

THANK YOU **NHS**

and Police Forces, Fire Services, our armed forces, key workers, utility workers, the food chain, Post Office staff, chemists, carers, essential shops & garages, teachers, council staff, delivery drivers, the transport networks, vets, volunteers, helpers, maintenance/repair businesses, good neighbours, charity workers, Captain Tom & **everyone else** playing a part in helping overcome this pandemic.

Not forgetting all the residents and businesses of Eastry who have done their best to help others during this time of crisis.

Well done!

Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police 999

Gas Emergency 0800 111999

Police Community Support 101

Highways Fault Reporting

& non-emergency Police

03000 418181

PCSO - Richard Bradley

UK Power Network

105

richard.bradley@kent.pnn.police.uk

C of E Primary School 611360

Head Teacher:

Associate Head: Mrs.S.Moss

PTA Treasurer: Justine Crane

Community Warden – Peter Gill

07703 454190 Peter.Gill@kent.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Parish Council

Sheila Smith

611580

www.eastrypc.co.uk

www.facebook.com/EastryPC

Doctors Surgery

619790

Chairman: Nick Kenton

The Market Place, Sandwich

Vice-Chairman: Mark Jones

Emergency out of hours

111

Clerk to Council

Sarah Wells

614320

clerk@eastrypc.co.uk

Eastry Ravens F.C. – Steve Booth

07864 925289 email:27srb@sky.com

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Eastry, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0LS

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NEW OPENING HOURS - Still open 7 days a week

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Sunday 7:30am -12pm

Tel: 611258 (shop) 621864 (Post Office)

Young People's Contacts

YOUNG PEOPLES 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 - Monica in Bubbles Nursery or the Chairman.

Incy Wincys - Baby and Toddler Group

Meet 9.30am to 11.00am every Monday including school holidays (apart from Bank Holidays) in the Young People's Club. We have toys for all ages, arts and crafts and lots of music, singing and movement.

We also provide a healthy snack for children and tea and coffee for parents.
For more info please 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 or 01304 611487

BEAVERS (age 5½ - 8)
 Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm
 Leader Elinor 07429
 294539

EXPLORERS (age 14+) Meet every other
 Friday from 7.45pm - 9.15pm and focus on
 the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
 Contact - Graham Baker

CUBS (age 8-10½)
 Tuesday 6.30pm -
 8.00pm Leader Emma
 Contact Graham Baker

FOR BOOKINGS
 Contact: Marion Wanstall (617854)
 or group leaders

SCOUTS (age 10½ - 14)
 Wednesday 7.00pm to 9.00pm

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME Scouting is fun for adults too. If you would like to help then please contact

***Pictures** - John Harvey portrait by Gilbert Stuart - source Wikipedia. Painting "HMS Brunswick" centre takes on the "Vengeur de Peuple" (right) and the "Achille" (left) by Nicholas Pocock - source Kent History Forum. Where's Wally - Peachy Antics.*

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Fri 11.30 - 1.30 4.30 - 9.30pm

Sat 11.30 - 1.30 4.30 - 9.30pm

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07717 337912

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Eastry CT13 0HH
mjkemp@tiscali.co.uk

Coronavirus - will life ever be the same again?

The deaths attributed to Covid-19 are shocking, more so when it is brave key workers, but we all are affected, possibly permanently, by this pandemic. Small business is the ballast of the British economy and we are lucky in Eastry with the variety of small businesses here. How dreadful for those that had to close down almost overnight and we must hope that they get the support to come through it. It will be awful if we lose any of them through no fault of their own. We appreciate the local businesses that have stayed open to help us all cope with lockdown and we are fortunate that most properties in Eastry have gardens to escape into.

It looks like there will be no great changes for sometime yet but this adversity has served to bring out the best in people, our community spirit, keeping an eye on neighbours, the elderly and the vulnerable in our village. I've heard a lot about a young Eastry mum who always seems to be first to offer help on the online forums, from six eggs to a Wendy House, so well done Rachel and to everyone in Eastry doing the same. We are united by the Thursday evening 'Clap for our Carers' - in Peak Drive we are usually accompanied by a disco thanks to Roger Bean!



On May Day Mother Nature joined in above Eastry - photo PAR Clarke

Thank you again to everyone who is working to keep things as normal as possible. The unsung heroes, like our postmen and refuse collectors without whom life would be very different. Many Eastry residents are getting fed up, lonely and bored and it is so hard to keep occupied 24/7. If, like us, you have been playing the card game UNO you will have soon found out who your friends are! Let's hope our renowned sense of humour and stoicism will help us get through this difficult situation.

In "The War of the Worlds" it was bacteria (virus?) that killed the Martians, thus saving our planet but what if they went home, read the book and then sent coronavirus here first? Should we be checking for **little green men?**
Stay safe, keep your distance, stay healthy.

PC

Local Events

Eastry Horticultural Society

Greetings to you all of you very eager and ultra competitive Eastry gardeners. This is just a brief note to let you know what is going to happen regarding our eagerly awaited annual Club Potato Competition. YES - despite all the onerous restrictions and efforts of the dreaded (non horticultural) virus, our annual weigh-in **WILL** still be taking place thanks to the magnificent efforts of Rob Betts.

All you need to do is:- keep them growing as normal until Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd June, then, as is normal for this competition, behead your plants (ie. cut the tops off as usual) and finally take them down to the rear of the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon on either of those two days and hand them over the garden wall of Rob Betts. He will be waiting for you and will weigh the efforts of your growing. Good luck to you all and may the keenest gardener win. Please make sure your name is on the pot.

