

'Eynsford, Our Community'

Photography & Art Competition

**Friday 22nd April
2016**

6pm-9pm

**Eynsford Village
Hall**

Eynsford Parish Council is organising a Photography/Art competition as part of its Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd April 2016.

The theme is 'Eynsford, Our Community'.

What does our community mean to you? Is it big village events, a group or society you are part of, a group of friends or your family? it is up to you to interpret.

There are four age categories:

- **Adult** - A photograph on the theme 'Eynsford, Our Community'
- **Age 11-16** - A photograph on the theme 'Eynsford, Our Community'
- **Age 6-10** - A piece in any medium (e.g. painting, drawing, photograph, collage) on the theme 'Eynsford, Our Community'
- **Age 5 and under** - A piece in any medium (e.g. painting, drawing, photograph, collage) on the theme 'Eynsford, Our Community'

All entries must be no larger than A3 (including any mount or frame) and will be displayed at our Annual Parish Meeting in Eynsford Village Hall on 22nd April 2016 between 6pm and 9pm.

Winners in each of the categories will be chosen at the event, and prizes awarded. Prizes will be donated by local businesses.

All entries must be received by Wednesday 20th April at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY. The office is generally open from 9am - 2.30pm Monday to Thursday. Please contact us if you are unable to drop off your entry during these times on 01322 865320 eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk. You may take away your entry at the end of the Annual Parish Meeting or collect from the Parish Office at a later date.



Spring News 2016

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Spring newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

Our Annual Parish Meeting is coming up on 22nd April and we hope to see you all there (flyer enclosed with this newsletter). This is our main chance in the year to speak to you and yours' to speak to the councillors! Don't forget to enter our photography/art competition (see the back page).



Also in this issue, information about a flood plan, a community plan, the art trail, twinning and more.

Get in touch if you have any questions about services and amenities in the village and we will do our best to help or pass you on to someone who can.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Send your comments to: Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY; 01322 865320; eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Commonwealth Day – Flying the Flag

Naomi Morgan, Deputy Clerk

The 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' initiative was launched on Commonwealth Day in 2014. It provides an opportunity for all those living in the Commonwealth to join together and celebrate the association by flying the Commonwealth flag in a public space.



Last year the Commonwealth flag was raised in more than 750 venues across five continents. This year that number was predicted to rise to over 1,000 individual flag-flying ceremonies that took place on Commonwealth Day, Monday 14 March 2016.



This year, the parish council was pleased to take part in 'Fly a Flag for Commonwealth Day' in partnership with St Martin's Church and Anthony Roper Primary School. Rev Gary Owen, Parish Council Chair Sarah Boyle, Headteacher Lynda Newton and Alan Cremer all read readings or prayers in a short ceremony at St Martin's Church. The Head Boy and Head Girl from the school raised the flag.

We thought about the other 52 members of the Commonwealth who would be partaking in similar ceremonies on the same day around the world.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on a bitterly cold morning and thank you to St Martin's Church for providing very welcome coffee and cake afterwards.



Pop in to our Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April 2016

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

All are welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd April which will run from 6pm-9pm. Come and meet representatives from other agencies that serve Eynsford e.g. Kent Police, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Sevenoaks District Council and Age Concern. You can also meet members of Eynsford Parish Council, ask questions and find out more about what we have been doing. You can also take the opportunity to get involved in developing a Community Plan for Eynsford.

Why not enter our photography/art competition (see back page). You can vote for your favourite pictures at the meeting.

Also during the evening we will be:

- Thanking Community Warden Steve Armstrong for his contribution to our community, on his retirement;
- Presenting a Community Award to Ken Baker;
- Receiving a 'Toilet Twinning' certificate from Rev Owen on behalf of Eynsford.

Come along and have a glass of wine and a chat. Children are welcome and there will be a colouring table. Don't forget that children can enter the art competition too!

For more information follow us on Facebook or visit www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

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.

A Man for All Seasons

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

We are delighted that Ken Baker has been selected to receive the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award for Eynsford (a.k.a. Man of the Year).

We asked members of the community to put forward nominations for the award and Ken received several nominations. Ken will receive his award at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd April.

Ken has been involved in running the scout group in Eynsford since the 1960s and is currently Group Scout Leader. Ken has been involved in a number of groups in the village over the years, and many of you will know more of his history than me. He helps out at Eynsford in Bloom, helps to run the Tuesday Club, is involved in EPIC (Photography Club) and more. Ken is often in the background lending a hand, driving people about, taking photos, and is always willing to help out.



