



Winter News 2015

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Winter newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

Find out about our Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on 27th March this year. All are encouraged to come along! Also in this edition, you will have information on the exciting public arts project that is happening within the village. Hopefully you will have spotted the beautiful mosaic outside the school. There is also useful information about the new toll system for the Dartford crossing.

This year is election year, not only for parliament but also for Eynsford Parish Council. If you have a burning passion to become a councillor, or even just a mild musing about what it would be like to work on the parish council, please contact the office to discuss this in further detail. We will soon have all the nomination papers for the election in May available on our website.

Did you read the article about the Thermal Imaging Camera in our last newsletter? We still have a few slots available to borrow it in February.

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

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Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk



Outgoing Chairman Clive Stanyon at his last public engagement. Clive was chair of the parish council for 8 years.



Eynsford Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Friday 27th March 2015

*A free event for ALL residents of Eynsford,
6pm - 9pm, Eynsford Village Hall*

- ♦ 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.
Have a glass of wine & light refreshments.
Visit our children's corner.
See our fantastic art competitions.

Last year the following agencies attended the APM:
Kent County Council
Sevenoaks District Council
Kent Fire & Rescue
Environment Agency
Kent Library Services
Citizens Advice Bureau
Kent Police
Kent Wildlife Trust

For more details of the event and the children's & adults' competitions, visit www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk or find us on Facebook. Or call 01322 865320

EYNSFORD NEEDS YOU!

Reduction in Local Government funding may see
**services you take for granted reduced in the
future.** Your Town or Parish Council could step in
and fill the void in your community – **to do this it
will need your skills & enthusiasm**

Become a Local Councillor: Make a difference

Elections for Town & Parish Councils will be held in
May 2015. If you would like to make a difference and be
involved in shaping the future of the local community,
why not stand for election?

**Are you concerned
about your local
area?**

**Are you passionate
about services
provided to your
community?**

**Do you want to
contribute your
business or
personal skills and
expertise?**

**Do you want to
represent the views
of local people?**

Eynsford Garden Safari: The Show Must Go On!

Jason Bleasdale, Eynsford Gardeners Club

While the Garden Safari planning committee for 2015 and all the people involved were rocked by the incredibly sad news of the loss of our leader and friend Mary late in 2014, it has been decided that Mary would have liked the show to go on. With this in mind and with our best foot forward I am pleased to announce that the safari on Sunday 28th of June will happen. The show will indeed go on!

With many new gardens joining us this year and a few gardens from the last show joining us again, it looks like it's going to be a great day for everyone.

For those of you who don't know, the garden safari is a chance for you to visit lots of private gardens throughout the village. You buy a programme which includes a map and gives you entry into all of the gardens.

Last time this event

was held the sun shone and refreshments were available at some of the gardens. It was great to see so many villagers and visitors from elsewhere walking around the village having a great time.

So make sure you put Sunday the 28th of June in your diaries and fingers crossed the great weather!

For more information, and to find out how to have your garden included, contact Jason at eynsford-gc@yahoo.co.uk



While we work we enjoy watching and admiring residents' gardens. The choices of plants and changes from winter dormancy through spring to summer vibrancy and autumn colours give us unending conversations.

Annually we enter the South & South East in Bloom event and entertain two judges for two hours during early July. Eynsford has received a Silver Gilt award for the last ten years. The Gold award has eluded us despite our best efforts. Entering this event gives us a deadline and the inspiration to spruce up more than usual. Without it, we would never give the extra effort.



Representatives attend the regional Awards Ceremony every September and we hold our own Presentation Evening every October. One hundred parishioners attend this event and twenty premises will receive a certificate for their front garden display.

We are in desperate need of more volunteers. Unfortunately we have lost several workers due to house moves and old age. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain our usual high standard. A monthly report is made in Trident, our Parish magazine (£1 at Norman's the butchers or Bridge House Stores). Our Facebook page is frequently updated and can be found by searching for Eynsford in Bloom. The Parish Office helps with correspondence, making posters and sourcing materials which is essential support work.

