

# COMMUNITY MATTERS



BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE



*Celebrating a year of investing  
in our villages, together.*



2,500 people attended this year's Music At Murrell's Field raising more than **£14,000** for local projects.



Friendly Foodie Fridays saw queues forming an hour before opening, with fresh produce and essentials reaching **hundreds** of households.



The Community Lottery reached a record **119** new members, with a top monthly prize of **£595**.



Murrell's Field received its long awaited **£200,000+** investment for drainage and levelling, marking the final stage of a 25-year improvement programme.



More than **400** neighbours shared Sunday Roasts at Eastergate Village Hall, kindly supported by Westergate Care Home.



More than **50** new volunteers joined our coffee mornings, food projects, events teams and the new Repair Cafe initiative.



Corporate support for the trust rose to **£20,804**, almost **three times** last year's total.

It's easy, in the day-to-day rhythm of parish life, for our attention to be pulled towards the problems – the road closures and potholes, the drainage worries and planning pressures, the frustrations that naturally arise in a growing community. These issues matter, of course, and your Parish Council continues to lobby hard on them.

But the constant swirl of social-media commentary can sometimes drown out something equally important: the steady, generous work that so many residents pour into Barnham and Eastergate every single week.

I'd like to take a moment to redress that balance. This past year has been full of examples of neighbourliness in action. Our community volunteers – far more numerous than many realise – have given their time, energy and expertise to an extraordinary range of efforts: organising local events, running clubs and societies, planting and tending flowers, picking litter, placing poppies on lampposts for Remembrance, and distributing food to those who need it. Their contributions shape the character of our villages far more than any headline ever will.

Your Parish Council is proud to support this spirit. Over recent years, we've established dedicated working groups to care for our green spaces, review planning applications, champion our natural environment, prepare for emergencies, and keep residents informed through our newsletters. Every parish councillor is a volunteer too, and we are deeply grateful for the time and goodwill that so many of you offer so freely. After decades of sustained lobbying, I am pleased to say that developer contributions are now beginning to flow into the parish at meaningful scale.



Above: Our volunteers make the work in the parish possible.

This funding allows us to invest in significant community projects for the first time in a generation.

It covers only around 30 per cent of our ambitions, however, and so we are especially indebted to the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust. Their fundraising efforts, their ability to mobilise volunteers, and their partnership with the Parish Council are vital to turning plans into reality.

Our project list is long and lively, spanning small improvements and major investments alike. To bring them to fruition, we need your help. Volunteering is one of the most rewarding ways to give back: a chance to meet neighbours, support local life, and make a tangible difference. Even an hour or two can go a long way.

Together, we can ensure Barnham and Eastergate remain vibrant, caring and resilient places to live, supporting our most vulnerable residents, strengthening our shared spaces, and investing in the future of the parish.

*Chris Allington*  
Chris Allington, Chair of BEPC





If 2025 has shown us anything, it's how transformative a little shared effort — and a few thousand bulbs — can be. Across Barnham and Eastergate, our volunteers have been turning corners, verges and public spaces into pockets of colour, character and wildlife. Under the banner of People, Places & Spaces, dozens of residents have given their time to planting, watering, and tending to make our villages feel welcoming.

We began the year in a blaze of winter cheer. Both village centres were bright with Christmas trees, bows and elegant lamppost wreaths, while volunteers prepared the first Spring baskets before January had even closed. Beneath the surface, however, the real work was already waiting to emerge: more than 4,000 bulbs planted last autumn by our "Green Angels", a mixture of daffodils, crocuses and other early blooms, ready to sweep the village in colour.

By February and March, those plantings had burst into life. The long, raised bed at Murrell's Field became a focal point, its crocus wave developing beautifully, supported by a cleverly hidden irrigation system primed for a scorching summer. Nearby, the wildflower area at the start of the Fitness Trail flourished with species chosen specifically to support pollinators.

Across the villages, planters, hall pots, road-sign beds and adopted mini-plots all sprang into bloom. Residents repeatedly told us how much pleasure these displays gave, and we are deeply grateful to the volunteers led by Penny Wycherley, who have cared for them so skilfully.

Window boxes at Barnham Community Hall have joined those at Eastergate Hall, and new baskets and displays have appeared in Church Lane and other adopted corners of the parish. More than 5,000 additional bulbs have been planted for 2026 — including English bluebells, tulips and narcissi — along with spring bedding such as wallflowers, snowflakes and foxgloves. The Guides have been especially active, helping to plant bulbs, and even build bug hotels from recycled materials.

