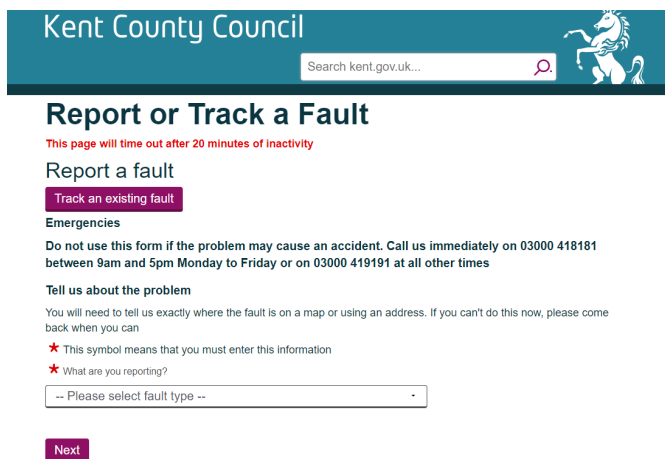


consider a pedestrian crossing at the top of Station Road before the station junction and more.

As always, any improvements depend on budgets, accident data etc. For some the parish council might be asked to contribute or pay, but even the smallest changes cost a few thousand pounds, so most are out of our reach. However, we will continue to lobby for changes we think are important to our parish.

Did you know that you can report a large range of problems online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> ?

You can report pot-holes, damaged or dirty signs, overhanging trees, faded road markings, drainage issues, bollards, street lights and even dead wildlife! You will need either an address or you can use the handy map to pin point the location. It's very straight forward. You can also see what has already been reported.

The image shows the Kent County Council website interface for reporting faults. At the top is the council's logo and a search bar. Below this is the heading 'Report or Track a Fault' with a warning that the page will time out after 20 minutes of inactivity. There are two main sections: 'Report a fault' and 'Track an existing fault'. Under 'Report a fault', there is a section for 'Emergencies' with instructions to call 03000 418181. Below that is a section 'Tell us about the problem' which includes a map and address input field, a dropdown menu for 'What are you reporting?', and a 'Next' button.

Raise any concerns you may have with us and we will make sure that they are discussed, or let you know if action has already been taken.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Eynsford Parish Office

The Parish Office has a stock of black and recycling bags and garden waste sacks that you can collect/purchase during opening hours. We also offer a photocopying/printing service at competitive prices. If you have a larger amount to do, please contact us in advance to arrange. We can offer help and advice on a number of issues and can put you in touch with other services.

Normal opening hours are 8.30am—2.30pm Mon—Thurs
01322 865320; info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk



Spring News 2022

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter from your parish council, packed full with useful and interesting information!

As you can see from the photo, benches and bins are just some of the things we are responsible for in Eynsford. We recently had two new bins installed which, like all litter bins, can also be used for dog waste.



Farningham and Eynsford Speedwatch will resume after Easter. If you are interested in joining the group and receiving training then please email the Clerk for further information.

We look forward to seeing lots of you at the fete and music event on 4th June in Eynsford (see article overleaf). Thank you to those who have already sent in bunting, we are happy to receive more!

We are working jointly with the village hall trustees on the project to build a new hall at Harrow Meadow. This also involves levelling and rotating the football pitch by 90 degrees. Can you help to raise funds for this important new community facility? Contact the Clerk if you have any ideas. To donate visit <http://eynsfordvh.com/wp/how-to-donate/>

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY;
01322 865320; info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone Post Covid Jubilee Event—4th June 2022

The time is drawing near when we will be holding our joint village extravaganza over the bank holiday weekend to celebrate coming out of the COVID pandemic and Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. We have further updates on the amazing day....



Are you a local business? We have a few spare places where you can come along and advertise what you do and sell some wares on a stall. Contact Naomi at the Eynsford Parish Council on info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk or telephone on 01322 865320 for more information. Come along and join in the fun and get noticed further!

