

Help us Build a New Village Hall for Eynsford!

How you can help

Buy a raffle ticket for our Prize Draw! Tickets are £5 each and are available from the Parish Office, Norman's, Rafferty's and Riverside Tea Rooms.

Fantastic prizes include: A sightseeing flight over Kent or London; A meal for two at Chapter One; A round of golf for four at Cobtree Manor; A consultation with an Osteopath; A crate of prosecco; a voucher for Olivia's Hair & Beauty.

Sign up for the village hall lottery. At only £5 a month you have a chance of winning a prize as well as contributing towards a good cause. <https://eynsfordvh.com/wp/how-to-donate/>

Attend a fundraising event. Upcoming events include:

- Eynstock—Eynsford's own mini music festival on 29th August from 1—5.30pm at Common Meadow with a great music line up plus food, drink, and children's activities.
- Nicola Emanuelle, internationally famous jazz singer will be performing a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald at Eynsford Village Hall on Saturday 3rd September from 2-5pm. Tickets are £15 and are available from 01322 863550 or 07710170444
- Or organise your own event!

Make a donation via our GoFundMe page—use the QR code here or find via <https://eynsfordvh.com/wp/how-to-donate/>

If you are a **business**, you could consider selling a particular product in aid of the village hall, or supporting employees to raise funds through sponsored activities or fundraising events.

For more information contact info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk



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gofundme



Summer News 2022

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

We have articles about anti-social behaviour, the village hall project, an anaerobic digester, Eynsford station, our new councillor Nick Rix, our family fun day, our Repair café, and not forgetting the wonderful jubilee fete!

Those who missed out on the jubilee music event will know the perils of not reading the parish newsletter, so what are you waiting for!



We are here to help, if we can we will, if we can't we will refer you to another organisation that can. All of our contact details are below.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

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www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Anti-Social Behaviour in Eynsford

Cllr Phil Ward

Summer in Eynsford is a beautiful time, visitors come from far and wide to enjoy the riverside scene with its iconic bridge, grassy beach and river aspect. It may be partly why some of us chose to move to Eynsford in the first place.

Yet particularly at this time of year, some people can demonstrate selfish, even arrogant behaviour which can make village life a little less enjoyable for residents. Anti-social behaviour can take many forms from the mildly annoying to the outright criminal and sadly we experience a range of these behaviours.

This is not just local to Eynsford, a quick read of the national press and you will see this is a problem across the country. There is also anecdotal evidence that post covid, things are a little worse than they were. I'm sure academic papers are being written detailing the reasons and trying to get into the heads of the offenders, but for us we just wish it would stop.

There seems to be three key issues in Eynsford. Firstly, low-level incidents of vandalism and in some cases intimidation, leading in recent weeks to the temporary closure of Eynsford Castle. This type of incident, we believe, is caused by elements of the local community.

Secondly, we endure visits by groups of youths from outside the village. These young people congregate on Riverside and Common Meadow causing a range of problems. They arrive on horse and cart, by train, or car and treat the area as their own party venue.

Lastly, we have become a destination for traveller community organised 'ride-outs'. These formal events may be infrequent but when they occur they cause disturbance and traffic chaos for a period of time.

All this is of high priority for the parish council and we will explore all options



Turner's Dance and Farningham Guitar Club. All were extremely well received. The Jubilee Mini Crufts brought lots of dogs to the arena and great fun was had by our judges, Elizabeth Wicken and Remi Russell in choosing pooches for the awards!

A raffle was run to raise money for Ukrainian charities with prizes from local businesses and thank you to all who bought tickets as we raised a magnificent £563.

The day did not end there. In the evening nearly 600 residents moved to Harrow Meadow where a music event was to celebrate the end of Covid with three bands to delight the crowds. Baggy Boys opened the event with old favourites, followed by Kings of Oblivion and ended with our headliner, Wrong Jovi completing what was a fabulous evening of music.

A pop up bar and food vans provided much needed sustenance. We enjoy our drink in the villages as the minimum spend we needed in the bar to receive a discount on the cost of the hire was reached in an hour and a half!!!! Lol!!

The following people worked so hard throughout the year and contributed to the success of the day. Steve and Jane Lowe, with Chris Lewington and Joel Schofield, who planned out the moat area so every stall had enough room, Angie and Martin Evans who ran the tombolas and games – the boozy tombola sold out very quickly!! Hmmm! A pattern forming here! Emma Stretton and English Heritage who provided the Castle Moat – what a great venue it was. Kirstie McMillan who helped plan both events with us and Julie Tait, Vince Robson, Peter and Karen Dawson and Katherine Barrett and Phil Hannaford whose invaluable help we could not have done without. Barry Smith helped transport all the equipment to the moat and Harrow Meadow and 1st Eynsford & Farningham Scouts provided the tentage and games that we used. We hope we didn't forget anyone!



