



Eastry Bypass 30th Anniversary

Opened 10th June 1991

*"The beginning of the end of the fear, the danger, the dirt,
the damage and the incessant rumbling of heavy traffic."*

Lady Julia Pender, County Councillor



Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police **999**

Police Community Support 101

and non-emergency Police

PCSO - Sarah McGuinness

sarah.mcguinness@kent.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

Eastry 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*

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PTA Treasurer: Justine Crane

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Contact: Mac McCarthy on 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 - Can you help?

We need a new leader. The Youth Club has all the equipment and toys needed
all we need now is someone to run it. Contact Dick Laslett for more information.

RAINBOWS (age 5-7) and **BROWNIES** (age 7-10)
Meet on Wednesdays

GUIDES (age 10-14) and **RANGERS** (age 14-18)
Meet on Fridays

Please contact us on Sandwichdivisiongg@gmail.com **or via**
www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/

10th Deal Eastry Scout Group

Group Scout Leader: Graham Baker 07837 430167 or 01304 611487

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

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
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

30 years since the opening of our bypass!

In 1967 the County Surveyor recommended that Eastry be included in a list of bypasses required in the County, yet it was not until 1985, after countless meetings, site visits, reports, investigations, traffic census and letters that detailed plans for the proposed routes were exhibited in the Village Hall for villagers to study. In July 1990 "Eastry breathed a sigh of relief as the first sod was turned (by Lady Julia Pender) in the construction of its £3 million 3.2km bypass." (*East Kent Mercury*)



Lady Julia Pender

John Waring (archive) - On Monday 10th June 1991, following the noon news, Radio Kent broadcast the opening ceremony of our long awaited bypass 6 months ahead of schedule. After a short address by the County Surveyor, the Chairman of May Gurney (contractors) and a blessing delivered with a hint of humour by Clive Tomkins (Vicar of Eastry), the Chairman of KCC's Development, Planning & Transportation Committee cut the ribbon to allow traffic to use the road. From that moment the calming effect was felt throughout the village thanks to the long campaigning and hard work of so many."

To celebrate this momentous occasion a special committee consisting of members from all the village organisations had been set up to arrange some appropriate celebrations and fund raising. The results of this dedicated committee proved to be an enjoyable weekend for the whole village. The Scouts organised a Barn Dance in



Dick Lasletts' barn which was attended by 200 or so people and was a very successful family evening. Terry James' Car Pull made £155 profit and Henry Williams 10 hour sponsored walk (35 miles 955 yards) made an excellent £185 on top of many donations from Village Organisations. The High Street was closed from 1.50pm until 6pm allowing the band to parade.

There were souvenirs

and food, drink and ice cream for sale as well as Pipers, the Scout and Guide Band, a Fancy Dress competition, Morris Dancers, Buskers, the School Choir, Punch & Judy, Maypole Dancing, a Magic Man and Balloon sculpture taking place at the Central Garage, The Parade, the Car Park. Local people were encouraged to wander freely in the High Street, have a picnic in the road or sit and share a glass of wine with friends in our High Street - **TOTALLY DEVOID OF TRAFFIC!**



Ann Shevde &
Christine Martin



John Waring (archive) - "Once again the community spirit of the village was shown to be second to none with almost every organisation contributing to make the celebrations such a resounding success. Eastry is now an even nicer place to live and we must thank all those who played their part in helping to bring this about."



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**“Dangerous, selfish, irritating and illegal...”
say *so many* concerned Eastry residents!**

Eastry Parish Council and a large number of local residents are very concerned about the increasing number of individuals who are parking in dangerous places, with little regard for the safety of others. Especially those cars that are parked on the double yellow lines outside the Chemist and Fish Bar.

Even if you have a disabled blue badge it does not allow you to park here.

There are also many people who park on the double yellow lines outside the Food Stores, on the zebra crossing zig zag lines and by Bickers. This is both illegal and dangerous. There was recently a near miss of a pedestrian in the village when a vehicle mounted the pavement between the Food Stores and the Parade in order to park in the lay-by there. **No-one should be driving over the pavements!** There are two car parks close by please use them.

