

## EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

### TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT 2010/2011 CIVIC YEAR

I am pleased to present this report at the end of my mayoral year, the final year of the 2007-2011 administration.

There have been eight Council meetings, 36 Committee meetings, six meetings of the Scrutiny Groups, one Annual Town Meeting and five meetings of the Charities Committee, in the past year. In addition there have been numerous Working Group meetings. As always these meetings have attracted varying attendances from the public. Attendances have been particularly good when we have had controversial planning applications or discussions on items that have a wide community interest. May I therefore begin by thanking the public, who have attended our meetings and shown support in other ways. We do like seeing public present at our meetings and the engagement that comes from that. Thanks are also due to the East Grinstead Courier and Observer and Meridian fm.

Before focussing on the work of the various Committees can I say that this report does need to be read in conjunction with the reports delivered by the various Chairmen at the Annual Town Meeting on 5 April and which can be read on the Town Council's website [www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk](http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk) It is not my intention to replicate everything that was said at that time but merely to give a personal narrative on the year just gone.

**The Planning Committee** considered some 300 planning applications during the civic year, broadly similar with last year but still well below where we were at a few years ago. The three-weekly cycle is now established. The Committee continues to make recommendations on all applications submitted within the civil parish and comments also on planning appeals and other consultations. Members visited many of the application sites in their Wards and studied the plans in advance of the meetings. Outcomes of Mid Sussex District decisions in relation to 245 applications were reported of which 216 were concurrent approvals or refusals, equating to 88%, compared with 90% last year.

This year has seen a focus on the Station quarter with a fully commissioned study completed by Optimum for the Town Council, which it is intended will aid future planning of the area, something that is particularly important given the redevelopment of the Station building itself during the coming year and the imminent completion of the Bluebell northern extension into East Grinstead.

We await the outcome of the Localism legislation, specifically in terms of neighbourhood plans, upon which some start has been made locally. However, much more is still needed to be done including completion of evidential research by the principal authorities in terms of infrastructure costs and employment data for example. The importance of evidentially based five-year land supply figures is also essential as is the need for a robust approach to development given the Town's existing infrastructure deficit, specifically in relation to the road network, which is, and has been for some years, at capacity. As a Council we remain committed to ensuring that infrastructure improvements are delivered prior to new housing and that the Town Council, through the Three Tiers Group, continues to play a full part in the ongoing Plan review work.

Equally we await a planning application, hopefully later this year for the Queens Walk site, which is long overdue and where redevelopment will be both critical and beneficial to the future economic wellbeing of the Town's economy.

**The Public Services Committee** has been active in a number of public consultations ensuring effective and considered representations are made in the interests of the local community. In addition to this the Committee has been active in building relationships with a number of external agencies and bodies.

The Committee were pleased to welcome speakers at most meetings during the civic year and considered a wide range of issues. Affordable Housing, the National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy, the Station Quarter, Policing resources and Street Lighting were all the subject of informative and helpful presentations. Policing issues, including crime figures, were considered at all meetings as were updates on concessionary rail pass issues. The Mid Sussex Parking strategy review, youth service cuts, issues relating to Library services, community transport services, the Local Transport Plan and the major enhancements to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Imberhorne Lane, now being undertaken, were other issues that the Committee has become involved with and offered constructive input.

Two other matters need special mention. Firstly the re-establishment of the Social and Community Working Group, which provides excellent opportunities for networking amongst like-minded public service and voluntary groups working within the Town, and which as a specific initiative organised the Health and Wellbeing event at the Jubilee Centre on 2 April. Secondly the innovative partnership between the Town and District Councils which will see dedicated new toilets provided in King Street later this year, with capital funding from the District Council and management and associated running costs coming from the Town Council. I am sure this type of partnership approach is the way forward in these difficult economic times.

