

Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police Police Community Support - tel 101

999 **PCSOs** Kerry Skirrow

Non-emergency Police kerry.skirrow@kent.pnn.police.uk

101 Michael Bolt Community Warden michael bolt1@ker

Karl Aylett 07811 271299 karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk michael.bolt1@kent.pnn.police.uk

Gas Emergency
Neighbourhood Watch
611580 Sheila Smith

0800 111999

Highways Fault Reporting UK Power Network 03000 418181 105

Doctors Surgery C of E Primary School

619790/ 611608 611360

Emergency out of hours: Head Teacher: Tim Halling

111 **PTA Treasurer:** Mrs Karen Rang

Parish Council
www.eastrypc.co.uk
www.facebook.com/EastryPC

Clerk to Council
614320 Sarah Wells
(clerk@eastrypc.co.uk)

Chairman: Nick Kenton

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

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 (5%-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 New Year Quiz

Saturday 9th March, in the Church Hall 7pm for 7.30pm start. £5pp.

Gather your tables together to pit your team against the other competitors. As usual, our resident Quiz Master is Dr Alastair 'no phones, my word is final' Carnegie capably assisted by Liz and Jinny on the scores.

Always a fun evening, drop me an email to secure your place.

Carole Finch carole.finch@hotmail.co.uk

Northbourne and Betteshanger Horticultural Society

Monday 11th February - 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Hall

Mig Kimpton will be the guest speaker and will talk about preparing for the Chelsea Show accompanied by some flower arrangements.

All are welcome - No admission charge - raffle for the flowers.

For further information contact Sheila Smith tel: 01304 611580

Eastry Horticultural Society

Tuesday 12th February Birds, General Wildlife and Conservation in the Eastry Area

Tuesday 12th March

500 years of Sandown Castle and the Community Garden

Eastry & District Open Group (EDOG)

Monday 18th February AGM in the Church Hall at 7.30pm followed by: John Tottenham "Compassionate Farming"

Monday 18th March Rev. Sandra Marsh - "A funny thing happened on the way Eastry"

Eastry Local Interests Group (ELIG) at Eastry Church Hall

No meeting in February

Wednesday 27th March in the Church Hall at 7.30pm

Nick Woodland - "History on my doorstep"

Dover Flower Club at Whitfield Village Hall

Monday 25th February at 7.15 pm

Demonstration by Karen Hart who is a local Florist in Sandwich.

For more information please contact Marian Townsley Tel: 832522. email: marian.townsley@btinternet.com

The EASTRY THEATRICAL COMPANY presents a pantomime of......

THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY

Tickets cost £5.50 on sale at the Post Office and Eastry Pharmacy.

Evening performances start at 7.30pm on the 22nd and 23rd February.

A matinee performance starts at 2.00pm on the 23rd February. Doors open half an hour before each performance.

Please come see and support us in this un-missable show containing a lot of well known faces from your village.

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 warmly welcomed. Further details from Terry James 614245 or John Arnold 449842

Tilmanstone Village Market Tilmanstone Village Hall First Saturday of the month 10.00am - 11.00am Admission 20p (**NOT** in February)

Village Hall Events

Bingo Saturday 2nd March - eyes down 7.30pm Entry includes Bangers and Chips etc - £3.50

Kent Mobile Library Service 9.40am - 10.10am

Fridays 8th, 22nd February 8th, 22nd March

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

Hearing Aid Clinic 10.00am - 11.30am Fridays 8th February 11th March

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.

St Mary's May Excursion - 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 be time to stroll along the promenade to Whitstable or Tankerton before returning to Eastry by 6.30pm.

Lunch included in the price of £30.

Call Carole on 611847 or email carole.finch@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your seat.

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm Eastry Village Hall

The meeting is early this year as Parish Council elections are due on 2nd May 2019 and the outgoing council wish to make their annual report and encourage new members to stand for the Council.

On the agenda so far we have Cllr Andrew Barwick talking about his role as a First Responder and Mr Richard Ginn will be speaking about his role as our village caretaker.

In addition we will hopefully have reports from our District and County Councillors. Following the results of the play area survey, play provision will also be discussed. It had been hoped to have the meeting agenda ready for publication, however this has not been possible. Therefore it may well be included as a loose-leaf flyer with this magazine.

