

Eynsford and Camphin designed to promote friendship and cultural exchange. Final arrangements are still to be made, but these events will be a time to celebrate our new partnership.



Eynsford & Camphin residents in Camphin en Pèvèle in December

Coming up soon is a weekend in France for Eynsford Football Club's Youth Team, who will be playing a series of matches in Camphin as well as visiting the famous training ground of Lille FC's Youth section.

Also booked in is a visit to Anthony Roper Primary School for school children from Camphin in June, followed by a reciprocal visit in September. It is great that the schools are involved and have already sent each other videos of introduction.

The Twinning Committee has much work to do in facilitating exchanges between different groups in the village. If your group would like to create a French connection, do let us know! Meanwhile, we need to arrange fundraising events and prepare for the signing of the Twinning Charter!

If you would like to find out more, or get involved in whatever way, email eynsfordtwinning@yahoo.co.uk, or follow 'Eynsford & Camphin en Pevele Twinning Group' page on Facebook.



Spring News 2015

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Spring newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.



Waddard Morris Men on May Day

By the time you read this we will have a new council, and possibly a new government. However, the local issues for parishioners remain more or less the same. In this issue you can read about your new council, the Annual Parish Meeting, changes to planning policy, a new footpath and more.

We are also looking for two new councillors to fill two vacancies, so please consider putting yourself forward.

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.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Meet Your New Council!

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Following the election on 7th May, we will have a new council from the May 11th. The following councillors were elected unopposed:

Sarah Boyle

Sarah has lived in Eynsford for many years and first joined the council in 2008. Sarah was Chair of the Recreation Committee until earlier this year and was delighted to see through her vision of creating a play area for under 5s at Harrow Meadow playground. Since January 2015, Sarah has been Chair of the parish council. Sarah is also involved in the Riverside Players, the WI and many other aspects of village life.



Andrea Cornwell

Andrea joined the council in 2010 and has been Chair of the Community & Environment Committee for some time. Andrea has worked to make the Annual Parish Meeting more accessible, has led the project to create a new footpath through the Nature Area and is now leading the sub-committee supporting tourism in Eynsford.



Theresa Durrant

Theresa was first co-opted on the council in August 2014 and earlier this year took on the role of Chair of the Recreation Committee. In this role Theresa was responsible for tackling issues in respect to the recreational areas around Eynsford, such as the allotments, Common Meadow, Harrow Meadow and Riverside Green, as well as managing the upkeep of these areas to ensure that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy the open spaces around the village.



event information and other things I've been up to in Eynsford. Follow us on '@KentPolice7oaks'.

I aim to be holding further Safer Plates & Property Marking events through the summer. Once the dates are arranged these will be accessible in the same way. These are a great opportunity to get your valuable items security marked, as well as having anti-tamper screws fitted to your vehicles number plates, completely free of charge. I am also able to security mark bicycles.

Talking of bicycles, you may well have seen me patrolling the area on our Force-Issue marked Police cycle! This is a great way for me to get around and see much more of Eynsford. Do stop me if you wish to discuss any local concerns or just to say hello.

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 soon.

Our French Connection

Holly Ivaldi, Eynsford Twinning Committee

Eynsford's French connection is getting stronger! Following our successful coach trip to our twin village of Camphin en Pévèle and Lille in December, we have been making further plans with our twinning partners.

At a meeting in Eynsford in March we agreed dates for the signing of the Twinning Charters and for other exchanges.

The signing of the Twinning Charter will take place in Camphin en Pevèle on 19th/20th Sept and in Eynsford on 7th/8th November. This will be an informal agreement between the communities of

Police Update

PCSO Tim Darling

Hi everyone!

PCSO Tim Darling here, your Police Community Support Officer for Eynsford.

I have been your local PCSO for just over 8 months now and am nicely settled into the area. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you all, and getting involved in the community.

I patrol out of Swanley Police Station, and start duty from as early as 7am and finish 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.

When possible, I attend various local events and meetings, including Parish Council and School Run Safety Campaign meetings, as well as holding my own engagement meetings once a month, currently outside Rafferty's. Upcoming dates as follows:

Thursday 28th May

Tuesday 30th June

Both 15:30 – 16:30

Future dates are put up on posters in various locations, but are also viewable on the Kent Police Website by putting in your postcode.

I also regularly post updates on the force's Twitter account, with



Geoff Kirby

Geoff will be joining the council for the first time in May having got to know us all a little as a co-opted member of the Highways & Transportation and Recreation committees for the last six months. Geoff will be bringing lots of new ideas and proposals for the council to consider and we look forward to working with him.



