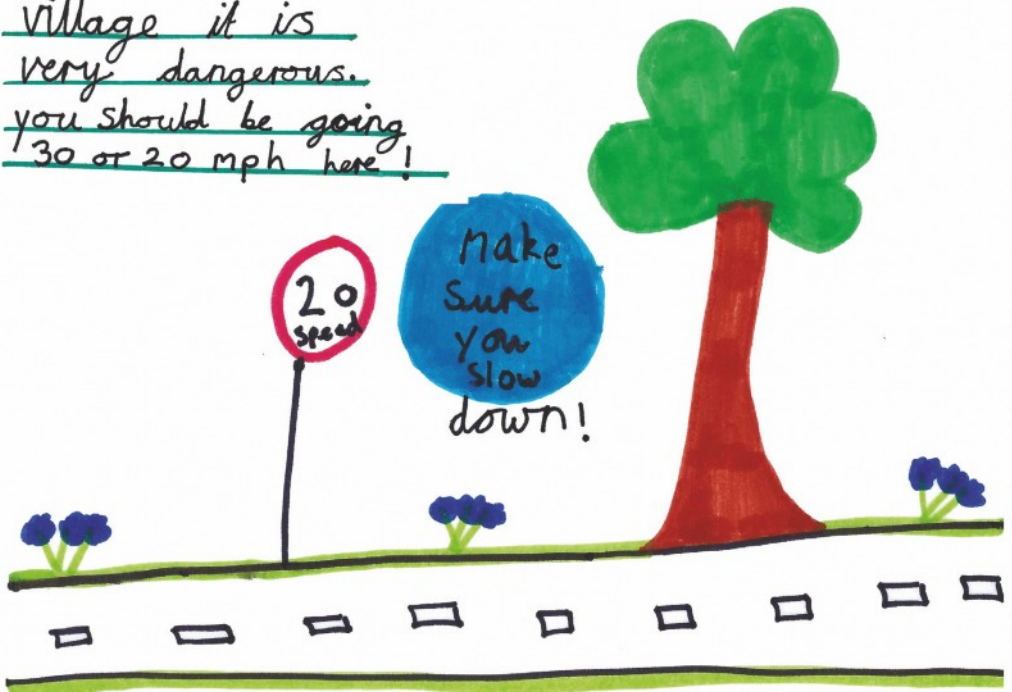




Warning!

Please slow
down in the
village it is
very dangerous.
you should be going
30 or 20 mph here!

you could
have an
accident from
speeding!



I nearly
got hit by
you!

please
slow
down

Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police **999**

Police Community Support 101
and non-emergency Police

PCSO - Richard Bradley
richard.bradley@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden

Peter Gill 07703 454190

Peter.Gill@kent.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Sheila Smith 611580

Gas Emergency 0800 111999

Highways Fault Reporting

03000 418181

UK Power Network 105

Doctors Surgery 619790

The Market Place, Sandwich

Emergency out of hours 111

Parish Council

www.eastry-pc.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/EastryPC

Chairman: Mark Jones

Vice-Chairman: Deborah Russell

Clerk to Council

Mrs. Joanna Jones 01304 746036

clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk

*Thornton House, Thornton Lane,
Eastry, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0EU*

C of E Primary School 611360

Head Teacher: Mrs. Sarah Moss

PTA Treasurer: Justine Crane

Eastry Ravens FC

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Young People's Contacts

YOUNG PEOPLES CLUB

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for 12-19 year olds - 7pm to 9pm

Eastry Young Peoples Club

is delighted to welcome to Eastry
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Monday and Thursday evenings
 6pm to 8.30pm

Contact: Mac McCarthy
07749 760520

Contact - 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

Cover picture - Ellie Humphreys (age ten). Well done, excellent work!

Local Events

Eastry Horticultural Society - update

Weeks have passed since my last notes but very little has happened. We held a meeting in the Village Hall but only a very limited number of members could attend due to the various restrictions in place at the time. Those that did attend were treated to the premiere of Rob's much anticipated 'gardeners' film show in which you, the members, or at least your garden photo's were the stars. I was not able to get there myself but I have heard it was a very enjoyable evening. Rob has promised that there will be a second showing when 'fingers crossed' we can all get there together again. Something to look forward to!

A committee meeting was held on 3rd November but the Club's AGM on 10th November had to be cancelled due to the new lockdown. Jacki will be contacting and updating all members. At the moment that is the very best that can be achieved. My own garden is, at the moment, a soggy, wind blown mess, but at least the trees and shrubs are still displaying some gorgeous colour, whilst the chrysanthemums are performing remarkably well – but sadly no shows to display them at. Roll on 2021 even if that does put another year on my rapidly ticking age clock, but then we can't be 21 forever can we. If you are still taking pics of your own lovely gardens showing off your autumn colours I am sure that Rob will either include them or start a second show. Remember that new village members are always welcome to come and join us. You do not have to be experts, just keen diggers, planters, potters or mowers. Even window box enthusiasts are welcome.

Until we can all meet up again stay safe, stay healthy and stay happy – we are gardeners. May I and the Gardeners Club wish ALL gardeners and Village News readers **a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year.**

J.Surridge

Dover Flower Club

The committee of Dover Club would like to wish all our members and friends **a Merry Christmas and all good wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

Our AGM will be going ahead this year on Zoom on the planned date of January 25th 2021 at 7.15 pm. We will be discussing our future plans and would welcome any contributions /feedback .

For further information on this , or any other queries concerning our club, please contact our Secretary Maureen Edmond <Edmond.randm@talktalk.com.

Kent Mobile Library - is available using the Select and Collect model.

For more information and to make bookings
please visit their website or call 03000 413131.



