

East Grinstead *Civic News* Town Council

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Edition 53



Town Council acts to save High Street flowers



THE Town Council will take over the flower beds in the High Street from this autumn after West Sussex County Council proposed grassing them over to save money. Local businesses will be asked to sponsor the beds to help reduce the cost of maintaining them next summer.

"The High Street is one of the most attractive areas in East Grinstead, and is enjoyed both by residents and visitors to the town.

It was highly praised by the judges in this year's South and South East in Bloom competition, and grassing over the flower beds would have ruined it. I am very pleased the Town Council has been able to step in to save them."

Town tourism officer Simon Kerr



* artist's impression
of grassed-over
beds

Watch Out! Thieves About!

EAST Grinstead is to be protected by a new bluetooth warning system which allows the town's police to send instant messages direct to local mobile phone users alerting them to nearby criminal activity.

Police Sergeant Graeme Prentice successfully trialled the system this summer to warn town centre shoppers that distraction thieves were targeting mobile phones in the area. The system can also be used to warn against shoplifters and pickpockets, or to send positive safety messages. Following the success of the pilot scheme the Joint Area Group, of which the Town Council is a member, has agreed to the purchase of a relay system which will be shared equally between East Grinstead, Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill, for use across Mid Sussex

Bluebell Railway races to beat tax

THE Bluebell Railway must finish clearance of the old railway cutting which blocks its access into East Grinstead before a new landfill tax next April quadruples the cost of the work.

East Grinstead Town Council has backed the Bluebell's application for a grant from the Regional Support Fund, and their public appeal to raise the £2 million needed to complete the work over the coming winter.

* For more information see:
<http://bluebellrailwaytrust.org.uk>



Early bird booking for Snow White...

CHEQUER Mead theatre is offering a discount on all pantomime tickets booked before October 1.

This year's 17 performances will see Abbie Lomax starring as Snow White, alongside Michael Spencer as wicked Queen Morgiana. Abbie - who played love interest Alice Fitzwarren in last year's production of Dick Whittington - will be joined on stage by her sister Georgie in the ensemble.

The seven dwarfs will be played by a talented cast of children who will include Chorlene Biron-Monnier, at the end of her run in Shrek, and Jake Tuesley, fresh from his appearances in Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. For reservations ring the Box Office on 01342 302000.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

CLLR Frank Osborne is heading a working party to explore ways East Grinstead can celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next summer. Ideas already being considered following a public meeting in August are concerts, a flower show, a funfair and a gala dinner. Anyone willing to lend a hand with events can contact Frank via the Town Council's offices.

He would also like to hear from anyone with pictures recalling major events in East Grinstead's history over the six decades of the Queen's reign, or royal memorabilia, who would be willing to lend them for a possible exhibition to be held at East Court next June.



Heartfelt thanks to Secamb

THE Town Council is to thank the South East Coast Ambulance service for training volunteer "first responders" to use defibrillators.

Deputy Town Mayor Liz Bennett pioneered the purchase of two machines from her ward's budget two years ago, and since then they have been used in 27 life-threatening incidents in the town, of which 18 involved patients with chest pains, and four cardiac arrests. Chequer Mead manager Hannah Kester is among the town's trained volunteers but the machines can be used by anyone in an emergency, said Liz. "They talk you through each step, and won't let you shock anyone whose heart is beating. I couldn't think of anything more worthwhile to spend the money on than saving a life - this really is a fantastic and worthwhile project."

FOR more stories, regular news updates, dates of Council meetings, agendas, minutes and councillors' full contact details see the East Grinstead Town Council website at www.eastgrinstead.co.uk

EG Credit Union

MEMBERS of the EG and District Credit Union are now at the town library every Wednesday between 9.30am and noon. Credit Unions promote saving and responsible borrowing, particularly for those who might find it difficult to get credit elsewhere. The Credit Union is open at St Swithun's parish hall every Saturday between 10am and noon. For more information ring 01342 312173.

