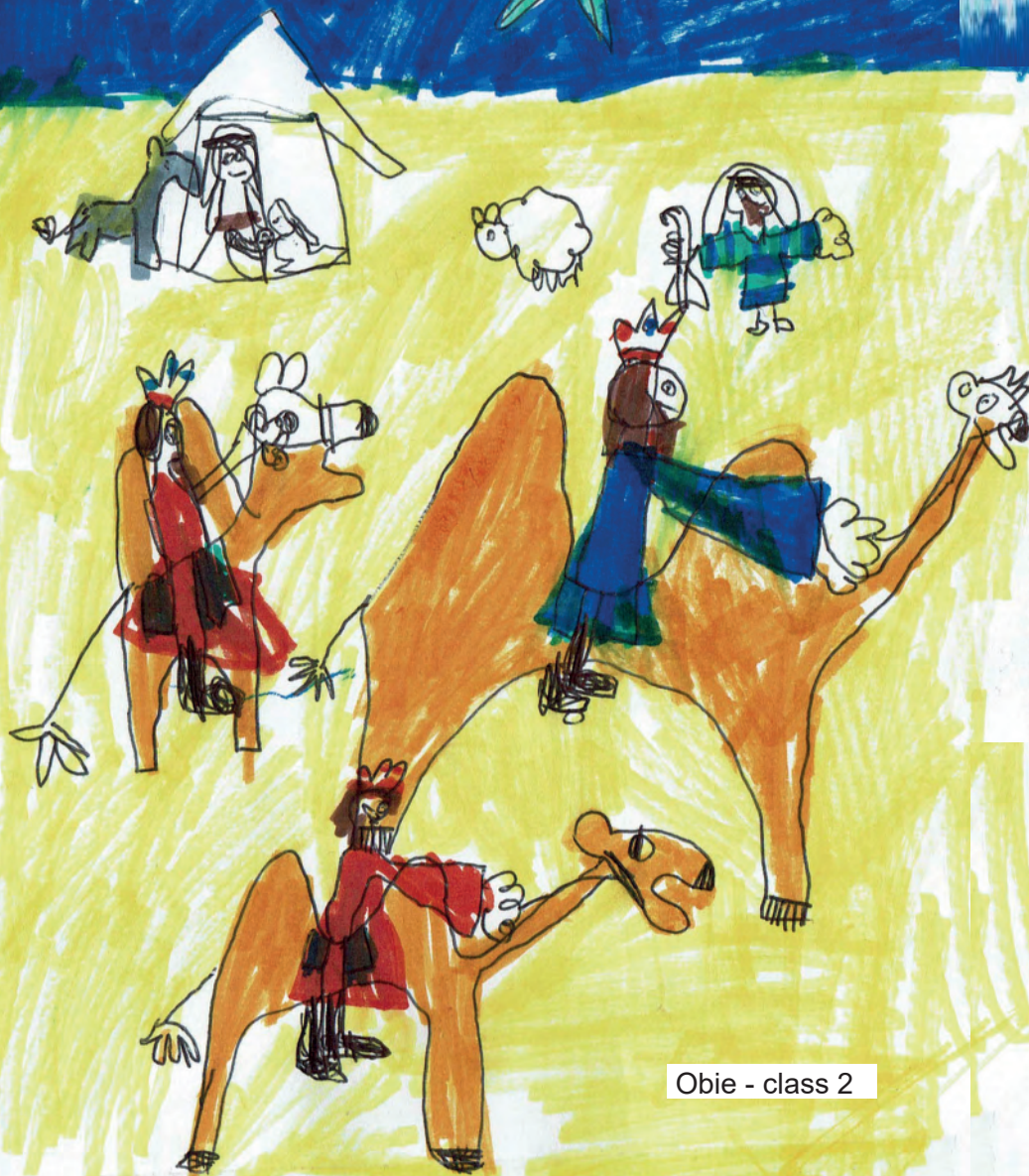


The Eastry Village News

December 2019
January 2020



Obie - class 2

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

Emergency out of hours:
111

Parish Council
www.eastrypc.co.uk
www.facebook.com/EastryPC
Chairman: Nick Kenton
Vice-Chairman: Mark Jones

Eastry Ravens Football Club

Steve Booth 07864 925289 email 27srb@sky.com

Village News

Editor: Patrick Clarke (email: evneditor@gmail.com)

Advertising: (email: evnadverts@gmail.com)

Distribution: 614085 Iris Mollart

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

To view/study contact Town Clerk's Office 617197

Village Hall Bookings - Booking Clerk 614184

Village Forum - www.facebook.com/eastryvillageforum

Welcome Pack - information for people new to Eastry
Rosemary Barwick 611420

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

Head Teacher: Mrs Espley

PTA Treasurer: Justine Crane

Clerk to Council

614320 Sarah Wells
(clerk@eastrypc.co.uk)
3 Gore Terrace, Gore Road
Eastry, CT13 0LS

³ 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 (age 5-7) and
Brownies (age 7-10)

Meet on Wednesdays

Guides (age 10-14) and
Rangers (age 14 -18)

Meet on Fridays

Please contact us on Sandwichdivisiongg@gmail.com or via:
www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/

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

Eastry Horticultural Society

Eastry Village Hall - visitors and new members are always welcome.