Your Gardening Press Officer - everything else cancelled until further notice

Northbourne & Betteshanger Horticultural Society 120th year

CANCELLED UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF JULY

Dover Flower Club **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Parish Council Events

CoffeeBreak - Hearing Aid Clinic - Both cancelled until further notice

Kent Mobile Library - *cancelled until further notice*
BINGO in the Village Hall - *cancelled until further notice*

The East Kent Ploughing Match and Eastry Village Fete are cancelled

Dover District Council - Bin Collections 2020

Non recyclable waste *Black topped wheelie bin and Food Bin*
Tuesdays 2nd, 16th, 30th June 14th, 28th July

Recyclable Waste *Blue topped wheelie bin and Food Bin*
 Plastics, tins, bottles, cardboard and green/garden waste
Tuesdays 9th, 23rd June 7th, 21st July

Can you help solve an Eastry Mystery?

Legend has it that there is a well in or around the Old Bull pub in
 Eastry High Street but do you know where it is located?

If you do please contact Bobbie Tarry on 01304 611110 or 07773 345151.
 If you can find it there will be a small reward.

Dover District Council - Coronavirus Public Information

Are you vulnerable and been told to stay indoors for 12 weeks?

Are you without family, friends, neighbours or a community group to help with basic needs?

We have set up a hotline for the most vulnerable

Call: 01304 821199 9am to 5pm 7 days a week

or email: Covid19@dover.gov.uk

Bonfires - Dover District Council

Please note due to the current coronavirus pandemic we are advising residents to stop using bonfires as a way to dispose of their garden waste.

The smoke created by the bonfire could affect your neighbours' breathing, especially if they are suffering with coronavirus symptoms.

Please show consideration for other people.



Fantastic "Thank you NHS" graffiti from the Eastry skate park

Apologies to anyone who didn't receive their copy of the last magazine but we hope that our excellent and willing volunteers will be able to distribute this issue. Please note that when we go to print we may not have all the information about the future of lockdown so although we will be promoting forthcoming village events please check social media, notice boards or contact organisers to double check events are still on.

Thank You!

The members of Eastry Parish Council would like to thank our very own local legends, the unsung heroes of our local community:-

Sanjai and Hiral Patel
Het Ketul and Dimple Patel
Stuart Baitup
Najam Hafeez and his team

Bickers
The Village Shop
Butchers
Eastry Pharmacy

We thank them for working to support local people during the coronavirus pandemic. We would like to recognise their valued contribution in supporting Eastry's population. This is understandably a challenging time for everyone and the work they are doing has never been more vital. They are keeping the village supplied, helping us to stay at home and stay safe, protecting the NHS and enabling them to save lives. Their unwavering service to the local population is very much appreciated, hopefully they will be able to take a well-earned break when we get back to normal, however in the meantime we would like to thank them on behalf of everyone in this and the surrounding parishes for all their hard work in these trying times.

We hope they are aware of how very grateful we are for everything they are doing to make life more bearable for us all. ***Sarah Wells, Clerk to the Parish Council***

Parish Council Vacancy

If you would like to make a difference, and be involved in shaping the future of your local Community, why not step forward and apply to become an Eastry Parish Councillor? Eastry Parish Council meet 11 times a year, normally on the first Monday of the Month. If you are interested please email the Clerk to the Parish Council on clerk@eastrypc.co.uk for an application form and eligibility form. Or you can download these from the Parish Council website at www.eastrypc.co.uk

Eastry Expo - A Village Show Case - 19th Sept 2020

Eastry is a very lucky village that has many clubs, societies and organisations covering a wide range of activities and subjects. From youth organisation, sports clubs, arts, crafts and hobbies - painting and acting. However there are a lot of people in the village that are unaware of their existence. Eastry PC would like to hold an event to showcase these groups to help them to grow and to ensure local residents have access to these vibrant and interesting clubs. We have provisionally booked the village hall for Sat 19th Sept 2020 to hold an exhibition –showcase – exposition for local groups, clubs and societies.

The Parish Council is happy to sponsor this event by paying for the hall hire and advertising of the event. However we do need help to organise the details. If your group would be interested in joining Eastry Expo please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@eastrypc.co.uk

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OPEN LUNCHTIMES

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Tel & fax: 01304 611362 email: eastry.fl902@nhs.net

A monument to this battle is in Eastry Church having originally been intended for Westminster Abbey.



Captain John Harvey RN
of Herendon, Eastry



The Glorious First of June 1794

"The Glorious Battle of the First of June"

John Harvey 1740-1794

Eastrys' Nelson and a Local Hero

Most people know of Trafalgar,
the famous battle off "The Cape",
where Lord Nelson and his navy
fought hard to decimate.
Deemed the greatest naval victory,
defeated the enemy for sure,
Our Horatio is revered as a hero,
as though he lived next door.

However take a moment,
while I enlighten you,
to a hero buried in Eastry,
who also commanded a crew.
Educated in Calais,
L'Ecole Royale de la Marine,
John Harvey was a true captain,
a forceful sight to be seen.

His first ship was the "Falmouth"
at just fourteen years of age,
his naval career had started;
he'd soon take centre stage.
From 59 to 62 his reputation
was undeniably glowing.
Commissioned to Lieutenant,
his expertise truly showing.

In 62 hostilities ceased,
and he found himself ashore,
Judith Wise became his wife,
he had a family to adore.
From 66 to 68 he commanded
the sloop "Alarm",
his duty was to safeguard,
protect the land from harm.

