



*Eynsford Parish Council invites you to its*  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Friday 22nd April 2016**

*A free, pop-in event for everyone,  
6pm - 9pm\*, Eynsford Village Hall  
\*Speeches at 7.30pm*

- ♦ Meet your parish council and other key agencies that serve the residents of Eynsford
- ♦ Ask questions about the issues that concern you
- ♦ Find out what services are available
- ♦ Make connections with other people in your community

- ♦ Pop in, or stay a while
- ♦ Free glass of wine & light refreshments
- ♦ Visit our children's corner
- ♦ See entries to our fantastic photography competition

**COME AND MEET\*:** Eynsford Parish Council / Kent County Council / Sevenoaks District Council / Kent Fire & Rescue / Environment Agency / Kent Library Services / Citizens Advice Bureau / Kent Police / Kent Wildlife Trust / \*TBC

**Enter our Photography Competition!**  
This year's theme is 'Eynsford, Our Community'.  
Categories for adults and children. Full details & rules [www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

*For more details visit [www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk) or find us on Facebook. Tel: 01322 865320*



# Winter News 2016

*from*  
**EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

Welcome to the Winter newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

This is going to print after our first wintry weather of the season.

There are a variety of articles this time including some from some the agencies that we work with including the Volunteer Centre, the Library Service and Darent Valley Landscape Partnership.



Photo by Daniel Noble

We are also taking this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to our Community

Warden Steve Armstrong who will be retiring in March, having started work in Eynsford shortly after me in 2007!

Sally Coston of EVS has asked me to let you know that she is planning an article for the next newsletter to answer many of the questions raised at the public meeting about the proposed art trail in Eynsford.

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

Send your comments to: Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY; 01322 865320; [eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk)  
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook.  
[www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Allotment Handbook and Works

*Cllr Theresa Durrant*

Eynsford Parish Council is extremely proud to provide an assortment and diverse range of recreational areas that promote healthy living and well-being. One such area is the allotment gardens, which appeal to all ages, is great for improving fitness, helps to promote healthy eating and cost savings, and is fantastic for inspiring the next budding Alan Titchmarsh.

To ensure that the allotment gardens can be enjoyed to their fullest the parish council has put together an Allotment Handbook to cover advice on health and safety, disposing of pesticide bottles, how to have a safe and neighbour friendly bonfire and much more. All allotment holders are encouraged to obtain a copy of the Handbook either from the parish council website [www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk), or request a copy via email, or collect a copy from the parish office.

The parish council are also planning to undertake maintenance works to the allotment site around springtime. Such works will include cutting back boundary hedges and trees, new growth saplings and cutting back overgrown footpaths etc, and will be carried out by volunteers through a working party.

To ensure that the council is aware of any specific problematic trees or hedges, we are keen to hear from individual allotment holders about any issues or concerns they have. Please contact the parish council with any specific issues you have, and if need be we are happy to arrange a site visit, during one of the upcoming surgeries for any individuals who wish to discuss their issues in person.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers, who are happy to get their hands dirty and join the working party in springtime. If you are interested please email the parish office, and we will email you closer to the time with more information.



## Pop in to our Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April 2016

*Holly Ivaldi, Clerk*

This year, Eynsford Parish Council will be using the new, popular format, for its Annual Parish Meeting. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April you are all welcome to come along to Eynsford Village Hall between 6pm and 9pm to join us.

This is a pop-in event, so come along for as long as you are able. Children are welcome too and we plan to set up a colouring table. Light refreshments will be available.

As well as reports from the parish council, there will be stalls from other agencies that provide services in our village or provide support in some way. In the past we have welcome representatives from Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue, Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Environment Agency and more. We hope that these and others will be able to attend again to offer information and advice.

Come and meet your parish councillors and clerks and find out what we do and how we can help you. Find out what we have done over the past year and our plans for 2016/17.

Again we will be holding a photography/art competition open to all. The theme this year is '**Eynsford, Our Community**'. We all know that Eynsford has a great community, but how do you see it – is family or friends, a group you are part of, or larger village events? We will leave it to you to interpret! Full details can be found on our website [www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk) or are available from the parish office.

