

More Play for Under 5s!

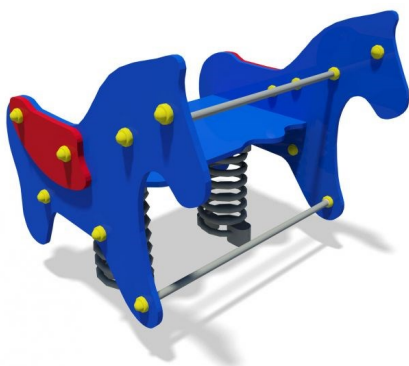
Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

We were delighted to have been offered a grant from Cory Environmental Trust in Britain to extend our playground in Harrow Meadow. The grant will pay for two new pieces of equipment - a multi-play unit (a climbing frame and slide) and a springer unit, both aimed at under 5s (pictured). It will also pay for some groundwork and for moving and extending the fence towards the main gate to the meadow.



Last year we consulted pre-school groups in the village to find out if there was a need for more equipment and also, what items they most wanted. Both items chosen were in the top three. Unfortunately we do not have space for a roundabout, which was the other option.

Both Musical Tots and Tiddlers (groups in the village) are doing their own fundraising to contribute towards the project. The parish council will be putting in some of the money itself too.



We are now working on finalising the order, and if this goes through successfully, we hope that the new equipment will be in place before the summer holidays.

This is great news for the parish council, under 5s and their families! Now whole families will be able to go to the playground to take part in activities for all ages.



Spring News 2014

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Spring newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

Don't miss out on your chance to ask any of our councillors questions at the new style **Annual Parish Meeting on 16th May from 8-10.30pm**. See inside this newsletter for more details.



As usual, dog fouling continues to be a problem on our pavements throughout the village and there is more about this in this issue.

Also in this newsletter, you will find further information on Surviving the Floods, St Martin's Church re-development, Sevenoaks Grammar Annexe, "Our Villages in the Great War" plus many more articles.

We hope you find this quarter's newsletter interesting. Do let us have your feedback and any suggestions for future articles.

The majority of our meetings are open to the public and are advertised around the village and on our website and Facebook page. If you are interested in anything being discussed, or wish to raise an issue, do come along!

Naomi Wolfe Deputy Clerk

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

Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook.



Photography Competition



"My Favourite View of Eynsford"

All entries will be displayed and judged on:

Friday 16th May 8pm-10.30pm,

Eynsford Village Hall

At Eynsford Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting.

The competition is open to all and there are three age categories:

1. Open 2. Under 16s 3. Under 12s

Prizes will be provided by local businesses and judging will be by popular vote! All are welcome to attend the event

1. Entries must be mounted and be no larger than A4.
2. Photographs must be taken by the entrant and be on the above theme.
3. Entries must be dropped off at the Parish Office, Priory Lane by Thursday 15th May 2014, or can be given in advance to Holly Ivaldi, or All entries must have the following information on the back:
 - Name of entrant
 - Category that you are entering.
 - Age, if entering categories 2 or 3
 - Contact details

For more information, contact Holly Ivaldi on 01322 865320, eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk or find us on Facebook

Nonetheless, the Governors also stated that they remained strongly interested in provision in Sevenoaks, and wished to work with KCC and others to find alternative ways forward.

There are two main possibilities. The first is to address the concern, felt by many Weald parents, that the creation of a 6FE (Forms of Entry) coeducational annexe in Sevenoaks, while moving the existing 6FE of girls provision in Tonbridge on to a coeducational basis, would create large-scale extra provision (an additional 6FE) for boys in West Kent, but none for girls. KCC's view was that this would not necessarily be the case - coeducational schools do not always split 50-50 on gender lines - but this concern nonetheless needs to be addressed.



Secondly, it might be possible for Weald of Kent to expand its girls provision on the Sevenoaks site, and look for another school as a partner in providing boys' places.

Meanwhile, KCC continues to seek planning permission for both the Sevenoaks Grammar annexe and the Trinity Free School on the Wildernesse site. The application is expected to go to Committee in May.

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

Sevenoaks Grammar Annexe

County Councillor Roger Gough

www.roger-gough.blogspot.co.uk

Efforts to secure a grammar annexe for Sevenoaks continue, though with many twists and turns for the project. As both a local County Councillor and Cabinet Member for Education, I have been deeply involved in this issue.

Last year, two West Kent grammar schools – Invicta Grammar School and Weald of Kent Grammar School – came forward, with the support of Kent County Council, with proposals for a grammar annexe in Sevenoaks on the former Wildernesse School site.

However, just before Christmas, both proposals were turned down by Education Secretary Michael Gove.

