

The
Eastry
Village News

October/
November
2018



Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police

999

Non-emergency Police

101

Community Warden

Karl Aylett 07811 271299

karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk

Gas Emergency

0800 111999

Highways Fault Reporting

03000 418181

Doctors Surgery

619790/ 611608

Emergency out of hours:

111

Parish Council

www.eastrypc.co.uk

www.facebook.com/Eastrypc

Chairman: Nick Kenton

Vice-Chairman: Annie Wiles

Police Community Support - tel 101

PCSOs Kerry Skirrow

kerry.skirrow@kent.pnn.police.uk

Michael Bolt

michael.bolt@kent.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

611580 Sheila Smith

UK Power Network

105

C of E Primary School

611360

Head Teacher: Tim Halling

PTA Treasurer: Mrs Karen Rang

Clerk to Council

614320 Sarah Wells

(clerk@eastrypc.co.uk)

3 Gore Terrace, Gore Road

Eastry, CT13 0LS

Village News

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

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

To view/study contact Town Clerk's Office 617197

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

Village Hall Bookings - Booking Clerk 614054

Village Forum - www.facebook.com/eastryvillageforum

Welcome Pack - information for people new to Eastry

Rosemary Barwick 611420

Cover picture - Buttsole pond

Young People's Contacts

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

Have fun and make friends
Admission free

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



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

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

Incy Wincys

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

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

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

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

Rainbows

Meet on Mondays

Contact Ginny Harvey
on 611183

Brownies

Meet on Wednesdays

Contact Linda Clarke
on 614553

Guides

Meet on Fridays

Contact Jooles George
on 813752

10th DEAL EASTRY SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader: Graham Baker 07837 430167 / 01304 611487

BEAVERS (5¾-8yr)

Monday 6pm - 7.15pm

Leader Elinor
07429 294539

CUBS (8-10½yr)

Tuesday 6.30pm - 8pm

Leader Emma (contact
Graham Baker)

SCOUTS (10½ -14yr)

Wednesday 7pm - 9pm

Leader Vacant (contact
Graham Baker)

EXPLORERS (14yr+)

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

FOR BOOKINGS

Contact: Marion Wanstall (617854)
or the Group Leaders

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

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

Local Events

Eastry Horticultural Society

October 9th Harvest Supper and Pumpkin Weigh-In

November 13th Annual General Meeting and Social Evening

Dover Flower Club at Whitfield Village Hall

Monday 22nd October at 7.15 pm

Workshop meeting entitled "How to make a superb pedestal".

Monday 26th November at 7.15pm, Christmas Demonstration and by Gill McGregor, who is an inspiring demonstrator. The title is "Christmas Sparkle" and the competition is "A Door Hanging Design".

There will be a charge for visitors.

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

Eastry & District Open Group (EDOG) at Eastry Church Hall

Monday 15th October TBC

Monday 19th November Wine and Nibbles at 7.30pm
followed by Compline in St. Mary's Church at 8pm

Eastry Local Interests Group (ELIG) at Eastry Church Hall

No meeting in October

Wednesday 28th November 7.30pm

Terry Wood "RSPB work in the Lydden Valley and the reasons for it"

Craft Fair at Eastry Village Hall

Saturday 13th October

A chance to buy some beautiful unique handmade items or stock up on specialist foods.

Corners Northbourne Parish Hall, Almonry Meadow

Monday 22nd October - 10am-3pm

Usual Corners format Games Crafts Stories Songs Fun!

Tuesday 23rd October 10am-3pm Corners/Playground Painting project
Painting event to produce new outdoor Art boards for the playground

Art teachers Christine Thomas and Julia Pidgeon

Please wear old clothes Contact June Osborne 01304 330200

Benefice Barn Dance at Woodnesborough Village Hall
Saturday 27th October 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Dancing to Abbey Capers - includes a Buffet Supper
 Tickets £10. For information contact Julia on 614590

Eastry Village News AGM Eastry Parish Room, Church St
Tuesday 30th October - 7.00pm

Royal British Legion (Eastry) at Eastry Village Hall
Saturday, 17 November WWI Centenary Dance

See local press and posters for further information. Village organisations wishing to participate in this event should contact Terry James on 614245

Eastry Twinning Association Quiz Night. Eastry Scout Hut
Saturday 17th November 7.00pm

£5:00pp. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Everyone welcome.

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

Village Hall Events

Bango and Bingo - eyes down 7.30pm

Saturday 27th October Saturday 10th November

Kent Mobile Library Service 9.40am - 10.10am

Fridays 5th, 19th October 2nd, 16th, 30th November

Coffee Break Everyone welcome - Free refreshments

Fridays 9.00am-12noon

Hearing Aid Clinic 10.00am - 11.30am

Fridays 12th October 9th November

Disclaimer

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

Eastry Painting for Pleasure

Our bi-annual Art Exhibition will be held on Saturday 20th October at the Scout Hall, Wilmott Place, Eastry from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Entry will be free and coffee and teas will be served. Our paintings will be available to purchase at very reasonable prices. This is YOUR chance to obtain an original painting! So please do come along to support us and see what our artists have produced over the past two years.

