

**In brief**  
**Girl footballers win a new kit**

**EAST GRINSTEAD:** Sackville School's girl's football team will look like Premier League professionals heading into the new season this autumn term, after winning a national kit-makeover competition.

The girls team, who play against other schools in the area and also compete in mini-festivals, took home the prize after winning round social media, including professional players, and England women's captain Steph Houghton.

The team was one of five table toppers in the 'schools' category, who all took home a "hat-trick" of goodies, consisting of a new strip, a set of new practice balls and a £500 club donation.

The competition was run by football App, High5it, which is about to launch in the UK.

The team is now waiting for their prizes to be delivered by a mystery guest, believed to be professional footballer.

Speaking of their win, Sackville School spokesman Stephen Elsdon, said: "I am very grateful, proud and excited to help girls get into the football winning circle, so to speak."

**Annual quiz**

**EAST GRINSTEAD:** Chequer Mead will be hosting its annual Friends Quiz Night on Tuesday, September 9.

Teams will be made of six, but individuals are welcome to go along and be teamed with others.

Entry is £5 a head and the winners will receive a cash prize.

# Take your place with local celebs

Artist has gap to fill in portrait project

**Jo Gilbert**

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AN ARTIST and former Imberhorne School student is looking for one final East Grinstead resident to complete her townspeople Hall of Fame.

If you are a regular around the town, you may recognise some faces on the wall of the Jubilee Community Centre until November 30, including Imberhorne School head teacher Martin Brown, bookshop owner John Pye, Paralympic sportsman Doran Scotson and mother Linda, and Sir Nicholas Soames MP.

**Connection**

But alongside the eight faces – who according to artist Sheri Gee have a "special connection" to the town – there is currently a blank canvas waiting to be filled.

Charlwood Road resident Sheri began work on her Art Trail portrait project earlier this year, but wanted to give a random member of the public the chance to appear alongside the well-known faces, by inviting them to enter themselves or a loved one into a prize draw.

Once the exhibition ends, the portrait is theirs to keep.

Sheri, 39, who works in London three days a week as an art dir-



**ART TRAIL:** Sheri Gee painted eight well-known locals

ector, said: "I wanted to offer anyone the chance to have a portrait painted. Commissioning a portrait is probably not something people would normally consider doing and it's not something that everyone can afford. I'm excited to meet the sitter, to find out a bit about them and give them or their family something to treasure and hopefully pass down to future generations."

The portrait project, which she describes as "six months of work," began when Sheri approached a list of people she wanted to paint from a photograph.

One such person was Linda Scotson, mother of aspiring Paralympic athlete Doran Scotson and founder of the Advanced Centre

for the Scotson Technique which helps improve the lives of children with brain injuries and breathing problems.

"I was so touched and encouraged when Sheri approached me," Linda said. "She said she knew of the half marathons Doran runs for charity despite suffering severe brain injuries at birth. She had seen him in newspapers and knew what he had achieved. I'm just so glad she's understood what we're trying to achieve – to inspire other families and the world to see what is possible. I thought the portraits really captured the spirit of that."

The Art Trail project was officially opened by the East Grinstead Bookshop owner John Pye, at a ceremony in Chequer Mead's Greenstede Gallery on May 30.

**Attention**

John got the attention of artist Sheri while the Art Trail group were meeting in the upstairs room of the bookshop once a month in the 18-month run-up to the launch. Sheri took a photograph of him and a few months later she was showing him a first draft of his portrait.

Despite being convinced his portrait was "scaring small children", John said he thought Sheri had done a fantastic job.

He said: "I'm very impressed by anyone who can draw, but it's a special skill to capture someone's likeness. Sheri has her own distinctive style. I think it's a very good likeness and I'm very flattered to be chosen. But my daughter did say to me 'Dad, why did they choose you?'"

What with working in London three days a week and caring for two small children, Sheri wishes she had time to paint more people.

She said: "Peter Andre would have been fab, but it didn't quite work out. And being a commuter I regret not adding one of my fellow train travellers. I'd have liked to have added someone who has commuted for 20-plus years." People have until September 3



**AMAZING:** Sheri wanted to include Linda Scotson, of the Advance Centre, East Grinstead, because of her "amazing story"



**SUPPORT:** Sheri says Simon Elliott, senior pastor at the Jubilee Community Church, is a friend and is "incredibly supportive"



**INSPIRING ATHLETE:** Doran Scotson was an "obvious choice" and a "local sporting celebrity"



**THE POLITICIAN:** Sheri was glad that Sir Nicholas Soames MP agreed to be part of her collection

to enter the prize draw for the final portrait at the Jubilee Community Centre.

The exhibition is a part of the Townscape Art Trail, which consists of 15 exhibitions by different

artists located in various venues across East Grinstead until the end of November.

See more of Sheri's work at [www.sherigee.com](http://www.sherigee.com) and [www.artfinder.com/sheri-gee](http://www.artfinder.com/sheri-gee)



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## Clock is not handy for telling the time

TIME stands still in East Grinstead – at least it has on one face of the town clock in London Road.

But East Grinstead Town Council insists it is only a temporary problem and that everything will soon be tick-tockety-too.

A council spokesman said: "At present, one set of hands is disconnected from the clock; the other side is functioning as per normal. The problem is a mechanical one which has been diagnosed by our contractors and we have placed an order that will enable us to replace the faulty part.

"Sadly, we have had to source this part from Europe as there is no longer a UK supplier who provides these very specialised items. But of course, this being August, it means our supplier has shut down for the summer holidays and we are going to have to wait until next month before delivery."



**TIMELESS:** Hands are missing from one face of the town clock