



East Grinstead Town Council

LITERARY Genius? Then take part in the writing Competition, organised by the Town Council and backed by Hollywood's Neil Gaiman, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Adults can enter short stories or poetry, children can take part via school. For full details see the Council website or pick up a leaflet at the town library.



The Line

Spring 2012 formerly the Civic News from East Grinstead Town Council

Edition 55



GRAEME Prentice, who has been No 1 at the town police station since August, has been confirmed in the rank of Sergeant. The East Grinstead police team of three police officers and five PCSOs is currently targeting anti-social behaviour, violent crime and shoplifting in a joint-agency approach with the support of the Town Council.

"We aim to ensure that visitors who come here for the Queens Jubilee and the Olympic Games view East Grinstead as a safe and friendly town which they will want to return to again and again," said Graeme.

New Police team for East Grinstead

"working together to keep the area safe..."

DISTRICT Commander Jon Hull has taken over as the new police chief for Mid Sussex. Jon joined Sussex Police in 1995 in Brighton, before becoming a detective in the CID. He was subsequently part of the Major Crime Team responsible for investigating the most serious criminal offences, and more recently has been a member of the Community and Justice department. Married with a small son and a second baby on the way, Jon says his priorities will be to continue the reduction of crime in the District and to ensure that the police tackle the issues which most affect and concern residents.

"I have already met a lot of the local officers and I have been really impressed with their attitude and ability, and I am excited about what we can achieve. Chief Inspector De-La-Rue has been really involved in lots of successful partnership working with councils and other agencies and I am keen to continue this work. It's so important that everyone locally is working together to keep the area safe."

* District Commander Hull will be taking questions, with the Mayor and Council Chairman, at the Annual Town Meeting for electors to be held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 4 April.



THE average annual £1.92 precept rise would buy just:

- * 6 cigarettes
- * 2 white loaves
- * a half pint of beer
- * a bar of chocolate
- * a dozen eggs
- * a magazine
- * 3 cans baked beans

East Grinstead Town Council Precept to rise by 3%

THE rise in the Town Council's precept for 2012/13 will cost the average Band D ratepayer just 4p a week, or an extra £1.92 over the coming year.

The Town Council's portion of the rates bill covers the maintenance of flower beds, hanging baskets and the cemetery, subsidies on bus and rail passes for the over-60s, and 'good housekeeping' around the town to remove weeds, fly-posting and graffiti. Council Leader Norman Webster said: "I am delighted that we have been able to preserve existing services and build for the future by undertaking a thorough review of every line item in the budget. The £1.92 increase per year is less than the cost of a frozen pizza."

Weekend of fun to mark Queen's Diamond Jubilee



THE 2-5 June will be a weekend of nationwide celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's ascent to the throne. Among the events planned locally are the following:

Sunday 3 June:

1.30pm: A parade of floats and marching bands will tour the town centre, starting and ending at East Court on a route along Moat Road, up London Road and along the High Street.

To enter a float contact Cllr Dick Sweatman (see back page).

3pm – 7pm: East Court Fun Day with a funfair, food and Meridian FM, plus a parade ring with vintage vehicles.

8pm – 10pm: Battle of the Teen Bands in the Meridian Hall for 13 – 18 year olds, bbq and soft drinks. Tickets £3.50 from Bullfrog Music, the Town Council offices or the Tourist Desk in the library.

Monday 4 June:

2pm: A funfair at East Court with Meridian FM for a Party in the Park through to 9.45pm.

9.45pm: Torchlight procession along East Court Drive by the ATC, NTC and Army Cadets.

Around 10pm (depends on national timings for the lighting of beacons across the UK) :

The lighting of the East Grinstead beacon at East Court followed by fireworks.

There will only be parking at East Court for disabled drivers: everyone else is asked to park locally and walk.

To avoid disappointment book early for other, ticketed, Jubilee events which will be held around the town. These will be advertised in due course on posters and banners in the town centre, and on the Town Council website.

MID Sussex District Council has promised that the new town centre public toilets opposite the cinema will be opened in May. Built in traditional style from local materials, the block will include a baby-changing area and facilities for the disabled.

Free home visits to save energy

CLIMATE Energy is offering West Sussex residents free home visits until 31 March to demonstrate how to save energy and keep warm. Funded by the Department of Health, the scheme could save up to £200 a year on fuel bills.

**Ring FREEPHONE
0800 0546815
to arrange an
appointment.**

Save water, avoid drought

SOUTHERN Water has warned its customers to save water or face a summer drought after low rainfall this winter has left Ardingly reservoir below the expected levels for this time of year.

Mayor's Masked Ball



MAYOR John Saull will be hosting a Masked Ball in the Meridian Hall on 21 April to raise money for his chosen charities.

