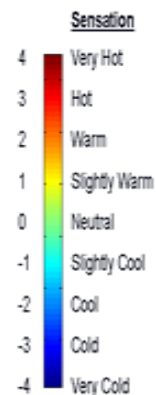


- Fit heat reflective panels behind radiators on external walls. This reduction of heat loss is detected by the thermal imaging camera as it can reduce heat loss by up to 60%. See www.warmroom.co.uk for more information.
- Clean out chimneys and block unused ones – these can be blocked with old jumpers or new felt products – see www.chimneysheep.co.uk
- Lag your pipes. If you have a loft make sure pipes in the loft are lagged. Lag central heating pipes under ground floor voids. These can lose 70% of their heat before they even reach your radiators.
- Get your boiler serviced now – don't wait until it breaks down.
- Fit an insulated letterbox flap. Install a made to measure magnetic or stick on secondary glazing to glazed sections of the door (www.ecoease.co.uk)



You can also visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk. This site offers advice on all energy saving methods and provides lists of installers for insulation, windows etc. They also have a free advice line - 0300 123 1234 where calls are charged at a national rate.

Finally, this government publication also provides some advice on energy saving:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/254487/Helping_consumers_with_energy.pdf

To borrow the thermal imaging camera (for a day or half day, depending on demand) please contact the parish office on 01322 865320 or email eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk. A small deposit may be required, along with proof of identity & address. Please state your preferred day/s from the dates listed at the start of this article.

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



Autumn News 2014

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.



Photo by Tanya Mcleish

We hope you enjoy this information-packed edition of the newsletter which includes articles on flooding, broadband and burials. We are pleased to enclose a flyer about the Twinning project's next trip.

You may have heard that the proposed Gypsy & Traveller site at Shoreham has now been removed from Sevenoaks District Council's list. Shoreham's residents are very happy with this.

Would you use a cycle rack if one was installed at Eynsford station? Email the clerk to let us know.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY; 01322 865320; eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook.

Meet Your New Councillor: Theresa Durrant

I am pleased to introduce myself as the newest councillor to Eynsford Parish Council, after being co-opted on the 14th August 2014.

Firstly I cannot say enough, how thrilled I am to join the Eynsford Parish Council and I hope to bring a unique prospective to the table as an entrepreneur, landlord and keen conservationist, with deep roots in the local area. I come from a family that originates in Eynsford, and am inherently connected to the community.

I have spent the last 16 years living in Bexleyheath and working within the legal department of a London based property management company, before setting up my own cloud technology business in Dartford, with my husband Lee. I provide young and often inexperienced people with the opportunity to work within an fast moving and innovative industry.

In December 2012, I was extremely pleased to move back into the village, where I have spent the last two years reacquainting myself with all that the village has to offer. I am extremely motivated to finding solutions, addressing the needs of the entire community and am dedicated to creating a strong Council and therefore hopefully making Eynsford an even better place to live. I believe in openness and transparency in the affairs of the Parish Council and in its accountability to the people it serves.

If I can be of any assistance now, or in the future, please feel free to contact me on theresamdurrant@gmail.com.



Thermal Imaging Camera

Councillor Andrea Cornwell

Sevenoaks District Council has offered Eynsford Parish Council the opportunity to borrow a thermal imaging camera for residents to use over the winter months. We have booked the camera from **3rd to 16th November 2014** and from **2nd to 15th February 2015**.



The camera, which is simple to use, can show you if there are any parts of your property that are radiating energy and therefore emitting heat. The energy efficiency of a building can be affected by any number of defects including poor insulation, poorly sealed windows and doors, plumbing leaks and other issues with the heating, ventilation and air conditioning installation.

In a thermal image, the colour displayed represents the heat emitted by an object. A colour towards the red end of the spectrum suggests that the object or area is emitting a higher than average temperature. A colour towards the blue end of the spectrum suggests the object is emitting a lower than average temperature.

The key to using this thermal image is to spot where you believe there to be preventable heat loss. For example, if a thermal image of a house shows a large amount of red (heat loss) on the windows, it may suggest they are not as efficient as they could be. Replacing the windows with more efficient double or triple glazing would reduce heat loss and therefore save the household money.

Other ways you can help to keep your home warmer this winter as mentioned in the Sunday Times are:

- Having a thermal lining to curtains or wooden shutters, this may reduce heat loss as much as double glazing. Remember to close all curtains and shutters at dusk to prevent heat loss

When the graveyard is finally closed, maintenance still remains with the PCC, although they can serve notice on the Parish Council



passing on this responsibility to them. In turn however, the Council can request that Sevenoaks District Council take over such duties for the future. However St Martin's Church, and its beautiful churchyard, is an iconic village landmark much loved by local residents whether they are regular church-goers or not, and as such it is important that the high standards of upkeep of the church grounds are maintained, and the frequency of such maintenance by SDC would have to be closely monitored.