We will also use this opportunity, if possible to present a Community Award to a person or group that has made a significant contribution towards our community in Eynsford.

We would love to see you there!

I was welcomed at the, then active Baptist Church, where I made a circle of contacts; many of who proved to be true village characters.. Some still with us, others sadly not.

I spent several weeks exploring the villages and surroundings; getting to know my community and getting to grips with the issues and concerns that came to my attention.

After spending the summer, working from my car, the then Chairman of the Parish Council, Clive Stanyon, invited me to use the Parish Office as my base, where it has been to this day. This has given me the opportunity to work with the Parish Clerks, Holly Ivaldi and Naomi Morgan, to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for their assistance and hospitality.

It has been a good time, occasionally challenging but equally rewarding. Eynsford is a beautiful Kentish village; it has been a pleasure to work here but now it is time for me to go, the winter moon lights my way... So goodbye, Eynsford - My deepest thanks and best wishes to you all.

**Steve Armstrong**  
**KCC Community Warden**  
steve.armstrong@kent.gov.uk  
07813 694142

## 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.

## Your Library Service

*Janet Davies, the Community Development Librarian for the Sevenoaks District*



I was very pleased to meet so many of you last year to discuss the possibility of moving the Libraries, Registration and Archives (LRA) service into a charitable trust.

Kent County Council supports this initiative, as it provides opportunities for savings without compromising the services on offer. Many Eynsford residents also supported this proposal. However, although the proposals were approved by KCC members, it was decided that KCC would retain and transform LRA services in-house for now. This is because there are changes to the current statutory registration services nationally that need to take place before KCC can proceed. So it's business as usual for now! Further details can be found on the LRA web pages at [www.kent.gov.uk/libs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/libs)



If you can't get to a branch library (Otford, Sevenoaks, Dartford and Sutton-at-Hone are some of your closest static libraries), you might like to step on board the mobile library, which stops at four locations in Eynsford on Tuesdays. Again, the website gives more details, or you can telephone 03000 413131 for further information.

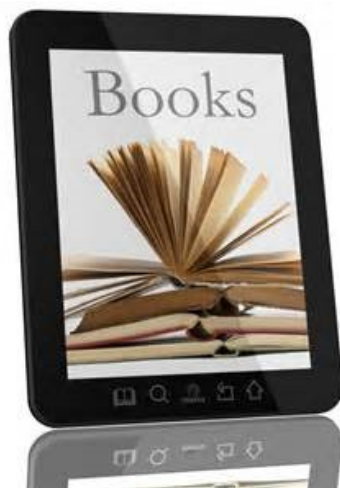
If you have access to the internet, another alternative is to use the free library download service for children's books, adult novels and information books. The library has thousands of e-books and e-audio books on its website, which you can read on your tablet, computer and phone.

There are lots of free online resources, too, including encyclopaedias, newspapers, careers information and health information. It's worth guiding children towards the Homework



section, where there's a great range of reliable, and free-to-use information for all ages.

And if you're stuck with a question, you can Ask a Kent Librarian: [www.kent.gov.uk/ask-a-kent-librarian](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ask-a-kent-librarian), telephone 03000 416438. The team is on standby 24 hours a day to point you in the right direction, with our colleagues in the USA taking over the service if you ask a question late at night.  
Why not give it a try?



## Managing Our Finances

*Naomi Morgan, Deputy Clerk*

The parish council met in November to discuss the budget for the coming financial year 2016/17.

In January we have to put forward our precept request to Sevenoaks District Council who then adds it to your council tax bill. The parish council precept, i.e. the amount of your council tax attributable to the parish council, for 2016/17 will be £71,552.00, an increase of £2,752.00, or 4%. Since 2011/2012 the Parish Council has only raised the precept once by £1000.00, so this will be an average increase of 1.1% over the last 5 years. Of course this represents a very small proportion of your overall council tax bill, the lion's share being taken by Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire Service and Sevenoaks District Council.