Many years were spent ashore
and this he couldn't alter,
then from 78 to 80 he excelled
in "The Great Siege of Gibraltar"
Commanding the 60 gun "Panther"
in the absence of Admiral Duff,
distinguishing himself as formidable,
he was made of tough stuff.

His bravery did not go unnoticed;
he spent a year with Sir Samuel Hood,
with his fleet in the West Indies,
he stood as proud as he could.
Returning to England in 82,
leaving those islands behind,
he was instrumental in the war, when
to the "Sampson" he was assigned.

Distinguishing himself yet again
he fought at "The Battle of The Cape",
there seemed no end to the fighting,
no risk too much to take.
In 83 another change when
he found himself posted ashore,
never contemplating another fight
aboard the "Arrogant" 74.

But fight he did, in many fleets,
became victorious out at sea,
appointed to the "Magnificent"
with Lord Howe in 93.
This command ended abruptly as
Lord Howe recommissioned him
to the ship known as the "Brunswick"
at "The Battle of The First of June".

This battle would prove bloody,
preventing grain from reaching the French.
Many men lost their lives,
let there be no pretence.
The "Brunswick" attacked so fiercely
at "The Battle the First of June".
It was proclaimed a valiant victory,
but it ended John's life too soon.

So next time you look for a hero,
one to admire and recall,
think of our own John Harvey
one of the most famous of them all.
For if it wasn't for this battle
where he was injured beyond repair,
John Harvey would have made admiral
and with Nelson we would compare.

May Morriss January 2020

When May Morris found out about this feature of Captain John Harvey on the anniversary of his famous but fatal battle (see picture) she offered to write a poem about him and his achievements. This is an excellent, different and informative way to discover him and celebrate his life.

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www.chucklebox.co.uk
www.chucklebounce.co.uk

1-1 Counselling/ Confidential/Local

My name is Larry, I started my professional career as a Psychiatric Nurse and in the 1990's, I qualified as a Person Centred Counsellor.

For the last 19 years I have been employed in the Volunteer Sector but now I feel it is time to go it alone, so that I can offer local 1-1 sessions to clients 18 years old and over.

I can offer a friendly, safe, non-judgemental atmosphere, evenings and weekends if required.

However, if you decide that the "Person Centred" approach, is not for you, I am more than happy to support and sign-post you to an alternative Therapist/Agency.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me,

Mobile: 07471 1191257

email: larrytalkingtherapy@gmail.com

Eastry Green Heritage

Unfortunately due to lockdown our graveyard survey has been postponed, hopefully until later this year, but there are still important current, local issues for us to focus and act upon even during these difficult times.



A good example was an appeal from East Kent Climate Action and other similar groups asking us to consider making a response to a planning application/proposal for development at Betteshanger Grove site/ Betteshanger Park.

The EKCA wrote: 'Wildlife everywhere is in catastrophic decline. Please help to save wildlife in our local area on the Betteshanger Grove site by objecting to the planning application - planning number 20/00419.' We could lodge our comments/objections by going to www.dover.gov.uk planning applications.

Thank you for being on the side of the bees, the bats and the beetles.
Contact revlesleyhardy@gmail.com

Our Honey Bees - Ray Checksfield

Until the latter half of the 19th century bees were kept in straw baskets called "Skeps". As bees draw comb at all angles the only way to collect the honey was to virtually destroy the whole thing. Beekeepers would try to 'drive' the bees from the skep before placing an empty skep over the full one and beating the lower one with both hands on each side. They then cut out the honeycomb, grubs larvae and eggs which would all be squeezed through muslin to get a fairly clear honey. The hives that we know today with their separate, removable frames came in at the end of the 19th century, so practical and a real treat for all beekeepers.

Our honey bees faced an horrendous February with constant rain and high winds. The crocus, snowdrops, flowering cherry, pussy willow and blackthorn along the Eastry by-pass were unavailable as it was too cold for the bees to venture out. I think this year could well be one of the worst for colony losses country wide.

April 12th was our first really warm day and I was able to carry out my first inspections. Thankfully all is well and all queens are laying eggs nicely. Two colonies were short of food but I had prepared some sugar syrup for them just in case. I use a kilo jar with a few small holes in the lid and place those over the feed hole on the top cover board. At this time in the hive will be the queen and about 5-10,000 worker bees, the drones (males) having been ejected during last autumn. By June colony numbers will have increased to 40-50,000 and each colony will be preparing to swarm if they haven't already.

More about that next time... Best regards *Ray*



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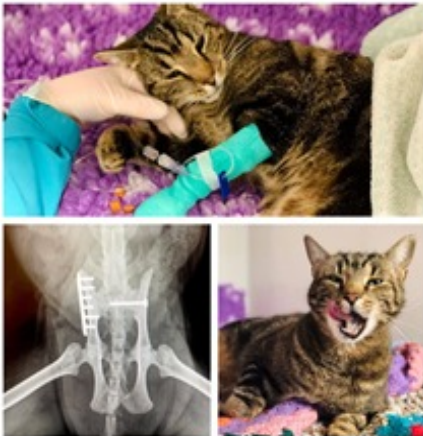
Email: nicolabarwick1972@yahoo.co.uk

FULLY INSURED

Beacon View Vets Update

Hello again! We hope that you are all keeping safe and well? At Beacon View Vets we have continued to be blown away by the amount of support we have received from the village. We celebrated our 2 month anniversary in April and already care for over 600 pets! At times our view of the High Street has looked eerily quiet but our phone lines have been kept busy as pets continue to disregard their owners current quandaries and require veterinary help. We have always been proactive in our Covid measures and have adapted in line with guidance to provide as full a service as possible, whilst keeping our clients and staff safe.

