

## Contact Your Councillor

Email your councillor at  
[initial.surname@eastgrinstead.gov.uk](mailto:initial.surname@eastgrinstead.gov.uk)

### Ashtlats

Margaret Belsey	01342 321574
Liz Bennett	01342 301007
John Dabell	07802 641502
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
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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

15th Nov	Planning
2nd Dec	Public Services
9th Dec	Amenities and Tourism
16th Dec	Finance and General Purposes
5th Jan	Planning
10th Jan	Council
13th Jan	Consecutive standing committees for budget
24th Jan	Planning
31st Jan	Council (budget and precept)
14th Feb	Planning
3rd March	Public Services
7th March	Planning
10th March	Amenities and Tourism
17th March	Finance and General Purposes

### NOTES:

- 1) All full Committee and Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at East Court Mansion or virtually and are open to the public. Meetings commence at 7pm.
- 2) Council meetings provide a maximum period of 30 minutes for public questions, commencing at 7pm.
- 3) Committee meetings provide a maximum period of 15 minutes for public questions, commencing at 7pm.

## Safe Places

The Safe Places scheme was started in East Grinstead in early 2018, following a request from councillors to find a way of helping vulnerable people if they became confused or scared while in the town. We discovered a national scheme and signed up. There are now eight safe places in East Grinstead, where if anyone is in need of assistance they can go (during opening hours) and ask for a phone call to be made on their behalf to someone who can come and collect them.

East Grinstead strives to be a dementia-friendly community, and this scheme helps those who may become confused, but it is also a help for youngsters who may be feeling vulnerable or scared. The scheme has a mirror scheme at Sackville School, where youngsters can access a Safe Place during school hours if they need it, which helps youngsters to recognise the national scheme logo and know what it means if they are in town too.

The aspiration is to have several more places across the town, spanning daytime and night-time opening hours, so that there is a safe place at any time. The scheme is being rolled out now in the rest of Mid Sussex following the pilot in East Grinstead.

Individuals can sign up to the scheme, and will be given a credit-card-sized card with their contact's details filled in. This means that if they need help, they can pass the card to a person in the safe place with the contact number for them to call. If the person has become confused, they may not be able to recall the number, so this is a handy reminder that they can carry with them easily.

To sign up as a safe place or to obtain a contact card, contact Roger at the Town Council's Community and Tourism Desk at the Library on [safeplaces@eastgrinstead.gov.uk](mailto:safeplaces@eastgrinstead.gov.uk) or log onto <https://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk/projects/safe-places/> and register.



## 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	01444 258102
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 9.30am – 7pm,  
Tuesday – Thursday 9.30am – 6pm, Friday and Saturday 9.30am – 5pm.

# THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST  
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

November 2021  
Edition 82



## It's Nearly Christmas...

Christmas is upon us once more, it's time to roast those chestnuts and wrap those presents! Sadly, the Christmas lights switch-on event couldn't take place last year, so it's great to be back and the East Grinstead town traders will be wrapping their windows, once again, in preparation for this year's Big Reveal, which will coincide with the Christmas lights switch-on, taking place on Saturday 20th November.

The Town Mayor, John Dabell, will switch on the Rotary tree of light at the same time as the Town Council Christmas lights, at 5pm. This year the town traders will unveil their windows simultaneously to avoid large gatherings in one location and voting for your favourite window may be slightly different this year, so please look out on social media for announcements nearer the time.

London Road will be closed to traffic from 3pm until 5.30pm and the High Street will be closed to traffic from 3pm to 8pm. It will be free to park in Mid-Sussex-owned short stay car parks (Chequer Mead and Queens Road); look for signs by the pay machines. So, come along, join in the festive atmosphere and kick-start your Christmas with the Big Reveal, late-night shopping and music from the East Grinstead Concert Band.



## Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 14th November will this year mark the nation's observance of Armistice Day. While in 2020 it was a scaled-down event due to the pandemic, in 2021 it will be back to the full arrangements of former years.

There will be a small gathering at the WW2 memorial at East Court at 10am. The Town Mayor and Royal British Legion will lay wreaths, 'The Last Post' will be played, and prayers will be led by St Swithun's. Following the short service, participants will make their way to Kings Street for 10.30am.

Kings Street car park will be the meeting point for those in the parade. Parade Master Ian Hudson will organise the groups, and then at around 10.45am the parade, led this year by the East Grinstead Concert Band, will begin. The parade will march into the High Street and past the 'speed pillow' near 1 Middle Row, where it will loop around and then form up in front of the war memorial. The parade will be joined just before 11am by the choir and vicar from St Swithun's; therefore the High Street must be kept clear to allow the passage of the procession.