We need your dogs! We are holding a dog show for all our local adorable pups. There will be some fun categories such as 'The Waggiest Tail' 'The dog that looks most like its owner' – this could cause some consternation!!! 'The dog the judges would most like to take home' and 'best child, dog handling skills'. Everyone will be a winner but there will be trophies!!!

Tombola's - We are looking for donations for our boozy tombola and our kiddie teddy tombola, if you can donate drop these off at the Parish Council office.

Tug of War Teams We are contacting the local groups to come forward with tug of war teams and hope you will all be involved. Get in training! It could be a stampede.

WE NEED YOU! - can you spare a few hours the day before to help set up tents and marquees. If you are able to help, please contact Naomi at the Parish Office.

The Evening Musical Extravaganza is proving to be very popular. Please note that the cut off date for applying for tickets for this event is **Thursday 28th April**. You must be a full time resident within Eynsford, Farningham or Lullingstone and proof of residency will be required. Call Naomi at the Parish Council Office to register. More updates after Easter....
Fete Management Team

village hall facebook page for ways to get involved.

Other fund raising events have been arranged including, a Table Top Sale ,Eynstock, a music fest on Common Meadow on 29th August also a Murder Mystery evening on 11th June and there will be more coming up, so please support these events and let's see how much money can be raised.

If you wish to make an anonymous donation contact Malcolm Richardson on malcolmrichardson@hotmail.co.uk.

Alan Cooke

Roads and Parking

Highways issues are one of the most common things raised by residents, and are also frequently discussed by the parish council. Over the past few years, parish councils have been asked to draw up Highways Improvement Plans for Kent Highways which list and prioritise improvements/measures parishes would like to see, rather than raising issues on an ad hoc basis.

Recently, at our request, Kent Highways have installed new signage at the ford which we hope will reduce the number of cars getting stuck. However, unfortunately some people will always ignore them.

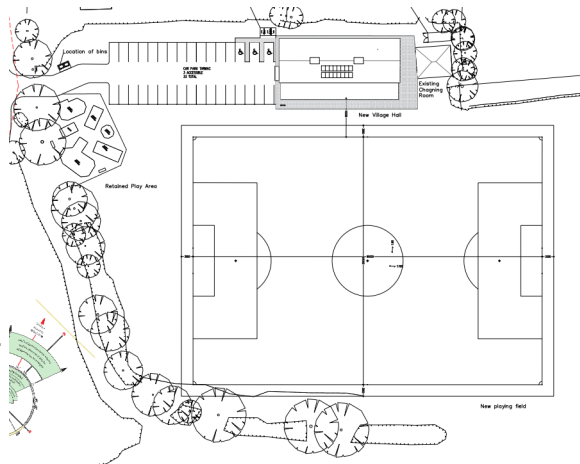
We have also requested double yellow lines in various places around the village to reduce obstruction and congestion. These include: Outside the Five Bells, on the first bend of Lullingstone Lane, the High Street between the school and the Castle Hotel, Castle Road near to the visitor centre, the junction of St Martin's Drive with Eynsford Rise. Kent Highway's response to these seems to be positive, but we will have to see whether or not they actually happen.

Other improvements we have requested include: a footway on Bower Lane between Pollyhaugh and Knight's Field as this is a dangerous spot for pedestrians; speed limit of 20mph on the High Street during school hours; reduce speed limit on Lullingstone Lane and Sparepenny Lane to 40mph; extend the 30mph speed limit on Crockenhill Lane; re-review the narrow footpath between Millfield and Olive Crescent;



NEW VILLAGE HALL at HARROW MEADOW

We are nearing the time to start the first phase of this project which is to re-orientate the football pitch which will now run north/south on Harrow Meadow. Tenders for this work have only just been received and the project manager is going through the figures to make sure each item has been taken into account.