Throughout all of this, we have spent very little public money. Nearly everything you see, including many of the tools, has been donated by generous local nurseries and individuals. What we lack in budget, we make up for in community spirit. And we always need more hands. You simply need enthusiasm and the willingness to give a little time, from watering a single planter to adopting a plot, or joining one of our communal bulb-planting mornings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
VOLUNTEER@BARNHAMANDEASTERGATE-PC.GOV.UK



Artist's impression of the renewed village centre seating area, for which BEPC secured funding in 2025.

One significant piece of news this year has been progress on six new bus shelters across the villages, with further improvements planned for the Barnham centre. Each shelter will have its own planted area, and several

residents have already offered to "adopt" their nearest one — watering, weeding and keeping an eye on the site. We would love more helpers, especially those who live near the shelters or pass them regularly.

## PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

Our Parish Resilience Team provides a back-stop and immediate source of local help in the event of some wide-spread emergency where the conventional emergency services and utilities are overwhelmed. This could be anything from extreme weather events or flooding, to a major power outage.

The team brings together trained and equipped volunteers to assist across the Parish with flooded or damaged property, to use our halls as emergency refuges, and to assist vulnerable individuals or families in the face of power failure or damaged homes. The team also helps emergency services to support our local residents with accommodation, local knowledge, equipment and volunteer efforts.



FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
RESILIENCE@BARNHAMANDEASTERGATE-PC.GOV.UK



For more than two decades, Murrell's Field has evolved through the dedication of volunteers, community fundraising and significant grant support. Since Barnham Parish Council secured a 100-year lease in 2001, the site has been steadily transformed, from early clearance of rubble and planting of 300 new trees, to the creation of the Trim Trail, children's play area, multi-use games area and picnic space, all funded through a combination of Lottery awards, SITA Trust grants and local fundraising.

In 2024, a final piece of long-awaited funding arrived: just over £200,000 of Section 106 money secured years ago as part of the Angels and Hyde Nurseries development. These funds have been invested in the largest improvement project the Field has seen since the early 2010s: a levelling and grading programme designed to address longstanding issues with poor surface water run-off and uneven ground.

Work began in August 2025, as the field was closed while the grass was removed, the surface regraded and a new shallow swale

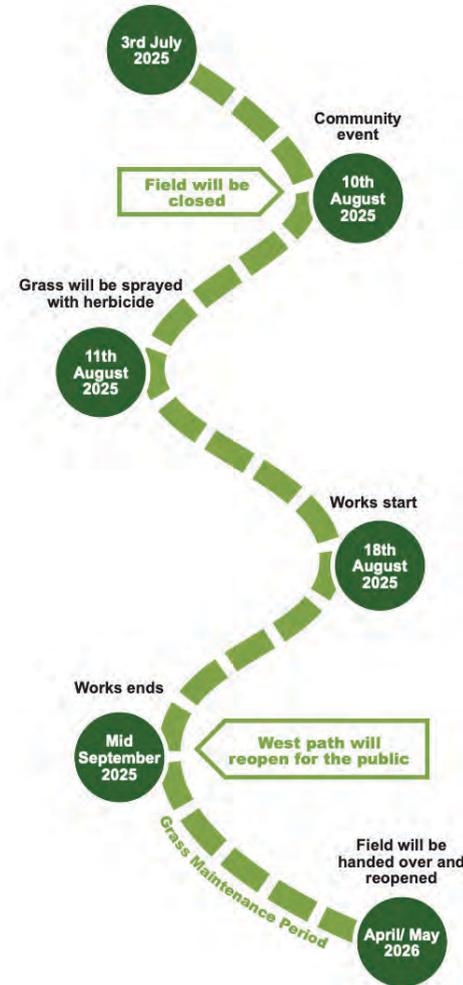
and pipe system installed along the western edge to improve water storage and drainage.

The entire surface was then reseeded and, is being cared for through a six-month maintenance period, with reopening expected in April/May 2026, once the new grass is well-established and safe for use.



These work represent an important investment in the future of the village—especially for younger generations.

PROJECT TIMELINE



During the closure, alternative recreation areas— Eastergate Playing Field, Yapton Recreation Ground and local footpaths — have remained available. Once reopened, Murrell's Field will be more resilient, more usable and better suited for community events, informal sport and relaxed outdoor gatherings.

Plans for future activities already include the 2026 Mayfair, Music at Murrell's Field in June as well as other summer events and potential new outdoor gym equipment.



