



Civic News



The official newsletter of East Grinstead Town Council

Civic Reception for Hockey Club heroes

THE Town Council has honoured members of the East Grinstead Hockey Club with a civic reception to mark their historic triple triumph in the 2008/09 season. The team took a record three titles, winning the Indoor Premier League, the Outdoor Premier League and the Indoor National Knockout Cup. They also reached the quarter finals of the European Hockey League in their most successful season ever.

"We have scoured the record books and I'm pretty certain no-one has taken all three titles before," said Club chairman James Leman. "We were lying third at Christmas with nine points behind the league leaders, then the team won eight games on the trot to take the title by three points, so we are all absolutely delighted." And their

success bodes well for the 2012 Olympics. "Glenn Kirkham is already the England and Great Britain vice captain and we have two or three promising youngsters coming along, so we are definitely hopeful that the Club will be represented in the Olympic squad," said James, whose brother Richard took a hockey gold in 1988.

Presenting team members with certificates on behalf of the Council, Town Mayor Ginnie Waddingham said their example of sporting excellence was "inspirational" for East Grinstead's youngsters. "The whole town is proud of the Hockey Club's unique achievements, and we are all behind their quest for Olympic gold."



Success for Spring Sunday



SPRING Sunday, an April event organised by the town's traders to promote East Grinstead and its shops, was such a "resounding success" it may become an annual fixture says tourist officer Simon Kerr. As well as rides on vintage buses, visitors were able to indulge in a hog roast, listen to the town band, or enjoy the unusual spectacle of llamas tethered outside Sackville College while visiting the specially-opened town centre shops and flower stalls.

"All the traders taking part are thrilled and delighted with the feedback they've received," said Simon. "Someone told me it felt like the best of a traditional English village fete but set in our historic High Street - so three cheers for the High Street traders and all their hard and inspired work!"

Memorial Wall at Mount Noddy

THE Rev Clive Everett-Allen has dedicated a new memorial wall at Mount Noddy cemetery at a service attended by Mayor Ginnie Waddingham and her Town Council colleagues. The £12,000 wall will allow members of the public to dedicate a plaque in memory of their loved ones, whether or not they are actually buried in the town cemetery.

Plaques measuring 8 x 4.5 inches can be ordered from the Town Council for £400 each which includes installation.

News in Brief

Museum needs volunteers

EAST Grinstead museum is a charity which relies on volunteers to help with all aspects of its operation especially stewarding.

Anyone with a few hours to spare who would like to find out more about the volunteers and the work they do, can contact the museum on 01342 302233 or email Help@EastGrinsteadMuseum.org.uk.

Welcome for station scheme

EAST Grinstead station will be getting a new look within the next five years as part of Network Rail's nationwide overhaul of its property.

The new station is likely to be built at 90 degrees to the existing building and will have passenger lifts on either side of the track, wider pathways and a café. Cllr Paul Johnson applauded the plan to replace the present "hopeless" facilities, and said the new station would provide a much more attractive gateway for the town's visitors.

Crime down

FIGURES released by the police indicate that crime levels in both the Ashplats and Town wards have been "significantly reduced" compared with similar periods in previous years.

Welcoming the latest report Council leader James Baldwin said it clearly showed the benefits of intervention on a cross-agency partnership basis, and he praised the liaison work being done by the police in local communities to identify and prioritise crime-related issues.



Gallery lit up in memory of Keith

THE Gallery at Chequer Mead has a new lighting system in memory of theatre 'Friend' and longtime volunteer Keith Brown. "Keith loved the theatre and spent so many hours at Chequer Mead that this seemed a particularly appropriate way to remember him," said manager John Durrant.

"Artists both amateur and professional have been asking us for better lighting for many years, which finally prompted us to do something about it.

"And I hope the result will satisfy a lot of people and encourage other artists to consider Chequer Mead as a possible exhibition venue, particularly when they see

all the other marvellous facilities we have here." Town Mayor Ginnie Waddingham who attended the official opening with Mid Sussex District Council chairman Cllr Margaret Hersey, thanked the many people including Keith's friends and family, the Gatwick Trust, the Friends of Chequer Mead and the Town Council, who had raised the £12,000 cost of the new lighting system.

"I am very impressed with the result of so much hard work - it really is wonderful, and everyone who has contributed to making it happen deserves the thanks of the whole town," said Ginnie.

Youth Council relaunched

THE town's Youth Council has been relaunched under Caroline Halpin with advice from Susanna Conway, the new Youth Officer at Mid Sussex District Council.

The group of 13-18 year olds from Imberhorne and Sackville schools has already held two meetings in the council chamber at East Court to discuss issues which affect East Grinstead's younger residents.

Included in their immediate plans are a new website or Facebook page which will give members the chance to interact online, and to involve the wider community. They will also be supporting Youth Volunteers day at Imberhorne school on 11 July.

