

Contact your Councillor

Ashplats	
Jacqueline Beckford	07727 601830
Liz Bennett	01342 301007
Danny Favor	01342 410244
Tony Scott	01342 325045
Baldwins	
Margaret Belsey	01342 321574
Nick Hodges	01342 300113
Norman Webster	01342 317806
Imberhorne	
Heidi Brunsdon	07889 837362
Bob Mainstone	01342 326454
Frank Osborne	01342 322646
Rex Whittaker	01342 302515
Town	
John Dabell	01342 317745
Adam Reeves	01342 887635
Peter Wyan	01342 313985
Herontye	
John O'Brien	01342 321883
John Saull	01342 822712
Dick Sweatman	01342 322743
Worsted	
Garry Sillitoe	07771 892113

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

Keep town pavements clear

THE town's Access Group is running a campaign with the backing of the Town Council to remind everyone that Pavements are for People.

The volunteer group works to provide a better quality of life for disabled people by working with councils to make whatever improvements they can – from dropping kerbs to installing pedestrian crossings and parking bays – which make it easier for disabled residents to get around.

A spokesman said: "We try to make the place better for people by improving the quality of life.

"The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 says that services should ensure equal opportunities exist for everybody in goods, facilities and employment – so that's what we campaign for.

"If somebody parks on the pavement, it means that a parent with a child, or someone in a wheelchair, has to go out into the road and that's just not acceptable."

For more details on how to access disabled facilities, contact the group on 01342 322242 or email office@egaccess.co.uk

Lifeline and
Telecare service
now available in East Grinstead



THE Crawley Lifeline service has now been extended to cover East Grinstead. The emergency alarm service, which offers 24 hour a day monitoring by telephone for elderly and infirm people confined to their homes, is available for a 13 week free trial to anyone with a professional referral.

For more details see their website at www.crawley.gov.uk/lifeline

THE
Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

Autumn/Winter 2014
Edition 64



NEWS FROM
EAST GRINSTEAD
TOWN COUNCIL

Unveiling of the Pte Godley VC commemorative paving stone

TOWN Mayor Nick Hodges unveiled the paving stone commemorating the valour of East Grinstead's Private Sidney Godley at the High Street War Memorial over the August bank holiday weekend.

It was a beautiful summer Saturday as the crowds gathered just before 11am to see the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps march up London Road and assemble in front of the Memorial where the paving stone lay covered by a purple silk drape.

Private Godley became the first private soldier to win Britain's highest award for gallantry exactly 100 years ago: his citation was given 'For coolness, gallantry and fighting with a machine gun under hot fire'.

Also at the ceremony was Eric Pickles MP, the man who came up with the idea of laying memorial slabs to honour the nation's bravest soldiers.



He said that Godley had not been from a privileged background and his being in the military at all had been from force of circumstance rather than choice. But on the bridge at Mons a century ago, he had made his family and his nation very proud of him.



Mayor and onlookers at the unveiling of the Sidney Godley memorial

COUNCIL MEETINGS

17 November	Planning
4 December	Public Services
8 December	Planning
11 December	Amenities and Tourism
15 December	Charities *
18 December	Finance and General Purposes
5 January	Council

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

*Charities committee meets at Chequer Mead

Contact the Town Council

Visit: East Court Mansion, College Lane, East Grinstead, RH19 3LT

Call: 01342 323636

Click: www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Contacts

East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323636
East Grinstead Tourism Desk	01342 410121
West Sussex CC Area Highways	01243 642105
Central Sussex College	01342 321874
Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 771171
East Grinstead Library	01342 332900
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414000
Affinity Sutton	0845 6887717
Kings Centre	01342 328616
Police Station, East Court	101
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458166
Samaritans	0845 7909090
Chequer Mead	01342 302000
East Grinstead Museum	01342 302233
EG CVS & Volunteer Centre	01342 328080
Wallis Centre (Youth Centre)	01342 321585
(answer phone)	

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.

