



VE Day Celebrations in The High Street

THIS May will mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, the final unconditional surrender by Germany which brought a formal end to World War II in Europe.

By the end of the conflict between 60 and 80 million people had died, including six million Jews in Nazi concentration camps, those who had died from war-related disease and deprivation, and up to 25 million military personnel, of whom five million had died while prisoners of war.

This year's 70th anniversary will be a particularly poignant one as it is likely to be the last at which those who actually served in the war will be present in any significant numbers.

So, to recall this landmark in the country's history, there will be a unique VE Day commemoration with a street party in the High Street on **Sunday, 10 May**.

The ConChord Big Band will be there to play 40's tunes, and the Spinettes, a



wartime-inspired close harmony trio, will be also be performing.

Starting the entertainment will be Adam, the Magic Music Man performing for the youngsters, and our own Meridian FM will fill in and act as compere.

Free tables and chairs, pre-booked on a first come, first served basis with the Town Council, will be available in the High



Street, where there will be a limited bar, and refreshments including hot dogs and burgers.

The town centre bars and cafes will be open for business, and will be joining in the fun.

People attending the event, which will start at 4pm and end at 9pm, are encouraged to wear period dress.

Vote, Vote, Vote...

WITH National, District and Town elections coming up on **Thursday 7 May**, East Grinstead residents need to ensure they are on the electoral register.

Everyone is responsible for registering themselves, and it can be done very simply online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

To check if your name is on the register contact the Electoral Services officer on **01444 477003**, who will also tell you how to register to vote by post if you need to do so. Or email elections@midsussex.gov.uk

To qualify for a vote you must be a citizen of Great Britain, Ireland or a Commonwealth country and be aged 18 or over.

Citizens of European Union states may vote in local elections but are not eligible to vote for UK MPs. The Town North and Town South Wards will be merged into a single Town Ward at the next election, and will be represented by four councillors instead of the present three, bringing the total number of town councillors to 19.

**Polling stations can occasionally change venue, so don't forget to check your Polling card for details of where to go to vote on Election Day.*

Dementia Friendly East Grinstead



THE charity Dementia Friends held two training sessions for town councillors and council employees in January, as well as a public session, as a first step towards making East Grinstead a 'dementia friendly' town. People with dementia need a little help from their friends, and anyone can be one of those 'friends in need' – it just means understanding a bit more about how dementia affects people and doing the small things you can to help them cope with the condition.

People suffering from dementia still want to be part of their community and to feel included, and sometimes all it needs is for someone to give them a bit more time at a check-out, or help them to find the right bus to take home.

But being a 'friend' – being a good neighbour – can make a world of difference to people with dementia and those who care for them. It's not about fundraising, or volunteering to do anything out of the ordinary – it's about understanding the problem, and being kind enough to care about it.

East Grinstead is already a caring and involved town, so let's all do what we can to make it even better.

Diary Dates

Bus Day on 12 April

VINTAGE buses will be offering their passengers a free trip down memory lane on 12 April, when they will be retracing their old routes around the town and surrounding villages.

Lions May Fair

THE hugely popular Lions May Fair will be back on 4 May with stalls, attractions and sideshows in the centre of town.

Electric Car Charging Comes to Forest Row

THERE is now a free charging point for electric cars in Forest Row. A Forest Row-based software company approached the parish who agreed that they could provide the village with a free point at the community centre.

The charging point is available from Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 4.30pm, and it is hoped that it will provide an incentive for current and prospective owners of electric vehicles to use greener energy.

Mid Sussex DC have electric car charging points in the Chequer Mead car park in East Grinstead and it is nice to see more points springing up in other surrounding villages.

Chequer Mead

EAST Grinstead Operatic Society will be performing Noises Off from 12-14 March. Written by Michael Frayn, it is considered one of Britain's greatest stage comedies.

Des O'Connor, a much-loved treasure of the entertainment scene, will be appearing at the town theatre on 26 March. Shirley Williams will be at Chequer Mead on 10 April presenting her talk The 20th Century, the Century of Violence. An MP for 20 years, she was in the Cabinet for five years. The Vienna Festival Ballet is marking its 35th anniversary with a tour which takes in Chequer Mead on 22 April. Their Gala performance will include highlights from Tchaikovsky ballets including Swan Lake, and Sleeping Beauty.

An Evening with Freddie Starr will be at the theatre on 23 April as Freddie takes his hilarious show on tour to venues across the UK.

Collectors Fairs at Chequer Mead

THERE is a Collectors Fair on the third Wednesday of every month at Chequer Mead. Upcoming dates are 18 March, 15 April, 20 May and 17 June.

Councils Negotiate Cheaper Parking with Southern



THE Town and County Councils have negotiated with Southern for cheaper rates of parking in the multi-storey car park behind East Grinstead railway station.

The move is to encourage drivers to use the car park, instead of parking in nearby residential roads. The reduced charges were introduced on 19 January and usage will be monitored by Southern.

The new rates will be:

DAILY £5

WEEKLY £25 • MONTHLY £90

QUARTERLY £271 • ANNUAL £940

East Court Live!