Various dignitaries, including the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, will be in attendance to lay wreaths, along with all groups represented in the parade. A minute's silence and reading the names of the fallen will be included.

After the service, at around 11.30am, the parade will march away from the High Street and will disband in the Chequer Mead car park.

All are welcome to attend this event, but are asked to please stay off the roads and on the pavement. Roads around the High Street, including Kings Street, London Road as far as the High Street, High Street and College Lane, will be closed from 10.15am to 12 noon. The parade route will be marked with poppies on the lampposts, and there will be notices displayed along the route advising of the road closure for two weeks prior to the event. Please obey the road closure marshals and signs, as there will be pedestrians in the road at various times. We aim to get everything reopened well before noon to reduce disruption, but your patience is appreciated.

Service sheets will be available on the High Street from stewards, or you can download one from the Town Council website from the first week of November. The Royal British Legion will be selling poppies, as always, in the weeks leading up to the day. #wearyourpoppypwithpride



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# Diary Dates

For information on these and other 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.**

## Sunday 7 November

### Mayor's Civic Service 6.30pm at St Swithun's Church

Choral Evensong and a celebration of civic service. All welcome.

## Sunday 14 November

### Remembrance Sunday

See front page for more information.

## Saturday 20 November

### Christmas Lights switch-on event and the town traders' Big Reveal

See front page for more information.

## 11 December to 2 January

### Panto! Jack and the Beanstalk at Chequer Mead Theatre

Come and join Jack on a GIANT adventure for another year of magic, madness and FEE-FI-FO FUN this Christmas.



**East Grinstead Foodbank supports local individuals and families in crisis who cannot afford to put food on the table. Since starting in 2012, the Foodbank has assisted over 9,000 people.**

Located in the Jubilee Community Centre in Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, it is open three times a week: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1pm to 3pm.

If you need support, call 07856 864 251.

If you wish to make a donation please see [www.eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk) for what items are most required, and look for local supermarket collection points.

To volunteer please email [info@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk)

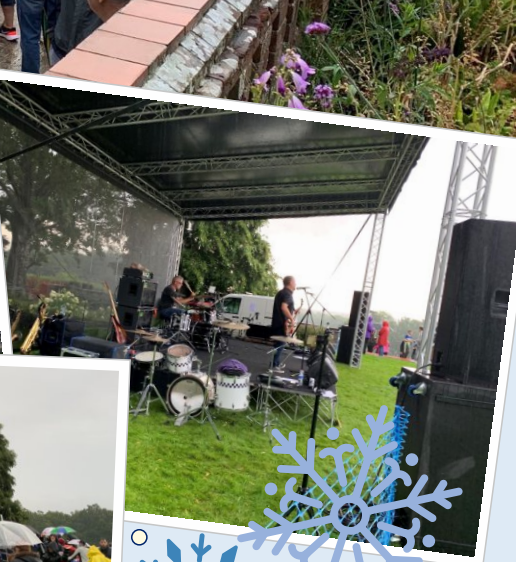
## East Court Live – August 2021 – Finally!

**At last we were able to get outside and once again celebrate the joys of the great British summer, with the eagerly anticipated and much-loved East Court Live annual music event.**

Although the weather was against us, and in true stiff-upper-lip style, the crowds came out to party on the terraces of East Court Mansion to the sounds of four excellent bands: Overdrive, White Light Band, Flairz and The Skatonics. We started a little later than usual, and a good time was had by all. We finished off the day with a firework display by Aurora Fireworks!

We would like to say a big "Thank you" to all the staff and volunteers who helped out on the day, especially the ones who came forward, at the eleventh hour, to help out with marshalling for the fireworks. We really couldn't have done this without you... so thank you, you know who you are!

If you are interested in volunteering at future events, please get in touch at: [communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk](mailto:communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk)



## About the Public Services Committee

**The Public Services Committee considers the effects that the work of other bodies from the town and the Town Council has on the public of East Grinstead, for example that of: other councils, especially concerning health, licensing and highways matters; Network Rail; Gatwick Airport; and the Police Authority. Regular updates on changes to their services, their performance, etc. are discussed.**

This committee may be responsible for agreeing consultation responses where these bodies are consulting with the public over proposed changes. The committee gives feedback and makes representations concerning the delivery of other organisations' services, with the aim of providing the right level of delivery for East Grinstead. We stand up for the people of East Grinstead to ensure their voices are heard.

Key organisations we are giving feedback on currently are: Queen Victoria Hospital and its possible merger with hospital trusts in Brighton and Chichester; Gatwick Airport and its Northern Runway Project; and West Sussex Police, where we are encouraging them to keep the manned contact point in Chequer Mead whilst ensuring a continuous presence in our town.

