

The
Eastry
Village News

August
September 2020

*Sunny Sunday morning
in Brook Street*

Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police	999	Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Police Community Support	101	Highways Fault Reporting	03000 418181
& non-emergency Police		UK Power Network	105
PCSO - Richard Bradley		C of E Primary School	611360
richard.bradley@kent.pnn.police.uk		Head Teacher: Mrs.Sarah Moss	
		PTA Treasurer: Justine Crane	
Community Warden – Peter Gill		Parish Council	
07703 454190 Peter.Gill@kent.gov.uk		www.eastrypc.co.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch		www.facebook.com/EastryPC	
Sheila Smith	611580	Chairman: Nick Kenton	
Doctors Surgery	619790	Vice-Chairman: Mark Jones	
The Market Place, Sandwich		Clerk to Council	
Emergency out of hours	111	Mrs.Jo Jones	01304 746036
		clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk	
Eastry Ravens F.C. – Steve Booth		Thornton House, Thornton Lane,	
07864 925289 email:27srb@sky.com		Eastry, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0EU	

BICKERS

Your local Shop, Newsagent and Post Office

- Your first stop for newspapers & magazines
- Wide range of confectionary
- Good selection of greeting cards & stationery
- Milk & essential groceries
- National Lottery
- Motor Vehicle Tax and Council Tax payments
- Foreign currency and travel insurance
- Banking facilities - no fee payable (Barclays/ Giro/ Co-op/ Lloyds TSB)
- Cash withdrawals (Mon-Sat only)

Now - Wines, beers and spirits!

NEW OPENING HOURS - Still open 7 days a week

Monday to Saturday 7.00am - 5.30pm **Sunday 7.30am -12pm**

Tel: 01304 611258 (shop) 01304 621864 (Post Office)

Young People's Contacts

YOUNG PEOPLES CLUB (next to the Gun Park)
Have fun and make friends - Admission free

Meetings:

Open Wednesdays only
 for 12-19 year olds 7pm to 9pm.
 Tuesdays and Thursdays
cancelled until at least October.



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

Cancelled until further notice.

This group has been taken over by the Youth Club Committee and once open again will meet 9am - 11am every Monday. Joanne Barham will lead the group (07593 504326) and any offers of help will be most welcome.

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 5¾ -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

Leader *Vacant*

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Scouting is fun for adults too.

If you would like to help then please
 contact Graham Baker

Local Events

Eastry Horticultural Society - Potato Competition Results

I'm sure you will be pleased to know that despite Covid 19 restrictions we at the Gardeners Club are still maintaining our gardens to their immaculate standards. The vegetable patches, the flower beds and even the lawns are in pristine condition, with everything growing well (even the weeds!).

Sadly we could not exhibit any of our fabulous produce as our annual show had to be cancelled. However in spite of an incredibly mixed year of good, bad and indifferent weather conditions, the annual container grown Potato Competition did go ahead. Potato and container supplied by the club to ensure fair competition with individual members using their preferred soil, compost, feed etc. If you are now thinking 'well anyone could do that' why not join the club and have a go next season along with our pot grown daffodil competition? Our thanks go to Rob, Trevor and Jacki for their magnificent efforts on the day of weighing, the competition culminated over the garden wall of Rob and Jacki.

With 21 containers to be emptied and contents weighed it was hard work for the administrators with the final results as follows:-

1st - John Trainer 5lbs (2.28kg) yield - *winner by nearly 2 pounds*
2nd - Steve Pitcher 3lbs 2.5oz (1.43kg) **3rd - Trevor Burton** 2lbs 13oz (1.29kg)

Well done to all competitors and thank you for your continuing support during these trying times. John Trainer will be presented with his trophy and certificate when we are all able to meet up again.

Rob Betts is gradually collecting photographs of gardens from our members so that he can make a display of them for us to enjoy when things change. So if you have a nice photo of your garden get it to Rob as soon as possible.

Stay safe and well. Hopefully it won't be too long before things return to normal as it appears that from Saturday 11th July some village halls will be allowed to re-open - under strict Covid rules of course. I understand this is up to individual centres to activate so maybe, fingers tightly crossed, the return of our gardeners meetings is now not quite so far away.

Northbourne & Betteshanger Horticultural Society

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Dover Flower Club

There is no meeting in August. However we are hoping to be able to return to some sort of "normal" in September. Obviously this depends on Whitfield Village Hall and the restrictions that will be required as the safety of our members and visitors is our prime concern.

In September we are planning to be able to invite you along to a floral demonstration called 'Autumn Delights' by Anna Evans. There will be a competition for our members and guests - to bring an arrangement with the theme '*Arrangement in Terra Cotta*'. As usual the event will be held in Whitfield Village Hall at 7.15pm on Monday 28th September.

Please be aware this is to be confirmed and contact us for more information. Maureen, <Edmond.randm@talktalk.net> Janet, <janetgray@btinternet.com>

Does anyone remember Ida (Peggy) Margaret Woodruff?



Born in 1925 she grew up in Eastry but sadly died in her thirties leaving a four year old daughter. The Woodruff family ran the chemist in Eastry and lived at 'Jocelyn' opposite the village hall. Her mother's maiden name was Gillman and they were



builders in Eastry. Peggy may well have been familiar to anyone in the village now in their eighties or older. Her granddaughter Jessica is really hoping that we can help her to discover more about Ida/Peggy. Can anyone help?

Jessica can be contacted on **07840 493246** or jsbishopp@gmail.com.

BICKERS

Post Office and Newsagents

now **closes** at 5.30pm Monday to Saturday.
Sunday opening remains the same.

