

Free Family Fun Days this Summer!

**6th & 20th August
2018**

**Fun games, sports,
crafts and activities for
children.**



**Anthony Roper Primary School, High
Street, Eynsford**

We are putting on two free fun days for all the family this summer with support from Farningham Parish Council and Sevenoaks District Council, and thanks to the school for hosting the sessions.

On 6th August the session will run from 10am-1pm and there will be play provision from Playplace. We have also hired an African drumming activity and extra sports activities aimed at older children.

On 20th August the session will run from 10am - 2pm, and alongside Playplace, Sevenoaks District Council will be providing additional activities. We will also have extra sports for your older children.

There will be a stall selling light refreshments at both sessions and you are welcome to bring a picnic to eat on the school field. Please note that an appropriate adult must be responsible for any children that attend. Don't forget your sun cream and sun hat if its sunny.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Summer News 2018

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the summer newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

Well done to Eynsford in Bloom and the Garden Safari for keeping our village 'in bloom' and looking wonderful this summer, despite the lack of rain! Thank you to all the volunteers who pick up litter and to those who keep their paths swept and hedges cut back around the village.



Many are concerned by a seeming increase in crime in the villages. Having spoken to our PCSOs they assure me that Eynsford is one of the lowest crime areas in the district. They also stress the importance of reporting all crimes and suspicious behaviour that you see either on 101 or online. If our figures increase we are more likely to see more police presence.

This quarter's magazine contains a number of articles about current local issues - do have a read!

We are also looking for a new cleaner for the parish office from September - its just one hour per week, but we know that the Scout Hall also need a cleaner for 2 hours a week. Get in touch if you are interested!

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 and Twitter.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Lucky escape for one boy as SpeedWatch calls for volunteers

Councillor Theresa Durrant

Motorists are often unaware of their speed when driving through residential or rural areas, or very rarely consider its impact, but as with any form of speeding, the implications should they find themselves in a collision or accident, are high. Only recently a young boy was struck by a car in Farningham. Whilst seriously injured, he was incredibly lucky and thankfully has gone on to make a full recovery. Others are often not so lucky.

Statistics from RoSPA - The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, shows that a staggering 85% of pedestrians are killed when struck by a car traveling at 40mph, compared to 45% killed when struck by cars traveling at less than 30mph or 5% by cars travelling at below 20mph. This is why community led SpeedWatch campaigns in rural or urban areas are important in helping to educate motorists about speed limits. Particularly as local residents often have a better understanding of speeding hotspots, or where there is the potential for pedestrians to come into conflict with traffic.

If you're wondering if community led campaigns work, an article showed that in Wiltshire alone, SpeedWatch caught 11,700 drivers speeding, which led to 18 police cautions, 6 fixed penalty fine notices and 3 drivers taken to court.

We appreciate that everyone has a hectic life. Yet the benefit that you bring to the whole community by giving just a few hours of your spare time, might just save a life one day. In order to try and reduce the impact on precious time for volunteers, we need as many willing people as possible, which is why we have agreed to join forces with Farningham. Councillor Krish Shanmuganathan of Farningham



Local Plan for Sevenoaks District

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Many of you will have seen stories in the papers and online about possible new housing development in our area. This all relates to Sevenoaks District Council's Local Plan which will be in force in 2035. New government housing targets mean that the district is required to build around 14,000 new homes between 2015 and 2035. With a large part of the district being Green Belt, this is a challenge.

A public consultation will run from 16th July to 10th September about the sites that have been put forward by local landowners and developers. The council will prioritise land in existing built up areas or brownfield sites. However, a few Green Belt areas may need to be considered. Larger development will need to provide suitable infrastructure and community facilities. You will be able to give your opinions on the proposals and the parish council will be commenting too. Details of the consultation can be found in the InShape magazine and online at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/draftlocalplan. There are also several public drop-in sessions around the district during the summer.

It's important to not just consider any potential sites in Eynsford (low priority due to being in the Green Belt), but also applications in neighbouring parishes such as Farningham, Crockenhill, West Kingsdown and Swanley that could have an impact on Eynsford in terms of transport, amenities such as school and doctors etc. Please take time to look at the details and to send in your comments whether you support or object to different proposals. Don't forget that Sevenoaks District Council will need to meet the target set by the government so can't say no to everything!