For the last 16 years, the 'Painting for Pleasure' group has met on Friday mornings from 10.00am to noon at the Scout Hall. Members share their love of drawing and painting, working mainly in watercolour, acrylics and oils. We welcome artists of any level and have many instruction booklets and advice for beginners.

If you are interested in joining, please come along on a Friday morning to see us at work, we will make you feel very welcome.

Anne Haith (Chairman and secretary)
01304 614585



20th Anniversary Charity Music show in aid of



Saturday 3rd November 5.45pm to 9.00pm at Eastry Village Hall

Doors open 5.15pm

An evening of fabulous music including a buffet

Raffle, sweet stall and tombola - drinks will be on sale

Tickets £10.00 each (children £5.00) from Jane Bevan tel 830603

or Tempted... Eastry Coffee House, The Cross

Sponsored by

Primrose Fayre



Primrose Fayre
Home Dell and Bakery

Events to Commemorate the Armistice that ended the First World War - Sunday 11th November

At 9.30am in the Gun Park, there will be a short “Drumhead Service” that will include the unveiling and blessing of a plaque to signify the use of what was “the Cricket Meadow” as an anti-invasion artillery site during the First World War. This has been organised by the Eastry WW1 committee in conjunction with St Mary’s Church, the Royal British Legion of Eastry and the 10th Deal Eastry Scouts.

Participants are invited to muster in Church Street at 10.30am for the parade to the War Memorial for the two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths. This will be followed by the Service of Remembrance in St Mary’s Church.

In the evening at 7.00pm, a beacon will be lit in the Gun Park which will be Eastry’s participation in “The Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute”. In commemoration and remembrance of the end of the war and the many millions who were killed or who came home dreadfully wounded, a chain of beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and the UK Overseas Territories to mark a century after the guns fell silent. (organised by Eastry Parish Council and the 10th Deal Eastry Scouts).

Prospective District Councillor 2018

Are you up for a challenge?

How well do you know your community?

Could you represent local people?

What can you bring to local democracy?

The next District Council elections will be held on 2nd May 2019. You don’t need to be a member of any political party – but you do need a genuine interest in what happens in the Dover District. Councillors come from all walks of life, age groups and backgrounds, so don’t rule yourself out just because you think you don’t fit the councillor ‘mould’.

We will be holding an event on 8th November 2018 for anyone interested in finding out more about what is involved in being a district councillor. To register to attend the event and receive your information pack, please see the contact details below.

Contact Democratic Services

If you would like to register to attend the Council's Prospective Councillor Event on 8th November 2018 or have any questions, you can contact a member of the Democratic Services team on:

872303 / 872304 /872305 email: democraticservices@dover.gov.uk.

No bus service when you need one?

TRY THE ALL NEW COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR DOVER



- We can collect you from
and drop you at your chosen destinations
- We can help you get your weekly shopping done
- We offer members return fares from £3.50
- We offer annual memberships for as little as £20
for individuals and £35 for groups

Call us on 01843 602 030

Our drivers are all DBS checked and have all the relevant driver and safety qualifications. The vehicles vary in size and all offer disabled access



The above service is operated by Thanet Community Transport Association and is on trial in the Dover district.

Church Contacts

St Mary's Parish Church

www.eastrybenefice.co.uk

Clergy:

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

Bell Captain:

Mick Johnson 07773 970475

Organist:

Maureen Norman 366761

Church Wardens:

Dr. Alastair Carnegie 813120
 Jo Slater 619873

Assistant Church Wardens:

Mary Goosen 611306
 Sue Brearley 761668

Church Hall Bookings:

Bob Barwick 611420

Enquiries:

Please phone the office 611323

Church Office

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

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

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

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

Benefice Website

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

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

Friday Friendship Lunch Club

Fridays 12th October, 9th November Church Hall at 12 Noon.

Contact 611400

The Church Registers

Wedding Blessing

31st July

Kelly and Greg Smith

Funerals

1st August

Shani Doyle

3rd August

Les Humphreys

3rd September

Ann Satterley

Church Services

Sunday mornings at Eastry

Every Sunday: 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays, 10.30am Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday 10.30am Family Communion

Evensong Services 6.30pm

7th October, 4th November (Northbourne)

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion Eastry Church Hall - all are welcome

Service of Remembrance

Sunday 11th November 10.50am at the War Memorial followed by the service in the Church.

All Souls Service - 4th November

There will be a Memorial Service to remember our departed family and friends **starting at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church**. Please come and join us and light a candle in memory of your loved ones

Sing Along and Tea

Tuesdays 23rd October, 27th November 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**

Rector's Letter

The centenary of the Armistice, which ended the hostilities of the First World War, will be marked on and around 11 November. From our small local villages, to towns and cities in this nation and across the Commonwealth, events of remembrance, reflection and celebration will be staged to mark this momentous anniversary.