However, before any construction work can commence, a condition imposed by Sevenoaks Planners is that an intrusive archaeological survey must be carried out. This involves excavating a number of trenches, approximately 1.5m deep, both in Harrow Meadow and in the adjacent farmland and to log any artefacts.

THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT FROM THE 9TH TO 13TH MAY DURING WHICH TIME PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WHOLE OF HARROW MEADOW, THE PLAY AREA AND THE PERIMETER OF THE ADJACENT FARMLAND WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FOR SAFETY REASONS.

Assuming no artefacts are found during these investigations, it is hoped that the ground works for the football pitch will start immediately after the village event around the 6th June this year.

HARROW MEADOW AND THE PLAY AREA WILL REMAIN CLOSED DURING THESE WORKS FOR SAFETY REASONS.

In parallel with these works consultants are preparing preliminary designs in order that contractors can tender for the construction of the new hall and car park. Alongside this activity, the development committee are meeting with potential developers interested in purchasing the existing hall site, the proceeds of which will help fund the new hall.

The fund raising team have put in place a 'GoFundMe' page which you can find via the village hall web site <http://eysfordvh.com/wp/how-to-donate/> where donations can be made. Also keep an eye on the Eysford

Looking After Our Green Spaces

Members of the green team have been involved in work parties at Mill Field and at the A225 layby. Last year we did some work the layby to create an experimental wildlife area. An area was marked out wherein the number of cuts of the grass would be reduced but the cuttings would be removed in order to reduce the amount of nutrients in the soil, thereby promoting the growth of wild flowers in this area at the expense of the grass.

Some quadrants of one square metre each were created where a layer of turf was removed and wild flower seed were sown. These areas have been monitored since then. Some reptile refuges were created with carpet and corrugated iron in the hopes that slow worms and adders might come and bask. Some ivy was cut away from the trunks of some of the trees so that they would thrive and a fair amount of litter was collected and put into bins.



A second work party was convened on the 3rd April this year attended by a number of volunteers. A large branch had been brought down by recent high winds so this was tidied up somewhat and some bits of it used to create a log pile for invertebrates to dwell in. The wild flower quadrants were weeded and some new seeds sown. More litter was picked up and disposed of.

At Mill Field some work has also been carried by green team members together with some Mill Field trustees and other volunteers. Some of the protective surrounds have been removed from the fruit trees where it was felt that the trees were big enough to be safe from rabbits and deer. The hedge running along the east side of Mill Field, next to the permissive footpath, has been extended with a "dead hedge", which is a way to put woody prunings, in this case from the fruit trees, to good use and can offer more instant wildlife cover than a newly planted conventional hedge. It creates a habitat for insects and beetles as well as a rich feeding ground for small mammals such as hedgehogs and provides shelter from the weather and protection from predators. There is still more work to do at Mill Field with possibility of tree planting, either of oak trees in the field or of saplings in the gaps in the hedge at the western border of the field.

Cllr Michael Barker

Community Award Winner: Lynda Newton!

As I am not a resident of Eynsford, I am very proud and immensely honoured to have been nominated for the 2022 KALC Community Award.

Although I do not live in the village, Eynsford has been my spiritual home since I joined the Riverside Players when I was 21. Over the years, I have taken part in so many productions and have enjoyed taking every possible role.

So, how did I come to be the Head teacher at Anthony Roper? I started my teaching career in Brixton and worked there for 3 years before going on maternity leave to have our son Benjamin and making the decision to move back to Kent. I was offered a post at Joyden's Wood Infant School AND Anthony Roper – I chose Anthony Roper and the rest is history.

I have been at the Anthony Roper Primary School for over 30 years, starting as a job share teacher in a year 1 class.

My first contract was part-time and temporary, with a termination date of August 1992!!! I think that this may have been an error as 30 years later I am only just leaving.

During my time here, I have taught hundreds of amazing children and I feel privileged to have been given the chance to inspire them and to encourage them to live their best life and to dream their dreams. I am now very proud to be teaching my 2nd generation of pupils – children and family members of children I taught in the past.