Eastry Village News Committee

**wish you a Merry Christmas and
a Covid FREE New Year (hopefully!!)**



**We would like to thank our contributors, our advertisers,
Jinny and Michael for proof reading, Jane for sorting and distribution
and very special thanks to our excellent team of delivery volunteers.**

**The advertisers in the Eastry Village News send seasonal greetings
and thank all their loyal customers for their continuing support in difficult times.**

Can you help?

I am co-writing the history of medical care in Eastry from 1850 to 2020 and I'm keen to get as many thoughts, stories, bits of information as possible. I have already talked to several people but I'm keen to get as big a spread as possible. If you have anything to say about the doctors, nurses, chemists etc then please contact me in confidence on amcarnegie@hotmail.com or phone **01304 813120**.

Many thanks in advance - Dr Alastair Carnegie



Are you a local organisation that needs volunteers?

If so contact Jo Jones with details of what you need and your requirements will be listed on the Eastry Parish Council Noticeboard and Website so people who would like to volunteer can get in touch.

Contact: Jo Jones clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk

Dover District Council - Bin Collections 2020/2021

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Tuesdays **1st, 15th, 29th December** 12th, 26th January

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**They wish everyone a
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A socially distanced Act of Remembrance on Sunday 8th November 2020.

Photo: Paul Jessett



Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

The Eastry Branch of the Royal British Legion would like to express its earnest appreciation of the village's support on Sunday, 8th November, and Wednesday, 11th November. Because of social-distancing only limited numbers were able to attend. However, in these difficult times, the sincerity and comradeship of everyone who participated was patently conspicuous. The branch's Poppy Appeal for 2020 has obviously been compromised.

However, we would like to thank all those who supported the fund-raising at our **Poppy Table** outside the Village Hall. The WI display on the railings behind the table was much appreciated by the branch and public alike. **We will remember them.** **T.James**

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Photo taken before COVID-19 restrictions



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Coronavirus - Lockdown, social distancing and social restrictions have heightened the risk for victims of abuse and made access to vital support services even harder to reach. Household isolation instructions as a result of coronavirus do not apply if you need to leave your home to escape Domestic Abuse. If you are worried that a friend, neighbour or loved one is a victim of Domestic Abuse then you can call:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247

for free and confidential advice 24 hours a day.

Website: nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Or **Victim Support on 01233 896451** for advice.

If there is immediate risk of harm dial 999

Richard Samson - 100 years old - 29th November 2020

Richard Samson of Boystown Place, Eastry, joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery at the age of 15 in 1936 as a boy trumpeter and a horseman. In early October, 1939, he sailed for France with and was posted to Rouen where he was in "A" Field Regiment. He saw action in Northern France and was eventually evacuated from Dunkirk. It was while being stationed in Southern England during 1941 that Richard met his future wife, Lilian. However, before too long Richard was posted again - this time to Egypt in May, 1942. He took part in the Western Desert campaigns and fought in the Battles of Halam Halfa and El Alamein.

Following the Allies' victory in North Africa, Richard was posted to Sicily in 1943 and then to Italy in 1944, before returning to 'Blighty' where he was seconded to the Royal Engineers. Foregoing officer training, Richard took part in the Battle of Normandy and remained in the European Theatre until the end of the war. Richard's WWII medals are numerous. His admirable service record is perhaps best summarised by the awarding of the Dunkirk Medal (British and French) and the Normandy Medal. In 2017, he was awarded the prestigious Legion d'honneur.

To mark the occasion of Richard's 100th birthday, Eastry and Deal Branches of the Royal British Legion were privileged to parade in his honour in front of his house. Richard Cast, RBL Kent Chairman, addressed the assembled well-wishers and paid tribute to Richard's distinguished service.

Eastry RBL

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Eastry kids say **please SLOW DOWN!**

Our village children joined the Eastry Lower Speed Street campaign with their own interpretation of what our road signs should say. Here are the winners from Eastry Primary School, you have to admit their clever artwork spells out a no-nonsense message to all road users.

Quit speeding. PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN EASTRY. The speed limit is 30mph or less. Stick to it or you could cause an accident.

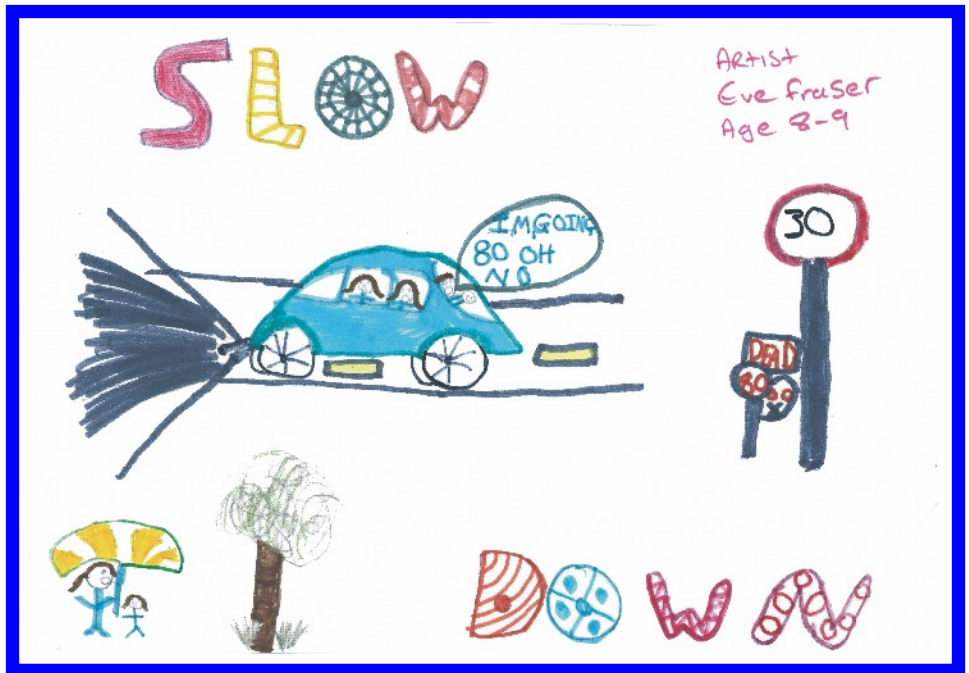
This fantastic artwork by Ellie Humphreys, Leni Redman, Dexter Grant and Eve Fraser will soon form posters and signs around the village to remind you the speed limit is 30mph or less.