Please, please residents of Eastry, think about how you are driving, where you are parking and be considerate of others.

Please PARK considerately in Eastry



Following on from the recent Annual Parish Council Meeting Mark Jones continues as The Chairman of the Parish Council and Deborah Russell as the Vice Chairman.

Eastry Parish Council would be very grateful if any issues with the play areas or leisure areas within the Village could please be reported to Jo Jones, Clerk to the Parish Council on 07903 739792. The clerk works part time so please leave a message if the phone isn't answered, she will get back to you. Following on from the very successful installation of the wooded play area near to Centenary Gardens during 2020, at a cost to the Parish Council of £16,500 the Parish Council are now turning their attention to the Gun Park Play Area.

A provisional budget of £30,000 has been set to refurbish and refresh the Gun Park Play Area, subject to successful bids for funding. The first stage of works are due to start at the beginning of June with the refurbishment of the existing play equipment, a local contractor has been appointed. The aim for the next stage is for the safe surface under the play equipment to be replaced, the roundabout to be removed and one or more new pieces of equipment to be installed, depending on cost and successful funding bids.



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A view we are going to lose to development



The Eastry Valley from Lower Street - towards Buttshole Pond.

Photo - Alison Marshall

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Working for the Residents of Eastry

Now that Lockdown is easing, Eastry Parish Council are arranging a belated "Great British Spring Clean" Litter Pick in Eastry on **SATURDAY 3rd July 2021**. By this time, we hope the weather is good, and "social distancing" will be just a memory, so come along and help keep your village neat and tidy.

The Village Caretaker, Richard, who you have seen around Eastry, does an excellent job in keeping the village clean and clear of litter, but there are some areas around the village that require more people to undertake a safe and effective litter pick. So, take part in the litter pick, and meet some of your Parish councillors at:



The Main Eastry Car Park (by the Vets) at 10:00 am on Saturday 3rd July

We plan to pick litter for a couple of hours in selected locations around the village, and then return to the 5 Bells for refreshments and a bacon roll.

Just wear suitable clothing, bring garden gloves, and also bring your enthusiasm to maintain a clean and tidy village, and you will be most welcome. Visi-vests and litter pickers will be provided.



Eastry kids say *please* SLOW DOWN in our village!

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Tuesdays

1st, 15th, 29th June

13th, 27th July

Eastry Horticultural Society - Eastry Gardeners

The snow has finally now gone but the vicious chilling winds are still causing some of us a lot of frustrations with battered plants and shrubs whilst the bitter mornings, some with frosts, are still lurking around but at least they are getting a little less frequent. I have now got my early potatoes in and the later crop is spread out and chitting nicely, and are almost ready to go in. I have potted up my Club Competition Potato and purchased all of my seeds etc. ready for the coming weeks. Having had a waterlogged garden for the past few months I have still not finished my winter digging programme so there is still plenty to keep me occupied now that officially the meteorological spring has sprung and the grass has riz!

Our Chairman Jacki has already been keeping many of you updated on events, or the lack of them, but she has now passed on some, at this stage obviously very provisional, bookings for us to get together again. They still depend on at least some of our current restrictions being lifted and more importantly remaining lifted. Just to get your fingers itching and your planting and growing ideas set in motion here are some of the dates that should get us all back in to action, Not only our members but also any of you village folk who would like to join our enthusiastic band, we are not all super gardeners, just a bunch of keen amateurs who make excellent friends.

Provisional dates are Saturday 26th June for our Summer Show, our super competitive and colourful event that none of our readers should miss, Tuesday's 13th July and 10th Aug are set for our evening meetings and Saturday 21 Aug for our Annual Show, another 'not to be missed' event. All of our events and meetings are held at the Village Hall. Our Committee meeting dates have not yet been finalized.

