



# Summer Newsletter 2023

from  
**EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Here is your summer newsletter from the parish council. It includes lots of useful information about what we and others in the community have been up to.

Thank you to the hard working volunteers at Eynsford in Bloom who are entering two competitions this month. We wish them good luck!

Thank you to those who responded to our article in the last newsletter about Christmas lights. We are following up on logistics and costs and will let you know if it is possible.

Dates for your diary: Repair Café on 22nd July and Family Fun Day on 2nd August!

A reminder that we are no longer collecting crisp packets—you can take them for recycling in many large supermarkets. However, they still seem to be creeping into our bin!

We are always pleased to hear from you about your ideas for our village and community. Contact details can be found below.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

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01322 865320; [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.

[www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)



Photo—Chris Lewington

# Annual Walkabout

Cllr Ferne Haxby

In August 2023, Councillors will be undertaking the yearly check on the assets that the Parish Council holds to ensure that they are maintained to the highest standard of functionality and safety.

The Council maintains many areas of the village, some in partnership or co-operation and working with others such as street lighting, looking at parking problems, highway issues and transport. But there are also smaller assets that need regular checking so that the village can be clean, safe and available to all.

These assets are:

- Litter bins: These are located throughout the village and the walkabout lets us check and either replace, improve or let Sevenoaks District Council (who maintain several) of any repairs that may need to be carried out
- Bus stops and Shelters: Is the information clear and up to date, easy to read and stops and shelters structurally secure
- Salt bins: Although checked in the summer, the nights and cold weather soon come along and now is the time to ensure the bins are full and located in the most accessible areas
- Dog waste bins: Residents are respectful of these and use them regularly, maintaining clear pathways for all
- Allotments and Castlefield Car Park: Although the allotments are regularly checked throughout the year, our annual walkabout allows us the time to look at larger jobs that need to be carried out. The Castlefield car park is used by both residents and allotment holders and the access road needs regular maintenance



- Harrow Meadow – Changing Rooms and Playground: The playground is checked once a week as safety is paramount for the children and regular checks are taken within the changing rooms, water, damp and structural so our football teams can play and enjoy the sporting venue. As a note: as the new football pitch is undertaken the changing rooms will be closed but we hope to keep the playground area open. Watch out for more information coming soon.
- Notice Boards: There are several noticeboards around the village and some have either been replaced in the last year or repaired as they are an important source of information for the residents so regular inspection is required
- War Memorial: Working in partnership with Eynsford in Bloom, work is completed around the memorial, especially in readiness for the yearly remembrance service
- Benches: These are sited on Riverside, Common Meadow, Harrow Meadow, Lullingstone Lane, Priory Lane triangle. All are checked that they are safe and in good condition
- Common Meadow kissing gate: The Parish Council worked with the Cricket Club in helping to keep Common Meadow clear of horses which can ruin the grass and cricket square.
- Buildings—the parish office, the Harrow Meadow changing rooms and the Archive Centre (leased to the Local History Society) are checked for any work that needs to be done.
- Other—items such as bollards and signs are checked and any problems reported to Kent Highways.



All the above areas are checked on our walkabout but you can also help us with this work. If you see any areas that are in need of inspection, please report it to the Parish Office so it can be followed up. It doesn't have to wait until our annual walkabout.

# Brief Village Hall Update

*Cllr Alan Cooke*

You should now be aware that the archaeology investigations were completed on 21st April. It is understood that Iron Age finds widely exist throughout Harrow Meadow which include small pieces of pottery, flint structures, and burnt flints which may signify that the area was used for some form of industrial use and post holes.



Throughout the site work, our contractor had been guided by KCC's archaeologist as to the extent of investigation required to satisfy the pre-construction condition imposed by Sevenoaks planners. Although the site looks like a battle field, we are now able to start the ground works to re-configure the football pitch. However, as yet we do not have a firm date as to when this work will start.

Please note, to avoid taking the excess spoil off site to land fill, we have approval to spread this spoil over a strip of land, owned by the parish council, parallel to the allotments. The public should also note that there is no official path along the boundary of trees, and once work has started, this area together with Harrow Meadow will be fenced off for safety.

