

Contact your Councillor

Email your Councillor at
initial.surname@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Ashplats

Liz Bennett	01342 301007
John Dabell	01342 317745
Danny Favor	01342 410244
Jacquie Russell	01342 322185

Baldwins

Margaret Belsey	01342 321574
Nick Hodges	01342 300113
Julie Mockford	01342 325552
Norman Webster	01342 317806

Herontye

Christine Mainstone	01342 326454
Adam Reeves	01342 887635
Dick Sweatman	01342 322743

Imberhorne

Bob Mainstone	01342 326454
Frank Osborne	01342 322646
Rex Whittaker	01342 302515

Town

Edward Matthews	01342 301002
Norman Mockford	01342 325552
Adam Peacock	07444 533028
Peter Wyan	01342 313985

Worsted

John Saull	01342 822712
------------	--------------

COUNCIL MEETINGS

6th March	(M)	Planning
9th March	(TH)	Public Services
16th March	(TH)	Amenities & Tourism
23rd March	(TH)	Finance & General Purposes
27th March	(M)	Planning
29th March	(W)	Annual Town Meeting
3rd April	(M)	Council
18th April	(T)	Planning

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Visit: East Court Mansion, College Lane,
East Grinstead, RH19 3LT

Call: 01342 323636

Click: www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Finance Apprenticeship

Since 2014 the Town Council has been able to offer a 2-3 year Finance Apprenticeship Programme. The hands-on day-to-day accounting experience, backed up with external study of the recognised Association of Accountancy Technicians (AAT) with EGTC finance team support, has all the ingredients to offer an excellent learning environment and deliver a well-rounded individual who could go on to develop their professional accounting career.

Harry Quenault joined us from Sackville School and Central Sussex College with his qualification in Business Finance and Management (level 3) in May 2016. He is the second apprentice, following Kieron Pamment who went on to secure a study package with a firm of Chartered Accountants. Harry has commenced his AAT studies and is passing all his exams.

The management team at EGTC are proud of this Apprenticeship Programme and are looking at other areas where it could be adopted by the Town Council.



Harry Quenault

Contacts

Affinity Sutton	0845 6887717
Chequer Mead	01342 302000
Citizens Advice Bureau	03444 771171
Disability Access- East Grinstead Area	01342 322242
East Grinstead Foodbank	07983 209940
East Grinstead Library	01342 332900
East Grinstead Tourism Desk	01342 410121
East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323636
Horsham & Mid Sussex Voluntary Action	01444 258102
Kings Centre	01342 328616
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
Museum	01342 302233
Police Station, Chequer Mead	101
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414000
Samaritans	0845 7909090
West Sussex CC Area Highways	01243 642105

FIND help with services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council at the Help Point in the Library or call 01342 332900.

The Help Point is open Monday 9.30am – 7pm, Tuesday – Thursday 9.30am – 6pm, Friday & Saturday 9.30am – 5pm.

THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

Spring 2017
Edition 70



The Mayoral Year

Town Mayor, Cllr Bob Mainstone, has represented the Town Council at many events since being elected in May 2016. As Mayor he also holds the position of Chairman and presides over meetings of the Council. He has been an elected member of the Town Council since 2007 and is a Mid Sussex District Councillor for Imberhorne Ward.

Bob explains, "I thoroughly enjoy the responsibilities of Town Mayor and have aimed to honour every invitation from local organisations to attend their events. During my visits I always try to speak to as many people as possible and have found numerous examples of wonderful voluntary work. Our town is full of people who support and help others in many different ways."

There have been three special civic receptions hosted by the Mayor. The 75th and final AGM of the Guinea Pig Club took place at East Court, followed by a lunch for members of the Club, their families and guests. The 50th Anniversary of Town Twinning was staged in the Meridian Hall with the Mayor and guests from Bourg-de-Péage. Representatives from our five other twinned towns also joined the reception. Tom Mitchell, Olympic silver medallist and captain of the GB Rugby 7s in Rio, received a special certificate to mark his achievement. Tom grew up in the town and first played rugby at our local club. A reception for the hockey gold medallists is planned.

