

# **Village Contacts**

Ambulance, Fire, Police

999

**Non-emergency Police** 

101

**Community Warden** 

Karl Aylett 07811 271299 karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk

**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 - tel 101

**PCSOs** Kerry Skirrow

kerry.skirrow@kent.pnn.police.uk

Michael Bolt michael.bolt@kent.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

611580 Sheila Smith

**UK Power Network** 

105

C of E Primary School

611360

Acting Head Teacher: Kate Plant PTA Treasurer: Mrs Karen Rang

**Clerk to Council** 

614320 Sarah Wells (clerk@eastrypc.co.uk) 3 Gore Terrace, Gore Road

Eastry, CT13 0LS

**Eastry Ravens Football Club** 

Steve Booth 07864 925289 email 27srb@sky.com

**Village News** 

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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

# **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	Brownies	Guides
Meet on Mondays	Meet on Wednesdays	Meet on Fridays
Contact Ginny Harvey on 611183	Contact Linda Clarke on 614553	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**

**Saturday April 6th** SURVIVAL:THE INITIATION, an introduction to obstacle course racing at Betteshanger Park.

Adult (18 and over) £20 Child (aged 8 - 17) £10

Family: £55 (2 adults/2 children)

For more information and to book visit betteshanger-park.co.uk

Sunday April 7th 4.00pm in St Mary's Church

#### The Lumen Quartet

Students at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London will play quartets by Mozart, Shostakovich and Schubert.

Berfin Aksu Tilman Fleig Mathew Kendell Louis Baily



Interval refreshments. Entry is £5.00 on the door.

# **Eastry Horticultural Society**

April 9th Spring Show as part of the monthly meeting

May 14th The Gardens of Walmer Castle

Visitors and New Members always welcome

Eastry & District Open Group (EDOG) in the Church Hall at 7.30pm

Literally - anyone is welcome

Monday 15th April Karen Ash. "Tectonic Plates in Ethiopia"

Monday 20th May Mary and Geoff Goosen "Supporting children in Thailand"

Eastry Local Interests Group (ELIG) at Eastry Church Hall

No meeting in April

Wednesday 22nd May 7.30pm

AGM followed by Members' presentations

Dover Flower Club at Whitfield Village Hall

April 29th - Demonstration by Ellouise Hester Stott -The May Day Event

May 7th - A garden visit, venue to be confirmed

For further information please contact;

Maureen Edmond - edmond.randm@talktalk.net

Janet Gray - janetegray@btinternet.com



**Friday 17th May** 7.00pm in the Eastry Primary School

The PTA would like to invite local female residents to Fashion Show which will be run by **Travelling Trends** 

**Northbourne and Betteshanger Horticultural Society.** The Parish Hall, The Drove (just beyond the Church)

**Monday 8th April** 7.30pm Nick Woodland "Around Sandwich with a camera - the hidden gems"

**Saturday 13th** April Spring Show Open to the public from 2.00pm Admission free.

Sunday 5th May 10.00am - noon Plant Sale

Monday 13th May 7.30pm Barry Rampton - "Creating a garden in Wales"

**French Evening** - Join us for an evening of French themed food and fun Saturday 18th May Woodnesborough Village Hall - 6.30pm for 7.00pm start Tickets £8 each (entry with pre-purchased ticket only)

From Denise 619654, Brenda 813537 or Rae 813412

Just bring own drink and glass

# **Eastry Village Hall Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday. 21st May at 7.00pm

Tea/Coffee after the meeting will be available. Everyone is welcome.

# **St Mary's Spring Events**

St George's Dragon Hunt 22nd April 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Join us for the Dragon Hunt in the church between 2.00pm – 3.00pm and claim your free children's 'Dragon Burger' voucher.

Visit Mary at the Five Bells for the Barbeque and live music, watch Magic Paul between 3.30pm - 4.30pm to celebrate St George's Day in our great village community.

#### May Excursion to Whitstable Castle and Gardens

Join us on this leisurely excursion to Whitstable on the 23rd May. Leaving Eastry at 11.00am we will take a private tour of the Castle not usually open to the public and then a guided tour of the beautiful gardens by the Castle's Head Gardener. There will then be time to stroll along the promenade to Whitstable or Tankerton before returning to Eastry by 6.30pm.