The building work to construct the new hall is dependent on reaching out target of £2.0m. I can report that monies held by the trustees combined with money set aside by the parish council, grants from different bodies and monies raised by various activities amount to £1.36M this includes a figure of £500K for the sale of the existing hall site.

You may be interested to know, funds raised from the comedy night was £1300, from the Sonnet Wind Orchestra evening £930 and the recent garden safari made £4000. The Development Committee wish to thank all those who have supported the different events and hope you will continue to do so. Our next event is Eynstock on 28th August and then Wines of the Unexpected on 18th November. We will also be running a raffle over the summer and autumn with some great prizes, and will be producing another Eynsford calendar for 2024. Look out for details of these on noticeboards, our website and social media.

[www.eynsfordvh.com](http://www.eynsfordvh.com)

# Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme

*Sarah Moon, DVLPS*

The summer so far has been a busy time for DVLPS with many events being run throughout the valley. There is still time to book onto some of the remaining events. Please go to our website ([www.darent-valley.org.uk](http://www.darent-valley.org.uk)) for details of how to book.

We have been really pleased with the feedback received regarding our virtual reality film. This was produced by local artist Fiona Macdonald and follows the River Darent from source to sea and from dawn to dusk. This new immersive experience has been touring the valley in our silver airstream caravan and visited the Lullingstone Country Park open day. If you haven't had the chance to try it out yet, do come and find us at Sevenoaks Festival, Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve on 1st July, Dartford Big Day Out, Dartford Central Park on 15th July and Shoreham Heavy Horse Show on 3rd September. For more info: Virtual Reality Film Project: Stream of Consciousness - Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme ([darent-valley.org.uk](http://darent-valley.org.uk))

We have also been busy giving out our rail trail packs at our various events. Each pack contains 17 walks of varying lengths, which start and end at a railway station in the Darent Valley, including several in Eynsford. Although the primary objective of these walks is to encourage visitors to come by train in order to explore the countryside, they can still be very much enjoyed by local people. We still have limited packs available (please contact me at [sarah.moon@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:sarah.moon@kentdowns.org.uk)), but we would encourage you to download the Darent Valley Trails app, which is available free of charge on the app store and which contains the full suite of walks as well as several others.



Apple App



Android App

Finally, we are excited to announce that from January 2024 – May 2024, we will be holding a celebratory exhibition at the Kaleidoscope Gallery in Sevenoaks and the Sir Peter Blake Gallery in Dartford. The exhibition will be inspired by Samuel Palmer and his time spent in the Darent Valley. We are asking artists living in the Darent Valley to respond to the theme of 'Visionary Landscape' with new work inspired by the local landscape and Palmer. We will be running artist-led guided trips to the V&A Print Room this summer for artists to see and respond to work by Samuel Palmer first-hand. A Call-Out with more information, including details of the artwork submission date and these visits will be released end of June 2023. For more information contact DVLPS Arts & Communications Manager, [selina.levinsondrake@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:selina.levinsondrake@kentdowns.org.uk)

# Volunteer Driver Services

*Cllr Malcolm Richardson*

Many of you will have used the volunteer driver service which operated in Eynsford for many years. Unfortunately due to retirement and logistics this service has now had to cease.

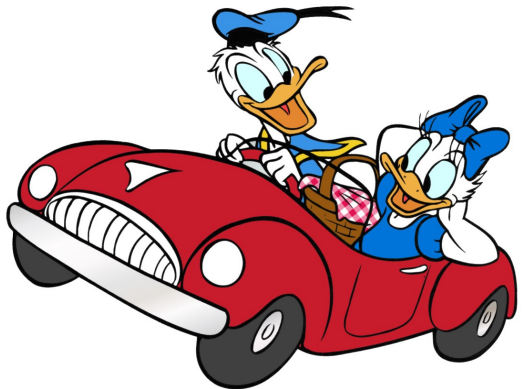
However Eynsford Parish Council has been in touch with the North West Kent Volunteer organisation who provide a similar service. They average about 8,000 trips per annum and have some 60 volunteer drivers and they estimate that they have some 800 clients using their service.

