



The Eastry Village News

February/ March
2018

Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police

999

Non-emergency Police

101

Rural Community Warden

07811 271299

Hannah Osborne

Gas Emergency

0800 111999

Highways Fault Reporting

03000 418181

Doctors Surgery

619790/ 611608

Emergency out of hours:

111

Parish Council

www.eastrypc.co.uk

www.facebook.com/EastryPC

Chairman: Nick Kenton

Vice-Chairman: Annie Wiles

Police Community Support

Telephone 101

PCSO Emma Carmichael 58778

Emma.carmichael@kent.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

611580 Sheila Smith

UK Power Network

105

C of E Primary School

611360

Head Teacher: Tim Halling

PTA Treasurer: Mrs Karen Rang

Clerk to Council

614320 Sarah Wells

(clerk@eastrypc.co.uk)

3 Gore Terrace, Gore Road

Eastry, CT13 0LS

Village News

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Archived copies: (from 2007) www.eastrypc.co.uk/evns.asp

Hard copies (c1930-2006) - Sandwich Guildhall Archives.

To view/study contact Town Clerk's Office 617197

Village Diary - kept at the Post Office, for all village organisations' fixtures, events & meetings.

Village Hall Bookings - Booking Clerk 614054

Village Forum - www.facebook.com/eastryvillageforum

Welcome Pack - information for people new to Eastry

Rosemary Barwick 611420

What's On and Local Events - page 4

Young People's Contacts

Young People's Club (next to the Gun Park)

Have fun and make friends
Admission free

Meetings: Tuesday 7pm - 9pm (Age 12-19)
Wednesday 6pm - 8pm (Age 9-16)
Thursday 7pm- 9pm (Age 12-19)



Contacts: Chairman Dick Laslett (07702 459332) dicklaslett@yahoo.co.uk

For party bookings or hall hire - contact Monica in Bubbles Nursery or the Chairman.

Incy Wincys

Baby and Toddler Group in the Young People's Club meet every Monday including school holidays (apart from bank holidays) 9.30am to 11.00am.

We have toys for all ages and arts and crafts and lots of music, singing and movement.

Also we provide a healthy snack for children and tea and coffee for parents.

For more info contact Sam or Ria on incywincys@hotmail.com

Rainbows

Meet on Mondays

Contact Ginny Harvey
on 611183

Brownies

Meet on Wednesdays

Contact Linda Clarke
on 614553

Guides

Meet on Fridays

Contact Jooles George
on 813752

10th DEAL EASTRY SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader: Graham Baker 07837 430167 / 01304 611487

BEAVERS (5¾-8yr)

Monday 6pm - 7.15pm

Leader Elinor
07429 294539

CUBS (8-10½yr)

Tuesday 6.30pm - 8pm

Leader Emma (contact
Graham Baker)

SCOUTS (10½-14yr)

Wednesday 7pm - 9pm

Leader Vacant (contact
Graham Baker)

EXPLORERS (14yr+)

Meet every other Friday from 7.45pm to 9.15pm and focus on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
Contact: Graham

FOR BOOKINGS

Contact: Marion Wanstall (617854)
or the Group Leaders

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

Scouting is fun for adults too. If you would like to help then please call Graham.

Local Events

Fashion Show in the Village Hall Friday 23rd March - 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Come along and have a look at the cloths, maybe have the chance to do some modelling and buy anything you fancy.

Refreshments available. A night out with the girls.

Eastry Horticultural Society - February 13th Talk on Fan Bay Deep Shelter of the National Trust 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

March 13th Talk on Canterbury Cathedral Gardens 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

St Mary's Events quiz evening at the Church Hall

Saturday Feb 10th 7.30pm. Tables of maximum eight. £5 per person.

Bring your own refreshments. Proceeds split between St Mary's Church and our chosen local charity - Porchlight. Some teams are already booked but there are still some spaces.

Please contact Carole Finch on 611847 or Alastair Carnegie on 813120 to book.

The Events team are trying to create an email address list of people interested in being kept informed. Due to data protection issues we would ask those interested to speak to Carole or Alastair initially by phone.

Eastry and District Open Group - meetings in the Church Hall

Monday 19 February 7.30pm AGM and Alastair Carnegie – The Cuban Revolution

Monday 19 March 7.30pm John Van Der Dol – In Search of Polar Bears

Eastry Local Interests Group - meetings in the Church Hall

Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 7.30pm Nick Woodland - Street signs of Eastry

Royal British Legion - regular monthly meetings at 11.00am at The Five Bells on third Sunday of the month (excluding August).

