Green Belt. The Kent Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Environment Agency and English Heritage all work in our parish to protect, manage and improve our environmental and historical sites. Our gardens provide a rich diversity of habitats and food for local wildlife. Many residents, the primary school, and children's clubs cultivate plants and provide water, food and habitats encouraging the wildlife which they can observe. The judges look for the local recycling to minimise demand placed on natural resources. Eynsford in Bloom is fortunate to have excellent support from the village children. The Pre-school and Anthony Roper Primary School Gardening club planted their early potatoes, onions and broad beans before the Easter holiday. The Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows, Guides and two Brownie packs have all undertaken activities which will contribute to Community Participation.

Judging begins with a 15 minute presentation in which much of our work and the activities of the children's clubs are displayed. This year we will recall the 1987 great storm beading to the beginning of the Best Kept Village group, now knowns as Eynsford in Bloom. Also, this is the centenary of the death of the village benefactor Elliot Downs Till whose works included the cultivation and promotion of trees.

We rely on our posters, Facebook, and trident for our publicity. We aim to increase the photographs available for Facebook. I have the entry forms for the Kent Wildlife Trust, available for anyone with a wildlife friendly garden.

Our volunteers who were helping in 1987 are now in their 80's and still work every week. Especially during the next 4 months. We would appreciate help from more residents. Please help by removing weeds on the path outside and near your garden and cutting the hedge back from the path. The judges like to see your gardens tidy and colourful. Come and help at a work party. Tools and coffee are provided. All work parties meet in the main car park opposite St Martins Church. Future work party dates; Tuesday's 9:30am every week, Thursdays; 9pm every week, Saturday; 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July & 5th August.

Finally, a big thank you to the present volunteers

Spring News 2017

from

EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Spring newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

We have a bumper issue this quarter with lots of interesting articles from the parish council and other contributors.

Our cover photo shows the Commonwealth Celebration ceremony held earlier in March where the Commonwealth flag was raised at St Martin's Church.

The important news this issue is that it is nearly time for our **Annual Parish Meeting**! Come along on 26th May from 6-9pm to meet your council and to find out what we do for you. Other agencies will also be represented including Sevenoaks and Kent Councils, the Police, Age Concern, Kent Air Ambulance and more. There will be a glass of wine and light refreshments available and we will also be awarding our Community Award certificate.
Also at our Annual Parish Meeting will be our **Art Competition**. All are welcome to enter a piece in any medium on the theme of 'Eynsford, Big & Small'. Have a look at the enclosed flyer for full details or contact the parish office.

Finally, as always, many thanks to Eynsford in Bloom for our lovely colourful village - the spring bulbs have been wonderful this year!

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk
Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY; 01322 865320; eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.
Www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Access Audit of Commercial Premises

Cllr Malcolm Richardson

Eynsford Parish Council wishes to improve its understanding of disabilities and limitations placed on people through difficulties accessing commercial buildings (i.e. shops, pubs etc), their surroundings and day to day services. By so doing, we hope to achieve a more accessible environment that everyone can enjoy who lives in and visits Eynsford.

The Disability Discrimination Act came into force in 1996 and made it illegal to discriminate against a disabled person for reasons related to his or her disability. This covered fields of employment, service provision, transport and education. The DDA required employers, service providers and education providers to make reasonable adjustments to avoid discrimination. The Equality Act 2010 brought together all anti-discrimination legislation into one Act and covers disability, race, gender, religious, sex and age discrimination and supersedes the DDA, but the requirements remain much the same.

There are many different types of disability; there are wheelchair users (including mobility scooters), blind/ visually impaired people, those who are deaf or are hard of hearing, those have ambulatory or dexterity problems (either permanently or temporarily) and those with comprehension difficulties. In addition, better access to buildings will also benefit the older generation, parents with pushchairs and those who are temporarily less mobile due to accidents etc.

As part of this aim, the Council has drawn up a 'Buildings

Eynsford in Bloom & South & South East in Bloom requirements

Pauline Penney, Eynsford in Bloom

Following the dull winter, we are all enjoying the warm weather and colourful spring flowers. We have entered the annual South & South East in Bloom event for the twelfth successive year. This requires considerable extra effort by our volunteers between March & August but if this is not maintained less would be achieved. Three delegates attended & enjoyed the annual seminar at Crawley on 15th March (residents would be welcome) and reviewed the guidelines for 2017. These can be downloaded on http://www.inblom.org.uk. For the judging checklist to http://www.sseib.com/downloads and click on number 4. The workshops at the seminar including; pruning plants for difficult places and points make prizes were very worthwhile.