THERE will be a free Prom in the Park at East Court on 28 June, and a free Jazz Jam on 26 July featuring The Jive Aces.

Both concerts will take place between 1pm and 5pm.



Support Fairtrade Fortnight

EAST Grinstead is a Fairtrade town, which will be marking Fairtrade fortnight from 23 February to 8 March with a number of local events.

So look out for Fairtrade goods in local stores and try them if you haven't already done so - your purchase helps farmers in developing countries to get fairer and more stable prices for their produce, which in turn allows them to afford healthcare, education and enough food for their families.

Fairtrade East Grinstead has re-launched its website at www.fairtrade-eg.co.uk which lists local events as well as retailers, cafes and restaurants in the town selling Fairtrade goods.

Both Imberhome and St Peter's are Fairtrade schools, and Sackville has achieved Level 1 of the UNICEF 'Rights Respecting School Award' - which includes Fairtrade issues.

For more information, contact Susan Joy on 01342 835190 or email: SusanJoy471@hotmail.com

Sainsbury's Plan Should Reduce Station Congestion

SAINSBURY'S has had plans approved to redevelop the access and delivery yard at the rear of its East Grinstead branch.

When the works are complete it will take delivery lorries off the road just past the roundabout, and make for easier access into the station and the supermarket's own car park.

Mid Sussex Mile

FOR anyone who would like to take part in a running event, but who isn't quite ready for the full Marathon, the May Bank holiday weekend will also offer the chance to run a more modest mile.

Aimed at under-11s, 11 to 14 year olds, and adult beginners, the event is a great way for more inexperienced runners to take part in a friendly race suitable for the whole family.

The races will be held on 2 May in East Grinstead, 3 May in Haywards Heath and on the 4 May in Burgess Hill.

You can register on the day, before the 9.30am start, and there will be trophies and medals up for grabs. Entry is £3.

To find out more contact Nice Work on 07797 2300009 or see www.midsussexmarathon.co.uk

Mid Sussex Marathon

THREE towns, three races, three days - one great event!

The Mid Sussex Marathon will be back in East Grinstead with a ten-mile race on Saturday, 2 May.

A further ten-miler will be held in Haywards Heath on 3 May, and Burgess Hill will host the final ten-kilometre run on 4 May, bringing the race total up to the classic Marathon's 26.2 miles.

Runners can tackle one leg of the race, or all three.



To enter, contact Nice Work on 07797 2300009 or see www.midsussexmarathon.co.uk

This year the town's promotion team is hoping local businesses will make the day an extra special one by advertising offers which will tempt runners and their supporters into town after the race is over.

So if you are a local business and you want to offer a discount, hold a special Race Day promotion or give a free cup of tea to runners, get in touch with Dawn Spalding at the tourist desk in the library on 01342 410121.

Worth Way to Close for Several Weeks This Summer

THE Worth Way between East Grinstead and Crawley Down will be closed for resurfacing work for several weeks in spring/summer this year. No specific dates for the work have yet been decided upon but they will be announced in due course.



Contact Your Councillor

Ashplats

Jacqueline Beckford07931 171576
Liz Bennett01342 301007
Danny Favor01342 410244
Tony Scott.....01342 325045

Baldwins

Margaret Belsey.....01342 321574
Nick Hodges.....01342 300113
Norman Webster01342 317806

Imberhorne

Heidi Brunson.....07889 837362
Bob Mainstone.....01342 326454
Frank Osborne01342 322646
Rex Whittaker01342 302515

Town North

John Dabell01342 317745

Town South

Adam Reeves01342 887635
Peter Wyan.....01342 313985

Herontye

John O'Brien.....01342 321883
John Saull01342 822712
Dick Sweatman01342 322743

Worsted

Garry Sillitoe.....07771 892113

Email your councillor at:

initial.surname@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Gatwick Consultation



The Council voted on Monday 2nd February to approve their consultation submission to the Davies Commission.

In a covering letter to accompany the response, Cllr Whittaker (Leader of the Council) said "This Council finds that grave reservations as to the impact on the existing environment and community of a two runway airport at Gatwick have not been mitigated. At this stage it would appear to this Council that the commission have underestimated the potential negative impact on a beautiful natural mostly rural area, underestimated the costs needed to bring this option to Gatwick in local infrastructure, and over-estimated the economic benefits. The East Grinstead Town Council would oppose the Gatwick Option being pursued."

Council Meetings 2015

9 March	Planning
12 March	Amenities & Tourism
16 March	Charities*
19 March	Finance & General Purposes
23rd March	Annual town meeting (meeting of electors)
30 March	Planning
7 April	Council
27 April	Planning

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

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	03444 771171
East Grinstead Library.....	01342 332900
Queen Victoria Hospital.....	01342 414000
Affinity Sutton	0845 6887717
King's Centre	01342 328616
Police Station, East Court.....	101
Mid Sussex District Council.....	01444 458166
Samaritans.....	0845 7909090
Chequer Mead.....	01342 302000
Museum.....	01342 302233
EG CVS & Volunteer Centre	01342 328080

Contact the Town Council

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

Call: 01342 323636 **Click:** 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 the library.

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



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