Lunch included in the price of £33. Call Carole on 611847 or email carole.finch@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your seat.

**Tilmanstone Village Market** Tilmanstone Village Hall First Saturday of the month 10.00am - 11.00am Admission 20p

# **Village Hall Events**

**Bingo** - Saturday 27th April. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm Entry including Banger's & Chips etc is £3.50.

**Jumble Sale-** 18th May. Times to be confirmed.

Kent Mobile Library Service 9.40am - 10.10am

Friday 5th, 19th April; 3rd, 17th, 31st May

**Coffee Break** Everyone welcome - Free refreshments Fridays 9.00am-12noon

Hearing Aid Clinic 10.00am - noon Fridays 12th April 10th May

# **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.

# **Eastry Primary School**

It is with great sadness that the main piece of news from the school is the retirement of our Headteacher Tim Halling, who has been forced to retire early due to ill health and he will be greatly missed. We would like to thank him for his 14 years of service to our village school. Under his Headship the school has flourished, our results have been consistently above average and we have had a waiting list of pupils who would like to join us. This year, as with other years we have received a letter from KCC CEO, Matt Dunkley, praising us on our high standards

For the past four weeks Mrs Plant has been Acting Head, soon to be Head of School when our temporary Executive Head arrives in post. Our governing body are hoping to appoint a new Headteacher for September.

As usual our school has supported many charities through fundraising and awareness raising events. These include The British Legion poppy appeal (some may have seen the poppy display in our entrance hall), as well as Sports Relief, Save The Children, Red Nose Day, Children in Need, The Children's Society and Macmillan Cancer.

Our PTA are very active, providing many and varied events to raise money for the school, as well as encouraging and facilitating a social network for parents. Events such as Fireworks Night, Summer Fete, Mother's and Father's Day gift wrapping, discos and film nights have been well attended and raised money to provide workshops for each class, a wormery for Eco Team as well as many other extras for the school.

Throughout the year, there are many educational trips organised. These include visits to Dover Castle, Aylesham Heritage Centre, Quex Park and Wingham Wild Life Park, the Marlowe Theatre and the Year 6 residential trip to Swattenden. There have been many events too, such a World Book Day, where stories were shared, the singing festival at Manwood's and the bird-box live-stream, organised by science club. As well as the academic side to school, we also have many well attended clubs, such as science and eco clubs, crochet and chess clubs, music and library club. We have an early morning club too.

Eastry School has strong links with St Mary's Church. We celebrate with child led services such as Harvest, Easter, St Nicholas Day and Founders Day as well as our Christingle services. Our children hold their welcome and leavers services in the church. Rev David Ridley and Rev Sandra Marsh lead a weekly worship in school and at Christmas together we participate in the walking nativity.

Finally, if anyone has some spare time, we are always looking for volunteers to hear readers or to run or help with a lunchtime club such as sewing or craft.

# Could a Food Parcel Help You?

Illness, disability, family breakdown or the loss of a job could happen to any of us. Many people will experience a crisis at some time in their life. If you are currently finding it difficult to provide enough food for you or your family then a Food Bank can help.

Eastry's nearest Food Bank is in Deal (see below)and you will need to take a voucher along with you. You can get a voucher and full details from Eastry Pharmacy, where there are private consultation rooms to discuss your requirements. And of course, this service is entirely confidential. Call in or phone 01304 611362.

If you need help with transport, then Eastry Cares can help you to get to and from the Food Bank, or to Eastry Pharmacy. Donations to help fund Eastry Cares will be gratefully accepted. Just call Libby on 07787 612238.

# **DEAL AREA FOOD BANK**

#### THE FOOD BANK FACILITY AT EASTRY IS CLOSED

Food Bank Vouchers are still available from the Eastry Pharmacy, the Community Warden and the Vicar, which can be used at any of the active Deal Area Food Banks.

Gifts for the Food Bank can be left in a bin at the back of St. Mary's Church, Eastry any day between 10.00am to 4.00pm.

