

## Contact Your Councillor

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

**Ashplats**  
Margaret Belsey 01342 321574  
Liz Bennett 01342 301007  
John Dabell 01342 317745  
Danny Favor 01342 410244

**Baldwins**  
Dean Duly 01342 619918  
Helen Farren 07713 253929  
Christine Mainstone 07495 387849  
Julie Mockford 01342 325552

**Herontye**  
Stephen Ody 07855 046703  
Adam Peacock 07444 533028  
Dick Sweatman 01342 322743

**Imberhorne**  
Frank Osborne 07428 536376  
Frazer Visser 01342 323066  
Rex Whittaker 01342 302515

**Town**  
Charles Amos 07484 880233  
Edward Matthews 07966 840185  
Tony Scott 07583 120947  
Jason Woodgate 07813 778018

**Worsted**  
John Belsey 07721 303466

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

7 December (M) Planning  
10 December (Th) Amenities & Tourism  
17 December (Th) Finance & General Purposes

**2021**

4 January (M) Council  
6 January (W) Planning  
14 January (Th) Consecutive Standing Committees for Budget  
25 January (M) Council (Budget and Precept)  
27 January (W) Planning  
15 February (M) Planning  
8 March (M) Planning

All full committee and council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at East Court Mansion and are open to the public. Meetings commence at 7pm. **NB at the time of printing and until further notice all council meetings will take place virtually. Go to [www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/meetings/virtual-meetings](http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/meetings/virtual-meetings) to find out how you can join the meetings and to see the Council's policy.**

Council meetings provide a maximum period of 30 minutes for public questions, commencing at 7pm.

Committee meetings provide a maximum period of 15 minutes for public questions, commencing at 7pm.



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## Thank you from the outgoing Town Mayor and Mayoress



The outgoing Town Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Danny Favor and Mrs Maribel Favor, would like to thank everyone for making their experiences worthwhile and enjoyable and for their kindness and generous support of their three chosen charities: Queen Victoria Hospital Charity Fund, East Grinstead Community First Responders, and East Grinstead Street Pastors.

Danny commented, "I have attended and supported over 186 civic events during a year overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic, meeting charity groups and volunteers who are doing such amazing works for the good of our town, and am truly proud and inspired by them. Being Town Mayor has been a privilege and an honour, not only to both of us, our family and friends, but to the wider Filipino community. It has been a historic achievement and a wonderful legacy that we will cherish for a lifetime."



Cllr Danny Favor

## Contacts

**Chequer Mead** 01342 302000  
**Citizens Advice** 03444 771171  
**Clarion Housing** 03001 000303  
**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  
**Kings Centre** 01342 328616  
**Mid Sussex District Council** 01444 458166  
**Mid Sussex Voluntary Action Museum** 01342 302233  
**Police Station, Chequer Mead** 101 or 01273 470101  
**Queen Victoria Hospital** 01342 414000  
**Samaritans** 0845 7909090  
**The Hope Job Club** 01342 488282  
**West Sussex CC Area Highways** 01243 642105

## CONTACT THE COUNCIL

**Visit:** East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead RH19 3LT  
**Call:** 01342 323636  
**Click:** [www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk](http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk)

Find help with services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council in the library or call 01342 332900.

The library is open: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday – Saturday 10.30am – 4.30pm. **Please check opening times, which may be subject to change due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

# THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST  
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

December 2020  
Edition 80



NEWS FROM  
EAST GRINSTEAD  
TOWN COUNCIL

## Introducing East Grinstead's new Town Mayor

At a 'virtual' annual Town Council meeting on 28 September, Cllr John Dabell was elected as the new Town Mayor. John has served as a Town Councillor since February 2014, with various roles including Chairman of the Planning Committee and Deputy Mayor.

John and his family have lived in East Grinstead for almost 30 years, during which time he has fulfilled many roles including two terms as a Governor of the Queen Victoria Hospital and two as a Governor at Felbridge Primary School (where he is a very close friend of Santa!).

After service in the Royal Navy and flying in the Fleet Air Arm, John worked for 30 years in the food manufacturing industry, finishing his career as a Nestlé Business Manager. His wife Tracy is a Marketing Director for a major UK food supply company, and his daughter Jenny is Head Teacher at Baldwins Hill Primary School.

John's Christian beliefs are central to his way of life, and he and his family have been members of St John's Church, Felbridge, since moving to the area.

John has a particular affinity with young people, and over the years has led various youth groups and served as an Officer in the Boys Brigade. Following his retirement from business, he worked for 7 years at Imberhorne School as a Study Supervisor and a Careers Advisor. He is always pleased when current and former students stop him in the town to talk of how they are getting on.