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*

Dover District Council - Coronavirus Public Information
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

From the Eastry Village News

Goodbye and a happy retirement Sarah Wells

thank you for your help over the years

Welcome and good luck Joanna Jones

we look forward to working with you

Well done Rose Beer

you have been contributing your excellent stories and poems for 19 years!

Parish Council News

CLERKS RETIREMENT

I will be retiring as Clerk to the Parish Council from 31st July 2020. I have enjoyed my 16 years with the Council and would like to thank all the past and present Councillors for all their help and support during that time. Joanna Jones will be taking over from me and I wish Jo all the best in the role and hope she gets as much job satisfaction as I have over the years.

Please bear with Jo and be patient whilst she gets to grips with the many complex and varying aspects of the job.

Sarah Wells

CLERKS PROFILE

I am looking forward to taking up the post of Eastry Parish Clerk, I have lived in the village for over 25 years and in the past have served as a Governor and member of the PTA for Eastry Primary as well as running the Toddler Group in Northbourne and being the book keeper for Northbourne Parish Hall.



I am a local girl, originally being a Laslett from Ash and have taught Accountancy, Maths and Business at Canterbury College for the last 25 years as well as being the book keeper for a Mediation Charity and running the Accounts and admin side of my husband's business. Although I have enjoyed my time as a teacher, I feel that I am now ready for a new chapter and am excited about this new role as I enjoy helping people and can't wait to work and be more involved with my local community. My contact number is 01304 746036

Joanna Jones

PARISH COUNCIL 2020/21 SMALL GRANTS

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 5pm on Friday 13th Nov 2020. Grant allocation will be decided and payments made by 14th Dec 2020.

An electronic copy of the form for 2020 is available on the Parish Council web site or from the Clerk to the Parish Council.

NEW WEBSITE

Eastry Parish Council has launched its new website, it can be found at www.eastry-pc.gov.uk. The new site has been produced to ensure that all aspects of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 have been met. Please take a look at the site and check in regularly for the latest news and information from the Parish Council. Back issues of the Village News can also be found on the site.

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Friday & Saturday

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Monday - Thursday

12.30-14.30 hours

& 17.00-19.30 hours

Friday & Saturday

12.30-19.30 hours

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Life in Lockdown



On 23rd March 2020, our lives changed for the foreseeable future as the country was forced into lockdown due to the outbreak of Covid 19. At Eastry Primary School, after three months of confinement, the children in the year 5 & 6 'bubble' have been reflecting on their experiences during the pandemic.

What has been difficult for us?

At the beginning, we found it very difficult not being able to see our friends. We realised how much we took their company for granted. We had never before experienced the closure of our favourite outdoor spaces. We were faced with the realisation that certain foodstuffs and things we were used to, might not be available. This was scary.

Not being able to see relatives outside of our immediate families was horrible. Some of us felt concern that our relatives who were vulnerable might struggle to get food and other essentials delivered to them. We were all afraid of catching the virus and being ill.

The Year 6 children were also sad that after so many years at Eastry, they would not be able to enjoy those end of primary school rituals like: the school production, the residential trip to Swattenden, shirt-signing, being 'clapped out' and the end of school party. But on the plus side, we didn't have to do SATS!

Have there been any benefits of lockdown?

Whilst we have missed seeing our wider family and friends, we have enjoyed the extra time that we have had at home. We have all been learning new life skills- gardening, DIY, bike maintenance, cooking, swimming and carrying out basic household chores – to name but a few. Most of us have been able to come in to school during lockdown and have benefitted from exciting and engaging activities organised by the staff. Amongst other things, we have built dens, baked cakes, enjoyed treasure and scavenger hunts, planted vegetables and been very creative with lots of art activities.

It has been a strange time for us all, but we feel that we have made the best of a difficult experience.

We hope that the worst of the virus has now passed for everybody and that life and school will soon return to normality.

Year 5/6 Key Stage Bubble
Eastry Cof E primary school



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[Beacon View Vets Update](#)

Hello everyone! We hope that you have been enjoying the better weather recently. In some ways lockdown life has provided a few perks; the chance to catch up with yourself and enjoy more time at home with your pets. At the vets we have been very busy in recent months and pleased to say that life has returned to normal for our furry patients with a full range of services on offer again. We hope that it won't be too long now until we can safely invite you into the practice for a cup of tea!



We have been very busy providing 24/7 support for pets and a particularly interesting case was Mittens. Sadly she had chased after a long stick on a walk and managed to impale herself onto the stick. It had pierced the side of her throat and travelled all the way down to her shoulder, narrowly missing many major structures. She was very sore following this accident due to the large amount of bruising and soft tissue trauma. We performed X-rays and ultrasound of the injured area to check that no pieces of stick had broken off inside her neck. Luckily Mittens has made a full recovery but there have sadly been lots of cases across the UK who have not been so lucky. Please remember to be careful when throwing items for your pets, stick injuries are luckily quite rare but can be incredibly serious. Throwing stones at the beach can also be very hazardous and can fracture their teeth or even be accidentally swallowed and cause a gastric obstruction.

Another frequent complaint we see throughout the summer is grass seeds. Grass seeds are tricky little things that can cause major damage when they enter the body. Most frequently we see seeds getting trapped in ears, eyes and puncturing the feet. Due to their barbed nature, grass seeds only travel in one direction through a tissue and gradually work themselves deeper and deeper. The foreign material causes a huge inflammatory reaction from the immune system and it's not uncommon to find grass seeds in the middle of huge abscesses. If your pet has long hair then please check through their coat after each walk, paying particular attention to the feet and ears.