If you don't have computer access you can contact Sevenoaks District Council for details of how to see a hard copy on 01732 227000. We also hope to receive a paper copy too which you will be able to view in the parish office by appointment.

Thameslink explained that the delays were mainly caused by a shortage of drivers who knew the routes in the south east, but they never explained satisfactorily why this was the case when there were obviously sufficient drivers before the new timetable was introduced.

A rail users group was formed, comprising mainly commuters from Eynsford, to put constant pressure on the railway companies and Michael Fallon was urged to intervene and persuade Chris Grayling to 'do something, anything' but at the time of writing, little improvement beyond irregular new trains stopping at Eynsford has been seen.

Following a meeting with Michael Fallon by a group of Eynsford and Shoreham rail users on 10th July, it was promised that pressure would continue to be applied to Thameslink by the government, and Southeastern would also be asked to provide extra stops in the interim. Surprisingly, it appears that the government have no legal powers to force another rail operator to help, but hopefully Southeastern will cooperate.



Thameslink have announced a revised interim timetable will operate from Sunday 15th July, although this still depends upon the number of drivers available – at the time of writing, the numerical shortage was not known.

So we hope the interim timetable will go some way to addressing the current issues – only time will tell. In the meantime, rail users are encouraged to check National Rail enquiries or Trainline to check if a train is running, virtually up until the train arrives as cancellations have been known to take place with no notice.

Recently the head of Japanese Railways apologised to passengers after a train arrived at its destination 45 seconds late – I wonder if he could be persuaded to move to England!

Parish Council is responsible for the suggestion and has confirmed that they already have around 12 volunteers, but would like to try and double this figure to make SpeedWatch a really viable option. Full training will be provided.

Register your interest with either parish council now to receive more information.

Eynsford & Farningham Dementia Café

Councillor Ferne Haxby

The Dementia Café has nearly reached six months old and is still meeting regularly on the second Friday of every month (except August).



Since our first meeting in February, members have met up to chat, have refreshments and meet with our resident experts from Carers FIRST, Bluebird Care and the Alzheimer and Dementia Support Services to help them in their caring role and gain advice and help with issues arising.

Each month sees some form of activity, which is so satisfying. To date we have:

- Tasted cheese from around the world

- Enjoyed various quizzes
- Learnt how to deal with scams that may come via the door, telephone and internet
- Made Easter bonnets
- Been entertained with some fantastic swing songs
- Taken part in 'Dementia Action Week' - these involved knitters and crocheters from around the village knitting forget-me-nots to put on a beautiful display at the Village Hall
- Planting for spring.

The Café will be launching its own website, very shortly so people can find out the latest on what is happening as well as sharing their stories and having updates on Dementia Awareness. Also watch out for fund-raising events taking place such as the famous 'Alan Cremer Quiz Night' in the Autumn.

Want to join in? Come along to our July meeting to enjoy Strawberries and Cream as we celebrate Wimbledon and join in some old time music numbers with Kirstie McMillan.

Looking forward to seeing you!

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

1st Eynsford and Farningham Scout Group

Founded 1912

Ken Baker

We have been in existence for over a 100 years now, and since 1970 the Edwards' Hall has been our headquarters.

There are two sections to the group: The uniformed Section which is divided into Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers. These are the sections



Not wishing to rest on our green credentials, budget has been approved for this financial year for another new tree. If you have any ideas of where we can plant a tree for the benefit of the community, and thoughts on a suitable type of tree, please do forward your ideas to the council.

I've been asked politely to write a minimum of 400 words but to be honest I'm struggling. So to finish.....

Warren Buffet (a far too rich and clever American) once said, "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago"; in many years' time, if I'm still around and able, I plan sit on Riverside with a good book and enjoy the shade.

Trains... What Trains?

Cllr Malcolm Richardson

It is fair to say that chaos has faced residents travelling by train from Eynsford (and Shoreham) over the last month. Thameslink introduced a new timetable as from 20th May and it is apparent that they were woefully unprepared. Notwithstanding the cancellation of a number of trains in the rush hours both to London and to Sevenoaks, it soon became clear that the timetable in its new format was undeliverable. A widespread wave of cancellations ensued, with the brunt of the cancellations being borne by long suffering commuters and children trying to get to and from school.