PLEASE stick to it, even when the roads are quiet. Bad stuff can happen when you go too fast!

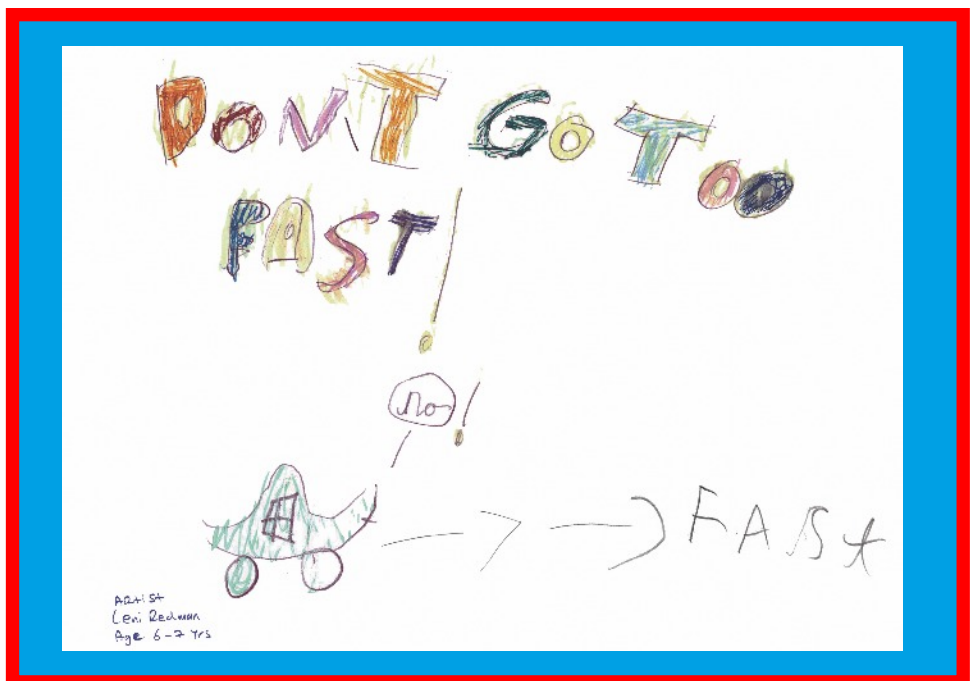
*Images retouched/reproduced for print by **Blueberry Studio**.
Contact simon@blueberrystudio.co.uk*



This is one of the three runners up - Well done Dexter



These are the other runners up - well done Eve and Leni



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Jonathan Russell

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Rectors Letter - Will Christmas be cancelled in 2020?

The big caveat, as I write this letter in mid-November, is that I have no idea how things may turn out over the next fortnight – let alone into December! Will lockdown end at the beginning of December? Will it be extended? Will new restrictions be in place? By the time anyone is reading this, the answers will be known, or be much clearer, but for now a little speculation will do no harm. It is no surprise that the pagan festivals, which were adopted by the Christian faith in Europe, occurred around the winter solstice when the weather was at its bleakest. It was (and is) a time when folk needed a bit of a celebration to raise spirits and look forward to brighter times to come. Certainly no exception this year. So, today, the celebration of Christmas is an important time for us all. We delight in Christmas because it is an opportunity to get together as family and friends, to express our value of each, to forget our troubles and to look forward - at least that is how it should be.

The emergence of the virus, and the threat that our usual celebrations may not be possible - at least in the way we have come to expect - gives rise to a genuine sense of unease for us. It is not just the potential loss of an important time of gathering, but also the real uncertainty that we currently face and the difficulty in planning anything. Coronavirus has also taught us that we can look at things differently and that there can be unexpected benefits. We have found that, in our local communities, we can look out more for the lonely and vulnerable and respond to their needs; we have discovered that we can use empty rooms to house the homeless; we have ensured that our foodbanks are well resourced; we have learned that we can pollute less and breathe cleaner air.

COVID-19 has reminded us that wealth does not assure us of security, or that great power can fend off every threat. It has also shown us that we may dare to hold a vision for the future which is different. Once the real threat has passed, it will be tempting to return to our old securities and try to hold on to what was once safe. But our eyes have now been opened to different possibilities, which require courageous faithful thought and bold faithful action. We have been offered the vision of a world of generous, neighbourly compassion - and we need to grasp it. This coronavirus, for all its unwelcome and damaging consequences, has also necessitated us to examine again old certainties which in turn has the potential to open new and hopeful futures.

So as we look forward to our Christmas celebrations, they may well not turn out as we would have anticipated them to be. It does not mean that Christmas is cancelled; it does allow us to think carefully about why the celebration of Christmas is special. If it transpires to be a little less of a consumerist frenzy, and a little more of an open awareness of neighbours and friends, then the changes necessitated by this dreadful virus might just prove to have had a beneficial and perhaps lasting impact on us for the good. In the meantime, may this Christmastide for you be a time of joy, peace and hope.