During lockdown we have decided to extend our opening hours and provide 24/7 emergency care to further support our community as much as possible, whilst maintaining strict social distancing. Thankfully, due to the spacious surgery we have been able to safely provide a broad range of services, with treatment provided on a case-by-case basis. For some cases a video consultation has been a suitable alternative, with owners and pets receiving a consultation from the comfort of their own home. Hopefully by the time of publishing we will be able to offer almost all of our services again but if you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact us.



A particularly interesting case was local cat Neko, who many of you have met in your gardens. Neko is a wonderful character but unfortunately had an unlucky encounter with a car. He had managed to get himself home but couldn't use his back legs. After emergency stabilisation and pain relief, x-rays revealed a severely broken pelvis that required complex surgery. In total, he stayed with us for nearly a week and we all became very fond of his lovely nature. Neko was always pleased to enjoy a fuss; always very relaxed in our cat-only ward and watching birds in the garden. We are delighted to report that he is making an excellent recovery and will hopefully have learnt not to play with cars in the future.

Before lockdown we had hoped to have an open day to invite you all in, however that will have to wait for safer times. We have organised a range of live digital events to keep everyone entertained and hopefully provide respite from the news. We organised a live charity quiz on facebook that raised an amazing £333 for local animal charities who are unable to fundraise at the moment. Please join our facebook page for regular updates and details of our virtual and future events!

Wishing you the very best from all at Beacon View. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about your pets. *Claire*



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Lockdown is not easy for anyone with bills to pay still and nothing much coming in, but I, and all the staff at the Five Bells, want to send our best wishes to all our customers. We miss you and hope that they soon find a solution to this so we can see you all again. Mary



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Diary of a Dog in Lockdown

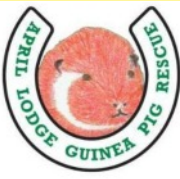
By Harrison Ford of Stratton Park – aka Harry

Hair! It's an issue in our household. I'm shedding it, just like I'm supposed to do at this time of year and Mum says if she has to vacuum it up yet again, she's going to go into meltdown. Is that the same thing as lockdown? It's hard to get humans. Take Dad. He appears to have stopped shaving altogether. Mum told him he needed to up his game for when lockdown ended and we were released into the 'new normal'. Frankly, if it wasn't for me, I doubt they'd find the door out! Thing is, Mum's hair resembles a piebald pony I once saw. Maybe this new look is 'mid normal?' Not that I'm complaining. This lockdown thing means it's so quiet I can hear birdsong and the planet breathing. Mum's got relatives in Africa and says we're lucky not to be stuck in a tiny tin hut, with no income or garden or even our own loo. Or water.



We've got food and Radio 4 to keep us going – even a nice new vet in Eastry..... But I do wish my family would stop rationing the toilet rolls between them, sorting stuff in the shed, organising files, matching lids to saucepans, painting stuff and moving my bed every five minutes to another corner so they can blitz the umpteenth cupboard.

Are they readying themselves for the "new normal", when the world hits a reset button and humans ask themselves just how much detritus they really need?



April Lodge Guinea Pig Rescue

We are currently on lockdown with a skeleton staff but can supply basics like hay and dry feed at weekends between 10am and midday with contactless payment. We can also offer free local delivery at weekends between 10am and midday but payment will have to be in cash.

Thornton Lane, Eastry, CT13 0EU Tel: 01304 617075/07790 684888 aprillodgeguinea@aol.com



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

Church Wardens:

Dr. Alastair Carnegie	813120
Jo Slater	619873

Assistant Church Wardens:

Mary Goosen	611306
Sue Brearley	611675

Bell Captain:

Mick Johnson 07773 970475

Church Hall Bookings:

Bob Barwick 611420

Organist:

Maureen Norman 366761

Enquiries: *phone the office* 611323

Please note that during lockdown your Eastry Woodnesborough Benefice Church Contacts are:

Rector Rev David Ridley
Tel: 01304 619619 email: davidridley@btopenworld.com

Curates Rev Sandra Marsh
Tel: 01304 612686 email: revsandramarsh@btinternet.com

Rev Lesley Hardy
Tel: 01304 360276 email: revlesleyhardy@gmail.com

Benefice Office Tel: 01304 611323 - ansaphone checked once or twice a week)
email: Eastry.benefice@gmail.com (checked at least daily)

Details of our online Church Service are shown on the next page

Church Office - Tel: 611323

Benefice Office, The Church Hall, Church Street, Eastry, CT13 0HH
Wednesdays 10.45am to 12.45am and Fridays 10am - 12noon

Benefice Website

Please visit our website: www.EWBchurches.org.uk and share your thoughtson progress so far - to the Revd. David Ridley or Michael Kinns.

The new website is being regularly updated.

NB there is also a new sub-page for "Eastry Church" on the Eastry Parish Council website which links to the benefice website.

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

Eastry Woodnesborough Benefice

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICE – SUNDAYS at 10am

We shall be broadcasting again at 10am this Sunday.