After his appointment John commented, "During 2020, due to this terrible pandemic, we have all seen and are still seeing many of our plans being altered or cancelled altogether. It was extremely disappointing and frustrating for us to have to cancel the East Court Live events, for instance; however, with some new initiatives in our town centre, we can look forward with renewed hope to 2021 when, with the virus finally defeated, our temporarily 'sleeping beauty' of a town can fully reawaken, and I look forward to meeting all of you, especially at East Court Live in 2021."



Town Mayor, Cllr John Dabell,  
and Deputy Town Mayor,  
Cllr Adam Peacock

Cllr Dabell is likely to serve a second term of office, commencing in May 2021, to hopefully allow him to have a full calendar year of events and to raise funds for two charities with local impact:

### CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young

On 10 March 2004, John's very popular, highly fit, funny and much-loved son, Adam, tragically and without any warning collapsed and died whilst playing in a local five-a-side tournament with his friends. He was 26.

Adam's family, friends and past teachers decided that the best way to remember a young man so 'full of life' would be a living memorial, and so an annual football match between the sixth forms of Imberhorne and Sackville Schools, for the Adam Dabell Memorial Cup and Trophy, was instigated and is a very popular and well-attended event each year.

At the match, voluntary contributions are collected for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), which was founded in 1995 to raise awareness of undiagnosed heart conditions that can lead to sudden cardiac death in the young.

CRY exists to make people more aware of the dangers and to offer emotional and clinical support following a young person's sudden cardiac death, to fund research programmes and ensure screening is more widely available so that diagnostic tests can be made on all young people, especially those considered to be at high risk, and appropriate corrective action can be taken in time. [www.c-r-y.org.uk](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk)

### St Catherine's Hospice

End-of-life care is something that more and more of us are brought into stark contact with, often tragically within our own families. John is no exception, having recently lost a Town Council colleague, his father-in-law, a dear friend and a cousin-in-law to cancer.

St Catherine's Hospice is a charity dedicated to providing specialised end-of-life care and support to local people and their families, friends and carers, in mid Sussex and south-east Surrey.

For over 25 years, the charity has been providing high quality hospice care, free of charge, to local people in this area. [www.stcatherines.co.uk](http://www.stcatherines.co.uk)

John is pleased to be partnered in his term of office by Cllr Adam Peacock, Deputy Town Mayor.

# Diary Dates

For information on any current events in and around the town, contact our tourist information on 01342 410121, [tourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk) or go to [www.visiteastgrinstead.com](http://www.visiteastgrinstead.com)

All events in East Grinstead are subject to government guidelines and restrictions, and any that have been planned may be cancelled at short notice if the organisers have been advised to do so.



## If you go down to the woods today

A magical trail has been created at East Court, and it didn't take long for it to be discovered by East Grinstead's tiny residents. Using resources from around the estate – wood chippings and logs from trees felled during routine maintenance works – our outdoor services team created a fairy trail for families to enjoy, complete with toadstools, animals and tiny doors.

Bluebell woods are believed to be filled with fairy magic, so to further enhance the enchanting experience, and to improve the ecology of the trail,

**500** British bluebells have been planted by our gardener and outdoor services team. Many insects reap the benefits of bluebells, which flower earlier than many other plants. Woodland butterflies, bees and hoverflies all feed on their nectar.

It hasn't taken long for the fairies to move in, so why not take a wander through our special trail? Who knows what you'll find if you go into our woods today!



Planting British bluebells



Magic



Who lives here?



Piglet friend

## The East Grinstead Emergency Action Group

The East Grinstead Emergency Action Group (EGEAG) was formed in response to the coronavirus pandemic as it became clear that the country was about to enter a period of lockdown. It was predicted that a large number of vulnerable people would be affected by this crisis, finding themselves without access to food and/or medicines. The group was founded on Friday 20 March and launched on Monday 23 March as the government restrictions began.

Initially it was hoped that the response would be co-ordinated by Age UK East Grinstead & District; however, the volume of calls for help was too great and it became clear that more agencies would need to be involved. From Tuesday 24 March the Town Council set up a helpline via the office switchboard system, with calls diverted to a string of volunteers: Kathryn Hibberd-Little from The Mug Tree, volunteers from CARE, the Church of Scientology, and Age UK, and a number of other individuals who offered to help.

The volunteers logged shopping orders and errand requests. Staff from East Grinstead's Waitrose supermarket agreed to pick and pack up to 10 shopping orders a day. When more than 10 orders came in on any one day or included frozen goods or other individual requests, volunteers went out separately to complete

and deliver the requested items. Town Council staff collected the bags of shopping from Waitrose and delivered them to residents. Deliveries and payments were made adhering to all the social distancing guidance. Volunteer Sarah Collyer organised the prescription deliveries and resolved other queries where appropriate.