Above: Works will improve the field's health, with sand-enhanced soil, a new gravel-lined pipe along the western edge, and a grassy swale designed to manage runoff and support stronger grass growth.

A LEGACY OF CARE AT MURRELL'S FIELD

As work continues to improve Murrell's Field, we thank the many volunteers and staff who have shaped this space during the past 25 years. In particular, we all owe a great debt to the Barnham Leisure Amenities Development Executive (BLADE), whose early efforts transformed the field from neglected land into a valued community asset. Many of those volunteers are still involved today, joined by new supporters who continue their work. Together, they have created a lasting legacy—one that today's improvements build upon.

## A YEAR OF KEEPING OUR VILLAGES CLEAN

If 2025 proved anything, it's that a group of determined neighbours armed with pickers, bags and good humour can make a tremendous difference. Month after month, our volunteer litter pickers turned out in all weathers to keep Barnham and Eastergate looking their best – and they did so with record-breaking enthusiasm.



We began the year with a remarkable January turnout: 27 volunteers covering every single route in both villages and collecting an impressive 57kg of litter. That set the pace for what became our most productive year yet. February and March saw another 18–20 volunteers each month, gathering more than 60kg between them and rescuing nearly 8kg of aluminium, glass and plastic for recycling. Even on quieter months, the team kept up the momentum, with residents who couldn't make the Saturday pick contributing their own mid-week collections.

By spring, we were breaking records all over again – 57.7kg in April and an extraordinary 63.4kg in August, the highest monthly total since we began formal counting. Along the way, our volunteers unearthed all manner of curiosities (some more printable than others) and managed to retrieve everything from old paint pots to abandoned bicycle helmets.

This year wasn't only about the picking. Our presence at the Barnham May Fair was a joy, with the Clean Sweep miniature-sweeper contest, the Top Bin challenge, and a cinemascope slideshow of volunteer action all proving big draws. Not to mention

refreshments ranging from pastries to panettone, and even a live performance of the now-legendary "Heroes of Barnham."

We also welcomed visitors from beyond the parish – including a Brighton group who came to observe our operation and left remarking on the friendliness of everyone they met. New tools and ideas were tested, too, from prototype GPS pickers to discussions about entering next year's Spogomi litter-picking world championship qualifiers.

By November, we had reached our 21st consecutive monthly pick and surpassed last year's totals in every measure: more volunteers, more recycling saved, more ground covered. Every corner of Barnham and Eastergate received attention, and the cumulative effect has been transformative.

As we look ahead to 2026, we'd love to welcome even more residents to the team. Whether you can spare an hour, join a monthly pick, or simply report fly-tipping and full bins via the Arun District Council website, every bit of help strengthens our shared effort.

BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE PC

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## COMMUNITY HALLS

For the past year both Barnham and Eastergate community halls have been busy from morning to evening, hosting gatherings that speak to the energy and creativity of our villages.

In April, our Community Connect event offered an informal forum for residents to meet local organisations. We heard from UK Harvest's Nigel Boshein about the charity's partnership with Eastergate Village Hall and the ever-popular Friendly Foodie Fridays: an inspiring example of how local spaces can help reduce waste and strengthen community bonds.

Our halls came alive during the May Fair, when high winds failed to dampen spirits. Visitors browsed plants and produce, browsed the book stall, rode the miniature steam engine, met West Sussex Fire & Rescue and admired classic cars. Local band Hybrid—students from Ormiston Academy—played two lively sets, joined by dancers from the Suzanne Hill School of Dance.

One of the most exciting developments has been our success in securing a West Sussex Waste Prevention Community Grant. We were one of only ten groups countywide



Above: Students from Ormiston Academy perform as Hybrid at the May Fair in Murrell's Field



to be awarded funding—up to £5,000—to develop new ways to reduce household waste.

The scheme encourages communities to think imaginatively about reuse, repair and waste prevention, from food and textiles to electrical items.

At the launch event in June, our volunteers met fellow grant recipients and the teams at West Sussex County Council and Biffa, beginning a new chapter of partnership. Work on our own project is already under way, with clothing swaps, repair-led activities and more to come.

Our coffee mornings continue to bring neighbours together for conversation, cake and community news, with volunteers keeping the kettles warm. In August, the halls hosted a Family Fun Day that welcomed more than 150 people for music, magic and excellent food from Fries Love—an afternoon made possible in part by support from Barratt Homes.