The Public Services Committee has a wealth of knowledge between its fellow councillors, many of whom have been serving Councillors for well over six years and have been mayors or leaders of the Town Council, and have chaired public services and other committees. The Committee Chair, Councillor Woodgate, has been a town councillor since 2019 and wants to make a difference to our town.

Members of the Public Services Committee all want to represent you, the public of East Grinstead, and we work with our fellow Mid Sussex district councillors, West Sussex county councillors and our MP to do the best for East Grinstead.

Please feel free to get in touch, ask any questions you may have, or give us your thoughts on issues that are affecting you.

## Community Revenue Grants

**These are awarded annually by the Town Council, in addition to a number of community grants which are included in the annual budget book.**

The fund is a total of £4000 and can be applied for by any community, not-for-profit group or charity that does work in East Grinstead. The project or the cost needs to be clear, and also how many of the service users live in East Grinstead. The group's accounts and constitution are also required to be supplied.

This year many groups have struggled to get back to meeting and holding their usual activities, therefore the number of applications was at an all-time low, with applications only from the East Grinstead and Crawley branch of Parkinson's UK and Greenstede Talking News for the blind. They were awarded £500 towards the cost of setting up a garden for Parkinson's members to tend at the Haven Centre, and £315 towards Greenstede Talking News's rent.

The remainder of the fund is held for the rest of this year, and late applications can be considered if any groups are in need of funds for projects or costs. Usually, applications have to be submitted by the beginning of September and are considered at the September meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

## Youth Sports Grant

**The Council also has a Youth Sports Grant. This is a fund for £3000, which is considered at the December meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Applications must be submitted by the beginning of December for the awards.**

The successful applicants will be invited to the January Council Meeting, for the Town Mayor and Council to present the cheques to them. Past recipients have included the town's senior schools, football clubs and cricket club.

## Mr Leppard Plaque

**The Town Mayor was delighted to be among the invited guests to the unveiling of another Green Trail history plaque; this one has been funded by the East Grinstead Society and pays tribute to Michael Leppard, the town historian, who died in 2019. Mr Leppard was a founding member of the East Grinstead Society as well as trustee to the museum, public transport co-ordinator, and teacher of history and religious education in the town.**

The plaque has been placed on the exterior to Market Square in the High Street, the site of the previous market building, whose demolition was the spark for the society to be formed to protect the High Street from the loss of further historical buildings. The plaque was unveiled by Margaret Collins DL, President of the East Grinstead Society.



## The Town Beacon

**The town beacon was placed in East Court for the 2002 Queen's Golden Jubilee, by the East Grinstead Town Twinning Association. However, as time has moved on, the nearby trees have grown closer to the beacon, which has resulted in a need to ask for permission to cut the trees back every time the beacon is lit. The beacon was lit for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee, and 90th birthday celebration, and for the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One and other events too.**

As East Court is a conservation area, every time a tree was cut back the Mid Sussex Tree Officer had to be involved with an application to do works. The Tree Officer had expressed concerns that the trees would become unbalanced and we may be refused permission. The Amenities and Tourism Committee therefore considered the solution and decided to ask Mid Sussex District Council if we could move the beacon to King Georges Field. As well as removing the tree problem, it also became an opportunity to allow the beacon to be better known and used by community groups, rather than people clustering around the car park at East Court to see it.

The beacon was re-sited this summer with help and a significant donation of time and materials from Oakhurst Builders.

Community groups wishing to use the beacon are welcome to do so, but first must apply to the Town Council for permission. Insurance and risk assessments will be needed for permission to be given.



## Double Celebration (40 years and 10 years) of Probus in East Grinstead

**East Grinstead has two Probus clubs for professional men and businessmen who, in retirement, want to maintain contacts with like-minded people. The original club was formed by Rotary in 1981, whilst the new Meridian club was created by the original club exactly 30 years later. The clubs are independent, with their own programmes for meetings and visits, but they liaise when it is sensible to do so, particularly for group holidays (usually two a year) and the monthly walks.**

The original club meets at the Sports Club, St Hill Green, on the third Tuesday of each month, and the Meridian Club on the second Wednesday at the Dorset Arms. All meetings have a 10.30am start followed by an optional lunch. New members are always welcome. Details from Bob Farmer, 01342 321 015 (East Grinstead), and Stephen Brooks, 01342 870 586 (Meridian).

## The Mayor's Charity Quiz

**The Mayor's Charity Quiz is on Tuesday 23rd November starting at 7.30pm in the Meridian Hall. Tickets are £10 per person, to include food, booked as a table of six.**

The Mayor's charities this year are St Catherine's Hospice and CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

Tickets can be booked via Kirstie Hamper – email [k.hamper@eastgrinstead.gov.uk](mailto:k.hamper@eastgrinstead.gov.uk) or phone 01342 335 055.