Malcolm Richardson

Malcolm joined the council in 2013 and took over as Chair of the Highways & Transportation Committee a year ago. He has had the job of looking after our streetlights, looking into potholes and exploring drainage gulleys, and reporting issues onto Kent Highways. Malcolm is also Chairman of Eynsford Village Hall Trustees and very involved in village life.



Phil Ward

Phil first joined the council in 2010 having previously been involved in a Flooding project group. Phil has continued to work on the group and has also been the Chair of the Planning Committee. This involves looking at all planning applications for Eynsford as well as reading all new and old planning policy documents. You may have spotted Phil in Riverside Players' recent production of Dad's Army.



We were sorry to say goodbye to three long-standing councillors: John Harris (1991 - 2015), Nick Rodway (2003 - 2015) and Clive Stanyon (1991 - 2003 & 2007 - 2015). That is 56 years of combined service to Eynsford! We will miss their input and their knowledge and wish them well in their future endeavours.

However, we now have two vacancies to fill, so please read the 'Casual Vacancy' article for more details.

Casual Vacancies - Your Council Needs You!

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Following the election on May 7th, we have two vacancies on the parish council and seek to fill them via co-option.

We invite any interested people to put themselves forward for these vacancies. The deadline for nominations is **12th June 2015**.

This is a great opportunity for you to contribute towards our village community and environment. Have your say on decisions affecting your neighbourhood and how your money is spent, make change happen and bring new ideas.

Councillors are asked to attend two evening meetings per month, as well as to respond to various other correspondence and emails.

The council is involved directly or indirectly in: planning applications, planning policy, tree work, road improvements, street lighting, grass cutting, recreation areas, allotments, community events and more.

Contact us now on 01322 865320 or eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk, for further information or to apply for the role of parish councillor.

Please visit our website www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/Eynsford-Parish-Council/156186511116274?sk=info for more information about council and it's role within the community.



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

River Darent Habitat Improvements

Louise Smith, Partnerships Officer, North West Kent Countryside Partnership

The North West Kent Countryside Partnership has been making improvements to the habitat along the River Darent in Eynsford. This work has involved coppicing and pollarding large trees along the river banks at Furlongs Farm. The long-term benefit of this work will be increased light to the river, which will help plants to establish along the river banks and within the river channel. To create a natural habitat within this area and ensure that a wide range of species are protected, a number of larger trees have been retained for the benefit of birds and bats.

Chalk Rivers such as the Darent are extremely rare: there are only 200 chalk rivers in the world and 85% of these are within the UK. Protecting the Darent and its wildlife through habitat enhancement projects like this will ensure that the river is healthy for the future.

Vegetation within rivers like the Darent is often removed or is lost because of shading, however aquatic plants within the river provide the building blocks for a healthy habitat. Plants provide a food source for insects which in turn provide food for fish, birds and bats. Vegetation on the banks provides cover for birds, reptiles and small mammals, and the roots of plants and plants which spread into the water can provide cover for small fish. The distinctive water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*) produces white flowers and long strands of vegetation, which flow in the water, and is a key plant for chalk rivers. Water crowfoot provides food and cover for fish and insects and helps to keep the gravel bed of the river clean and the water fast flowing.

The project has been delivered in partnership with the Darent Valley Fly Fishers, James and Robert Alexander at Furlongs Farm and has been funded by the Environment Agency.

Contact details: Louise.Smith@kent.gov.uk; 03000 414829

The nature footpath starts just to the rear of the changing rooms on Harrow Meadow. After a approximately 70 yards the path forks to join the footpath that emerges onto the High Street opposite the Baptist Church, or carry on along the newly created trail towards the allotments behind the Parish Council Offices, on Priory Lane. While the footpath can be enjoyed by all residents now, young and old alike, we would ask that you do not take dogs onto Harrow Meadow and comply with any signs restricting access. Dogs on leads are permitted on the new path. Please respect the allotment area and do not walk through this part.

Phase two of the project, which should hopefully see the path extended up towards Priory Lane, will be announced shortly.



The new footpath is marked in white. Harrow Meadow is at the bottom of the picture.

Annual Parish Meeting 2015

Cllr Andrea Cornwell, Chair of the Community & Environment Committee

On the 27th March the 2015 the Annual Parish Meeting was held at the village hall. The meeting, or should I say 'event' was held in a similar format to last year's where agencies that service the community were available to speak to throughout the evening and had a table to display their leaflets and freebies. We were lucky that twelve organisations were there in addition to the parish council, including Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue, Kent Libraries and Citizens Advice Bureau.