David Ridley

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

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

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

Rev Lesley Hardy has moved to Barham Downs Benefice after her ordination in Eastry on 27th September.

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: 01304 611323

Benefice Office, The Church Hall, Church Street, Eastry CT13 0HH
Wednesdays 10.45am to 12.45pm and Fridays 10.00am to 12 noon

Benefice Website

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

The new website is regularly being 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;

Woodnesborough: 9am to 5pm daily;

Northbourne: 10am to 4pm daily.

Times may vary over the Christmas period

December and Christmas Services at Eastry **Services at St.Mary's Church, Eastry,** **unless otherwise stated**

Sunday 6th December

8am Holy Communion at Tilmanstone
 10am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Evening Prayer at Northbourne

Sunday 13th December

8am Holy Communion
 10am Holy Communion



Sunday 20th December

8am Holy Communion
 10am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
This service is by invitation only but will be streamed - see below.

Sunday 20th to Wednesday 23rd

December - Christingle packs will be available to collect from Eastry Church.
The packs will include a link to online resources.

Christmas Eve

11am Crib and Christingle Service at Staple.

This service is by invitation only but will be streamed - see below. Please join online with your Christingles.

11pm Midnight Mass at Tilmanstone

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Communion

Sunday 27th December
John, Apostle and Evangelist
 10am Holy Communion

Eastry Church remains open daily for private prayer and reflection.

Every 10am Sunday service, together with the Carol Service on Sunday 20 December, Crib Service on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services, will be streamed live on Zoom.

To join, please use the following link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7360055669?pwd=UEVWszJQSIYvTHNtVnBLK2VNTzliZz09>

January Services at Eastry

Covid restrictions allowing, there will continue to be a weekly Sunday service at 8am and 10am through January.

Please look at the website, Facebook page or social media for updated information:

www.EWBchurches.org.uk **www.facebook.com/ewbchurches**

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The Church Registers

Weddings

24/10/20 - Alex Moss and Stephanie Newby
24/10/20 - Chris Braniff and Toniann Magrino-Daly

Funeral

10/11/20 - Edna Dray



Eastry High Street circa 1929 (Sheila Smith archive)

Betteshanger Woods orchids



White Hellborine

Simon Dundas' recent and very enjoyable contribution about a walk from Eastry to Tilmanstone and Betteshanger woods (*Betteshanger is Saxon for a settlement in the woods*) set me thinking. He found wild orchids (White Hellborine and Green Twayblade) at the Tilmanstone end of the woods while I remember finding the Helleborines many years ago in Sangrado's Wood, at the Betteshanger end at a piece of woodland just inside the Eastry boundary. It was very dark under the trees and I was surprised to find orchids growing in such conditions. The Twayblade were about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away under a larch plantation, such elegant and dainty green flowers!

He had wondered why there was a cottage in the middle of the woods. This was the gamekeepers cottage as, until recently, there has always been a shoot



Green Twayblade

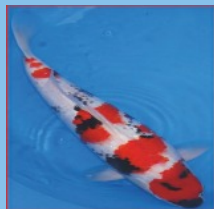
on the estate - originally pheasants but latterly partridges. Mention was made of the track leading towards Betteshanger Church, shown as a Roman road on the map, and it is in fact Watling Street and leads to Dover. A favourite hike of groups of young people over the years. **Sheila Smith**

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Spotlight on Talent

Stephanie Upton - author

Eastry has a very special place in the heart of author Stephanie Upton. Along with Deal, Sandwich and Dover these are the places she used to go to visit family for many years. Originally from Thanet she now lives in Staffordshire but in early 2020 bought Gore Cottage in Gore Lane, one of our older properties. This was the home of her late uncle, Mervyn 'the Mole Man' (a familiar figure in Eastry with his many and varied dogs) and aunt Jan Bryant. Mervyn and Jan bought Gore Cottage in 1967 and spent years on an authentic restoration. In recent years it had fallen into a state of disrepair but Stephanie and her husband Jamie have now restored it to its former glory and will use it as their base in Kent as well as offering it as a holiday rental. They have come to feel very much part of the village and often received kind and encouraging words of support from passers-by during this project.

Stephanie has previously written some short stories but her ambition has always been to write a book that features the areas in East Kent that she loves and includes some of the ideas she has formulated over her career and her life experiences. She has a degree in psychology, has worked for Social Services and has a biological child and an adopted child. She is fascinated by the debate about nature versus nurture and which of these forms us into who we are. Is it nature (it's in your genes) or nurture (you are who you are because of your experiences) and whether we are generally biased towards nature. Her debut novel explores both and addresses their consequences through the lives of two women.



MotheRing...a local story

This story starts just after World War Two and finishes twenty years later. Set mainly in Dover and Gravesend (Eastry, Deal, and Broadstairs do get a mention!) it is full of the sites of Dover and the surrounding area. The protagonists are an adoptive mother and a stepmother (both usually portrayed as 'evil' or wicked in many stories and films) whose life stories are interwoven. Sadly, very rarely does anyone believe and acknowledge the love and strong bond that non-birth mothers can have with their children - **until now!**

An emotive story showing that positive nurturing has a hugely beneficial effect on child development and contains many thought provoking issues for the reader to consider. So if you are a birth mother, step mother, grandmother, foster or adoptive mother Stephanie hopes you will enjoy this **"feel-good"** novel.

'MotheRing' is now available at Amazon for £7.99, the Kindle version is £1.99 and it is in Sandwich, Broadstairs and Deal libraries.

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Join the national effort and sign up for the NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry. Be part of the fightback against the virus by volunteering to be contacted by researchers to take part in COVID-19 vaccine research.