Christmas Tree Vandals

For many years the Parish Council has provide Christmas trees at either end of the High Street, one at the Village Hall and one outside the Five Bell. This is done for the entire community and the members have always been more than willing to not only authorise the expense but to actually erect the trees and lights and take them down after the festive season.

However for the past two Christmases the tree outside the Five Bells has been vandalised, felled in fact. In 2017 this was done between Christmas and New Year and last year (2018) it was a bit later - after New Year. Obviously this is very concerning, luckily no damage has been caused by the trees falling, however should damage or injury have occurred, then the Council may have been liable.

The Council will be considering very seriously whether or not to continue with the practice of providing trees. They would be very disappointed if this tradition has to stop, however public safety must be considered.

If you have any information about the vandalism to the trees please contact the local police who are dealing with the matter.

Parish Council Elections 2nd May 2019

Could You Be A Councillor?

Any person 18 years of age and older who is a local government elector, lives or works in the parish or lives within three miles of the area of the Local Council may stand for election.

Candidates for election must complete nomination forms and submit them to their local electoral office by the closing date for nominations - usually four to five weeks before polling day. The local electoral office for Eastry is Dover District Council.

A Councillor's normal term of office is four years. He/she is a holder of a Public Office.

Candidates may stand under a party political label, but most do not.

Councillors are subject to their Council's Code of Conduct and must complete a Declaration of Interest form which will be publicly available.

What Will You Do If Elected?

- Attend Council meetings and raise matters that the Council can consider and then formally decide to take action.
- Make informed contributions and influence debate at meetings.
- Receive training for your role.
- Represent the Council externally.

If you have some time and would like to serve the local community please consider standing for election as a Parish Councillor.

Play area Survey Results

Of the 1100 magazines delivered to every house in the parish a total of 109 responses were returned, the majority of these (103) were via the Survey Monkey website with just six paper responses completed. The Parish Council are now looking into options for the future development of play equipment in the Parish.

Eastry Ravens Football Club

Eastry Ravens Football Club has enjoyed something of a resurgence in the last few years, with the continuing strong adult Sunday team playing in the Dover league and a new Saturday veteran's team playing in the Thanet & District League. However, the biggest change has been the introduction of the new youth section which started in 2016 and now has four teams (ages 7-11) in the Faversham & District League on Saturday Mornings, and training on a Wednesday evening.

The development of the youth section has been testament to the community pulling together. With some initial funding for training equipment being provided by the Parish Council, and excellent support from Eastry Primary School who allow us to use their pitches for home games and summer training. The success has been reflected in the club being awarded the FA chartered standard, which means we are fully FA compliant in structure, training and welfare issues that ensure that children are playing football in a safe and secure environment.

The club philosophy is that at these early stages, it is important that every child who wants to has an equal opportunity to play and develop at their own pace within the team. We work hard to ensure this happens and encourage every child to have fun learning and improving both football and social skills; making new friends and learning to work together as part of a team.

As the club continues to grow, we are always on the look-out for new players and coaches. We are currently particularly interested in additional players in school Years 1 & 2 to strengthen the current Under 7's team, and to be the base for next year's under 7 team.

If you are interested in being involved with the club either as a player or as a coach, please contact Steve Booth 07864 925289 or by email at 27srb@sky.com

Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal 2018-9

With reference to our earlier insertion published in the previous edition of the Eastry Village News - we are very pleased to announce the total raised by donations to the Poppy Appeal.

This is the outstanding sum of £5,075.92

We would again wish to thank all who contributed and assisted us in achieving such a sum for a small village.

Thanks to you all.

Roger Penn - Poppy Appeal Organiser

Church Contacts

St Mary's Parish Church

www.eastrybenefice.co.uk

Clergy:			Church Wardens:	
Revd. David Ridley	1	619619	Dr. Alastair Carnegie	813120
Revd. Jennifer Pilcl	her	611472	Jo Slater	619873
Revd. David Willis 611959		Assistant Church Wardens:		
Revd. Sandra Mars	sh	612686	Mary Goosen	611306
	,,,	012000	Sue Brearley	761668
Bell Captain:			Church Hall Bookings	:
Mick Johnson	0777	3 970475	Bob Barwick	611420
Organist:			Enquiries:	

Church Office

Please phone the office

611323

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

366761

Friday Friendship Lunch Club

Fridays 8th February, 8th March - Church Hall at 12 Noon.