A truly fabulous day enjoyed by all! Thank you for coming along and supporting it!

Jubilee Fayre and Post Covid Music Event 2022

Cllr Ferne Haxby

Over the last year a small group of villagers have worked with Myself and Naomi Wintour to create some magic in the village.

Following the covid pandemic and lockdown, it was decided that everyone needed to be able to come together and share good times once more. Eynsford Parish Council and Farningham Parish Council contributed towards providing an experience for the residents. We were delighted when we were successful in getting a grant from the National Lottery fund to add to the 'pot'. This resulted in us being able to explore more creative ways for people to enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne.

After all the hard work, Saturday 4th June started out drizzly and windy and it was felt after all the planning was it to be a washout?!! No!! by 11.00am, the skies were clearing with blue skies and sunshine which stayed with us all day and no rain, even into the evening! Fantastic!!!!

The Jubilee Fayre was opened with a short prayer from our local churches and saw over 1200 people attend with approximately 33 stalls providing information, goods, games and quizzes for people to join in and were run by local community groups, local businesses and activity groups. We had a BBQ selling Norman's burgers and sausages run by Angela Brewer and Bruce Muckelt who worked so hard throughout the afternoon with a queue that never ceased until the very end! A tearoom with home made cakes made by Eynsford and Farningham WI's provided a welcome cup of tea and Mike Watling and Robin Steer-Smith thoroughly enjoyed running the alcohol and soft drinks area to quench thirsts!

Great entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon, masterly organised by our Master of Ceremonies, Geof Hillier from Riverside Players and included local groups Tots with Tempo, Riverside Youth Group,



to deter this kind of behaviour. That said, our powers and resources are limited so we cannot offer the guarantees we would all wish for.

Recently, we initiated a process of review for the Riverside area. The aims are two-fold; to improve the appearance and facilities and also to consider if any changes can deter or limit anti-social behaviour. We invited residents local to Riverside as their input is key. A range of ideas were collected and will be discussed further and prioritised.

Common Meadow (aka the cricket field) is of particular concern with horses being regularly led onto the field and groups congregating. We have been working with Eynsford Cricket Club to restrict access for horses - we're not quite there yet, but will continue to look at new solutions to protect this most important village space.

The parish council is not the only organisation to be focussed on this particular problem and you may be aware of Riverside Watch. Riverside Watch is a community initiative working to reduce anti-social behaviour and traffic issues in the village. The local residents bring new ideas and focus which the council recognises as vital to help develop solutions. I'm happy to report that Riverside Watch and the parish council are working together on these matters.

Last Friday, members of the parish council and Riverside Watch met with representatives of Kent Police and Sevenoaks District Council to discuss our concerns. We highlighted the key anti-social behaviour issues but most importantly were able to inform them of a planned 'ride-out' to the village on the August bank holiday. We made a firm request for some visible police presence during the event and this was noted by the police sergeant.

The key message back to us was to continue registering incidents and crimes with Kent Police on 101 or online. This helps build an intelligence picture that informs resourcing and patrol patterns. Please report all incidents if you witness them. Also, if you happen to hear of names or have images of people believed to be engaged in anti-social behaviour, rather than post on social media please pass this information onto the police. There are formal and less formal ways police can use this information.

We are aware of the issues and understand the impact on our community, and although we cannot promise to eliminate all anti-social behaviour we will do all we can to make sunny afternoons on Riverside as pleasant as possible.

New Village Hall Project

Cllr Alan Cooke

I last reported at the beginning of May when the archaeological investigation was to commence and assumed that nothing of interest would be found. How wrong can you be! Thinking that we would find chalk and more chalk below a layer of top soil we would then start work on reconfiguring the football pitch.

The investigation comprised excavating 9 trenches, 20m long by 2m wide and to a depth of 1.2m. The first two trenches, located in the farmer's field did in fact reveal nothing but chalk. However, all of the other seven trenches located in Harrow Meadow revealed some Iron Age, Bronze Age workings, consisting of pieces of pottery, fired and struck flints and pieces of Daub still bearing the impression of wattle rods along with various animal bones.

Our consultant has just issued their report with recommendations for further investigations within Harrow Meadow. At the present time we are trying to determine the extent of this additional work and of course the likely cost. When this work does go ahead it will mean that Harrow Meadow will have to be closed to the public.