In terms of the provision of a new burial ground in Eynsford, or other alternatives, it is clear that few viable options exist. The lack of potential sites

for a new ground, combined with possible local opposition, the costs of surveying (and in some cases purchasing) the land, providing the infrastructure, the implementation and building costs and the ongoing management and maintenance means that, in the project team's opinion, the costs would outweigh the benefits – especially in view of the decline in demand for burials compared to cremations.

However, natural or woodland burials are becoming more popular as alternatives to a traditional burial. Although the project team does not believe that the cost/benefit presently warrants the Parish Council spending its limited funds on such a project, especially as St Martins is still open to cremations, if it perceives in the future that demand for natural burials is increasing it may consider exploring with the Woodlands Trust or other local landowners the possibility of purchasing some woodland for this purpose.

Should any resident wish to make a comment, please feel free to contact the Parish Council.

Meet Your New PCSO: Tim Darling

Hello everyone! I'm PCSO Tim Darling, your new Police Community Support Officer for Eynsford!



New to the area but not new to the role; I've been a PCSO for Kent Police for 5 years now. I have covered a variety of different areas and have thus built a wealth of experience in this role over these years. From dealing with rural issues in Horton Kirby to carrying out pro-active action in Edenbridge and Swanley town centres, I've dealt with quite the plethora of local concerns. Patrolling out of Swanley Police Station, I am on duty from as early as 7am and work until as late as 10pm on varying early, mid and late shifts. This greatly increases our availability in working to tackle local matters. I'm here to assist in dealing with your concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour. I'm also able to give you advice on how to protect your home, your property, and also yourself from crime. If you would like me to attend any group meetings or events, let me know the details by emailing me on timothy.darling@kent.pnn.police.uk and I'll do my best to attend.

If you have any concerns in Eynsford that you would like to speak to the Police about, contact us on 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)

I look forward to seeing you all at some point soon.

Tim Darling
Police Community Support Officer
Mobile: 07989992172



Making Kent (and Eynsford) Quicker

County Councillor Roger Gough

Kent County Council has been working for some years to bring faster broadband to those parts of the county - around a quarter of properties - that will not benefit from the unaided commercial development of the network. In my previous Cabinet role at KCC I oversaw last year's agreement with government agency BDUK and BT and I remain involved in the monitoring of that programme and our development of new broadband initiatives.

Last year's agreement - part of the 'Making Kent Quicker' scheme - involved a £40 million investment (£10 million of it from KCC) to ensure that at least 91% of Kent properties had access to superfast broadband - defined as download speeds of 24 Megabits per second (MBpS) or faster - and that all properties had access to at the very least 2 MBpS in the project area. This would bring superfast broadband to over 120,000 properties across Kent and be concluded by the end of 2015. The main method of achieving this is to bring fibre to each of the BT cabinets that you will see dotted around the area by adding an extra cabinet next to the existing one.



By the end of September, more than 50,000 properties had been covered by the scheme. More immediately relevant to Eynsford residents, Sevenoaks District was within Phase 2 of the scheme that ran from March to September, which has now been concluded. The Farningham exchange was one of the later exchanges in the District to be enabled, which took place in early September.

You can check out the position for your own home using the postcode checker on www.kent.gov.uk/broadband. This is updated very rapidly after fibre is brought to each cabinet, so the information should be very current. You will then need to contact

like to keep a close association with the local police and Community Warden.

So you can see the job is many and varied. The parish council are often the first point of contact for almost any village matter, from potholes to rubbish dumping, overgrown hedges to bad parking. In short, the parish council gets involved in just about everything that affects village life. Anyway, you now have just about six-months to give this some thought. **Your parish needs you!**

Burials in Eynsford

Councillor Malcolm Richardson



It is anticipated that the graveyard attached to St Martins Church in Eynsford will become full within three to four years' time and the Parochial Church Council have decided to close it to new burials as from December 2016 (although this date may be reassessed nearer the time). However it will remain open to cremations. To consider the implications, a project team was initiated by the Parish Council to research and make recommendations regarding the closure process, the future maintenance of the churchyard and also the possibility of opening a new burial ground within Eynsford. Over the last twelve months the project team has researched and investigated the costs and implications of these issues.

New burials at St Martin's churchyard currently average at about five a year. Although no formal survey has been carried out, the PCC believe that there is some demand from parishioners to be laid to rest within Eynsford and thus, ideally, it would be beneficial to have a small, new burial ground within the village. However, demand for burials across the UK has declined in recent years and, in 2012, 74% of people who died were cremated. This trend is reflected in other local parishes who have all seen a significant decline in demand for burials. This trend is likely to continue, partly due to the much higher costs of burial compared to cremation.

committee for trees, which involves the Tree Warden and his deputy, both non-councillors. In addition, we sometimes have 'one-off', finite projects, such as for a burial ground, when interested councillors join with other interested parties.

