



Civic News



The official newsletter of East Grinstead Town Council



“Keep it Local” campaign a hit

EAST Grinstead has thrown itself wholeheartedly behind the *Keep it Local* campaign to encourage shoppers to support the town’s businesses and retailers. Ten thousand gold, wallet-sized loyalty cards were printed and distributed free of charge during a week-long launch at Waitrose and Sainsburys at the beginning of August.

But with still more customers clamouring to join the scheme, a second batch of 10,000 had to be rushed into production to meet the demand.

The *Keep it Local* campaign is an initiative by the retail section of the East Grinstead Business Association, and was launched with the backing of the Town Council and *The East Grinstead Courier and Observer*.

The scheme is designed to promote the benefits of shopping locally, and to give loyalty rewards to customers who choose to boost the town’s economy instead of shopping in either Crawley or Tunbridge Wells, or at out-of-town malls at Bluewater and Lakeside.

Cards bearing the town coat of arms can be obtained from local shopkeepers, the Town Council’s offices at East Court and the library.

Joining the scheme is free, there is no need for registration, and more than 100 local retailers and businesses are already accepting the card. A full list of those taking part in the scheme can be viewed on the Town Council’s website at www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk. Shops accepting the card will have posters or stickers promoting the scheme displayed in their windows.

Among the benefits to shoppers will be monthly offers decided on by each business, which could be rewards including discounts, extras with purchase or free local delivery.

Graham Stevens of the High Street Gallery, and one of the prime movers behind the loyalty card scheme, said: “There are a lot of people who want to shop here, so it is up to shops to promote the card and encourage them.”

Carole Weighill of craft shop Threadneedles: *“The loyalty cards have gone extremely well and the public really seem to have taken to the idea. The shops that have actively promoted the scheme are seeing a great many cards being presented already and we hope the idea will become even more popular in the long term.”*

Patrick Durrant, shopper: *“This is a great idea and I congratulate the retailers for coming up with it. Encouraging people to shop locally is not only good for the town’s economy, but also for the environment.”*

Chris Parker, chief executive of the East Grinstead Business Association: *“I didn’t realise until we started distributing the cards how strongly so many people feel about the decline in East Grinstead’s retailing portfolio over the last 30 years. But the value of houses will fall if East Grinstead’s shopping centre declines any further, so it is in everyone’s interest to support the town.”*



News in Brief

Meridian FM gets licence

THE town's radio station is to go back on air after being granted a permanent licence. Since the station was set up by Lee Quinn in 2006 it has been allowed to broadcast for only two 28-day periods a year.

But the licensing authority Ofcom has now given the community station the go-ahead to broadcast 24 hours a day. A delighted Lee said: "It's been a long wait but our patience has finally been rewarded".

Plans are now in hand to raise the cash needed to get the station, which has been operating on the internet since February, back on air full time. Only half the operating costs can come from advertising and sponsorship, leaving the remainder to come from other sources, said Lee. It will still be several months before Ofcom announces the station's new frequency, but in the meantime East Grinstead residents can continue to enjoy Meridian FM over the internet.

The play's the thing.....

PLANS for a community play telling the history of East Grinstead are proceeding "positively" after the first public meeting to promote the event. Jon Oram, the director of the Claque theatre company behind the project, said a brainstorming session to discover more about the town and its history had shown enormous enthusiasm for the idea. A second meeting will be held at the library on a date still to be announced, but in the meantime anyone interested in being part of the production in any capacity from acting to providing transport for rehearsals can find out more at www.egplay.org.uk.

Local Democracy Day

THE Town Council is organising a local Democracy Day at East Court on Saturday 17 October from 10am until 4pm. Councillors and staff will be available to explain and demonstrate the Council's services. A range of information from other local authorities and service-providers will also be on display. Light refreshments will be served.

Town Council Leader James Baldwin said: "This is intended to be an important strand in our public engagement strategy. We very much look forward to meeting the community of East Grinstead, particularly those unfamiliar with our services, to discuss any issues the public wish to raise with us."

With this chain, I thee wed.....

TOWN Mayor Lee Marmara made history when he became the first mayor of East Grinstead to marry while in office.

Lee married his fiancée Emma Slack at St Swithun's church on 11 July in a celebration which kept his mayoral year's *Keep It Local* pledge to support the town's businesses.

"We started planning our wedding before I became mayor, but we always intended to use as many local businesses as possible," said Lee, whose wedding photographs were taken by fellow



councillor Bob Mainstone. The wedding suits were hired from Broadleys, Emma's presents to her bridesmaids came from the Jewellery Workshop, and her flowers were from Daisy Chain - all High Street businesses.

Local band Euphoria provided the dance music for their Meridian Hall reception, and profits from a bar run by Melvin Phillips will go to support the Christmas Lights campaign.