Contact 611400

Maureen Norman

Sing Along and Tea

Tuesdays 26th February, 26th 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

The Church Registers

Wedding: 22nd December Adam Guildford/ Rebecca Chapman

Funerals: 7th December Norman Friend (Barham)

27th December Eric Hawkes21st January Mervyn Bryant

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

3rd February, 3rd March (Northbourne) 10th February, 10th March (Tilmanstone)

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion Eastry Church Hall - all are welcome

Lent lunches

Fridays 15th , 22nd, 29th March and 5th April In the Church Hall at 12 noon, £5 pp - proceeds to the AMOS Trust

World day of prayer

Friday 1st March, 2.00 - 4.00pm in the Church Hall

Rector's Letter

One of the January chores, after New Year and the Twelve Days of Christmas, is the putting away of Christmas decorations. Being a bit of a traditionalist, I like to have a real Christmas tree, but inevitably it is something of a challenge to get it out of the house whilst keeping the needle drop to a minimum. There is also the question of what to do with the Christmas cards which have been thoughtfully and generously sent.

There is an increasing trend not to send Christmas cards, but rather to offer Christmas greetings via email or another form of social media – often with a charitable donation in lieu of the cost of the cards and postage. Whilst I totally understand the motivation behind this, I still think there is a place for the Christmas card. As it happens, I tend to send a fair few cards and, probably as a result, get quite a few in return, and I use them as part of the Christmas decoration. But the reason that I especially value the Christmas card is that I think there is something significant in taking a bit of time to compose a personal, albeit often brief, handwritten message to a friend. It is, I hope, read and valued by the recipient; and certainly I appreciate the care and attention another person has taken in writing to me.

But what to do with the pile of cards when Christmas is over. Of course, we can recycle them, or in some way reuse the pictures. But I find it also productive to re-read the messages, to think a little about the sender, and maybe to make contact with them – especially if there has been little

other communication over the year. Another really creative idea someone gave me, and which I have adopted this year, is day by day to pray for each person who has sent a card. If prayer is not your thing, then you might equally find it beneficial just to spend a few moments thinking about the senders of your cards.

These are simply a few thoughts, but they point towards two important practices:

The first is the importance of the expression of our commitment and care to another person. A handwritten note or letter, which is often kept and treasured, is becoming something of the past. But can we still offer little personal greetings, by whatever medium, which express our consideration and concern for others?

And second, let us remain alert and aware to the needs of others. It is very easy for people, especially the ill or elderly, to become totally isolated and almost invisible. Whether it might be the prompt from a Christmas card, or simply a prick of conscience, are there people to whom we should get in touch – maybe a visit or simply a phone call? We should never underestimate the difference which a small act of kindness can make.

David Ridley

Eastry Cares Do You Need Help? Can You Help?

We've written before about how fortunate the village is to have so many clubs, societies and associations – all of which make Eastry a great place to live.

You may not know it also has a unique facility, available to help anyone in the village who has a problem. Called *Eastry Cares*, it's an initiative set up two years ago by our local church, St Mary the Virgin.

Do You Need Help?

Eastry Cares has a band of volunteers who can provide short-term help with a range of activities. For example, it has drivers who can take you to a hospital appointment, or collect shopping or your prescription. If you don't have good computer skills, someone can help you with tasks such as comparing energy suppliers so you are on the right tariff, or filling out complicated forms.

You may just need a friendly visit or a listening ear. Whatever your problem, *Eastry Cares* will either provide a volunteer or direct you to an appropriate agency or organisation which can provide long-term support if you need it.

Eastry Cares is a donation-based organisation (see tariff below), but if these costs are a problem, then do still call to discuss your need.

Can You Help?

Eastry Cares is looking for more volunteers, as drivers, befrienders or for helping with tasks such as form filling.

You just need to give a few hours and these can be flexible. All volunteers need to be DBS checked, but *Eastry Cares* will take care of this for you. You may be retired and available during the week, or just have some time to spare at weekends.