To join, you will need to do one of the following:

Using a laptop or tablet, copy this URL in to your web browser
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7360055669>

On a smartphone, dial: (the commas are important)
 +442034815240,,7360055669# or +442080806591,,7360055669#

On a landline or old mobile phone,
 dial: 0203 481 5240 or 0208 080 6591

When asked for your meeting number, enter: 7360055669#

Ignore the request for an ID – just press # again If you are asked for a password, it is 2 4 6 8 10

The Church Registers

20/04/20	Eileen Forwood	(Barham)
11/05/20	Patricia Murphy	(Barham)
14/05/20	Sylvia Paul	

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Rector's Letter

Over the last couple of months, I have found myself referring almost always to issues relating to the coronavirus and its impact. So for this month, I shall deliberately avoid mention of it, other than to say that the desire to make the most of one piece of exercise a day, and an emptier diary, has made me get out, explore and appreciate the countryside more.

I have normally only had a passing interest in plants, and can recognise relatively few by name, but this enhanced engagement with nature has wetted my appetite to discover more.



Monkey Orchid

One little gem, which I stumbled across almost by accident, was Park Gate Down, near Stelling Minnis, which lies more or less between home and my Mum's house whom I visit to do a weekly shop. In this small area of chalk grassland I have discovered three or four species of orchid including the Monkey Orchid, currently in flower, which can only be found in one or two other places in the country.

Also in nearby Yocklett's Bank I saw clusters of the rare Lady Orchid. I have to say, it has been quite a thrill and an opportunity I would recommend to anyone. Now I mention this because it seems to me that life is full of new experiences, especially when we open our eyes and look for them and life is about making the most of those experiences.



Lady Orchid

Sometimes things happen because we seek them out and sometimes things impose themselves upon us. They may include a new discovery, a new hobby, a problem at work, a new member of the family, an illness or a bereavement. New experiences might be calming, exhilarating, uncomfortable or challenging but embracing them potentially enables us to grow and be enriched.

At the end of May the Church marks the Feast of Pentecost. This is the occasion when we recollect in particular the extraordinary experience of the disciples of Jesus on receiving the Holy Spirit – *'And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them..'* (Acts 2.2,3)

There is no question that this encounter radically changed the lives of those disciples, and not in a way that was either comfortable or without risk. But it was life-enriching, and an experience which changed them for the better.

As we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, perhaps we can reflect how we can embrace life in all its fullness and seek to make the most of every experience

which it brings. But also let us give thought as to how we can help and support others through their challenging and troubling circumstances, so that they are also able to find hope and fulfilment in life.

David Ridley

Eastry Church 900th Anniversary Summer Events

organised by the St.Mary's Events Team



The Coronavirus pandemic has claimed so many lives and cost so many people their livelihoods. Our social existence has been turned upside down. Like every community in the land we had many plans set up for both enjoyment and to raise funds for our Church and our community. Sadly we have decided to cancel this years Fete set for July 25th. While we hope that much of the current restrictions will be lifted by then we don't expect things to be anything near normal by late July. This also applies to the Flower Festival to have been staged in the Church immediately before the Fete. So too the Plein Air Art event planned by Deb Russell and the Eastry Art Group as a new venture. We look forward to these happening again next year.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking George Mathison who over so many years has continued to allow our fete to happen in his glorious garden. Alas not this year.

The Teddy Bears Picnic and the Jazz on The Green set for June 20th is going to be postponed possibly to the end of August. The Son et Lumiere depicting the history of Eastry Court has been changed to (we hope) September 4th. That formed an important part of the Eastry 900 celebration. Other specific events celebrating our 900th anniversary are being postponed. Of course, all events remain subject to change. We look forward to a more secure future and it can't come soon enough. But unfortunately it shouldn't come too soon either.

Keep an eye on notices, the benefice website, social media and the next Village News for information. In the meantime we hope you all stay well and keep connected.

Alastair Carnegie on behalf of The St Mary's Events Team

From local Church bulletins or announced during Church services

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

*At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?'
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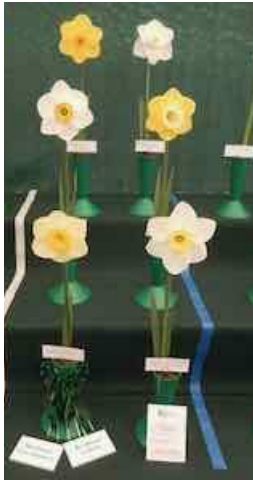
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BBC Gardeners World...My 20 seconds of fame!

My interest in gardening has been life long and I have been growing exhibition daffodils for over 20 years and showing them at major National Show. On Good Friday 2019 we got up early in the morning and I packed my Daffodils into boxes and loaded them into our car. We set off early to go to the Daffodil Society Show at Pershore College near Evesham, as it was Easter weekend we were expecting a long journey and we had one. It took us 7 hours to get to the Show venue after our SatNav took us on various diversions to avoid accidents and holdup sometimes not very successfully.

We arrived at the venue later than we would have liked and I spent a number hours staging my daffodils in vases. As is our normal practice we then went to the hotel and enjoyed a good evening with our friends and fellow daffodil growers. We got up early on Saturday morning and went to the show venue to put the exhibits out on the show bench for judging. When we arrived at the College at 7am the Gardeners World team were already onsite, I was putting one of my exhibits on the show bench when to my horror they asked if they could film what I was doing. The Gardeners World team remained on site avidly filming various aspects of the show that were going on during the day and they left just after prize giving at 4pm. Nothing more was thought about the filming and we enjoyed our annual dinner in the evening and then stayed another day returning home on Easter Monday.



One year on and I have to confess that we actually missed Gardeners World on the Friday 3rd April. We had a phone call from a friend telling us he had seen me on the show. We watched the programme on catchup TV and low and behold I had my 20 seconds of fame.

The above picture shows Ray's winning six at the RHS including Champion Bloom.