New ex-services and social members (no military service requirement) warmly welcomed.

Further details from Terry James 614245 or John Arnold 449842

Bangers and Bingo Saturday February 24th

Doors open 6.45pm; eyes down 7.30pm

The Village Hall Committee runs a Bangers and Bingo night, where you can play a friendly game of bingo and have your supper.

A meal (sausage, chips, beans, onions and tomatoes and a cup of tea or coffee) with entry costs just £2.50. Bingo tickets can be purchased for £4.50 for a book of six. Also, a flyer game with a snowball prize and a raffle, free parking. A cheap night out for all the family.

The Big Breakfast - Saturday 17th March and Saturday 15th September

Twice a year, the Village Hall Committee provides a big breakfast on a Saturday morning in the Village Hall between 8.00am and 12 noon.

For just £5.50 you can have a Full English Breakfast including tea or coffee and fruit juice with waitress service.

Come along with friends and family for a Big Breakfast without the washing up.

Tickets can be purchased in advance or on the door.

Tilmanstone Village Market Tilmanstone Village Hall

First Saturday of the month 10.00am - 11.00am Admission 20p

Regular Village Hall Events	
Kent Mobile Library Service 9.10am - 9.30am Fridays 2nd, 16th February 2nd, 16th, 30th March	
Coffee Break Everyone welcome - Free refreshments Fridays 9am-12noon	
Hearing Aid Clinic Fridays 9th February & 9th March 10.00am - 11.30am	

Disclaimer

The Editor reserves the right to cut, edit or refuse to publish any contributions and does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in published articles. All advertisements in the magazine are inserted in good faith, but the magazine committee accepts no responsibility for any statement made by the advertisers; nor endorses the products or services offered.



Working for the Residents of Eastry

EASTRY VILLAGE CARETAKER

Eastry Parish Council are looking to appoint a Village Caretaker to maintain the village and its amenities.

Duties will be varied and dependent upon seasonal requirements, but will include servicing the local village public conveniences; litter picking; sweeping footpaths; weed and leaf clearance and cleaning street furniture and signage. Some administration duties are involved in notifying DDC and KCC regarding repairs and maintenance required to amenities within their responsibility.

Tools and equipment will be provided.

The position would suit an energetic, flexible, self motivated individual who has some gardening and DIY knowledge and takes a pride in the appearance of the village.

Seasonal hours, average 15 hours per week

Apply to Eastry Parish Council by sending your application to:

The Clerk to Eastry PC, 3 Gore Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry, CT130LS
or email: eastrypc@yahoo.com

Volunteer Support Wardens

Are you passionate, enthusiastic and up for a new challenge? Do you like meeting new people, want to learn new skills and provide valuable support to local residents? Kent County Council, working in conjunction with the Kent Association of Local Councils are recruiting **Volunteer Support Wardens** in selected areas.

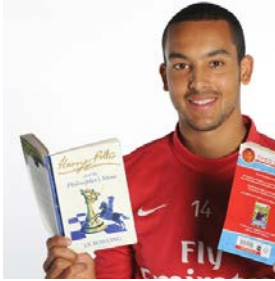


The role will be challenging but rewarding and you'll be making a real difference to local communities.

For more information and to find out in which areas this role is being launched contact Community Wardens on 03000 413455 or visit www.kent.gov.uk and search for "volunteer as a support warden".

Calling all dads, steps-dads, uncles, cousins, grandads, big brothers.....

With World Book Day just around the corner, please help us out with our exciting new reading display. We're calling it.....



Real Men Read!

All we want you to do is send us either a photo of you reading (It can be a book, magazine, newspaper, football programme, anything at all) or a shelfie (a photo of your bookshelf).

Either email it to us at kplant@eastry.kent.sch.uk or drop in a paper copy to the school office.

All photos received by Friday 23rd February will be entered into a prize draw, with a £10 book token for the winning picture. Thanks for your support!

