

Who will you nominate for a Community Award?

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Eynsford Parish Council is delighted to be participating in the Kent Association for Local Council's Community Award scheme again. The KALC Community Award is to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to their local community.

Residents are invited to nominate a person or group who has made a difference to Eynsford's community. Parish councillors will then choose who will receive the award from those nominated. Past winners have been Ken Baker, Pauline Penney and Margaret Newbold.

Nominees must live or work within Eynsford parish. Examples of possible contribution could be: Long and sustained service to the community or part of it; achievements or actions of an inspiring nature to the local community; activities which have brought benefit or credit to the parish.

The award is a certificate signed by the KALC Chairman and the High Sheriff of Kent and will be presented at our Annual Parish Meeting in 2018.

Please use this form to make your nomination or send an email to info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Name of person or group:

Reason for nomination:

Your name:

Please return to: Eynsford Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY by 6th January 2019.



Autumn News 2018

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the autumn newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

Well done to Eynsford in Bloom for being awarded Gold again in South & South East in Bloom, you really do make Eynsford a beautiful place to live.

Within this newsletter, there are articles regarding, development, Speeding, Eagle Heights, the Roman Villa and DRiPS, so sit back and find out what has been happening in your village.

Lots of events are planned in the village to mark the centenary of the end of World War One. These include the lighting of a beacon, the Act of Remembrance and special prayers to remember casualties of the war buried in Eynsford.

I believe we are truly blessed to live in such a wonderful village, with some many clubs and societies and support groups for people of all ages. Within this newsletter, you will find two leaflets, one for our local Dementia Café, which was set up one of our councillors, Ferne Haxby, the café is a real support for those living with Dementia and their carers. The other leaflet is advertising a Dementia awareness event which is to be held at the Stag Theatre, the event will show case two plays about living with Dementia. One has been written and directed by the Deputy Clerk, and is to be performed by children, the other is directed by Ferne Haxby.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk & Naomi Morgan, Deputy Clerk
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Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk



Pedham Place Development

Councillor Phil Ward, Chair of the Planning Committee

Some weeks have passed since the consultation on the new draft Local Plan closed to comments. You may remember a part of the plan, and of particular local interest, is the proposed development at Pedham Place. This includes up to 2,500 houses with leisure, health and education facilities.

Eynsford Parish Council has been unequivocal in its opposition to the application and has submitted a strongly worded and evidence based response requesting Pedham Place be removed. We believe the proposal offers few benefits for the existing communities, has a serious detrimental effect on the AONB and Green Belt and is unsustainable due to the isolated location with congested transport links. The proposal is significantly lacking in detail and it fails to demonstrate any exceptional circumstances to justify its inclusion. We recognise that although there is some support locally for the development, the vast majority of parishioners both in Eynsford and Farningham are against it. A full copy of the council's response can be found on the council's website.

Councillors attended the drop-in session arranged by Sevenoaks District Council and a meeting with the developers to gain understanding of the issues at stake. We understand the need for new housing; young people looking to remain local as they move into adulthood, those with growing families and older people looking to downsize or requiring housing more appropriate for their needs. These issues are understood, however, we believe the evidence clearly shows Pedham Place is wholly inappropriate for such a development. Our case has been strengthened by a compelling response by the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty against the development.

What happens now?

Having received many responses to the draft plan and the Pedham Place proposal, Sevenoaks District Council will be carefully considering all the comments made by the public and statutory consultees. They will be deciding whether to amend the draft plan based on these comments; our hope is that the Pedham Place proposal will be removed.

Summer Family Fun Days 2018

Naomi Morgan, Deputy Clerk



With the sun shining high in the sky, the scene was set for Eynsford Parish Council's two free family fun days during the school holidays, which were held at Anthony Roper Primary School, with Play Place and Sevenoaks District Council providing the activities.

Thank you to Farningham Parish Council, for their contribution towards the cost and to the school for allowing us to host the event at the school.

The fun days, which attracted 101 children and 51 adults over the two sessions, had lots of activities for the children, including bouncy castles, face painting, arts and crafts. The council also paid for an extra activity this year, which was African drumming - the children had fun learning to play the African drums. We also had Sarah Brushett attending doing sports games / activities which were very popular even in the baking sun.