Tributes to a real gentle man

ERIC Mackie MBE, chairman of Disability Access East Grinstead, sadly passed away on 28 September after a short hospital admittance.

A Celebration of Life service took place on Wednesday 15 October, following a private family funeral, at St John's church, Dormansland. The large church was full with those who wished to pay their respects and the congregation was drawn from family, friends, colleagues and civic representatives including Town Mayor Nick Hodges.



Tributes were given by close friends and their overwhelming citation was Eric's wonderful sense of humour and ability to giggle. His accomplishments in overcoming his own personal challenges were numerous, and his love of family, and his interest in Scouting, singing, working tirelessly for the disabled community and his genuine warmth, were recounted by many.

Eric will be sadly missed.

The Disability Access East Grinstead Group will be electing their new chairman and their work will continue.

Christmas
Bin collections

MID Sussex DC will not be issuing each home with a reminder of the changes to the festive bin collections this year, but details are available from their website and the District Council directly. There will be no garden waste collections on 22 December or 4 January.

Due collection date	New collection date
Monday 22 December	Saturday 20 December
Tuesday 23 December	Monday 22 December
Wednesday 24 December	Tuesday 23 December
Thursday 25 December	Wednesday 24 December
Friday 26 December	Saturday 27 December
Thursday 1 January 2015	Friday 2 January 2015
Friday 2 January 2015	Saturday 3 January 2015

Diary Dates

Have a Dickens of a time this Christmas

THE High Street Traders will be back with their hugely popular 'Twas the Sunday before Christmas' on 21 December, so support our local traders, have fun and finish off your last minute shopping.

Christmas Family Festival

THE Christmas Family Festival will take place in the town centre on Sunday 30 November, between 10am and 4pm. Held in a car-free London Road, it will feature a host of fairground attractions, the ever-popular French Market and seasonal entertainment for all the family. Always a big hit, the Sunday festival is a great opportunity to combine fun and Christmas shopping within the town community – and to raise awareness of, and funds for, charity. Town Mayor Nick Hodges will open the event and Santa will be in attendance.

Book now for Aladdin

THIS year's panto at Chequer Mead will be Aladdin starring the irrepressible Kevin Gauntlett as Widow Twankey. Lovely Abbie Lomax will be back as the eponymous hero Aladdin, Skye Tupholme will be her Princess and Alex Watts will be the Genie. Phil World – a man used to being hissed on stage each Christmas – will play wicked Uncle Abanazar. The panto is one of the highlights of the year so early booking is advisable – ring the box office on 01342 302000. Aladdin will run from 20-30 December, book online at www.chequermead.org.uk.

Want to meet a councillor?

THE Town's councillors are available on a cross-party basis in the High Street on the first Saturday of every month. You can find them under the green pergola outside Broadley Brothers, so if you have concerns, or things you would like to discuss, go along and have a chat.

Cllr lobbies for roads

TOWN Clerk Julie Holden has thanked Cllr John O'Brien for successfully lobbying West Sussex County Council for much-needed resurfacing work on the A22, particularly outside Sackville school and in Felbridge.



Neighbourhood Plan

WORK continues on preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. After an independent audit of work completed to date, the Town Council have appointed Kember Loudon Williams as a new planning consultant with the brief to review documents previously produced and, where necessary, guide any additional work that may be required in preparing the plan.

Kember Loudon Williams will work closely with the local community and Mid Sussex District Council to identify specific planning objectives for East Grinstead in order that the Town can evolve sustainably whilst preserving and protecting our areas of environmental quality. This process will include having particular regard to matters such as the need to undertake strategic environmental assessment and a habitats regulation assessment to reflect our closeness to the Ashdown Forest.

Once a thorough review has taken place the options for the plan approach will go out for public consultation, with a further consultation on the draft plan in 2015.



Christmas lights

THE responsibility for the town centre Christmas lights will be split between the Town Council this year and the Christmas Lights committee.