Ken has spent time on the parish council and is currently our Tree Warden and sits on some of our committees. He is also one of the Millfield Trustees, the group that looks after Millfield between Eynsford and Farningham. Ken will be organising a bonfire for the Queen's birthday on 21st April.

I hope you will join us at the Annual Parish Meeting in thanking Ken for his contribution to village life. He is a reluctant recipient of this award, as usual putting others before himself, and I hope that you agree that he thoroughly deserves it!

The Proposed New Lower Thames Crossing

Malcolm C Richardson, Chair, Highways and Transportation.

Highways England is considering a new road crossing of the River Thames connecting Kent and Essex. The crossing aims to reduce congestion at the existing Dartford Crossing and 'unlock economic growth, supporting the development of new homes and jobs in the region'.



Most residents will have experienced the misery of sitting in a traffic jam trying to get across the Thames, which is compounded by the fact that there is no real viable alternative crossing. Even the removal of the barriers does not seem to have made a significant difference to the delays, and Highways England considers that the crossing is fast approaching capacity.

The Government considered new crossings at two separate locations – the first being a bridge or bored tunnel adjacent to the existing Dartford Crossing, the second also being a bridge or bored tunnel but at a location east of Gravesend, with new (or upgraded) roads linking to the M25 in the north through Essex, to the A2 or M2 in the south in Kent.

It became apparent to Highways England that the first crossing (adjacent to the Dartford Crossing) was not a practical proposition, as traffic would still be channelled along the M25, would not enable additional connections to local roads and there was also the likelihood that congestion would increase on the A2 and A13.

They therefore now consider that the new crossing to the east of Gravesend is the better solution, leading to a decrease in the traffic using the Dartford Crossing and providing a direct route between Kent and the channel ports, and Essex and the north.



Three routes have been proposed north of the river from the tunnel or bridge to the M25, two involving some new roads and upgrading and adapting others, while the third route would be a complete new road in its entirety.

To the south of the river, there are two proposed routes, one being a new junction with the A2 close to Thong, the second being slightly further to the east, directly connecting to the M2 at Junction 1. The first route would have the disadvantage that the junction would be of restricted design due to existing developments and the high speed rail link, resulting in some connecting roads being restricted to 30mph. The direct M2 link however would allow an unrestricted motorway to motorway connection.

However the preferred route proposed by Highways England is the route from Junction 1 of the M2, directly through Essex on new roads to the M25. All proposals however have varying degrees of ecological impact and some have more of a detrimental effect on the local population than others.

Consultation in respect of the proposals has recently been completed and further investigations and assessments are being undertaken by Highways England. They hope that the new route will be open between 2025 and 2027. Further details of the scheme can be found online at www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk. In addition the Parish Office has some hard copies of the proposals.

is grateful to local businesses for continuing to offer alternative parking places.

If you are a parent at school and your child has outgrown their hi-viz jacket, you can ask for a larger size at the school office. Please return the smaller vest so it can be given to another pupil. If the jacket has been lost a new one can be purchased for £5.

Finally to all parents on the school run please park considerately and carefully.

- Please don't mount the pavement to park unless it is clear of pedestrians
- Please don't mount the pavement at speed.
- Please allow enough space for pedestrians to pass safely by your car. There should be enough room for a buggy or wheelchair to get by.
- Never park on yellow lines or zig zags. It's illegal.
- Never drive down pavements to reach your parking space. Yep, people do!

The SRSC always welcomes new ideas and helpers. We'll be at the Eynsford Parish Council AGM. Please come and say hello. In the meantime, stay safe on the school run.

Can we Help?

Eynsford Parish Council can help you with a variety of everyday services:

- We hold bin bags provided by Sevenoaks District Council which you can pick up from the parish office during opening hours.
- You can come and photocopy your documents for a small charge or use our laminator. Please call 01322 865320 in advance to check that it is convenient.
- You can look at planning applications that we hold, by appointment.

Let us know if there is anything else you think we could offer!

School Run Safety Campaign

Ali Carter, School Run Safety Campaign

The School Run Safety Campaign is continuing to search for solutions to tackle the parking problems outside Anthony Roper Primary School and make the journey to school safer.

The campaign group which is made up of parents, Councillors and school Governors, has been exploring a proposal for a morning school mini bus service from West Kingsdown to ARPS. A recent survey found the parents of sixteen children in West Kingsdown were interested in the idea. The SRSC is currently talking to Kent County Council about whether any service, which would be paid for by parents, could be made viable.

The closed school entrance has been designated a no parking zone. Parents manoeuvring and parking in the entrance were endangering pedestrians and causing congestion. Please note that anyone parking there could now be ticketed.