I have taught every year but Year 6 and have led many subjects over the years – including both maths and English.

As Geography lead, we started our annual trip to Aylmerton, as Science lead we set up the Year 3/4 trip to the Science Museum. We visited the Bethnal Green Toy Museum as part of history, Colchester Zoo on a science trip and my class at the time adopted an aardvark for me as a present.

AND so much music, which is a very important part of my life....including taking choirs of over 100 pupils to the O2 arena for the Young Voices Con-



already thriving in the grounds of Lullingstone Castle and will recognise the effects of climate change as well as prioritising native species the will support native wildlife now and in the future.

As part of separate projects, the parish council has planted some trees at the Common Meadow in order to preserve its appearance in the future when some of the present set of willow trees will reach the end of their life span. A new tree to commemorate the life and career in public service of Eric Syddique has been planted in St. Martin's Drive and further opportunities are being sought.

Michael Barker

Festival of the Landscape

This Spring, the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme will be bringing you the **Festival of the Landscape**, an event-packed celebration of everything that the Darent Valley has to offer!



From 1st May to 30th June 2022 everyone is invited to join in with a programme of events, workshops and activities across the Darent Valley.

From exploring Tudor and Roman finds with our archaeologist, touring the ancient trees painted by Samuel Palmer, guided walks with Kent Wildlife Trust, wildlife activities for families and walk and draw workshops for adults to large-scale outdoor puppetry performances at Otford and Dartford with 'Puppets with Guts' and much more - there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Eynsford residents may be particularly interested in attending the Lullingstone Castle Dig Open Day or visiting our airstream caravan to take part in an artistic workshop celebrating the beautiful landscape of the Darent Valley. There will also be a family river dipping day at Farningham and a guided walk starting at Eynsford Station. Several events are also being run at Lullingstone Country Park.

For a full programme of events and to book, please visit <https://darent-valley.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

Sarah Moon



Arboricultural Acrostics!!

Members of the Parish Council are steeped in the history of this village as, particularly, are our tree wardens, John Gee and Ken Baker. The importance of trees in maintaining air quality in the village and preserving its rural character has never been more important and while the council, especially the green team is constantly on the look-out for tree planting opportunities, it is instructive to review previous tree-planting projects.

In this context the name Elliott Downs Till looms large. Mr Downs Till was inspired by Arbour day, founded in 1876 in the USA, to instigate some tree planting in Eynsford. A number of tree planting schemes ensued, including the planting of some tree acrostic, the best known of which was a series of trees planted along station road that spelt out two quotations and grew on the west side of Station Road between the railway bridge and the post office (Ford House). The acrostics are made using the first letter of each tree's name, e.g. B for beech. Another acrostic planted outside Anthony Roper Primary School spelled out MY SON BE WISE. More

information about these acrostics, and more about Mr Downs Till can be found in various documents available from the historical society (FELHS) or from the tree wardens at Eynsford Parish Council.

In order to bring this tradition into the present day, the tree wardens, supported by the parish council, are proposing a new acrostic

for the village. There is a triangle of land overlooking Lullinstone Castle, adjacent to a tree which many people will know as "the chicken tree" that has been partially made available to us for some tree planting. The tree wardens are considering an acrostic the spells out the phrase "Save the planet" and have selected some trees whose initials could spell out this message for future generations. Let's hope they heed this message! This acrostic is only at the planning stage and the exact arrangement of the trees will have to be approved by the land owners. The selection of trees will be sympathetic to the trees



cert and introducing a service of 9 Lessons and Carols to the school calendar.

I have worked my way up through the ranks, from class teacher to Key Stage leader, Deputy Head teacher, Acting head, on and off for 4 years and then I was appointed to the headship in 2012. Over the years, it has been a joy to work with so many amazing and interesting people – staff, parents including many great PTA friends, governors and the wider community.

