

AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY: Events for all with more to come

Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to our parishes, a warm welcome awaits you at Barnham Community Hall and Eastergate Village Hall – in usual times these two beautiful buildings are the hub of activity.

Sadly, due to the pandemic they have both had to shut and re-open several times with many restrictions. But nothing stops us - staff and volunteers have worked endlessly behind the scenes to keep the community supported and connected. We are proud to have been one of the first communities to start an emergency telephone helpline and have assisted many families and elderly residents who are poorly or isolated by collecting prescriptions from the pharmacies, delivering essential shopping and even just having a friendly reassuring chat so they know they are not alone in these trying times. Nina's Friendly Coffee Morning (usually on a Tuesday morning at Eastergate Village Hall) whose new motto is 'If you can't come to us - we will come to you' have weekly delivered literally thousands of slices of cakes, scones and sausage rolls to many locals. Cake always helps in any situation!

At Christmas instead of being able to offer a Christmas Day meal this year, with input by The Village Friends and the local churches, we prepared and delivered 86 hampers to those who are isolated, bereaved or in need. We have provided iPads for those who are unable to keep in touch with loved ones and family due to shielding. Our online cookery sessions with Mark Dunne from Chefs on the Move have been so popular and we have more in production so keep checking the websites for dates. Dave Harris entertained us at Christmas with two fantastic Christmas Concerts. Without a doubt his next set of a Valentine Concert will be just as amazing! Our thanks to Chris and Julie Allington for keeping our brains engaged with live online Quizzes throughout the whole of the pandemic. Over 2000 questions have been prepared for the community. Our online interaction has been invaluable for all of us and reached so many. Please like both Eastergate Hall and Barnham Community Halls Facebook pages or look on the Trust website www.bnegct.org.uk for details of how to view upcoming online events.

These support tools have been heavily assisted with grant funding and we would like to thank the following: The National Lottery Community Fund, Barchester Care Home (Westergate House), Tesco Bags for Life, Nature's Way, Barnham Tesco's, Barnham Co-Op and of course the 54 volunteers that proudly support everything we do. Community has no Parish boundary and we have also assisted residents in Yapton, Westergate, Walberton and Aldingbourne. Aldingbourne Parish Council have very generously contributed to our community fund to help continue everything we do to.

With the new vaccines being distributed at a rapid pace, we can now look into the future. When we are able to open our doors again, both halls will return to hosting frequent and regular events for all ages supported by the Barnham



and Eastergate Community Trust. From film nights and musical entertainment to parent-and-toddler drop-ins and brunches that bring together older residents with local schoolchildren, every day of the week brings opportunities to meet others.

Specific events for expectant and new parents, carers, retired men (equivalent to the WI) and those who may feel isolated or alone will pepper the calendar alongside popular community events and annual celebrations. A safe and welcoming place to meet up with friends old and new to have a chat, share advice and catch up on local news, both Halls are accessible, offer comfortable toilet facilities and free parking, and hold licences to serve alcohol. If you have any ideas or suggestions for events, then please get in touch with either of the Facility Managers.

In addition to events supported by the Trust and the generosity of local organisations and businesses, there's a wide and growing range of clubs, societies and activities ranging from art and sewing, through history, keep fit and an Acapella choir, to yoga and Tai Chi, the WI and Baby groups. Discussions are taking place about possible new activities for 2021 including a Men's Shed, cookery and craft courses. Many of the current range of events have been supported by a grant from The Purple Fund, made available by Sussex Community Foundation, as well as contributions from our local shops, businesses and volunteers.

Directory

Organisation/Group/Facility	Contact
Parish Council	Alison Crabb – clerk@barnhamandeastringate-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07565 052617
County Councillor	Derek Whittington – derek.whittington@westsussex.gov.uk
Police Community Support Officer	Caroline Wilson – caroline.wilson@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Barnham Community Hall www.barnhamcommunityhall.org	Facilities Manager – Ali Tarbard – 01243 278110 bookings@barnhamcommunityhall.org
Eastergate Village Hall and Eastergate Sports Pavilion www.eastergatehall.org	Facilities Manager – Nina-Maria McMaster – 07849 356097 nina@eastergatehall.org
Village Friends	Meg Brackley – 07925 217843 villagefriends6@gmail.com
Five Villages Community Bus	Brian David 01243 553635
Coffee Mornings – just turn up no booking required Eastergate Village Hall Barnham Community Hall	(especially great if you are new the area for meeting people) Tuesday 10.30am – 12 noon Wednesday 10.15am – 12 noon
Other Useful reporting points for issues include:	
Non Police Emergency Matters	Tel: 101 Emergency matters dial 999
National Health urgent, but not emergency, medical advice	Tel: 111 Emergency matters dial 999
Operation Crackdown – www.operationcrackdown.org	Report anti-social driving or abandoned vehicle
Environment Health Matters – Arun District Council	Email: environmentalhealth@arun.gov.uk
Love West Sussex – report all highway related issues such as potholes, footway problems etc	www.lovestsussex.gov.uk

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE AT BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL

Barnham Community Hall hosts a wide range of community groups and societies.