Numerous letter were sent to Michael Fallon MP, Thameslink, Southeastern and Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport, but although there were many words, there was very little action. Eventually, Southeastern agreed to stop some Maidstone trains at Eynsford and Shoreham in the evening but these were generally towards the end of the rush hour and few were in the morning. Even so, many train users were stranded at Bromley South or Swanley on their way home due to ongoing cancellations, having to resort to family, friends or taxis to get home. Even daytime and weekend trains were effected and even the last trains back from London have been cancelled, leading to people being unable to get home late at night.

New Tree at Riverside

Cllr Philip Ward

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." - The words of an ancient Chinese philosopher.

For some time now the Parish Council has set aside budget for the planting of new trees. It is a modest budget but from small acorns and all that..... Anyway, late last year I decided it was about time we put this money to good use and set the acorn to work. I proposed a new tree (not actually an acorn) be planted on Riverside next to the lovely old oak at the head of the green by the bridge. With agreement from the council and the expert help of our Tree Wardens John Gee and Ken Baker, a young tree was chosen and in June it was planted, to little fanfare but with great care by John and Ken. The tree is actually an Acer Rubrum, not native, but chosen to bring a vibrant splash of colour to Riverside in the autumn.



Timing is everything and we didn't perform too well here, so we're having to make regular visits with buckets to keep our new young charge alive through the current heatwave. Apart from a few crispy leaves it seems to be in relatively good condition and we're hoping for a second growth of leaves once the heat subsides.

where members are trained and participate in active Scouting.

The non uniformed Section which is The Group Executive Committee plays a vital role in the running of a Scout Group. Executive Committees make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to young people in the Group.

Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as charity trustees of the Scout Group, and in the best interests of its members to:

- ☐ Comply with the Rules of The Scout Association.
- ☐ Protect and maintain any property and equipment owned by and/or used by the Group
- ☐ Manage the Group finances.
- ☐ Provide insurance for people, property and equipment.
- ☐ Provide sufficient resources for Scouting to operate. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting recruitment, other adult support, and fundraising activities.
- ☐ Promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area.
- ☐ Manage and implement the Safety Policy locally
- ☐ Ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.

You can see that this Committee has plenty to do, currently the committee is made up of mainly Leaders, the exception being the Treasurer, Secretary, and Chairperson. We are hoping to co-opt some new members, at the start of the next term, who are either parents, or friends of Scouting. So if you feel you would like to help as a committee member, or even as a Leader why not come along.

There is a comprehensive training scheme, and it's fun (most of the time).

Ken Baker
Group Scout Leader

01322 863069 07788667016

Please note paper and cardboard collection has been suspended

Castlefield Allotments

Cllr Alan Cooke

Back in February the Parish Council along with a number of volunteers set about clearing the allotments of unwanted and unsightly rubbish. This rubbish was stored on a council plot near the main entrance awaiting to be loaded into a skip.



The Parish Council would like to apologise to allotment tenants for the delay in removing this rubbish as the council was trying to co ordinate the removal with other projects which were subsequently delayed. It is somewhat disappointing to find that certain residents took this opportunity to dump further household rubbish, including a chest of drawers, metal frames and chairs onto the this pile. All the rubbish has now been removed which completely filled a 8yd skip. We were however, pleased to see the bicycle wheel removed by one allotment tenant to then tie his runner bean canes to.

In June, the Parish Council carried out an inspection of each plot and have notified the tenant where there was little or no cultivation in progress or where hedges between plots were becoming overgrown. The Council will be carrying out strimming work along the main path, around the perimeter of the car park and to the council's area. In addition, the trees and bushes which are encroaching on the main path will be trimmed back.

There has been a suggestion to have a communal composting area for those unwanted cuttings and weeds rather than just dumping them in the hedges. Whilst the council recognises that some weeds are not compostable, it may help to improve the tidiness of the allotments and your comments on this would be welcomed.

We were very pleased to see a number of plots being well kept and cultivated, setting a good standard for other plots holders to aspire to. The Parish Council currently has one plot available, so do get in touch if you would be interested in taking this on.

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. We break for public questions at around 9pm.

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin bags, look at leaflets and magazines in the office and to ask any questions or raise any concerns! We also offer a photocopying service for a small charge.

Normal opening hours are 8.30 - 2.30 Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 - 3.00 Tuesday and Thursday.

Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and it's 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

We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news, share useful information . We love to hear your views and to see your pictures too. Do follow us to keep up to date! Let us know what you think and what other kind of information you would like us to share.