December 10th - Christmas Social Evening. 7.00pm start

January 14th - Quiz night and beginning of the new year when membership renewals will reveal the programme for 2020, beyond January, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

Northbourne & Betteshanger Horticultural Society.

Friday 6th December is the Christmas Dinner at the Hare & Hounds. This will include a competition for a festive table decoration.

Monday 17th February in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm. when Nick Woodland will give an illustrated talk on Sandwich Shops Then & Now.

Boxing Day Quiz

11.00am, Thursday, 26th December, 2019 @ The Five Bells

All welcome to attend the above in teams of four - £5.00/team. Overcome that post-Christmas lethargy and pit your wits against the village's best in an atmosphere of good-humoured rivalry and light-hearted banter. Be sure to arrive early to get the best seats in the Function Room.

All proceeds in aid of the Royal British Legion (Eastry).

Calling all Eastry Singers!!!

Would you like to join a scratch choir to sing for the Eastry Carol Service?

Rehearsals will be in Eastry Church from 6.00pm – 7.00pm on Thursdays 28th November and 5th December. The service will be at 6.30pm on Sunday 15th December.

If you would like to join us please just turn up to the rehearsals. All very welcome. Conductor: Andrew Larner

*There will also be a one-off rehearsal for a **children's choir** led by Lucy Gleave at 9.00am on Saturday 14th December. Again, all very welcome – please just turn up to the rehearsal and join the 'Carols by Candlelight' at 6.30pm on Sunday 15th December.*

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.

Carols Round the Christmas Tree at The Five Bells

Come and join us on Monday, 16th December at 6.00pm at The Five Bells for carol singing around the Christmas Tree.

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES KINDLY PROVIDED BY MARY TO WARM US UP!

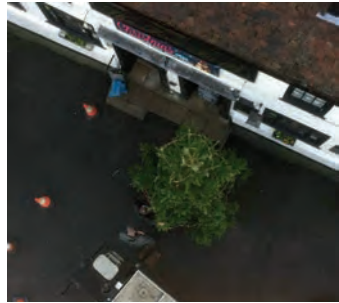
Community Christmas Trees

As in previous years the community trees are provided and erected by the Eastry Parish Council.



Parish Councillors stringing the lights on one of the community Christmas trees in 2018.

As usual, one tree stands above the Village Hall doors and the other outside the Five Bells. The Parish Council would like to thank both the members of the village hall committee and Mary Franks for providing the electricity for the lights.



Bingo in the Village Hall -

Saturday 7th December

Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm

Entry including Bangers & Chips etc - £3.50.

Kent Mobile Library Service 9.40am - 10.10am

Friday 13th December and then alternate Fridays

Parish Council Events

Coffee Break Everyone welcome - Free refreshments

Fridays 9.00am -12noon

Hearing Aid Clinic 10.00am - noon

Fridays 15th December, 10th January

Thank You Iris

The EVN would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Iris Mollart, who last month stepped down as its Chair after 14 years.

Readers may not know Iris, as she doesn't usually appear in the magazine, but in April 2005 she took over responsibility for the publication, which changed from a church magazine into a village magazine with the remit to include news of interest to everyone in Eastry. Under her guidance she established a loyal team of volunteers who still hand deliver the EVN to every household and business in the village.

Iris was the ideal person to run the magazine; her family had lived in Eastry for generations and for many years she was Chair of the local Parish Council and she was, and still is, passionate about the village.

So, thank you Iris for your hard work and commitment over so many years.

All Change at the EVN

This will be my last issue of the magazine as Editor after six years, but I am very pleased to say that I will be handing over to the very capable hands of Patrick Clarke. However, I am not totally disappearing as I will become Chair of the EVN Committee - a hard act to follow after Iris. This issue is the largest we have ever had, so thank you to all the contributors and advertisers.

Also, we will soon be seeking a new Treasurer - more information will follow in the next issue, but if you are interested in taking on this position, please let us know.

Brian Manton

Christmas Picture Competition

This year we had a very good response to the Christmas Picture Competition, so thank you to all the children who submitted entries for "What does Christmas mean to me". Although we had lots of entries from the children in years 1 and 2 some of the paintings would not fill the front cover (something to remember for next year) so a short list of pictures was reviewed and voted on by attendees of the Friday Coffee Morning.

Two paintings were very close in votes from a total of 49 children. The winner was Obie (class 2) for a very colourful painting which is on the front cover. The four runners up are shown on the opposite page and this year all five will receive prizes of Amazon vouchers.

All the paintings will be on display in the Church over the Christmas period.



Spotlight on Talent in Eastry

In September, ten year old Toby Pollard from Eastry and his nine year old new forest pony Oakdene Tiny Tim (Timmy) went to the four day Sunshine Tour Finals at Hickstead.

Toby started his prize haul at the Championships by winning the Intro Dressage Championships for under 16 years. Toby and Timmy then went on to win the Best Rider under 12 class before taking the Equitation Reserve Supreme prize. They then added the Super Supreme Reserve Championship to their tally.

The pair also competed in two show jumping classes jumping brilliant rounds finishing just outside the top ten.