Our budget for 2016/2017 includes an estimated carried forward figure from 2015/2016 of £93,917.74. This is money that the council is saving towards bigger projects and to replace equipment or for building maintenance which require larger amounts of expenditure from time to time. There is also a small amount of projected income, at £3540.00, the latter being mainly from

## Goodbye Eynsford and Thanks ...

*Steve Armstrong, Community Warden*

It is with sadness that I announce my retirement from the Kent Community Warden Service – and departure from Eynsford.

I have had the privilege of being the Community Warden for Eynsford for the past nine years. I knew from the outset that I would be happy here and I have never been disappointed. Certainly, there have been trying circumstances to deal with, but that pales into insignificance when I think of all the good that I have seen in this community.



I fondly remember my first summer, pausing in Mill Field, to admire the view. A friendly local resident commented to her friend, in the nicest possible way, "he gets paid to do this". True, but that observation belied the actual job I was paid to do, including responding to floods and road traffic incidents, making ambulance call outs and Adult Social Services referrals.

Naturally, there have been many people who have helped me in my efforts to help make Eynsford a 'safer and stronger community'. Sadly, there is not enough room to mention all of you by name but please know that your contribution was valued and very much appreciated. On a more personal level, there are some whose omission would border on the scandalous.....

In my first few months I was ably advised and assisted by the then local Police Officer Anne Davies, a useful grounding. Her experience was to prove invaluable.



Samuel Palmer (1805-1881) - Oak Tree and Beech, Lullingstone Park - Pencil, pen and brown ink, and watercolor, heightened with gouache, on gray paper - 11 5/8 x 18 7/16 in. (296 x 468 mm) - Thaw Collection, The Pierpont Morgan Library

A lot will be happening, and there will be many opportunities to have a say in what will happen. The first and most helpful way is to fill out our questionnaire which can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DarentValley>.

Otherwise, the best method to stay up to date is to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DVLPS](http://www.facebook.com/DVLPS)). Alternatively, you can email Rick at [rick.bayne@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:rick.bayne@kentdowns.org.uk) or call on 01634 242826.

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

Castlefield Car Park users and the football clubs that use the Harrow Meadow. Thus, £71,552.00, plus £93,917.74, plus £3540.00 gives the parish council a total 2015/2016 budget of £169,009.74.

The largest budget items for 2015/2016 are:

Village Hall Fund	£65,000.00;
Parish Clerks' Salaries	£30,500.00;
Street Lighting (maintenance & electricity)	£12,550.00;
Building Maintenance	£ 6,325.00;
Parish Office Costs	£ 4,500.00;
Grounds Maintenance	£ 4,600.00.

The village hall fund has accumulated over 10 years and would now have been at £90,000.00 had we released £25,000 of it to fund the detailed tendering process. Our aim is to try to contribute £100,000 in total to the village hall Rescue and Renewal Project, i.e. a further £10,000 over the next 2 years. This will represent approximately 10% of the project's overall costs.



Other rolling funds include those for the Castlefield Car Park maintenance and playground replacement. Smaller funds will enable us to continue to produce this newsletter, replace benches, bins, dog bins, and notice boards, as well as to do tree work and planting. We employ a handyman to do running repairs and a litter warden to help keep the place tidy.

Of course much of the work done by the parish council is free, because councillors' time is free. This includes liaising with other village organisations, the district and county councils and the police, examining and commenting on all planning applications, and the drawing up street lighting plans among a plethora of other things.

If you would like more information about our budget, please contact the Clerk. A copy of the budget will also be put onto our website [www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk).



## The NWK Volunteer Centre

Wendy Warner, North West Kent Volunteer Centre

Hello everyone and a Happy New Year to you all.  
I'm here to appeal to all of you good people, with an opportunity for you to make a huge difference to someone's life in 2016!

Here at the NWK Volunteer Centre we urgently need people to come forward and volunteer, even just an hour a week could be essential to someone who is lonely or isolated.

We have three main services which we coordinate from the centre here, **transport; befriending and gardening**. Without an army of splendid volunteers these services would not exist and for many clients they have become a lifeline.

Our volunteers are without doubt heroes and champions particularly in the hearts of their clients. They give their time freely and regularly, committing to a genuine cause and often go above and beyond the call of duty.