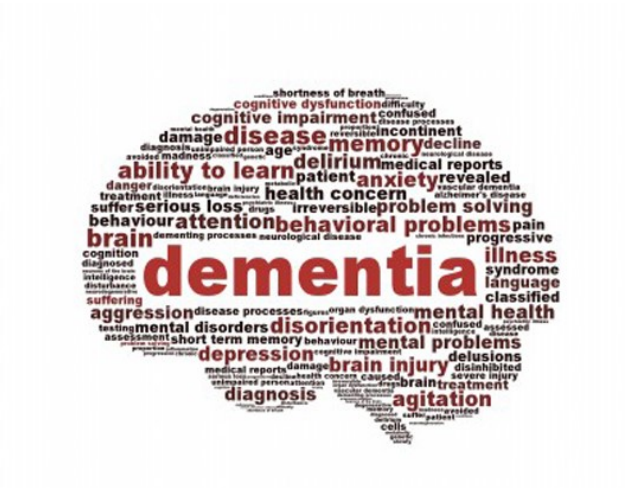
Eynsford is classified as a large village and judging takes place during the first 2 weeks of July. Judging is divided into: Horticultural, Environmental & Community Participation. To date we have produced an illustrated portfolio by the end of May to update the judges on our recent work and plans for the future. We are easily able to show our year round work and that we are not just fair weather gardeners.

Judges visiting Eynsford last year.

Our horticultural practice is established. The national guidelines and our village research have not given us a colour theme for this year. To improve our environmental effort we plan to use nectar rich, colourful flowers wherever possible. However, begonias will be used for the formal bedding at the war memorial. Bee friendly seeds will be given out at St Martin's church on Easter Day.

We are fortunate to live in the Darent Valley in an AONB and in the

cuppa and chat. More information will be made available on days and times as soon as it is signed and sealed – watch out for more information on the Farningham and Eynsford Massive on Facebook, Parish Council website, notice boards around the village and posters.



Businesses are being approached to register their interest in becoming dementia friendly. Very small changes can make all the difference such as clear signage to restroom facilities and a member of staff with dementia awareness to help visitors. There will be an introduction to the 'Shop safe, stay safe' scheme operated by Sevenoaks District Council. If you are a business, please look out for a letter or contact and register your interest with the Parish Council Clerks at eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk
A workshop will be advertised over the next few months for the public and community groups to attend and learn about dementia awareness and gain valuable insight to help people partake in the community run activities.

Do watch out for further news and if you are interested in helping in any way, contact Councillor Ferne Haxby via the Parish Council office.

Accessibility Checklist' which will be sent to owners of businesses in Eynsford where the public have access to their buildings, to help the owners consider some of the issues that face some disabled people today.

This information is for Eynsford Parish Council's internal use and will provide us with a greater understanding of access limitations faced by the disabled. The survey will, hopefully, also help business owners understand their obligations under the Equality Act, and will allow them to improve the accessibility of their buildings for disabled people and, in all likelihood, many other users.

Should you wish to comment on any aspect of access or other problems facing disabled people in Eynsford, then please do not hesitate to contact the Council direct.

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.

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin 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 and Wednesday, 9.00 - 3.00 Tuesday and Thursday.

The Parish Office is located off Priory Lane, next to the scout hall and has use of the car park there.

01322 865320 eynsford.pc@tiscali.co.uk

New Playground Equipment for the Anthony Roper Primary School

Julie Clark, Anthony Roper Primary School PTA

On Friday 31st March the Anthony Roper Primary School PTA held its official opening ceremony for their new adventure playground. Amid the glorious spring sunshine, and jubilant applause of the pupils, the red ribbon was finally cut. It had taken three years of fundraising to achieve the £19,000 cost of the equipment and all-weather surfacing, but the end result is well worth the hard work and wait.

In 2014 the school first broached the idea of a climbing frame which children could access all year round. (The current fitness trail at the bottom of the field being accessible only in the summer months.) The aims of the new playground are to:

- Help to improve the overall fitness and agility of pupils
- Be of sufficient challenge to even the eldest pupils in Key Stage 2, whilst also manageable enough for the Reception classes to enjoy
- Provide stimulation and imaginative play opportunities to help further improve behaviour at playtimes

Once the target cost started to look achievable a sub-committee was formed led by Jane Laird. Research into suppliers, choice of designs and surfacing began. Other school playgrounds were visited and a consultation process involving staff and parents took place. The final choice took into account the aims above as well as safety, guarantees and value for money.