Get in Contact

If you need help with a problem or would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer, just call Libby on 07787 612238. You may get a voicemail, but please leave a message and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

A Few Notes

- Eastry Cares is only available to help residents of Eastry
- Eastry Cares helps with short-term needs. It is not a substitute for social services or other long-term agencies
- Eastry Cares is donation-based but can make exceptions where there is a need

Eastry Cares Transport Tariffs

Eastry - Sandwich £3.00 each way

Eastry - Dover £11.00 each way

Eastry - Deal £6.00 each way

Eastry - QEQM £11.00 each way

Eastry - Canterbury £15.00 each way

Eastry - William Harvey £25.00 each way

Right at Home - A Different Kind of Care Provider

Right at Home (East Kent) is a family owned business providing care and support at home to adults over the age of 18 and older people across Thanet, Sandwich, Deal & Dover areas. We are part of an award winning network of locally owned care providers across the county. We strive to make a real difference to the people and their families that we serve and who entrust us with their care by raising standards and expectations. We are also part of the international Right at Home network, one of the world's leading care providers.

Right at Home is very much a community minded company and is involved

in many initiatives including the Sandwich & Thanet Dementia Action Alliances, Ageless Thanet, organisations such as Age Concern, EKIDS, Carers Support and the Alzheimer's Society to name a few. We are also extremely proud to have been finalists in the Annual Dementia Friendly Kent Awards 2017 and 2018.

The Friends Groups are designed to give people in the community living with an illness or condition including dementia, the opportunity to enjoy a break from their daily routine, and give family carers some free time. We also have respite groups established in Ramsgate and Sandwich – please contact us for further details. Many carers stay for a cuppa and a chat at the groups and have formed firm friendships with people in similar circumstances.

Eastry Friends Group

Introduced in the Summer of 2018 and with the kind agreement and hospitality of Mary Franks, our Eastry Friends Group has enjoyed the support of local people and organisations such as The Five Bells, Eastry Cares, AgeConcern Sandwich, Carers Support and more.

When asked 'why Eastry', our owner and Managing Director Lee Jackson replied 'we support a couple of people in Eastry already but were really touched by the community spirit during Dementia Action Week 2018 and at the Friday coffee mornings in the Village Hall. We had been looking for a third venue for our Friends Group and Eastry became the obvious choice where we could readily give something back to the community and provide a service that people would enjoy and appreciate. Isolation is a real problem for many people so the value of being able to get out of the house, socialise and simply have a chat cannot be underestimated'

Why not come along and join us in the comfortable and friendly atmosphere of The Five Bells for tea, coffee and biscuits. By appointment we are happy to care for your loved one free of charge for the duration of the group which is two hours or why not join us for a friendly chat with people who may be in similar circumstances to you.

When: The 1st Tuesday of every month

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Where: The Five Bells, The Cross, Eastry

Please contact Right at Home on: 01843 598695

Email: eastkent@rightathome.com www.rightathome.co.uk/east-kent on Facebook

or just pop along to meet us at the Five Bells

In the Garden

February and we are already one month into our new Gardening Year. It's lovely to see all the spring bulbs pushing up through the ground. In fact, at Brambling House, we had daffodils showing through the ground back in December, they are now on their way to flowering.

I'm looking forward to creating a Rose Garden at Brambling, several resident's families and friends have donated roses, and I have 19 roses to plant as and when the weather allows me.





One of the roses I have donated for my wife, Dot, is called "Together Forever" which has a lovely strong orange bloom. It is a bush rose, repeat flowering, disease resistant and because of its open flowers, it is wildlife friendly. I purchased all the bare rooted roses from Layham Nursery at Staple and they are all strong and healthy plants.

Have you ever thought about gardening in conjunction with the phases of the moon? I don't

mean getting outdoors with your spade in the middle of the night. If you've never heard of it before, stay with me and I'll reveal the secrets.

Many moons ago, before we had gardening magazines, seed packets with sowing instructions and television gardening programmes, most gardeners and farmers used the phases of the moon for planting and the sowing of seeds.