The Town Council agreed that its Campaign Initiatives fund of £1000 could be used towards this initiative and applied for funding from the Sussex Community Foundation – [www.sussexgiving.org.uk](http://www.sussexgiving.org.uk) – receiving £3000. East Grinstead and District Lions Club awarded £500 with a promise of more should it be required; two local Freemasons' lodges contributed a combined total of £750, and there were donations made from the public. Where residents had been in a desperate situation, the Council paid for their shopping (essentials only) from these funds and then referred them to the benefits services and foodbank for follow-up.

The group of volunteers continued to cover the phones, collect shopping and complete other errands through to the week commencing 7 September. Residents who had access to online services were

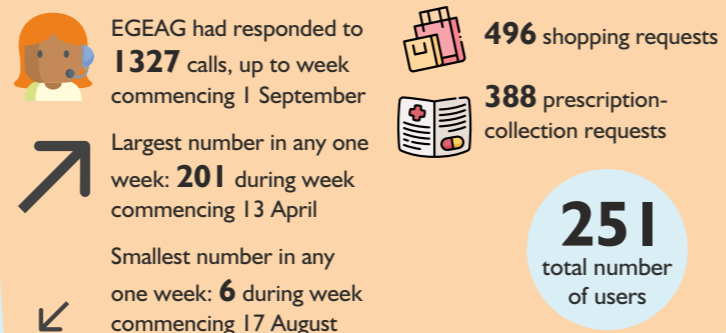
encouraged to move to direct delivery and click-and-collect services, therefore the number of people still asking for shopping to be carried out for them had dwindled and the remaining calls were transferred to other groups.

Age UK, Being Neighbourly (under Fiona Hayward) and Sam Ford's volunteers also provided services in the town, and all deserve many thanks for the support they have given residents. Special thanks are also extended to families and neighbours who looked out for each other during this difficult time.



Food pick-up from Waitrose

### Figures at a glance



Should the region be required to enter into further periods of lockdown, vulnerable residents unable to access essential food or medicine can contact the following agencies to be directed appropriately:

East Grinstead Town Council: 01342 323636; press 1 for advice  
Being Neighbourly: 07726 249387  
East Grinstead & District Age UK: 01342 327046

Please note Age UK is available for ongoing support for anyone over 55.

## Cycle to East Court for better health

In line with the Government's recent 'Better Health' campaign to help people lose weight, the Town Council wants to encourage visitors to East Court to cycle rather than drive and has installed a shelter capable of housing 10 bicycles.

The project was funded by the Town Council, aided by a successful grant application via Mid Sussex District Council and financial contributions paid by developers to mitigate the impact of local housing development. This funding is known as Section 106, a community infrastructure contribution paid by developers to the District Council for use in the community.

The Chairman of Amenities and Tourism, Cllr Helen Farren, commented, "We, at East Grinstead Town Council, want everyone to have the option to cycle, to make healthy choices and have somewhere to keep their bikes while they enjoy their time at East Court, walking in the lovely green open spaces and using our play park."



Cllrs Helen Farren and Adam Peacock, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Amenities and Tourism



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## East Grinstead Town Council grants

The Council has two grants: the Community Revenue Grant, which is determined for allocation in September of each year, and the Youth Sport Grant, which is considered in December of each year. Please note that the closing dates, as advertised on the forms, are absolute.

Further information and application forms can be found here: [www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/the-council/services/grants/](http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/the-council/services/grants/)

### Community Revenue Grant

East Grinstead Town Council welcomes and values the work of local voluntary groups and organisations in the town and sets aside a small amount within the revenue budget to support specific initiatives. The grants are only payable to bona fide organisations. Applications from individuals cannot be considered.

Applications for a grant are considered once, annually at the September meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, and recommendations of that committee are subject to formal ratification at the October council meeting. All applicants will be advised of the Council's decision by no later than 14 October in any year.

This year grants were allocated as follows:

Organisation	Amount
4Sight Vision Support	£500
Greenstede Talking News	£315
Disability Access	£500
Better Breathing Company (East Grinstead COPD)	£120
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1435</b>

### Youth Sport Grant

In 2006, East Grinstead Town Council determined as policy that the Council would establish a Youth Sport Grant fund to encourage young people's participation in sport. The fund is intended to facilitate new initiatives in youth sport within East Grinstead civil parish that have a primary focus of serving and benefiting local East Grinstead residents and seeking to improve the health of those participating.