

Signs of a Bon Accord!

Holly Ivaldi

Eynsford's Twinning group will be welcoming nearly 40 visitors from France on the weekend of 3-5 May 2019.

Eynsford officially twinned with Camphin en Pévèle (near to Lille) in 2015 and has been making regular visits ever since and also welcoming groups from Camphin. Links have been made between the schools, the churches and the football clubs, as well as many families in the two villages.

As part of the weekend's festivities, there will be an official 'unveiling' of the twinning signs at the sign just south of Eynsford station. The signs (one near Oliver Crescent on Eynsford Road, and the other south of the station) were funded by the parish council and Eynsford Village Society to cement the twinning. Representatives from the parish council and EVS have been invited to attend the ceremony followed by a 'Vin d'honneur' in St Martin's Church. Eynsford in Bloom have kindly agreed to plant up around the signs in red, white and blue in honour of the occasion.



Eleven host families in Eynsford and Farningham will be spending time with their French families over the weekend. There will be a trip to London and a Ceilidh in Eynsford Village Hall on the Saturday. We also hope to see some of the families at church on Sunday where they will also be enjoying a lunch after the official business of the signs.

Parish Council Chair Sarah Boyle said '*we are delighted that the twinning continues to thrive, and hope that the unveiling of the signs is a sign of our ongoing friendship with the people of Camphin en Pévèle.*'



Spring News 2019

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Spring newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

Local elections will be taking place again on 2nd May (or may already have happened by the time you read this). However, we already know that the parish council election in Eynsford is uncontested as all eight of our councillors have stood for election again for the eight spaces. When there are the right number of candidates or fewer, then no formal election takes place and they are formally elected. We can now plan ahead for the next 4 years of work.



Photo: Chris Lewington

Meanwhile, do read about some of things going on in your village including an update on the village hall project which we are working on with the village hall trustees. Also, ongoing work to get to the bottom of the leak on the High Street and an interesting Dig project from English Heritage this summer.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

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Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

What, a leak?

Cllr Theresa Durrant

After almost two years of constant chasing, the parish council are finally able to provide an update on the water leak by the Village sign. Whilst we weren't necessarily in danger of waking up to discover a new river running through the centre of the village, we were appalled by the amount of water that has literally gone down the drain, as Thames Water failed to identify a leak following several visits. Finally, after declaring enough's - enough, the parish council decided to make a pest of themselves, following concerns that the village sign would be damaged beyond repair after standing in a puddle for the best part of two years, not to mention concerns over someone being seriously hurt on the icy pavement over winter.



Progress was finally made, when councillors demand that Thames Water arrange an appointment so that the water leakage could be pointed out to them, after which point it took less than 20 minutes to locate a leak by Fountain Court. West Kent Housing Association has been informed about the leak, and Thames Water has now completed the repair. Unfortunately this does not seem to have fully resolved the problem and there is still water coming from the wall. So, we still will need to monitor the area carefully, as rumour has it, there is a natural spring somewhere around Pollyhaugh and the High Street and we will be following this up.

In the meantime, Kent Highways plan to put in another filter underneath the pavement there to improve the situation.

The very first official Lullingstone 10k race will take place at Lullingstone Park on the 17th November 2019.

Giles Wolfe

"But don't they do a race there every Saturday" I hear you ask? Well, yes and no.

Lullingstone parkrun is a free weekly timed 5k event, which happens all over the UK (at over 600 locations!) it's also **not a race**, it's a timed run, you against the clock. Organised and run by local volunteers.

The Eynsford Running Club Lullingstone 10k is an England Athletics affiliated 10km race. The course is fully off road, taking in most of the footpath on the perimeter of the golf course. The race will have a limited field of 250 runners, ranging from Elite local athletes to people doing their first ever 10k race.

Every runner will receive a very plush medal as well as a Curly Wurly and a free half pint courtesy of The Five Bells!

Eynsford Running Club are behind the organisation of the race with Club Chairman Giles Wolfe responsible for course design and Race Director on the day.

This will be the very first time an England Athletics affiliated local running club have hosted a local race (the successful Darenth Valley 10k is organised and hosted by Swanley & District AC), so we expect to see great support from both the local and running community. To date we have had runners registering from Chatham, Bromley and Istead, not to mention a few local Eynsfordians getting in early!

So if you fancy a little challenge in November, why not sign up here <https://www.runbritain.com>. If you are interested in volunteering, email here gilesmad@me.com

If you have any interest in any local running related things please contact-

Eynsford Running Club-gilesmad@me.com

Lullingstone parkrun.lullingstonehelpers@parkrun.com

Eynsford & Farningham Dementia Café

Cllr Ferne Haxby

The Dementia Café continues to thrive and is now in its second year of meeting every 2nd Friday of the month at Eynsford Village Hall between 10.00am – 12.00pm.