Toby and Timmy love competing and are out most weekends but this was their most successful show to date.



Remembrance Sunday, Eastry

Standard bearers, left to right:
John Arnold (Union Flag),
Mike Smith (RBL Standard),
Michel Bonneval (French Flag).

Armistice Day, Longpre-les-Corps-Saints

Rev David Ridley and Paul Jessett have just laid wreaths at the War Memorial on behalf of the Royal British Legion (Eastry) and Eastry Twinning Association respectively.



Church Contacts

St Mary's Parish Church

www.eastrybenefice.co.uk

Clergy:

Revd. David Ridley	619619
Revd. Sandra Marsh	612686
Revd. Jennifer Pilcher	611472
Revd. David Willis	611959

Bell Captain:

Mick Johnson	07773 970475
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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 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

The Church Registers

Baptisms:

13th October	Max Wood
3rd November	Harrison Bates
17th November	Madden Parker

Wedding:

26th October	Morgan Smyth and Karl Whibley
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Funeral:

5th November	Linda Jimenea
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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

5th January (Northbourne)
 12th January (Tilmanstone)

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion Eastry Church Hall - all are welcome

Sing Along and Tea

Tuesday 17th December - Church Hall 2.30 - 4.00pm
 Come and sing carols and enjoy a cup of tea, **mince pies and cake**
Tuesday 28th January - 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**

Christmas Friendship Lunch

You are warmly invited to a Christmas Lunch – roast turkey with all the trimmings followed by dessert and coffee – in Eastry Church Hall at 12 noon on Friday 20th December. The cost is £5.00.

All are welcome, but please let Rev Sandra know if you are attending by Friday 13th December (Tel 612686 or email: revsandramarsh@btinternet.com).

New Friendship Lunch in the Five Bells

Mary has kindly said she will be able to provide a Fellowship Lunch on the 2nd Friday of the month - commencing Friday 10th January.

These meals will be charged at £5.50 for two courses, including tea and coffee available from 11:30am. Meals will be served at 12:15pm.

We will need to keep a register of those wanting to attend as before. If you would like to join us in the Five Bells please send your name, address and phone number to:-

Liz Kinns 81 Peak Drive Eastry CT13 0DW Tel: 611400

Christmas Services

Christingle Services

We hope that you will support the Christingle Services for Eastry School in aid of the Children's Society on:

Monday 9th December (classes 3,4,5,6) 1.30pm at Eastry Church.

Tuesday 10th December (whole school) 1.30pm at Eastry Church

Sunday 1st December (1st Sunday of Advent)

Holy Communion 8.00am

Come and Praise 9.30am

Holy Communion 10.30am

Advent Carols 6.30pm Northbourne

Sunday 8th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Holy Communion 8.00 am

Holy Communion 10.30am

Evensong: 6.30 pm Tilmanstone

Sunday 15th December (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Holy Communion 8.00 am

Holy Communion 10.30am

Carol Service: 6.30pm

Sunday 22nd December (4th Sunday of Advent)

Holy Communion 8.00 am

Holy Communion 10.30am

Christmas Eve

Crib Service 4.00pm

Holy Communion 11.30pm .

Christmas Day

No service at 8.00am

Holy Communion: 10.30am

Sunday 29th December (1st Sunday after Christmas)

Holy Communion 8.00 am

Benefice Holy Communion 10.30 am Northbourne

Toddler Rock

Wednesday 10th December 2.00-3.00pm in Eastry Church

Service for pre-school children and their PARENTS.

Songs, stories, craft, games, refreshments.

Rector's Letter

I was privileged to join members of Eastry Twinning Association on a day visit to our partner village, Longpre-les-Corps-Saints, for their Remembrance Day commemorations. The day included visits to three war memorials – including the British WW1 Cemetery – and a Church service.

At the Mass, during his address, the local Priest made reference to the fact that 2020 will mark 800 years since the very first stone was laid in the construction of the cathedral of Notre-Dame d'Amiens. He went on to make the point that those who were involved in laying those first stones and starting the building of the cathedral would never see its completion. They were embarking on a piece of work from which they would not directly benefit; but rather they were building the solid foundations upon which future generations would be enriched and deepened.

He was then further drawing the parallel with those who have given their lives in time of war: offering of themselves in the present in the hope that their sacrifice might help build a better, more just, more secure future.

All of this perhaps offers a somewhat telling comparison with many today who seek instant gratification with little concern, it would seem, for the longer-term consequences.

The reflections of this Priest, who incidentally told me that he has responsibility for 24 village churches (putting my five into some sort of perspective), reminded me of a series of articles I had recently read about debt.

Financing and the opportunity to borrow money offers immense opportunities, but the burden of debt can in turn be hugely damaging. This ranges from individual debt, potentially devastating to the life of families, to government debt which is a liability for future generations – not least the 'off-balance sheet' debts required to pay for pensions and other government liabilities all of which are currently unfunded. So debt can be both a poison and a remedy.

But the article which particularly drew my attention was one which spoke of indebtedness – in other words the moral, as opposed to economic, debts we owe.