The moon has four 'phases' or 'quarters' – each last about seven days. In the first two quarters, the 'new' dark moon you see gets bigger and more visible. This is known as the 'waxing' phase. You see an increase in light until the full moon is visible. The 3rd and 4th quarters are after the full moon. This is when the light begins to 'wane' or decrease. Then the cycle starts again. Are you still with me?

Just as the moon influences the rise and fall of the tides, it also has a gravitational effect on the moisture in plants (sap), the soil and water table. So, to put it in a 'nutshell', at the time of the new and full moon when lunar gravity pulls water up it is an ideal time to sow seeds. After the full moon, the moonlight decreases, putting energy into the plant roots. At this time, the above ground leaf growth slows down. So, this becomes a favourable time to plant your root crops and bulbs.

To learn more, there are lots of books on the market, that will explain in detail the benefits of Moon Gardening.

Back on earth, there are several jobs you should be carrying out this month: -

- Lily Bulbs can be planted in pots in the greenhouse, ready to be planted out in the garden later in the spring.
- Dahlia tubers stored over winter or purchased this year can be started into growth in a frost-free greenhouse.



- Place gladioli corms in seed trays or boxes and place in a light warm spot to encourage them to sprout before planting.
- Don't be in any hurry to sow seeds outdoors, the soil is far too cold, and the seed will rot, wait a few more weeks.
- Chit (create new shoots) on your seed potatoes, place them in egg trays in a frost-free light position. If you want quantity leave all the sprouting shoots, but if you want the potatoes for exhibition, remove all the week ones.
- Plants on your rock garden or in containers may benefit from overhead protection using a sheet of glass or Perspex.
- If you have a heated greenhouse, you can start sowing vegetable seeds and half-hardy flower seeds, but I would still suggest that you wait until the end of February, because as we know, the weather



in February can turn the dykes 'black or white'.

Whether you decide to become a Moon Gardener or Down To Earth Gardener, enjoy your garden,

Art E. Choke

Eastry Surgery

The CCG (Commissioning Consortium Group) will be writing in February to all patients registered with the practice, to notify them of the closure of the surgery.

After 29 years of service, Dr Healy retired from the practice on 31st December. We wish him all the best for the future, and a long and happy retirement. Dr Healy will continue to work as a salaried GP two days/week from February .

Bird Watching with Big Nick

I'd intended to continue the theme of garden birds but decided to talk about some of the winter visitors that are around as I write this in early January. Hopefully many of them will stay here into February and March to give you a chance to see them.

As I have said before, during the winter months many birds move from northern continental Europe and choose the UK as a milder destination. Certain locations attract certain birds. probably the same birds returning year after year. At Hampton – the western end of Herne Bay. 2 or 3 Purple sandpipers have over wintered for several years. These are difficult to find if the tide is out. but at high tide they're often sheltering on the wooden breakwater.



Other places to see them are at Foreness Point, Margate and on the breakwater near the Imperial Hotel, Hythe.

Another regular visitor is the Short-eared owl. Usually, one or two owls arrive at Sandwich Bay; this year has been exceptional with up to seven birds being counted. Most have moved on but one or two remain and can be seen hunting over the rough grass almost anywhere along Golf Road towards Deal. These owls are described as crepuscular – being most active during twilight of dawn and dusk – but for some reason the local birds can be seen almost any time of the day if you happen to be lucky, as I was, on several occasions.





Less predictable in their choice of winter venue are the regular, albeit small numbers of Snow buntings that arrive locally. They are normally found on the coast, preferring beaches topped with sparse vegetation, like Reculver, Swalecliffe and Sandwich Bay. They feed on seeds amongst the scrub but if disturbed will fly onto the pebbly beach where they can be surprisingly well camouflaged – unlike the 3 below feeding on the fairway of the Cinque Ports golf course.





Far less frequent than the Snow buntings but favouring similar areas, are Shore larks - one or two usually make an appearance. Although I've yet to see one this winter, I'm hopeful.



Shorelark, Sandwich Bay 2016

Finally, the Black redstart also favours our coasts in the winter. Slightly less showy than its near namesake the Redstart, a few can be found around the Kent coast at this time of year. Cross the channel and they are very common but according to the RSPB website, fewer than 100 pairs nest in the UK. The male is quite striking, but the female and juveniles are a little drab – unless you see the flick of their brick-red tail.