Eastry Theatrical Company Presents the pantomime **CINDERFELLA**



on

Friday 16th February & Saturday 17th February - 7.30pm

(Doors open at 7pm)

(plus a matinee performance on Saturday - 2pm)

(Doors open at 1.30pm)

Tickets available from The Newsagents (Bickers)

Eastry Pharmacy and the Box Office (contact 611484)

Cost £5.50 per ticket

Church Contacts

St Mary's Parish Church

www.eastrybenefice.co.uk

Clergy:

Revd. David Ridley	619619
Revd. Jennifer Pilcher	611472
Revd. David Willis	611959

Bell Captain:

Mick Johnson	365118
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Organist:

Maureen Norman	366761
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Church Wardens:

Dr. Alastair Carnegie	813120
Jo Slater	619873

Assistant Church Wardens:

Mary Goosen	611306
Sue Brearley	761668

Church Hall Bookings:

Bob Barwick	611420
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Enquiries:

Please phone the office	611323
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Church Office

Benefice Office, The Church Hall, Church Street, Eastry, CT13 0HH

Wednesdays 11am - 1pm and Fridays 10am - 12noon

Tel 611323 e-mail - eastry.benefice@gmail.com

During out-of-office hours a message can be left.

Benefice Website

Please visit our website: www.EWBchurches.org.uk

Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/EWBchurches

Pew Notes Plea

I'm just a piece of paper, size A4 bent in two,
Revised each week and bringing what's on in church for you.

You get me with your hymn book, each time to church you wend,
Please take me home and read me, there's things you can attend.

Join other folk for fellowship in home church or away,
For other things you don't attend, remember please to pray.

I'm just a piece of paper, designed with you in mind
So at the end of worship, please don't leave me behind.

Donald Baldwin

Church Services

Sunday mornings at Eastry

Every Sunday: 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

1st Sunday, 9.30am Come and Praise in Church Hall

1st to 4th Sundays, 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Evensong Services 6.30pm

4th February and 4th March (Northbourne)

11th February and 11th March (Tilmanstone)

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion Eastry Church Hall - all are welcome

Special Services

Thursday 8th February

School Founders Day Service 9.15am

Wednesday 14th February

Ash Wednesday: 10am Holy Communion in Eastry Church

Sunday 25th February

Thinking Day Service: Guides and Scouts 10.30am at Eastry

Celtic Service: 4pm at Woodnesborough

Sunday 11th March

Mothering Sunday Service: 10.30 am at Eastry

Thursday 29th March

School Easter Service 9.15am

Holy Week Services (TBA)

Maundy Thursday 29th March

Good Friday 30th March

Easter Day 1st April

The Church Registers

Funeral:

3rd January Apsey "Dan" Roberts

Sing Along and Tea

Tuesdays 20th February and 20th March Church Hall 2.30pm - 4.00pm
We will sing old well-known songs and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

There will be a raffle. Everyone is welcome. **CONTACT 611400**

Friday Friendship Lunch Club

Fridays 9th February, 9th March Church Hall at 12 Noon. Contact 611400

Easter Lilies

If anyone would like to make a donation for Easter Lilies in the Church in remembrance of a loved one, the cost is £3 per Lily PLEASE GIVE YOUR DONATION to: Liz Kinns, 81 Peak Drive (611400), or Jinny Fagg at the Church

Retreat at Home

Week of Accompanied Prayer (WAP)

A Week of Accompanied Prayer (also known as Week of Guided Prayer) is being held at St Mary's Church during the week of 13th to 19th May.

This is a marvellous way to make an individually guided retreat in the midst of ordinary life and is for EVERYONE - no previous experience necessary!

Your commitment for the week is to set aside 30 minutes each day for prayer and to meet with your trained prayer companion for about 30 minutes in St Mary's Church, at a previously agreed time. This time is always considered very precious to both.

The week is a journey in the love of God and you will be encouraged in your own unique pathway of prayer. A key factor of the whole experience is that there is no pressure and it is based on the principle that Jesus meets us "where we are".

The role of the prayer companion is to walk alongside you as you reflect on your prayer life.

Following one WAP a retreatant wrote: "I was very uncertain of commencing a Week of Accompanied Prayer....but the week brought me closer to God and more open to receive his love in a way I could not have imagined" another person wrote "...I was certainly glad that I plucked up the courage to go along".

The purpose of the WAP is to deepen our relationship with God and is for YOU whatever place you are on your journey. So please reserve the dates and more information will follow soon.

Rector's Letter

As I took down my Christmas cards on twelfth night, I noticed that the robin redbreast was depicted, as every year, on the cover of a number of the cards. So what is it about the humble robin that gives it such a strong association with Christmas?