#### **ACTIVE DEAL FOOD BANKS AND OPENING TIMES**

foodbank	ST. RICHARDS CHURCH 65 Mill Hill, Deal CT14 9JR Tues 12noon- 2pm	COMMUNITY CHURCH 22A Victoria Rd, Deal CT14 7BN Wed 4.30 - 6 pm
PHOENIX CENTRE 28 Jubilee Road, Sandwich CT13 0QP Thurs 1- 3pm	TRINITY CHURCH Union Road, Deal CT14 6EA Fri 10am -12noon	ST. FINBARR CHURCH Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ Fri 12.30 -2.30 pm

# **Church Contacts**

#### St Mary's Parish Church

www.eastrybenefice.co.uk

Clergy:		Church Wardens:		
Revd. David Ridley	619619	Dr. Alastair Carnegie	813120	
Revd. Sandra Mars	sh 612686	Jo Slater	619873	
Revd. Jennifer Pilcher 611472		Assistant Church Wardens:		
Revd. David Willis	611959	Mary Goosen	611306	
	011000	Sue Brearley	761668	
Bell Captain:		<b>Church Hall Bookings:</b>		
Mick Johnson	07773 970475	Bob Barwick	611420	
Organist:		Enquiries:		
Maureen Norman	366761	Please phone the office	611323	

# **Church Office**

Benefice Office, The Church Hall, Church Street, Eastry, CT13 0HH Wednesdays 10.45am to 12.45am 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

# Friday Friendship Lunch Club

Fridays 12th April, 10th May Church Hall at 12 Noon. Contact 611400

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# The Church Registers

**Funeral:** 7th February Charles Perkins

# **Church Services**

# **Sunday mornings at Eastry**

Every Sunday: 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 1st Sunday, 9.30am Come and Praise in Church Hall 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays, 10.30am Sung Eucharist 3rd Sunday 10.30am Family Communion

**Evensong Services** 6.30pm 7th April, 5th May (Northbourne) 14th April, 12th May (Tilmanstone)

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion Eastry Church Hall - all are welcome

#### **Lent Lunch**

Friday 5th April in the Church Hall at 12 noon Proceeds to the AMOS Trust

# Sing Along and Tea

Tuesdays 23rd April, 28th May - Church Hall 2.30 - 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



# Our Lent Appeal

S I we approach a time of joyful celebration in welcoming international students the Church calendar we ask if you might consider doing something for international

relations...making a small but significant contribution towards greater understanding worldwide.

HOST's mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. Our volunteer hosts can offer hospitality for one day (daytime only) or three days and two nights at the weekend.

We operate all year round and would very much welcome more volunteer hosts to join us.

More information can be found on our website: www.hostuk.org

Or email us on: info@hostuk.org

Or telephone us on: 020 7739 6292

# **Woodnesborough Benefice**

# Holy Week and Easter 2019

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

Sunday 14th April Eucharist with Procession of the Palms in each Parish

6.30pm Meditation in Words and Music at Tilmanstone

Benefice Service

**Holy Week** 

Monday 15th April 7pm Lent Meditation at Tilmanstone

Tuesday 16th April 7pm Lent Meditation at Staple

Wednesday 17th April 7pm Lent Meditation at Northbourne

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday 18th April 11am Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Vows at

Canterbury Cathedral

7pm Eucharist in each Church

**GOOD FRIDAY** 

Friday 19th April 12 noon 1st Hour Meditation at St Mary, Betteshanger

Followed by procession with the cross from Betteshanger to Eastry, meeting at 1.50pm at Eastry Village Hall to walk to Eastry Church.

2pm Last Hour Meditation at Eastry

**HOLY SATURDAY** 

Saturday 20th April 6 - 9pm Eastry Church open for quiet Prayer and

Reflection by candlelight

**EASTER DAY** 

Sunday 21st April Usual pattern of services in each Parish

**ASCENSION DAY** 

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 10am Holy Communion at Woodnesborough

7pm Benefice Eucharist at Eastry

# **Rector's Letter**

Some of you may be aware that I had an accident outside my house at the beginning of March resulting in damaged knee ligaments. There is a certain comic irony in that, in last month's magazine, I had been commending folk to slow down for Lent. My injury was the result of trying to take a corner too quickly on my bike!

Anyway, the net result is that I have been forced to slow down – a combination of swelling and pain means that I cannot go anywhere fast, let alone drive. Instead, between essential duties, I have been reclining with my leg up and an ice pack on the knee.

The whole episode has been a useful reminder as to how debilitating an injury can be and the associated challenges many people have to face as part of their daily lives; but it has also highlighted the kindness of so many people who have been only too happy to help and support me. There are many very genuine and caring people around and it does show community working at its best.