Charities grant

APPLICATION forms for the annual distribution of charitable funds from the Sidney Betchley charity, Henry Smith's charity and John Smith's Trust are now available from the Town Council's offices at East Court. Vouchers can be used at town shops in December. Applications must be received by 21 October.

New hospital bus route

METROBUS is now running a new hourly bus service, route 400, linking East Grinstead, to Crawley, Gatwick Airport, East Surrey Hospital, Redhill, Godstone and Caterham.

Dairy dates

THIS year's Christmas family festival will be held on **December 18**.
◀ The High Street traders' popular event 'Twas the Sunday Before Christmas will be on **December 18**.

Embassy honours first Filipino councillor

CLLR Danny Favor, who was elected to the Town Council for Ashplatts Ward in May, has been honoured by the Philippine Embassy as the first Filipino to be elected to public office.

Clr Favor is an ophthalmic nurse at the Queen Victoria hospital, and also president of the Filipino British Association. He says he hopes his recognition will encourage other Filipinos to get involved within their own communities.

Below: Cllr Favor with Deputy Ambassador Renaldo Catapang.



Mayor turns first turf for new town station

TOWN Mayor John Saul was invited by Southern and Network Rail to get the building of the town's new railway station officially underway. His ceremonial turning of the first turf marked the start of a major upgrade which will allow longer trains into the station and improve travel conditions for passengers who use the direct line into London on a daily basis.

The first phase of the project will upgrade the tracks and extend the platforms to handle 12-car trains, instead of the present eight-car limit, which will give seats to thousands of daily commuters for the first time. Phase 2 will focus on the construction of a new station building which will make it easier to move through the station at peak times and the creation of a more spacious booking hall area, with a fully accessible ticket office window, improved retail space and new passenger toilets. There will also be improved passenger drop-off and taxi arrangements, automatic ticket gates and improved CCTV coverage, platform waiting shelters and enhanced cycle parking facilities.

Welcoming the facelift to a key entrance into East Grinstead, the Mayor said: "The new station, and the Bluebell Railway northern extension which is coming next year, will certainly smarten up this quarter of the town and increase business opportunities."

* The Mayor with (left) David Scorey, Southern's Franchise Improvement Director, and Mark Ruddy, Network Rail's Sussex Route Director.

King Street toilets on track for May opening

THE new public toilets in the Kings Street car park should be open by May next year. A revised scheme which went before the Public Services committee in September provides for an attractive and modern design with disabled access and baby changing facilities said Council Leader Norman Webster.

Committee chairman Cllr Heidi Brunson said: "One of our main concerns was that there ought to be separate ladies and gents entrances which has been achieved.

"The innovative use of tubular skylights means natural light will be used to minimize the daytime need for electric lighting, which in turn will reduce both carbon emissions and running costs."



POOR Spring rain blighted a new wildflower meadow on the corner of College Lane and the Lewes Road. But after heavy showers in June and July the dormant seeds suddenly blossomed into a bright splash of surprise summer colour.

Council diary

17 October	(M)	Planning
7 November	(M)	Planning
10 November	(Th)	Public Services
17 November	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
24 November	(Th)	Finance & GP
28 November	(M)	Planning
5 December	(M)	Council
8 December	(Th)	Charities
19 December	(M)	Planning
2012		
9 January	(M)	Planning
12 January	(Th)	Public Services
19 January	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
26 January	(Th)	Finance & GP
30 January	(M)	Planning
6 February	(M)	Council (Precept)
20 February	(M)	Planning
8 March	(Th)	Public Services
12 March	(M)	Planning
15 March	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
15 March	(Th)	Charities
22 March	(Th)	Finance & GP
2 April	(M)	Council
3 April	(T)	Planning
4 April	(W)	Annual Town Meeting

Meetings in the Council Chamber at East Court are open to the public. 7.30pm start except those of the June, September and March Charities Committee which follow the Amenities & Tourism Committee. All Council meetings allow up to 10 minutes for public questions commencing at 7.45 pm. Petitions allow up to 10.