**The Amenities and Tourism Committee** is responsible for all buildings in the ownership of the Town Council. Income in total outturned well over 10% above budget for our three buildings, Meridian Hall, East Court Mansion and the Old Court House. The review of the Business Plan referred to last week is now substantially completed and sees enhanced focus on high-value bookings, particularly at weekends. Allied to this special attention has been paid to customer care and sound, targeted, marketing.

As last year the work of the Housekeeping Team has had a continuing focus on graffiti removal, agency work for the two principal authorities and supporting planting and clean up initiatives locally. The work of the team, particularly in the Town Centre, following the heavy snowfalls of December and January was laudable and hugely appreciated locally. It is pleasing to report that the agency contracts with our principal authority partners have been reviewed for the coming year, albeit with some reduction in price.

We were pleased that the Town Council received a Silver Gilt Award in the 2010 South and South East in Bloom competition for its work at East Court, testament to the work of the Town Council's staff, and congratulations are also due to the hardworking East Grinstead in Bloom committee and volunteers, who achieved a Silver award for the Town entry.

The Council achieves high standards of maintenance in its land holdings, and further improvements were undertaken at Mount Noddy Cemetery this year, including in relation to tree planting, stabilisation of memorials and public signage.

Our two allotment sites, at Mount Noddy and Imberhorne, continue to be fully subscribed and are well managed by the two dedicated local Allotment Associations with who we have entered into long-term leases. As reported last year there is a recognised need for more allotments in East Grinstead to meet demand, and this was recorded in the Town Council's response to the Infrastructure audit review conducted by Mid Sussex District Council.

Gratitude is also expressed to the East Grinstead Tourism initiative and the work of the staff in this area. Their work in conjunction with that of the Business Support Group is of critical importance in these difficult times and the partnership working with our principal authority colleagues, with EGBA and the High Street Traders for example is all duly acknowledged. The importance of town events to putting East Grinstead on the map cannot be overstated and the publicity and partnership work with others is critical to the success of such initiatives.

**The Charities Committee**, which looks after Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre and the Parish Halls Trusts, is independent of the Town Council but is managed by the Town Council as sole custodian Trustee. All Councillors are currently Trustees of these Charities and the Town Clerk serves as Clerk to the Trustees.

This year we had a change of executive leadership at Chequer Mead with Hannah Kester, formerly Deputy Chief Executive, taking over as Centre Manager following the retirement of John Durrant. Chequer Mead continues to be one of the jewels in East Grinstead's crown with theatre and gallery use holding up well. A decline in room hire bookings, partly caused by economic circumstances, and partly by enhanced local provision in the market place, has been compensated for by savings in expenditure resulting in a broadly balanced net outturn against budget. As a consequence equity in the Centre remains strong. Towards the end of the year arrangements were concluded to terminate the Trading Company and to oversee the bars and catering concession with Cuisine Studio in-house. Our grateful appreciation is recorded to members of the Trading Company for their hard work over the years. In line with the Council's budget overall the grant to Chequer Mead was cut by 2.5% for 2011/2012.

As always we are most grateful to the Centre's staff team, the many valued volunteers, and the Friends for their commitment and achievements.

The Parish Halls operated under Trust management throughout the year and outperformed budget. A successful negotiation means that the rear part of the premises comprising the Small and Upstairs Halls, Committee Room and ancillary accommodation will be leased to Jesus Living Water Christian Church from this April. The Church will be carrying out improvements to this area and the Trust will be significantly upgrading the Large Hall. Management arrangements from April 2012 will be determined by the Charities Committee later this year.

**The Finance and General Purposes Committee** has overall responsibility for the Council's resources, its finances and staffing. The Committee has paid particular focus to establishment matters, staff and member training, internal and external audit, risk management and management of performance. Arrangements for recruitment of a new Town Clerk was a particular priority area of focus.