Parish Council representatives ran a light refreshments stall for those who were hungry or thirsty, with lots of delicious things to eat, from cupcakes to watermelon slices. Many families also brought along picnics to eat on the field, whilst enjoying the beautiful weather.

Thank you to all who came along, and we hope you had a wonderful day. Please get in touch with us, if you have any ideas or comments for future events.

DRiPS – the Darent River Preservation Society.

Rod Shelton, DRiPS

Its name says it all really. We do our very best to protect and preserve the river. Once upon a time it is thought the Darent probably contained all the Medway's water as well. I mean you don't cut a massive chalk valley like ours with just the stream we have today. But why does it need preserving? Surely it can look after itself?

If you were here in the 80s, you'd know why. Our river disappeared. The chalk beneath us is like a gigantic sponge. Water collects within it. These are our aquifers. The trouble is, we have all grown up believing that water is free, so we can take as much of it as we like. We can't though or the sponge runs dry and there is nothing left on the surface. That's what happened in the early 80's and that's when DRiPS was formed.

It successfully lobbied to get the abstraction rate in N.W. Kent limited. The river now flows again. With our close associates in the South-East Rivers Trust and North West Kent Countryside Partnership, as well as most of the Angling Societies, we do our best to keep-up an on-going monitoring of the river and try together to find ways to deal with any problems. We have also gained the active support of all the Parish Councils along the river's course. So, drip by drip, communities like ours are realising the importance of the water we all use.

Now though, almost 40 years later, we are about to be faced with a new problem. The Government requires that SDC builds almost 14,000 new homes in the SDC area. It could spell the death-knell of our river. Why? Because that number of homes will require an extra 5 MILLION+ liters of water every single day to feed that number of families! Our clean, clear water from Kent's chalk aquifers will be simply too tempting for the Water Companies to resist and we know what happens when the sponge is squeezed dry. So, once again, DRiPS has got a big job to do to push the Government, Ofwat and Thames Water to start planning for alternative sources for its water - or our community and our river will be the ones who suffer the consequences in the years ahead.

If you would like to support DRiPS in our efforts, drop an email to the secretary, Rod Shelton, Rodshelton@Greenbee.net. and he can tell you how. www.darent-drips.org.uk

Early next year, Sevenoaks District Council will publish the final version of the Local Plan which will be sent to the Government's Planning Inspector for scrutiny. This will establish whether the plan is lawful, it has taken proper account of the local consultation and SDC have investigated all other options before allowing any 'exceptional circumstances' Green Belt sites to be developed. A consultation on the final version of the plan will then take place, but this time comments will be sent directly to the Planning Inspector for their consideration. If Pedham Place is still in the plan at this stage, we must re-state our arguments and hope to convince the inspector support the removal of Pedham Place.

If approved, the Local Plan will be formally adopted towards the end of 2019.

Community Speedwatch!

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Speed Watch is now getting into gear in Eynsford & Farningham.



Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow.

If you are concerned about speeding in our villages now is your chance to do something about it!

We are joining forces for our first training session on 17th November between 9 and 11am. Thank you to everyone who has put their name forward so far. If anyone else would like to be involved, please get in touch on info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk and I will send you more information.

Fourth Gold for Eynsford

Pauline Penney, Eynsford in Bloom

On Friday 6th July Reg Harrison judged Eynsford for the South and South East in Bloom large village category. The second judge failed to arrive as his car broke down. The Baptist Church provided an excellent venue to host this event.



We achieved Gold by only one mark and this is too close for comfort. Silver-gilt is awarded for 139-169 points and the Gold for 170-200. The judge's report gave Eynsford 170 points.

The Community section was our most successful earning 42 out of 50 marks. The comments made praised the strong community spirit with numerous groups meeting throughout the year. The History display showing various meeting subjects throughout the year gained more credit. Both the Pre-School and Primary School offer gardening experience and Reg recommends they are given more support.

We know many residents do not receive or read the parish magazine, Trident (£1 monthly) or read the village notice boards. In the run-up to judging in the future we may deliver fliers to houses along the judging route so those residents are aware of what is being done, and can be done, to support us.