What a difference a year makes 2020 has turned out to be quite a different year as due to the Covid19 virus there has been no daffodil shows. My daffodils have all been growing so I decided that as a tribute to the NHS I would put the blooms to some use so I cut the heads and made them into the following.

Ray Sedgwick





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Eastry Village Hall -A Brief History.



In common with most of the country's Village Halls that were created after the social changes after WW1 our Village Hall was used for other purposes. Built as an engineering works in 1868 it served the local area. In 1906 Wingham Engineering Co. Ltd took over and pictures from that age show steam powered belt driven machines filled the building.

By 1933 the building was no longer needed and was bought by a group of Eastry residents lead by the Reverend Yearsley for £650. The property passed to a charitable trust set up to convert and run the hall for the use of the community. Management of the Charitable Trust is the duty of the Hall Management Committee that is made up of Representatives from Village Organisations and Independent Persons. Copies of the original constitution with old photographs are on display in the hall. All Committee Members are Trustees and recorded on the Charity Commission Website (Registered Charity Number 272720)

The Hall Today. Our Village Hall provides facilities for a wide range of activities. Local organisations and clubs hold meetings, shows and fairs and it is also used by a wide range of dance & exercise classes, a theatre group, indoor bowls, whist drives, craft club, bingo, jumble sales and quiz nights. Family celebrations, weddings and other events we all enjoy. The snooker club is open five evenings per week and the local authorities use the hall for a polling station and other public authority events. For 87 years our hall has provided a hub for community activities. To continue doing this we are always looking to fund improvement and standards to meet modern expectations. In recent years the hall fabric has been improved by installing modern boilers, double glazing, a 5 star kitchen, and many additions to make life easy for users. Fund raising and grants have enabled us to install a new water heater, upgraded the hall lights and replaced over 100 chairs. We have provided a digital projector, new cooker and refurbished the gent's facilities. We have upgraded our audio system and added Wi-Fi plus Bluetooth to our facilities.

Without Grant Aid from Kent County Council, Dover District Council, Eastry Parish Council & the Coalfields Regeneration Grant Scheme along with the efforts of our Fund Raising Team none of this would have been possible. Local Organisations have held events to raise funds and private donations have also been made. We are currently in the process providing new curtains and blinds for the hall and this project is fully funded.

However, we now we have the Coronavirus Emergency to contend with. The Village Hall is now closed to all users and all the social activities that take place

have stopped. This a very sad state of affairs for everyone but rest assured **the Village Hall will open again** - as soon as possible. Our usual regular hirers have all promised to return when they can.

The hall has had a big drop in income but with our limited reserves and a grant from the Government we should survive financially. Covid-19 has reminded us all that "officially" those over 70 are vulnerable and need help. It is a fact that most of the village halls are run by volunteers who are retired and, to be honest, in need of help from younger generations to keep our halls and community centres open and available for all our community to use.

Eastry Village Hall is no exception to the reducing number of Trustees to run the hall. If we cannot get the help of a younger generation of Trustees to manage our hall it is in **danger of closing for good**. This would be a great loss to both the village and the residents who want to use the hall as well as local businesses that benefit from a thriving use of the hall. **Please**. If you would like to get involved with supporting the village hall please get in touch. Stay Safe & Well.

On behalf of Eastry Village Hall Management Committee & Trustees. Mitchell Ferrier. Chairman. Eastry Village Hall.

Email: bishopofeastry@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.eastryvillagehall.org/>

Neighbourhood Watch



I must thank Andrew Judd, the Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer at Ashford Police Station ([email andrew.judd@kent.police.uk](mailto:andrew.judd@kent.police.uk)), for single-handedly carrying on the NHW work after the coronavirus prevented his usual team of volunteers from working. We are receiving regular crime reports from him, crime on streets and in businesses as well as many computer scams - sadly mostly Covid 19 related.

Be wary of offers from people you don't know, offers to do your shopping if you give them cash or your bank card will probably be the last you see of them, and do not be pressured by anyone trying to sell you something on the doorstep or on the phone. A polite "No thank you" and shut the door or put the phone down is the best solution. There are lots of adverts for face masks, especially on line, but don't be tempted, double check they actually are made to the required standard or they may not be effective at all!

While the majority of us are following the guidelines on social distancing and self-isolation I am being told that there are a number of younger people flouting them. There are still reports of wanton vandalism to cars and property which in this time of global crisis I find hard to understand. However long it takes we all owe it to our friends and neighbours to follow the Covid 19 guidelines to prevent the spread of this pernicious virus. Stay safe and well.

Sheila Smith

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In The Garden

My garden at last is getting a face lift, after being neglected for the past three years, but at the moment I am not able to look after the garden at Brambling House, the Care Home where my wife, Dot is a Resident. It will no doubt be an uphill task to get it straight again once I am allowed to continue my gardening there.

Working in my garden made me recall what a friend of mine, Trevor Burton, once said to me, he said "How come you get so much work finished in a day?" Simple, before you start your day's work, decide what needs to be done, and do not get side-tracked. During the day you will see other little jobs that need attending too, but do not be tempted, they can wait until tomorrow, otherwise you end up with loads of partially finished jobs, and not a single one complete. Also do try not to stay talking for too long, a slight problem that I know Trevor suffers from.

My wooden arch was destroyed by the high winds that we experienced earlier this year, but the Euonymus growing around the arch has stayed intact, and now makes quite a nice feature (see photo). As summer arrives so will the weeds, hoe flower borders and vegetable plots regularly. Prune all spring flowering shrubs once they've finished flowering, to encourage new growth on which you will get next year's flowers.