It is wonderful to see just how resilient nature is. Despite the weeks of less than comfortable weather the Snowdrops and my hundreds of Daffodils have been, and still are, making a wonderful display that makes all who see them feel more cheerful (sadly no shows to exhibit them) but at least friends, family and neighbours go away with an armful picked and mixed to their own choice and, totally out of season for me I have some wonderful multi colour Tulips really putting on a brilliant display. The buds on the Camillia bush are breaking out and already giving us their usual majestic display and, as a really amateur gardener can anyone tell me if, when and how I can take cuttings from the parent Camelia bush and from my fig tree, any suggestions?

Watching many 'gardening programmes' on television often takes me back to my schoolboy days, at college studying agriculture. Our tutors then were often very adventurous and forward thinking. In the late 40's we were doing national trials on growing Kohl Rabi, at that time a relatively unknown plant. It is a lovely vegetable that even today not many people have tried to grow, nor have tasted. Eaten raw it always tasted rather like Walls ice cream. On the plots we were heavily involved in the earth make-up structure with double digging, not digging at all and of course all conventional workings of the soil. With the potatoes we even tried not putting them in to the soil at all, merely placed them on the surface and covered them with black weed suppressant material, making slits where the growth would come through. At harvesting time one merely lifted the material and picked up the potatoes. There was always a crop there but not in huge quantities. We even tried getting a single well chitted spud, cut out all the chits and any unchitted eyes and planted them, they too almost invariably produced a limited yield. A method used by Russian peasants!

In the meantime keep safe and hopefully we can all very soon meet up again. JS

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Eastry Football Club 1950-1967

My earliest recollections of football in the village were when my father took me down to Peak Pastures (now Orchard Road) in 1949/50 to watch games on a Saturday afternoon. I remember that the goalkeeper, Thompson from Brook Street, wore a cap and glasses, yes glasses! The captain was good on the ball but if playing in the modern game would receive a red card every week! The team included a former German Prisoner of War. A pond was close to the touchline on the Gore Lane side and the ball was regularly being retrieved. It is not surprising that recently one or more houses have problems with flooding. The team had some success and I recall a photo of them with a trophy and Harold Castle with a broken arm in plaster.

It was 1957, when playing for fun in the Gun Park, a man said to me that he was surprised that a village of the size of Eastry had no football team and he would be interested in starting one. He was Cyril Whittaker, a really pleasant guy who had just moved into the village. Being keen I offered myself to play and was told by another that he meant a men's team and I was a bit young at 14. Following several evenings of practice a meeting took place on the first floor of the Village Hall at the end of June 1957. A gathering of 15 to 20 men and I raised £2, enough to buy a ball and pay for entry to the Deal and District League for the upcoming season. The remainder of the summer raffles, jumble sales and whist drives etc. were held to buy kit, which had black and white squares, and equipment ready for the August start.

My recollections are that the early team included Roger Cook in goal, Campbell Gibb, Dennis and Ian Hogben, John and Dennis Dunn, Cyril Whittaker, Tony Whitting, Henry Williams, Keith Ashington and Charlie Brailsford. Apologies if this is inaccurate but I cannot find the team photo. The team changed at the Village Hall and walked to the ground, with opponents arriving in their kit. From about 1959 the garden shed in the Youth Club grounds was used for changing, cramped but friendly, and I recall emerging with our new all white kit -perhaps with ambitions to play like Real Madrid-and feeling rather conspicuous.

As the team improved, players from outside the village including Colin Hill, Wilf Moore and Dennis Pollit plus others from within, e.g. Maurice Dunn and Brian Summers were attracted to join, which led to improvements in team performance whilst keeping the core of the side 'Eastrytes'. In 1961 Ken Summers, then playing in the Kent League on professional terms, joined and the team remained virtually unchanged for the next three years. Ken was a talented player for Betteshanger Colliery Welfare in the Kent League at the age of 17 and I am sure could have acquired a Football League career if not for doing National Service.



From this time the side were often referred to as the Ken Summers team with all members thought of as being 'not bad'. Ken's brother Brian was a prolific goal scorer netting 60 to 80 goals per season over several years with two footed power, and hat tricks being common place. Maurice Dunn was also skilful, good with the ball and provided opportunities for the forwards.