Well first of all, with its red breast, the robin is the most recognisable and apparently most popular of British birds, found throughout the country, and unlike many other birds, staying with us through the winter. Moreover, it is a relatively approachable bird, it will even feed out of the hand, and it can be seen and heard singing melodiously through the early months of the year as it marks its territory.



But staying put, does also take its toll – the winter can be very tough for the robin and food can be scarce, especially when the ground freezes; predatory cats are always a menace, and the average life of a robin is just over a year, so a robin will do well to see out more than one winter. The robin is in fact ferociously territorial and may fight to the death.

But there are other connections which give the robin a special place at Christmas. First of all, folklore tells us that the robin gained its redbreast in going to relieve the suffering of Christ on the cross. As the robin sought to draw a thorn from Christ's head, a drop of his blood spilt onto the robin which gave it the red coloured chest. So the robin has become associated with charity and holiness.

Coming forward now to more recent times, the first postmen were known as robins because of their bright red tunics. So many old Christmas cards depicted the robin dressed as a postman delivering cards. The robin gave its name to the postman and the postman gave his role to the robin! Hence the robin has become firmly associated with the Christmas card.

The robin then offers us a lesson in perseverance and loyalty. While other birds fly off to warmer climes, the robin stays put offering his colour and song through the dark days of winter to cheer us and encourage us. The robin is also a symbol of optimism and hope – through the long winter nights, the robin's presence is a sign that spring is on its way. And the robin is an encourager to us to trust and offer company to each other – especially in the bitterly cold winter weather.

Finally, the robin offers an example of humility, often having to give credit for its tuneful singing to the nightingale.

There is a story that, as Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher breezed into a meeting one autumn day and announced that, the night before, a nightingale had serenaded her from just outside her bedroom window. A bold civil servant pointed out that nightingales are summer visitors, and

would have left for Africa — adding that it was a robin. The PM then hissed in his ear: 'If the Prime Minister says she heard a nightingale, she heard a nightingale!'

It's also suggested that the 'nightingale' which sang in Berkeley Square, in the song, was probably a robin.

So as we enter the depths of winter, spare a thought for the self-effacing robin who offers us cheer and hope through these dark days as we wait for the emergence of spring.

And may I wish you a happy and hope-filled new year.

David Ridley

Christmas Star on Church Tower



We are almost unique locally, in having a star at Christmas time on the tower of the church in Eastry.

The tradition of tower illumination goes back many years, a picture in the archive shows an illuminated cross, the present star has been in use for at least twenty years. An earlier star was built in the 1960s by Mr Bob Revell who had his wheelwright business in Mill Lane. Hence the name Wheelwrights Way where his workshop stood. Mr Ray Clark (electrician) was responsible for the wiring up of the lamp holders. When not in use it is dismantled and stored two floors down.

Early in December each year, a two section ladder is hauled from the ground by rope up the outside of the tower. The sections of the star are retrieved and assembled lying flat on the tower roof. The star used to be lit by domestic bulbs, presently it is illuminated by LED cord fixed to the star's structure by plastic pipe clips. Once this is done, wiring is connected to a waterproof junction box and the system is tested.

A team of five people is needed to hoist the star up, one using the ladder, the other members of the team hold on to ropes attached to the points of the star to



steady it until the clamps are fitted around the flagpole.

Unfortunately time has taken its toll on the structure of the star, rot has been found to be extensive and a temporary repair had to be carried out to make the star useable for last Christmas.

A complete re-build will have to be carried out before December 2018. Estimates for this re-build are in the region of £300. If you would like to contribute towards cost of this rebuild, please contact David Ridley 619619 or the PCC Treasurer Michael Snarey 611687

Bob Barwick

Pictures courtesy of Bob Plant.

Cause and Effect

It is not unknown to go outside to find deposits of sand on cars and windows which, we understand from experts derive from violent sand storms in North Africa hundreds of miles away. It was intriguing to experience in October the eerie effect of a dull yellow/orange sky with a red corona around the sun. This unusual effect had apparently been caused by smoke and dust emanating from extensive forest fires in Portugal and Spain, and drifting across on the wind.

