communications networks during the 1850s and 1860s, the worldwide need for an international time standard became essential.

This invisible line passes through East Grinstead on its way from Pole to Pole.

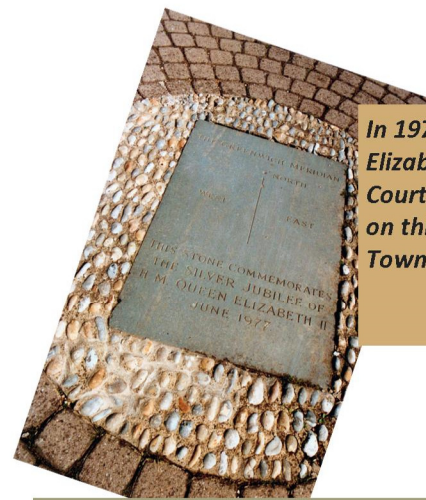
East Grinstead has celebrated its position on the Meridian Line since 1954 when the Urban District Council, later to become the East Grinstead Town Council, commissioned a coat of arms to mark its diamond jubilee.



The design incorporates a white line representing the Meridian running through the town.

East Grinstead has continued to be proud of its place on this line and in recent years markers have been erected to confirm its existence as it passes by.

Meridian Way at the Queen Victoria Hospital and our local radio station Meridian FM take their name directly from it, and the Meridian Hall at East Court stands almost on it.



In 1977, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, a plaque was set onto the terrace at East Court (home to the Town Council). Stand astride the line on this plaque and you can receive a certificate from the Town Council offices. (Normal office hours only)

As part of the celebrations to see in the new Millennium, Terracotta marker stones were designed and erected in 2000 to reveal more of the Meridian's path.



These markers can be viewed at The Queen Victoria hospital, Holtye Road; North and South Side Holtye Road (A264); North and South side Lynton Park Avenue and through the grounds of East Court Estate.



The year 2000 also saw the addition of an iron stone rock on the East Court Estate, with the line etched onto its surface. A message invites passers by to touch it to show the effect humans have on the physical world with the passage of time.

Further terracotta markers continue North and South side of Estcots Drive, North side of Old Road, South side of Lewes Road, North Side of Fairfield Road, East side of Richmond Road, and North side of Herontye Road.

At this point the Meridian Line takes its leave of East Grinstead, however we hang on to the claim to be at the heart of *TIME ITSELF*.