The Environmental Responsibility section earned 40 out of 50 marks. The maintenance of St. Martin's Churchyard to allow some areas of nature conservation was praised. Reg liked the new wooden Eynsford in Bloom signs located in and above our borders. We would like to thank the resident for making and donating these.

The judge suggested we should introduce a community composting scheme, the Eynsford in Bloom group will not consider this, but we would be happy for another group to take the idea on. The lowest mark, 7 Out of 10, was for resource management. This section includes "recycling, minimising the demand on natural resources and any harmful impact on the environment". We have struggled to understand these comments so we could improve in the future.

- Do you enjoy fundraising and events? Would you like to host a 'Friends of EHWF' fundraiser? We would love to hear from you.
- Do you have any spare time? Would you like to volunteer to do some gardening or DIY? We would really love to hear from you!
- Like & share our Facebook page – this helps greatly with advertising and awareness and doesn't cost you anything!
- Let your local school know, we have a brand new Educational Workshop team!
- Arrange a group outing with your local club. We can offer great discounts and even a delicious Ploughmans or Afternoon Tea overlooking the valley.
- Consider a legacy donation. Leave a lasting legacy by donating to the animals and conservation work.

Established in 1996, Eagle Heights has carried out countless conservation, rescue, rehabilitation and educational works both here and abroad.

We are proud to say that we have created a 'Wildlife Oasis' at Hullberry Farm, with our last Conservation Survey reporting a dramatic increase in the population of Flora and Fauna both in the immediate grounds as well as the surrounding area.

We are so much more than a visitors attraction and we would love to welcome more of our wonderful villagers not only for a day out, but also to assist with conserving the valley and the wild residents we share it with.

Follow the Parish Council Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and it's services. There are also areas dedicated to the village and community groups with the option for you to add your own events for listing. Have a look at www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news, share useful information . We love to hear your views and to see your pictures too. Do follow us to keep up to date! Let us know what you think and what other kind of information you would like us to share.



Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation

Samantha Ames

Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation has been changing over the last 12 months and with even more changes to come we wanted to offer some updates and let you know ways you can support the good works happening right on your doorstep.



Changes in the last 12 months:-

- Creation of even more protected conservation areas, inviting native Wildlife to continue thrive.
- We won an award! In 2018 we were awarded Silver by Green Tourism. This is judged on all aspects of the organisation, from using sustainable paper in our office, banning plastic straws in the Tearoom, using recycled materials for our animals enclosures plus much more.
- We trained our staff to be 'Autism Aware' meaning that anyone visiting will experience an understanding, empathetic and non-judgemental day out. We are also hoping to take part in Autism Hour this year as well as run some 'Sensory Aware' events with the animals.
- Works beginning on phases 1 & 2 of the Development Plan including modernised housing for the Eagles as well as a new 200 seater indoor arena and Discovery Centre
- A brand new state of the art website was launched with live booking features as well as experience day vouchers now available to buy online!
- Re branding of our Gift Shop, Tearooms & Party Cabin to a 'Magical Woodland' theme.
- Participation in various conservation projects both here and abroad. (Full details on our website)
- New discount scheme added for local residents. 20% off Season Tickets

Ways you can support us:-

- We are always on the look out for spare sheets, towels and bedding for the animals. If you have some that you wish to donate, please let us know.

The Horticultural Achievement section gained 82 out of 100 marks. The reduction in the use of annual bedding plants is noticeable and appropriate to a rural village setting. The exception is the War Memorial site where the current display to commemorate 100 years of the Suffragette Movement was described as sympathetic. The border at the end of the railway station is attractive and visible especially from the footbridge. We need greater impact along front roadside borders, we thought our posters on notice boards and monthly articles in Trident would be enough to inform everyone of our plant and colour plans.

Whether Eynsford in Bloom enters the village for this event again is doubtful. We have ideas to develop new sites but are struggling and giving extra hours to maintain the existing ones. Our regular ten volunteers are ageing and have associated medical limitations. More help will be essential for us to maintain the work and level required to enter this event. We hope more people will step forward and volunteer to ensure the upkeep of the village and enable us to enter the regional "in Bloom" event again.