We are delighted to have recently been awarded the highest gold level of Cat Friendly Clinic accreditation. From the very beginning we wanted our practice to feature feline and canine specific areas to help minimise the stress when visiting our vets. Our clinic features a cat-only waiting area, consult room and luxury cattery; as well as the latest in diagnostic equipment so that we can identify problems quickly. We are the only practice in the area to have achieved gold accreditation. If you'd like to see all the features of our clinic then please click online at <https://beaconviewvets.co.uk/virtual-tour/>

Wishing you the very best from all at Beacon View - *Claire*

Please note that at this time your Eastry Woodnesborough Benefice Church Contacts are:

Rector Rev David Ridley
Tel: 01304 619619 [email: davidridley@btopenworld.com](mailto:davidridley@btopenworld.com)

Curates Rev Sandra Marsh
Tel: 01304 612686 [email: revsandramarsh@btinternet.com](mailto:revsandramarsh@btinternet.com)

Rev Lesley Hardy
Tel: 01304 360276 [email: revlesleyhardy@gmail.com](mailto: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 thoughts on 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

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection as follows:

Eastry: 9am to 5pm daily; Staple: 9am to 5pm daily;

Tilmanstone: 9am to 5pm daily;

Northbourne: 10am to 4pm Mondays and Wednesdays.

Woodnesborough remains closed because of building work.

From local Church bulletins or announced during Church services

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Pot-Luck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

CHURCH SERVICES IN EASTRY CHURCH

Eastry Church is now open for worship on Sundays at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend, but it would be helpful if you would let the Rector know if you intend to come as space is limited, given the need to allow 2m social distancing. There is only room for 25 people. The service will also be broadcast online.

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICE - SUNDAY at 10am

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 - Deaths

3/6/20 Joan Dennis (Barham)

19/6/20 Patsy Dawson (Eastry)

14/7/20 Jack Parker (Barham)

24/7/20 Ann May (Barham)

Eastry Cares and Staple Helpline

*Do you need a lift
to an appointment?*

*Do you need shopping
or a prescription collected?*

*Would you like a friendly visit,
a listening ear
or help with form filling?*



Call on: 07787 612238

Rectors Letter

Over the last couple of weeks, our Churches have been doing a bit of reflection on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - in particular, to ask what we have gained and want to keep; and what we have lost and want to have back.

For a number of people a real gain has been that of time; more time to pursue hobbies, more time with family and friends; more time to appreciate the countryside. Alongside this have been all the benefits which come from being less busy and less stressed.

For the Church as an organisation and community, we have learnt about the possibilities which are offered by online media. Before the end of March I had never heard of Zoom, let alone actively used it. Very quickly it has become a staple part of my work with several meetings and webinars every week. It has opened up all sorts of new possibilities and will, undoubtedly, remain part of a 'mixed economy' in our on-going communication. But this time of lockdown has also highlighted how essential it is to maintain contact with people whether by phone or written word, especially when they do not have access to modern technology.

However, it is quite clear that whatever we may have gained and learned, nothing can compensate for the loss of basic human contact. What people desired most was to meet up again, get back to Church and socialise; once more to have the opportunity to embrace another person.

For some, our period of social isolation has been relatively straightforward; life has continued and, with family around, has certainly been bearable - albeit different. But for others the forced isolation has been nothing less than cruel - in any other context, compelling people to be entirely alone would be considered abusive.

We are now re-opening our Churches and lockdown is easing. We are of course a very long way from being out of the woods, but I would like to suggest two lessons which we might really take to heart:

First is to be endlessly thankful for each other - family and friends - and the simple gift of human contact.

And second, to recognise that so many in society suffer from isolation and loneliness. We must be better at finding ways in which we can show them that we care, that they are not alone and that we are there for them.

The great lesson from all of this may be to learn how we can spend less time being busy and instead have more time to spend with each other.

David Ridley

News from the St.Mary's Events Team



As you know all our planned events have been cancelled this year so far and moved on to next year. However, we do have a lingering desire to see if we can have a Jazz open evening on The Green in Church Street on Saturday August 29th. But we will only have the event if circumstances and guidelines change substantially in mid August. **Watch out for posters etc!** Sadly we feel that the Teddy Bears Picnic and Zip Line off the tower

will have to wait till next year.

A more definite fixture, however, is a Son et Lumiere at Eastry Court on the evening of Friday September 4th. This is generously presented by Lord and Lady Freud who have created the unique event which charts the 1400 year history of Eastry Court. It will be shown in the late evening and will involve the sounds of speaking and music, with pictures of the main characters against the lit backdrop of the ancient Eastry Court. This promises to be a very special and unique event, never to be repeated. Being a ticketed event in closed surroundings means social distancing etc can be better managed. More details will emerge but tickets will be on sale in advance, and on the door if not already sold out. Proceeds from this will go towards the Eastry 900 celebration of the 900th anniversary of the first stone structure at St Mary's Church. We are still looking at how best to make this event happen safely so please look out for details during August.

We hope to have a Christmas Fayre in late November in the church. Again, the Coronavirus restrictions make definite planning awkward but we really hope you will support this great opportunity to start the Christmas season well after such a troubled several months. Please look out for more information, posters etc. nearer the time. Zero activity in and around the church this year has resulted in a loss of about £1000 per month. This has created real challenges although we are acutely aware that we are not alone.

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

Wanted

Eastry church had a wheelchair which was used on many occasions when required but recently the wheels fell off. Repairing this would be expensive so we are now looking for a replacement. Have you got a wheelchair that is surplus to requirements which could be passed on?

If so, would you like it to be put to good use occasionally in the church?
We would be eternally grateful for any support you can offer.

Please contact me on 01304 813120 or amcarnegie@hotmail.com

Many thanks
Alastair Carnegie (Churchwarden)



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Cream teas all round!