The Armistice signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, brought to an end the bloodiest and most devastating conflict in human history. Some 65 million men were mobilised across Europe during World War 1. Nearly a third of them – some 21 million – were wounded; another 8.5 million were killed and some 7.7 million were taken prisoners of war. All of them had family and friends whose lives were changed forever by the events of 1914-1918.

As we look back from a position of relative comfort and security, it is hard to begin to imagine the hardship and suffering, physical and

emotional, which people were forced to endure; but no one in this country could have been immune from it. Among the many physical reminders of the Great War are countless memorials inside our churches, in our churchyards and in public spaces which, together with rolls of honour recording the names of men and women who gave their lives, remind us of the appalling loss of human life.

As we mark this most important and poignant of anniversaries, whether it be at our street parties and events, our Remembrance services, our Beacon lighting ceremonies, or other activities, there are three responses which I would suggest are appropriate:

The first is one of looking back in remembrance – and being aware of the fear, the loss, the pain, the suffering, the courage, the loyalty, the resolve. We can be reminded both of the absurd futility, but also of the best in human comradeship, love and resourcefulness which somehow enabled people to manage and survive the deprivation.

Second, as we look back, hopefully learning from the past, it is a reminder to pray and work for peace today. Sadly, the ‘War to end all wars’ proved to be anything but; and warfare continues today, often for very similar reasons that it was waged 100 years ago. We cannot, on our own, solve the world’s problems; but what we can do is model in our own lives examples of respect and tolerance – examples which others can follow.

And thirdly, as we look back in remembrance, we need also to look forward with hope. Seeking to navigate a way through our future challenges seems daunting to say the least, but we must attend to the future with hope and optimism because all is not lost. In the harshest depths of the Great War, it must at times have felt as though there was no future worth fighting for – yet people persevered and rebuilt their lives with a renewed resolve and determination to make things better. Today our challenges are different, but arguably no less demanding – we also must not lose hope.

The Christian hope lies in the cross of Christ. His death was not the end, but the gateway to new life and opportunity. Therein lies our ultimate hope for the future.

David Ridley

Christmas with a Difference!

Can you make some room for an international student to learn what true British Festive hospitality can mean? Would you like to add an international element to your Christmas, learning another country’s traditions and enjoying the connection and friendship that sharing brings?

HOST UK arranges for international students to enjoy brief stays with UK hosts; one day, a weekend or over the festive period - a three day visit.

If you would like to know more, please go to our website www.hostuk.org

In the Garden

Have you got Fairies at the bottom of your garden? If I have any, they will be lost in the weeds.

Did you know that Foxgloves are the favourite plant in the fairy realm? Fairies love to play inside the trumpet shaped flowers. The speckles on the petals are thought to indicate places on the flower that a fairy has touched.

Picking a foxglove and bringing it inside is thought to be bad luck because the flowers belong to the fairies and if you pick them for yourself, it will annoy the fairies and they will take revenge on you.



Also, beware as a foxglove was thought to be one source of witches' power, they would make a balm from the flowers and rub it on themselves and their broomsticks to help them fly! Do you know of someone who should be using this balm?

Finally, it is bad luck to step inside a 'fairy ring' or a circle of mushrooms. These rings are where fairies dance and if you step into the ring the fairies can capture you. You have been warned!

There are fairies at the bottom of our garden!

It's not so very, very far away;

You pass the gardeners shed and you just keep straight ahead—

I do so hope they've really come to stay.

Before you all think I'm "Away with the Fairies" other things you should be thinking about at this time of the year:

- Lift dahlia and begonia tubers, clean, dry and store them in a frost-free place.
- Prune bush roses just enough to stop "wind rock", also prune and tie in climbing roses before the late autumn winds can damage them.
- Harvest squash, pumpkins and marrows and store in a frost-free place for use during the winter months.
- Cut back the old fruited canes of summer raspberries, leaving all the new canes for next year's fruit.
- Harvest all fruit and store for winter use.
- Remove greenhouse shading, and bring into the greenhouse, all tender container plants etc., and protect them with fleece or hessian.

- Plant wallflower plants, primulas and winter pansies
- Clear up fallen leaves, especially from lawns, using your lawn mower set at a high level. This will produce a lovely leaf mould mulch.
- Divide congested clumps of rhubarb by digging them up and splitting into several pieces with a spade. Leave these on the ground to be frosted. Re-plant the healthiest looking pieces next spring. Allow the new plants to get established and do not pull any stalks for at least one year.

If you are planning a bonfire for November 5th, the best way to avoid harming hedgehogs and other small animals which may have taken shelter in a bonfire, is to build your fire as late as possible. That way they won't have time to take up residence before you strike the match.

Whether you would like fairies to join you in your garden or not, or you are planning Halloween or Bonfire Night Celebration, please enjoy your garden,

Art E. Choke

Another Toy Baby Animal Crisis in Eastry



For the fourth year running toy baby animals have sought homes from the children of Eastry. On the night of 26th/ 27th of August over 40 toy kittens were gathered on the village hall railings and in the gardens of the parade of shops seeking new homes, their parents not being able to afford to look after them any longer. As with other years when there have been baby mice, hedgehogs and rabbits all found homes before the following night with the welcoming children of Eastry.