Indebtedness, recognises that we are utterly dependent on other people and, arguably, even more dependent upon nature for our human flourishing and thriving. In that sense we are all born with a debt to pay and this indebtedness, to one another and to creation as a whole, infers a responsibility as well. We are gifted by the natural resources of the earth and the labours of others; but that does not give a right to exploit. Indebtedness recognises that we have a duty to offer something in return: to respect, nurture and protect.

From a faith perspective, we have an indebtedness to God for life itself, which should help us to acknowledge that nothing is ours by right but rather what we have is a gift to be cherished and shared.

As we look forward to our Christmas celebrations, the Christian faith takes this sense of indebtedness a step further in recognising the birth of Jesus Christ as God entering our world in vulnerability, in order to show us the extent of his love. God owes us nothing and we deserve nothing; but in the birth of his Son he demonstrates costly love in order to offer us fullness of life with him.

That unconditional love of God invites us, in return, to turn away from pure self-interest to a recognition of our responsibility to our world and to each other.

So may I take this opportunity to wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas; and may it be characterised by the desire to give as we acknowledge and rejoice in all that we receive.

David Ridley

Eastry School Walking Nativity

Thursday 12th December

Meet 2.00pm Eastry School or 2.30pm St Mary's Church, Eastry for Prayers and Carols arriving 3.15 pm at the "Stable" - The Five Bells

Children are invited to dress as Angels and Shepherds. Outdoor event, so please wear suitable clothing. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For further details please contact: Rev David Ridley (619619)

Christmas Roses

Christmas is a time for bringing families together, but it can also be a time of sorrow for those who have lost loved ones.



The Flower Arrangers would like to place roses amongst the Christmas floral arrangements, to remember loved ones.

If you would care to donate a rose in memory of a loved one at this time, the cost is £3 per rose.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR DONATION:

Liz Kinns, 81 Peak Drive (611400), or **Jinny Fagg** at the Church

District Councillors Report

A happy Christmas to all our residents.

This year has seen a significant change at the Dover District Council. We have a New Leader, Cllr Trevor Bartlett. He has made responding to the climate change emergency one of his top priorities.

At the end of last year we indicated the challenges ahead, the continuing work on the Local Development Framework and the joined-up work on the new waste contract. This year we have seen the waste contract being implemented and the results have been fantastic with recycling rates getting near to 50%. With this in mind, we also ask residents to consider the opportunities for recycling cards and wrapping paper over the holiday period.

There are still challenges facing the Council and finance looms over our every move. The provision of youth services looks set to be an important field of endeavour. Again joint working with Kent County Council and other partners looks to be the way forward to deliver even better services while still achieving financial efficiencies.

There are still many opportunities to further improve our services to our residents as well as make savings to keep the council's finance position viable.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents a safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

Nick and Steve

School Bonfire Night

Eastry C of E Primary School would like to say a huge thank you to all those who supported the bonfire and fireworks event on Friday 1st November.

Despite the wet weather an amazing sum of £1825.27 was raised. The school PTA are fundraising for new computer equipment and continued outdoor learning opportunities for all year groups.

Eastry Parish Council

Vice Chair's Christmas Message

As we approach the festive season and the forthcoming general election, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody within the village and those outside, seasonal greetings and a very happy Christmas.

I have served on the council for a number of years now, and have recently taken on the vice chair role following the resignation of Annie Wiles. Margaret Read has also resigned from the council for personal reasons and I would like, on behalf of the parish council, to thank both Annie and Margaret for their hard work, commitment and passion for the all the roles they undertook in her respective roles. Margaret was a prime mover for the Coffee Mornings on Fridays and her delicious cakes and treats, which we will all miss. We wish them both well for the future.

The make-up of the council has changed with some new faces, Mike Smith, Martyn Hay and Nick Ellis joining the council recently. The council welcomes them and looks forward to the future.

The parish council is here to serve you and take on board your wishes and concerns and there are a number of issues that I am constantly reminded of - dog fouling, speeding, parking on double yellow lines and anti-social behaviour. These are all issues that as a community we can help to resolve. With lack of funding to 'police' from Kent Police and Dover District Council it is up to us a residents of our great village to look after it.

If you have a dog and there are many, then is it too much to ask you to pick up the poo and put it in a bin? "Stick and flick" is another option when in rural areas but why do some owners bag their poo and then hang it up in the hedge/fence?

Please act responsibly and have some thought for other users.

Speeding seems to be a current theme and we have five sites around the village to mount SID (Speed Indicator Device) which records speed as well as displaying them! Just drive sensibly, within the speed limit and conditions at the time and make it safer place for us all.

Parking raises it ugly head and it needs more consideration from us all. Parking helps to slow through traffic but must be appropriate and legal. Please just think before you act.

The planning issues continue and the hospital site has now had the old work block removed so hopefully some progress will be seen soon.

Gore Lane development has not yet started, the extension to the Shemara Farm site on Woodnesborough Road continues as well as the final phases at Hammill Brick Works. The District Council has been given government targets for housing so expect more sites to be announced in the future. We, as the parish council, are your voice to DDC so please raise your

concerns, if you have any, through the relevant channels.

The recreational facilities in the village are important and the new wooden play area (replacing the one removed on safety grounds) will be installed as soon as necessary details have been ironed out. The existing Gun Park play area is nearing the point where broad-reaching decisions are required:- repair, replace or start with something different. Again please let your councillors know of your wishes.