These were taken around the old ferry port at Ramsgate.





Female Male

Until next time, **Nick**

Coincidence in New Zealand

Seeing Rose Beers 'Chance in a Million' article in the October edition reminded me of a coincidence that happened to us in 2017. We were visiting New Zealand for the first time and had hired a camper van via the internet, to go exploring on the South Island.

We picked the van up at a parking lot near Christchurch airport and were being shown around it by the owner Ross. The usual small talk went on "First time in NZ?" he asked. "Where are you from in the UK?" Well, my stock answer to this question is something like "On the south coast about 100km from London" as many people I have met don't know the UK that well. However, the conversation progressed as Ross said he'd visited the UK earlier that year. He and a friend had then travelled around Europe. I asked him which port he'd travelled to Europe from and he replied Dover. "Oh" I said, "well, in fact we come from a village just along the coast from Dover, between Sandwich and Dover". Ross said, he'd visited Sandwich, in fact he stayed with his friend near there.

"Well, we actually live in a village called Eastry." I said.

"No..., that's near where I was staying" said Ross. He thought it was just outside the village but couldn't think of the name. "Heronden?" We ventured. "Yes, that was it" said Ross.

My wife Lesley asked "What's the name of your friend?" Ross answered "Jonathan Roscoe". "That is amazing" said Lesley,"I knew him, and his father Simon, who was a lay preacher at Eastry Church."

What a small world, the concept of 'Six degrees of separation' – the notion that you are a maximum of six introductions away from anyone in the world isn't such a silly idea.

Neighbourhood Watch

Welcome to the New Year. You will need to keep your wits about you to keep you and your property safe.

A few years ago we were horrified that teenagers would get a thrill out of smashing car wing mirrors and slashing

car tyres, it wasn't funny for the car owners. Now the crimes are far worse and the culprits older. It is fashionable currently to steal the number plates from cars, they are then used for the purpose of stealing fuel at petrol stations and then driving off without paying. CCTV is all very well but unsuspecting owners are charged for the fuel that has been stolen.

Tools from works vans are being stolen to order as well as mobile phones, iPlayers and even blue badges, all easily sold on. Anything that can be carried indoors should be removed from the car and anything else should be anchored down. Wherever possible get the property marked so that at least the police have a reasonable chance of returning it to the rightful owner.

Stay safe while you are shopping, look after your belongings:

- only taking with you what you need for a trip out.
- If you have a bag keep it fastened and to the front of your body.
- If you have valuables with you keep them out of sight, spread around your person (for example keep your phone in a bag, your house keys in a pocket and your money/cards tucked somewhere not easily accessible).
- Never leave your belongings unattended or in easy reach, for example on the top of a pram, a shopping trolley or a mobility scooter.
- Follow advice above about security marking valuables.

While you are out your home could be vulnerable so follow the advice from Kent Neighbourhood Watch and ensure doors and windows are secure before leaving your property and that bikes, tools and garden items are locked away.

Remember important items can be registered free at www.immobilise.com.

Eastry does not suffer much from crime, maybe that is because we do look after our neighbours, our property and are ever watchful. During the winter months I'm sure we will be ever vigilant and look out for one another so Happy New Year to everyone and may Spring soon arrive and brighten our lives.

Sheila Smith

Chair, Eastry Neighbourhood Watch.



Meetings:

February 6th - Letters From My Ancestors - LucyAnn Curling

March 6th - Games Night

April 3rd - How Safe are our Skies - P J Wellspring

Eastry Village Hall 19.30 - 1st Wednesday of each month except January

It's a little late but members of Eastry WI would like to wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous 2019.

We finished 2018 with a workshop making table decorations. Most people used seasonal foliage, but sweets, candles, chocolates and twinkling lights all made an appearance. A cup is awarded for the Christmas competition and this year it went to Theresa Foord for her table decoration.

The first meeting of 2019 is February 6th and we have a busy year planned. Our craft group will continue meeting in the Church Hall at 09.30 every Tuesday. The last Wednesday of every month will see us meeting for lunch at a local hostelry and ten pin bowling will continue. We will be having days out to visit places of interest during Spring then continuing throughout the year.

