

THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY 2026



“Bow Bells” Mileposts

There is a series of mileposts on the main London to Eastbourne road with several prominent between Forest Row and East Grinstead (the milepost above is on the A22 just north of Worsted Lane). The cast iron mile markers were put in place by the turnpike trusts in 1754. These have been described as “rebus” or puzzle milestones, a rebus being a picture representing syllables or word, often being a pun. This often held belief is that the distance represents the number of miles from the church of St Mary le Bow in the City. However, an alternative theory, from examination of Ordnance Survey maps, shows the measurements were in fact taken from the “Standard” (an ancient fountain) at Cornhill, considered to mark the centre of London. From the 19th century measurements were taken from a plaque at Charing Cross!

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Andrew Brock	Alan Ward
Sharon Crane	Janice Ward

The East Grinstead Society is an independent association, which exists to maintain and enhance the town’s distinctive character by monitoring planning applications and the amenities in the town and its surroundings. Evening meetings are held during the year. The Society has also produced “Town Trails” which describe walks through the historic parts of the town reflecting its heritage, cultural events and recognition of notable members and residents. (Available from the Museum, the Library, the Bookshop and the Society).

PROGRAMME 2026

January	No meeting
Wednesday 18 February	THE MAGIC of CROP CIRCLES by Andy Thomas . With stunning visuals, Andy explores the extraordinary phenomenon of crop circles and the many varied and imaginative theories put forward over the years to explain them.
Wednesday 18 March	THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY by Ian Everest. "The Cinderellas of the Fields". The talk will look at how The Land Army started, its role during two world wars and its recognition in more recent times.
Wednesday 15 April	THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY by James Dickinson . A medieval embroidery depicting the Norman Conquest of England. The talk will tell the story of the tapestry and illustrate and explain most of the important scenes displayed.
Monday 4 May	MAY FAIR: Society Stall in the High Street. 10am – 4pm . An opportunity to find out who we are and what we do, plus a tombola with fantastic prizes and a chance to purchase yummy homemade preserves!
Wednesday 13 May	A SUSSEX SCRAPBOOK by Christopher Horlock . Chris will entertain us with an enchanting mix of anecdotes on people connected with Sussex, its traditions and landmarks.
Wednesday 17 June	A HISTORY OF SPORT IN SUSSEX by Mathew Homewood . From the amazing to the bizarre.
Wednesday 15 July	SUMMER DRINKS AND OPEN FORUM Discussion on local issues including Planning, Development and Heritage.
August	No meeting
Wednesday 16 September	STANDEN by a National Trust Speaker . Our speaker will outline the history and the charms of our local Grade I listed National Trust property.
Wednesday 14 October	CRAWLEY DOWN by Jeremy Hodkinson . The coming of the railway provided the impetus for the development of a village that is now home to more than 5,000 people. The talk traces the key milestones of the village's growth.
Wednesday 18 November	59th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING . An assessment of the year and election of your new Committee. Followed by Penny Harris to complete the story of Edwina Hall from her popular 2025 talk: the transition to life on a smallholding, raising pigs and family.
Wednesday 16 December	THE GILBERT and SULLIVAN STORY by Ian Gledhill . This is the story of how they met and came to work together. Illustrated with examples from their operas. - Followed by Christmas drinks and mince pies! .

**Wednesday meetings start at 7.30pm in the Glen Vue Community Hub, Railway Approach
with no charge for members and £5/non-member.**

The annual subscription of £15 includes Newsletters and Bulletins.
Application form can be found on the website, or from the Hon. Treasurer.

Website: www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org