The new parish building proposal is moving on and these facilities are for the village. Yes, they will house an office for the clerk and it will be our meeting room for council meetings but it will be for much, much more. Village groups (Guides, WW1 committee), meeting rooms, distribution centre (EVN), function rooms and our emergency centre. It is also the main function building for the popular Eastry Bowling Club. We will inform you all of progress as it happens and we are always willing to discuss the development. It is for you the parishioners of the village, so please speak out and talk to the council.

The Parish Council website is a useful vehicle for information and we will be looking at making it more modern and functional to today's society, including the use of social media. Again if you have any suggestions then please let us know.

Finally, and something personal to me, are the Christmas trees that the council provides. One is erected outside the pub and one on the village hall entrance canopy. At no cost to the council, except the costs of the trees, and with volunteer help they are erected on council land for the enjoyment of all, as well as a focal point for the carol singing and the village. Mary (Landlady of Five Bells) kindly donates electricity for the lights and I think you'll agree it is a lovely characteristic of the village. Over the last couple of years somebody has maliciously cut the tree down and this is not only anti-social but as it is a large tree it could easily cause damage to people or property. Please respect the tree and allow us all to enjoy it over the festive season.

Finally I would say, as Christmas begins its inevitable rundown to the 25th of December, that we need to treat each other with the respect and care that we would like to receive. In the period of forgiveness and charity, go that extra mile, offer some help to somebody without reward, create some good karma and create a positive atmosphere where we can all feel welcome, loved and cherished.

Happy Christmas, festive greetings and respect to all.

Mark Jones

Our Green Heritage - An Invitation

Sunday December 1st 3.00pm The Five Bells, Eastry

*Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass*

Over the past few months a small group has been meeting to discuss ways in which our local churches and churchyards might be made more 'green'. The question is a crucial one as we are now facing in our own country and across the world a climate crisis. As I write wildfires are out of control in Australia, the lovely Basilica of St Mark's in Venice is flooded for the sixth time in 1200 years (four of which have occurred in the last two decades); in the centre of England acres of farmland and whole villages are under water. Even in our own corner of Kent we may have noticed change: hotter summers, warmer and wetter winters, fewer insects and birds. We are worried and want to respond but how to go about that?

As a Christian I believe that we must be hopeful and I know that God loves us and the world that he has created but I also believe that He asks us to act with all of the ability and commitment we have to protect that world. We need to do this together, in a creative and communal way, whatever our beliefs. So, this December, we would like to invite you to the first of a series of meetings that will bring people together to discuss and to think about these issues. We will be looking close to home at what might be done for our own 'Green Heritage' and alongside this we will be also considering the wider issues around the climate and ecological crisis that we see unfolding before us. The group will include activities, films and reading and we will be organising speakers and events in 2020. **Please join us!**

Rev Lesley Hardy,

To find out more contact revlesleyhardy@gmail.com or call 07725944553



Copyright Explore Kent

Free Trees & Shrubs for Our Earth's Health

The vital part that trees can play in combating climate change through carbon capture from the air is well understood and wonderfully enables each gardener to be a quiet "extinction rebel" with no danger of being arrested for disorderly behaviour. Nurturing the trees and shrubs we possess and if room permits, planting a new one or two, though small is a very real practical step and an act of commitment in the global work of healing this wonderful Earth, our home.

To further encourage and enable such planting locally native shrubs and trees of a variety of types will be freely available from December through March from the "Plant a Tree" folk whose details are below.

Maybe though, you only have a yard. However, don't be discouraged for even here a large pot in a sunny corner will sustain a spindle tree. Watching it grow, learning about the part it plays and formerly played in our lives (the spindle's hard dense wood was used for the making of spindles); the part it plays in nature's life (the caterpillars of the armin moth hatch and grow in web-nests made amongst its twigs, birds love its orange/pink fruits, and you will love its crimson autumn leaves) adds to our admiration of this small but so useful tree. Every type of shrub and tree has a similar tale to tell of use to humanity and nature which when searched out deepens our appreciation and enjoyment of them.



Perhaps though you have neither garden nor yard but maybe your child's school or place of work does have space where a tree or shrub of the right size and variety could find a home. Whatever your situation you are welcome to participate in this tree planting scheme and so hopefully no longer feel so overwhelmed by the problem of climate change but rather one more participant in its solution.

Plant a tree contacts:

Adrian and Sue Sullivan, e-mail: adrian_o_stories@hotmail.com

Jennie Bradshaw tel: 01304 831257.

"Plant a tree" is run under the umbrella of East Kent Climate Action

e-mail: EKclimateaction@gmail.com.

A Good Neighbour is a Priceless Treasure

Chinese proverb

At this time of year when darkness seems to come so early in the day and it's cold and dreary, it is easy for some older people to feel isolated and alone. Christmas is not a festive occasion if you are alone and everyone else seems to be enjoying themselves. Loneliness can be as harmful to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and depression is not a normal part of aging, yet it is a common problem among older adults. It can be brought on by the death of a loved one, retirement, ill health or loneliness and may cause feelings of uneasiness, stress and sadness.