The Town Council's financial position remains robust. As in every year since the formation of the Town Council in 1974 we received a clean bill of health and unqualified audit. The Council has no debts, and its revenue balances of some £550,000, including £135,000 of earmarked reserves, are significantly better than anticipated at the beginning of the year largely due to the focus on cutting costs and increasing revenue. In the coming year a Band D council taxpayer will again pay £63.78 for their portion of the Town Council's services, a freeze on 2010/2011 financial year.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee is responsible for democratic services, corporate management, community support and for our various partnerships. The Council is hugely appreciative of our many voluntary and charitable organisations, our service clubs, our churches and the myriad of groups who focus on providing services and support throughout the community, and in so doing create the special character and atmosphere of East Grinstead, which we are so fortunate to enjoy. It is pleasing to report that in these difficult times we have managed to increase our grant giving to this sector overall by a figure slightly in excess of inflation.

The Town Council is of course an Investor's in People organisation, something of great importance to the Council as the employees and elected members are its major and most important resource. Last year saw a focus on outdoor staff training whilst in the coming year the priority will be on new members training.

In October I was pleased to hold a **Civic** Service at St Swithun's Church, and I sincerely thank the Rev Canon Clive Everett Allen for agreeing to this. During the year I have attended services and other events at more churches in East Grinstead that I knew existed beforehand following my commitment to seek out residents in that manner at the start of the year. I have attended about 25 services, here and elsewhere, but many more events.

During the year I was pleased to provide support and raise funds for my charities, the Town Museum and the Blond McIndoe Research Foundation. To achieve this, a number of fundraising events were held including my civic dinner and ball in the Meridian Hall last month. In addition I supported fundraising and promotional events held directly and by others for these charities which resulted in over £10,000 being raised for the museum. I would like to thank everyone who supported any of these events. These charities do such good work in totally diverse areas and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with them both. I am now pleased to present cheques to each for £2,004.10 with my and the Council's best wishes.

In my year as Town Mayor I personally have attended 251 events, excluding Council and Committee meetings. A list of these is attached to this report as Appendix A. This list does not include those events attended by my Deputy or other councillors on my behalf though they have of course been fully recorded at Council meetings throughout the year. Pauline has been a fantastic Mayoress giving of herself totally. She has been a great support to me and joins me in sending thanks for the welcomes and friendships we have received.

Can I thank Town Councillors for electing me as Mayor last May and for their own selfless service to the Town. There have been, during the year, eight Council meetings, 36 Committee meetings, seven Scrutiny Group meetings, one Annual Town Meeting and five meetings of the Charities Committee. Councillors' attendances at all of these have been impressive, considering the number of multi-hatted members we have, 73% for Committees and 80% for Council meetings.

I have been particularly grateful to my Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Mainstone, who supported me at many functions and represented me at others when I was not available, the Leader of the Council and the Committee Chairs.

I pay particular tribute to former Mayor Alan Lord who sadly died during this term of office and thanks to former Councillors Baldwin, Banks, Mrs Collins, Dixon, Gillbard, Johnson, Joyce-Nelson, Mrs Mainstone, Marmara, Musk, Quinn, Reed, Starmer and Mrs Waddingham who for reasons of the ballot box or personal choice are no longer with us. The long years of experienced service by many in that list will be missed. I too will of course be leaving tonight.

Our replacements Councillors Mrs Beckford, Mrs Belsey, Burns, Mrs Burns, Favor, Hodges, O'Brien, Osborne, Saull, Scott, Sillitoe, Sweatman, Webster, Whittaker and Wyan are welcomed. I sincerely hope you derive the same satisfaction from your public service here with the Town Council as I know I have.

I also wish to thank the Town Council staff for their dedication and support for the Council and its work during the year. It has been much appreciated by all members. This year we were pleased to welcome as new employees Luc Pineau, caretaker, Jenny Watson, gardener, and Julie Holden as Town Clerk. We wish them well.

On a personal level I could not have done what I have as Mayor without the dedication of our previous Town Clerk Chris Rolley, whose service is now marked by the naming of the terrace outside, and in particular the support of Sarah Bunting who has kept me under some sort of control in making sure I was where I was supposed to be.