The parish council owns and maintains land in the village, which consists of the Castlefield allotments, the Castlefield car park,



Common Meadow (cricket ground), the Edwards Hall site, the Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society building, Harrow Meadow (football ground & playground), Riverside and the war memorial. We have a litter warden to keep these clear of

rubbish, we deal with the grass cutting and provision of benches, bins, dog bins and notice boards. All street lighting in the village is the responsibility of the parish council, and we have an ongoing repair and replacement programme.

The parish council is a consultee on all planning policy documents, and has been involved in making responses on the Sevenoaks District Council Core Strategy and the Allocations and Development Management Plan, both of which will govern the outcome of all planning applications until 2026. We are also a consultee on all planning applications for the parish. We have been closely involved with all new developments in the parish, such as Gibsons Court, Parsonage Bank and Walnut Close.

We work very closely with our District and County Councillors (Roger Gough and Michael Horwood) to make things happen in the parish, as well as being represented on village groups. We also



your Internet Service Provider to upgrade. Some of the most remote areas may not have been covered in this phase but will be part of a final, County-wide phase in the latter part of 2015.



Longer term, there will be a Phase 2 to Making Kent Quicker, to which central government and KCC are each committing £5.6 million with the aim of achieving at least 95% superfast coverage by the end of 2017. It is anticipated that the contract for this will be awarded in April 2015. BDUK are currently developing a Phase 3 programme to tackle the most difficult areas of all ('the final 5%'). Kent is a national pilot area for work currently being undertaken by BDUK to trial new technologies, with the aim of helping to achieve full coverage.

Remember, Remember the 5th of November, our New Website will Launch!

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Your parish council has been working on developing a new website over the last year and its launch date is fast approaching. The project team of Mrs Cornwell, Mr Ward, Mr Stanyon and Mrs Ivaldi have worked with a website designer to create the basic format and structure of the site, and have since been building up the content.



The new website will not just be about the parish council but will be somewhere for local clubs and organisations to share their information. However, much of this local information will be added in stage two of the project and will be up to YOU to provide!

The main part of the site includes information about the parish council's work, current projects, areas of responsibility, councillors and more. There will be a calendar with details of both meeting and

village events. Our news section will keep you up to date with current activity and you can also read our Chairman's blog!

We will try to include any news or events that you send in and will be pleased to receive any photos for use on the site: not just nice local views, but also pictures of Eynsford events and activities, and daily village life!

Visit www.ensfordparishcouncil.org.uk from 5th November. Remember that the website will always be a work in progress and we will be pleased to receive comments and feedback at eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk

www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Flooding in Eynsford

Peter Waring, Senior Flood Risk Advisor for West Kent, The Environment Agency

Flood risk in Eynsford

Flooding can occur from a number of different sources which include surface runoff from land, river (fluvial) flooding, groundwater flooding or sewer flooding. Many of the villages within the Darent Valley include a small number of properties at risk of flooding from one or more of these sources.



Our role

Different authorities (such as local councils or water companies) manage flooding from different sources and the Environment Agency takes a strategic overview of the risk of flooding from all sources. We are responsible for managing the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. We receive funding from government to do this

Your Parish Needs You! May 2015 Elections

Councillor Clive Stanyon, Chairman

In May 2015, there will be an election for parish councillors, for a four year term, until 2019. Having been a parish councillor for nearly twenty years now and chairman for nearly eight years, I think that it is time for me to step aside and make room for some new blood. My understanding is that two others may well do the same, meaning that we will lose our three most experienced parish councillors in one go, and have three vacancies as a result.



So, as you read this, perhaps you will consider whether you have the time and enthusiasm to volunteer for the benefit of the village, and to join the parish council next May, by standing for election. All you need to do is obtain forms from the Returning Officer at Sevenoaks District Council, nearer the time, and get two people to sign the form for you. The Parish Clerk can help you with this.

Parish councils were established in 1894 and are the oldest type of local authority in England. They represent the local community and provide services to meet local needs and help with the local quality of life. They give communities a voice when dealing with the other tiers of local council and third-parties.

So what does it involve? There is a full council meeting every month, on the third Thursday, from 20:00, usually finished by 22:30. This meeting is used for governance and finance items, as well as any items that can be covered in five minutes. Items requiring a longer debate are discussed at our monthly committee meetings, which are held on the first Monday of the month. We have Planning, Community & Environment, Highways & Transportation, and Recreation Committees. These meetings also start at 20:00. All councillors are expected to attend both the full council and committee meetings.