The following is part of a letter from the South and South East in Bloom event organisers:

"As you are aware, over the last couple of years we have been using a new on-line administration system for both entrants and judges. This enables you to see previous reports for 2015, 2016 and 2017, as well as your new reports for 2018. To log in to your site please go to www.inbloom.org.uk and click on Entrant Results which is the fourth tab along. You will then need to add your entrant reference number, which is 221929 and entrant pin 1552 and then log in. Once on the site click on View to see your report"

Please also look at our weekly Facebook work report on our site "Eynsford in Bloom".

The work parties meet at the back of the main carpark opposite St Martin's Church on Tuesdays and the first Saturday of the month. All meetings start at 9.30.

**For a large print newsletter call
01322 865320**

Lullingstone Roman Villa

Emma Freeman, Site Manager

Many of you, as residents of Eynsford, may be aware of the fact that there is a Roman villa located down Lullingstone Lane. Most of you have probably either visited us in the past or seen us on television in Neil Oliver's Sacred Wonders of Britain.

What some of you may not be aware of is that 2019 marks the 70th Anniversary of when the original excavations of the dig began. Back in 1949 a small team of archaeologists and many more volunteers began to uncover the east side of the villa complex. We would like to celebrate our 70th Anniversary next year by putting together an exhibition of unseen photographs and memories of those who took part in the dig. If you have any items, photographs or simply have a memory of the dig that you would like to put forward to be included please get in touch. My email address is emma.freeman@english-heritage.org.uk. Alternatively, you can always pop along to the villa and speak to any member of the team. As part of next year's celebrations, we will also be holding an evening event for the original diggers (hopefully in June). As there weren't any records of volunteers kept during the dig, if anyone knows of any person who took part, please let us know. We will also be extending the invitation to this event to residents of Eynsford. We will be putting up posters nearer the time so keep your eyes peeled.

English Heritage is also looking to form closer links with the local community both at Lullingstone Roman Villa and Eynsford Castle. The villa building does incorporate a learning space which sits idle for most of the year. If anyone would like to come and use the space (or the immediate surroundings) for art classes, meetings or anything else, please get in contact with us with the details of what you would like to do and when. I can't guarantee that we will be able to say yes to everything but we would really love to see more of you using the sites.

Lastly, I know that the "C" word is not everyone's favourite right now! However, if you would like to come and do some retail therapy before the thing that happens in December, then don't forget to claim your local resident's 10% discount. If you want to stock up on meads, local ciders or some armour, then come and visit us!

Football in Eynsford

We are pleased to have two clubs regularly playing in Eynsford - here is a piece from them both:

Eynsford Football Club *Mark Reynolds, Team Manager*

Being the earliest established Football Club in Kent, it was important that we held it together when in 2016 the entire team and management decided to call it a day. The past couple of years have been difficult but we are now building a team that is based on reliable players who are really beginning to make headway in respect of results and the group WhatsApp group demonstrates genuine commitment and camaraderie. Our home games are played on Harrow Meadow as they have been for many years and we would welcome your support on a Saturday afternoon 2pm kick off every other week generally. Jackie, one of the Mums bakes very good quality brownies, biscuits and cakes and makes tea to wash it down, all for £1.50, so come support us if you are free. By the way, competent new players are always welcome so contact Mark on 07985127653 if you are over 16.

Riverside Wanderers Football Club *Graham Begg, Treasurer*

Established in 2008, Riverside Wanderers FC is a Kent FA affiliated veterans football team which provides the opportunity for local over 35-year olds to play football. It developed from a handful of dedicated villagers who started kicking a football around on a Sunday morning in 2007 to a current squad of 24 players aged between 35 and 63 who play 11 a side fixtures on a Sunday morning and 7 a side training games on a Thursday evening. The 11 a side games are friendlies against similar aged veterans' teams from North West Kent and South East London. Home games are played at Harrow Meadow and kick off at 10:30am on a Sunday. We play about 30 games a season, depending on the length of our cup run in the Kent Veterans' cup. In June we arrange an end of season tour; past venues include Bournemouth and Guernsey. Socialising is just as important as playing – we have post-match drinks in the Five Bells and hold regular events at sponsors the Palace of India. The majority of our members reside in Eynsford or Farningham and we are proud to be part of local life. We like to support local community projects and donate to youth groups such as the 1st Eynsford & Farningham Scout Group.

We are always looking for new members, if interested please get in touch via our website.

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/riversidewanderers/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/158111071452272/>