Some of my best memories are being part of village life: country dancing at the local fetes, camping with the scouts, community singing at the dementia café and many visits to the churches in both the villages of Eynsford and Farningham.

As I step down as Head teacher this year, I take many fond memories with me and know that I am not leaving - Eynsford will always be a part of my life.

Lynda Newton

Eynsford in Bloom

You may have seen a banner recently outside the Five Bells saying "Eynsford in Bloom, Gold Award for seven years, Thank you Eynsford for all your support". It was in 2015 that Eynsford won their first Gold award for the South and South East in Bloom competition and we've just kept on going ever since then. In fact last year we were actually awarded three awards - One for the village, The Environmental challenge and for an Individual wildflower garden (Keith Turner's entered by gardener Kaz Langridge).

So of course we are going for Gold again and this year with no less than six different entries. Apart from our usual whole village entry and last years environmental and wildflower garden categories, we are entering Saint Martin's



churchyard, The island at Mill Close and the Anthony Roper Nursery school.

What does each entry require? Well, there's a visit at some point in the summer from a judge from South and South East in Bloom, but that doesn't mean it's just a case of looking fabulous for a few weeks in July. The work is all year round and the process starts again for the next year pretty much as soon as the judge has been and gone. We submit a written log with photographic evidence to illustrate the work we have been doing through out the year. The wild flower garden and nursery school entries are on line entries only (so require no visit from a judge). There are periods such as Spring when the village is alive with all the blossom and spring flowers that we want the judge to see photographs of, but equally there are more dormant times when a lot of preparatory work is being done that is equally important for the judge to know about.

The competition has three main criteria - horticulture, environment and community. So while having lots of lovely flowers on show is part and parcel of the process it is only a part. It is equally important for us to use appropriate planting for different areas and encourage wild flower areas that provide nectar rich sources throughout the year. We create protective habitats that provide safe shelter for wild life with bug shelters such as log piles and bug hotels. In places we use wild planting and drought-resistant planting to reflect the influence of climate change. Environmental concerns especially conserving water use and producing our own compost from our cuttings, old leaves and weeding, ticks many of the boxes. We are expected and indeed like to involve a diverse mix of people from the whole community. To this end we have encouraged younger volunteers to contribute as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award activities. New volunteers are always welcome where we meet in the car park Tuesdays at 9.30am



While there is a small core band of volunteers who work our different sites on our weekly Tuesday morning turns and first Saturday of the month slots, there is a wider supporting network of people involved in our work.

For some that may be more on the administrative side or even providing the mornings' after work coffee and biscuits. There are also adopt-a-plot sites which are worked by volunteers who can work at their own time and choosing on a particular chosen site in and around the village, such as the flower barrel under the telegraph pole on Riverside or the boat on the corner of Crockenhill and Sparepenny Lane.

This year is of course Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and we have chosen red, white and blue as our appropriate colour scheme for the summer. This should be reflected in the planting throughout the sites that we maintain, the war memorial, village hall drive, fern bank, outside the station and wildflower triangle, Butchers walk, village car park and Crockenhill/Sparepenny Lane junction. We also care for but don't plant St Martins memorial rose garden. And as the banner says "Thank you Eynsford for all your support" because without all the shops, pubs, businesses, peoples front gardens and hanging baskets in the village getting involved and putting on a lovely display of blooms, we wouldn't be talking about another award. So thank you Eynsford and let's get out there again this year with our red, white and blues and put on another fine display to win Jubilee Gold!

Chris Lewington

Free Family Fun Days

The family fun day on 4th April in the village hall was very well attended with over 100 children present during the session which included crafts, games and other activities.

Another day is planned for **15th August from 10-2pm** and will be held outside at Anthony Roper Primary School. This will be free to attend and the parish council will have a refreshments stall as usual. As well as the usual crafts and games, we may be able to provide some extra activities as we have done in the past such as circus skills, face painting and more. Let us know what your children have enjoyed and we will see what we can do!

Holly Ivaldi