If you wish to consider participating in any of the activities please contact the Facilities Manager Ali Tarbard – 01243 278110 bookings@barnhamcommunityhall.org for details of Squirrels Den Daycare; Bumps babies and toddlers; Yapton and Barnham Spiritualist Pioneer Centre; FitSteps; U3A History Group; Brownies/Rainbows/Guides; Tai Chi; Babyballet; Retired Musicians Workshop; Sewing Buddies; AL anon; AA meetings; Pilates; Weightwatchers; Knightstar Productions; Premier education School Holiday clubs; Blissful Babies/Baby Massage; Yoga; Ballroom/sequence Dancing; Guitar Lessons; Dementia Singing Group; Amateur Camera Club and all community activities including a Wednesday Coffee Morning.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE AT EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL AND THE PAVILION

Eastergate Village Hall hosts a wide range of community groups and societies.

If you wish to consider participating in any of the activities then please contact the Facilities Manager Nina-Maria McMaster 07849 356097 nina@eastergatehall.org for details of The Eastergate Players; Eastergate Parish Lunch; Bellacapella Choir; Short Mat Bowls; Westergate Fellowship; Yoga; Circuit training; Eastergate Cricket Club; Barnham Trojans Football; Stoolball; Hartbeeps; WI and all community activities including a Tuesday Coffee Morning and monthly Brunch.



Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

www.barnhamandeastringate-pc.gov.uk

@BNEGPC

February 2021

WELCOME

from The Chair,
Chris Allington

At the elections in May 2019, Barnham and Eastergate Parish Councils merged to form Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council and I was proud to be elected as the first Chair. We had a very busy first 10 months before the pandemic hit. You don't need me to tell you how challenging the last 12 months have been, but I do need to publicly thank the Parish staff, Community Trust staff and many volunteers who have provided many forms of support to the isolated, secured grants and run an innovative community programme despite the restrictions. See the Inclusive Community article.

Notwithstanding the challenges the Parish Council has continued to work on a number of significant matters – the key ones are covered in this newsletter. To ensure that we keep looking forward we have developed a strategic plan with the following key objectives:

- Place Making: ensuring our community remains a great place to live, work and play.
- Community Programmes: Facilitating a range of local activities for residents.
- Sports Facilities: Facilitating a rich choice of local sports facilities.

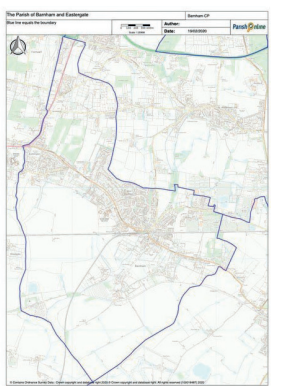
As I write this introduction it is still hard to imagine an 'unlocked' community, but it will happen this year. The same challenges will face us with the biggest being managing the tidal wave of new housing proposals and a realigned A29. We can't stop these things in entirety, but we can ensure that they are delivered in the best way possible for our current community and the communities that Barnham and Eastergate will become in the future.

You can find further information about our priorities at our website, www.barnhamandeastringate-pc.gov.uk.

Our Growing Community

The population of Barnham and Eastergate will grow from 5,000 to 13,000 over the next 10 to 15 years. This is due to the many planning permissions granted on appeal in recent years and also the fact that the approved Arun Local Plan includes a 3000 house Strategic development within our Parish and Aldingbourne Parish. We now cannot stop this. Our focus is to ensure this housing growth is sustainable and our community infrastructure grows commensurately.

Developers are now required to make financial contributions to community infrastructure and we are working hard to ensure we have an agreed funding formula that supports our ambitions to expand and upgrade community halls and sports facilities. To that end we appointed an architect to produce more detailed plans. These will be shared with the community as funds are forthcoming and we can progress plans. We are also very active within the relevant multi-stakeholder Advisory Group.



Community Events



Life has without a doubt has proved challenging and different since March 2020, but we have so much to look forward to. We are in the process of planning many vibrant weekly events at both our Community Halls. These will bring together members of our villages, tackling loneliness and isolation – this is something that we have worked very hard on continuously even through the pandemic, with the support of funding from the National Lottery following a successful grant application.

