

# East Grinstead Civic News Town Council

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## Silver Gilt for East Court

EAST Court estate was awarded a Silver Gilt in the 'small parks' section of this year's South and South East in Bloom competition.

East Grinstead also won a Silver award in the 'large towns' category, with the judges singling out the pink and scarlet hanging baskets for particular praise.

Cllr David Banks of the town Bloom committee called the judges' verdicts "very good", and a credit to the many volunteers who take part in the annual competition.

Roy Elliott of Tudor Close is celebrating winning an award in the 'front gardens' category for the third year running with a riot of seasonal colour.

The 78-year-old gardener, who loves making his garden beautiful for his wife to enjoy, said he was "delighted and overwhelmed" by his triple triumph.

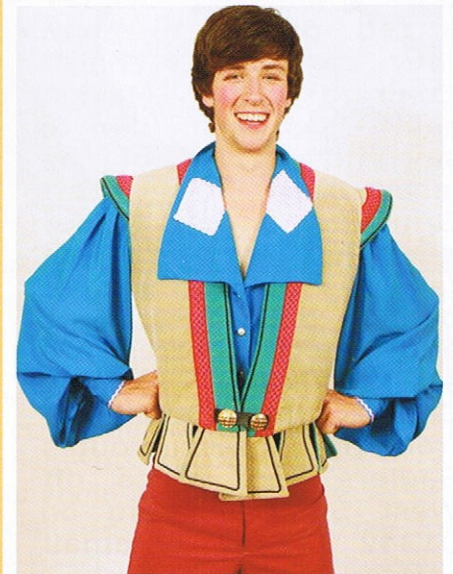
The best front garden award went to 18 Stuart Way, while the best landscaped gardens were named as 71 and 73 Gardenwood Road.

Gwynne Gardens took the prize for the best Close, while numbers 10, 12 and 14 Lister Avenue were judged to be the best group of front gardens in the town.

The award for the best commercial property went to the Queen Victoria hospital in the Holtye Road.

But Peter and Jenny Wakley, who have organised the annual inspection of every one of the town's front gardens for the past 15 years, are now retiring after being given an award to mark their many years of outstanding service.

"We've both loved working with East Grinstead in Bloom," said Jenny, "and it is very nice to have had our work recognised."



## It's Panto time!

JAMES Brown will play the lead in Dick Whittington and his Amazing Cat at Chequer Mead this Christmas.

A former Imberhorne pupil now studying at the Brit School, James already has dozens of appearances to his credit, and hopes his lead in this year's panto will be another step towards a career on the West End stage.

**\* A special Early Bird offer of panto tickets at just £12.50 is now available at the Chequer Mead box office on 01342 302000.**



## Noel is coming...

THIS year's Christmas Family Fun Day will take place on **5 December** when London Road will be filled with attractions including the popular French market.

The High Street Traders will host their own event on **19 December**, when they reprise their successful *'Twas the Sunday before Christmas...*

## Care with a chair

**THE EAST Grinstead Access Group is asking retail outlets in the town to help elderly and disabled customers by providing them with somewhere to sit down while out shopping.**

Shops taking part in the scheme will display a red poster to show they "care with a chair". Chairman Eric Mackie said: "I'd also like to say that copies of the last edition of the East Grinstead access guide, detailing services and facilities at local shops, public buildings, cafes and health centres are still available."

Copies are available from the Access group's Sadlers yard office off West St. Call them on 01342 322242, or email [office@egaccess.co.uk](mailto:office@egaccess.co.uk)

**EAST Grinstead Youth Council's new website is at:**  
[eastgrinsteadyouthcouncil.com](http://eastgrinsteadyouthcouncil.com)  
or email: [egtyc@hotmail.com](mailto:egtyc@hotmail.com)



**HANNAH Kester** is the new manager of Chequer Mead. "I'm thrilled," said the centre's former deputy. "Chequer Mead isn't just a great theatre and gallery space, "it's somewhere which has a very special place in East Grinstead's affections. I am honoured by the confidence the Trustees have placed in me and I look forward to building on our past successes."