There are a number of vaccines being identified, but only large-scale studies can give researchers the information needed about how effective they are. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is working with the NHS and aims to recruit as many people as possible onto the registry, which will allow people to be put in touch with the vaccine studies in the coming months. Researchers are looking for people from all backgrounds, ages and parts of the UK - including both people with or without existing health conditions - to take part in vaccine studies, to make sure that any vaccines developed will work for everyone.

The service is available to anyone aged 18 or over, living in the UK. There is no obligation to join in any study, if you are contacted. But by taking part, you could help researchers find vaccines to protect us all more quickly - which in turn could help the NHS and save lives. **Sign up today!**



MotheRing



A locally set, feel-good tale of two women, a stepmother and an adoptive mother whose lives are dramatically entwined.

by Stephanie Upton

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Beacon View Vets Update

First of all, we would like to **thank everyone** for their kind support during this slightly bizarre year! We have been very busy recently and it has been a pleasure to meet you and your pets. Due to your support support we have two new additions here. Our new vet Cate has a vast array of talents from chronic pain management and acupuncture to soft tissue surgery and feline medicine. Kat, our third registered veterinary nurse, has fitted right in to our friendly and compassionate team.

With Christmas just around the corner we wanted to highlight a few hazards to watch out for to make your pet's Christmas as smooth as possible. Let's face it, with covid still here, Christmas 2020 is going to be more pet focused than ever!

1) Stress doesn't help with anything and stressed dogs can be more prone to illness, and possibly even injury. The sudden appearance of flashing lights, singing snowmen and a giant reindeer may be enough to make anyone jump; so, let your dog acclimatise to the new decor, especially if it's their first Christmas. If your pet doesn't like loud noises then it is important to ensure they have a snug area they can retreat to for some down time. Party poppers and crackers may also be best avoided if your pet becomes anxious about fireworks.

2) Christmas decorations can pose a hazard in many ways. Firstly, some dogs do love to explore with their mouths and I have seen multiple cases where dogs have accidentally swallowed indigestible items which have then caused an obstruction in the bowel and required surgery. It's also worth keeping your bin well secured as it's not uncommon for dogs to steal carcasses and cooked bones which can be very hazardous due to their sharp edges.

3) Chocolate appears everywhere at Christmas; on the tree and bursting out of presents! Dogs with an appetite for drama may strike at an opportune moment (maybe as Dad falls asleep after Christmas lunch!) to grab some treats. Chocolate by itself can be lethal and at Christmas the risks are even higher with liqueur chocolates on the horizon. Any chocolate ingestion is worth querying with a vet so I'd recommend calling us if you think your dog has managed to gobble some.

4) Unfortunately, another toxin we see frequently in the holidays are raisins; lurking everywhere from mince pies and stollen to braised red cabbage and Christmas pudding. The mechanism that underlies raisin toxicity is not fully understood but can be fatal to both dogs and cats. Not all pets will show signs of toxicity, whereas others can eat a tiny amount and experience serious consequences. The toxin can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and lethargy but some dogs will develop kidney and liver failure. There is no way of telling which dogs will be affected so we recommend precautionary treatment for any dog known to have eaten grapes, raisins, currants or sultanas. If you're thinking of leaving a mince pie out for Santa, make sure it is well out of the snout zone!

Please keep an eye out for our Christmas fundraisers to help support local Charities. We hope you all have a peaceful festive time and wish you

all the best for 2021!

Claire

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Eastry Neighbourhood Watch Report



Christmas will be different this year even if lockdown is lifted on 2nd December. There may still be restrictions on the size of family gatherings but we must not forget those people who won't have family or friends this Christmas. I remember moaning when my mother told us that she had invited our elderly neighbour to join us for Christmas lunch. My mother reprimanded us and told us we would make this elderly lady welcome, we would be nice to her and we would all do our best to make it a very special day. A lesson learnt about thinking beyond our family and sparing a thought for those people who will be alone at Christmas.

A village like Eastry would normally have a host of gatherings before Christmas but sadly not this year which could make some people feel even more isolated. Please keep an eye on elderly and single neighbours and friends just to make sure they are up and about and looking after themselves as best they can. I am very grateful that my family and friends are keeping an eye on me.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable festive season. Sheila Smith (Chair ENW)

Kent Police are warning us about the following crimes.

- 1) Thefts of catalytic convertors from parked cars. To reduce this risk mark or etch it with the VIN number, secure it with a cat clamp, cage or wire, park your car in a garage or busy, well lit area where possible.
- 2) Increasing numbers of burglaries in the winter - keep everything secure.
- 3) Dog thefts especially from kennels and stables. Only buy a dog from a reputable breeder.
- 4) Contacting Kent Police: www.kent.police.uk
Report a non urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat - available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999

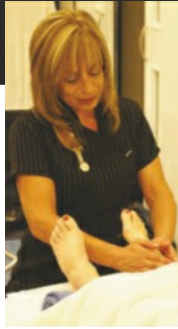
Beware of Tax refund and rebate scams...

by email, text message, phone and social media. **HMRC only informs you about tax refunds through the post or through your pay via your employer. All emails, text messages or voice mail messages saying you have a tax refund are a scam. Do not click on any of the links in these messages and do not give them any personal and banking information.** If you put "government tax rebate scams" into google it will explain everything, show you examples of bogus emails, texts etc. and how and where to report them.