A meeting has been held with the ground work contractor who submitted the lowest tender for the football pitch work and, given the ongoing archaeological work, it has been agreed that the start of this should be in the spring of next year. For those who helped clear the hedge line between Harrow Meadow and the farmland you may have to sharpen your chain saws as the bushes are sprouting.

We have now received four tenders for the building work of the new hall and are currently assessing these. It is fair to say that since the cost plan was prepared in 2019, the affect of inflation has increased the build cost by about 20%. The total cost of the construction is in the order of £1.7m. Once the tenders have been analysed we will arrange a meeting at the end of July and undertake a value engineering exercise with the two lowest contractors.

As at the end of June 2022, the overall project cost is in the order of £1.9M and the funds currently set aside, including an estimate for the sale of the existing hall site, is around £1.0m, therefore the funds to be raised over a two-year period will be £0.9m

cetera. You'll also find expert volunteers, with repair skills in all kinds of fields.

Visitors bring their broken items from home. Together with the specialists they start making their repairs in the Repair Café. It's an ongoing learning process. If you have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Or you can lend a hand with someone else's repair job."

"We throw away vast amounts of stuff. Even things with almost nothing wrong, and which could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves. Especially younger generations no longer know how to do that. Knowing how to make repairs is a skill quickly lost. This is a threat to a sustainable future and to the circular economy, in which raw materials can be reused again and again."



We hope to run another Repair Café at Eynsford Village Hall on Saturday 17th September so look out for more details.

However, **we need more volunteers** to help with repairs. You do not need to be a professional, just someone who enjoys fixing stuff.

These could range from toys, to small appliances, to tools, crockery and more! Please get in touch at info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk if you can help.



Eynsford's Repair Café - Can You Help?

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

On Saturday 21st May, Eynsford's Green Team ran their first-ever Repair Café at Eynsford Village Hall!

Volunteers had been recruited from the local community to help with repairs including IT, bikes and textiles.

Unfortunately, our Hoover repair man was unable to attend at the last minute, so other volunteers 'had a go' instead!

We sold some lovely tea and cake to people waiting for their turn. Visitors were encouraged to make a donation to the new village hall fund and £150 was raised!

Thank you to Chris Lewington for the fab photos.

Our repair café is just a small part of a growing international movement. The website <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/about/> gives a good explanation of the concept:

"Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things (together). In the place where a Repair Café is located, you'll find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need. On clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances, toys, et



Our Fund-Raising Committee have been busy in preparing the ground for possible grant applications and looking at different ways how money can be raised by the community.

As I hope you are aware, there is the GoFundMe page on the village hall web site or can be accessed by using the QR Code on the back page. There is also a raffle with prizes including a flight over London or Kent, a meal for two at Chapter One restaurant or a case of Prosecco, the draw for this is the 10th September, tickets will be available from certain shops and pubs or through the Parish Office.



Artists impression of the new village hall by Anne Marie Fereday

Other events to look out for is a music festival at Common Meadow on 29th August, an afternoon of jazz in the village hall on 3rd September and a comedy evening. Please do try and support these events.

Another method of raising the money needed is through a Public Works Loan, which is a loan paid off via your council tax. More information on this will be published shortly. We also intend contacting each of the village groups to see how they can help.

The Darent Valley's Biogas Powerplant

Eric Russell (Eynsford Parish Council's Green Team)



Visiting a large scale anaerobic digester is not a usual agenda item for the Parish Green Team but we were all curious to find out more about the 'mini powerplant' that has been built near Horton Kirby.

Firstly, what is it?! This particular powerplant is driven by anaerobic digestion. This process relies on bacteria and microbes to break down plant material to create biogas, which in turn can be treated to allow the gas to be used for heating and cooking or to produce electricity. The process also creates biofertilizer that can go back onto the land. Across the UK anaerobic digesters recycle 2.5m tonnes of food waste each year.

The site is large, much bigger than any of us had expected. Oncoland Energy have spent over £10m on the plant and it's run by a full-time manager and two staff. Initially designed to help spread the risk of fluctuating crop prices the digester is also helping manage difficult agricultural waste, some of which produces large amounts of atmosphere warming gas – methane. Many of us in Eynsford will be familiar with at least one of the feedstocks used by the digester – slurry from Bower Lane Farm! But, the site also takes in a lot of waste parts of crops, unwanted/oversized produce, including and rather surprisingly waste pomegranate skins. Carl

Free Family Fun Day

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

Another fantastic free family fun day is planned for **15th August from 10-2pm** and will be held outside at Anthony Roper Primary School. As well as the usual bouncy castle, crafts and games, we hope to provide some extra activities as we have done in the past such as circus skills, games, and more. There will be also be free dance and yoga sessions aimed at pre-school sessions.