Which brings me to reflect on one particular challenge which we face in our society, and of which I seem to be increasingly aware – that of loneliness. This can be particularly acute for the elderly as they become less mobile and less able to get out, but it can in fact affect anyone. Surprisingly perhaps, even in places where other people are around, for example in blocks of flats, individuals can feel desperately isolated and alone.

So perhaps one discipline which we all might like to consider, as we enter more deeply into the season of Lent, would be to give a little time, once a week or once a fortnight, to pop in and visit our neighbours – especially those who may be elderly or disabled – to offer a bit of company and see whether they need any help or support.

With a small group from the Church, I visit fortnightly the residential home in Tilmanstone, The Old Vicarage. The residents are all elderly, many with some level of dementia, and most of the day they are sitting in a chair in the lounge with no one to visit and nothing really to stimulate them. Sometimes they tell me that our little time together is the highlight of their week. It is a relatively small thing to do, but maybe for some it makes a big difference in the demonstrating that someone is interested in them and someone cares.

Jesus said 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10.10). That is the essence of the Easter message and the substance of our Easter joy. How can we, through small acts of kindness, make that a living reality for those around us?

Perhaps, through the last weeks of Lent, we can intentionally offer a little of our time to our neighbours in need. It might just become a habit and we might actually find that we also feel better for it.

# **Eastry Parish Council**

**Play areas.** The replacement of the Centenary Gardens play area has been agreed and it will be completed during the coming months. The Gun Park play area replacement is a major project that will take more time and require additional funding. Consultation on requirements with local residents will take place. Anyone interested in joining a working group to obtain quotes and drive this forward - please contact us.

**Parish Hut, Church St. e-build.** This room (also known as the Guide Hut) is currently used by a number of groups and organisations, usually those that have limited funds or short term project groups that are put in place for one off events. The hut is also used by the Community Warden and the local PCSO as a base.

It is hoped a new building with the required disabled access and toilets will be an asset to the whole village. It may be possible to install a public access computer terminal that can be used to help those that need to access local authority websites to complete online forms. There will be an office for the Parish Clerk that means the building will be manned some days of the week which will allow on-site help.

It may be necessary to take out a Public Works Loan in order to fund these major projects so input from local residents would be very much appreciated. The target date for the start of the build is September 2020 with completion by March 2021.

**Village Big Event.** A local resident has suggested that Eastry, like other neighbouring villages, runs a major event that could encompass the flower festival weekend, but also would include the rest of the village. Suggestions include open gardens or a garden safari, or events in the various halls in the village, perhaps involving our village clubs/groups. These are just a few ideas, so if anyone would be interested in helping to organise such an event, or if you have suggestions or ideas for a Big Event please contact me. We can then assess the level of interest in the village and do-ability of such an event.

**The Coffee Break** has been held in the Village Hall every Friday morning for over 15 years. This event is open to all local residents and gives an opportunity for people to meet up for a chat in a friendly environment. The Hi- Kent hearing charity attend on the 2nd Friday of every month to allow local residents to get hearing aid supplies and help.

We have been extremely lucky in the past, as the Village Hall caretaker has set out and put away tables and chairs. Unfortunately, he has now retired and will not be replaced. This means that regular users of the hall are asked to manage their own tables and chairs. If you are free for 15 minutes on a Friday morning about 8.00am or at noon to help with this task - please contact me or one of the council members.

# In The Garden

Spring has sprung, and it's a real joy to see all the early flowers, colourful blossom, new shoots and buds, everything coming to life, what a wonderful time of the year.

The garden at Brambling House has woken up after a long winter, with daffodils, dwarf irises, polyanthus and hellebores all doing themselves proud and for everyone to enjoy.

Apart from creating a Rose Garden at Brambling House this year, my main task is to form a "Sensory Garden" using an existing raised bed. This will allow residents who are mobile to look, touch and smell the plants, and for those residents who are not able come to the garden, I can take pieces of the plants for them enjoy the touch and smell.

I created two "Sensory Gardens" when I worked for the Earl of Guilford to mark the new millennium. They were half circle, mirrored (see photo which shows one half of the garden).

Brambling House's garden will not be on the same scale. I will be working in an area of 8'0" x 4'0" (2.4 x 1.2m).