The Parish Council had a display, where annual reports written by each committee chairperson were available to take away. If you were unable to attend the event, but would still like a copy of these reports, please contact the Parish Office. Eynsford Parish Councillors were also in attendance at the event to talk to parishioners and discuss issues around the village.

The event could not have taken place without the hard work of the clerks, from sending invites, designing the flyer, coming up with an art competition, providing light refreshments and generally keeping us all on track.



Entries submitted for the 'Eynsford, an Unusual View' art competition were on display for the four different age categories. We were very impressed with the originality and

effort of those that submitted a piece or work. Thank you also to the local businesses that provided prizes for the winning entries. The winners were chosen by popular vote.

The evening started with the arrival of many parishioners, who visited the stalls of the various agencies that serve the community. They also were able to vote on the potential idea of an arboretum in the village, along with voting for their favourite pieces in the art competition. To enable parents with younger children to attend, an arts and crafts table was provided to keep the little ones occupied, which proved to be popular. Some attendees stayed all evening, whilst others popped in long enough to obtain the information they needed.

The local fire service was there to talk about their range of services and offer advice on how to keep your home safe. Call them on 0800 923 7000 or email your contact details to home@kent.fire-uk.org for a call back. Did you know that just three breaths of fire smoke can be fatal, even for a young and healthy adult?

The library service was there to discuss their future funding needs, with one idea being to become a charity. This has some positives as a charity can apply for funding that a council cannot. Also, why not try some of their more newer services like audio books and ebooks.

The School Run Safety Campaign were available to discuss any issues and sell high vis jackets for local school children. Our Police Community Support Officer Tim Darling was there to offer help and advice. He also had a variety of helpful tools to give away to help combat crime, such as UV marking kits and shed alarms.

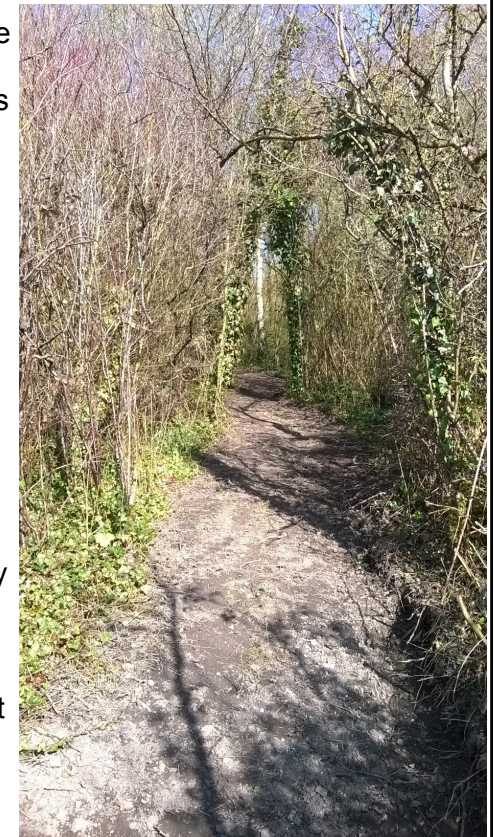
Throughout the evening Sarah Boyle, Chair of the parish council welcomed parishioners to the event, and let them know what was on offer. Sarah also



Eynsford set for wilder times!!

Cllr Theresa Durrant, Chair of the Recreation Committee

Progress is well underway for the new nature footpath, as we are pleased to announce the completion of phase one. This project realises the vision of the Parish Council, who are keen for all residents to be able to fully enjoy the wilderness areas in and around Eynsford, such as that adjacent to Harrow Meadow, which is home to some interesting British species of plants and wildlife.



If you have been wandering through the undergrowth recently you may have already noticed the strange white daubings and a newly created footpath. Keen to put your mind at rest that aliens are not about to land, it is however, going to take a steady stream of footfall to ensure that the ground along the footpath trail firms-up permanently, which will also help to prevent plant regrowth. Therefore if you are wondering how to kill some time, or would like to take in some fresh air in the great outdoors, then why not do your bit to help the footpath become firmly established? Take a stroll through the wilderness area and soak up the peace and tranquility, whilst keeping an eye out for the abundant wildlife around you. We would be grateful if you would keep to the path to avoid damaging any plants. Don't forget to send us photos of your findings!!