On July 9th we delivered individual strawberry teas to all our members. We planned it when everyone was in lockdown for Wimbledon finals week. We called it ‘**it’s not Wimbledon but it is a cream tea!**’ As guidance changed some small groups were able to meet for a tea party. Each box containing a Wimbledon Quiz, a Wimbledon Wordsearch, a recipe for Denman shortbread and a recipe for Pimms. Lovely comments from our members - I’m so lucky to be President of such a great bunch of ladies at Eastry. Carole Willis, one of our “seasoned members” tells how she came to join the WI.

Now an older member (I can’t believe I’ve admitted that) I first joined Tilmanstone WI in 1966 for a few years but a growing family and running a business took all my time so I left. I joined Eastry WI in 2000 when life eased up a bit and I wanted something for me. I’m so glad I did. I have met and enjoyed the company of so many lovely ladies. It opened up such a lot of new friendships for me which are still strong today and over the years, with all the hardships and sad times that happen in our lives, there has always been someone there for me.

The WI has changed over the years as everything in life changes and we take this on board. We do use modern technology but it is not compulsory as we have a wide age range and everyone is kept in the loop. We are a strong group with many different interests, talents and we try to cater for everyone and always welcome new ideas and new members. Loneliness can be a problem in all age groups but with the WI we can socialise and enjoy one another’s company within the group and outside. We have lots of fun and laughter and we are all the same in many ways, something we don’t always consider.

Yes we still get teased about ‘Jam and Jerusalem’ but if it was good enough for Julie Walters it’s good enough for us. We can take it on the chin. Keep making bigger buns ladies!
Best regards Carole

Dover District Council - Bin Collections 2020

Non recyclable waste *Black topped wheelie bin and Food Bin*
Tuesdays 11th, 25th August 8th, 22nd September

Recyclable Waste *Blue topped wheelie bin and Food Bin*
Plastics, tins, bottles, cardboard and green/garden waste
Tuesdays 4th, 18th August 1st, 15th, 29th September

The Reverend Philip Clements (1938-2020): 'Priests Are Human'



With a great roar of laughter, the small man kneeling amidst a throng of children, rocked back on his heels, his snowy locks dancing with merriment as village children crowded round, their faces glowing with delight: one of the apples in the Halloween bobbing tub was now sporting a fine pair of false teeth! Philip's wicked sense of humour, irrepressible charm and deep understanding of human nature had made him a popular hit with young and old alike since his return, in 2003, to the hills of his childhood.

There is scarcely anyone, anywhere in the world, with access to television or news, who has not heard of the Revd Clements, the married priest. But what of Philip Clements, the man? We privileged few whom he taught or worked amongst quickly realised that he was unique. His powerful sermons allowed many to explore their faith and life choices. He adored seeing children in church and would hold them spellbound with his amusing re-tellings of the Bible stories. Local families thought it a huge privilege to have him officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals. One charming old lady in Eastry was well-known for her love of men and would entertain many of them to tea, Philip had the mourners at her funeral in stitches as he greeted them with: "Imagine Ivy up there with all those male angels!"

Yet his deep empathy with his flock sprang from his own fallibility as he questioned endlessly his own actions, his faith, his ability: *'I did my best./ But on reflection often failed/ In life, in priestly office./ Did I assist their quest for Heaven?'* Philip understood that we 'cannot be but self,' even though that self be but 'a pale reflection of the self (we) want to be.' Philip never fully realised that his 'self' was a beacon to so many. On hearing of his passing, a neighbour wrote: "I only met him once at the Epiphany house party early this year, but I found him to be an utterly charming man! He was an interesting conversationalist on many varied topics and full of good humour and old world manners and charm! I am sad that I will not have the opportunity to meet him again."

However, this gift of oneness with others was greatly tested many times as Philip was a life long sufferer of Bi-Polar Syndrome. It was while a Chaplain at Lancing College that Philip had his first major bout and though the school and headmaster were very kind, it was to his elder brother, Charles, that Philip turned. Charles immediately drove down and, while waiting for Philip, was surprised "by a young man coming up to me and expressing his sadness that Philip was leaving as he had been such a help during his short stay. Such was his worth." As young men, Charles had been the first to hear his librarian brother give the dramatic news of his 'revelation' and burning desire to study Theology. Strong family ties and brotherly love helped Philip recover his belief

in himself and God. He was to suffer at least two more major incidences, one before his retirement and the other just after his marriage. He showed real strength of character to recover from each experience and, with great courage, would try and confront the situations and fears which had overcome him.

As children, Philip and his brothers would roam the woods around Shepherdswell, building camps, *'Open to Nature, and wandering wide,/ With sun on our backs and nothing to hide./ So hatless and shirtless we'd spend every day,/ With only storms, rain and Winter to get in the way.'* Philip would also often lie on his back and gaze at the clouds: *'when I was a child/ So free, so wild/ I lay there and marvelled/ Enjoying beauty on earth unequalled.'*

Nature and God became intertwined in Philip's spiritual belief and he would pour out his thoughts in a prolific body of poetry, usually to an attentive cat! Through it, he came to conclude that life is an amazing and precious gift, not to be viewed with pessimism but with optimism and anticipation.