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Funny but True! While serving in the RAF an Eastry resident was asked to drive a fellow aircraftsman to another base. Unaware the poor chap had a speech impediment all was fine but quiet until they came to a blind junction. As they started to edge out the driver asked his passenger if it was all clear on that side. "Yea...Yea...Yea... Yea...**YELLOW CAR !**" was the reply to a **screech of brakes!**

Unbelievable! A friend of mine had to visit his mothers' local council offices to complain about a problem with her dustbin collection. In the council offices he explained the problem to the receptionist. "I can't help you with that" she said, so he then asked her if there was a number he could call about it, which she duly wrote down for him. He told her he'd ring it there and then. He dialled it, the phone at reception rang and the same receptionist picked it up and spoke to him **!!!!**

Ooops!!! A well known Eastry lady (who shall remain nameless), recently ran out of her medication called **EURAX** and because it was Friday she knew she wouldn't get a prescription for several days. Being in Manston she popped in to the local superstore and queued at the Pharmacy....getting a little impatient all the while. At last it was her turn so she asked the gentleman pharmacist if they kept her medication and what sizes were available. He said, with a smile, "Madam they are one size only and are packets of three!" She said **"that's no good I only need a little one for the weekend!"** Then she said hesitantly "I did ask for Eurax didn't I?" "No madam" came the reply "you asked for Durex!"

Apologies for the slight delay in getting this Eastry Village News to you. After discussion with the various groups who were waiting for news on what will follow lockdown we decided to defer printing until we knew what's happening. *Editor*



Red in the morning! Dramatic Eastry dawn skies. Cheryl Clarke photo

Poets' Corner

Memories of Christmas Past

There's something about the season, evoking memories for me,
the smell of peeling tangerine, placing baubles on the tree.
Filling up the hamper box, like magpies with their loot,
eating sugared almonds and endless tins of fruit.

Saving to buy the turkey that's hung on the back of the door,
nothing wrapped in plastic, always fresh for sure.
Relishing the roasted nuts, trifle, meat and cheese.
Singing well known carols whilst feeling calm, at ease.

Cards pegged like washing on string around the room,
candles in the window fading far too soon.
Oh such lovely memories, of happy times long gone by,
nostalgic Christmas past like diamonds in the sky.

May Morriss 2020

20/21 Vision

Twenty-twenty is over, we're now in twenty-one
the bank account is empty, the credit card is done!
No food within the pantry, the money has been spent
on presents bought at Christmas, the yearly event.

I'm in a proper quandary; I thought I'd shopped so well.
Buying the family presents, now there's a tale to tell!
The jumper bought for Mary, had a hole within the cuff
the rabbit bought for baby, was bald and bare of fluff

The coat I chose for Gina, was simply far too big.
The electric spade for Grandad does everything but dig!
Such awful disappointments, as anyone can see
I need to choose more wisely, with this you will agree!

But nothing could prepare me for when I opened mine
I felt a tad uncomfortable, nowhere near sublime
for tucked within an envelope, I nearly didn't see
were "Spec Saver" vouchers... surely not for me

May Morriss July 2020

Memories of Betteshanger & Northbourne Park

I and my brothers and sisters were brought up in Betteshanger and spent many hours exploring our surroundings. Recently I popped back to the Church expecting to see it and its grounds as they were when we had our family weddings and christenings and Sunday School there. Covid 19 appears to have taken its toll. Northbourne Park School now administer the Church and I assume that with furlough and the school unoccupied it has become a wonderful haven for wild life but sadly looks a bit bedraggled. Within that graveyard is a tribute to Gladstone who enjoyed visiting and loved the trees within the



estate. Fortunately the Ginkgo Biloba (*Japanese fossil tree*) opposite the main door is now a beautiful mature specimen whereas the pond, where we spent hours studying the tadpoles, looks very sorry for itself behind a fence with a 'Deep Water' warning sign. Back then there was no Health and Safety, we didn't have a watch (or a mobile!) and we were left to our own devices.

Within the estate are the Dutch Gardens, often used for Shakespearean productions by the boarders at the school. Local children were always invited to attend and although we didn't understand much it kept us entertained. The local children were also invited to Guy Fawkes celebrations and Matron would serve trays of Parkin - everyone wearing wellies while some of the schollboys delighted in scaring us with jumping jacks. An Austrian teacher, Miss Leuven, would run our Sunday School and our sheepdog would always come with us, laying in the aisle with the school choirboys stepping over her.

Much has changed around Betteshanger, the cottage behind the Church was the coachman's residence with tumble-down stables around the yard. Next door was the dairy with its herd of Jersey cows who got infected when Johns Disease got into the pasture. Round the corner was the blacksmith's forge but as tractors became more prominent the blacksmith set up a travelling forge and went to race meetings and other horse events. The carpenter's yard had already closed yet I can almost hear the sound of the saw mills now as it catered for estate repairs. The kitchen gardens are now derelict as are all the Victorian greenhouses and six bothies that housed the under-gardeners but the head gardener's cottage is still used for accomodation for school staff.



*Kitchen gardens
and majestic gate.*

What was once a thriving, productive estate has gone forever but some of us still have very fond memories.

Sheila Smith

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Community Warden Update

I started working in the local communities of Sandwich, Eastry and Ash in January. Much has changed for us all since March, as we have all contributed to keeping ourselves and our communities safe from the impact of Coronavirus.

The County, District, Town and Parish Councils have all worked together to provide support to those in need throughout this time, however at the heart of our local communities and businesses are local people who have made a significant difference, often quietly and unseen....**THANK YOU**.

In time, a vaccine will hopefully be found and widely used to protect us all, however the pandemic of the 21st Century remains loneliness and isolation. As we rapidly head towards the end of 2020 and start to look forward to a better 2021, please continue to look out for your neighbours, friends and colleagues. Although a simple "how are you" may make the difference, if someone needs help please encourage access to the statutory authorities, services, charities and volunteer sector.....that is community.