A lasting memory for me, and I would believe in all the other players, was the consistent support at the Gun Park, with the near touchline being filled each game and several other supporters at each end behind the goals. For away games a coach took players and supporters with an extra coach at cup finals and on one occasion a double decker bus as well. It was uplifting to hear the chants given the opposition supporters were always well outnumbered.



The players at the back were as the defence lined up with the forwards at the front.

From 1964 the team remained one of the top three sides in the Kent Amateur League Premier Division though without achieving more trophies. From this time some players moved away or had work which prevented availability and the Saturday side disbanded in about 1967. The club played in the Deal Sunday League largely thanks to efforts of Ken Austin Secretary et al. Several able players represented the village e.g. John Summers, Mick and John Mitchell, Graham Watts and Mick Rogers though not enough of them at any one time together to achieve the success as previous. I may have missed other notable players as am relying on personal memory. To aid the history of football in the village perhaps someone of a younger generation to myself could add to the story?

Henry Williams

Honours Board

In our second season 1958/59
we won the Deal and District League.

1959/60 Champions of the
Dover League Division 2.

1960/61 Champions of Division 1 of
the same League ,

The Dover Charity Cup and the
Kent Junior Cup.

1961/62 Champions of Division 1
of the Kent Amateur League
and the Kent Amateur League Cup
(the double).

STRANDED!

There must have been a few red faces in Eastry on Saturday night after their victory over Margate in the Kent Amateur League Cup Final at the Charles Ground in Deal. After the match coach loads of jubilant supporters and officials went home and clean forgot about the team!

Startled to find their transport gone the Eastry players were still waiting when the coach bringing Sandwich Reserves for the D.A.D.L. Cup Final that evening arrived at the ground. It all ended quite happily - Sandwich obliged by sending the successful Eastry lads home in their coach.

East Kent Mercury 17/05/1962

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Day or Night

The latest news from Betteshanger

For the last year Friends of Betteshanger, along with many others, have been campaigning to protect the rewilded pit head area of the now defunct Betteshanger Colliery. This is the subject of a planning application for 210 houses plus retail, residential and commercial by Quinn Estates. Initially, the ecologists employed by the developer claimed much of the site was of low ecological value. However as a result of surveys carried out by local naturalists and the efforts of the Senior Natural Conservation Officer at Dover District Council, a full ecological appraisal was eventually carried out. This showed a site of County and National importance for its



ecology. Kent Wildlife Trust said it was a potential Local Wildlife Site. It was found that the site supported: Badger setts and six species of Bat, Reptiles and Amphibians including Great Crested Newts, Nationally Rare and Scarce Invertebrates, 12 species of plant on the Kent Rare Plant Register, including the endangered Grass Poly. Over 100 bird species use the site, including Turtle Doves, the UK's fastest declining bird.

The fight continues and DDC's Senior Natural Environment Officer, environmental NGOs, Parish and Town Councils, Academics and many members of the public have objected to the proposals. As a result, DDC planners and the developer have been unable to come to a resolution.

At the heart of the ecology issue is the 'mitigation' and 'compensation' schemes proposed by the developer. These have been proposed to compensate for the loss and damage to the biodiversity that development would cause. Currently the proposal is for Open Mosaic habitat to be extended on 10 hectares of Betteshanger Country Park. This would involve scraping and ground disturbance and the removal of scrub (small trees) in an area originally protected for its botanical and ground nesting bird interest. It now has a large population of Lizard Orchids, to rival that at Sandwich Bay.



Grass Poly - extremely rare

These proposals are not currently considered to be 'adequate' either by the Council's Senior Natural Environment Officer or by Consultees and there is concern that the proposals for the Country Park would do more harm than good. The ball is now in Quinn Estates' court. Can they can come up with 'adequate' proposals that the Planning Officer can recommend to the Planning Committee? Will these be acceptable to the concerned public or to the planning committee?

Until a final decision is made, the fate of the site's wildlife hangs in the balance. This is a watershed moment for Dover District Council. They have recently approved a Climate Change Strategy. Now we wait to see whether this path also includes protecting the existing biodiversity of the District's last wild, undesignated places.