To book tickets contact the Town Council offices on 01342 323636.

Race is on for first 500 Marathon entries



KEEN runners need to act fast to secure their entries in the three towns Marathon scheduled for the May Bank holiday weekend.

There are only 500 places available for each leg of the Marathon which will be run in three stages.

Day 1 will see the runners tackle a ten-mile course at East Grinstead on 5 May. The second leg on 6 May will be another ten miles around Haywards Heath, and there will be a final ten kilometre run over a course at the Bedelands Nature Reserve at Burgess Hill on 7 May to bring the total to 26.2 miles, the classic Marathon challenge. Runners of all abilities are being encouraged to take part in any or all of the three stages, and there are options for team relays for anyone who feels they can't complete a ten mile run on their own.

Council Leader Norman Webster said: "We are very pleased to welcome the Marathon to East Grinstead. It will attract a great many people to the town for an event which everyone can enjoy, and I hope as many people as possible will take up the challenge." To find out more about the Marathon, which is being sponsored by Sussex Living, see: www.nice-work.org.uk

**Contact
Matt Coles on
01342 324616 to be listed free
on visiteastgrinstead.com
the glossy new website to
promote the town which is
going live this
Spring.**

Make a diary date...

* ON **1 April** the High Street Traders will be holding Spring Sunday, when shops and special stalls will be open, with fun activities for the whole family.

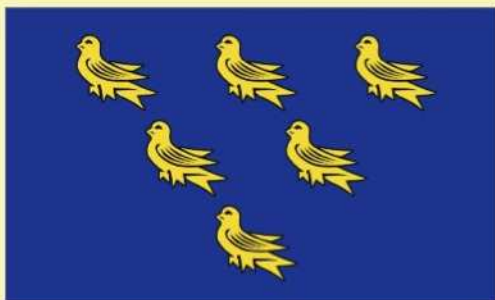
* THE popular Vintage Bus Day returns on **15 April** to recreate the old routes around East Grinstead and its surrounding villages. Board a bus in the High Street and ride around all day FREE.

* THE East Grinstead Lions will be holding their annual Fair on **Monday 7 May**. The town centre will be closed to traffic for the event which has become an annual favourite with families.

* **Keep an eye on the Town Events Diary on the Town Council website for details of these and other upcoming dates.**

THE Meridian Probus for retired professional businessmen is now in its second year and would like to welcome new members.
Ring 01342 323098 for details.

Flying the flag for Sussex and Saint Richard



EAST Court will be flying the new Sussex flag to mark the county-wide celebration of Sussex Day on 16 June, the feast day of St Richard whose shrine in Chichester cathedral was a popular site for Mediaeval pilgrims.

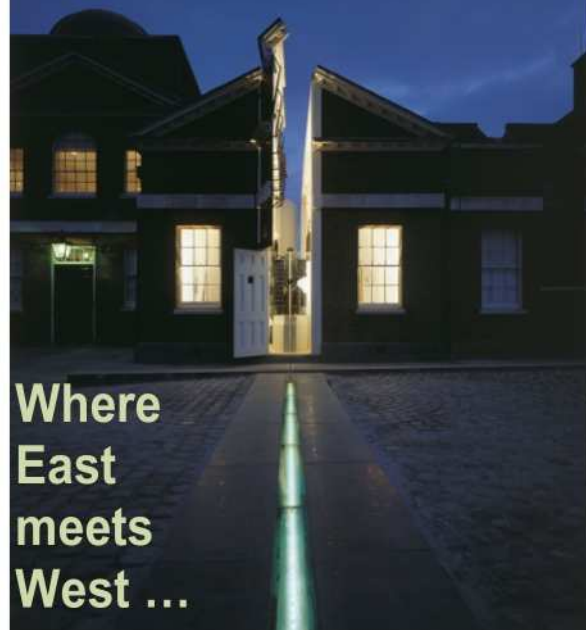
The flag, featuring six gold martlets on a field of blue, is based on a coat of arms which first appeared in an atlas by John Speed in 1622.

The county motto *We wunt be druv* is a Sussex dialect expression meaning we won't be pushed around, and is said to reflect the independent nature of county folk. The rampion, or Pride of Sussex, was adopted as the county flower in 2002.



SUNDAY 1 April: We don't want to give anything away, but if you head into town from the A22 today, you are in for a BIG surprise...

Photo courtesy of the National Maritime Museum

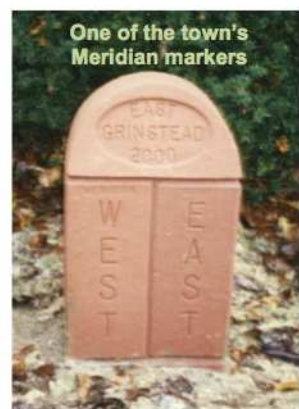


Where East meets West ...