I've said before how easy it is to grow vegetables in pots and containers. You will see from my photograph, potatoes quite happily growing in polythene bags, alongside "Cut & Come Again" lettuce growing in a bowl. It is surprising how much you



can grow in such a small space. I really love leeks; so versatile for cooking. Now's the time to plant them for winter use. Once again you



can grow them in pots or the open ground. Either way, it is a good idea to use plastic waste pipe or tubing to help blanch the edible part of the leek. (see photo).

In the same photo you will see basil growing in pots (when planted alongside tomatoes they will help keep whitefly at bay) and nasturtiums, which I grow for their edible flowers, to be added to salads, giving a lovely peppery flavour. Remember the redder the flower, the hotter they will be.





Now is the right time to fill those hanging baskets with lots of plants. Trailing petunias and fuchsias make a good show. Feed them, water them, and give them a lot of t.l.c. and you will be rewarded with a colourful show.

As roses, flowering plants and shrubs come into flower they will appreciate a feed, so sprinkle a high potash fertilizer around them and just gentle fork or hoe it into the ground, followed by a drink of water. At the same time check your roses for black spot, if you find any on the leaves, remove the leaf straight away and dispose of it in your green bag. Do not put them on your compost heap as the blackspot spores will live on. Also **do not touch** other parts of the rose as this

disease can be passed from plant to plant on hands or tools.

I think that over the past few weeks, months, our gardens have proved to be a true haven for us. It has been sheer bliss just to sit in the sunshine, reading a book, and the only sounds are from the birds singing and bees buzzing.

So I hope you are all enjoying your gardens?

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Bird Watching with Big Nick

Well, I'm writing this column during 'Lockdown' so where I was hoping to tell you all about the rare and interesting birds that may have appeared on the newly redeveloped scrape at Sandwich Bay, I will instead write about making the most of the restrictions on going out and maintaining social distancing.

First a brief advert for Restharrow Scrape, the wetland area owned and managed by Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust. It had been closed for several months while work was going on extending the water area, repairing the old hide and installing a superb new hide, as well as numerous other improvements to the site. The official opening was due in April but as you all know, things don't always go to plan! The reserve is currently closed until restrictions are lifted but it will be well worth a visit when it re-opens. The Snipe below is just an example of what you can hope to see, along with other birds and wildlife.



Now, back to life as we actually find it; my wife and I are lucky to have a garden to escape to and with the good weather we've spent a lot of time in it. It has surprised me that with the garden and our permitted exercise walks, just what we've seen. The list of bird species either in or flying over the garden has reached 35, the least expected of which was a cormorant which flew high overhead, a first from our garden. It shouldn't have been that surprising really as they often come inland to feed in lakes, reservoirs and rivers (I saw one in The Butts near the Coop in Sandwich recently).

Almost daily, and usually several times a day, at least 2 Buzzards come drifting overhead, causing me to drop what I'm doing and grab my camera. Considering how obliging they've been I've struggled to get good photos but these are a couple of my best so far.



Robins pay us regular visits, often sitting on the back of a garden chair to look for food; they must have a nest with young nearby. Add to my list a further 27 bird species (seen on our walks but not in the garden including this Yellowhammer seen along Venson Bottom) and it brings the total to 62, which is not a bad count considering the restrictions.

Let's hope some sort of normality has returned by the time I next write. Keep safe.

Nick



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Do you remember the Mother and Baby Clinic?

This photograph circa 1954 shows mothers and babies from Eastry, Betteshanger, Northbourne, Betteshanger Colliery, Finglesham and Burgess Green in the monthly Mother and Baby Clinic in the Freemasons Hall, Sandwich.



It shows four staff and volunteers on the ends of the back row, Mrs. Clay from Northbourne (back row 7th from left) who had quite a brood, my mother, Mrs. Dorothy Martin from Betteshanger (front row 1st left), Mrs Glenister with her son, from Finglesham (front row third from the left). The lady in the front row 5th from the left was from Betteshanger, her husband was a cowman, and they lived opposite the Carpenters Yard. Hopefully there will be family and friends who may be able to complete all the names in the picture?

Transport was provided by Hampshires Coaches starting after lunch from Eastry, collecting Mums and babies every mile or two. When it was school holidays I remember being sent up the road to "Trees Cottage" to stop the coach as my mother wrestled with getting three infants ready. In those days we were pleased to receive our ration of orange juice and jars of "Virol". I'm not too sure about the cod liver oil which was spooned out at bedtime, one spoonful each for all seven children and I can't remember "teeth cleaning" being a priority! **Sheila Smith**

OOOPS....!!!

During a family holiday several years ago I kept noticing the letter "P" on all the car number plates. As this was about the time that we had an influx of foreign workers from the EU to the UK I said to the family "Aren't there an awful lot of Polish people over here too?" I was quickly reminded we were in PORTUGAL!!! **Ooops & DOH!!**



It certainly is strange times for all of us

WI meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future but we are putting together ideas for celebrating our first meeting back whenever that is. Many of our members are of an age where we are expected to stay indoors, but that hasn't stopped some from helping where they can such as making bags for NHS workers to put the soiled uniforms in. Eastry WI members have been staying in touch in many ways. Our Facebook group has enabled many of us to stay in touch on a daily basis sharing our news and laughing at the many memes and jokes that are going around and a daily quiz keeps us entertained. A weekly newsletter enables others to stay in touch and I certainly appreciate the work done by the editor Anne Oakley.