Several former mayors who attended the wedding helped Lee on with his chain of office for a photograph with his new first lady. "It's not every day you marry a mayoress," laughed Lee. "This is the most important date of my mayoral year but I am sure I will do a far better job with Emma behind me - not least because she will make sure I am always on time."

Gatwick noise review

GATWICK Airport has launched a public consultation on its Draft Noise Action Plan. The formal 16-week public consultation, by independent research agency GfK NOP, will run until 7 October 2009 and can be completed online.

The plan highlights the action the airport intends to take, including noise-management relating to mitigation, compensation and the effects arising from aircraft departing from and arriving at the airport. But although members of the public are being encouraged to give their views on the issues relating to Gatwick's existing two-terminal, one-runway operation, the present consultation will not encompass possible future noise which could arise from any potential expansion of Gatwick.

The plan can be viewed in full at www.gatwickairport.com/noise. For further information, or to obtain a printed copy of the plan or questionnaire, call 01293 504625 or email gatwicknoiseconsultation@baa.com.



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

125th birthday of the Greenwich Meridian

THIS year marks the 125th birthday of the Greenwich Meridian line, based at the Old Royal Observatory.

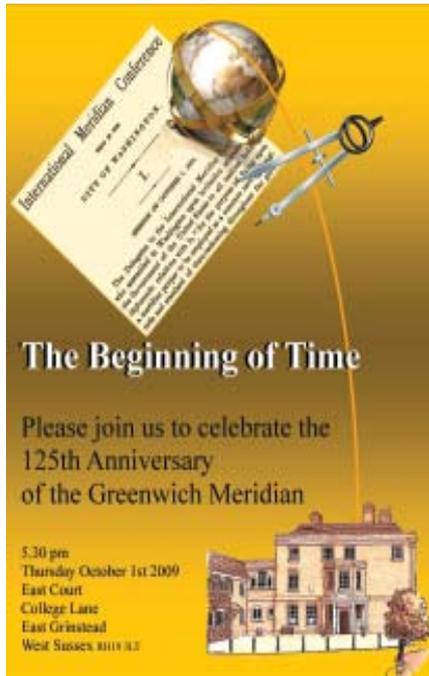
The entirely arbitrary choice of Greenwich for the line 0 degrees longitude was originally made by Sir George Airy in 1851, but by 1884 more than two-thirds of all ships used it as the reference Meridian on their maps. So in October that year, at the behest of US President Chester Arthur, 41 delegates from 25 nations met in Washington for the International Meridian Conference and chose Greenwich as the site of the official Prime Meridian.

France, however, abstained from the vote and French maps continued to use the Paris Meridian for several more decades. The imaginary line, which marks the boundary between the Eastern and Western hemispheres, also passes through East Grinstead and both the north and south poles. But the Meridian is significant not only for allowing sailors to answer the question "Where am I?" in terms of their latitude and longitude at sea - it is also the place where time itself was tamed. By the mid-18th century most wealthy men owned a pocket watch, but the general populace was still dependent on public clocks synchronised locally with the noon sun.

Before the advent of the railways it mattered little that Penzance was 25 minutes behind Dover, but as the new railway network spread its tentacles across the nation, passengers wanted a standard timetable, and railway companies began to set their schedules by Greenwich Mean Time. Sailors passing the Observatory on the Thames used Greenwich time too, setting their chronometers by one of the world's first visual time-checks - a red ball set high on the roof of Flamsteed House which dropped daily on the dot of 1 pm.

By 1852 Charles Shepherd's Calvano-Magnetic 24 hour clock had been set into the wall of the Observatory for passing members of the public to set their watches by: and in the same year he invented a "master" clock which sent an electrical impulse to synchronise "slaves" in Deal, Bristol and Edinburgh, taking GMT across the nation. By 1855, 98% of all public clocks were set by GMT, and in 1880 Greenwich Time received the Royal Assent as the legal time for Great Britain.

* Celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of the Meridian Line will take place at East Court, at 10.30am on 1 October.



Sign of the times

EAST Grinstead has new name-signs marking each of the road routes into town. The wrought iron signs, which were made by Eric Lamprell at his smithy in Ashurst Wood, are mounted on oak posts and feature the words East Grinstead above a pair of hanging baskets.

The four new signs, which cost £1400, can be seen on Holtye Road, on the A22 by the Felbridge Hotel, on Lewes Road, and at Hazeldene crossroads on the Turners Hill road.

A new finger-post has also been erected at Saint Hill Green.

News in Brief

Rice's Hill a public right of way

RICE'S Hill, the well-used path running up the side of W H Smith's, has been legally recognised as a public right of way after the intervention of East Grinstead Town Council. The decision by West Sussex County Council means the rough and potholed surface of the steep hill, which provides a short-cut between London Road and Cantelupe Road, will now be incorporated into the county's routine maintenance programme. A WSCC spokesman was unable to say exactly when repairs would be scheduled but said any necessary upgrade would go ahead once the area had been properly inspected.