2018/19 Small Grant Applications

Small Grant applications are invited from village organisations and groups. Applications can only be accepted from groups with a fully-constituted committee and a bank account in the group's name. Applicants should be aware that only applications which serve members of the local community will be considered.

Applications must be submitted by 5.00pm on Friday 16th November. Grant allocation will be decided and payments made by 14th December.

An electronic copy of the form for 2018 is available on the Parish Council web site or from _____ the Clerk to the

Pavement Parking

The Parish Council has received a complaint about inconsiderate parking.

The vast majority of people in Eastry park in a considerate manner and if they park on a pavement it is only by a few inches, leaving enough room for a double buggy, large wheelchair or guide dog and owner to get past. There are a minority of motorists however that park fully on the pavement or up against street furniture making it impossible or extremely difficult to get past.

When a vehicle is parked on a pavement next to an overgrown hedge, lamppost or tree the problem becomes worse. A blind pavement user is either forced to go into the road with the inherent dangers that this brings or more likely will end up with a face full of hedge or a smack in the mouth from a tree branch.

A YouGov poll commissioned by Guide Dogs shows that 54% of drivers admit they park on the pavement. However, 48% of drivers who said they park on a pavement haven't thought about the possible problems it causes to blind or partially sighted people. Many pavement parkers also haven't thought about the possible risk they pose to other vulnerable road users like the elderly, and adults with prams.

The Council recognises that you may be parking on the pavement to ensure other road users can get past on some of the narrow roads in the village, however please also consider pavement users and allow them room to get past safely.



EASTRY PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR

Installed outside Eastry Village Hall as part of a National Scheme to increase the number of Automatic External Defibrillators for use in emergency situations. The unit is on the external wall overlooking the car park in a heated cabinet that needs a code to open : provided by the Ambulance Service when you dial 999 for assistance

Instructions for its use are given the Eastry Parish Council website:
https://www.eastrypc.co.uk/documents/aed_guide_final-17_12_13.pdf

Soft Landscape

With the warmer weather, our colleagues at KCC have again stressed the need for landowners to keep vegetation from obscuring our highways. It is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain these areas.

If vegetation from private land is causing a problem on a highway, KCC can ask the owner to cut, trim or remove the obstruction. For example, an overgrown hedge affecting the pavement or branches overgrowing into the road.

This is part of what is known as soft landscape areas - these areas are important. Soft landscape areas need to be maintained so that:

- roads, cycle paths and pavements are clear of obstructions
- drivers can see clearly at junctions and bends to keep the road safe
- width and height clearances are maintained
- the pathways are safe to walk on and not damaged by weed roots
- verges are kept neat and tidy
- the area is attractive for local residents and visitors.

Overhanging branches can be a particular problem for cyclists and pedestrians, so please check your roadside boundaries. Your help is appreciated.

If you see a problem then it should be reported to KCC on 03000 418181 or through the website at www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

Steve Manion and Nick Kenton Dover District Councillors

Kent Care Services Directory

You may have seen there is a huge amount in the media at the moment about the crisis in social care. If you are growing concerned about your care options, or just want some more information on what your choices may be, this directory can help.



With information to help you understand your options, where to go for advice and how the paying for care system works, the Kent Care Services Directory can support you to make informed decisions.

For a free copy of the Kent Care Services Directory contact Care Choices on 01223 207770.

A Village Remembers

46657 Private Philip Henry Brice Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment). Died Gaza, Palestine Sunday 6th October 1918

The online Roll of Honour for Eastry listed this man as H. Brice, about whom no further details were known, and it is as H. Brice that he appears on the War Memorial. However, study of the Census Returns on which he is recorded show him as Harry in 1891, as Philip H. in 1901, working in Eastry as a garden boy living in Brook Street and as Henry in 1911. He is the only Brice in CWGC records with a local connection.

Philip, or Harry as he was known, was born in 1888 in Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa. His father appears to have died between the time of his youngest child's birth and the 1891 Census, and the family returned to England during this period. On the 1891 Census Philip's mother, Hannah, was recorded as a 34 year old widow, living as a housekeeper to her sister Gertrude Maxted in Barnsole. She had three children, Annie aged nine, Gertrude aged five and Harry aged three, all born in Natal.

By 1911 Harry was living in Bedfordshire, working as a Domestic Gardener, and he married Gertrude Annie Humphries in Biggleswade in the latter part of 1913, but little else is known about him. He seemed to have enlisted either before or quite early in the War, as his Medal Card shows him as formerly serving in the Hampshire Regiment. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

At the time of his death, Harry was with 1/4 (T.F.) Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment. Records show that this Battalion was in India from 1914 to 1917, when they were posted to Palestine.

CWGC records show that Harry died of malaria, aged thirty one, on 6th October 1918, presumably in one of the stationary hospitals in Gaza, and that he now lies in Grave XXVII.A.5 in Gaza War Cemetery, now in Israel, as Private P.H.Brice.