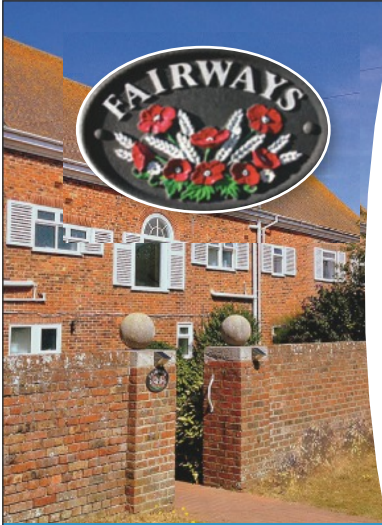
In the last edition of the Eastry Village News Gill Bull wrote why and how she had become a WI member, and our hard working secretary. This month it is the turn of one of our newer members Ann Harris.

'I moved to Eastry months ago. After settling into our new home I realised just how lonely I was because I had retired but my husband was still working. I saw an article in the Eastry news about the W.I. and I decided to join. It took me 3 months to pluck up the courage to attend a meeting. What a difference all the ladies of the W.I. have made, there is just so much laughter, warmth and help from each member and I truly look forward to the meetings and other functions arranged through the month. During these unprecedented times it has become even more apparent to me how supportive the group is. We now have a Facebook group and exchange information and humour on a regular basis. Although we have not been able to meet in person it feels like we have got to know each other better at this time. I would advise anyone looking for new friendships and interests to come along and give the W.I. a try.'

Summer Friendship

Hello friend, you're here at last, cheering up the day,
 lighting all the corners, banishing the grey.
 Peering through the window, a friendly warming glow,
 smiling through the dark clouds, oh how we've missed you so.
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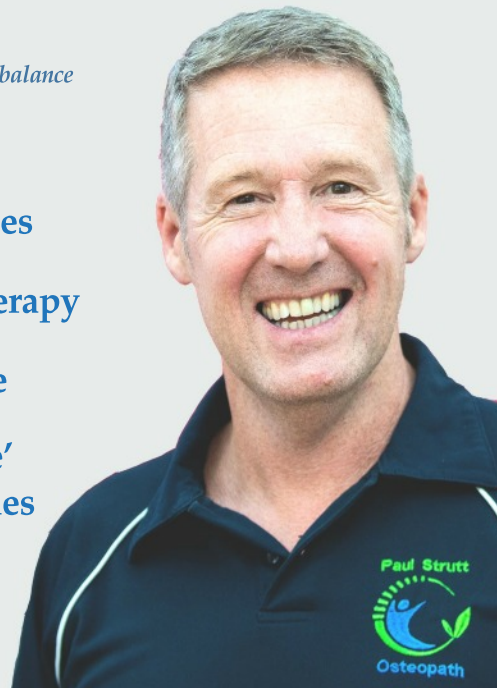
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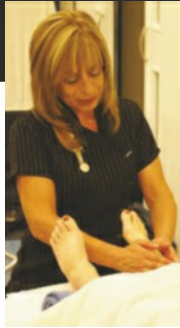
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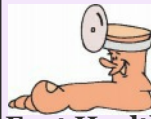
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Rose Beer - All so true!

Now in this issue I thought I'd tell you the true story of a boy named Godfrey, his bike, myself and the Gas Works wall! When I was fourteen I dreamed of having a lovely bike. Mine had belonged to my cousin before being handed down to me, it was a large 'sit up and beg' style with a basket on the front and a huge saddle. My uncle had put wooden blocks on the pedals to enable me to reach them.

The school leaving age then was fifteen and Godfrey, who was a year older than me, had just left school and gone to work at the Gas Works. He lived in what you might call the 'posh part' of town and his Mummy and Daddy (as he called them) had bought him a beautiful brand new bike to go to work on. Oh how I was in love with that bike. It was all chrome and shiny with drop handle bars - it didn't matter that it had a cross bar I just longed to ride on it. I decided to wait for him to finish work every night and then, with a little gentle persuasion, I might just be allowed a ride on it. The following poem is what happened next...

The Gas Works wall

I waited by the Gas Works every single day,
 cos I knew that Godfrey and his bike would be passing by that way.
 Around the corner he would come his knees going up and down
 to the rythmn of the pedals as they went round and round.
 He never wore a helmet, they never were in fashion.
 Oh to sit upon his saddle was my biggest passion!
 He'd cock his leg up in the air as his brakes screeched to a stop
 beside the Gas Works wall where I thought my heart would drop.

He let me hold his crossbar, I trembled with delight
 beside that Gas Works wall every single night.
 I'd never held drop handlebars with rubbers on the ends,
 I didn't know to lean right over as I cycled round the bends.
 The bike went one way, I went the other as we crashed onto the ground.
 The chain was all mangled up and dragging along the ground.
 I hobbled all the way back home and had bread and dripping for tea.
 Mother didn't say much, let alone about my knee.

"Get yourself to bed" she said "yer silly little s*d"
 so I clambered up the stairs and said my prayers to God.
 I didn't pray for Mum, cos I didn't like her any more,
 besides my knee was hurting as I knelt upon the floor.
 Next day I waited by the Gas Works with plasters on me elbows
 and a bandage around my knee. The legs came around the gasworks
 and he didn't even look at me. **Aaagh!**

Rose Beer

*PS. After that I briefly joined the the Salvation Army because I
 fell in love with a boy's big brass trumpet - young love!*



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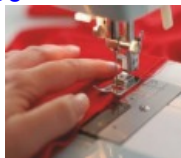
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