The garden will include lavender, rosemary, lemon thyme, various mints, including peppermint and apple mint and scented geraniums (lemon fizz), and plants that can be touched will include lambs-ears and soft grasses.



The Scented Geranium perfume comes from the leaves being touched (not the flowers). On a hot sunny day there is no need to touch the scented leaves to enjoy its fragrance.

The plant has a built-in protective system, it releases the oily scent around the plant, to protect the leaves from being burnt.

So, if you are splitting up any of these plants this year, I won't feel embarrassed if I find a bag of plants on my door step, in fact I will be very grateful.



This year, I will also be planting in the Brambling House garden, one of the most fragrant roses available "The McCartney" rose.

I have had this rose in my own garden for many, many years and it has never let me down with its delightful perfume. The only drawback, it does grow quite tall, so it won't be suitable for the "Sensory Garden", but I will find a spot where the residents can enjoy the fragrance.

I haven't left out the vegetables. The pots and containers are all ready for planting runner beans, dwarf french beans, tomatoes, and salads later this month. I'm going to be a busy boy, so like me, enjoy your garden,

#### Art E. Choke



# **Speedwatch**

We all know that speeding through the Village is a problem. The Speed Indicator Sign is moved around various locations by the Parish Council and Speedwatch volunteers monitor speeds and the data is sent to Kent Highways and the police.

If you are worried about speeding in the village, and preventing accidents, please consider helping with this initiative. For further information on the scheme and how to become a volunteer, contact Sarah Wells, Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@eastrypc.co.uk

# **Community Group Fund Raising**



All local community groups can register with the Dover District Council lottery. It's free to register and this could help to raise funds for your organisation.

Players of the new Dover District Lotto will have the option to specify which participating local good cause they want to support, and this cause will directly receive 50p in every £1 spent. In addition, 10p in every £1 goes to increasing the amount of funding available for the local community through Dover District Council's

annual Community Grants programme.

For more information on how your local good cause can get involved in the Dover District Lotto, please email doverlotto@dover.gov.uk

# **Ask the Pharmacist**

With the Eastry surgery closing, it's a good time to remind everyone of the excellent services that villagers can access at Eastry Pharmacy, which is run by Najam Bin Hafeez and his team.

**Prescriptions:** Twice a day, the pharmacy sends its driver to the surgery at Sandwich to pick up and deliver prescriptions. If you have a paper prescription, you can drop it into the pharmacy at any time – put it through the letter box if it's outside opening hours. If you phone the surgery for a prescription, you can ask the receptionist to mark it for the Eastry Pharmacy Collection Service and it will be forwarded to Eastry. If you order your medication online, then nothing changes – just carry on as normal.

**Warfarin Testing:** The surgery will be holding an Anti-Coagulation Clinic at Eastry Pharmacy every week on Fridays from 9am – 11am. Ask the surgery's receptionist to book you an appointment.

If there is a demand, then the surgery can hold other clinics at the pharmacy – but you will have to let the surgery know what would be beneficial to patients in Eastry.

**Delivery Service:** For those who are not mobile, due to ill health or disability etc, Eastry Pharmacy can deliver your medication to your home at no charge. The pharmacy also stocks a range of health, beauty and pharmaceutical products at competitive prices and you can also arrange for your general purchases to be delivered.

Ask the Pharmacist: We are fortunate that Eastry Pharmacy usually has two pharmacists on duty who are well qualified to help with minor ailments. You can talk to Najam and his team about such things as coughs, colds, aches and pains etc and also if you would like your medications to be reviewed in a health check. He, or one of the other pharmacists, will then advise you on the best course of action. The pharmacists can also give advice if you are looking to lose weight or stop smoking, or on any other aspect of leading a healthier life. All the pharmacists are extremely knowledgeable and very approachable and there are private rooms available for consultations.

**Vaccinations**: The pharmacy administers NHS 'flu injections during the winter, but you can also book a number of private vaccinations such as travel, occupational health, meningitis and pneumonia.

**Opening Hours:** Eastry Pharmacy is open from 9am – 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm on Saturday and it's open every lunchtime.

**Contact:** You can telephone the pharmacy for advice on 01304 611362 or email <a href="mailto:eastry.fl902@nhs.net">eastry.fl902@nhs.net</a>. There is also a website with more information on the range of services that the pharmacy can provide: <a href="https://www.eastrypharmacy.co.uk">www.eastrypharmacy.co.uk</a>.