During his Mayoral Year, Bob is supporting three charities and several events have been and will be held to raise funds. He is



Olympian Tom Mitchell receives a certificate for his achievements from the Town Mayor

supporting the town Museum and the "Repairing Bodies and Souls" exhibition that tells the story of the Guinea Pig Club, the Bluebell Railway project to build a children's play area at Kingscote Station, and Jigsaw (South East) who support bereaved children and their families.

Bob's wife Christine is Mayoress. She is also a Town Councillor and a former Mayor. They have lived in East Grinstead since 1970. Bob worked at Sackville and Imberhorne schools during his 44 year teaching career. He recently received an honorary degree from Loughborough University for his services to education.

Cllr Julie Mockford is Deputy Mayor and has represented the Mayor at several events.

Budget 2017/18

East Grinstead Town Council has pledged to invest in Meridian Hall, East Court public toilets and cemetery space in the forthcoming year. The Capital projects for the budget specify £70,000 of expenditure to start these projects which will see Council Tax rise by 6.7 pence per week (Band D).

The Council Tax for East Grinstead Town Council pays for community services like road sign cleaning, twitten clearance, weed spraying on paths and funds the Tourist Information Office and the summer events programme and will rise to £76.68 per year for a Band D property.

Also in the budget there are funds to start delivering on some of the aspirational policies on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Town Mayor, Cllr Bob Mainstone said, "East Grinstead Town Council offers such value for money for the resident, picking up services that are no longer supported by the Principal Authorities and also bringing innovative events to the town. We support community groups and charities in the town through grants and other support, often helping to bring people together to achieve their objectives." The Council Tax equates to £1.47 per Band D household per week, equivalent to the cost of a loaf of bread.

Neighbourhood Plan finally adopted

After five years of effort the Town Council is now delighted to confirm that the very first Neighbourhood Plan for East Grinstead was adopted by MSDC on 2nd November, and now becomes a material consideration with legal weight when assessing planning applications.

This follows on directly from the successful independent examination held in July, and the overwhelming local referendum majority acceptance of 93% to the Plan on 20th October. Town Mayor, Cllr Bob Mainstone stated that this is a proud achievement for the town, and special thanks go to Town Clerk Julie Holden, town councillors, Kember Loudon Williams (planning consultant) — and particularly to the many thousands of townspeople who have loyally supported the production of this Plan over five years.



Produced with passion using responsibly sourced materials
and carbon balanced processes.
Please share your newsletter and recycle afterwards.

design © MAD Ideas®
01293 773085
www.madideas.com





East Court Live

This year's **FREE** family music picnic concerts on the terraces of East Court featuring a range of music styles from Americana to Rock with the sounds of the 60s mixed in!

- Sunday 4th June, 1pm – 5pm
- Sunday 2nd July 1pm – 5pm
- Sunday 6th August 1pm – 5pm



Diary Dates

March 21

Mayor's Musical Quiz

Fish and chip supper £15
Meridian Hall

For details contact:
wendymackenzie@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

April 29

Mid Sussex Marathon

East Grinstead
10 mile race from the Rugby Club

April 30

Classic Bus Running Day

Free rides on vintage buses! Hop on and off! The day recreates timetable routes of yesteryear and sees the High Street filled with beautifully restored classic buses. Timetables and bus memorabilia are available to purchase on the day.

Buses start and finish in the Historic High Street (9am – 4pm).

May 1

Lion's May Fair

For information contact the
Tourist Information Point in
East Grinstead Library, West Street
01342 410121
tourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk
www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

The Town Council Caretaking Team

The Town Council own East Court Mansion, the Meridian Hall and the Old Court House. The buildings are very busy throughout the year and are popular venues for rent or hire. They are hired by community groups and residents for meetings, conferences, parties, weddings and other activities. The Mansion has offices for Council staff, and is also used for Town Council committee meetings.

To keep everything running properly the Council employs caretakers who are on duty whenever a hirer is in any of the buildings. Their duties include setting-up and clearing furniture for each hirer, cleaning the three buildings, duty fire warden and a duty first aider. The small team of caretakers covers seven days a week with flexible hours, depending on the hirer's contract. The caretakers also ensure that monthly safety checks are completed, including testing water temperatures, fire alarms, emergency lighting, fire doors, fire extinguishers, first aid boxes and building safety.