Finally I wish to thank the public of East Grinstead for the support they have shown Pauline and myself throughout the year. We have thoroughly enjoyed our year of office, and meeting

so many special people. It has been a memorable year for us and we are most grateful.  
Thank you all.

Councillor Stephen Barnett  
Town Mayor  
2010/2011 civic year.

**TOWN MAYOR'S DIARY EVENTS - MAY 2010 – MAY 2011**

May 2010

- 11 Presentation of Certificates to Imberhorne School pupils at Effingham Park Hotel.\*
- 12 Attended Town Twinning meeting preparing for weekend visit by delegates
- 13 Launch of NuYuu in London Road, with charity cheque presentation\*
- 14 Opening of McIndoe Exhibition at the Town Museum\*  
Meeting with Twin Town delegates after their business meeting at East Court\*
- 15 Day long Town Twinning events including hosting of reception for delegates at East Court\*
- 16 25th Running of the East Grinstead Triathlon in aid of Prostate Cancer Research at Olympos Kings Centre
- 19 Lions Club "It's a Knockout" at Olympos, Kings Centre\*
- 20 Ribbon cutting for opening of Aldi store, accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor  
East Grinstead Business Association Service Sector Day at Jubilee Centre and presentation of "Local Champion" award to Hallmark Travel, accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor
- 22 Presentations for Meads Football Club at Sackville School
- 23 Abseil at East Grinstead Fire Station in aid of Dominic's Fund accompanied by Miss Elizabeth Barnett  
Mayor of Dartford's Civic Service at St Anselm's Church, Dartford
- 26 Guinea Pig AGM and Lunch at the Felbridge Hotel and visit to the McIndoe Exhibition at the Town Museum\*
- 28 Talk Lunch at Baldwins Hill School  
East Grinstead & District Mental Health Association Private View of Creative Cornucopia at Chequer Mead\*
- 29 Filipino-British Association's Fiesta Sa Nasyon at Olympos Kings Centre  
Chichester Mayor making at Chichester Cathedral\*
- 31 Press photocall for Nizams Restaurant launch of tapas bar

June

- 4 Presentation of "Local Champion" award to TREK-diagnostic, accompanied by Deputy Mayor
- 5 Bluebell Railway Viaduct Open Day\*  
McIndoe Surgical Centre "Sun Awareness" Day at Queen Victoria Hospital\*
- 6 Girl Guides Centenary Nature Trail opening at East Court\*
- 7 Photocall for hanging of flower baskets in High Street  
Omlets Creative Performance at Chequer Mead, accompanied by Deputy Mayor
- 8 Multiple Sclerosis Information Day in Meridian Hall, accompanied by Councillor Mrs Mainstone  
Lime tree and Eco-Schools Green Flag celebrations at St Peter's School, accompanied by Deputy Mayor and Miss Elizabeth Barnett  
Queen Victoria Hospital League of Friends presentation of cheque in Meridian Hall, accompanied by Deputy Mayor
- 12 Opening of "My East Grinstead" photographic exhibition with reception at Chequer Mead
- 13 Crawley Civic Service at Broadfield Community Church\*  
Churches Together Ecumenical Service at Our Lady & St Peter's Church\*
- 14 Fundraising Chinese Meal for Sleep Out charities at New Evergreen Restaurant
- 15 Boules Match with East Grinstead Twinners and Forest Row Twinners\*
- 17 Meridian Bridge Club Summer Party in Meridian Hall\*