The new playground consists of a giant climbing area with many different elements and challenges as well as parallel bars and roll over bars to help develop upper body strength. We have also been able to provide two 6ft square ball walls for use as goals or to practise ball skills, which the school were in need of given that all external walls of the school building are covered in windows.

The PTA contributes each year to a wide range of extra school resources and experiences by organising various fundraising events. These include the annual Christmas Fair, Summer Fete and Easter Egg hunt. We also hold termly Discos for the children as well as an adult social event each year. In 2014 we were

Room in the Village Hall on Saturday afternoon October 14th where each entry will be displayed for one vote from each visitor. To be accessible to voters, entrants will need to be able to stand their artwork up so an easel or something similar would help. To avoid cronyism and favouritism, each entry must be submitted with no identifying marks or signatures until after the judging: the one with the most votes wins – easy really, a bit like Strictly or the X-Factor. It would be useful to keep track of intended entries, so to participate please either phone me on 01322-866102 or email on sally.coston@btinternet.com. There will be no entry forms, registration fees or administrative requirements. We just need to know how many we might expect; lots we hope.

Dementia Friendly Community

Cllr Ferne Haxby, Chair of the Community & Environment Committee

Dementia affects everyone. For those affected and their families and friends, it can have a devastating effect on lives. One in five people over the age of 65 will have a form of dementia and although the prevalence increases with age, this is not, however just an older person's disease as there are more than 40,000 younger people (under the age of 65) with dementia in the UK.
In public situations, people affected by dementia may have a range of difficulties including:

-Problems remembering what they are doing
-Difficulties in communicating clearly
-Problems handling money
-Problems navigating in complex or confusing environments

Eynsford Parish Council are working with Sevenoaks District Council and the Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services to encourage the population of Eynsford to become dementia friendly to help those who are residents and those visiting to feel supported and able to enjoy our wonderful village.

Over the coming year, there will be positive ways in which we can all help:
At present, there is work to set up a memory café for people and carers in Eynsford and the surrounding villages. This will be a great place to attend and receive advice and information and enjoy a

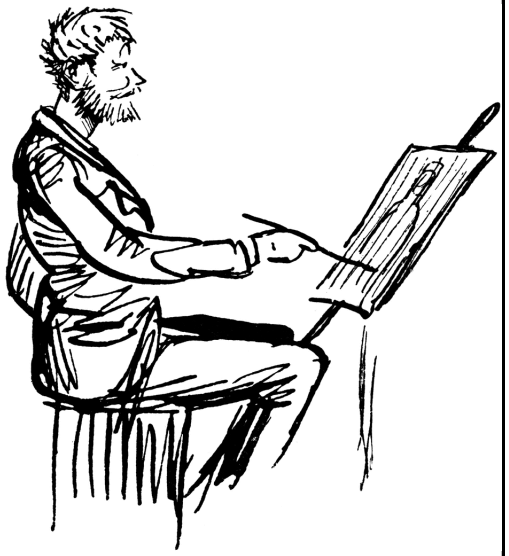
Public Art Competition!

Sally Coston, Chair EVS 866102

Eynsford Village Society is grateful to the Parish Council for letting us use their Newsletter to launch an exciting project which hopefully will appeal to the community and all its budding artists, professionals, tinkerers, dabblers, old, new and middling, in fact anyone.

The Public Art Initiative sub-committee has been offered a very generous prize for the winner of a competition to fill the window space, blocked up for years, empty and frankly ugly, on the Baptist Church side of Rafferty's, our village shop.

Any topic can be chosen, within the bounds of public decency (note: Banksy); any weatherproof medium can be used; the space will ultimately have one of the green identifying plaques on the window sill (see mosaic on school fence) together with something similar explaining that it is an anonymous sponsorship on behalf of the Rafferty business trading partnership. I can attest that it is a genuine opportunity for all involved: the artists, the shop and the community.



We have given an undertaking to keep details of the donor private. Clever creativity and appeal are the keys. The space measures 35" x 48" and is in a sufficiently discreet position not to distract passing traffic, or cause offence (I am likely to be the nearest complainant and that's not going to happen), yet central enough to be visible and available to the many villagers who walk by.

The idea is that all village residents will be invited to the Darenth

helped by the Riverside Players to run a Murder Mystery Night. In 2015 we held the first Pop-Up Supper Club, which was successfully repeated with a curry theme this year. In 2016 a fantastic Ceilidh was organised in the Village Hall. Much of the profits from these events have contributed to the cost of the playground and we would like to thank the parents and friends of the school who have supported us so generously and had a lot of fun along the way!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Eynsford Parish Council for their generous donation of £400 towards our target. We were delighted that councillor Sarah Boyle was able to attend the ribbon –cutting ceremony so that the children could thank her in person.