Peter Gill / Kent Community Warden Service - Community Warden/Sandwich, Eastry and Ash. Public Protection service / Environment Planning and Enforcement / Growth, Environment and Transport | Mob. 07703454190
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In the Garden

What a year this has been - certainly one that the younger generation will remember for a long time. Through the gloom and doom there has been sunshine, as lots of us ventured into our gardens to get away from the everyday depressing news. I surely did and my garden has had a total revamp. With help from my family we have converted what was becoming an unmanageable wilderness into a garden with a purpose (eat your heart out the Garden Rescue Team). Overgrown shrubs removed, two out of my three greenhouses gone and replaced with 42m² of turf, 25 square meters of decking, raised beds, new fencing and a shingle area for my cactus in the summer. I did however keep my roses and fuchsias.

I hope you have all been enjoying your garden as much as I have, and to help you in planning your garden for next year, I have listed 10 of my favourite garden plants.

1. **Roses** - There are variety of roses available for every one's taste, one of my favourites is "**Tequila Sunrise**" when it catches the sun it will brighten up any garden. For wonderful fragrance you will not beat "**The McCartney Rose**" and for the back of the border "**Lucky**".



2. **Daffodils** - They welcome you into the Spring, again so many varieties to choose from, but I'm sure our Eastry grower, Ray Sedgwick (National Exhibitor & Trophy Winner) would be pleased to advise you of the best garden varieties.

3. **Dahlias** - varieties vary from miniature right up to dinner plate size blooms, two top growers in Eastry are Trevor Burton and Sheila Broster, and again I'm sure they would be pleased to guide you in the right direction as regards to garden varieties.



4. **Carnations/Pinks** - If it's fragrance you are after, these are the flowers for you. A beautiful carnation named "**Candy Cane**" is really stunning.



5. **Sunflowers** - a must for any family garden. Children just love to see them grow, especially the tall varieties, but for a sunflower with a difference try growing the "**Teddy Bear Varieties**".

6. **Fuchsias** - fuchsias have gone through phases of being popular then un-popular garden plants. I have stood by them and would recommend a variety named "**genii**". This plant will



not only give you an abundance of flowers but also golden green foliage. It is hardy, but I recommend you prune it back by two-thirds in the spring to give nice new shoots.

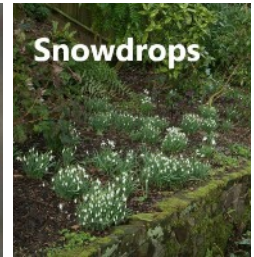
7. **Sweet Peas** - I've always said "A flower garden is not a flower garden, unless it has Sweet Peas" no other flower can produce a fragrance like Sweet Peas and my favourite, also the late Earl of Guilford's, (who I used to work for) is "**Painted Lady**". To keep the fragrance, buy new seed each year, do not save seed as they could have been cross-pollinated with other Sweet Pea varieties.



8. Hydrangea - You can grow Hydrangea's in the garden or containers, there are various shades of pink and blue varieties, but my favourite is the white one named "**Annabelle**". It will lighten up any dark spot in your garden.

9. London Pride - A real old-fashioned garden plant, one of my Grans favourite along with "Lily of the Valley". It is low growing with a steady spread. A close-up of the flower is gorgeous. Variegated leaf varieties are now available.

10. Snowdrops - As we enter a new year what better flower to greet us than the Snowdrop. They will multiply each year, and when the clump gets too big, split them up soon after the flowers have faded away (called "in the green") and replant.



I hope you have enjoyed my slightly different article, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and whatever next year brings you, stay safe, and may God Bless You and Protect You.

Art E.Choke

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Managing Nature



Working as a conservation volunteer I spend much of my time with a brush cutter cutting down brambles, buckthorn, young willow, reeds, thistles and rank grasses at the end of the summer..... destroying bits of nature, why? Left alone most areas of Britain not built on would eventually become covered in woodland.... the result of succession. Farmers prevent this by planting crops, harvesting them then, usually, ploughing before starting all over again. If they keep sheep,

cattle, deer etc. these graze down the grassland or this is cut for hay or silage. All these activities prevent succession, keeping the land open as arable or grassland.

Sadly economic pressures mean that most farmland supports relatively little wildlife, through the use of fertilisers and pesticides and the pressure to maximise the area of land cultivated, removing copses, ponds, hedges, verges etc. Hence the need for areas left for nature to flourish; nature reserves, small and large.



Succession applies to these too; if 'left to let nature take its course' all would end up covered in scrub or woodland. Whilst these are valuable habitats supporting much wildlife

if we are to maximise biodiversity we need to **manage** the habitat. Every element in the "scenery" we love to enjoy is the result of human management, either for agriculture or **conservation**. There are virtually no true **wilderness areas**, areas which are **entirely** the result of natural succession, in Britain. Even our woodlands are **secondary**. They have been planted by human hands at some point in their history and

are managed, increasingly planting a variety of native British trees and creating clearings, rides, areas of mature and areas of younger, growing trees. All this maximises the variety of wildlife they support.

So, why am I brush cutting? To maintain natural meadow conditions, full of wild flowers and insects. These are different from farm pastures as the soil is not fertilised artificially to make the grass grow more, at the expense of the wild flowers. Reeds are cut to prevent them spreading out and colonising more and more of shallow waters; to keep open water for fish, lilies, ducks..... all the things we hope to see at a pond or lake.

Terry Wood





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Our Honey Bees - Ray Checksfield

Preparing for over wintering is the easy time for a beekeeper but not the bees. As I write this, mid October, they are very busy collecting pollen and nectar from ivy. What a crop this year as you may have noticed on passing the school play area in the gun park. All of this goes into their stores which has to last them four to five months until the Spring flowers, about 20 kilo's needed.