Management Plan. This document contains much of the detail covering development ranging from a modest domestic extension through to a new housing or business park. In February of this year, the ADPM was finally adopted after some years of consultation and government inspection. All planning decisions will now be measured against this new document so we thought it important to inform you of this key milestone. This and other new associated policies will be our key planning documents through to 2026, which illustrates the importance of this achievement.

There are a number of documents that form the Local Plan; some of these have already been adopted, for example the Green Belt Supplementary Planning Document. The ADPM has a section dedicated to the Green Belt and details the actual policies, but it is the Green Belt SPD that adds detail on how the policies should be interpreted and applied. This again is a key document as Eynsford lies firmly within the Green Belt and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. One of the final documents to be adopted will be the Gypsy and Traveller Plan which is planned for adoption in 2016. Although there are no sites in Eynsford contained within the draft plan, at least one site in Farningham is included.

Sevenoaks Planning Department have been very diligent and determined to provide a complete policy based planning strategy and have been keen to emphasise the need to have these policies in place. Without detailed policies any decision made by the council on planning matters would become very difficult to defend on appeal leading to a risk of inappropriate or unwanted development. Having said this, with a new government shortly to be elected we could just see a whole new approach to planning policy and the planning policy team at Sevenoaks will be busy once again.

If you've managed to reach the end of this article then you clearly have an unshakable interest in planning matters and may want to read more. Further information relating to the new Local Plan can be found on the Sevenoaks planning web page.

<http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/services/housing/planning/local-plan-and-planning-policy>

acknowledged the hard work and dedication of those parish councillors leaving this year, namely John Harris, Nick Rodway and Clive Stanyon. A special gift was presented to Clive Stanyon who has been Chair of the parish council for almost eight years, and a councillor for 20.

We were delighted to present a Community Award to Audrey Gee for her services to our community over many years. A certificate was presented by the High Sherriff of Kent, Hugo Fenwick. Sarah Boyle accepted the prize on Audrey's behalf as she was unable to attend the evening itself due to ill health.



Overall the evening was a great success with many more 'new' people attending. Hopefully finding out what goes on in their village, and to know that what they have to say makes a difference..

We hope to see you again next year!

Chairman's Farewell

Clive Stanyon



After 28 years of living in Eynsford, Jan and I have now moved to Elham, between Canterbury and Folkestone. The move is, ostensibly, an important component of the retirement plan. On the day that we took possession of the new property I resigned as Chairman of the parish council, after nearly 8 years in the post. I will be stepping down altogether after the May elections, having been a councillor for 20 years.

It was a massive decision for us to move away from Eynsford, as we have been involved in so many things over the years and made so

many friends. It feels quite surreal to no longer be part of the Eynsford community, in which we have so fully immersed ourselves.

Jan has been a village hall trustee for about 16 years and has organised innumerable and enjoyable, fund-raising events. She also chaired Riverside Players for 8 years, and we were both involved in lots of their productions. We will have long and fond memories of shows like Camelot, Oklahoma!, Oliver! and The Wizard of Oz, amongst many, many others, and the people involved. Plus, Jan has organised a couple of very successful, music festivals, on the Alexanders' farm, which were great fun. More recently, Jan championed the installation of the defibrillator outside the village hall.

In my 20 years as a parish councillor, I hope that I have been able to contribute to helping to keep Eynsford the lovely place in which it

is to live, whilst, at the same time, moving it forward so that it remains also a viable place in which to live. I cannot begin to think about all of the things that I have been involved with in that 20 years and I will not now bore you with the details. Suffice to say that one can witness the work of the parish council at nearly every step that you take when walking through the village, be it a housing development, a highway scheme or a bus shelter.

I am sure that Jan and I will miss all of this. However, there comes a time in life when one, perhaps, has to leave community service behind and think about how to spend the last few furlongs a bit more selfishly. That is what I am going to try to do. So Elham, I am sitting on my hands when it comes to volunteering!

So, it is a fond farewell from Jan and I, to all of the people whose lives have touched us over the last 28 years in Eynsford. We will no doubt stay in touch and continue to attend certain events in Eynsford, but we will also move on and make the next ten years a bit different from the last 28.

New Planning Policy

Cllr Phil Ward, Chair of the Planning Committee

All planning policy set within the district is governed by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), an overarching policy, set out by government. The NPPF lays down the criteria that local planning authorities must observe when formulating the detailed policies for their local area.

Over the last 5 years, Sevenoaks District Council has been developing these local policies producing what is known as The Local Plan, and in 2011 the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), the centre piece document, was formally adopted. The DPD is the high-level document from which the detailed planning policies are derived.

One of the key policy documents covering development across the district, including Eynsford is the Allocations and Development