Pupils at Anthony Roper will soon be designing an alternative parking map for parents. The map will highlight all the different areas which can be used for school run parking such as the Castle Hotel, Eynsford Castle and the Riverside club carpark. The SRSC



Twinning News

Holly Ivaldi, Association de Camphin et Eynsford

Having formally twinning with the village of Camphin en Pevele in November 2015, we held our first AGM in February, and things have got off to a flying start.

Earlier in March, year 5 pupils (aged 9-10) from Anthony Roper Primary School had a long day trip to Camphin which is close to Lille. They split into two groups and spent time in the two primary schools there experiencing a French school lunch, playing together and undertaking activities designed to tackle the language barrier. These included cookery, quizzes, sports and art.



Many children made friendships and discovered that the French children were not so different from themselves. The children from Camphin will be making a return visit during the summer term.

By the time you read this, members of Association de Camphin et Eynsford (our twinning group) will have been to Camphin for the weekend to see the famous Paris-Roubaix cycle race which passes through Camphin on its cobbled road. If there is enough interest, we would consider organising a coach or a mini bus to attend the race next year. I have been informed that a couple of Eynsford residents have entered the amateur version of the race this year!

Other plans are in the pipeline including a possible trip to the grand flea market in Lille in September. We also hope to welcome a group from Camphin this summer.

If you would like to be involved or to find out more, email us on eynsfordtwinning@yahoo.co.uk and follow us on facebook.

Your chance to influence the future of the village!

Cllr Geoff Kirby

The Parish Council is about to embark on a new planning exercise to set our goals for the next 5 years. Having looked at the various formats available to us we would like to maximise input from all areas of the community and make this truly a plan for the community, by the community.

We are therefore looking for as many people from the village as possible to become involved in creating the **Community Plan**.

The planning process will be overseen by a steering committee, whose members will represent each area of the village, creating and guiding the development of the plan.

The process will consist of several phases, starting with a survey to determine "the state of the nation" (or the village) and its occupants, their likes, dislikes and dreams for the future.



We will report back on the results of this survey to the village and start the next phase of focus groups who will look in depth at the issues raised by the survey, and producing action plans for inclusion in the final Community Plan.

We think that the subject areas for these groups will probably include:

- Development and planning.
- Transport
- Community and welfare
- Environment
- Tourism and visitor facilities
- The local economy

But these can be changed or increased by the Steering Committee.

The aim of the plan is to provide key information for parishioners and define a set of actions for the parish council to consider in the event of flooding. We've already identified that preparation is key, not only for the council but also individuals; preventative measures designed and built into properties have proved far more effective in the long term than sandbags hastily laid during a period of flood.

After the floods of 2013 we conducted a village survey to better understand the causes and consequences of flooding in Eynsford and some of that information will help in developing the plan.



Flood Plain in Action at Riverside

Sevenoaks District Council operates a scheme of Flood Wardens, placed locally within the community to monitor and report flooding issues so this is one of the options for us to consider as part of the plan. We aim to have the plan ready later this year and in time for the wetter months of the year.

Several years ago the parish council produced a flooding leaflet with the aim of providing key information to those in high flood risk areas, copies are still available from the parish office so please contact us if you would like a copy.

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

Eynsford's Flood Plan

Cllr Phil Ward, Chair, Planning Committee

In recent years we have seen how vulnerable our society is to the forces of nature. In 2015, storms Abigail, Desmond and Eva resulted in significant flooding across northern England, devastating many homes and businesses, destroying bridges and dividing communities. In 2013, the Kent village of Yalding suffered significant flooding over the Christmas period after local rivers burst their banks inundating many homes, sending torrents down the high street and flooding the village pub! That same year Eynsford saw some of the most significant flooding for many years but fortunately, only a small number of homes were damaged, although clearly one flooded home is too many.



Flood Plain in Action at Common Meadow

Eynsford sits along a valley floor with a flood-plain to the west of the river Darent and it was the flood-plain that saved us from more significant damage. The flood-plain includes land adjacent to Lullingstone Lane, parts of Furlongs Farm, Common Meadow and fields to the back of Riverside. During times of flood these areas take water away from residential areas, storing the water and slowing its journey down stream. These areas are immensely valuable for water management so must be preserved as open spaces and recognised for their important role.

We can never be sure when or how severe the next flood may be and as we have seen these events can be devastating for those affected. It seems only right then that we prepare such occasions, so in line with many other authorities, Eynsford Parish Council has decided to produce a flood plan.

The Steering Committee will then put together a draft report which will be presented to the village for approval and an action plan put together.

We believe this process will take a year or so to achieve the final plan.