The areas served are the boroughs of Dartford, Gravesham and the northern parishes of Sevenoaks, which includes Eynsford. They offer a door-to-door, one-to-one pick up and return to home service.

They will take clients to any medical appointment, to visit loved ones, to day care centres or well being classes and on some occasions, get vital, essential shopping.

The service is for those who are over 60 or have a disability although they must be able to get in and out of a car.

There is an annual registration charge of £20 per person, and a mileage fee of 45p per mile, plus an admin fee of £4 per trip (both payable to the driver). It is preferable if two to three days' notice is given for any journey. A quick estimate shows that a trip from Eynsford to Darenth Valley Hospital would be in the region of £7 - £8.



So if you qualify and are in need of a lift, do ring the North West Kent volunteers drivers - their phone number is 01322 272476.'

New volunteer drivers are also welcome!

# Eynsford's Repair Café

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk & Green Team Member*

Our Green Team will be running another Repair Café on Saturday 22nd July at the Scout Hall from 1-4pm.

Repair Cafes are designed to help to reduce waste and to encourage reuse of objects you might have otherwise thrown away. It is also an opportunity to learn some new skills and find out how to repair things yourself.



This will be our 4th Repair Café and we hope to run them quarterly. Repairs have included bikes, lamps, sewing machine, clothes, jewellery, furniture and more! We rely on volunteers from our community to carry out the repairs, so what is available each time will depend on who is there and what their speciality is. Maybe you are good at fixing stuff and would like to help out? No qualifications are required, and you will be covered by the council's insurance.

Repair Cafes are also a lovely social opportunity. Meet up with a friend over a cup of tea and some delicious home made cake!

So bring along your bikes that need an MOT, your clothes with holes, your appliances that are on the blink, or anything else and we will do our best to fix them for you.

There is no charge, but donations are welcome. Any profits after the costs of the running the café will be donated to the new village hall project.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me on [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk). Thank you!



# Meet Your New Councillors

## Vince Robson

My name is Vince Robson and, since May, I have joined the Eynsford Parish Council. This is following retirement at the end of April.

My objective is to give back to the village that has been my home for some 30 years. Tina and I have lived in 3 different places in Eynsford and just love it.

I am a member of Riverside Football Club and Treasurer for Eynsford FC. This follows my passion for football, playing, and watching just about any game, especially Chelsea.



I previously worked in Security and Project Management. You will probably see me walking our German Shepard, Lola, around the village and surrounding area. I am looking forward to doing my bit to help you.... Just get in touch.

## Damian Naylor

I've lived in Eynsford for almost 4 years now but I've been connected with the parish since I bought most of Austin Lodge golf course as it was closing in 2014. I grew up in Yorkshire but moved to London to study when I was 18 and ended up staying until 5 years ago.

I've spent most of my career essentially working as a machine learning researcher, until 10 years ago in finance but I've since worked in a range of sectors from TV to law enforcement. I recently started working part time so I could spend more time on my rewilding plans for the old golf course. Watching nature start to restore the land has been incredible, it's changed what I'd like to do for the rest of my life but it's just the beginning and it's the planned cattle, ponies, pigs and eventually deer who will really transform the land.



I feel very lucky to live in this beautiful countryside so close to London and I'd like to try to help make the parish an even nicer place to live. I'm interested in nature conservation and I walk/hike for an hour or two most days. I'm particularly keen to see if the plans for an off-road cycle route to Shoreham can be revived.

## Eynsford Calendar 2024—Send in your Photos!

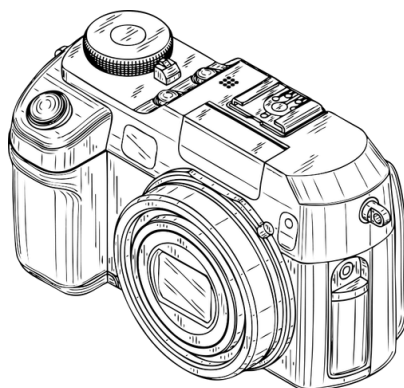
Eynsford Village Hall are putting together a fundraising calendar for 2024. They would love to include photos from as many local people as possible. You can help to make a beautiful calendar showing different areas of our beautiful village.