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**ALI TARBARD AT ALI@BARNHAMCOMMUNITYHALL.ORG.UK**

At Eastergate Village Hall, as well as the Friendly Foodie Friday project in partnership with UK Harvest and Nyton House Residential Care Home, a clothing and furniture swap now runs on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, from 11.30am to 1pm, in partnership with the Waste Prevention Team. This volunteer-led drop-in has proved hugely popular, with kilos of pre-loved items finding new homes.



Meanwhile, Barnham Community Hall hosts textile sessions on the 2nd and 4th Weds of the month, from 10am to midday, run with West Sussex Recycles. Residents learn to make tote bags and other items from repurposed fabrics. No sewing experience is needed—just curiosity and a willingness to give new life to old materials.



Right: Hundreds of local residents gather at the Lion Memorial in Eastergate for Remembrance Day.

Below: Regular events at Barnham and Eastergate Halls offer cake, hot drinks and friendship to all.



NINA-MARIA MCMASTER AT [NINA@EASTERGATEHALL.ORG.UK](mailto:NINA@EASTERGATEHALL.ORG.UK)  
ALI TARBARD AT [ALI@BARNHAMCOMMUNITYHALL.ORG.UK](mailto:ALI@BARNHAMCOMMUNITYHALL.ORG.UK)

MUSIC AT MURRELL'S FIELD

TICKETS FROM V2 RADIO

MAMF WELCOMES

MADONNA (TRIBUTE-JENI JAYE)

MURDOCHS CRAZY EYES

JAMES WILLIAM-BEST OF BARLOW (AS SEEN ON ITV'S STARSTRUCK)

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Please contact Sally-ann events@barnhamcommunityhall.org for more information or just come along!!

**BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL**  
**QUIZ NIGHTS 2026**

FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY  
FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPT  
FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCT  
FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
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**EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL**  
**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UK HARVEST**  
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**FRIENDLY FOODIE FRIDAYS**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month in the Community Hub  
11:30am-1:00pm

Cash donations welcome but not compulsory  
PLEASE NOTE THAT AS WE ARE DISTRIBUTING FOOD WASTE, SOME WEEKS (PARTICULARLY IN THE WINTER MONTHS) WE MAY NOT HAVE MUCH OR ANYTHING BUT WE WILL ALWAYS COMMUNICATE ON FACEBOOK TO LET YOU KNOW.

**CLOTHING AND FURNITURE SWAP**  
AT EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL

Do you have unwanted pre-loved (but still in good condition) furniture?  
Do you need furniture?  
Do you have any clean, in good condition clothing that you no longer need?

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday's of the month**  
**11:30am - 1:00pm**

Contact Nina on 07849 356097 -  
nina@eastergatehall.org.uk if you have anything you can donate or if you need any furniture - big or small!

Organisation/Group/Facility	Contact
Parish Council	Clerk: clerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk  Assistant Clerk (Community): Nina-Maria McMaster assistantclerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk  Assistant Clerk (Planning): Gemma Hindson planning@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk
County Councillor District Councillors	Trevor Bence - trevor.bence@westsussex.gov.uk Sue Wallsgrove - cllr.sue.wallsgrove@arun.gov.uk Paul Ayling - cllr.paul.ayling@arun.gov.uk Anita Lawrence - cllr.anita.lawrence@arun.gov.uk
Police Community Support Officer	Caroline Wilson - caroline.wilson@sussex.pnn.police.uk
Barnham Community Hall Yapton Road, Barnham, PO22 0AY www.barnhamcommunityhall.org	Facilities Manager - Ali Tarbard - 01243 278110 bookings@barnhamcommunityhall.org
Eastergate Village Hall, Barnham Road, Eastergate, PO20 3RP www.eastergatehall.org	Facilities and Events Manager - Nina-Maria McMaster 07849 356097 nina@eastergatehall.org.uk
Eastergate Sports Pavilion (by War Memorial roundabout) Barnham Road, Eastergate, PO20 3RP www.eastergatehall.org	Assistant Clerk - Nina-Maria McMaster assistantclerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk
Village Friends (friendship partnering for the elderly)	Meg Brackley - 07925 217843 villagefriends6@gmail.com
Coffee Mornings - no booking required Eastergate Village Hall / Barnham Community Hall	(especially great if you are new the area for meeting people) Tuesday 10am - 12 noon and Wednesday 10am - 12 noon
<b>Other useful reporting points for issues include:</b>	
Non-emergency Police Matters	Tel: 101 Emergency matters dial 999
Arun District Council - Community Wardens find out more at www.arun.gov.uk/community-wardens	community.wardens@arun.gov.uk
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
West Sussex County Council - report all highway related issues such as potholes, footway problems etc.	www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pave-ment/



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