We meet every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m. in the car park opposite the Church. Tools are provided and we always have a coffee stop at 11 a.m. A few regulars lunch at the Malt Shovel at 12.30 p.m. We also meet on the first Saturday every month, again at 9.30 in the same place with a coffee break in the Olive Seal Hall. For more information call Pauline on 864751.

Eynsford Parish Council calls for new faces to stand for 2015 election

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk, with information provided by the Kent Association for Local Councils

We are kicking off our campaign to get more people to stand for election as councillors for Eynsford Parish Council in May 2015, urging a new generation of neighbourhood leaders to step forward and make a difference to the area.

Tens of thousands of seats on England's parish, town and community councils – will be contested on the same day as the General Election on 7th May 2015.

KALC says: Local Councils play an important role in representing their local community, delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve the quality of life in their community.

Unfortunately the great work that they do isn't reported by the media, so it's no surprise people aren't clamoring to get involved. This needs to change. These elections present a golden opportunity for more people, especially younger people, to become councillors and make a difference in their communities.



Councillor Ken Browse, Chairman of NALC said: People care about where they live. Whether it's facilities and activities for young people, the state of local parks or open spaces, support to local groups, protecting community assets like buildings or pubs, or events that bring people together. Whatever needs tackling or improving locally, becoming a parish or town councillor

gives people the opportunity to change things.

Eynsford Parish Council would welcome some new faces to help drive forward its work in 2015 and beyond. Recent projects have included the new children's play area, improvements to the football changing rooms, the creation of new allotments, and the creation of a new parish and village website. Many of the things the council does are less obvious, for example repairing fences, replacing litter bins and responding to government consultations. However, we think that all the small things we do help to improve the life and environment for our residents and businesses.



This is a golden opportunity for more people, especially younger people, to become councillors. There are simple instructions to help you on our website www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk, the KALC Blogspot at www.kentalc.blogspot.co.uk and the NALC website www.nalc.gov.uk and we hope to see lots of people coming forward in Eynsford."



If you are interested in becoming a councillor, we would encourage you to attend the KALC Awareness event taking place on **Friday 13TH March 2015, 6.30pm for 7pm at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Cramptons Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN**, or visit the Parish Council office or call us on 01322 865320

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

Eynsford in Bloom needs you!

Pauline Penney, Eynsford in Bloom

You may have seen a small band of volunteers wearing bright yellow (hi-viz) jackets working around the village. This gardening gang trim grass, cut hedges, wash signs, litter pick, water, weed, compost, plant and work to keep the village clean, tidy and colourful. The regular work sites include the war memorial, car park, village hall drive, station, St. Martin's churchyard and at least twelve other borders. We are a community group enjoying companionship, fresh air, exercise and helping to keep Eynsford attractive.



The Parish Council donate £1,200 annually towards our expenses which includes plants, fertilizers and sundries. The Village Society has insurance which covers our activities and also pays for our annual Presentation evening. We undertake additional fund-raising by having a stall at the Boot Fair and evening meals. Local garden centres and businesses are very supportive with sponsorship.



We are grateful to those who care for our countryside features – the River Darent, hedges, fields and woodland. We cultivate wild flowers where appropriate and create habitat piles. Our members have made bat, owl and other bird boxes which are around the parish. The gardens of every dwelling link together to assist wildlife movement in the valley corridor.

you wish to amend details on a previous page, select the 'go back' option at the bottom of each page, do not click back on your web browser bar.

You can top up your pre-pay account balance, by logging back in at any time, using your email address and password.

You can also pay for your journeys by calling 0300 300 0120. Please make sure that you have your vehicle details and debit or credit card to hand prior to making your call.

Alternatively, you can pay via a payzone retail outlet. Local outlets to Eynsford are located in Dartford and Orpington. You can find a step by step guide to payzone transaction here: http://www.payzone.co.uk/write/Images/Transport%20and%20Ticketing/Payzone_Dartford_Charge_Terminal_Guide.pdf

Blue Badge Holders

Please note that Blue Badge holders are not exempt from paying the toll charge. However, vehicles that are exempt from vehicle tax may be exempt from paying a crossing fee.