# **Bird Watching with Big Nick**

The end of March and into April sees the departure of most of the winter visitors to the UK. However it is also the time of lots of new arrivals from

birds wintering further south.

Many of the birds that we associate with summer start arriving - such as swallow, house-martin, cuckoo and whitethroat. I usually see my first swallow around 7th April, but their recorded arrival date in the UK is about two weeks earlier than that.





House Martin gathering mud for nest building

Keep an eye on your bird feeders, if you use them; some of the less common birds could well show up. Throughout the winter we have had many goldfinches together with smaller numbers chaffinches and greenfinches using the feeders (for some reason the chaffinches struggle to perch on the feeders and prefer to pick up fallen seed).



Goldfinch



Greenfinch

At this time of the year, you may be very lucky and see a Siskin or even a lesser Redpoll with the other birds.

Although superficially Siskins can look a little like a Greenfinch, they are smaller - one of our smallest Finches - with a smaller, sharper beak and a forked tail. The males, at this time of year, have a black crown and quite a lot of black on the wings. The females are less brightly coloured and quite heavily streaked.





Although they can be difficult to tell apart, there are both Common and Lesser Redpolls found in the UK, but it is the latter that we are most likely to see in the south-east.

It is listed as a 'new' garden Finch by the British Trust for Ornithology as their surveys show a 15 fold increase in the numbers reported using feeders in gardens. This is good news as it is a species of high conservation importance.



The Finches shown were photographed in our garden. Hopefully I'll illustrate the Chaffinch and less common Bullfinch in another column.

Good luck, and keep looking at everything; you may see something quite special.

#### Nick



# Fly Tipping

The dumping of rubbish seems to be a growing problem, including in and around Eastry.

There is a way of helping to reduce the problem. An app has been developed by Country Eye in conjunction with Kent police, that can be downloaded onto your phone.

If you see rubbish that has been tipped illegally, take a photo - send it to Country Eye using the app and the authorities will take action.

It can also be used to report suspicious activities or even potholes in the road. You will receive updates and alerts on the incidents that you submit.

To download the app go to www.countryeye.co.uk



# **Neighbourhood Watch**

Be prepared, the days are longer now and we have all come out of hibernation. The daffodils think that it is Spring and the burglars and scammers are hard at work again, so do all that you can to protect your home, garage, sheds and vehicles. You do not know who is taking note of your

property and belongings and recording when you are away from home. Don't leave your backdoors and windows open or the car unlocked for any length of time.

In this village there have been reports of men offering to clean off roofs and gutters. Do remember to get three quotes and use a bona fide local business - not a trader who is not even based in this county. Just think about what you can do in the event of shoddy work. Always report anything suspicious to the police (tel.101) and state that this village is part of the NHW scheme. Karl our warden should also be notified as he can be of assistance in the village.

Eastry is to have a new volunteer KCC Warden. Karl has taken her around the village and she will be expected to be on hand for at least five hours per week. This lady is called Ethrin and as soon as she has been allocated a telephone, all organisations should endeavour to contact her so that she knows who does what and when so that she can best serve our community. We look forward to having this extra assistance in Eastry.

I have just been given the latest crime details in the Dover area and that includes us. Apart from the theft of purses, driving licences, money and bank cards - bigger items have included scrap metal, chainsaw, a drill and a grinder. Look out for and report any flat-backed lorries cruising around the Eastry estates, they are probably not just looking for scrap in skips but taking note of driveways and car ports. Please inform the police and give a description and number plate details.

Please be aware of doorstep callers offering to remove garden rubbish. If they are not licensed to dispose of waste, then you could be responsible, especially if they fly-tip what you think is going for recycling.

#### **Sheila Smith**

Chair Eastry, Neighbourhood Watch.

# **Another Coincidence** - (this time in West Yorkshire)

I started married life in Wakefield and within a year we had re-located to the mining village of West Ardsley. This village had a post office and two small shops at either end of the community, also a Working Men's Club. Having got acquainted with the post office and nearby shop, I decided to walk with baby in pushchair in the direction of East Ardsley (known

for its woollen mills) and so visited the second village shop. "Good morning" I said in greeting to the proprietor to which he said "Eee lass, thee don't come from round ere does thee?" "Down South", I replied. "Where?" he enquired, "Kent" I responded. "Where about?" he asked, "near Dover" came my answer. "Be more precise" came back, "you wouldn't know, it's a little village between Dover, Deal and Sandwich called Betteshanger". "Do you know the Jones' who keep the shop around the Circle, they are our best friends?".