The Café runs on funds and we cannot thank our sponsors and those that have donated generously over the year. It allows us to cover rent, activities and refreshments to those that want and need to attend and enjoy company.

The Café is open not only to those affected by Dementia but also to relatives, carers, friends and other people who would like to come along and be in a safe environment to chat, have refreshments, be entertained, join in the different activities and have access to professional advice and guidance.

Over the last year we have enjoyed, spring planting, swing and jazz, health related talks, easter bonnet making, old time music hall, irish dancing and the Anthony Roper School Choir. An absolute must has been the regular dementia bingo session, which is hotly contended to win the line and full house!!!



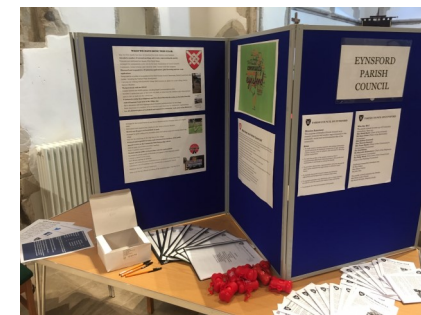
This year sees the involvement of Vitality Home Health to the Café as we look forward and grow wider by inviting and attending other Dementia Cafes in the area such as Gravesend and Hartley. Wider groups means more chance for activities such as days out and tea parties!!!

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Ferne Haxby on 07980820216 or via the Parish Council office or simply come along to one of the meetings where a warm welcome awaits!!!

Annual Parish Meeting & Community Award

Holly Ivaldi & Theresa Durrant

It was good to meet residents and representatives from many agencies who attended our recent Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held on the 28th March at St Martins Church. It was great to be in the bright airy space and to see residents have the opportunity to discuss their concerns within the village with their local councillors.



Sarah Boyle, Chairperson for the Parish Council, introduced members of the council and highlighted just some of the projects that councillors have been working on during the past twelve months, such as;

- starting a Dementia Cafe, which is now into its second year
- creating a community Speedwatch group
- liaising with the village hall trustees around the new village hall project
- the replacement of the street lighting, which in the long term will save money for the village
- working on the school safety campaign to make Eynsford a safer place
- tree planting
- working hard to get water leaks repaired
- working with DVLP to improve the wider landscape
- liaising with other groups such as; the Community Rail Partnership, Lullingsstone Liaison Group
- plus being very much 'hands-on' with maintenance at the allotments

All of which, is in addition to responding to planning applications,



maintaining opening spaces and recreation areas and liaising with third parties such as Kent Highways, KCC and SDC over various issues.

Alongside the Parish Council, the meeting was well attended by various organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Kent Air Ambulance, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, the Village Society, Farningham & Eynsford History Society, Eynsford Village Hall project committee and our local PSCO. We



can't thank the volunteers enough for giving up their free time to come along and tell us more about what they do. Clerks and councillors alike, also took the opportunity of raising residents concerns about an increase in crime with the PSCO.

The APM was also a wonderful opportunity to present Sally Coston with her Community Award for her outstanding contribution to the village over the last 26 years. The award was presented by Cllr Sarah Barker, Chair of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

Most people will know that Sally is the Chair of Eynsford Village Society and part of the group organising the Public Art Trail. Sally has organised a series of Art Study days to raise funds for the village hall renewal, she ran the box office for the Riverside Players for 10 years. She also helped to organise Eynsfest in 2012. Sally is part of other groups including Secretary for Ladies Probus, committee member of Eynsfara, involved in the Twinning group, supports Eynsford in Bloom and Sevenoaks Supports Refugees.

As well as the certificate, Sally was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Sarah Boyle on behalf of the parish council.

Apart from these formal parts of the meeting, we tried to keep it as

more widely but to work out a funding strategy so that assuming a planning approval is given then an immediate start can be made in approaching foundations for grants and going to the community for donations without which we are unlikely to get this project off the ground.

It is with regret that David Hilling has resigned from the committee and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for all the hard work he has done to get us to the stage we are at. As reported in December, we are still seeking one or two people to assist the committee particularly on the fundraising side, public relations and publicity/marketing.

If you think you can help please contact Malcolm Richardson tel: 01322 861695 or email richardsonmm@talktalk.net

Eynsford Village Hall Trustees and Eynsford Parish Councillors working for the community.

Parish Council Surgery & Meetings

The Parish Council surgery is held on the last Saturday of each month between 9am and 11am. Come along to the Parish Office to speak to a councillor about your concerns.

Our main meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month and we have committee meetings on the first Monday of the month. All meetings are open to the public and start at 8pm. Full details can be found on noticeboards and our website. We break for public questions at around 9pm.