"Council members are just getting to know each other, but they are all enthusiastic, articulate and keen to get involved," said Caroline.

Anyone who would like to know more about the Youth Council can contact Caroline on 07779223421 or email carolinehalpin@talktalk.net.

Picture of the new East Grinstead Youth Council courtesy of Kent and Sussex Courier Group newspapers.



EAST COURT MANSION



THE MERIDIAN HALL



A Spectacular Location For Weddings, Civil Ceremonies, Wedding Receptions & Family Gatherings

For further information please contact East Grinstead Town Council on 01342 323636

Age Concern 500 Club

AGE Concern East Grinstead is launching the Age Concern 500 Club in a bid to raise vital funds for the organisation. Age Concern East Grinstead is a day centre where people can come to make friends and join in stimulating activities, all of which help prevent depression and isolation in later life. In addition, on the second and fourth Saturday each month they run a Saturday Club for people with dementia. This worthwhile day is extremely beneficial to the sufferer and also gives carers a well-earned break. Age Concern East Grinstead provides essential services to older people in and around East Grinstead.

To join the 500 Club members pay £2 pcm in advance by standing order or make an annual payment of £24 by cheque/cash.

Monthly prizes:

1st Prize ~ £100, 2nd Prize ~ £50, 3rd Prize ~ £25

Plus 2 x prizes of £10 & 1 x Prize of £5

If there are fewer than 500 members the prizes will be worked out pro-rata. You can purchase a 500 Club number by contacting Swan Mead Day Centre, Queen's Road, East Grinstead, RH19 1BE. Telephone: 01342 327046 or Email: ageconcern.eg@tiscali.co.uk.

Road verges in East Grinstead parish

NOTABLE Road Verges (NRVs) are areas of roadside verge around West Sussex which have rare and scarce wildlife, with spectacular displays of summer flowers. Where safe, they are denoted by short oak posts with distinctive red discs, as pictured below. It is important that these verges are managed appropriately to conserve and enhance biodiversity so these sites are usually only cut once wild flowers have set seed in late summer.

In September 2008 West Sussex County Council undertook a late summer hay-cut on 19 grassland NRVs across the County. Mimicking traditional

grassland management techniques, grass was collected mechanically and removed to prevent the build-up of excess nutrients and competitive plants. Both Hazelden Crossroads and Stone Hill verge on West Hoathly Road were cut in this manner. These verges are species-rich acidic grassland habitats and have a wealth of uncommon wildlife.

Further information on this scheme can be found on the website: www.westsussex.gov.uk or obtained by telephoning West Sussex County Council on 01243 642119.



Safety in the home

WEST Sussex Fire and Rescue Service is keen to promote the prevention of fires with their services of safety in people's homes.

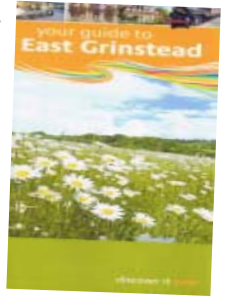
If you would like them to install a smoke alarm as well as doing a full safety check in your home then fill in the postcard opposite and post in one of the boxes in Sainsburys, Moatfield Surgery or the Library.

News in Brief

New town guide

TOURIST officer Simon Kerr has produced a new edition of *Discovering East Grinstead*.

The free booklet, which includes details of 44 visitor attractions and a town map, is available from the library.



Darth Vader visits Chequer Mead

DAVE Prowse, the actor behind the most evil villain in cinema history, visited Chequer Mead in April on a gentler mission - to pick up a painting with his artist wife Norma.

The couple fell in love with a French window scene by watercolourist Margaret Eggleton when they visited the Society of Graphic Fine Art's recent exhibition.

"It was our first visit and we both thought the exhibition was marvellous, and that East Grinstead itself is a lovely town," said Dave.

But Norma will be back when she exhibits some of her own landscapes with the Croydon Arts Society later this year.

Dave, who at 74 still travels all over the world meeting Star Wars fans, is credited with saving more than 250,000 young lives with his Green Cross Code road safety campaign.

Please enter your details on the postcard and post it in the box provided

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POST CODE:

PHONE NUMBER:

Preferred time to contact AM PM

Age Group
16-30 31-50 51-64 65+

Do you or anyone in the property have any mobility problems:
Yes No

Thank You.