Townpeople who had been using the path for many years were shocked in 2007 when a 7ft-high fence appeared at the top of the site blocking access to shoppers and office workers. East Grinstead Town Council asked for witness statements that the path had been in use as a short cut for many years, and WSCC has now officially recognised it.

Mediaeval Market

THE popular weekly Farmers' Market will take a trip back in time on 1 October when it will take on a distinctly mediaeval atmosphere. Sackcloth awnings and colourful pennants will set the scene, alongside a set of a stocks where a volunteer "hapless peasant" will have sponges thrown at him to raise money for the Town Mayor's charity. To coincide with the event, tourist officer Simon Kerr is also planning a temporary exhibition of photos at the Town Museum showing markets of the past. "The earliest record of markets here in East Grinstead date back to 1247 so our markets have been keeping it local for more than 762 years!" he said.

Pavements are for people

THE East Grinstead and District Access Group is behind a campaign to keep parked cars off pavements and free for people to pass. The group took the step, which is backed by Sussex police, after receiving a number of complaints from mothers with prams and wheelchair-users who had been forced into the road to get around cars parked on the footway.



DIARY OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2009

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
07 Dec	(M)	Council
08 Dec	(T)	Planning
10 Dec	(Th)	Charities

2010

04 Jan	(M)	Planning
07 Jan	(Th)	Public Services Committee
14 Jan	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
21 Jan	(Th)	Finance & General Purposes
25 Jan	(M)	Planning
01 Feb	(M)	Council (Precept)
15 Feb	(M)	Planning

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
EG CVS & Volunteer Centre	01342 328080

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 10 Woods Hill Close 326001
[LD] Pl, PS, A&T, F&GP Ashurst Wood RH19 3RJ

Ian Dixon Chevalhurst, Dunning's Road 317213
[LD] PS, A&T East Grinstead RH19 4AD

Rob Musk Scandia, Hurst Farm Road 313310
[LD] Pl, A&T* F&GP East Grinstead, RH19 4BL

Town

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[LD] A&T, F&GP* East Grinstead RH19 3LP

Jim Joyce-Nelson 1 Dexter Drive 314727
[LD] Pl, PS, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 4SU

Virginia Waddingham 11 Beckett Way 326627
[LD] Pl, PS East Grinstead RH19 4SF

Worsted

Margaret Collins, DL Bodinnick, Lewes Road 324296
[LD] PS, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 3UD

Baldwins

Bernard Gillbard 7 Meadowcroft Close 325184
[LD] PS#, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 1NA

Christine Mainstone Mallaig, Windmill Lane 326454
[LD] Pl, A&T# East Grinstead RH19 2DY

Lee Marmara Mill House, The Feld, 301265
[LD] Pl, PS, A&T, F&GP London Rd, East Grinstead RH19 2QL

Ashplats

Liz Bennett 39 Cope Close 301007
[C] PS, A&T East Grinstead, RH19 3EF

Paul Johnson Kingsmere Cottage 311359
[LD] Pl*, PS, F&GP Stoneleigh Close East Grinstead RH19 3DY

Lee Quinn 6 Dallaway Gardens 317817
[C] Pl, PS East Grinstead, RH19 1AZ

Peter Reed 38 Fulmar Drive 311926
[C] Pl, F&GP East Grinstead, RH19 3NN

Imberhorne

David Banks 29 St Johns Road 312258
[LD] Pl, A&T, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 3LG

Heidi Brunson 83 Blount Avenue 327200
[LD] A&T, F&GP# East Grinstead, RH19 1JN

Bob Mainstone Mallaig, Windmill Lane 326454
[LD] PS *, A&T, F&GP East Grinstead RH19 2DY

Barry Starmer Kimberley, Pine Grove 300534
[LD] Pl #, A&T East Grinstead RH19 2BB

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

THE SIDNEY BETCHLEY CHARITY, HENRY SMITH'S CHARITY AND JOHN SMITH'S TRUST

Application forms for the annual distribution of these charitable funds are now available from:

East Grinstead Town Council, East Court, College Lane,
East Grinstead
Forest Row Parish Council, Community Centre,
Hartfield Road, Forest Row
Ashurst Wood Parish Office, Chapel Lane, Ashurst Wood
The Help Point, East Grinstead Library, West Street
Citizen's Advice Bureau, Cantelupe House, Cantelupe Road,
East Grinstead
Age Concern, Queens Road, East Grinstead
and from shops and post offices in East Grinstead
where a charity notice is displayed.

Applications must be submitted by 9th October 2009