Eastry is a great small village where good neighbourliness is part and parcel of village life but it is often too easy to assume that someone else is doing the necessary for some village residents who may need a little extra help. It is important that we, as family, friends and neighbours of older adults, especially those who are on their own, make an effort to keep in touch with them. A regular check to make sure that all is well. Older people are just young people with more life experience and a natter over the fence, a phone call, a plate meal or a cup of tea and a biscuit may be all that someone needs to give them a lift.

If you know or live close to an older person who is housebound, by themselves, who may have a disability or loss of sight and or/hearing problems then an offer of practical help such as shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting letters or walking the dog can make a big difference. Perhaps help by offering to take them to the doctors or the hairdresser or to church or help to put them in touch with the people that are there to help. Helping others can be very rewarding for both parties and like the sticker reminding us that a puppy is for life not just for Christmas - loneliness can be too!

The NHS and Age UK both offer a wide range of local services on-line for older people but not every older person will have access to the net or be computer literate so they may need help to get in touch with these organisations.

Pat Clarke

Sources NHS on-line, Age Concern on-line



Community Spirit

There's something about a community you simply can't deny
it's shaped by various cultures, Creoles, you and I.
It can take on many forms, one size won't fit all,
but without spirit it may wither, like Reggie Perrin "rise and fall".

Yet it could be so different if we all took the time to stop,
look around us, help our neighbours, offer to clean, cook and shop.
It doesn't cost a fortune to lend a helping hand
lift up your head, open your eyes, don't be the ostrich in the sand.

The rewards to a community are tenfold, an opportunity to shine,
especially in December at "good old" Christmas time.
Offer a place at your table; enrich your heart and soul,
let hospitality be your driving force and togetherness your goal.

Embrace the differing customs, collaborate as one,
celebrate your hard work when all is said and done.
Because if you fail your community the inevitability for all
will be to disappear from society, like the Banksy mural from the wall.

Anon

Eastry Horticultural Society

At our October Harvest Supper meeting this year instead of our usual Pumpkin Weigh-in, (last year the pumpkins were so heavy our scales could not cope), it was decided to have a "Marrow Weigh-in". The picture is of the entries with Alan Ford's winning marrow. To save our scales we will continue with this in 2020.

Peter Bailey, Chairman EHS





School PTA Co-Op Community Fund

We are very excited to let you know that Eastry CEP School PTA was been chosen to benefit from the next round of the Co-Op Local Community Fund.

The funding round opened on 27 October 2019 and closes on 24th October 2020. During this funding phase, Co-Op Members will be able to choose us as their local cause.

If you shop at the Co-Op and have a membership card, please choose the school as your local community cause, it is really quick and easy to do on-line. It is also really easy to get a card, if you don't already have one. The card benefits you too, as you get 5% back on Co-Op own brand products that you purchase (the school will get 1%, if you chose us).

Please encourage your friends and family to become a Co-Op Member and to support us. They can join on-line at:

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration> or pick up a registration leaflet in store.

We are fundraising this year to help to pay for new school computing equipment and to pay for on-going outdoor learning, so thank you for supporting us to enrich the children's school experience.

Katie Wooldridge

Eastry C of E Primary wishes you a Very Merry Christmas



A Wintry Night

The sky is dark and the ground is white
 The world is peaceful on this wintry night
 No one around, not a sound to be heard
 Not a laugh, not a car, not even a bird
 For a moment, it's just the snow and me

I smile inside

I feel so free

Year 5

In The Garden

Christmas is just around the corner and we are coming to the end of yet another gardening year. I have put my garden to bed for the winter, and I am now sitting in my armchair in front of the fire reminiscing of gardening days gone-by, especially my last 17 years of working life being employed as the Head Gardener (and at times the only gardener) for the Earl of Guilford on the Waldershare Park Estate, near Dover.

I had spent all my previous working years in the construction industry which had become a 'rat race' and when the Head Gardener position was advertised I applied for it, along with 60 other applicants, and I was the lucky one to be selected. My hobby was now my job.

The Earl was a lovely man to work for, he loved his garden and took a great all year-round interest in it. The Earl being an ex-military man loved his straight lines and I was quite often told that the mowing stripes in the lawn were not straight. The Earl loved his flowers but would only allow two varieties to be cut and taken indoors, they were freesias and sweet peas (especially one called Pink Lady) both of which have a wonderful fragrance. All the flowers had to be pastel shades in colour and each year I would fill the Earl's treasured pots and containers to the brim and place them around the house and the swimming pool.



I can remember one year a new variety of bedding geranium was introduced; it was called Queen Mother. I knew the Earl had met the Queen Mother on several occasions, so I ordered 30 plants with the intention of making a special display of them. I made a big mistake of not looking up the colour of the blooms, and when they came into flower, they were a very bright red!! Very quickly I removed them from the flower bed



and gave them to the workers to take home. Oh, dear a bare patch in the flower garden, explain that to the Earl. I then told a little white lie to the Earl and blamed the missing plants on the rabbits. Lesson learnt, always look up the colour before ordering.