- 18 Opening of Casablanca Café in High Street, accompanied by Deputy Mayor  
Meridian Way booklet launch at Lewes Town Hall\*
- 19 Justice and Peace Group 20th Annual Sleep Out in High Street for  
homelessness charities
- 20 Nautical Training Corps 50th Anniversary in Meridian Hall\*
- 21 Raising the Flag for the Armed Forces at Mid Sussex District Council,  
Oaklands, Haywards Heath
- 26 Founders Day celebrations at Sackville College\*  
East Grinstead Choral Society Last Night of the Proms Concert at Chequer  
Mead with St Peter's School\*
- 27 Sevenoaks Civic Service at St John The Baptist Church, Sevenoaks\*
- 30 St Luke's Church Women's Group talk by Councillor Paul Johnson\*
- July
- 1 West Sussex County Scouts AGM at Pulborough
- 2 Meads School production of Wind in the Willows at Chequer Mead\*  
Sackville Community Choir Concert at Sackville School\*
- 3 Armed Forces Day at East Court\*
- 4 Chief Scout Awards and Soap Box Derby at Imberhorne Lower School
- 5 Sackville School's Exam Art & Photographic Exhibition at Chequer Mead\*
- 6 Greeting at East Court for East Grinstead in Bloom judges\*  
Bluebell Railway celebration of start of spoil trains at East Grinstead Station  
Scouts AGM in Meridian Hall
- 8 First Reading for East Grinstead Community Play
- 10 Coffee Morning at St Luke's Church  
Graduation Ceremony at School of Oriental Medicine, Green Hedges  
Avenue\*
- 11 Patronal Festival Service at St Swithun's Church  
Mid Sussex District Council Chairman's Garden Party and Awards at  
Ravenswood, Sharpthorne  
Saint Hill Garden Party fundraiser for East Grinstead Museum
- 12 Canoeing with Nautical Training Corp TS Resolution at Hedgecourt Lake
- 16 Kingdom Faith Church Dinner at Swan Mead\*
- 18 Soroptimists International of East Grinstead Annual Garden Party in  
Hartfield\*  
Young Concert Artists Finals Night Gala at Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge  
Wells\*
- 19 Presentation of the Sackville College Shield to local schools at Sackville  
College\*  
Recording of comments for East Grinstead Community Play  
BBQ at Hedgecourt Lake with NTC TS Resolution
- 20 Youth Council meeting at East Court
- 22 Talk Lunch with Baldwins School pupils
- 23 Cadet 150 Charity Cricket Match and Bike Ride at Felbridge Cricket Ground  
accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor  
Choir Power Concert at Chequer Mead accompanied by Deputy Town  
Mayor\*
- 24 East Grinstead Midsummer Market Day accompanied by Deputy Town  
Mayor\*
- 28 Business Networking Lunch at Dorset Arms  
Outset AGM at Pulborough
- 31 U3A Arts & Craft Festival at Burgess Hill\*
- Aug
- 2 Opening of new salon at Swan Mead Day Centre
- 4 Meeting with Dr Peter Lingwood to discuss Aqueduct Charity
- 7 Collection for Sackville College in Need outside Sainsburys Supermarket
- 8 Turners Hill Park Summer Fete\*  
Opening of Classical Concert & Art Exhibition at Saint Hill Manor