If you would like to comment on this planning application the number is 20/00419 and comments can be made via Dover District Council's Planning Portal. Thank you. *Sue Sullivan, Peter Cutler, Friends of Betteshanger*

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Gardening on the other side of the fence

They say the grass is always greener...well it can be. On the face of it, us gardeners should be having a positive impact on our planet. We grow things and many are interested in the wildlife that share our spaces. But that's not always the case. Increasingly gloomy news about our environment, declining numbers of birds and insects and the impacts of chemicals, climate change and plastic continue to dominate the headlines about the natural world.

Can you make a difference? Absolutely, and over the coming issues I'd like to share my experiences of Green Gardening and developing a Wildlife-Friendly Garden here in Eastry. Having lived in the same property for 27 years, and with retirement on the horizon, this seemed like the last chance to satisfy my urge to garden in a larger plot. It took a lot of searching and finding the right garden with the right house was fraught with differences of opinion, all while navigating Brexit and Covid! But we are now settling into our new home and are looking forward to the future.

The main back garden we have inherited is 120' x 80' with a small orchard. Most advice is to live with a garden for a year to establish what you have. As I write, the spring bulbs are in full bloom and there is a good selection of shrubs, fruit bushes and climbers but not too much in the way of herbaceous ground cover. I have always grown a lot of plants for my own use, and for my customer's gardens, and that is the main priority over the next couple of years. Sourcing plants



commercially that are grown peat-free and pesticide-free can be time consuming but the number of suppliers entering this market is increasing. Recent research by the University of Sussex revealed that even plants with the RHS Pollinator Friendly labels were mainly grown using herbicides and insecticides. This winter I have planted a native hedgerow along a previously cleared boundary fence, a selection of tree saplings and additional fruit bushes. My approach is that that every plant should provide something to attract birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

There is now a wealth of books and internet sources to see which plants attract the widest variety and some growers are doing quite extensive research down to plant variety level. I will share with you the successes and failures as I weave in aspects of chemical-free and organic practices; No-Dig gardening; Forest gardening; and the development of a wildflower meadow. You can view my previous garden on YouTube – search for “A Bee-friendly wildlife garden in Surrey”. You will also find there my original inspiration – a BBC programme from the mid 1980's called **Blue Tits and Bumblebees : The Making of A Wildlife Garden**. The ensuing book by Chris Baines started the trend to which I have been a committed follower ever since. Hopefully I can inspire some of you to do the same.

Jeff “the Bee Friendly Gardener”.

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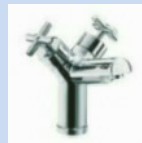
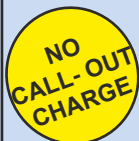
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A fond "Farewell"



It doesn't seem that it was nearly three years ago that Simon and I arrived to live and work within the Eastry and Woodnesborough Benefice, although the disruption caused by Covid might have had something to do with that. The time really flies by when you are enjoying yourself. And we have, immensely. We were made welcome and we felt at home almost immediately.

To me personally, friendships are important. It doesn't matter who we are or what we do. Each one of us is unique and we all have gifts which we can share for the greater good. In my time here I have been fortunate enough to be involved in many things; from being a Governor of Eastry Primary School, team leader in organising the popular holiday club Corners, leading numerous assemblies for both Northbourne and Eastry Primary schools, setting up pastoral and bereavement groups and of course planning services with the local clubs and societies. All of these, and others, have given me a treasure house of many happy memories.

And it is such a privilege to have been able to walk alongside families in all stages of life, and to help them at significant moments. From the sadness of bereavement to the joyous occasions of birth and marriage. We have shared tears and laughter together. These memories too I will take with me into my next role as Rector of seven parishes in the Calehill with Westwell Benefice which consists of a number of villages to the west of Ashford.

This corner of east Kent now feels like home, but everything comes to an end and it is time to move on to pastures new. As I do so I would like to thank everyone for making Simon and me feel so welcome and for being so encouraging in everything I did and tolerant of my mistakes as I found my feet in ministry. You have been such a wonderful community to work in and we shall take away such fond memories as we move halfway across Kent to my first incumbency. Please pray for us.