Finally, action delivery groups will take on ownership of the proposals and work closely with the Parish Council to deliver the vision drawn up in the Community Plan. This will cover a 5 year delivery plan.

So how can you get involved?

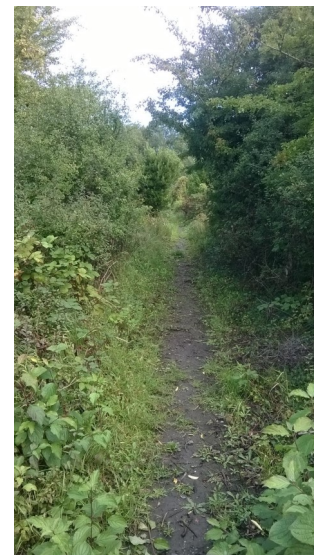
We will need volunteers to be the ground troops at each stage of the process, including the Steering Committee, running the survey, focus groups and delivery groups.

Come to the Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall on 22nd April and register your interest at being involved. Or drop Holly or Naomi a note at the Parish Office. The more of you who want to be



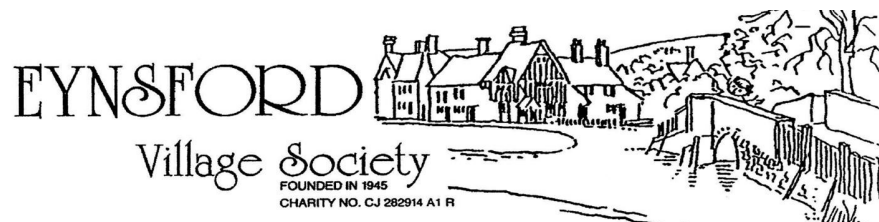
involved, the more representative will be the result and the greater the chance for all of you to influence the way the village will evolve.

To make this work well we need as wide as possible a representation from all sections of the community so please get involved and help shape our future. Do come to the Annual Parish Meeting and talk to us about how you can have your say in our future.



Eynsford Village Society's Public Art Initiative

Sally Coston, Eynsford Village Society



On Friday January 8th, in Eynsford Village Hall, a lively meeting took place designed to inform the community of the public art initiative taken on some three years ago by Eynsford Village Society and intended to add 21st century communication within it.

Numerous articles have been in Trident and in the Parish Council Newsletter which is delivered to each household in the village. Nevertheless, it had become clear that both misunderstanding and ignorance was as much prevalent as the many residents who have praised, like and approve of the idea. The Public Meeting was called to give everyone an opportunity to “have their say”. And mostly they did; the Hall was full.

Unfortunately, a news piece in the Sevenoaks Chronicle that same week reporting “giant displays to be erected throughout the village” was inaccurate and misleading. It was useful therefore to be able to detail the history of the project and inform such a very well attended meeting of the plans as they always have been.

In a nutshell, we explained that no project will or can be installed without:

1. the permission, agreement, involvement and cooperation of the owner of the site;
2. the necessary funding;
3. the support of the local community.

I explained to the meeting that following the perceived success of the mosaic at school (named “Essence of Eynsford”), we would continue to involve the children in village art by building a colourful wildlife refuge (bugs not lions) to be placed at the northern end of Millfield, close to the fallen willow. Millfield Trustees kindly gave

their permission over a year ago; it is expected to be installed soon.



A selection of work of six local, talented, amateur artists who were asked to create an image of Eynsford in a recognisable artistic style of their choice was shown to the meeting. We were very grateful to the area manager of Southeastern Railways for attending in support of our plan to hang the artwork at the station (to be named “Images”), suitably framed and secured, in the 'up' platform waiting hut; and what a difference they will make. I hope it won't be long before we can have the unveiling, when EVS will present the rail authorities with a print of a watercolour by Marshall Claxton bought at auction and donated to us by a resident of the village, depicting labourers resting while putting in the original track in 1869, which we hope they will hang in the ticket office.

We are also researching other ideas, all of which have previously been discussed in print and at the public meeting. Meanwhile, we hear too from residents with lovely suggestions of artwork for various locations around the village which is pleasing as communication is one of the aims of public art, not just for its aesthetics.

The meeting, whilst noisy and sadly at times intimidating leaving some who wished to contribute overwhelmed but who then spoke to me personally, nevertheless met its aim of giving the opportunity of a voice to anyone who attended and I hope answered the fundamental questions posed as to how, what, where and why.

The Questionnaire delivered today is another chance for Eynsford to give opinions and views. Thanks are due to Eynsford Parish Council for including this article in the Newsletter. We will be at their Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on Friday April 22nd from 6 to 9pm.

Come and see us; we welcome your views, or call 866102.