THE Town Council's new-look quarterly publication *The Line* (formerly Civic News) celebrates East Grinstead's place on the Prime Meridian.

'0 degrees longitude' is the place where the Eastern and Western hemispheres meet, and from which the world takes its time. In 1884 an international conference decided The Royal Observatory at Greenwich should be home to the imaginary line which circles the globe through the north and south poles. It enters England's landmass near Tunstall in East Riding and after passing through Greenwich and East Grinstead leaves the UK at Peacehaven. Other places have claimed the Prime Meridian, but the Royal Observatory was awarded it after an 1884 international conference held in Washington at the behest of US President Chester Arthur. By then, more than two thirds of the world's shipping was using Greenwich to measure its global position, so delegates from 25 nations agreed to make it official – despite strong opposition from the French who wanted the Prime Meridian to bisect Paris. The actual line was originally a brass strip in the Observatory courtyard, but since 1999 it has also been marked at night with a green laser beam, (see above lighting the Observatory courtyard.)* Visitors who stand with a foot in each hemisphere over East Grinstead's Meridian line can claim a free certificate from the Town Council during office hours.

One of the town's Meridian markers



Contact your Councillor

Ashplats

Jacqueline Beckford (LD): 7 Woodlands Road, RH19 3EH. 01342 317864

Liz Bennett (Con): 39 Copse Close, RH19 3EF. 01342 301007

Danny Favor (Con): 7 Barn Field Place, RH19 3FD. 01342 410244

Tony Scott (Con): Flat 2, 26 Railway Approach, RH19 1BP. 01342 325045

Baldwins

Margaret Belsey (Con): Gotwick Farm, Holtye Road, RH19 3PP. 01342 321574

Nick Hodges (Con): Wellbourne, 75 Lingfield Road, RH19 2EP. 01342 300113

Norman Webster (Con): 7 Newlands Crescent, RH19 1LF. 01342 317806

Imberhorne

Heidi Brundsdon (Con): 83 Blount Avenue, RH19 1JN. 01342 327200

Bob Mainstone (LD): Mallaig, Windmill Lane, RH19 2DY. 01342 326454

Frank Osborne (Con): Wisborough, Furze Lane, RH19 2BQ. 01342 322646

Rex Whittaker (Con): 11 The Stennings, RH19 1PF. 01342 302515

Town

Ben Burns (Con): 3 The Close, RH19 1DQ. 07740 075331

Nicola Burns (Con): 3 The Close, RH19 1DQ. 01342 315848

Peter Wyan (Con): 7 Clays Close, RH19 4DJ. 01342 313985

Herontye

John OBrien (Con): 5 The Dell, RH19 3XP. 01342 321883

John Saull (Con): Little Beeches, Woods Hill Lane, RH19 3RF. 01342 822712

Dick Sweatman (Con): 81 Estcots Drive, RH19 3YW. 01342 322743

Worsted

Garry Sillitoe (Con): 3 Farm Close, RH19 3QQ. 07771 892113

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
Olympos Leisure Centre	01342 328616
Police Station, East Court	0845 6070999
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
East Grinstead Visitor Desk	01342 410121
Samaritans	0845 7909090
Chequer Mead	01342 302000
Museum	01342 302233
EG CVS & Volunteer Centre	01342 328080

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

The Help Point is open Monday 9.30am – 7pm, Tuesday to Thursday 9.30am – 6pm, Friday/Saturday 9.30am – 5pm.

Meetings

22 March	(Th)	Finance & GP
2 April	(M)	Council
3 April	(T)	Planning
4 April	(W)	Annual Town Meeting
23 April	(M)	Planning
14 May	(M)	Annual Town Council
15 May	(T)	Planning
6 June	(W)	Planning
14 June	(Th)	Amenities & Tourism
21 June	(Th)	Finance & GP
21 June	(Th)	Special Council
25 June	(M)	Planning

Meetings in the East Court Council Chamber are open to the public and start, from May, at 7pm with a maximum of 30 minutes for public questions before Council meetings, and 15 minutes before Committee meetings.

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

Upcoming events

* THE Farmers Market is in the High Street every Thursday for local produce including baked goods, meat, fish and vegetables.

* THE Ariel Theatre Company returns with a production of *Oliver!* on 14 April. Ring Chequer Mead on 01342 302000.

* THE Vienna Festival Ballet will appear in *Swan Lake* at Chequer Mead on 26 April.

* THE Annual Town Council Meeting will take place at East Court on 14 May

* SATURDAY 5 May: the first leg of a three day, three town Marathon will be run in East Grinstead

* THE Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend is 2 - 5 June

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