Sandra Marsh

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.

*Subject to current Covid restrictions. Check Church website or Facebook for updates

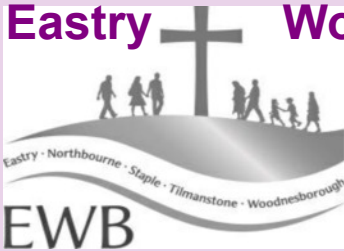


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Eastry Woodnesborough Benefice



Services in June & July

First Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion <i>at Woodnesborough</i> 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 6.30pm Sung Evensong <i>at Northbourne</i>
Second Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am Come and Praise - <i>informal service</i>
Third Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) <i>at Tilmanstone</i> 10.00am Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am Holy Communion (traditional) <i>at Northbourne</i> 10.00am Family Service <i>at Staple</i> 10.00am Holy Communion <i>at Woodnesborough</i> 6.30pm Evensong <i>at Tilmanstone</i>

Services are at Eastry unless otherwise specified.

(BCP) = Book of Common Prayer

St.Mary's Events Updates

We welcome the return of the ever popular annual fete in the grounds of The Aumbry in Church Street. On Saturday July 24th 2pm to 5pm. Stalls, games, music, refreshments and more. Further info from our new fete organiser Larry Wheatley. Then on Saturday July 31st we again have the Jazz on the Green in Church Street. 6pm to 8pm. Literally everybody is invited. No tickets but donations welcome.

There's also advanced news of a Son et lumiere at Eastry Court on the history of the famous house in aid of St Mary's Church on Friday September 3rd evening. Tickets will be just £10 in advance. £15 on the door if any space available. Further info from **Alastair Carnegie**.

From the Registers

22/04/21 Eileen Pilcher (Barham)

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

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

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

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES - Access Procedure

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)
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On a land line or old mobile phone, dial: 0203 481 5240 or 0208080 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



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Lockdown

Not an expression we have ever needed until Covid 19 which has trapped so many people in their homes, with the majority of their food orders being sent to the supermarkets for home delivery.

Growing up in a rural area many years ago we seldom needed to go anywhere as nearly all we needed was delivered to our door. All of our groceries came from Clarks the grocers in Eastry High Street and Mr. Knight would call at all the cottages in Betteshanger on a Wednesday to collect the order. If there was no-one at home (the doors were never locked) he would let himself in, check the scullery and the pantry and make up an order. At other cottages he would collect the householder's pension book (the Post Office was next to Clarks), collect the pension, stamps and postal orders as required and send back with the groceries on Friday. Milk was delivered daily - gold top after the austerity of rationing - and would be boiled, covered in muslin and left in a dark cool place (no fridges in those days!).

There were two postal deliveries daily Monday to Friday and one on Saturday, Devesons the Bakers from Lower Street delivered bread twice a week - brown bread for Dad and white loaves for the rest of the family. My father never used a chopping board, he would tuck the loaf in the crook of his elbow and cut himself a 'doorstep' or two. Occasionally Mr. Deveson would leave a sack of bread for the chickens...not that they got much as Mum would check it over and use it for toast, fried bread, bread pudding and bread and butter pudding. Toast was made using a toasting fork in front of the open fire. Another regular caller was the Fishmonger from Deal. All the fish was laid out on marble slabs in the back of his van. Herrings were regularly purchased and we were taught how to descale the fish, dead head and gut them, ready for frying. The fish with a soft roe were the most popular and we learnt how to eat them without swallowing any bones. Other fish available from the van were smoked haddock, mackerel, kippers, sprats, rig and cod roe.

Newspapers too were delivered each morning. In our case the News Chronicle and the Sunday Dispatch as well as the weekly children's newspaper. We had a wireless which would be switched on for the weather forecast and the 6pm news. My father always maintained that the shipping forecast gave the most accurate forecast for South East Kent. Occasionally a lorry loaded with household goods would call and paraffin, methylated spirits and cleaning materials were our regular buys.