We would also like to thank Julie Tait, a parent and teaching assistant at the school who successfully applied for a grant from Tesco's Bags for Help scheme. They donated an amazing £2,000 which has enabled us to complete the playground in time for the summer term so that this year's Year 6 pupils can enjoy it too.

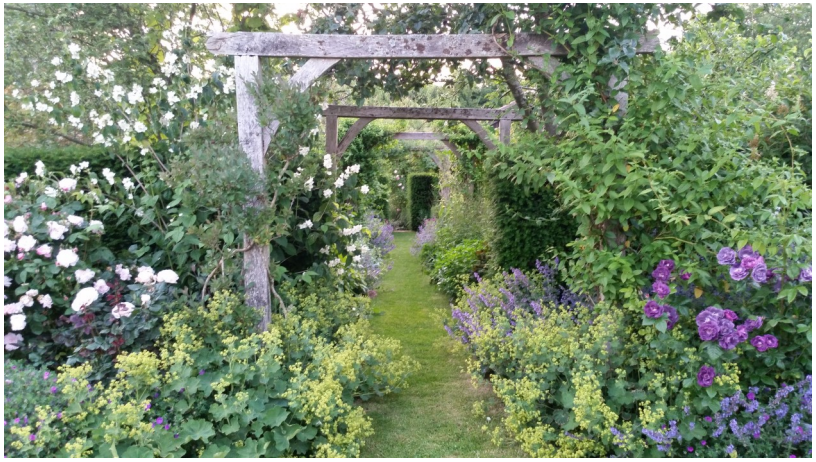
Finally, I would like to quote from a wonderful thank you letter I received from the pupils of Anthony Roper who would like to thank the 'great' PTA and everyone who has helped make the playground possible:

" (We) can't wait to go on it and have massive quantities of fun! You have been inordinately kind to us."

Open your Garden for Ellenor

Hospice charity **ellenor** – which cares for patients of all ages in Kent - is inviting Eynsford residents to share their Glorious Gardens as part of a fundraising initiative to help local families facing terminal illness.

A garden, however big or small, is the ideal place to entertain and to share the beauty of the great outdoors and the wonders of the Kentish flora and fauna. **ellenor** is asking people to consider opening their garden, either to the public, or to family and friends, on a day to suit them and is ready to provide a pack of fundraising hints and tips.



You could consider a small get-together, with tea and cakes, or Pimm's on the lawn, or turn your Glorious Garden event into something more grand, with maybe some live music or a plant sale.

ellenor needs to raise nearly £7 million each year to continue its vital services. As well as providing hospice care to adults, the charity offers support to families throughout South West Kent, enabling babies, children and young people to stay at home with the people who love them most.

Funds raised from **ellenor's** Glorious Garden scheme will help children like Harry and his family:

General maintenance and up-keep are our priorities; we cannot handle large, heavy duties. But we can offer a one day blitz to get the volunteers started.

S.M.I.L.E.S.
Services Maintaining Independent Living and Elderly Support
These two projects come under our SMILES banner.
Using volunteers we help older people in the Dartford, Gravesend and Swanley area to remain living independently.
Call 01322 272 476 or email volunteer@nwkvolunteers.org.uk

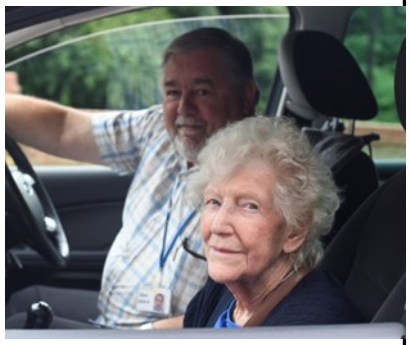
Meet your PCSO!

I am PCSO Lisanne Fry. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and give you a little bit of background into me. I know Eynsford very well as I lived in the village for 11 years, my twins attended the local primary school, even though they are now 18 years of age. I have some fond memories of Eynsford and the people that live in it. I have worked in many areas over the last 10 years, including West Kingsdown and Sevenoaks Town, all challenging in different ways. I have to say though, that I have undoubtedly worked with and met many wonderful people over these years and hope that I continue to do so, it makes my job so much more rewarding!