Parish Council Structure

The Parish Council can have a maximum of 13 Councillors who are either elected every 4 years or join through a co-option process between election periods. Currently the Council has 12 Councillors who were either elected in May 2019 or have since joined the Council through co-option. This means there is one vacancy available and if anyone is interested in supporting and influencing the community in which they live through becoming a Councillor do get in touch.

The Council holds meetings of the Full Council every 6 weeks and deals with a range of issues, particularly around finance, community facilities and large-scale development matters. There is also a separate Planning & Environment Committee that also meets every 6-8 weeks to consider all new planning applications in the Parish and other environment matters. Both meetings are held in public so if you are ever interested in attending to listen to the meetings do get in touch with the Clerk.

The Chair of the Council, elected in May 2019, is Chris Allington and the Vice-Chair, elected in May 2019, is Dick New. Both remained in the posts during the Covid-19 Pandemic and no changes will be considered until the Annual Parish Council in May.

The Council has many assets and responsibilities including Murrell's Field and the recreational facilities on it; Eastergate Playing Field with the children's playground and Pavilion; Barnham Community Hall which is run by Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust under a Licence to Operate with the Council; Eastergate War Memorial, street lights and street furniture. If you have any issues about your Parish that you would like to raise then please contact the Clerk of the Council, Alison Crabb, who is based at Barnham Community Hall or the Assistant Clerk, Nina McMaster, who is also the Manager of Eastergate Village Hall and Eastergate Sports Pavilion.

Contact the Clerk at clerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk or call 07565 052617 and she will assist or point you in the right direction if it is not a responsibility of the Council.

Parish Council grants



Enhancing residents' lives is a priority for the Parish Council and in late 2019 a new Grant Awarding Policy was approved. Financial grants to support organisations having a positive impact in our community can make all the difference and in 2019/20 grants were awarded to Arun & Chichester Citizens' Advice Bureau; Village Friends – a good neighbour scheme operating across the Six Villages; 4Sight Vision, Bognor Regis – supporting the visually impaired; Age UK West Sussex – aiding its role as clinical social prescriber; The Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service – to supporting them to continue providing vital pre-hospital care to patients in the local vicinity who have suffered life threatening injuries or severe medical conditions; and the Eastergate Cricket Club – enabling them to purchase new tables and chairs. If you want to apply for a grant this year please get in touch. Awarding of grants will be made in May. *Picture shows regular Village Friends lunch supported by grants.*

PRECEPT AND BUDGET FOR 2020/21

The Parish Council is funded through the collection of a Precept levied on each Council Tax paying property. The Council sets a budget to deliver Strategic Priorities and improve the maintenance of the Council's primary assets (sports fields, playgrounds and green spaces). A calculation based on the number of Council Tax paying houses in the Parish is then used to ensure that enough funds are collected to meet it. For the financial year April 2021 to March 2022 the Council set a precept of just over £130,000 (an increase of 5% on each Band D household within the Parish). In agreeing the precept figure councillors set it against a budget for 2021-2022 to support its main Strategic priorities, which remain unchanged, maintaining and improving the Parish assets, and to support our community, where it can, as it emerges from the lockdown.

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2021

In 2020 the Annual Parish Assembly was cancelled, but the Parish Council is currently hoping to hold the Annual Parish Assembly for 2021 in some format. As we are currently still in lockdown the original date for the Assembly (in April) has been moved to the 25th May in the hope that we will be able to hold it 'in person' at one of the Halls in the Parish. If we are still unable to do this, we will look at the potential option of holding a Virtual Assembly instead. The Assembly is different from Parish Council meetings as it is your meeting (the electorate) and you have the right to place items on the agenda so if any of you have any ideas please do get in touch with the Clerk as soon as possible. The Parish Council only facilitates the meeting but if no items are suggested we will look to try and bring forward some topics that we feel might be of interest such as housing development and the A29 realignment and moving forward following the pandemic.

BARNHAM & EASTERGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was adopted and 'made' by Arun DC in 2014. Now that the Arun District Local Plan has been adopted our Plan required an update to reflect both the ADC policies and changes to national planning policy. A small team of volunteers has worked tirelessly on producing a revised Plan to identify a minimum of 75 new homes across the Parish and to amend existing and add new policies and produce a new Design Guide. A 'call for sites' process was undertaken, and three sites were identified for inclusion in the Revised Plan following a consultation exercise with residents. The Council is just concluding the statutory Reg14 consultation and is currently analysing responses received. Documents and further details can be found <https://barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk/barnham-and-eastergate-parish-council/neighbourhood-plan-2019-to-2031/>. If you don't have access to the internet do get in touch and we will see how we can facilitate your looking at the documents.