64077 Private Alfred Johnson Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) Died of Wounds Beaulencourt, France. Saturday 12th October 1918

Alfred Johnson is the oldest man named on the War Memorial, being about forty two and a half years old when he died in a Casualty Clearing Station.

The son of Edwin James and Mary Elizabeth Johnson, he was the fourth of their ten surviving children, and was born in Northbourne and baptized at St. Augustine's Church on 9th April 1876. By 1911 only three sons

remained at home, one being an older brother and the other being 18-year old Frank.

Alfred enlisted in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Dover, but by 1918 was serving with 10 Battalion Royal Fusiliers. The Battalion's War Diary for October includes a six page report of operations between 4th and 10th October 1918, and it would be reasonable to suppose that Alfred was mortally wounded during these operations.

On the night of 3/4th October the Battalion was deployed into the front line on the West bank of the Canal de L'escout at Banteux, some eight miles South of Cambrai. All but one of the bridges over the canal had been destroyed by the Germans, and an attack was made over this bridge at 6.30am on 4th October, but the enemy counter-attacked immediately, forcing the Fusiliers to retire back over the canal. The Battalion was relieved later that night by 13 Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, who managed to attack successfully on 5th October, whilst the Fusiliers moved back into their positions on the West bank, where they remained until 7th October. Later in the evening of that day they were ordered forward in preparation for a renewed advance, and whilst going into their new positions they were subjected to hostile shelling which resulted in the Officer Commanding 'A' Company and three Other Ranks being wounded in Cheneaux Wood.

It appears that two of the three Other Rankss died, as there are two men of 10 Royal Fusiliers resting in Beaulencourt British Cemetery, one of whom is Private Alfred Johnson, who now lies in Grave I.A.2 (the other, who died on 10th October, is in Grave I.A.9). This Cemetery, which is about fourteen and a half miles to the West of Banteux, was originally a burial ground for one of four Casualty Clearing Stations.

Alfred's Medal Card shows that he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. As previously mentioned, his father was living in Mill Road in 1919, having lost two sons in the space of six months.

6453 Private Ernest Fitall The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and Labour Corps. Died in hospital, Canterbury, Kent Wednesday 31st October 1918

Ernest Fitall was not one of the men originally named on Eastry War Memorial, his name being inscribed, in 2010, on the separate stone at the foot of the Memorial.

He was born in Eastry on 9th October 1887, the son of Franklin and Fanny Fitall (nee Cock), and was baptised in St. Mary's Church as Ernest Franklin Fitall on 4th December.

Ernest enlisted in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 23rd May 1915. He initially served in 3 (Reserve) Battalion and after training was posted to 6 (Service) Battalion and went to France on 9th March 1916.

On 7th October 1916 he received what were described as gunshot wounds to his face and left leg during an advance near Guedecourt, ten miles North East of Albert, on the Somme. It would be just over a year before his wounds healed, at which time he was given a fitness classification of C.ii and transferred to the Labour Corps, joining 426 Agricultural Company, based in Canterbury, on 20th October 1917.

Sadly, despite recovering from a classic “Blighty one” and being based in England, Ernest did not, survive the War. He was admitted to the Canterbury Military Hospital on the evening of 28th October 1918, suffering from influenza (the so-called Spanish ‘Flu which accounted for more deaths worldwide than over four years of World War). His condition deteriorated and he finally succumbed at 0250 hours on 31st October, three weeks after his 31st birthday. The cause of death was given as “Influenza Bronchitis Capillary”.

Ernest’s widowed mother was living in Monkton Street, Ramsgate, and, having died in England, he was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdelene in Monkton, where he is also commemorated on their War Memorial. His grave is to the south of the church tower and close to the southern boundary, his headstone showing him as “6453 Private E. Fitall E. Kent Regt. (The Buffs)”.

Having lived and worked at St. Margarets-at-Cliffe before the War, Ernest is also commemorated on their War Memorial, inside the church. His birth in Eastry and that the fact that two of his aunts lived in the village (Sarah Wansfield in Church Street and Harriet Hopper at Fairfields) was sufficient reason for his name to be added to Eastry War Memorial in 2010 (with the final “L” being omitted).

33684 Private Alfred Dixon Duke of Wellington’s (West Riding Regiment)
Died of Wounds Auberchicourt, France Friday 1st November 1918

The last man named on the War Memorial to lose his life was Alfred George Dixon. Shown on the Memorial simply as A. Dixon, the illuminated Roll in the church lists him as A.G.Dixon. Military Records and the Eastry Roll of Honour online have confused him with an Alfred F. Dixon, who died on the same day serving with the 1/6 Battalion West Riding Regiment, as was Alfred George. Alfred F. Dixon’s Army Number was 33681.

Alfred George Dixon was born at Elham in Kent in late 1880 and baptised at the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin on 12th December by the vicar, W. Wodehouse. He was the fifth of ten children of Thomas, a labourer and Mary Ann Dixon (nee Croud). He married Sarah Ann Fagg on 16th December 1900 at St. Mary's Church in Eastry. By 1911 Alfred and Sarah were living with their three children at The Grove, Woodnesborough. Another child would be born in November 1917.