A key factor in his thinking was that both were single sex schools, and that it was therefore impossible to see the proposed coeducational facility in Sevenoaks as anything other than establishment of a new grammar school, which is prohibited under current legislation. However, the Secretary of State made clear that he would entertain revised proposals that addressed his concerns. He also made it clear that Weald of Kent had some important factors in its favour, notably that it already draws many of its pupils from Sevenoaks.



Weald of Kent has since consulted with its parents on converting to being a coeducational school. However, following a response from parents that showed limited support for the move to co-educational status, the Governors decided to step back from this proposal.

New Style Annual Parish Meeting, 16th May, 8-10.30pm, Eynsford Village Hall

This year, Eynsford Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting will have a very different feel. Instead of sitting in rows and listening to reports from members of the parish council, you will be able to wander around the village hall with a glass of wine and visit stalls and displays from the parish council and other agencies, including Citizens Advice Bureau, the Environment Agency, Kent Wildlife Trust, the Library Service, Kent Fire & Rescue, the Police and the Community Warden, plus the District and County Councils.

You will also have the chance to see wonderful photographs of Eynsford entered into our photography competition (see left), and to vote on your favourite.

Take this opportunity to find out what actually happens in Eynsford and who provides which services. Discover what your parish council does and meet your councillors. Ask us questions and let us have your ideas.



Whether you are concerned about security, flooding, street lighting, potholes, or just want to find out more, come along and have a chat. If you are new to the village, this is an ideal opportunity to meet more members of the community as well as your parish council.

Light refreshments will be provided and you can stay for as long as you like, or just pop in for 10 minutes. We look forward to seeing you there!

Holly Ivaldi & Naomi Wolfe, Parish Clerks

Surviving the Floods

Councillor Philip Ward

During the recent unprecedented period of rain the River Darent overflowed at a number of locations as it flowed through the parish. Fortunately, we were spared the terrible scenes witnessed in Somerset and closer to home in Yalding, Kent where homes, businesses and whole communities were devastated by floodwaters made all the worse by sewage contamination.

The River Darent experienced the highest water levels in recorded history so it is amazing that Eynsford avoided significant damage and disruption. This was due almost entirely to the natural floodplain which Eynsford straddles, moving water away from properties and roads.



The River Darent at Riverside with the flood waters beyond

Just as the waters started to recede, I took a trip around the parish to see how local geography had helped us avoid more significant problems. In the centre of the village at the ford it was inevitable that some disruption would occur. Riverside was closed for a period and some properties were at serious risk of flooding. On the other side of the river you could clearly see the floodplain at work. The fields opposite The Plough had become completely flooded, absorbing vast amounts of water. Sadly this is where one or two homes on Station Road were affected with the waters rising through rear gardens.

Children

- Aged 12-13 were months out of school working on farms
- Saved money to send tobacco to the troops
- Collected horse chestnuts – you can find out why at the Exhibition

Families

- Took in Belgian refugees
- Grew extra food and kept chickens
- Managed on rationing

You will find out more about these and other ways local residents contributed to the war effort, and how the war changed their lives.

'OUR VILLAGES IN THE GREAT WAR'

CROCKENHILL VILLAGE HALL

Saturday, AUGUST 16

EYNSFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday, AUGUST 23

FARNINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Saturday, AUGUST 30

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Light refreshments available

Portrayal of life for those left at home during the First World War, 1914-1918, in Crockenhill, Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone.

'Our Villages In The Great War' exhibition

Dr Susan Pittman, Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

The brutality of war faced by the armed forces with courageous resignation is well known, but less familiar is what life was like for those they left behind. The Exhibition will reveal how villagers in Crockenhill, Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone were engaged in the war effort, while facing anxiety over absent loved ones and hardship at home.

The villages were on the defensive line to protect London - with planes on the airfield at Farningham supporting the search-light and anti-aircraft gun at Crockenhill.

Zeppelins, and later huge Gotha bombers, regularly passed overhead to London.



- Elsie Clements of Crockenhill documented 36 occasions when German aircraft flew over
- Zepp. L32 bombed Crockenhill on 24/25th September 1916
- Lieutenant William Lee Robinson, V.C., the first airman to bring down a Zepp over Britain, had links with Farningham

The war machine was boosted by

- The munitions factory at Lullingstone
- The gun testing range at Upper Austin Lodge
- The invention of the tank by Major Walter Gordon Wilson C.M.G. (1874-1957), resident of Farningham

Men left behind

- Worked longer hours for less pay
- Volunteered as Special Constables
- Kept up food production

Women

- Worked in the fields and made munitions
- Volunteered making bandages and seeing to the needy



Cartoon from The Castle Hotel Guest Book, 1917

Heading down to Common Meadow, I was amazed to see the river in full flow out across the cricket field and through Furlongs Farm. Adjacent properties were again at significant risk with water halfway up gardens but fortunately stopping short of homes.