Come along for a lovely day out. You are welcome to bring a picnic to eat on the field. There will be access to toilets. The parish council will be selling drinks and light refreshments. Do bring your own re-usable cups where possible to reduce waste.

The fun days are provided by Sevenoaks District Council with additional activities provided by the parish council. Thank you very much to the school for providing use of their grounds.

Parish Council Information

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 7.30pm. Full details can be found on noticeboards and our website. We break for public questions at around 8.30pm.

Information about what we are doing and the services we provide can be found on our website www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk and also on our facebook page. We have a twitter account if you tweet!

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin bags, garden 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 to Thursday.

Meet Your New Councillor: Nick Rix

In April we were delighted to co-opt Nick Rix to the parish council to fill the casual vacancy. Nick is the youngest member of the council we have had for some time and we hope he will bring some new perspectives to our work.

Nick says:

“I’m a local business owner which I run with my wife Catherine, we film weddings and run a creative studio. When I’m not working, you’ll probably still find me with a camera in my hand. I enjoy travelling and landscape photography.

I have been a resident of Eynsford for just over 3 years now but have been in and around the village for over 10. When you think of picturesque village life Eynsford is exactly that. I love taking dog walks through the valley appreciating all the local landmarks. I also enjoy meeting friends and locals at one of the many pubs in the village.

I decided to join Eynsford Parish Council because I have always been interested in making a difference to the area that I live in. I’m currently renovating a house in the area and cannot wait to be involved in Eynsford for years to come. I feel that people should be involved in the area that they are fortunate enough to live in. The best way to do that is by being involved with the council or smaller groups such as the Riverside Watch.

My aim as one of the Parish Councillors is to find solutions for antisocial behaviour on riverside, improve the safety of our roads and improve links into the village and local attractions. “



explained that the site is working hard to develop relationships with local food processors to take on similar materials. The farm also grows some crops themselves to balance the nutrients within the digester.

Digester is a good description when thinking about how the process works – the feedstock is mashed and chopped up in a large machine (the mouth), fed into ‘the stomach’ through pipes, with biogas drawn off from the large digesters and then the odourless biofertilizer ‘waste’ is moved out into storage bays, before being used by local farms – very little is wasted.

Treating the biogas is complex and heavily regulated but the site is now producing enough back to the gas network to heat 2500 homes. The plant also has a small generator which, fuelled by biogas is putting electricity into the grid – about enough to light around 600 homes a year.

It was a fascinating visit, and we must give huge thanks to Carl Woolley, the site manager, who gave up his evening to show us around and explain the process.



Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership

Cllr. Malcolm Richardson

Users of Eynsford Station will have notice building works taking place over the last few months. This work was organised by the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership which, as we have mentioned before, is an organisation formed, not only to improve the stations from Sevenoaks to Swanley to make the travelling experience more enjoyable, but also to encourage the use of the railway, which is a more sustainable mode of transport than the car.

Work started many months ago on the 'up platform' shelter which progressed so far – then stopped! There were problems with getting the necessary materials to the site which would have entailed rail closures and Network Rail were not keen to disrupt the timetables. Eventually agreement was reached which did not involve closing the line and work has now recommenced. Soon therefore there will be a splendid new, but characterful, shelter and the marvellous local artwork that was previously there, will be reinstated.

In addition, a new toilet has been created, at this stage unfortunately only available when the booking office is open, and the entrance hall and old waiting room have been restored to something of their former Victorian glory. Users should take a look upwards in the entrance hall to view the delightful vaulted timber ceiling. The waiting room is also now virtually finished, with a few displays to be erected and furniture provided, and it is envisaged that this could be a room for residents to use who perhaps live in and around the station area rather than having to hire a room in the village centre.

There is also consideration to restore the old guard's room as an open 'museum' of railway artefacts and looking further ahead, funds permitting, it would be nice to remove the pebbledash and install the old canopy at the



front to restore the building to something of its former Victorian glory.

This has only been possible due to the efforts of the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership who have vigorously been seeking funds. These have been provided by Network Rail, Southeastern and the Railway Heritage Trust amongst others and further funding is actively being sought. Currently there is also a sum set aside for a feasibility study into ways to make the northbound platform more accessible and also ways to make a better pedestrian access to, for instance, Lullingstone Villa and beyond directly from the station rather than having to walk to the ford and along Lullingstone Lane, with all its attendant accessibility problems.

Eynsford Parish Council are an active partner with DVCRP and we hope that these improvements to the station will encourage more rail use, especially by school parties as the economic benefits of using the railway, let alone the environmental benefits, are huge. We will continue to inform residents as works continue in the future.