My job is to keep the predators away. The wasp problem is virtually over. Mice love to get in for the winter so we fit 'mouse guards'. The mice will build a nest inside, lovely and warm and loads of food on tap. Woodpeckers can be a problem. They drill a hole into the side of the hive, the bees poke their head out and 'bingo', a free morsel for the bird. Beekeepers sometimes use net/wire netting, to wrap the hives in but I have found the good ole garden remedy, hanging up old Cd's works as well. All of my hives are wrapped in 50mm insulation.

The little crab like Varoa mite which invades our hives all year round, has to be controlled since its arrival in the UK from the far east, (there's a surprise!), as they will destroy a colony. The Asian hornet is on its way to us from Asia - surprised? I think only one nest has been found this year against six or seven last year in the UK. I was fortunate enough to see a queen hornet operating outside a hive in France two years ago - they hover, grab an incoming bee and fly off with it back to their nest. They will destroy a hive of bees and their nest is as big as a football.

Humans - I have had hives vandalized and destroyed on four occasions - *this 1981 photo by Basil Kidd was taken for the East Kent Mercury* - and people often steal hives as well. After all that I have written about over the last months you must surely be thinking - well, a pot of honey should be worth at least £20. Hmm hmm. Nevertheless I hope you have enjoyed my ramblings on the art of keeping bees. Next time - Adulteration of honey and fake honey - this has become a huge problem!



A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Ray



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wish everyone a
peaceful Christmas and
a healthy, happy New Year.

Bird Watching with Big Nick

I ended my last article by saying that I'd missed the Red-backed Shrike seen on Worth Marshes but I hoped one day I would see one in the UK. Well, I got my chance in October when a juvenile turned up at St Mary's Bay. It was very confiding, and so I was able to get some good photos. They perch on a wire or branch and watch for their prey, flying down to grab a beetle, grasshopper or even small lizard; this one caught a wasp while I was watching. It was an interesting autumn for me with some scarce visitors to the area, but more on this later.



Juvenile Red-backed Shrike



Eating a wasp

It will be winter by the time you are reading this and the garden birds will be spending most of their daylight hours finding food to fuel them through the long, cold nights. Bird feeders are an important source of food for many of our regular garden visitors. I listened to someone on the radio a while ago; he said that feeding the birds was ridiculous, that they had managed perfectly well for thousands of years without help from us. Possibly a valid point but in reality he didn't mention that the world the birds live in now is a much different place to even 100 years ago.

Changes to agricultural practices, the necessity for new homes and more roads have all reduced the availability of habitat and food sources for many of our native species. So I don't think supplementing their food supply is at all ridiculous and it should be encouraged. In return many of us will get pleasure in seeing and hearing the birds that take advantage of it.



Great tit



Long-tailed tit



Robin

I mentioned earlier that it had been a good autumn for me as a birder; one species I've wanted to see but have never had the opportunity to, is the Wryneck, a bird of the woodpecker family, slightly smaller than a Starling. It no longer breeds in the UK and is now only a passage migrant with fewer than 300 recorded each year. Sightings of one at Swalecliffe were all I needed; I drove there and was lucky enough to locate and photograph it - I returned a happy man!



Two pictures of the Wryneck

Have a good festive season, wherever you are and stay safe

Nick 

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Rose Beer - Back in the day!

I moved from Faversham to Eastry in October 1962 soon discovering that village life was a lot different from town life!. I was 21 and my daughter was 2 years old and for our first Christmas here we were joined by five relations from Faversham who arrived the day before Christmas Eve. On Boxing Day it snowed, and it snowed, and it snowed! Never seen anything like it! Eastry was totally cut off, no buses could get through - these were the days when cars were a rarity and very few people had a telephone indoors - so my relations decided that they would have to walk to Sandwich to try and catch a bus back home.

They found Sandwich completely shut, no chance of a hot drink, and the only shelter was in the old bus shelter still standing beside Ozzie's Fish Shop. After a two hour wait a bus arrived which took them to Canterbury and after another two hour wait they caught a bus to Faversham - what a trek!

Eastry and the surrounding area were completely embedded in the snow and ice with only an occasional round from our milk float (with wheel chains). We were very grateful to Frank Butcher the coalman and to Mr. Doody with his logs. Apart from that if it wasn't in the village we went without. Pegwell Bay and the River Stour froze too! I don't know about moving to Eastry...I felt I'd moved to Siberia!! So we may grumble about the weather but it is nothing compared to the winter of 1962/3. Keep warm. **Happy Christmas.** *Rose Beer*

A woman's work is never done!

A husband and wife were watching television, she stretched her arms, yawned and told her grunting husband she was off to bed.

She picked up the newspapers and magazines and put them in the rack. She picked up two mugs and two glasses, took them onto the kitchen and rinsed them. She put two cereal bowls and two cups on the table for breakfast, she checked the dogs water and put the cat out - noticing the porch light bulb was out so she quickly fitted a new one. She made her husband his usual nightcap, put a note out for the milkman ordering extra. She wrote a birthday card out for her niece, addressed the envelope and put a stamp on it. She took her husband his cocoa and emptied the waste paper basket. She watered a house plant, put her mobile phone on charge, checked the doors and windows were all secure and then headed upstairs.

She went in the bathroom, washed her face, brushed her teeth, picked a wet towel off the floor and threw a dirty sock into the laundry basket. She yawned again and went into the bedroom, prodding the smoke alarm on the way. She set the alarm clock, laid out her clothes for the next day, applied moisturiser and anti-ageing cream to her face, filed a scraggy nail and added a note to her "Things to do" list, said her prayers and got into bed.

Downstairs her husband scratched his head, muttering to the television "I'm going to bed" **and he did!!!** God Bless, **Rose**

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