- 13 Opening of The Market Place store in High Street accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor
- 18 Grenestede Talking News AGM at East Court
- 22 Bluebell Vintage Transport Weekend with judging and cup presentation\*
- Sept
- 8 Visit to the Bell ringers at St Swithun's Church Tower\*
- 10 Visit and video recording with organisers of the Forest Row Garden Shovelstrode project  
Photo call at East Court for departure of Lands End to John O'Groats cyclist for Aqueduct Charity  
Hallmark Travel Event at HSBC Bank, London Road
- 11 999 Day at East Court\*
- 13 Sleep Out Fundraiser for EG Justice and Peace Group at Nizam Restaurant
- 16 Bluebell Railway Queens Award for Voluntary Service at Sheffield Park Station
- 17 Age Concern AGM and Tea Dance in Meridian Hall  
East Grinstead Music & Arts Festival AGM and Cheese & Wine in Meridian Hall
- 18 Concert in aid of Bluebell Railway at Chequer Mead\*  
Champagne Toast for Hallmark Travel 20 years in business in Meridian Hall
- 19 Town Mayor's Civic Service
- 22 Presentation for Blond McIndoe at Queen Victoria Hospital
- 24 Opening by Hyde Martlet Housing Association of Guinea Pig Place  
Community Play Exhibition at the Museum
- 25 Street collection for Access Group at Waitrose Supermarket  
EGOS Production of The Full Monty at Chequer Mead accompanied by Deputy Mayor and Mayoress\*
- 26 Back to Church Sunday at Trinity Methodist Church\*  
Lunch with High Sheriff of West Sussex at Highbrook, Ardingly\*
- 27 Access Group AGM in Cranston Suite, East Court
- 28 EG4KIDZ presentations in Mayor's Parlour  
Council for Voluntary Service AGM in Meridian Hall
- 29 Retirement party for the Wickenden's at CJs Café
- Oct
- 1 East Grinstead in Bloom presentations in Meridian Hall\*
- 2 Opening for refurbished New Look store in Queens Walk
- 3 Parish Mass, Harvest Service and Lunch at St Mary's Church, Windmill Lane
- 4 Reception at Jubilee Centre for return of Lands End to John O'Groats cyclist for Aqueduct Charity\*
- 5 East Grinstead CVS Three Cheers for Volunteers at the Museum \* (with Deputy TM)
- 7 Adam Dabell Memorial Match at East Grinstead Town Football Club \*
- 8 Meridian BNI business breakfast at Felbridge Hotel
- 9 Me, Baby & Toddler Show at Jubilee Centre \* (with Deputy TM and CM)
- 10 Service at Moat United Reform Church \*  
Wedding Fair at East Court \* (with Deputy TM and CM)  
East Grinstead Athletics Club cross country run at East Court
- 12 Launch of Youth Council website \* (with Deputy TM)
- 13 Faith Matters in West Sussex EESI Project in Meridian Hall
- 15 Relate AGM at Crawley \*
- 16 Lions Club Charter Dinner at Felbridge Hotel
- 17 Arun Civic Service at St Margaret's Church, Angmering \*  
Saint Hill Gala Charity Concert (with Deputy TM and CM)
- 18 Meridian Short Mat Bowls Club presentations in Meridian Hall \*
- 19 Fashion Show in aid of Mayor of Sevenoaks charities at Stag Theatre \*
- 20 Presentation of Izzy's Trike for Tadpoles Swimming Club \*

- 21 Quiz Night for Museum Friends at Moat Church Hall (with Deputy TM and CM)
- 22 Charity Dinner at Copthorne Hotel in aid of Crawley Open House \*
- 23 Fundraising Ladies event in aid of Mayor's charities at Nuyuu \*
- 24 Peacing Together One World celebrations for One World Week at Jubilee Centre
- 29 Visit to Lord Mayor of Stoke on Trent (with Mr Ron Barnett & Mr Selwyn Viggars)
- 30 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service at West Street Baptist Church \*
- Nov
- 5 Race Night in aid of Age Concern in Meridian Hall \*
- 6 Hastings Diesel tour – First incoming passenger train to Bluebell East Grinstead Town FC / Lions Fireworks night
- 7 Imberhorne / Baldwins Neighbourhood Panel "clean up" Project (with Deputy TM & CM)
- 11 Remembrance Day in High Street \*
- 14 Laying of wreaths for Remembrance Sunday at East Court and High Street \*
- 15 Photocall for launch of new East Grinstead shopping bag (with Deputy TM & CM)  
Concert in aid of Mayor's charities with Bag Full of Hats and guests at Chequer Mead\*
- 19 East Grinstead Town Twinning Association AGM at East Court
- 24 Presentation of prizes at Youth Speaks competition for Rotary Club of East Grinstead at Chequer Mead \*
- 27 East Grinstead Rotary Leukaemia Research charity stall photocall in Queens Walk \*  
Opening of Open Day celebrations at Cornmill Complementary Health Centre\*
- 28 Beaver Scout Christingle service at Imberhorne Lower School \*
- 30 Fonthill Lodge School production of "Miracle Child"  
Community Play "Matters of Chance" at Sackville School \*
- Dec
- 3 SAAFA Concert at Chequer Mead \* with Deputy TM
- 4 EG Music & Arts Festival Dinner at the Hedgehog, Effingham \* (with Deputy TM & CM)
- 5 Christmas Shopping Day \* (with Deputy TM & CM)
- 7 RNLI Forest Row Lifeboat Choir concert at Chequer Mead  
Live music and meal in aid of Mayor's Museum charity at CJs, High Street
- 8 East Grinstead Pensioners Association Christmas Party at St Marys Church Hall accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor
- 10 Christmas Collection outside Sainsburys with Meridian Rotary Club  
Sackville College Christmas Party\*
- 11 Rotary Club Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in High Street\*  
Photocall at Amnesty card stall in Queens Walk  
Closing night of Community Play at Sackville School
- 12 Service at New Life Church  
Mayor of Crawley's Christmas Carols at St Barnabas Church, Pound Hill\*
- 13 East Grinstead Business Association Christmas Lunch at Alexander House Hotel  
Public carols at Sackville College\*
- 15 Presentations to Imberhorne Upper School students at Imberhorne Lane
- 16 Sackville School Carol Service at St Swithun's Church\*  
Gateway Club Christmas Party at Wallis Centre\*  
Air Training Corps prize giving at Morton Road\*
- 17 Age Concern Christmas Party in Meridian Hall
- 19 Mayor's Carols and Reception at East Court\*  
T'was the Sunday before Christmas EG Traders event in High Street\*