Eastry then had a good variety of shops covering most requirements but there was no advertising for toys or sweets. Sweets were still rationed. I remember my Mum's favourite was a boiled sweet called 'Winter Mixture', sold by the quarter in a paper bag. Our luck was in if we were offered a sticky clove, aniseed or peppermint with bits of the paper bag stuck on them - apparently to help keep us warm on our walk to school. Those were the days!

Sheila Smith

The East Kent Ploughing Match

will be held on Wednesday 29th September 2021
at Upper Venson Farm, Eastry CT14 0FH

Spotlight on talent - Andrew Roger (entrepreneur)



During lockdown more local people have been walking around our village and one of the more popular routes has been down Brook Street towards Ham. This increase in footfall has inspired young Andrew Roger to set up a market stall to sell his wares from the large garden of his thatched Brook Cottage home.

Seven year old Andrew, assisted by his two year old younger brother Daniel, may look like an innocent, butter wouldn't melt in his mouth, sort of young man but he has the steely tenacity of

Lord Sugar mixed with the persistence and humour of Del Boy Trotter under his charming outer shell. He has products to sell and won't let you pass by without giving you the full sales pitch for his various wares - goose eggs, 'Saxon's Pawfect Doggie Treats' (good for humans too!), Popcorn, 'Bears Crispy Bars' and 'Nanna Pat's Fudge' to name but a few.

This determined young entrepreneur is going to be a resounding business success and good luck to him!



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Major Pond Renovation

As many folk may know I'm pond mad and the pond I installed when I moved to the village to work at Pfizer many Moons ago was in need of a new liner. In fact I had to replace everything as the pond had inadvertently got a bad dose of *Crassula helmsii* otherwise known as Australian swamp stonecrop or New Zealand pigmyweed when I took a small piece of water forget-me-not from Buttsole pond at the Dover end of the village. Stroll down and see what devastation it can cause. It is all over the pond. As the name implies, it is not from these parts so has no enemies (except a few like the environment agency – and me!) It looks a little like sphagnum moss with tiny leaves and grows in water or damp area. Not allowed to be sold as an oxygenator anymore. It has escaped into our natural waterways particularly in the south east and causing havoc as it is very hard to control.



So in late autumn 2019 I ripped my pond out putting animals (many newts and dragonfly larvae) in a safe place to return later. I installed the new butyl liner and having helped my good neighbour Bob thin his plants I had some clean stock to 'seed' my new habitat.

So it gradually went from a non-ideal pond to devastation...to a *Crassula* free wildlife pond.

It's wonderful watching it develop. The wild birds just love splashing and drinking in the beach areas and the extra insects it nurtures. No fish allowed as they feed on the insects, tadpoles etc and I'd rather have more of them. So in a very short time you can establish a pond and help the wildlife. Like watching a fire, a pond is mesmerising if you take time to set it up with a variety of plants and keep things in check from time to time. Best if it's not too neat! If you haven't room then adding any water source like a bird bath can really encourage the birds, bees, dragonflies etc. Happy ponding!



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Beacon View Vets Update

Hello everyone! We hope that you and your pets are keeping well and enjoying the better weather. The excitement here at Beacon View Vets has continued with lots of lovely patients and welcoming more staff. Thank you for your recommendations to friends and family. As lockdown restrictions continue to ease we are looking forward to being able to welcome clients back into the consulting room.

We are excited to welcome both Christine and Izzy to our team. Christine has over three years experience as a veterinary care assistant and as a receptionist at a busy practice. She holds a Silver award from the British Veterinary Receptionist Association, and those of you who have already had the pleasure of speaking to her on the phone or in person will know how dedicated she is to customer care. Izzy joins the team as a care assistant and is currently studying at college, we look forward to helping her progress in her veterinary career.

With summer on its way we are likely to see a lot of pets having trouble with 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.

We have a nifty little camera in the practice which enables us to show you inside your dog's ear and fully investigate deep inside the ear canal. 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. With some breeds it is well worth asking your groomer to shave the fur on their feet and under their ears.