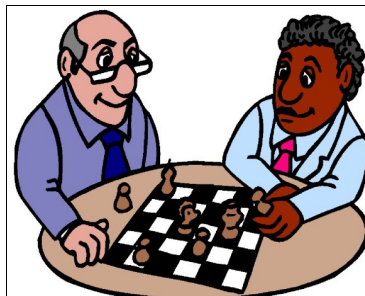
We have three services that are reliant on volunteers:

### Transport

The transport scheme is manned by an army of volunteer drivers. These drivers take clients to medical appointments at both local hospitals but also Medway and London. They accompany their clients into day clinics, and wait for them. At the end of the journey they see them back into their homes safely. They take loved ones to see their spouses in care homes, and to dentistry, podiatry and other essential appointments.

### Befriending

The befriending scheme brings together volunteers and clients. The clients may be housebound due to ill health or frailty from old age. They become isolated and lonely often without company for days on end. Befriending volunteers are matched with clients with similar interests and visit once a week, to chat, read with clients, do jigsaws or puzzles or



This may sound a little negative, but in 2011 it provided the impetus for forming the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership to address these issues along the length of the entire valley from the Thames to Westerham. This partnership, led by the Kent Downs AONB, subsequently submitted a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Requiring two attempts, in 2014 it was successful and allocated a grant of £2.1m towards a £3.6m scheme.

But what does this mean for Eynsford? Well... from 2017 and running for five years there will be an range of exciting projects that will not only help to protect and conserve the natural and cultural heritage features of the valley, but also provide opportunities for people to learn about and really get to know the landscape around them. It will use the inspiration of Samuel Palmer, the visionary landscape artist who produced some of his best works whilst living in Shoreham nearly 200 years ago, describing it as an 'earthly paradise'.

Rick Bayne, the AONB's Landscape Partnerships Manager is developing the scheme detail in advance of starting next year. The benefits for Eynsford and the wider valley will be varied and exciting, including amongst others, improvements to the Darent Valley Path, restoration of key chalk grassland sites, improved management of Lullingstone's ancient trees, and projects at heritage sites such as Eynsford and Lullingstone Castles.

years. Undoubtedly many hotels and parking will be necessary. Paramount expect eventually to attract 15 million visitors a year from all over the UK and Europe and provide 27 thousand jobs and, on this basis, appear to be well supported at national government level.

Eynsford Parish Council have therefore been active both in participating in the consultations held throughout 2015 and, with other authorities (including KCC), in raising concerns over the environmental effect of increased traffic and tourism in the area and doubts as to whether the local transport infrastructure has been sufficiently considered. This has led to the planning application being delayed by a year or so for further studies into the wider effects of the development before the Government will be asked to approve the plans.

We will keep you updated with any developments.

## Protecting our earthly paradise

*Rick Bayne DVLP*

What is it that makes a place special? Or more specifically, what makes Eynsford special? It's quite likely that the scenery, history and natural landscape will figure highly amongst valued qualities... and Eynsford is certainly blessed. In 1968, this was recognised in law when the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was created, and included Eynsford within its protective boundary. Nearly fifty years on, this designation, providing a level of protection equivalent to National Parks has been key to maintaining the rural charm of a beautiful medieval village located just 15 miles from Big Ben.

The inescapable truth though is that the shadow of the capital looms large on the horizon. Development pressure, flytipping, increased traffic, visitor pressure and noise pollution are all products of London's increasing influence. Combine this with pressurised natural habitats and built heritage increasingly at risk, and it could be argued that this wonderful landscape is starting to feel the strain.

sometimes take them out if they are able. It means the world to people who are lonely knowing that a 'friend' will be coming to see them and share some laughter. We also have groups in Swanley/ Dartford/Istead rise and Gravesend. These meet once a week and share craft mornings, general chit chat and lots of laughter. We also have some befrienders who take their pets to clients who may have kept dogs in the past but can no longer manage them, but miss them terribly. The pure joy that you see in a person's face when they see the dogs coming through their door is just a delight.