He had two great regrets in life: one was to be childless and the other to not know all the joys of earthly love. Though Bi-Polar Syndrome leads to great depression and pessimism, Philip's deep abiding faith and willingness to question himself ultimately counterbalanced the Syndrome. *'....when I die I only will be partly sad,/ For though none own and never hearing "Dad",/ It's been a joy to know and know again,/ To help in nurture but with little pain,/ The countless children of my life.'*

After his retirement with his vow of celibacy ended, Philip felt free to finally explore his own sexuality and find the 'love in the love lines that I did not write.' It led to a roller-coaster of a marriage with Florin. For the first time in his life, Philip travelled the world, exploring diverse cultures and the joy of having a companion to share these discoveries with. Ultimately, the world's Press, Bi-Polar Syndrome and prosaic old age, took its toll on this wonderful new relationship. With the help of the many friends he had made here in Kent, Philip slowly came back to his irrepressible self, realising that in life he had made mistakes but *'life isn't bad you know,/ As others come and then they go,/ But those who stay, I thank,/ Better than any wealth in bank./ Love is the thing to feel.'*

Having survived two dangerous operations which still left him with the possibility of suffering an enormous aneurysm in his heart, Philip decided to give his marriage meaning and so returned to build a new relationship with Florin. *'The many kinds of love are wealth,/ I do not write of love as common felt,/ I live its diverse force and feel its magic melt.'* He knew that *'..all the good I might have done may count/ For little when the reckoning is made,/ When I appear, not as expected, staid,/ But simply and imperfect me.'*


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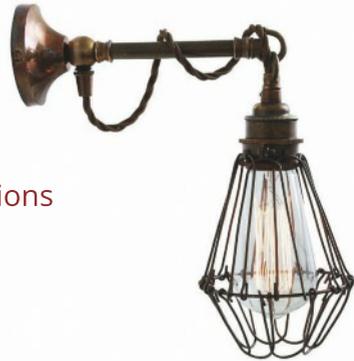
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In the Garden

As from this edition of The Village News there is a slightly different format to the "In The Garden" article, I will be picking a specific subject to write about, and it is planned in the future to include some of the lovely gardens in the Village, so if you would like your garden to be featured, please contact the Editor.

Before I go into my specific subject, we are now into harvesting months for the crops you have been growing in your vegetable garden or allotment. Lift onions and shallots and lay them out to ripen, lift and store main crop potatoes during September. You can leave marrows to ripen in the open air, but once the skin starts to turn orange, store them in a cool frost-free place for winter use.



Onions drying in the sun



Paperwhite on pebbles

We are now coming to the time of year when we are thinking about planting bulbs for flowering next spring. There are two that are so easy to grow indoors and can be flowering for Christmas. The first is "Paperwhite" narcissus (daffodil) these can be grown in a bowl on moist pebbles or on the surface of bulb fibre. If you want them to bloom for Christmas, the best time is to plant them about 6 weeks in advance. Keep them in a cool



Paperwhite in bulb fibre

place, a shed or garage would be suitable, keep the pebbles or bulb fibre just moist. When the new shoots are about 5cm/2" tall, bring them indoors into a cool room. The shoots will start to turn green, so you can now introduce them into a higher temperature.

My second bulb is the hyacinth, these can be grown in a narrow-necked glass vase or in a bowl filled with bulb fibre. You can buy what are known as "prepared" bulbs, this means they have already been chilled, making the bulb thinking it is already winter. If you buy un-chilled bulbs you will have to fool the bulb into thinking it is winter by placing them in a refrigerator draw for at least five weeks, but make sure you keep them well away from food produce.



Hyacinths in glass vases

For Christmas flowering plant them in September or early October. If you are using the glass vase method, fill the vase with clean cold water up to the narrow neck, place the bulb into the top of the vase making sure the bulb is not in contact with the water, the roots will grow down to reach it.

If you are using bulb fibre in a bowl, just sit the bulb snugly into the fibre which should only be slightly moist. Once this is all done place the glass vase or bowl in a cool spot away from bright light. As the leaves develop and green up you can then move them closer to a window.



Hyacinths in bulb fibre

Both the “Paperwhite” narcissus and Hyacinths have the most wonderful fragrance.

So, enjoy your bulbs, enjoy your garden,

Art E. Choke

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for photos, experience etc see

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[Eastry>Tilmanstone>Betteshanger>Eastry walk](#)

Having lived in the village 30 years I have come across a 3 mile or so wonderful local circular walk thanks to my neighbour Bob Tumber. An ideal antidote for any lockdown 'hemmed in' feeling with fields, woods and two old churches for starters. I took it slowly investigating and photographing a lot en route and it took about two and a half hours.



From Buttsole Pond at the bottom of Lower Street head along Venson Bottom and at the T junction near Lower Venson farm straight ahead is a bridleway. Take this and keep a straight line all the way to Nightingale Woods. Hop over the stile, with a meadow on your right, and follow the path through the beautiful peaceful woods - carpeted with bluebells when I first passed through.

Keep straight and eventually you'll spot a grand house that is Dane Court over on your far right and you emerge onto School Road. Go left until it meets Upper Street then go left again and you'll find Tilmanstone's parish church of St Andrew which dates back to the mid-11th century. The yew tree is over 1200 years old and probably the oldest thing in the village - **well worth a look.**



Just down the hill take the next right, St Mary's Grove then up to and over the bypass bridge. Turn left for a slightly shorter route, cutting a corner off via Longlands Wood or go straight, alongside the wood boundary, over 2 fields to a footpath, which was an old Roman Road presumably from Richborough port to Dover. Turn left and keep going until you see the grand Northbourne Park Prep School on your far left followed by St. Mary's Church at Betteshanger. Said to be one of the most attractive Victorian churches in Kent it was rebuilt for the first Lord Northbourne in 1853 as an imitation of nearby Barfreston church.

At the end of this track you come to the Straight Mile road. Head left towards the bypass and branching right at the pretty cottage you emerge at the Eastry roundabout and back to Lower street. Around this time (20th May) there were a lot of small caterpillars in dense misty webs on the hedgerow spindle 'tree' bushes which Google Lens ID'd as grubs of the Ermine Spindle moth.



To make a day of it there is a longer route embracing Nonington, Barfrestone and Eythorne <http://www.geograph.org.uk/geotrips/144>. Happy exploring!