Some years ago I purchased a selection of obsolete village tradesmen's accounts from the 1880s. On reading through these it became obvious that a major weather event had occurred resulting in dozens of roof repairs being undertaken around the village in 1884. (Ref. is made to work being undertaken to Fir Bank, Lynch House, South Bank House, Brook House, farm buildings at Hay Farm and many cottages.)

I checked the weather records of this period which pointed to the violent eruption of Krakatoa, close to present day Indonesia, resulting in huge clouds of gas and ash and creating massive tsunamis in late August 1883. Despite this occurrence 7,000 miles away, due to its ferocity we experienced the dramatic skies, a drop in temperatures and persistent cyclonic winds well into January 1884.

This unusual event inspired poets and artists alike to record this happening although in the press it was said that the general public felt feelings of insecurity.

*Had the fierce ashes of some fiery peak
Been hurl'd so high they ranged about the globe?
For day by day, thro' many a blood-red eve....
The wrathful sunset glared.*

Alfred Tennyson

Douglas Welby

Anglo-Saxon Origins (continued)

Traces of patterns of landholding and types of land use can occasionally be found in local names. Gore Lane and Gore Road in Eastry are derived from the word 'gara', meaning a 'triangular piece of land', today bounded on a third side by Woodensborough Lane.

The name Ripple means 'a strip of land', while Worth means 'an enclosure'. Felderland represents the land once held by those known as the 'open land people'. Some places could initially become known by the types of domestic animals kept in the area and then retain the name long after use had changed. Tickenhurst was a 'wooded hill frequented by goats', Studdal, like Stodmarsh, was a place where stallions were reared.

Finally, several local places became known by the characteristics or peculiarities of their one-time inhabitants. Shingleton was once the haunt of the scrinlingas, 'the shrunken, withered people', Poison Cross was where the pysingas or 'short, fat people' once lived. Womenswold was, it would seem, not a wise place to go if you were a women, rather ironically, since it was the forest of Wimelingas or 'active men'.

No doubt in the later Middle Ages the active men of Eastry spent much of their time at Buttsole, once a muddy pool by which the butts were situated and archery was practiced. The muddy pool now has ducks on it, and the last missile to be retrieved from it was not an arrow, but a Second World War incendiary bomb.

First published in the 1980s and was written by Michael King.

Quiz - What is the Occupation

1. My old man's a
2.in the house
3. Bob the
4. All the nice girls love a
5. Call the
6. Butcher, baker,
7. Arthur Daley
8. Lovejoy
9. The laughing
10.Pat and his black and white cat

Questions by Verena Gothard - answers on page 17

New Curate

As some of you may be aware, Sandra Marsh will be joining the Eastry & Woodnesborough Benefice as Curate in July 2018 and living in Woodnesborough Vicarage. Sandra has written a brief introduction about herself.



I come from Northern Ireland but have lived in Cranbrook for the past nineteen years. I have played an active part in the church and other local activities in and around the town. I am married to Simon and we have three grown up children and one grandson – the latter is now twenty months old and a great joy.

My career to date has mainly been in the education sector, most recently as a teacher and senior manager in an international school near Hastings. I have also worked in heritage tourism, especially at the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden, and my other interests include squash, swimming, gardening, reading and sampling wines.

After a lengthy selection process, my training for ordination at St Augustine's College at Malling Abbey started in September 2016; it will last for two years. Part of the training has been working three days a week in the benefice of Headcorn and the Suttons where I have begun learning through practical experience to fulfil many of the tasks of a Vicar. So far, among other things, I have set up a Mini Messy Church and a Stay and Play for mothers of pre-school children in St Mary's, Sutton Valence. Whilst this is in its infancy the signs are good that it will grow. I have also been visiting the Beavers and Cubs in Sutton Valence and have enjoyed helping them with badge work and campfires.

Whilst I feel energised by young people I have also found great inspiration from the elderly. It is a privilege to hear their stories and wisdom and I have learnt a lot from them.

Simon and I look forward to meeting you all in due course and I am excited to be moving across Kent to live in Woodnesborough and share in the ministry of the benefice.

Sandra Marsh

In the Garden

I'm sitting here at Brambling House looking out of the window and I can see the new shoots of the spring bulbs pushing up through the soil. By the time you read this article they will no doubt be in full bloom.

Just before Christmas my wife Dot and myself had a lovely surprise visit from Ray and Carol Sedgwick. They had read my article regarding my aim to create an "All Year-Round Garden" at Brambling House.