DIARY OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2009

11 May	(M)	Annual Town Council
12 May	(T)	Planning
01 June	(M)	Planning
11 June	(Th)	Public Services
18 June	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
18 June	(Th)	Charities
22 June	(M)	Planning
25 June	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
06 July	(M)	Council
13 July	(M)	Planning
03 Aug	(M)	Planning
24 Aug	(M)	Planning
10 Sept.	(Th)	Public Services
14 Sept	(M)	Planning
17 Sept	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
17 Sept	(Th)	Charities
24 Sept	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
05 Oct	(M)	Council
06 Oct	(T)	Planning
26 Oct	(M)	Planning
12 Nov	(Th)	Public Services
16 Nov	(M)	Planning
19 Nov	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
26 Nov	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes

Notes: All meetings are held in the Council Chamber, East Court Mansion, at 7.45 p.m. and are open to the public and press. All full Council meetings include a maximum of 30 minutes set aside at the beginning for public question time. All committee meetings begin with a maximum of 15 minutes for public questions.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

East Grinstead Town Council, East Court	01342 323636
West Sussex County Council Area Highways	01243 642105
East Grinstead Learning Centre	01342 321874
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Cantelupe Road	01342 321638
Library, West Street	01342 410050
Help Point at the Library	01342 300780
Queen Victoria Hospital, Holtye Road	01342 414000
Downland Housing Association	0845 6887717
Kings Leisure Centre, Moat Road	01342 328616
Police Station, East Court	0845 6070999
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
East Grinstead Visitor Information	01342 410121
Samaritans	0845 7909090
Chequer Mead	01342 302000
Museum	01342 302233

HELP!

Services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council can all be accessed from the Help Point in East Grinstead Library. So if you have a query, or if you are not sure whom to contact, then please drop into the Help Point during opening hours:

Monday to Friday	9.30 - 5.30
Saturday	9.30 - 12.30

Telephone enquiries are welcome on
01342 300780 or by fax on 01342 410262
e mail: east.grinstead.help.point@westsussex.gov.uk



IT'S YOUR COUNCIL.

TELL COUNCILLORS WHAT YOU THINK!

Contact any of the Town Councillors shown in the listing with your views on the items in this edition of *Civic News* or on local issues bothering you, or write to the Council at
East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead, RH19 3LT.
For up-to-date information and news about the Town Council visit our website at www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk
e mail: towncouncil@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Herontye Stephen Barnett [LD] A&T, F&GP	10 Woods Hill Close Ashurst Wood RH19 3RJ	326001
Ian Dixon [LD] PS, A&T	Chevalhurst, Dunnings Road East Grinstead RH19 4AD	317213
Rob Musk [LD] Pl, A&T*, F&GP	Scandia, Hurst Farm Road East Grinstead, RH19 4BL	313310
Town James Baldwin [LD] PS, A&T, F&GP*	Scarletts, Sandy Lane East Grinstead RH19 3LP	321347
Jim Joyce-Nelson [LD] Pl, PS, F&GP	1 Dexter Drive East Grinstead RH19 4SU	314727
Virginia Waddingham [LD] Pl, PS, A&T, F&GP	11 Beckett Way East Grinstead RH19 4SF	326627
Worsted Margaret Collins, DL [LD] PS, F&GP	Bodinnick, Lewes Road East Grinstead RH19 3UD	324296
Baldwins Bernard Gillbard [LD] PS#, F&GP	7 Meadowcroft Close East Grinstead RH19 1NA	325184
Christine Mainstone [LD] Pl, A&T#	Mallaig, Windmill Lane East Grinstead RH19 2DY	326454
Lee Marmara [LD] Pl, PS, A&T, F&GP	Mill House, The Feld, London Rd, East Grinstead RH19 2QL	301265
Ashplats Liz Bennett [C] PS, A&T	39 Copse Close East Grinstead, RH19 3EF	301007
Paul Johnson [LD] Pl*, PS, F&GP	Kingsmere Cottage Stoneleigh Close East Grinstead RH19 3DY	311359
Lee Quinn [C] Pl, PS	6 Dallaway Gardens East Grinstead, RH19 1AZ	317817
Peter Reed [C] Pl, F&GP	38 Fulmar Drive East Grinstead, RH19 3NN	311926
Imberhorne David Banks [LD] Pl, A&T	29 St Johns Road East Grinstead RH19 3LG	312258
Heidi Brunson [LD] Pl, F&GP#	83 Blount Avenue East Grinstead, RH19 1JN	327200
Bob Mainstone [LD] PS *, A&T, F&GP	Mallaig, Windmill Lane East Grinstead RH19 2DY	326454
Barry Starmer [LD] Pl #, A&T	Kimberley, Pine Grove East Grinstead RH19 2BB	300534

Indication of Committee: Pl - Planning, PS - Public Services, A&T - Amenities & Tourism, F&GP - Finance & General Purposes *Chairman, # Vice Chairman.

All phone numbers are 01342 and are Councillors' private numbers.
C - Conservative LD - Liberal Democrat

Chequer Mead Costume and Fancy Dress Hire

Open every Saturday from 10am to 1pm
for private costume hire.

Theatrical productions costumed by appointment.

The costume store at Chequer Mead has hundreds of beautiful costumes.

Costume hire £10, fancy dress £20.

For more information call
Sandie on 01342 325134 or Barbara on 01342 322944.

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