- Candlelight Carol Service at St Swithuns Church\*
- 20 Funeral for Mr Foxley (Guinea Pig) at St Swithun's Church accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor\*
- 22 Business Networking lunch at Dorset Arms
- 24 Crib Service at Trinity Methodist Church  
Family Mass at Our Lady & St Peter Catholic Church
- 26 Service at St Mary's Church, Windmill Lane
- Jan 2011
- 5 Celebration Evening with prize presentations to Years 11 & 13 at Sackville School\*
- 9 Scouts Awards at Felbridge Village Hall
- 15 Hallmark Travel event at Meridian Hall accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor
- 20 Sussex Enterprise business breakfast at Ashdown Park Hotel with Deputy Town Mayor as Chair of Business Support Group
- 21 Opening, with new landlord, of refurbished Sussex Arms
- 22 Mayor of Crawley's Civic Dinner at The Hawth\*
- 25 Friends of Chequer Mead party\*
- 28 Opening of Council for Voluntary Service Volunteering Exhibition at Museum  
Atelier Community Theatre's production of Peer Gynt at Chequer Mead
- 31 Nautical Training Corps prize giving at Wallis Centre\*
- Feb
- 1 30th Anniversary Celebrations at Sovereign Finance
- 2 Pre meeting at East Court for forthcoming Royal visit
- 4 Opening of new colour suite for Spires Hairdressers  
Friends of East Grinstead Museum Wickendens sweet shop talk
- 5 Lions Senior Citizens Party at Sackville School  
East Grinstead Town Twinning Quiz night accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor\*
- 6 Homelessness Service with Justice and Peace Group at Moat United Reform Church accompanied by Cllr James Baldwin
- 12 Sevenoaks Town Mayor's Quiz Night with Deputy Mayor & Mayoress, Cllrs Banks and Johnson\*
- 15 Multiple Sclerosis Society AGM and Lunch at Crawley College\*
- 18 East Grinstead Society Open Forum at East Court\*
- 19 East Grinstead Soroptimists President's Dinner at Roebuck\*
- 25 High Sheriff's Service at St Marys, Horsham for Judges & Magistrates in West Sussex\*
- Mar
- 2 Mayoress attends Soroptimist meeting with talk on diamonds from Mr Major accompanied by Mayor
- 3-6 Town Twinning visit to Verbania with Sackville students Olivia Wills and Henry Birtles, and with Ken Averill.
- 7 Grant cheque presentation to Nautical Training Corps\*
- 8 "My Year in Office" talk to East Grinstead Rotary Club at Dorset Arms\*
- 11 Mayor of Swanley's Charity Ball\*
- 12 Keisen Judo Club open morning at Wallis Centre\*  
East Grinstead Town Twinning French evening\*
- 17 Interview for Grenestede Talking News at Sadlers Yard  
Meridian FM anniversary celebrations at The Wiremill with Deputy Town Mayor\*
- 18 Art Exhibition at Chequer Mead for Mike and Sarah Wallace\*  
Reception for Imberhorne/Tanzanian students at East Court
- 19 Volvo Championships award celebrations at Weir Wood Sailing Club  
Horley Town Mayor's Charity Curry Evening
- 20 St Patrick's Day Parade at Crawley
- 22 Blonde McIndoe 50th Anniversary event at East Court with the Princess Royal\*