Simon Dundas

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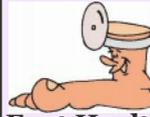
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Terry James' - First and Last Lively Lockdown Limericks

A sneaky new virus from China
crept aboard aircraft and liner.

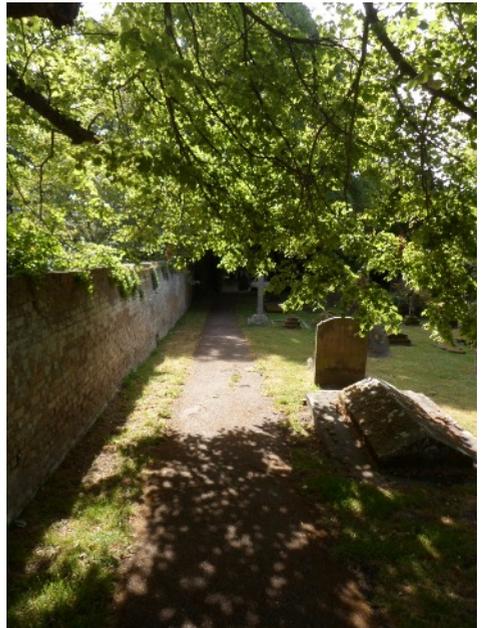
It spread without halt
finding favour nor fault.

No virus was ever maligner

22/04/20

There once was a shielded old blighter
who became this limerick writer
some were over the top
but now all that will stop
'cos he's put down his pen and highlighter

06/07/20





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Understanding Nature - Terry Wood

During this crisis many of us have found enjoying 'nature' refreshing, even inspiring. But, the 'nature' we see is much diminished from that many of us remember. Sometimes this is due to greed, destroying wild places to make money, sometimes legitimate needs for more homes, to keep safe visibility on our roads or the pressure for cheaper food production clash with the needs of the natural environment.

I am an ecologist with experience researching and teaching. All too often opportunities to preserve, even re-instate natural **habitats** are missed simply because we don't realise what is possible. Ecology seeks to explain **what living things are present in a habitat, in what numbers and why.**

Habitats can be small, a rotting log, or huge, the Sahara desert. Take a simple habitat, a garden pond. Within it are **micro-habitats**, the mud on the bottom, the open water, the surface. Each impose **limiting factors**, the nutrient content, temperature range, oxygen content etc. which determine what can and cannot live there.



Within the pond there will be **populations** of plants, animals, bacteria and fungi. members of each separate population are all the same **species** (roughly, 'sort') but they interact together; the plants use sunlight and nutrients and grow, some of the animals feed on the plants, others feed on the plant eaters, the bacteria and fungi feed on dead plants and animals etc. If left alone and self contained this **community** will reach an equilibrium, plants releasing oxygen as they make their food, the rest using it up; nutrients locked up in living things in the pond, released when they die, to be used again. The pond is a self sufficient **ecosystem**, requiring only energy from the sun.

We can upset this balance if we allow leaves from trees and other plants to fall into the pond and decay, using up more oxygen than

can be replaced by the plants. Fish in the pond should be native, sticklebacks, minnows, maybe a small tench and, above all, only a small number or they will eat everything. **Do not feed the fish in a natural pond.**

Even if you do not intervene at all the pond will, however, gradually change with time as the sediments on the bottom slowly build up so the water gets ever shallower, forming a marsh and, even later, the level of the sediment will have risen above the natural level of the water and the pond is now grassland, then scrub and, finally a little bit of woodland. This process is called **succession** and it goes on all the time if habitats are untouched

With a few tiny exceptions we have no true 'wilderness' areas in Britain, all are the result of ways that we humans **manage** the habitat, but that is for another time.

I am new to this so please let us know if you find my words helpful - Terry

Eastry Green Heritage

Thank you for being on the side of the bees,
the bats and the beetles.

Contact revlesleyhardy@gmail.com



Our Honey Bees - Ray Checksfield

Swarming is a natural instinct for a colony of honey bees and is their only method of reproduction. This is achieved when the Queen decides to leave the colony with maybe 40% to 60% of the bees. They normally cluster somewhere close by and then scout bees will search out a new home then off they go. Some of you will have seen or heard or even been in among this and will well remember the noise which can be quite frightening. The bees at this stage will have gorged themselves on honey before they left the hive, so are normally not aggressive. The Queen will also have left behind in the hive several queen cells, maybe 10 to 20, each containing an egg that will hatch into a new Queen.

The first Queen to hatch sometimes will depart also, depleting the original hive even further, or she will kill all the remaining unhatched Queens. The original colony then is so depleted that a honey crop for the beekeeper has virtually gone that year. We as beekeepers have a responsibility to manage this within our colonies with maybe 101 different methods to curtail the swarming instinct. Some work one year but not the next. The bees always win. The new virgin Queen will emerge and leave the hive after a few days to mate, with, quite a few drones. Start laying eggs and the colony is then up and running. She will mate only once in her lifetime, maybe 2-3 years and at her peak will lay between 1 and 2 thousand eggs a day.

I have only scratched the surface on this subject due to space limits but next time, let's extract the honey. (Maybe)! Best regards **Ray**



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Breakfast on VE Day 2020

I relax in the garden, the air is warm on my skin,
caressing as gentle as thistledown.
The breeze stirs and gently lifts the cherry leaves,
drifts the scent of lilac sentinel tulip, cerise gown.
Birdsong, a constant presence;
cooing of woodpigeons, twittering finches,
the slap of starling's wings.
The harsh call of a blackbird with young,
gagging of nearby geese. Nature irrepressibly sings.
Intense peace, sky of powder blue thinly veiled,
streaked with wisps of cloud.
Occasional, almost silence.
No vapour trails, no traffic noise,
the buzzing of an insect flyby.
Indefinable sixth sense. Petals of rose, mauve,
baby pink midst multitudinous hues of green.
Each flower a jewel-like gem.
They marched, fought, voyaged, endured, soared
and conquered to give us this fanstastic day.
Tranquil, peaceful because of them.