## Gardening

The gardening scheme is vital for anyone over 60 and/or disabled. People do worry about their gardens being untidy. At times neighbours become impatient and start to complain which does worry many elderly people. They also become victims to unscrupulous cold callers who see an untidy garden and believe they are easy prey. Our volunteers make sure gardens are kept tidy and will often bring seeds or plants from home to add some colour to their gardens to add some cheer. We also encourage our clients to sit out in good weather and chat to the gardeners, while they work, it brings a sense of inclusion as many clients can feel their life is no longer within their control. Some of our volunteers bring seed catalogues to go through with clients which encourages them to take a keen interest in the future months ahead.



Although our services are stand alone, we find that all our volunteers in some way become 'befrienders'. Drivers talk to clients and like to know they are looked after, gardeners chat away to clients while sharing a cuppa and a biscuit and our befrienders often become good friends with their clients.

Please do think about volunteering. It's brilliant and so rewarding for you and the person you help.

Please call: 01322 272476 or email [Wendy.Warner@nwkvoleunteers.org.uk](mailto:Wendy.Warner@nwkvoleunteers.org.uk)

## New Tree Warden for Eynsford

*John Gee*

My name is John Gee and I am the fourth generation of my family to live in Eynsford. I have worked for some major civil engineering companies over the years and have been part of some prestigious projects in this country and abroad such as the Oresund Tunnel and Bridge from Denmark to Sweden.

I decided on a possible career change and currently I am completing a full time course at Hadlow College in Landscape Management. I am very interested in trees, habitats and large open spaces. Sustainability and climate change are always going to be part of our lives and we can never do enough to help reduce carbon levels and stop the global world average temperature from rising.



Hopefully I can at least play a small part in our village and replant, maintain and look after the trees we have. We all take trees for granted and do not appreciate their beauty and the part they play in our everyday lives. With the increase in tree diseases currently it is more important than ever to look after the trees we have.

You may see me and my 'Boss', Ken Baker in and around the village working on trees in our spare time and also assisting in giving advice to the Eynsford Parish Council regarding any tree matters.

I hope that, as deputy tree warden, and in close contact with the BKV, we will be able to support some new projects for the village and hopefully the next generations will benefit from the investment the community make today. You can contact me with any questions on [g4grass@gmail.com](mailto:g4grass@gmail.com)

## Paramount London Development

*Cllrs Geoff Kirby & Sarah Boyle*

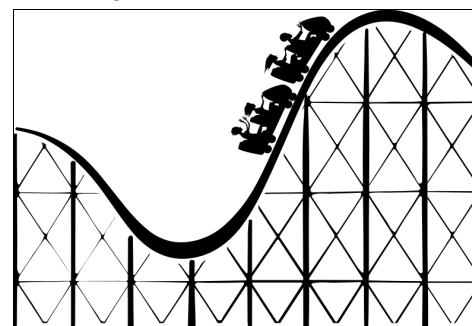
As many of you might be aware, Europe's biggest theme park is being planned for Kent and is due to open in 2021.

Although we are not unaware of the possible benefits such a development might bring (such as a boost to tourism in both Kent and the UK in general, the creation of thousands of jobs and many opportunities for local businesses), the scale of the development has raised concerns for Eynsford Parish Council, specifically about the environmental effects on residents of so much tourism and traffic and whether or not the infrastructure is adequate to cope with this.



As far as can be gathered, plans at present are as follows:

Covering over 500 acres next to the Thames at Swanscombe,



between Bluewater and Ebbsfleet (with easy access from Ebbsfleet International Station), it will be bigger than EuroDisney in Paris. The plans include a theme park based on Paramount's films (e.g. Terminator, Mission Impossible, Spongebob etc) and also a huge water park.

In addition an "Entertainment City" is planned to provide a range of indoor, covered and open-air experiences and a variety of cafes, bars and restaurants and will host major shows and music events. There will be daily parades followed by "spectacular" shows.

The park will also include several indoor and outdoor theatres where shows, films, live comedy and concerts may be performed. Currently it is planned that most of the park will open at Easter 2021, with additional rides and attractions added in the following