Photos should be:

- +Landscape format
- +Original format (not photoshopped or resized - we can do that if necessary)
- +High resolution
- +Be recognisable as places within the parish of Eynsford
- +Please tell us where and approximately when (month) your photo was taken

Please do not send:

- +Photos of private houses or people without permission.



Please email your photos to [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk) by 31st July 2023 or pop into the parish office with a memory stick.

### Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and its services. There are also areas dedicated to the village and community groups with the option for you to add your own events for listing. Have a look at **[www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)**

We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news and share useful information . We love to hear your views and to see your pictures too. Do follow us to keep up to date!

# Eynsford Arbor Day—30th September 2023

*Cllr Jane Laird*

Arbor day is a celebration of trees and Eynsford has a long history of Arbor Days dating back to 1897. Elliot Down Tills introduced Arbor Day to the UK and it was first celebrated in Eynsford where he lived. He instigated the planting of other tree acrostics in the village including on Station Road. Since then there has been a tradition of planting tree acrostics in the village such as around the current Scout Hall which spells out Be Prepared.

To celebrate the new trees planted acrostically earlier this year The Green Team and the Millfield Trust are planning on holding an Arbor Day. We are hoping that other community groups will get involved too.

We will start at the new trees which are above the Roman Villa (near to the 'Chicken Tree'), a chance for us to get together to view the trees which are planted in an 'Acrostic' with the first letter of each tree spelling out 'Save The Planet'. A plaque giving details of the acrostic is being designed and should be in place by then. We will then walk through the village enjoying the trees along the way—maybe you have a favourite. We will then come together at Millfield for a tree planting ceremony with cider and music to celebrate the trees in our village. All are welcome to join in. Please save the date and more details will follow.



# D-Day Celebration 6th June 2024

*Naomi Wintour*

Next year marks the 80th year of D-Day, and with that in mind, Eynsford Parish Council wish to ask our residents their thoughts how this should be celebrated.



The Prime Minister is encouraging local communities to take part in the lighting of Beacons that evening – both commemorating and celebrating the ‘light of Peace’ that emerged from the dreadful darkness of War.

The National Federation of Fish Friers are proud to be involved in the commemorations to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on 6th June 2024, and are encouraging all fish and chip outlets/restaurants to get involved to show our appreciation for what those brave souls did to protect our freedom and our thanks for the continued protection provided by our armed forces. There were approximately 156,000 Allied troops that landed in Normandy by sea and air on D-Day, so they are hoping to sell 156,000 portions of fish and chips (and mushy peas) across the country that day representing a portion for each one involved in the landings. For each portion sold, we ask that £1.00 be equally divided between the four charities involved - The Royal Navy and Merchant Navy Associations, Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and ABF The Soldiers’ Charity.



Could all our Eynsford restaurants/public houses sell just fish and chips that day? Or would an event at the village hall be appropriate where fish and chips are bought, and entertainment is provided? Would you attend something like? Would you want to get involved in helping organise something for our villages, or any other ideas please get in touch with Eynsford Parish council via our e-mail [info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Parish Office

You are welcome to pop into the parish office to get bin bags, garden sacks, do photocopying and to ask for information and advice. We are usually open Monday to Thursday 8.30am—2.30pm.



# Family Fun Day

Wednesday 2nd August 2023

At

Anthony Roper Primary School, High Street,  
Eynsford

10am until 2pm



**BOUNCY CASTLE, SPORTS,  
CRAFTS, GAMES,  
& FACEPAINTING**

Refreshments available, or bring a picnic.

This is a free event and everyone is welcome

Children must be supervised by an appropriate adult

Provided by Sevenoaks District Council & Eynsford Parish  
Council, with support from  
Farningham Parish Council, Anthony Roper Primary School

Sorry no dogs allowed in the school grounds