Each day would start off with me joining the Earl in his kitchen, and over a cup of tea I would discuss the work I had planned for that day. One day in midsummer the Earl ask me to cut back the ceanothus shrub as it was blocking his view from the study window. Knowing how temperamental these shrubs are, I explained that if I pruned it at this time of the year, it would die. The earl

calmly said, "It's my shrub, do as you are told". I did, I pruned it back as hard as I could, and all books will tell you, it should have died. Did it? no it didn't, in fact after that, it bloomed better each year until the year that the Earl passed away, and uncannily the shrub also died. Now explain that Mr Titchmarsh.

Part of my work was to look after the family mausoleum at Waldershare Church. One day I came across an elderly gentleman tending a grave, and I struck up a conversation with him. He told me his father was born on the Estate, went to school and church on the estate, was one of the forty gardeners who worked on the Estate, he went to dances in the village hall and finally when he died he was buried here in this grave. From then on, every time I met this gentleman, he would tell me fascinating stories about life on the estate.

Life on the estate was never quite the same after the Earl passed away, he was a 'true gentleman', and I missed him greatly. I was very privileged when the current Earl ask me if I would like to follow the coffin down into the family mausoleum, which I did, and I placed a bunch of freesias on the Earls coffin and then just said, "thank you".

Thank you for sharing just these few precious memories with me.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and an enjoyable gardening new year,

Enjoy your garden,

Art E. Choke



Bird Watching with Big Nick

I'll start this month with what, to most of my birding friends, is quite an exciting visitor, a great grey shrike. It is a juvenile bird and has taken up residence near St Margaret's Bay, on a piece of land behind the Dover Patrol monument called Free Down. It has been there for a couple of weeks and providing it finds enough to eat, may stay for most of the winter. The shrike family contains 33 species, two of which show up in Britain most years, this one and the red-backed shrike. They feed on anything from insects to small vertebrates and their habit of impaling prey onto a thorn or barbed wire to act as a 'larder' has given them the nickname of butcher birds.



A trip to Ramsgate Harbour recently gave me some other ideas for birds for you to look out for over the winter. Harbours can offer relatively sheltered waters to passing birds in rough weather and it is not uncommon to find something a little different within them. On my recent visit I found a red-throated diver; there was one last year as well. In fact since my re-discovered interest in bird photography, Ramsgate Harbour has yielded a great northern diver, black-throated diver, eider duck and several other birds not normally seen close to shore on our coast.



Red-throated diver



Great northern diver

Cormorants are common around Kent, but their close relative, the shag, is much less often seen here. However, during the winter months a few individuals can usually be found swimming and diving for food amongst the moored boats in both Ramsgate and Dover harbours and yacht basins. The two species are very similar and lone birds can easily cause confusion, but the cormorant swims very low in the water and has a larger heavy looking bill while shags are smaller, with a slender bill and they tend to swim more on the surface.



Shag



Cormorant

There are several other small differences but space prevents me from elaborating further; if you're still not sure, there are some good guides to bird identification on the internet.

Good birding.

Nick



Breakfast, Lunch & Scrummy Cakes at Eastry's New Tearoom

Mother and daughter team Leyla and Bethany Larkins from Ash, had a long-held a dream of opening a tearoom together. When a site on the ground floor below hairdressers Little Miracles became vacant in the village, they seized the opportunity and, following a complete refit, they opened Infinitea early in September.

Keen bakers for as long as they can remember the pair now produce a menu of delicious breakfast, brunch and lunch meals and very important for any tearoom, an amazing selection of cakes and scones – all made on the premises. In fact Eastry now has a great location for a celebratory Afternoon Tea, Cream Tea or decadent Chocolate Afternoon Tea. Many of the cakes are made from recipes handed down from Leyla's grandmother, except some are now gluten-free.

As well as the comfortable seating area on the ground floor, the pair have renovated the basement into a beautiful space which can be hired for private lunches, children's parties or as a meeting venue seating up to ten people, something Eastry hasn't had until now.

The menu has evolved to some extent from requests from customers, and for example, the breakfast selection now includes items such as pancakes and smoked salmon, as well as a full English – and a veggie option.

Almost all the food and drink (including barista-style coffee) can be take-away and most special requests catered for. With Christmas coming up Leyla and Bethany will be pleased to take cake orders if you haven't time to make your own and want something special that really is home-made. Their carrot cakes and chocolate cakes are particularly popular.

Infinitea is open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 4pm, and you can phone through orders, discuss any allergies or vegetarian options and book a special Afternoon Tea on 07727 077165. You can also find them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/infiniteaeastry and Instagram at Infinitea_Eastry.

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No garden waste collection on 24th December



Neighbourhood Watch

No sooner have the bonfires and fireworks finished, we are bombarded with tempting products for the festive season. Should you be buying for family and friends please don't leave parcels and cardboard boxes on display where they can be seen in the house or the car or even the shed or garage. Prying eyes will soon make note of what you are storing. Don't advertise what you have received on social media or tell all and sundry when you are going out. Crime is big business these days.

I do want to thank everyone who attended the NHW AGM and welcome new officers. Simon Dundas has volunteered to be Vice Chairman; Rob Bishop was confirmed as Treasurer and Michael Kinns volunteered his services as Minute Secretary.