Useful telephone numbers

East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323636
West Sussex CC Area Highways	01243 642105
East Grinstead Learning Centre	01342 321874
Citizens Advice Bureau	01342 321638
West Street Library	01342 410050
Library Help Point	01342 300780
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414000
Downland Housing Association	0845 6887717
Olympus Leisure Centre	01342 328616
Police Station, East Court	0845 6070999
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
East Grinstead Visitor Information	01342410121
Samaritans	0845 7909090
Chequer Mead	01342 302000
Museum	01342 302233
EG CVS & Volunteer Centre	01342 328080

Contact the Town Council at:
**East Court Mansion, College Lane,
 East Grinstead, RH19 3LT, 01342 323636.**
 Or visit our website at:
www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Find help with services provided by West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council or East Grinstead Town Council at the Help Point in East Grinstead Library, West St.

Monday	9.30am – 7pm
Tuesday to Thursday	9.30am – 6pm
Friday/Saturday	9.30am – 5pm
Phone 01342 300780	Fax 01342 410262

Contact your Councillor

Ashpiats Jacqueline Beckford (LD) PS, F&GP	7 Woodlands Road East Grinstead, RH19 3EH	01342 317864
Liz Bennett (Con) PS, A&T, Ch	38 Copse Close East Grinstead, RH19 3EF	01342 301007
Danny Favor (Con) PS, A&T, Ch*	7 Barn Field Place East Grinstead RH19 3FD	01342 410244
Tony Scott (Con) PL, A&T*	Flat 2, 26 Railway Approach East Grinstead, RH19 1BP	01342 325045
Baldwins Margaret Beisey (Con) A&T, F&GP*	Gotwick Farm, Holtye Road East Grinstead, RH19 3PP	01342 321574
Nick Hodges (Con) FE, F&GP, Ch, Pl	Welbourne, 75 Lingfield Road East Grinstead, RH19 2EP	01342 300113
Norman Webster (Con) F&GP*	7 Newlands Crescent East Grinstead, RH19 1LF	01342 317806
Imberhome Heidi Brundson (Con) PS*, F&GP	83 Bount Avenue East Grinstead, RH19 1JN	01342 327200
Bob Mainstone (LD) PL, A&T	Mallaig, Windmill Lane East Grinstead, RH19 2DY	01342 326454
Frank Osborne (Con) PL, A&T*, F&GP	Wisborough, Furze Lane East Grinstead, RH19 2BQ	01342 322646
Rex Whittaker (Con) PL*, F&GP	11 The Stemings East Grinstead, RH19 1PF	01342 302515
Town Ben Burns (Con) PL, PS, A&T	3 The Close East Grinstead, RH19 1DQ	07740 075331
Nicola Burns (Con) PL, PS	3 The Close East Grinstead, RH19 1DQ	01342 315848
Peter Wyan (Con) PL*, F&GP	7 Clays Close East Grinstead, RH19 4DJ	01342 313985
Herontye John O'Brien (Con) A&T, F&GP	5 The Dell East Grinstead, RH19 3XP	01342 321863
John Saul (Con) Town Mayor	Little Beeches, Woods Hill Lane Ashurst Wood, RH19 3RF	01342 822712
Dick Sweatman (Con) PL, PS*	81 Estoots Drive East Grinstead, RH19 3YW	01342 322743
Worsted Garry Stiltoe (Con) PS, A&T, F&GP	3 Farm Close East Grinstead, RH19 3JQ	07771 892113

F&GP - Finance & General Purposes, A&T - Amenities and Tourism,
 PL - Planning, PS - Public Services, Ch - Charity, * Chairman, ^ Vice Chairman.
 All phone numbers are 01342 and are councillors' private numbers.
 C - Conservative, LD - Liberal Democrat



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