The river flowing into Common Meadow (cricket field)

Further down heading towards Farningham, the river had overflowed almost completely and created new flows through the fields around the back of Anthony Roper School and Old Mill Close.

It was very pleasing to see that the geography was able to provide significant natural protection but that just highlights the need to protect these areas from development; the flood plain is vital for our future if, as predicted, wetter winters are here to stay.

Last year, the parish council sent out a Flooding Advice Leaflet to homes identified as at threat of flooding. The leaflet sets out who is responsible for flood related services locally, some self help ideas and where to get more information. We hope this was of use to residents; if you didn't receive one and would like a copy please do contact the council clerk.

Finally, thank you to those who responded to our hastily distributed flooding questionnaire. Information from this will be used to inform flood planning going forward.

Dog fouling - Please pick it up!

Councillor Andrea Cornwell

In April our local dog warden, Ann-Marie Milton (Animal Control Officer) came to visit Eynsford for a walk about with Naomi, the parish clerk, and I, as recently we have had reports of increased dog fouling on the pavements, particularly on the school run route.

Most responsible dog owners will clear up after their dog. It is a shame that only a few create a bad name for all of you out there who are good dog owners.

Dog fouling is unpleasant, unsightly and a potential health risk. BUT - fresh faeces are not infectious and can be picked up straight away.

As you may well be aware, human infections occur when contaminated soil or sand is swallowed either directly or during play or when hands have touched objects such as the wheels of toys/bikes/push chairs and then placed in the mouth. Many infected soil samples are found within the vicinity of children's play areas.

Once swallowed the infection can last between 6 and 24 months. The majority of infection cases affect children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years – symptoms include flu-type aches, dizziness and nausea, asthma, epileptic fits and eye disorders which can result in blindness.

Dogs can carry roundworm and pass the eggs of the worms to a human. A single dog mess can contain approximately 1 million eggs, and the soil can remain infectious for up to two years! Responsible dog owners should ensure their dog is regularly wormed.

Most dog owners scoop up and clear up after their dog; however some owners are still allowing their dog to foul in Eynsford. There are several dog bins around the village or if a bin is not located on your walk you should take the bag home.

Who empties the dog bins? and other questions..

Holly Ivaldi & Pauline Penney

Did you know that Sevenoaks District Council provides many services for us with many of them coming from the Dunbrik Depot, Sundridge?

These include the following:

- Weekly refuse collections and provision of black and recycling sacks,
- Fortnightly garden waste collection if you register for use of the green bins or put out the brown bags,
- Weekly collection from dog poo bins in the village,
- The provision of a dog warden (this is a joint service with Dartford District Council). The dog warden will visit if there are reports of problem dogs, stray dogs or dog fouling and can offer advice. To contact the Animal Control Service e-mail eh.support@dartford.gov.uk or call 01732 227000.
- Clearing up flytipping. Sevenoaks District Council aim to remove flytipping within 10 working days and can be contacted on 01732 227000 or email direct.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk,
- Fortnightly road sweeping along the A225. Side roads are swept every six weeks,
- Emptying of litter bins on the public highways/footpaths (the parish council empties the bins on its own land),
- Recycling bins at the lay-by on the A225, and the regular emptying of these, and
- Sandbags – in case of a flood, sandbags can be provided if your property is in a designated flood risk area. Sandbags are also available to buy from the Dunbrik Depot. Residents are responsible of disposing of their own sandbags after use.

These are just a few of the services provided by Sevenoaks District Council. You can find full details on www.sevenoaks.gov.uk or call 01732 227000.



to the Chancellor of the Diocese for formal permission to go ahead (this is the final stage of Church of England approval that we need). Assuming that everything now goes to plan, we hope that work will start towards the end of May. The builders estimate that it will then take in the region of 20 weeks to get all the work done, so we would hope to back in St Martin's by early autumn (late September/early October). Fund-raising is still going on, so any further donations will be very gratefully received... In addition, removal of the pews will mean that we have some for sale. We have already had a number of people expressing interest. If you would like to add your name to that list, get in touch with the Rector, Gary Owen (contact details in Trident)

Meet your New PCSO!

Hello,

My name is Laura Morris and I am the new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Eynsford, Crockenhill and Well Hill.