I just hope with my planting of spring bulbs that I have done everything correctly, as Ray has won trophies, locally, at county level and nationally for his prize daffodils. I'm sure Ray and Carol will be back later in the spring to view my efforts.

Into our New Year of Gardeningold gardeners will tell you it's a tradition to plant your shallots in the ground on the shortest day and lift them on the longest day. Also, to sow your onion seeds on Boxing Day. I tried this method with little success, and preferred to plant my shallots in nine division modules, in late January/early February in a cold greenhouse. They are then ready to plant out in your vegetable garden around late March.



I would only grow onions from seed if I was looking for prize onions, sowing the seed in late January and as soon as the seed has germinated, plant the seedlings into single pots. For general use it is best to grow the onions from sets. Plant the sets into 12 division modules, and again they should be ready for planting out in March. If you do plant sets directly into the soil, make sure you cover them up

until good roots have formed, otherwise birds looking for nesting material will quite willingly tug at the top of the set and then leave them scattered across the ground.

You can buy shallots and onion sets pre-packed or loose. I prefer to buy them loose. Take your time in buying them, don't just pick up a handful and say, "that-a-do". As you pick them out, use the finger and thumb

test. If they feel soft or there is any sign of mould put them to one side, or hand them to the shop keeper.

If you are looking for lovely white blanched leeks this year, again sow the seed in late January/early February, as soon as the seed has germinated transplant them into 75mm (3") pots. As the seedlings grow, allow them to grow up through a tube (initially I use plastic waste pipe, then once big enough, plastic rainwater pipe).

Don't be too hasty in sowing seed direct into the soil, it is far too cold at the moment, and the seed will only lay there and rot. You can buy soil thermometers, but I've been told that the best method of testing soil temperature, is to drop your trousers and sit on the soil, if it's too cold for your bottom, it's too cold for seed sowing.

Whichever method you may choose, enjoy your garden.



Art E. Choke

Mini Spring Show

Woodnesborough Village Hall - Sunday March 18th.

All members of the Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies and members of gardening clubs are entitled to take part.

No entry form, no fees - just take your early spring flowers and shrubs to the hall - 9.30am to 11.15am.

The AGM is followed by a light lunch while the judging takes place and then all are welcome to view their early exhibits.

For more details contact your Gardening Club or visit the KFHS website www.kentfod.com. You are assured of a warm welcome.

Answers to Quiz (page 14)

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Dustman | 6. Candle-stick maker |
| 2. Doctor | 7. Car sales-man |
| 3. Builder | 8. Antique dealer |
| 4. Sailor | 9. Policeman |
| 5. Midwife | 10. Postman |



Do you want to meet new people and make friends?

Do you want to be sure where your food has come from?



Do you need to save money on fruit and veg?



Do you need to de-stress and get some exercise?



Then you need an Allotment



For as little as £7.50 a year, you can have all the above and much, much more.

- Nothing to pay until October 2018
 - Choice of sites available,
 - Water included in plot fees.

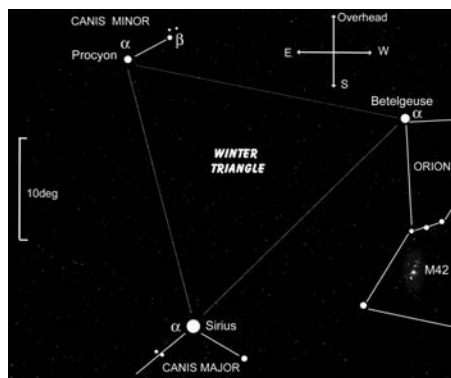
For more details contact:

Bob Barwick 611420 e-mail robert.barwick@btinternet.com

Peter Bailey 614184 e-mail peter.bailey68@btinternet.com

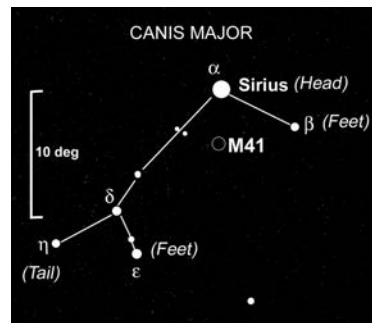
The Winter Triangle and Orion's Hunting Dogs

The constellation of Orion¹ is high in the southern sky during the winter months. Orion, the Hunter, had two hunting dogs known as Canis Minor (Lesser Dog) and Canis Major (Great Dog). Both of these constellations are included in Ptolemy's 48 constellations in the 2nd century AD². The orientation of the three constellations is shown in the picture below.