For more information on how to get vehicle tax exemption if you are registered disabled, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vehicles-and-transport>. Or, contact the Dart Charge team on 0300 300 0120.

If an exemption does apply, you do not need to do anything to claim your exemption from the Dart Charge, as your vehicle details will be checked with DVLA, when you make a crossing.



Come to our Annual Parish Meeting!

Councillor Andrea Cornwell

We are delighted to be holding our Annual Parish Council Meeting this year on **Friday 27th March from 6pm – 9pm.**

Perhaps you are curious about what is going on in the village? Do you want to have your say or just meet those that service the village? What ever your reason we would love for you to come and find out what it is all about.



Due to the success of last year's format we will be continuing in a similar vein by inviting groups that serve the community in order to show the services and support they can offer with displays, documentation and guidance from a member of staff. Last year Kent County Council, the Environment Agency, Citizen's Advice Bureau and Kent Police were amongst the agencies that attended.

Although there will be no formal question and answer session, a report on the council's activities over the last year and its financial statement will be available for you to take away and read at your own leisure but you are free to ask us any questions throughout the duration of the evening!

This year we want as many of you as possible to come along and see what we get up to. Did you know that the parish council meet

twice a month to discuss many topics such as planning permissions, comment on policy changes such as the latest consultation on the 'future delivery of Library services in Kent'? As all areas of government funding are being cut back this is our chance to put forward local views directly relevant to Eynsford. Other topics that may entice you to come are the new nature footpath that will be created, use of the recreational areas, community awards scheme and the village allotments.

We have decided to start a little earlier this year so that parents with children can attend. We will have an area for colouring and art, and the local children's chess club will also be taking place in the adjacent room.



Why not enter our art and photography competitions? Last year some fantastic photos were entered under various age categories on the theme 'My Favourite View of Eynsford', and local businesses donated some great prizes

Full details of the competitions for 2015 will be available soon and will be delivered to all Eynsford residents. There will also be a colouring competition for children to do when they attend the event.

Feel free to pop your head in or stay for a while. There will be light refreshments and a free glass of wine for your efforts!

We look forward to seeing you there.



Ways to Pay

Pre-pay Account:

Before you begin the online registration process for a pre-pay account ensure you have your vehicle details and debit or credit card details to hand.

Residents of Dartford and Thurrock can apply for a local residents discount (unfortunately not Eynsford residents) and further information is available about this.

To set up a pre-pay account visit: www.gov.uk/dart-charge and click on the green "Start Now" button.

You will be given 5 options to choose from:

- Make a one off payment – select this if you wish to pay for one planned journey

- Set up an account or transfer an existing DART-Tag account – select this option to set up a pre-pay account
- Sign in – to sign back into your account once it has been registered

- Pay a penalty charge – select this option if you have a penalty charge to pay

- Check for paid crossings – check your account balance

Select "Set up an account or transfer an existing DART-Tag account" and click Next.

Follow the on-screen prompts, clicking Next when prompted. If

New Dartford Toll Crossing - Dart Charge

Councillor Theresa Durrant

Before Christmas, changes to the way you pay for using the Dartford tunnel and crossing the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge between Dartford and Thurrock came into effect. The new scheme, aptly called Dart Charge, replaces the ability to pay cash directly at the toll booths and the former DART-Tag scheme.

Now that all toll booths have been removed from the bridge, anyone making a journey across is required to pay the toll charge remotely, either via an online portal, retail outlets, including those with a payzone terminals, or by telephone. Anyone holding a DART-Tag, should have been contacted in advance to convert to the new Dart Charge scheme.

Avoiding Penalty Charges

Users of the crossing are urged to pay the toll charge prior to travelling, to avoid a penalty charge. However, you do have until midnight of the following day, if your journey across the bridge is unplanned, or you forget to pay in advance.

Please note that in the event that you fail to make a payment either in advance or within 24 hours of using the crossing, the penalty fee incurred is £35, if paid within 14 days, or £70 if paid within 28 days, plus the original road user charge.