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin bags, look at leaflets and magazines in the office and to ask any questions or raise any concerns! We also offer a photocopying service for a small charge.

Normal opening hours are 8.30 - 2.30 Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 - 3.00 Tuesday and Thursday.

NEW VILLAGE HALL and HARROW MEADOW

Cllr Alan Cooke

Further to the report prepared in December 2018, the consultant quantity surveyor prepared his Cost Plan 3 based on the revised drawings showing a building footprint some 23% smaller than the previous layouts and a number of changes to the external materials being specified.

The cost plan was presented in mid March and resulted in only a 15% reduction in cost giving a total project value of about £1.8m including professional fees and an estimated cost for turning the football pitch around. The cost plan is based on projected costs for a start on site in the third quarter of 2021 with a maximum of nine months for the construction period. The forecast for building costs and tender price inflation is based on published forecast indices that may fluctuate. The forecasted inflation between current day and the anticipated start on site is now 12.4% which equates to around £150K or for each month the start on site is delayed will cost an additional £15K.

The Hall Trustees were generally in agreement that the architect be instructed to continue to prepare all the necessary information for a planning application on both existing hall site and the new hall on Harrow Meadow. The Parish Council also met and agreed their support of the project going forward as well as preparing a draft document setting out the legal issues and responsibilities of both the Trustees and the Council.

Part of the requirements for the planning application is to carry out a community consultation where residents can have their say on the proposals. There is also a need to obtain the communities agreement to dispose of part of Harrow Meadow to allow the building of the village hall.

The next stage for the committee is not only to publicise the project



informal as possible, with some light refreshments and good conversation. However, we always welcome thoughts from residents on how the meeting can be improved, to ensure we attract as many attendees as possible, as we are keen to hear thoughts and input from all demographics and

groups within the village. If you do have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to email the parish council.

We hope to see you at our Annual Parish Meeting in 2020!

Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and its 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 and 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.



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01322 865320**

100 Years of Eynsford Women's Institute

Diana Beamish

Eynsford W.I. is celebrating its centenary this year. One of the things we are doing to celebrate is planting white and mauve crocus bulbs. Why? The W.I. colours are mauve, white and green, and these bulbs will be planted in Harrow Meadow near the entrance gate around the flowering cherry trees that were planted by Eynsford W.I. for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. These flowers in appropriate colours will thus bloom each year.

Members are also celebrating with a garden party in a member's garden in May, as it was in May 1919 that Lady Emily Dyke encouraged local women to come to a meeting in the village hall on 21.5.1919 to form a W.I.

The objects of the Women's Institute movement are to inform and to socialise. At our monthly meetings we have a wide variety of speakers, demonstrators and entertainers. For members we also arrange social activities such as soup lunches and outings – recent ones have included the Gurdwara in Gravesend, a guided tour of Bluewater (did you know there was a chapel and also a nature trail there?) and an afternoon tea shortly before Christmas. As part of the National Federation of Women's Institutes all W.I. members also have opportunities for day and longer courses organised by the county federation and the national federation.

Apart from women's issues the W.I. is also concerned about the environment and social issues, which include for example isolation where public transport is inadequate.

We meet in Eynsford Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the third Wednesday in the month (second Wednesday in December). The speakers' topics are listed in the "Trident" calendar. Visitors are always welcome.

Eynsford W.I. has a proud history, including carrying on throughout the Second World War, and we are now looking forward to the next 100 years! Why not join us?

Community Dig and 70th Anniversary Celebration at Lullingstone Roman Villa

Anne Sassin, Kent Downs

As part of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS), run by Kent Downs AONB and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a community excavation and related activities will take place at Lullingstone Roman Villa this July, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the original excavations.

Excavations open to members of the public to sign-up and take part in will be available to book between Monday 15 July and Sunday 28 July, approximately from 10:00 to 16:00 each day. The community dig is free, but people must book a slot. There will be opportunities to wash and process finds, as well as dig. Children's activities will also be available, as will a special exhibit on the original excavations at the villa which started in 1949 (the exhibit will be in place from June), talks and tours of both the villa complex and the current excavations.



Please visit the DVLPS website www.darent-valley.org.uk closer to the time for more information and to sign-up, or follow event updates on social media (Facebook [@DVLPS](https://www.facebook.com/DVLPS) and Twitter [@Darent_Valley](https://twitter.com/Darent_Valley)). Specific event listing will also be available on the English Heritage site, as will the Villa's summer opening times, entry fees and parking information (<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lullingstone-roman-villa/>).

Those who would like to take part in the community dig please contact the Community Archaeologist, Dr Anne Sassin (anne.sassin@kentdowns.org.uk; +44 (0)1732 494509). For general interest in volunteering at the Villa, please contact the English Heritage Team at Lullingstone Villa (+44 (0)1322 863467).