The role of the PCSO has changed vastly over the 10 years that I have known it, no longer do we just drive, walk or cycle around our patches, attending coffee mornings and the like, we can be dealing with anything from anti-social behaviour with the local youths to helping a resident that may be feeling suicidal. I like to think we become a familiar friendly face that people learn to trust, a support to those in need or just someone to talk to for someone who is lonely or vulnerable. I will be attending the Annual Parish meeting on the 26th of May, so will look forward to meeting more of you then. If you would like to contact me, you can email me on lisanne.fry@kent.pnn.police.uk

Volunteer Centre Seeks New Recruits

Volunteer Car Service



What is it?
A door-to-door car service provided by our team of volunteers for residents of North West Kent who find it difficult to use public transport because of age, frailty, illness, disability or location.

Is there a charge?
Passengers pay a *yearly* Registration Fee, and then a per-journey Administration Fee and the volunteer–driver mileage cost. Full details are available when you call 01322 294 600.

If you enjoy driving, your keys can unlock lives.
Drivers take clients to and from medical appointments in Kent. Local drivers regularly take clients to and from Parkinson's exercise classes and Falls Prevention classes.
If you can spare just a small amount of your time, have use of your own car we would like to see you. Mileage expenses are paid direct to you. Call 01322 290 600

Volunteer Garden Service

What is it?
A service where our volunteer gardeners bring life back into your neglected garden and make it a thing of beauty and a joy to sit in once again.01322 272 476.

Is there a charge?
You pay £6 per hour for a maximum of 2 hours per visit.
Any travel expenses are also reimbursed to the volunteer.

Harry's story:
Harry lives in Northfleet with his Mum, Samantha, his Dad, Dean and his older sister Rhianne. He had a seizure and stopped breathing just ten minutes after he was born, which led to him spending his first six months in a London hospital. During that time, the family realised that his condition was long-term and life-threatening.

While in hospital in London, Dean and Samantha were told about the support which **ellenor** could give them and how the charity could help them to look after Harry at home. Soon after, one of the **ellenor** nurses travelled up to London to meet the family.

"I remember feeling apprehensive when they mentioned the word 'hospice'," says Dean. "But we very soon appreciated that **ellenor** means so much more than that. We really appreciate **ellenor's** on-call service and we use it quite a lot – sometimes in the middle of the night."

Harry attends school in New Ash Green and his **ellenor** nurse keeps in touch with the school, creating a continuity of care for Harry.

"Without **ellenor** by our side, Harry would be in hospital nearly all the time and we simply wouldn't cope," says Samantha. "It feels like we're one big team – us and **ellenor**. We don't feel like we're making decisions alone; we make decisions between us."

To find out more about **ellenor's** Glorious Gardens scheme, visit https://ellenor.org/glorious-gardens or contact area fundraiser Katie Gardner on 01474 320007 or 07467 915451.

ellenor.x

For a large print newsletter call 01322 865320

Eynsford Village Hall - Latest Developments

Cllr Malcolm Richardson

Residents will have recently received a leaflet through their door, which provided an update of the hall redevelopment.
In summary, due to the structural problems of the current village Hall, the Trustees' preferred option is to look to build a new hall, with upgraded facilities, in Harrow Meadow. The land is owned by Eynsford Parish Council and discussions are currently being held between the parties. The matter is complicated by the fact the Harrow Meadow is in the Green Belt and thus there are planning limitations on what might be built on such land. Exceptions to Green Belt policy however have been granted for village halls elsewhere based on the applications showing what are known as 'Very Special Circumstances' to the planners, in this case Sevenoaks District Council.

The site offers a number of advantages including suitable topography and tree lines to minimise the visual impact of a hall, increased scope for new outdoor events, including improving the playing field and changing rooms, and on site car parking which would alleviate some of the current problems experienced along the High Street.

However in order for the Harrow Meadow option to proceed, is will be necessary to sell the current site for residential development. Architects have been instructed to look at the options for both sites and the Trustees are working hard to gather the information which will be necessary to accompany any planning application. It is hoped that formal planning applications for both sites will be made towards the end of the summer.

In the near future, updates will be issued to residents via Trident, posters and social media, and presentations will be arranged so that residents can comment on design proposals. A survey of current users is also being carried out to find out what facilities people would like to see in a new hall.

A survey of the village in 2011 showed that the hall is central to village life and helped to make Eynsford a good place in which to live.
The Trustees are committed to providing a vibrant community with a hall suitable for the 21st century with a design that will allow more users to enjoy greater facilities than those currently on offer. Should anyone require any further information, or feel that they might have skills that might help the Trustees at this significant time, then please get in touch, either via the website at www.eynsfordvh.com or via the Parish Council.

Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and it's services. There are also areas dedicated to the village and community groups with the option for you to add your own events for listing. Have a look at **www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk**

We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news, share useful information . We love to hear your views and to see your pictures too. Do follow us to keep up to date! Let us know what you think and what other kind of information you would like us to share.