- 24 Retirement Tea Party for Jackie Cooper and Jackie Thomas at Wallis Centre  
 26 East Grinstead Lions Club sponsored swim with Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Chris Jerrey and Saskia Jerrey.  
 27 Service at St Luke's Church  
 31 Retirement buffet reception for Ken Gupwell\*
- Apr
- 1 1343 East Grinstead ATC Squadron Dinner at EG Rugby Club with Deputy Mayor & Mayoress\*
- 2 Opening of East Grinstead Music & Arts Festival at Chequer Mead  
 East Grinstead Life & Wellbeing Show at Jubilee Centre
- 3 Service at St Barnabas Church, Dunnings Road  
 Service at Christian Spiritualists Church in East Court Mansion
- 5 East Grinstead Community Play re-union in Meridian Hall
- 6 MSDC Chairman's Dinner at Jeremy's Borde Hill\*
- 9 Model Railway Exhibition at Sackville School  
 Retirement reception for Town Clerk\*
- 10 Spring Sunday High Street Traders' event\*  
 Classical Concert at Saint Hill with Cllr Jean Glynn
- 11 Meeting with Nigel Lewis-Baker on Pilgrims Way Prostate Project fundraising walk arriving in East Grinstead
- 12 Second meeting with Nigel Lewis-Baker prior to departing East Grinstead
- 13 Spring Lunch for Guinea Pigs at Windlesham Golf Course\*
- 14 Launch of Sussex Rail Partnership Line Guide at East Grinstead Rail Station  
 EGBA Buzz event at Blond McIndoe Research Foundation
- 16 Town Mayor's Charity Dinner/Dance at Meridian Hall\*
- 17 Vintage Bus Day
- 18 East Grinstead Business Association meeting at La Farola
- 19 Guest speaker at Rotary Club of East Grinstead Meridian open evening at Chequer Mead\*
- 23 Military vehicles day at Martells\*  
 Sunshine Sevens at East Grinstead Rugby Club, Ladies & Youth Day\*  
 Sevenoaks Town Mayor's St George's Day Gala at Stag Theatre\*
- 24 Sunshine Sevens Competition Day at East Grinstead Rugby Club
- 26 Mayor of Bexley's Tea and Tour of Danson House  
 Simon Hope fundraising meal for Childreach International
- 29 Royal Wedding Day/Meridian FM Family Picnic at East Court\*
- May
- 1 Service at Jesus the Living Water World Wide Church in Parish Halls
- 2 Opening of Lions May Fair in High Street\*  
 Chequer Mead Craft Fair\*
- 4 Meeting on Meridian Line at East Court with twins walking Meridian Line for Charity
- 7 East Grinstead Meridian Rotary Club 25th Anniversary Dinner
- 10 Imberhorne School Year 11 Graduations at Effingham Park Hotel\* assisted by Deputy Town Mayor
- 11 Sussex Enterprise Finals at Chequer Mead
- 12 Reception for Imberhorne School "Youth Speaks" team at East Court\*
- 13 Friends of Standen opening of cart barn at Standen  
 East Grinstead Mental Health Association AGM at Glen Vue Centre

*\*accompanied by Mayoress*