Alfred gave his occupation in 1911 as an Agricultural Labourer, but when he enlisted at Canterbury on 22nd May 1916, he was described as a Pit Sinker, presumably at one of the local coal mines. He was described as being five feet three and a half inches tall, weighing just over 10 stones and of good physical development. His date of attestation suggests that he was a conscript under the Derby Act.

According to their War Diary, 1/6 Battalion West Riding Regiment were engaged in a very successful attack across the River Rhonelle at Famars, three miles South of Valenciennes in France on 1st November 1918. Unusually the Diary lists by name all their casualties and one of these was Private A.G. Dixon, who was described as "WOUNDED (nature not known)". *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, however, records him as being "Killed in Action", but gives his Army Number as 33681 (Private A F Dixon's Number – he was listed in the Diary as wounded and missing).

In Arthur's Military Record is a letter dated 16th June 1919 stating that his widow had been awarded a pension of twenty five shillings and five pence (£1.25) per week, effective from 14th July 1919, for herself and her "two children", presumably the youngest. This was not a large sum, but was still about three times the pay of a Private soldier.

Arthur George Dixon's Medal Card shows the he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Forthcoming Publication

Michael Hankins intends to publish a book entitled "A Village Remembers". It will consist of expanded versions of the articles which have appeared in the Eastry Village News since 2014, together with narratives about those who died in the Second World War, in peacetime and in subsequent conflicts.

Illustrated with both black and white and coloured photographs, it is hoped that this A4 publication will turn the bland list of names on the Eastry War Memorial into the men and one woman, who were once part of our village and who left "by the path of duty and self-sacrifice".



Meetings:

3rd October – Quiz Night

7th November – AGM and Members Show

5th December – Christmas Wreath Making and Party.

In August Eastry WI hosted our friends from Sutton Valence WI. After an excellent lunch provided by Eastry members we visited the Spitfire museum at Manston before returning to Eastry Church Hall for tea. This has been an event taking place annually for many years and it's a time to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Our September meeting, 'Games and Gossip' was enjoyed by all, although we only played bingo, as the gossip and refreshments took over. Our secretary provided small prizes, and the 'bingo virgins' picked up the idea quickly, possibly because the prizes were edible!

Walking Netball is now established and takes place every Tuesday, although the group taking part is small at the moment as several members have acquired injuries such as broken wrists and damaged knees, nothing whatsoever to do with walking netball or WI, I hasten to add.

We have once again been ten pin bowling and a group went to the Marlowe Theatre to see the Gary Barlow musical version of "Calendar Girls", which played to packed houses every day and was enjoyed greatly by everyone.

Each month I think might be a quieter month, but that doesn't happen, some of us will be going to meet with other local WIs and every week the craft group meets. Future events are an Autumn Craft Day at Chartham, more walking netball, ten pin bowling, monthly lunch club, a quiz for local WIs and of course our usual monthly meetings which take place in Eastry Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 19.30.

Sue Hankins 01304 619414
 eastrywi@gmail.com

Development of Former Hospital Site

Dover District Council granted planning permission on 20th August for the redevelopment of the site to provide a total of 100 residential units. Work has already started on the demolition of the fire damaged building which has to be re-instated.

Full details including the approved plans and the conditions that must be met before construction commences, can be viewed on the Dover District Council's website: <https://planning.dover.gov.uk/online-applications>

Search for application 14/00240

Eastry Surgery Closure

I am sure that everyone in the Village is aware that the Market Place doctor's practice has proposed to close their branch surgery in Eastry. The proposal was put forward to the Canterbury & Coastal Commissioning Consortium Group (CCG) in January, but was not made public until August when two public meetings and two workshops were announced.

Both public meetings were very well attended with about 200 people present at each. The practice' partners explained the need for the closure which is primarily due to the retirement of GPs and difficulties in recruiting replacements. This is a national issue - particularly so in East Kent. Also, it is NHS policy to bring practices together so that larger surgeries can offer enhanced services.

Many concerns were raised by residents about the impact of the closure - especially for the elderly and families with young children. Travel to Sandwich can be difficult for those without their own cars due to restricted bus services and parking near to the Market Place surgery can be a problem at certain times.

The doctors stressed that if current arrangements are not altered in line with the proposal, then the Market Place practice may not be viable and would have to close. It would then be the responsibility of the CCG to engage locum practitioners to provide the medical services for patients in Sandwich, Eastry and other nearby villages.

Negotiations are being held between the Market Place practice and the Butchery practice to merge.

Although the meetings did outline some of the potential advantages to patients of the bringing together of three surgeries under one roof, no details or commitments were put forward.

A meeting was held between representatives of the Practice, the CCG, Eastry Parish Council and our local MP. The concerns of residents were raised, but it was confirmed that the proposal will be discussed by the CCG on 20th September where a decision will be made.

A leaflet was organised by the Parish Council and distributed to every household in the village by the Eastry Village News team. This gave an opportunity to everyone to send their concerns directly to the practice.