Community facilities, activities and organisations

Barnham & Eastergate Community Trust

Following public meetings Barnham Community Trust and Eastergate Village Hall Trust have merged to form Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust (BECT). The new Trust is responsible for the management and upkeep of parish facilities: Barnham Community Hall, Eastergate Parish Hall, and Murrell's Field. The Eastergate Playing Field and Pavilion currently remain the responsibility of the Parish Council. This move has generated cost savings and will enable further improvements to the venues, and primarily better facilitate the growing range of diverse events and services offered at each Hall.

Visit www.bnegct.org.uk for full information regarding current online and future events.

The venues will be available for private hire whilst offering activities from dance, fitness and music workshops, movie nights and friendly coffee mornings to quiz nights, craft and wedding fairs and annual music events when government restrictions allow us to re-open.

BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL



Located at Murrell's Field on Yapton Road, the Barnham Hall consists of 1 large Hall with Stage, kitchen and bar facilities; 1 medium hall with bar and kitchen facilities; and 2 smaller rooms. The Hall has recently been licensed for wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and is an ideal venue for wedding receptions. The Hall offers many activities, including a pre-school; dance and fitness classes; baby ballet; baby massage; community coffee morning; quiz nights; music events and bonfire night and is of course available for private hire



For further information visit www.barnhamcommunityhall.org or pay a visit and talk to Ali the Facilities Manager or email ali@barnhamcommunityhall.org

EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL



Located in Eastergate on the main Barnham Road, Eastergate Village Hall consists of 1 large Hall with Stage, kitchen and bar facilities; and 1 smaller room with kitchenette facilities for activities for up to 12 people. Recent upgrades of a new central heating system and new windows make the hall very inviting. The Hall offers many community events including Film nights, community coffee mornings, music nights, craft fairs, yoga and other fitness classes. The Hall is also of course available for private hire



For further information visit www.eastergatehall.org.uk or pay a visit and talk to Nina the Facilities Manager or email nina@eastergatehall.org.uk

Renaissance of the WI

The Women's Institute (WI) is once more thriving in Barnham and Eastergate. Two separate new WI groups formed in 2019, both with a vigorous and enthusiastic membership and a stimulating calendar of activities from wine-tasting to a walking club. Both will meet at Eastergate Village Hall when we re-open. For further information on days and times contact Nina McMaster on 07849 356097 or email nina@eastergatehall.org.uk.

Volunteer opportunities

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Concerned about speeding? Establishing a Community Speed watch (CSW) group could help tackle the issue. CSW is a national initiative run in partnership with the police, where members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds. Volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down. If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings police can prosecute them. CSW Online works on behalf of the police and communities to organise and coordinate CSW activity. Volunteers receive training, and neighbourhood policing team staff will support them. If you'd like to lead or join a local CSW group, contact the Clerk who can guide you through the process. The Parish Council has recently approved the purchase and deployment of two Vehicle Activated Speed awareness signs. The signs will be mobile and moved between an agreed number of sites across the Parish.

EMERGENCY PLANNING


A planned and coordinated response to an emergency, such as flooding, can save lives. Be a Barnham & Eastergate first responder and make a difference. Contact David Phillips dphillips@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk for details of what's involved.

LITTER PICKING

Volunteers are needed to organise litter picks across the Parish. We have the equipment to do this, but we need someone to co-ordinate the 'Picks' and volunteers to give a couple of hours of their time on a regular basis. There are litter bins across the Parish that are managed by ADC and the Parish manages additional bins on both Playing Fields, but these are always full so additional help is needed to reduce the problem.




BARNHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

 A vibrant, energy filled school supporting the academic and character development of over 300 children ranging from Years R to Year 6. At Barnham, we believe in helping our children 'Shine' as they journey towards becoming Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens and Confident Individuals. We listen, we learn, and we adapt, in order to make sure that we provide the best educational experience that we can for the children of the local community.

Please contact the school on 01243 552197 or email us at office@barnhamprimaryschool.co.uk to learn more.

EASTERGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

 A small, friendly school where people can grow as individuals and know they are respected. Our aim is to be: A place where everyone is accepted, loved and valued; a place that is a reflective, nurturing community, underpinned by Christian values and welcoming to all; a community where everyone loves learning and is challenged to achieve their very best.

In 2020 the school celebrated 50 years on its present site. We hope to hold celebrations in 2021 with the community.

Please contact the school on 01243 542297 or email us at office@eastergate.w-sussex.sch.uk