Cllr Adam Peacock, Chairman of the Amenities and Tourism Committee, explained, "Our buildings are in almost constant use and we have a wide range of activities and functions that need professional support from our caretaking team. The Town Council is always looking to improve facilities and we have recently refurbished the Council Chamber which will make it an attractive and more flexible room for public use."



Left to right: Luc Pineau, Alison Merricks (Estate Manager), Stuart Townsend, Josh Mitchell and Sue Batt

We're proud to be a...
www.fairtrade-eg.co.uk



The 75th Year of the Guinea Pig Club

2016 was a truly memorable year for the Guinea Pig Club and for East Grinstead that became known as "The town that didn't stare"

The Guinea Pig Club members were those airmen injured in the Second World War who underwent the pioneering and largely experimental surgery of Sir Archibald McIndoe at the Queen Victoria Hospital. McIndoe's reconstructive work and treatment of burns is known across the world and the men who endured operation after operation named themselves "guinea pigs" after the animals used in laboratory testing.

The Club formed in 1941 with 39 patients — primarily as a drinking club — with membership given to serving airman having had at least two surgical procedures. By the end of the war the Club had 649 members.

In May the Town Mayor, Cllr Bob Mainstone, hosted a reception in honour of the historic occasion of the 75th and final AGM of the Guinea Pig Club at East Court. He welcomed nine surviving members of the Club, their families, Town Councillors and guests. Following the meal and speeches, everyone joined in the singing of the Guinea Pig Club Anthem "We are McIndoe's army; we are his Guinea Pigs".

The guests at the Mayor's Reception to honour the 75th anniversary of the Guinea Pig Club

In November the Museum officially opened the "Repairing Bodies and Souls" exhibition that tells the story of the Guinea Pig Club and the work of Sir Archibald McIndoe. Thanks to a generous Heritage Lottery grant and funds by private donors, the long-held dream to build a home for the archives of the Guinea Pig Club have been accomplished. This means that East Grinstead now has a museum of national importance.

Also in November HRH The Duke of Edinburgh unveiled a memorial to the Guinea Pig Club at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. Seven of the surviving 28 members attended the event to make it very special. The memorial is an honour to the Club and its inspiring legacy.

In the New Year's Honours Jack Perry received an MBE for his services to veterans through the Guinea Pig Club. Jack was injured in 1944 at the age of 19 when his Halifax bomber crashed at take off. Suffering severe burns he underwent a total of 30 operations. Now 91, Jack has been Social Secretary of the Club for many years, organising events to keep alive the ethos of Archibald McIndoe that club members must stay together and support each other.

Planning Committee

The Town Council conducts its business through four Committees, and here we explain the function of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee meets every three weeks and is part of Mid Sussex District Council's formal consultation process for making planning decisions. The Town Council make recommendations to the District Council who take these into account when a decision is made.

Town Councillors have had training to help them determine what is a material consideration when considering a planning application and are able to make comments as to whether an application meets the criteria of local and national policies. The East Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan is important in this process.

The Town Planning Committee considers every planning application submitted from within the parish boundary. Each application is carefully considered, and the opinions of Ward Councillors are taken first. Following questions and comments from the other Committee members, a vote is taken to recommend "approval" or "refusal" to MSDC.

Members of the public are always present at the meetings and they may ask questions on planning issues at the start of the agenda. The application plans are projected from computer onto a screen in the Council Chamber and explained to the Committee by the Chairman.

The Chairman of Planning is Cllr Jacqui Russell. She comments: "My Committee take their work very seriously and give each application detailed scrutiny. Ward members are vital to the work of the Committee and they are encouraged to visit sites before the meeting so that they have a full understanding of applications. We make our recommendations with reference to the policies in our adopted Neighbourhood Plan."

Agendas, minutes and reports for the committee can be found on the Town Council website: www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Dates of the Planning Committee meetings are on the website and also in The Line. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber starting at 7.00 pm and are open to the public.