The supergiant star Betelgeuse (α -Ori) in Orion, mag 0.3-0.9) has a variable intensity and is 350 light years from us. Together with the bright stars Sirius and Procyon it forms the Winter Triangle, which is prominent in the S sky during the winter months. Canis Minor is a small constellation E of Orion's right arm and the bright star, Procyon, mag. 0.4, marks the dog's head and is 11.4 light years from us. The other star, Gomeisa (β -CMi) is its hind quarters. Because Procyon

risers in the east before Sirius its Greek name means "Before the Dog".



Canis Major is a much larger constellation to the SE of Orion. shown completely in the left hand picture Sirius (α -CMm) is the brightest star in the sky, mag -1.5 and is only 8.6 light years from us. Sirius is often called the "Dog Star" but the Greek translation is "Scorching". An ancient Greek belief was the presence of Sirius in the sky with the Sun during dry summer months meant crops would be scorched.

It looks like a dog sitting on his tail with his legs stretching to the west. Sirius marks the dog's head. A bright open cluster M41³, (size 0.5 deg, mag 4.5) in this constellation ~ 4 deg S of Sirius, is visible as a glow with the naked eye and nicely resolved with binoculars or a small telescope.

Michael Kinns

References

1 http://www.eastrypc.co.uk/evns/9923_EVNFebMar2016.pdf

2 David E. Faulkner, "The Mythology of the Night Sky- An Amateur Astronomers Guide to the Ancient Greek and Roman Legends", ch. 3 and Appendix B, Patrick Moore's Practical Astronomy Series, published by Springer.

3 <http://www.messier-objects.com/>



What is The Women's Institute?

I've taken this from our National Federation website:

"The Women's Institute (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation and in 2015 currently had almost 220,000 members in approximately 6,300 WIs. The WI plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. It is a non-sectarian, non-party political organisation. It is registered with the Charities Commission."

Well, that all sounds very worthy, but how do many people see the Women's Institute. Perhaps as lot of elderly ladies who make jam and cakes or sit sewing and knitting. To a degree I guess that is true, certainly in Eastry WI most of us fit into the older end of the age range, some of us make jam and cake or knit and sew, some of us do all of those things! Whilst our bodies might be showing their age our minds do not.

The Womens's Institute is far more than jam and Jerusalem however. Each year resolutions are chosen and voted for. In recent years our campaigns have ranged from climate control and food waste to the plight of the honey bee and dementia care. As a small WI (in urban areas many groups have upwards of a hundred members) Eastry members try to support these resolutions. In 2018 we start with February 14th, which, apart from being Valentines Day, is also designated as 'Show The Love' day This campaign aims to show people that climate change is affecting the things in their life that they love, such as bees, beaches, countryside and oceans and it asks people to wear and share green hearts to show that they would like to see action on climate change and we will be showing our support. Look out for green hearts at the Village Hall from 13th to 20th February.

If you think you would be interested in being involved with these issues you would be very welcome, we would certainly welcome the input of younger women.

Our next meeting is on February 7th at 19.30 when our speaker will be Peter Ewart with 'Tales of a Genealogist' . In our social time afterwards we will be making green hearts!

Sue Hankins President tel. 619414



Neighbourhood Watch

Now that the Christmas and New Year festivities are over, there will be people looking for opportunities to make money, possibly to cover the costs of providing for Christmas.

Do be wary of people knocking at your door, possibly claiming to be doing work in your area e.g. cleaning roofs of moss, offering to clean or replace guttering and wouldn't your property be enhanced with a new drive? Always check out the credentials of the caller. Anyone can have trade cards printed and can easily be a work of fiction. Our KCC warden Hannah Osborne can always check out details with Trading Standards - contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 040506.

For any major work, do obtain three quotes and remember that there is a cooling-off period before making a commitment to work being done on your property. Anyone with a van or truck and a pair of pruners and a chain saw can offer their services as a garden specialist and offer to cut back shrubs and trees. Always ensure that this so called expert has a licence for the disposal of any waste garden material otherwise you are responsible for anything that is dumped in the countryside i.e. fly-tipping. Please report any fly-tipping that you come across to our warden Hannah. Should you witness fly-tipping taking place then do not get involved, it could be dangerous, but if possible take down the details of the number plate and description of the vehicle and the driver and again report this to the police as well as our warden.