The general store at the colliery had a vital role in pit life. All of the miners knew that they could get a mug of tea and a cigarette at the end of their shift and they settled up weekly. The miners were not allowed into the Social Club until they had had a shower and changed their clothes so you can see how important this service was.

My family lived near to the colliery as Dad was a market gardener. All children in the vicinity attended Northbourne Primary School. The children from the colliery were taken to school by bus because they had to cross the main road at The Mount. The same bus had already picked up the children from the village of Ashley and Studdal and surrounding hamlets. We children from Little Betteshanger walked through the fields and farm tracks to school, usually arriving late because we had no sense of time and no one had a wrist watch! It was a good mixed community in that school.

To conclude, mining is a very close knit community and it reaffirms that the Kentish miners came from so many parts of Britain and very often walked hundreds of miles in search of work.

#### Sheila Smith

# **Heavenly Thoughts**

Have you ever seen an Angel With curlers in her hair? And slobbing around in a nightie Without a single care

Have you ever seen an Angel With earrings made of plastic? And loose and baggy knickers With worn out stretched elastic?

Have you ever seen an Angel With a great big double chin? And a cardi with a button off Done up with a safety pin?

Have you ever known an Angel To be tired all the time? Then stay up half the night Composing silly rhyme?

Have you ever seen an Angel Whose trousers are too tight? Well if I get to Heaven before you Then you very well just might!

Rose Beer (an angel in disguise)



# Meetings:

April 3rd – How Safe are our Skies Speaker PJ Wellspring May 1st– Resolutions Meeting June 5th – Quiz Night

Our March meeting was the first time we have added a games night to our programme. By digging deep into our cupboards we found ourselves playing Jenga, Othello, Rummikub, Triominoes, Bagatelle, Shut the Box and a variety of other board games, the sort of games that seem to have been taken over by other things in this digital age! Some created much hilarity whilst others were taken more seriously and some of us found ourselves playing board games we had never played before.

Our ten-pin bowling sessions restarted in March and will continue through the summer which looks like being a busy one. There are outings being planned for Eastry WI alongside those being planned by our East Kent Federation. They include 'A Spring Day' meeting with several speakers, including Nick Bailey from Gardeners World which takes place at Canterbury in April. Plus three Eastry members will be going to the WI Denman College for craft and activity taster sessions.

By the time you read this, 14 members will have attended the Federation ACM at Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall. Pru Leith and Ann Millington CEO of Kent Fire and Rescue are speakers this year alongside Lynne Stubbings, our National Federation Chairman. It sounds like a full and entertaining day.

Sue Hankins President - tel 619414

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### The Visitor

When I was a very young girl, Dad invited a visitor to come and stay at our house. Mum wasn't too keen on the idea but Dad assured her that she would soon come to terms with it. From the beginning, Dad was entranced by the stories with which his visitor would enthral him with, while on the other hand Mum would find every excuse to vanish into the kitchen on the pretence of something important to attend to.

Our visitor would sit in the corner all day not saying a lot, but come meal times he would be full of boring chat, none of which I barely understood. Quite frankly, I began to resent this more and more because Mum or Dad didn't want to listen to me anymore, instead they would rather listen to the boring nonsense that came from the lump in the corner.

Sometimes my Aunt and Uncle would visit but they no longer wanted to play Snakes and Ladders or Ludo, instead their eyes and ears were glued to our visitor.

Sometimes, just sometimes, it was quite amusing but mostly it was adult humour that I didn't really understand. After a while Mum became as besotted as Dad, so card games of Snap and Old Maid became a thing of the past. With Mum and Dad now both completely smitten they decided our visitor could stay for the foreseeable future. I never really knew his proper name but I do know we ended up calling him T.V for short!!

(P.S. that was all lies because my Father died when I was just eleven and Mum never had a television until well after I left home but I'm sure this typifies many families).

Rose Beer



# **Georgie Stewart**

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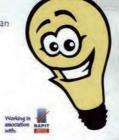
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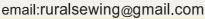
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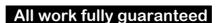
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