Toll Charges

The cheapest way to pay is using a pre-pay account. Further discounts are applied for those eligible for a local resident discount: £10 a year for 50 crossings, or £20 a year for unlimited crossings.

Vehicle Holder	Single Journey Payment	Pre-pay Account
Cars	£2.50	£1.67
2 axle goods	£3.00	£2.63
Multi-axle goods	£6.00	£5.19

The crossing will continue to be free between 22:00 and 06:00.

Eynsford Village Society and the story of its Public Art Trail

Sally Coston, Chair of Eynsford Village Society

EVS has begun its contribution to the aesthetics of the village with the unveiling in October of the first in what is hoped will be a trail of pieces of artwork placed strategically around the community designed to enhance public space and encourage communication.

The mosaic now entitled “Essence of Eynsford” (after a secret ballot) has certainly achieved those objectives. Described succinctly and quite accurately as being received somewhere between vilification and rapture, it is a striking, colourful design representing the iconic architectural images of the village drawn together in small tiles and placed within the frame by the pupils of Anthony Roper School under the watchful eye of a professional mosaic artist and the specialist art teacher there. Every child can point out “their tile” even though several seem to claim the same one! If you have not yet taken the time or had a chance to study it



carefully, do choose a sunny day and watch the sparkle bounce and glint off it, particularly the cricket ball as it zooms towards you from Common Meadow. The mosaic can be found on the south end of the perimeter fence at Anthony Roper School. It is quite an achievement and thanks are due to all involved both in and out of

school for all the hard work put in, particularly to our Kent councillor and the Parish Council for their financial contributions. I am very proud of it.

The Public Art Committee has now moved onto its second work, the “Millfield Wildlife Refuge”, a structure designed to encourage our local small mammals and insects to take up residence. The inner housing will be clad in a weatherproofed skin hand-decorated by the children at School with vivid images of those we hope will be residents, and placed at the north end of Millfield, somewhere between the fallen willow and the path to make it easily visible. We hope it will be installed for the spring, and thank all those chippies presently making their marks, and to Millfield Trustees for giving us their permission.

There are a number of other ideas being “worked up”; for instance: we hope to be able to give recognition to the part pilgrims have made to the valley in times past with a marker at St. Martins Church, one of the significant resting places on the journey to Canterbury, perhaps a

scallop shell symbolic of the way of St. James, their patron saint and discussions continue; we have the support of the railway authorities in a placement within their perimeter boundary and are discussing a variety of possibilities – perhaps a porter with luggage on



a barrow on the platform, perhaps a resin image of an Alexander calf in a sling leaving for market in London on the plinth left over by the former bridge, perhaps Peter Warlock falling out of his train from London (recognising that perhaps riding naked on his motor-bike might be a step too far), perhaps a series of views of Eynsford done in the style of “the old masters” by village enthusiasts keen to paint a favourite; we have kindly been offered the use of a triangle of land privately owned at the north end of the village and are looking at what we could realistically and effectively put onto it; we

are making inquiries of the possible purchasers of Austin Lodge golf course into the ownership and future of the Percy Pilcher memorial which has artwork within it and was paid for and donated by EVS so technically it belongs to the community but where else might it be placed if it cannot stay where it is and ought to remain. We don't want it to get overlooked or bulldozed in any rush to develop or reconfigure the land parcel.

We are busy, mindful that art is subjective and personal tastes differ widely. Hopefully there will be something for everyone, but nothing can be done without the resources to make it all happen. If you would like to donate time, energy, ideas, critical assessment, but particularly money we would be very pleased to hear from you.

More details will be available at the EVS AGM on Friday March 13th at 730pm in Eynsford Village Hall. Please come and hear all that is going on locally, and stay for the generous buffet and entertainment. It is OUR village.
Call 01322 866102 to have your say!

Did you know?

At Eynsford Parish Office you can:

- Do photocopying and laminating for a small charge
- Pick up rubbish and recycling bags
- Borrow the Thermal Imaging Camera (2nd February - 15th February)
- Arrange to look at planning applications and other consultation documents

We are looking for a new cleaner for the office. We are offering £8.50 per hour for up to an hour a week. Please contact the Clerk for more details.