There are also a few sub-committees, but only a couple of councillors usually sit on these. These include, a sub-committee for the Harrow Meadow, which involves the football clubs and a sub-

School Run Safety Campaign

Ali Carter, SRSC

As the days are getting shorter now Autumn is here, we'd like to remind Anthony Roper Primary School parents to encourage their children to wear their hi-viz jacket. Drivers in Eynsford have told us that seeing children in the yellow jackets really makes them think about their speed and they automatically slow down.

The School Run Safety Campaign (SRSC) wants the hi-viz jacket scheme to be sustainable. We're planning to do a hi-viz jacket "swap or buy" event soon. Children who have outgrown their jacket can return it and get a larger one. If children have lost their jacket, parents can buy a replacement.

The SRSC would like to thank all the Year 6 pupils who returned their hi-viz jackets before they left Anthony Roper in the summer. If anyone still has a jacket and they're no longer at ARPS, we'd be really grateful if you could return it so another child can use it.

We'd like to remind parents to think responsibly when they are parking on the school run. Remember it's illegal to park on yellow lines and on zig zags. If you have to mount the pavement to park please, please do so extremely carefully. Then consider whether a buggy or a wheel chair user could get by on the pavement. Double parking causes congestion and could dangerously hold up an emergency vehicle.

Don't forget to 'like' our Facebook page to be kept up to date with news and activities.



and we prioritise works across the whole country by considering social, environmental and economic costs and benefits. The greater the benefits (such as the number of homes protected), the more likely works are to receive funding.

We also provide flood risk advice to planning authorities and we are consulted on planning applications for new development. We work with developers to ensure their proposals will be safe from flooding and will not increase the risk elsewhere. We will object to any proposal which does not meet these two criteria but in many cases, our concerns can be resolved and steps can be taken to reduce the risk of flooding.



The floodplain

A river system can be considered as having two active components:

- a river channel; and
- a floodplain.

The floodplain is an extension of the channel which is used during periods of excessive rainfall, as happened during the winter of 2013/14. It is important to ensure the floodplain is kept as clear as possible from obstructions and built development to enable it to flow when necessary.

Historically, the channel of the Darent has been modified at several locations by the construction of various mills, so the channel may no longer be located at the lowest part of the valley. When flow does exceed the capacity of the channel, water temporarily flows along the old course of the channel. Examples of this could be seen at many locations last winter but, with the exception of a few historical dwellings built close to the river, the Darent floodplain between Otford and South Darenth remains reasonably clear and operates efficiently under flood conditions.

Our activities

River management and maintenance: We undertake river maintenance work on Main Rivers, such as the River Darent, where it will help reduce flood risk to homes. Where we do this, we use our permissive powers, which allow us, but do not oblige us, to carry out works.

Our maintenance activities are split into routine and intermittent activities. Routine activities are those usually undertaken annually and generally include weed cutting and other vegetation management. Along the River Darent this includes hand cutting the in-channel vegetation and carrying out minor tree works. Intermittent activities are less frequent and include repairing flood risk structures or carrying out large-scale tree works.



All our maintenance activities follow a Maintenance Standard Manual published by the Environment Agency. This manual helps us to determine the type and frequency of activities and how we carrying these out while also protecting and enhancing the local wildlife.

In addition to our maintenance activities we also carry out annual visual inspections of the River Darent and flood risk assets to determine their condition.

We are also a Category 1 responder, and during flooding incidents our activities include operating structures and removing blockages from channels. You can report a blockage or issue through our Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

Reducing flood risk: Given the dispersed nature of the homes at risk from the River Darent, unfortunately it would not be possible to construct a single flood alleviation scheme which provides adequate protection to all properties.

However, we are currently working with Kent County Council and local landowners to investigate a number of relatively small schemes at various locations throughout the catchment, which will reduce flood risk locally by improving floodplain storage and reducing runoff. At some upstream locations, we are investigating whether removing weirs which are no longer needed would help reduce flood risk. However, we are not considering removing any weirs at Eynsford, particularly not those at Riverside which help to maintain levels during the summer.



What can you do?

Sign up for Flood Warnings: We offer a Flood Warning Service to homes and businesses at risk from river flooding. The river level is monitored by telemetry at Otford, enabling us to provide a warning to communities between Otford and South Darent.

This is a free service and you can register by phoning Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or go on-line to <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>.

Create a flood plan: Don't wait until it happens, do what you can now to prepare for a flood.

A personal flood plan includes a list of things you should do, such as moving valued items to safety, and provides space for you to note down important contact details such as your utility companies and insurance provider. You can download a template from our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>

For some properties, it may also be possible for homeowners to install property level flood protection. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood/improve-your-property-flood-protection>