Our KCC Warden from Dover, Alison Beaumont, was the speaker and she gave a talk about scams and the effect they have on the community:

- Postal scams alone have resulted in three million people losing a total of £10 billion.
- 42% of people in Kent are likely to be scam victims.
- The most common scams relate to lottery, prize draws, investment, romance, catalogue prize draws (e.g. vitamins, slimming aids).
- The most likely reasons for being scammed are: loneliness, financial hardship, being pressurised, student loans.
- Elderly people are the most likely to be scammed - the average age of a scammed person is 74.
- Often people who have been scammed are added to a "Suckers List", which results in further targeting of victims. This often only stops when they die or relatives intervene.

HOW TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED

- The offer looks too good to be true
- Money is requested up-front by the scammer.
- If in doubt, call the Consumers Advice Service or look at alerts from Trading Standards
- Purchase a "True Call" device to block nuisance telephone calls.

DOOR STEP CRIME

Be careful with people you don't know. If you pay over £42, you have 14 days to change your mind, if you contact the company. Work done by cold callers is often shoddy and you are charged excessive prices.

Distraction burglars often work in pairs: one talks to the victim while the other steals property after gaining entry through an unlocked door.

Follow security advice:

- Keep a chain on your door and check the identity of the caller.
- If a caller says they are from the Police, you can check this is true because all police officers are GPS tracked (telephone the police).

On behalf of NHW may I express our thanks to Brian and Sue for all that they have done for the village magazine, it has been much appreciated.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Keep safe - **Sheila Smith**



November was our Annual Meeting for Eastry WI and I am proud to have been voted in as President for a third year.

We were pleased to welcome so many visitors to our exhibition of crafts and hobbies in September. It was good chatting to them about the crafts they were involved in and telling them more about our other

activities and speakers. It resulted in several visitors to our October meeting when we made embroidered Christmas cards.

These are just some of the things members have recently said about The WI – its friendship, laughter and ‘me time’, it’s caring, sharing and encouragement plus outings and thought provoking meetings. If you think that’s a bit of a tall order come along and see for yourself!

We try to plan our programme so that there is something for everyone, and we realise that not everyone is into baking, crafting and jam making! The aims of the Women’s Institute is to ‘Inspire Women’ and over the course of the past year there have been craft evenings, quiz evenings and games evenings. We have had speakers about ‘Family History’, ‘Air Traffic Control’, ‘A Three Pound Husband’ and the memorable Jihad Homsey from the charity Mercy Ships.

2020 will continue with a diverse programme which begins 19.30 February 5th with a quiz night (we don’t meet in January). Visitors are always warmly welcomed for three meetings before deciding whether to become a member or not.

Sue Hankins

President Eastry WI

The Frozen Turkey

I dropped a turkey on me toe
and it aint arf flipping sore.
I'm sure I heard the turkey laugh
as it rolled around the floor.

I dropped the turkey on me toe
I said "oh bother" and the blooming rest!
But the turkey was grinning up at me
with it's wings froze to its breast.

I dropped a turkey on me toe
it was meant to go on a plate
but "wallop" it was on me toe
it was too damn flipping late.

I dropped a turkey on me toe
now me foot's all blooming numb,
the turkey's smirking up at me
with it's legs froze to its bum.

So when we're eating Christmas dinner
and they say the turkey's very nice
I wont mention where its been
I'll just sit there grinning like the turkey
with me toe on flipping ice!

Rose Beer
Happy Christmas Everyone

Floss Cork 100 !!

I felt I couldn't let this month's edition of the Village News pass without asking the editor if I could use my little space to say "Congratulations" to an incredible lady of our village who, on the 15th November, reached 100 years old!

Floss Cork, who now lives in a care home in Kingsdown, is an amazing lady in every sense of the word. On Sunday 17th November, her family held an open invitation party for her in the church hall and I was flattered beyond means to be asked to pay tribute to her - well!! I certainly wasn't lost for words! In fact words to describe Floss just rolled off my tongue.

She was born in this village and for 100 years has done so much, perhaps rather naughtily I described Floss as "old stock", rather like a stock cube that is made up of grains of wise and wisdom, grains of elegance, grains of good manners, grains of old fashioned skills, grains of kindness and helpfulness, along with grains of a naughty sense of humour and when all these grains are blended together they make one solid cube of goodness which we hope to be able to savour for a good time to come.

Floss has been a "doer"; a president, a councillor, a trustee, an organiser, a member, a chairman, the list is endless and apart from all that a truly lovely lady. Floss has three daughters and what a credit they are to her and her to them. The love between the family doesn't come by luck and they are all a credit to each other. Of course if there was a world record for running raffles Floss would win without doubt - one ticket or two? Will you be here when it's drawn? She must have said those words a million times?

Floss you are an amazing lady, we as readers of this magazine admire you, respect you and wish you good luck and good health for some time to come. If readers are drinking "a cuppa" while reading this please raise your cup and say "Congratulations" to Floss.

Happy Birthday Floss



- three cheers from Rose Beer and all the readers.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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Fri 6th Dec Clairvoyant Eve
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Sat 14th Dec Mr P's Karaoke
8pm
Mon 16th Carols around the
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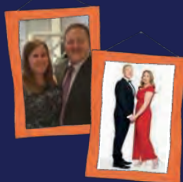
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