During the winter months it is especially important that we all look out for neighbours, illness and falls can happen very quickly. As a village we are very neighbour friendly so keep up the good work and look after one another.

Sheila Smith Chair Eastry Neighbourhood Watch.

Poppy Appeal 2017 Update

The Royal British Legion, Eastry, would again like to thank all who donated to this year's appeal. We offer our gratitude to all of the businesses, shops, pubs, schools, door to door collectors and those hardy folk who stood in all weathers outside of the Village Hall.

Without your assistance the amount raised would never reach the level we have achieved.

Last year over £4,000.00 was raised. The total raised to date is the astounding sum of **£5,101.51**

John Arnold Branch Secretary.

Mrs Martin

I wouldn't have thought there was a single person in Eastry who didn't know Mrs Martin of the late Poison Cross Nursery and Farm Shop. Sadly, Mrs Martin passed away at the end of November, two weeks short of her 94th birthday. I am not speaking as a member of her family but simply as someone who went to help out one Christmas in the shop and stayed for 21 years!



During those years, I worked most days on a one-to-one basis with Mrs Martin, so consequently got to know her extremely well. This tiny little lady with the body of a sparrow and if I dare say it a weather beaten wrinkled face, was as strong as an ox. From daylight 'til dusk seven days a week she toiled away, sowing, pricking, planting, potting, trimming, trudging around with a wheelbarrow, pushing a trolley barrow and tugging at a hosepipe. She simply never stopped.

At her funeral her son David's eulogy said she sowed thousands of plants, well David your maths were never perfect because I reckon it was millions and millions over the years. Mrs Martin's tools were simply her hands and fingers. In latter years she developed an allergy to polyanthus plants and had to wear gloves when tending to them. This certainly didn't go down well as you can imagine. She loved her family unconditionally but after that her love was simply the earth, the soil and all that grew in it whether it was freezing cold or sweltering hot there she would be running circles around all of us. I really don't know what a good day "weather wise" would have been for her because if it were hot and sunny it would be "drying everything out" and if it were windy it would be "ruining everything" and if it were raining "everything was sodden" - we had to laugh at her.

She loved her day trips out although usually it was what you might call a busman's holiday. She went on trips to Hampton Court Flower Show and Sissinghurst, and even as far as Holland. Her brother Will and friend Iris would take her to loads of garden centres too, she loved all of that. I learnt so much from her but if I had stayed another 21 years I would never have had her knowledge or stamina.

Mrs Martin had been ill for some time, before she died but her death still came as a shock, simply because I thought she was completely indestructible. One thing I know for sure is that if there is a garden in Heaven it will be well and truly planted up and cared for.

God Bless Mrs Martin - have a well deserved rest.

Rose Beer

It's only a Spud!

In all my years of working at the farm shop, you would never believe that one could have so many conversations about potatoes! It would start when the first new potatoes came in, usually Egyptian ones. We would put a sign on them saying "Egyptian new potatoes" and a customer would say "oh the new potatoes are in - they're not English are they? (and a silent sarcasm in my head would say "well not unless they've moved Egypt!").

Then a few weeks later the English ones would arrive - "Oh they're early and aren't they a price! Oh I'll treat myself anyway" then the next day she would be back for more "Oh they haven't gone down yet". After a while it would be "oh the potatoes are getting bigger, do they still scrape?"

Then probably we would get a new variety in - "Oh I've never heard of them before, do they boil well? They don't all go to water do they?" Gradually they would get older and bigger "do they make good jackets? Do they chip well? Are they good for roasting? and so it went on. Oh I think I'll buy a sack, they're not all marbles are they?

Oh for heavens sake! Sometimes I could hear myself repeating myself so many times, I thought my brain had turned to mash (excuse the pun). I would come home feeling absolutely mentally exhausted, plonk myself down on the sofa and think - Oh no, I've turned into a couch potato now! All so true.

Rose Beer

April Lodge Guinea Pig Rescue

Hello Readers! We welcome you to April Lodge which is a registered charity. We can supply guinea pig feeds, best farm hay, treats, equipment, adoptions, fostering, boarding, bathing, nail clipping and a guinea pig welfare clinic (which is by appointment). Any profit goes directly back into supporting the charity.

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Written by Floyd Toulet

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