Lesley Smith 08/05/2020

Covid 19

It seems so surreal
this virus called "Corona"
It's cunning, unpredictable,
a deadly persona.
Does not discriminate
between the young or old.
Destroys lives, businesses,
sad stories unfold.
Creeps into the lungs,
and affects the breathing.
Nothing to stop it,
and it's definitely not leaving

May Morriss 05/20

Poets' Corner

The Eggie Hunt

I don't think I'll find them
but I'm still prepared to look.
I won't give up too easily
I'll search in every nook.
I've been to all the places
where I usually get my fix,
I'd like to have a dozen
but I'll make do with six.

I can't find my large ones,
small ones will do.
If push comes to shove
I'll share a box with you.
Chicken is my favourite,
but goose will suffice,
in this time of "Lockdown"
we will pay the price.

Seeing my box empty,
oh how I cried.
No more scrambled "eggies"
omelette or fried.
I can't give up my "eggies"
but the soldiers can go
Oh to taste my "eggy bread",
I do miss you so.

I need some really quickly;
I won't give up my fight,
brown is my preference,
but I'll settle for white.
So if anyone is reading
and takes pity with my plea,
Please pop round later,
I'll have poached egg for tea.

May Morris 05/20

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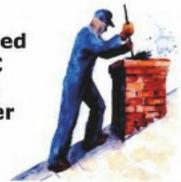
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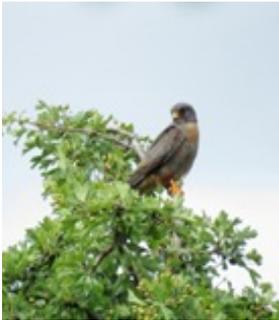
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[Bird Watching with Big Nick](#)

Hello everyone – well things have changed a bit since I last wrote a column. With more freedom to get out and about we have had many enjoyable walks a little further from home. We often did a circular walk from Worth out to the Delf Stream and Pinnock Wall, and saw plenty to interest us; but I've yet to see one of the Red-footed falcons that have been reported there. These birds more normally spend summer in Eastern Europe and Asia but small numbers turn up in the UK most years. I did photograph one at Stodmarsh in 2017 but would like to get another chance, so I need to keep visiting the area. Birds more likely to be seen are both Reed and Sedge warblers, Reed buntings, Whitethroat and in recent years Turtle doves which the RSPB are making a special effort to encourage.

Much of that area is now an RSPB reserve and they have excavated many scrapes and ponds to encourage wildlife; access is only possible via the few public footpaths.



Red-footed falcon, Stodmarsh



Sedge warbler, Worth



Reed Bunting, Worth

I really don't consider myself a 'twitcher', and although the terms twitcher and bird watcher are often used interchangeably, they are not the same thing. A true twitcher will habitually travel great distances to see and 'tick' a rare bird for their year or life list and may spend little time watching birds. I will however travel locally to see something unusual or new to me. This was the case recently when a superb summer plumage Snow bunting appeared along Walmer Green and a few days later, a Rose-coloured starling was spotted at the north end of Deal. I was lucky to see and photograph the Snow bunting but despite a couple of attempts, failed to see the Rose-coloured starling.



Snow bunting at Deal Castle

Although Snow buntings appear around our coast during the winter, I had never seen one in summer plumage – a few breed in the Scottish Highlands but their main range is in the Arctic, from Scandinavia to Canada.

Irruptions of Rose-coloured Starlings outside of their normal breeding range in Asia and far eastern Europe are not yet fully understood but it is thought to be linked to changes in populations of locusts on which it feeds.



I've still yet to see one, so thanks to my friend and fellow photographer Steve Reynaert for the photo – it was he that told me the whereabouts of both birds.

I'm still hopeful of a return to some sort of normality before the next time I write. Keep safe and well.

Nick

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A reminder for dog owners - **Dover District Council**

- 1) **Do not** leave your dog locked in a parked car even if it seems cool outside. It can become very hot very quickly. Parking in the shade will not stop heat.
- 2) By law all dogs must be microchipped from the age of 8 weeks and also by law all dogs must wear a collar and tag with their owner's name, address and telephone number on. Inform the microchipping company if you move.
- 3) It is an offence to allow a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place or within private property. Any dog is dangerously out of control if it injures a person or it behaves in a way to make a person worried that it might injure them.
- 4) If your dog injures another person's animal, or an owner of an animal reasonably believes that they could be injured if they intervened to protect their animal from your dog, then an offence may be committed.
- 5) In line with RSPCA guidance we also urge people to keep dogs on leads where necessary to help ensure social distancing. Let common sense prevail for the safety of all dogs and their owners.
<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Environment/Environmental-Crime/Dog-Warden.aspx>

Neighbourhood Watch

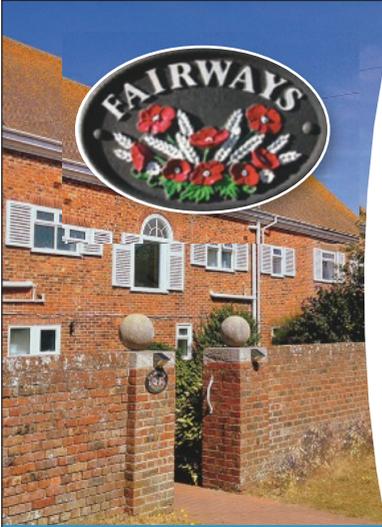


The crime reports for the whole of the Dover area show a large amount of mindless vandalism to cars and homes but not in the Eastry area. There have been thefts and they seem to have been done to order so please remember it is extremely important not to leave valuables where they can be seen and it's best not to broadcast a birthday, holiday or a new purchase.