It is unfortunate that this issue of the EVN went to press before the decision by the CCG was made public. However, I am sure that arrangements will be made to advise people of the outcome and that future issues of the EVN will keep everyone informed of developments.

Brian Manton, EVN editor

Bird Watching with Big Nick



Redstart (juvenile)

These were photographed at Sandwich Bay in late October.

What is also exciting for the birdwatchers out there is the arrival of birds into the UK from Northern Europe, where our winters are mild in comparison. Even common garden species like blackbirds, robins and



Stonechat (male)



Fieldfare in orchards near Ash

the fallen fruit in orchards, so keep an eye out for them. Ring ouzels, another member of the thrush family, are seen in mid to late October most years as they move south. Look in areas of trees and shrubs along the coast especially places like Langdon Cliffs – north-east of the docks at Dover, or around Bockhill near the Dover Patrol War Memorial at St Margaret's.

many of the tit family will move to southern UK for a milder climate.

Members of the thrush family will over-winter here from Scandinavia. Fieldfares and redwings start arriving especially if it is a cold autumn in Europe. They will soon strip the red hawthorn berries off the trees and eat



Redwing near Sandwich

There are still many commoner birds around and gradually I hope to cover them, but with limited space it is difficult to fit everything in. The temptation is to report the rarities; but they will obviously be harder for anyone to see, so I'll add one or two over time. So far this year I've photographed 145 species and 90% of those were within Kent, and mostly within 25 miles of Eastry, so there's a lot to see.



Ring Ouzels at Langdon Hole



Great Grey Shrike

My rarity for this edition is the great grey shrike, one or two usually turn up somewhere in the county in the autumn. One spent the winter at Chilham in 2014-15 and became quite a celebrity; it was seen and photographed by lots of people. I photographed this bird at Sandwich Bay on 15th October 2015 but it didn't stay long.

Just as you might check to see what's on at the cinema or theatre, you can do the same for birds. Check the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory or the Kent Ornithological websites for latest sighting. I'm not a 'twitcher' as such – someone who travels around the country to 'tick' a rare bird - however if something is reported locally I'll try to see it.

That's all for now, good luck. **Nick Smith**

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Neighbourhood Watch

What a bombshell that was to discover on a notice board that there are proposals to close the Eastry Surgery, no doubt carefully planned for when we are on holiday or coping with childcare during the summer holidays. Furthermore the villages around Eastry were totally unaware of the plans. Parish clerks were on holiday and Parish Councils do not meet in August. Even Sandwich Town Council will not meet until mid September when we understand that it will be virtually too late to have any input.

Brian Manton, editor of the Village News, gathered a small team together and ensured that the whole of Eastry and surrounding villages were notified of the proposals and the opportunities to attend meetings. How many people would venture out to the Village Hall we wondered, how will we know the attendance? The hall seats 120, so many were standing along the sides and in the doorways and all along the stage it was so gratifying to have the support from the villages and even two Sandwich Town Councillors and the reporter from the East Kent Mercury. Charlie Elphicke was represented by his office manager.

Many people will have grave concerns, especially those who need regular treatment whether they be young or old. The prospect of reliance on bus services, or taxis is daunting and will be expensive, so as a village answers will have to be found to allay patient fears.

Not everyone can or wants to make appointments or submit repeat prescriptions on-line. We like to talk to a receptionist at Eastry and we still want to have appointments at Eastry. Today I learned that as yet flu jabs are only available at Sandwich and the spares may eventually percolate to Eastry - no special arrangements as yet for the vulnerable who in previous years have been given priority.

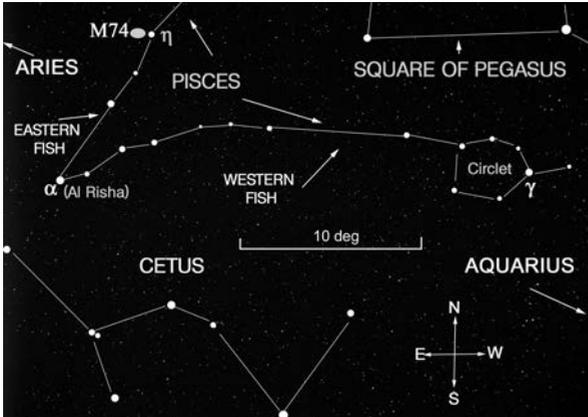
On 11th September, another leaflet was delivered to each household and replies needed by Friday 14th September. I am mindful of all who deal with correspondence at weekends. Parents with young children rarely have time in the evenings after feeding, bathing, dealing with homework and getting their cherubs into bed after a bedtime story. We are not anticipating miracles and must all do what we can to ease the ultimate outcome for all patients. Plans will be needed for transport, parking and prescriptions, so don't "switch off" as there must be ways to ease the situation for the residents of Eastry and keep this village a vibrant place to live.

Sheila Smith

Chair Neighbourhood Watch

The Autumn Constellation of Pisces

During October and November the constellation of Pegasus “The Winged Horse” is dominant in the southern sky (1) Its four brightest stars (mag. 2.1 - 2.8) make up the square of Pegasus. The autumn constellation of Pisces “the Fishes” is the 12th Zodiacal constellation (2) and stretches around Pegasus as shown in the picture, with Cetus “The Whale” to the South. The constellations of Aries “The Ram” and Aquarius “The Water Bearer” are to the east and west respectively.