You will often see me around the village on foot, bike or car. I am here to help deal with any of your concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour. I can also give you advice to help you protect yourself, your home and your property from crime. Feel free to approach me when I am walking around the village, even if just to say hello.

Alternatively you can call 101, which is the non-emergency number and ask for your information to be passed to me. Or, you can email me with the address laura.morris@kent.pnn.police.uk or nhp.sevenoaks@kent.pnn.police.uk I work different shift patterns so I am around at a variety of times. Also, if you would like me to attend any events or group meetings, get in contact and I will do my best to pop along.

Stay Safe

Laura Morris
Kent Police PCSO
Based at Swanley Police Station.



By working together we can help to prevent dog fouling – please make a note of any that you see on your daily travels and where possible contact the parish council or the district council as soon as possible on 01732 227000 if you know ANY of the following:

- Name and address of the person in charge of the dog;
- What the owner/handler was wearing when the incident occurred;
- A description of the dog;
- The date and time of the offence;
- An accurate description of the location of the incident.

By using any of the information above we can build up a picture of what is happening and our Animal Control Officer Ann-Marie Milton will visit where necessary. If an offender is caught they may be prosecuted and this could lead to a fine of up to £1000.

So far we have put up 'no dog fouling posters' in areas where the offence has occurred more recently and we may be contacting residents who overlook areas where persistent fouling occurs to ask them to keep an eye out.



If you are a dog owner that doesn't pick up after their dog, your community are asking you to please, please, please, pick it up!

Although dogs are not allowed on the recreation grounds in the village, they are allowed on surrounding footpaths, Millfield and at Lullingstone Country Park.

Lastly, If you ever find yourself in the situation where you have lost your dog, call the district council on 01732 227000, 24 hours a day.



St Martin's Church Re-ordering Project

Paul Boyle, Churchwarden

There can surely be no-one in Eynsford who isn't aware of the proposed work to be carried out in St Martin's Church – every house in the village has been subjected to a barrage of leaflet drops, with posters everywhere and a "thermometer" on the main church notice board tracking how we're doing on fund raising. For those residents who (lucky people) aren't intimately involved with the weekly (sometimes daily) to-ing and fro-ing with our architects and the Church of England bureaucracy, it might be useful to go back to the beginning and outline the original Parochial Church Council "vision".

The idea was to create a building that, while retaining the essential character of a medieval Grade 1 Listed place of worship, would, nonetheless, be a more flexible space, available to the whole village community for a range of functions, so continuing the tradition that the Church should be at the heart of village life. To that end, the PCC envisaged adding an additional entrance on the north side of the Church to allow full access for those with mobility difficulties; the addition of a toilet and tea point (to better allow functions to take place in the Church); complete refurbishment of the existing vestry, with the addition of two small meeting rooms above; removal of the remaining Victorian pews (some of which were removed as part of an earlier re-ordering) and installation of a new stone floor; upgrade of the heating system, including

underfloor heating, and new wiring, lighting and sound systems; better storage (including fitted cupboards on the south aisle/Lady Chapel); and the re-siting of the font to near the main entrance (as it would have been in pre-Victorian times). In addition to all this, the opportunity would also be taken to give the Church a much-needed full interior redecoration, making good those areas of stonework that have seen better days.

Sadly, when tenders finally came in from prospective builders, it became clear that we were well short of the funding needed to achieve the full vision in one go – in fact, the total cost would be around £200,000 more than our architects had estimated would be needed. The PCC therefore decided to launch another round of fund raising (hence all the leaflets) and consider phasing the project. Thanks to the incredible generosity of both parishioners and the wider village community, well over £100,000 extra has been raised in just a few weeks, bringing the funds available to over £480,000. We in the PCC are genuinely grateful – indeed, humbled – by just how generous people have been. As a result, we now have enough for us to go ahead with what we think is the minimum necessary – new entrance, toilet and kitchenette, refurbished vestry, new floor in the nave with upgraded heating, lighting and sound systems, as well as some urgently-needed roof repair work. We are hopeful that sufficient funds will become available for us to get the re-decoration done and we will have a separate round of fund-raising to get new seating (together those two items will probably need in the order of £30,000). Without a dramatic injection of funds (at least £40,000) it will not be possible to include the upper meeting rooms at this stage – though we are hopeful that they can be added in the future (the building work to be done in the first phase will allow the rooms to be added later with only minimal disruption to the building).

So where have we got to in the process? We have a preferred contractor standing by and hope to have a site meeting with them within a few weeks. We have got clearance from the Diocesan Advisory Committee that they are content with the main technical aspects of the changes, Sevenoaks District Council have given planning permission for the exterior work and we have now applied