The Town Council will do the High Street area from Middle Row to the London Road, and will also take on the area between King Street to the Clock Tower and along Railway Approach.

The Christmas Lights committee will be responsible for London Road and the top end of the High Street by Sackville College.

Money raised by town centre traders sponsoring the lights will be split between the two groups so that the displays can be as good as possible again this year.

Have a problem? Don't know who can help?

WITH a three tier system of local government, residents don't always know who is responsible for the many services which help keep the town, the district and the county running smoothly.

So here is our handy guide to who does what:

West Sussex County Council is responsible for:

Education, Fire Services, Social Care, Footpaths, Bridleways and twittens, Grass cutting, Highways and Transport, Pavements

Mid Sussex District Council oversees:

Car parks and parking enforcement, Concessionary fares, Benefits, Housing, Dog control, Refuse and Recycling, Street sweeping and cleaning, Dead animals, Environmental Health

East Grinstead Town Council takes charge of:

Bus shelters, The Town Clock, War memorials, Public seats along the highway, Litter bins (MSDC is responsible for emptying the bins), Salt and grit bins, Cemetery, Community housekeeping service (to supplement the cleaning done by MSDC)

If you have any queries about these services a good place to start is the Help Point in the library.

Winter is coming – and not just in The Game of Thrones

THE Town Council is taking steps to ensure that the grit bins are fully stocked before the arrival of any bad weather this winter.

There are currently 69 grit bins placed around the town, plus an additional three on the Gardenwood estate which were paid for by the Gardenwood Residents Association and WSCC.

The Town Council will not be issuing new bins in the foreseeable future as the refilling already takes the outdoor services team up to five days to complete.

However a Council spokesman said they will try to relocate existing grit bins when necessary, and that labels explaining the correct method of applying salt have now been attached to all the bins to encourage the effective use of supplies.

What now for St Margaret's Loop?

ST Margaret's Loop is the redundant and badly overgrown railway cutting which runs from the Station car park to where it joins the main line near Charwoods Industrial Estate.

A little over half the Loop is owned by Railway Paths (a branch of Sustrans) and the remainder belongs to the Town Council and Martells, each having a stretch of roughly the same length.

But the land clearly cannot be left as it is, said Cllr Peter Wyan, chairman of the Amenities and Tourism Committee.

"There are now a great many self-seeded trees in the area which need regular inspection and attention, because if they fall and damage neighbouring properties the landowners are responsible. The Neighbourhood Plan, currently in draft stage, has included St Margaret's Loop as an issue to be resolved and at a meeting on 19 June, the Amenities and Tourism Committee determined that the Town Council should liaise with Sustrans and Martells with a proposal to renovate the Cutting, creating a green corridor which would encompass a cycle and walkway. The cost of such a project is likely to be offset by the revenue which would be received from builders who would be charged for filling it in with selected excavated subsoil.

At a recent meeting between the three owners there was general agreement for the idea. And it was proposed that West Sussex County Council should be invited to join future discussions as the project might also lend itself to improvements to London Road's traffic problems, where it crosses the Cutting."

This invitation has been extended to WSCC and the Town Council is awaiting their reply.

However the future of the cutting remains a sensitive issue not least because of the wildlife which inhabits it and therefore an environmental study is one of a number of surveys that will be necessary if the project is to gain general approval.

To that end the Town Council will continue to consult closely with both neighbours and residents alike.

Town Council to keep a careful watch on future of proposed Traveller site

NEWS that Mid Sussex District Council has shortlisted two areas in East Grinstead as possible sites for a permanent Traveller and Gypsy site caused a furore when it became public in June.

But in the light of public opposition to the move the Town Council has assured members of the public who attended meetings at which the proposal was discussed that their views have been forwarded to MSDC and that councillors remain opposed to the site.



Stocking filler ideas...

EAST Grinstead souvenirs available from the Tourist desk in the library, the Town Museum and Town Council Offices.