**DISABLED Sarah Mitchell can now use her mobility scooter thanks to Cllr Paul Johnson and a willing team of volunteers and fundraisers.**

When Paul discovered Sarah, of The Weald, was housebound because she had nowhere to store her scooter, he recruited Stuart Clark, trading as MTM (Made To Measure) Carpentry, to make her a shed with a concrete base, with materials provided at a generous discount by Mid Sussex Timber.

Peter Tolhurst of Tolhurst Electrical Services Limited provided an electrical connection for recharging the scooter's batteries. Sarah has also been given a portable ramp to access the nearby pavement.

Cash to pay for the project came from St Luke's church, the East Grinstead Lions Club, and friends and councillors who held a fundraising bbq.

"I am overwhelmed," said Sarah. "This has changed my life."

## Travel Tips

**West Sussex County Council** has given every bus stop in the county a unique eight-letter code which will enable mobile phone-users to learn the actual arrival times of the next three buses due at their nearest stop. The codes, all beginning wsx, are printed on the bus stop flags, and passengers who make note of them ahead of journeys can check the information before setting out.

A free explanatory leaflet is available from the council help point in the public library.

**Metrobus** has produced a free 'Days Out' booklet listing the main attractions served by its routes, from Brighton to country pubs. The details of the places listed include any special offers for ticket-holders, such as the free postcard on offer at East Grinstead Museum. Booklets, which include a geographically correct map and details of ticket types, are available from the tourist desk in the town library.



**MAYOR Stephen Bartlett** was delighted to cut the ribbon at the official opening of The Market Square in the High Street. Owned by wine expert Bill Rolfe and his wife Chris, the town's newest business has wine, beer, milk, newspapers, baked goods and a delicatessen counter. Open daily from 7am to 10pm, it's about "old fashioned customer service" says Bill.

## Could you be a foster carer?

**WEST Sussex desperately needs more foster carers.**

Fostering combines family life with a skilled profession.

Some youngsters come into care from families experiencing difficulties, or in which they have been neglected or abused. Others have disabilities and their parents need support to go on caring for them on a shared basis.

But all fostered children need to feel safe, settled and secure while they are away from their families. The foster carers who help to rebuild their lives come from a wide variety of ages and backgrounds.

But what they all have in common is the patience and energy to meet the needs of children in their care whether they remain for a few days, or many months.

**\* For more information ring 01403 229333 or visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fostering)**



THE National Lottery Fund has given £49,700 towards the cost of East Grinstead's Community Play.

The play, about East Grinstead during WWII, will be staged at Sackville school from 29 November until 11 December.

Anyone interested in tracking the progress of this landmark event in the town's history can follow the project on Facebook.



A SCHEME to involve East Grinstead residents and their councillors in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is having a positive effect on community life in the town, said Cllr Bob Mainstone.

Four Neighbourhood Panels - covering the wards of Herontye and Ashurst Wood, Imberhorne and Baldwins, the Town Centre, and Ashplats, and run by committees of about a dozen - were set up to help the police prioritise their response to issues worrying local people. But they also address the wider needs of the wards they serve said Bob, a member of the Imberhorne/Baldwins panel.

His group's work has included reporting untaxed, abandoned and speeding vehicles, overhanging branches, pot holes and out-of-order street lights, and carrying out litter picks. Last winter Cllrs Bob and Christine Mainstone, Bernard Gillbard and Lee Marmara combined their budgets to give every primary school child in their wards a fluorescent safety band.

Youngsters also helped design and plant a garden at the Lingfield Road recreation ground which has become an important part of the town's entry to the South East in Bloom competition.

Contact the Imberhorne/Baldwins panel at [www.eastgrinsteadcommunity.co.uk](http://www.eastgrinsteadcommunity.co.uk), telephone 08719515812, or email them on [info@eastgrinsteadcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@eastgrinsteadcommunity.co.uk)

SEE the Council website at [www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk](http://www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk) for news updates, Council meetings, agendas, minutes and the town diary. Also find councillors' email addresses and longer versions of stories in this Civic News.

### Geraldine does double

CIVIC News editor Geraldine Durrant will have her two latest books published in time for Christmas.

**Twinbane: An Appalling True History** is available on Amazon now.

**Pirate Gran Goes for Gold**, published by the National Maritime Museum, will be launched at the museum during October half term.