After this long lockdown it is now more acceptable to be out and about. Telephone scams are coming in thick and fast so please remember to not divulge any of your personal or banking details over the phone (your bank would never ask for information in this way!) and do not be pressured into buying anything you do not want or want to think about first. For building or repair work it never hurts to get at least three quotes for the job and try and check out the contractor on the internet. Eastry has recently be targeted with the theft of several dogs and Andrew Judd of Kent Police has the following advice:-

“Locations in rural areas are at risk and dog owners are encouraged to re-assess their security measures, CCTV, ensure that they do not leave their dogs unattended, ensure that they are microchipped and registered correctly should the worst happen. You can also register your dog with “Doglost”.

Sheila Smith - Chair Eastry NHW



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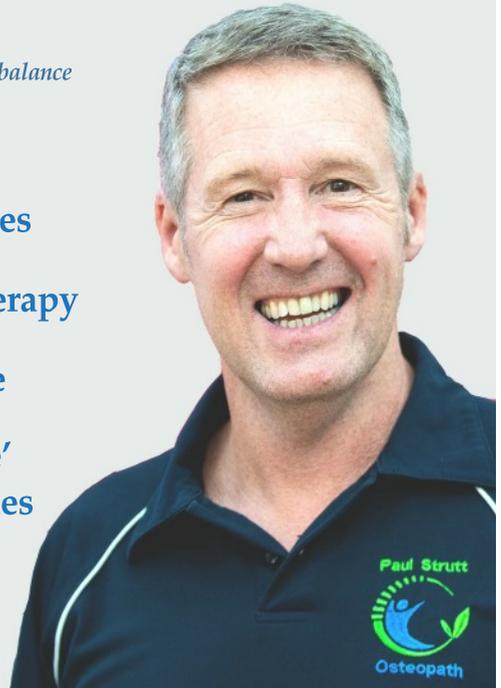
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Paul Strutt
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[What is Community-Led Housing?](#)

Community-led housing is when communities come together to develop the homes that are needed in their local community. This housing can be for rent, low cost ownership, or for sale, but it is designed to be always affordable for the community that needs it. This model of housing can take many forms, and as such it is flexible to suit the requirements of a range of different circumstances.

[Save the Date! Community Led Housing and Self Build Conference June 2020](#)

Unfortunately, this event was cancelled, we will be hosting a Community-Led Housing Conference in the future. Date to be advised.

[External Funding Options](#)

Dover District Council's CLH External Funding webpage provides information and links to the current funding streams available from external organisations. Some of the funding streams currently available are from Power to Change and The Fore to name but a few of the organisations offering financial support to CLH groups. The webpage will be regularly updated with the latest information and funding streams as and when they become available, so watch this space for the latest funding options!

[DDC Community-Led Housing Grants Scheme](#)

Don't forget we still have our DDC Community-Led Housing Grants scheme for up to £10,000, available for anyone interested in pursuing a community led housing project in the Dover district (eligibility, terms and conditions apply).

To find out further information about any of the information provided on in this article please visit our [dedicated webpage](#). Alternatively, you can contact a member of the team on: communityhousing@dover.gov.uk. To keep updated with the latest events, training, conferences and further community-led housing news, please sign up to Keep Me Posted e-news bulletins: www.dover.gov.uk/keepmeposted



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Rose Beer...it's good to talk.

As we get older we gain many things, some are welcome and some not. We gain bus passes, heating allowances and various other little perks but on the down side we gain arthritis, deafness and ailing eyesight! We will have gained a lot of trivial knowledge enabling us to do crosswords and to shout the answers to TV quiz shows. I find it very difficult at my age now to have a conversation with someone without saying "Oh I remember that" or "I had one of them" or "I went there" or "I knew him" and then to start going on about my memories of whatever it was - probably coming across as a bit of a know-all or a boring old woman!

A couple of weeks ago there was an article in the East Kent Mercury about Lord Lucan...now anyone that knows me well enough will know how obsessed I was about that case. So much so that I would give talks about it, I did a radio programme about it and I wrote to the detective on the case at the time at Scotland Yard (which is quite a funny story in itself!). I do wonder how many people know that at the time of his disappearance the grounds of Heronden House in Eastry were searched - that would have put our little village on the map! The man who owned the house then was a friend of John Aspinall.

Sorry...here I go again on another one of my stories to tell...oh how I would love to have a 'good old chat' about all these little stories...surely somebody would love to listen? I've got a letter from Walt Disney, served Bob Geldoff with fish and may other things all with their own story to tell.... And another story...I was standing at the cash point machine and the bloke in front of me was wobbling all over the place - I think he only had one leg! - "Are you alright?" I asked "Yes fine" he replied "just checking my balance!!"

Rose Beer

Marys' Priority

Her coat had seen much better days, the top button replaced by a pin.

She pulled her woolly hat on and her scarf up to her chin.

She kissed Tom on his balding head as she'd done all the days before.

She fumbled with her walking stick and quietly closed the door.

Along the road she trundled, it seemed such a long, long way,

but Mary was a creature of habit and she done this every day.

She studied the price on every tin while her trolley blocked the aisle.

Shoppers tutted and grunted without a single smile....

The price of milk had gone up again as well as the blooming bread, so she put the loaf back on the shelf and got two bread rolls instead.

When she reached the checkout customers started to curse as cold, arthritic fingers fumbled in her purse.

When she reached her little home she took off her coat and hat and emptied out her carrier bag including a tin of red salmon for Tom the balding cat! - **PRIORITIES!!**

Rose Beer

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