We are part of the East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes, the Federation celebrates its centenary in 2019 and a number of functions and activities are being arranged and we are looking forward to taking part in them.

Sue Hankins President

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Dover District Council - Bin Collections

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Community Warden

Happy new year to you. My eight months in the job of warden has gone by so very quickly and I'd like to thank everyone who I've met and who I have spoken to for making me feel so welcome.

Eastry is a great community and I'd like to encourage that community to look after each other in the months ahead, especially if we do get the cold weather that's being talked about. If you have an elderly or vulnerable person living next to you, take the time to check on them from time to time, a few minutes from you maybe all that is needed to really impact on the life of someone who is alone or in need of a little help

Perhaps bring that person to the village coffee morning which is a great opportunity to get out and meet people - everyone is welcome and best of all - the hard working volunteers make homemade delicious cakes and supply tea and coffee all at no charge! It would be lovely to see some new faces this year

I do my best to attend every Friday and am always available for you to talk to should you need my help I look forward to seeing you.

Karl Aylett

Community Warden - Sandwich, Eastry and Ash

Looking for a new opportunity in 2019?



Age Concern Sandwich is working on a Kent Community Foundation funded project offering opportunities to those who have been out of work or education / training for a while. It is aimed at people who would like to learn new skills and gain valuable experience and who would ultimately like to find paid employment.

At Age Concern Sandwich we offer three different structured volunteer programmes, these include: a retail volunteering programme, a maintenance volunteering programme, and a centre based client focused programme. These programmes are flexible, you can select more than one, if you would like to, and this is quite helpful if you are unsure what you would like to become involved with.

We offer help, support and training to all those who sign up, time commitment is regular but can be flexible, this will be agreed prior to commencement of the programme. However we anticipate commitment to be a day or two per week.

If you know someone who may benefit from joining the programme, please spread the word as we are keen to help as many people as we can.

To find out more please contact Gill Ball on 07735556811 or email agecorecruiter@btinternet.com . We also have regular volunteering opportunities too, so please get in touch about those too.

Poor Ol' Things

Hello everyone, well here we are in 2019 and although its a bit belated a Happy New Year to you all and lets hope that for many of us who had a rough 2018, that this year will be kind to us all. I seemed to have had so many Christmas cards this year and many from local people with several commenting on "my bits" in the magazine (especially the "Stan the Postman" poem) it certainly makes times like this when I sit down with pen in hand very worthwhile.

Of course the usual line of conversation is "I don't know how you think it all up". Well apart from the poems my articles are not thought up they are all perfectly true.

Just before Christmas I was reminded of a funny little white lie I told many years ago and I should have put it in the Christmas edition of the magazine, but the "Stan the Postman" poem got in the way. I have always had a warped sense of humour and have been known for telling the odd convincing white lie. Just before Christmas I bumped into a chap who I used to work in the fishmongers with and he reminded me of it. Although the shop was a fishmongers, at Christmas we would sell free range turkeys and every so often the odd one or two would get damaged in transit.

One day we had a turkey hanging up in the shop with only one wing. I was serving an elderly lady with some fish and noticed that she kept looking at the turkey, then she remarked that the poor thing had only got one wing. Quick as a flash I told her that was because we got them from a farm in East Sussex that was a farm for disabled turkeys. I said it was quite a sad sight to see some of them hopping around on one leg and some fluttering with only one wing. Dave my work mate nearly choked, however I resisted the urge to tell her where the saying "running around like a headless chicken" came from.

Rose Beer

Didn't he do well!

There was a boy lived in our street his name was Johnny Green, he was the dirtiest, scruffiest lad, that you had ever seen.

He had scabs on every limb, and his hair a tousled mess quite what he had in his pockets was anybody's guess!

He'd dig up worms and chase the girls and make them cry and scream yes, he was a horrible little lad that naughty Johnny Green.

I didn't see him for several years
I think he moved away
but recently I visited the hospital
well - just the other day.

I waited in the waiting room for my turn to be seen then who should come and call for me was Doctor Johnny Green!

Well! I couldn't believe what he'd achieved and working in such a place but I really couldn't help thinking I wish I had a flipping worm to dangle in his face!!

Rose Beer









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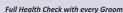
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