Pegasus and Pisces are the 7th and 14th largest of the 88 constellations, with areas of 1100 and 900 square degrees, respectively. Pisces is a notable constellation as it is the point where the Sun crosses the celestial equator (Vernal equinox) into the northern hemisphere on March 20th each year. The main stars forming Pisces

have magnitudes in the range 3.6- 5.0 which are faint to the naked eye and a clear dark sky will be necessary to identify them, with the aid of binoculars. The three brightest stars are α , γ and η . First look for a ring of stars called "The Circler", to the south of the Pegasus square. This is the head of the western fish. The entire constellation has a V-shape. At the V-point there is the star α Al Risha "The cord", joining the fishes tails together. Close to the star η -Pisces in the eastern fish tail, there is a face-on spiral galaxy M74 (2), size 8 arc minutes, mag. 9.4. It will need a small telescope to view it. Details of major stars and other deep sky objects are given in the Constellation Guide (3).

Summary of the Roman Legend of Pisces

The Pisces legend is of Babylonian origin and the Greek/Roman legend is related to this. The Pisces constellation was catalogued by the Greek astronomer, Ptolemy, in the 2nd century. I have summarised a popular Greek legend using the Roman names for the gods (4) and information from the references shown below (5,6).

Typhon, the father of all monsters, was an immense dragon monster with a hundred heads. He was the last of the primeval Giants born to Gaia, Mother Earth. He wanted to destroy the Olympian Gods. and when he

approached Cupid and Venus, the god and goddess of love, they were frightened. They called upon Jupiter to help. He turned them into two fish (Pisces) and they escaped by leaping into the river Euphrates, tied together by a cord. Minerva, goddess of wisdom, placed the fish among the stars and they became the constellation of Pisces.

Michael Kinns

References

- 1 https://www.eastrypc.co.uk/evns/9913_EVNOctNov2017.pdf
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- 3 <http://www.constellation-guide.com/constellation-list/pisces-constellation/>
- 4 David E. Faulkner, "The Mythology of the Night Sky- An Amateur Astronomers Guide to the Ancient Greek and Roman Legends" ch. 8 and Appendix A, Patrick Moore's Practical Astronomy Series, published by Springer
- 5 <http://www.ianridpath.com/startales/pisces.htm>
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A Chance in a Million

I would like to share with you this very silly but absolutely true story. It really was a chance in a million. Many, many years ago when I was a van driver, my delivery round would include coming down the motorway from the other side of the Medway bridge to the Brenley Corner junction. I would alternate this round with another driver. One day however we were asked by the woman who worked in the office (a bit nutty - hope she's not reading this) to do her a favour. She told us that on the previous Saturday she had been coming down the motorway and decided to pull over onto the hard shoulder, put her little dog's lead on and give it a bowl of water. While doing so she had put her sunglasses on the roof of her car. She then forgot about them so consequently when she drove off the glasses had obviously slid off and as they were very expensive would we keep an eye open for them!!! She couldn't remember and had no idea what part of the motorway or hard shoulder it was.

Well we had no intention of doing such a bizarre thing and would joke about it daily - "found the glasses yet"?? was a daily joke. However a couple of weeks later my conscience got the better of me telling her I had been looking every day when in fact I hadn't even looked once. So on one particular day I pulled over onto some random part of the hard shoulder and low and behold as I was moving away I spotted something sparkling and yes! guess what?! A pair of sunglasses. When I arrived back at the works - same old thing - have you found the glasses? Dah dah de dah dah - yes I had - a chance in a million! Absolutely true.

Rose Beer

A Fine Romance - (part two)

Ethel and Bert had known each other
Now for just over a year.
They had been out with friends Dolly and Dick
For a walk along the pier.

One day while the men were
Throwing stones into the sea
Bert asked Ethel to marry him
While he was down on one knee.

Their friends Dolly and Dick
Were also two of a kind
And Dick also had the same thing
Going on in his mind.

The women decided to buy a new dress
So off they went credit cards in tow.
Marks and Sparks had gone down hill
So they decided it had to be M and Co.

Off the four went
To board a stage coach bus
It was best they thought that way
They wanted no fuss.

A vicar named David
With a grin on his face
Welcomed the four of them
To his holy place.

Both the grooms dentures
Were sparkling white
They'd soaked them in Steradent
The previous night.

The choir wore red gowns
With thermals beneath
They sang "Love was Divine"
'til one dropped her teeth!

The brides Fathers duly gave them away
And although it was done with a loving touch
At one hundred and ten
They didn't say much.

They left the church
For the Village hall
'cos a lady named Margaret
made cakes free for all.

Well said the brides
We mustn't stay long
It's only a short while
'till Coronation Streets on.

And so a Fine Romance
Had occurred in just over a year
And all had started
With a stroll on the pier.

Rose Beer



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