Another condition that is more prevalent over the summer is Allergic Dermatitis. This is a common condition in dogs where the skin becomes inflamed and itchy (pruritic). The condition also affects cats but is less common. Atopy results from exposure to a variety of environmental allergens such as pollens, human and animal dander (dead skin), and storage mites. The allergens reach the skin through direct contact or are inhaled and absorbed into the blood and transferred to the skin. In atopic individuals inflammation and itching of the face, ears, feet, and underside of the chest and abdomen is common. The allergy may be seasonal or present all year round depending on which allergens are involved.

Most animals with atopy are allergic to more than one allergen. Other common allergens include parasites, especially fleas, and food which can complicate atopy. Atopy can not be cured so must be effectively managed throughout life to prevent suffering, there are a range of options and medications to do this so please get in contact if your pet is suffering from allergies. Being chronically itchy and sore has a huge impact on quality of life so it's best to get a treatment plan in action early.

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

Claire

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Antisocial Behaviour

There's a ton of Ants marauding like an army,
 Thundering past me ever so calmly!
 Not thinking or caring, I could wipe them out,
 With hot water and bleach poured through a spout.

What gives me the right to end their strife?
 Play judge and jury, to end their life.
 I call myself civilised, empathic and fair
 Not according to the Ant washed out there!

I need to take heed for we need our Ants,
 To aerate the soil and oxygenate plants.
 We can't live without them this is so true,
 They're crucial and important, clever too!

They outnumber us easily, 1.5 million to one,
 A fact we ignore as the deed it is done!
 And yet, just think if they turned on us
 It wouldn't be a splash, more like a bus

Flattening us savagely as we have done them
 Acting triumphantly, their time has come
 For Ant's rights matter no more drowning out
 Their place in this world, needed beyond any doubt!

Flower Folly

If I were to be a flower, blooming in the month of June
 I'd parade myself in the garden, hoping the Bees would swoon.
 I wonder what would suit me; I wonder what I'd choose,
 Would it be the "Iris" with her white or lavender blues?

Or should I pick the "Lily," with her fragrant fragile petals,
 Or something with a character the fierce old "Stingy Nettles."
 I'll dismiss the shrinking "Violet," as she loves to hide away,
 I'm too old to be a "Morning Bride," enjoying her wedding day.

Then maybe there's "The Orchid" which shrivels when it's chilly
 Definitely not the "Bee Balm", she's scarlet, red and frilly
 What about the "Pink Cone" with her bubble gum pink flowers?
 With so many blooms to choose from, I might be here for hours...

So what would be my choice as I share my folly with you?
 It needs to be quite humble, if I'm to take my place in Kew.
 I haven't found it easy, but at last my minds made up,
 I'm opting for the yellow gem, the reliable "Buttercup!"

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Neighbourhood Watch



Recently, many of us in this village, have been thinking of the residents of Snowdown and Aylesham. Living in a rural area we are not used to acts of murder and I am sure I am not alone in remembering the tragedy of the Russell murders and how much it affected our lives.

How then we were wary of going out even to walk the dogs, how we avoided using the footpaths and farm tracks and we were cautious of parked cars and the hedgerows for quite a while. Very unsettling. They must be in a very similar situation around Snowdown and Aylesham as residents try to come to terms with the murder of a well known and respected female PCSO - so hard to understand.

Now on to the SCAMS - if ever there was a growth industry this is it! So many people have been duped into either giving their bank details or hand over amounts of money which will be (supposedly!!!) doubled by the scammers. They are ruthless, heartless, highly intelligent crooks who do not care who they rob and deceive. We used to worry about offers of roof repairs or 'essential' garden maintenance but this pales into insignificance compared with to current crimes.

Never trust any email or telephone call however genuine it might look. The criminals are mimicking legitimate organisations we would all normally trust like your bank, the BBC, the Post Office, DVLA, the Inland Revenue and I could go on! The advice is to trust no-one, never click onto anything that pops up on your computer, mobile phone or tablet no matter how good or how worrying it sounds. You can easily contact the relevant organisation to check if they are genuine. I guess the many COVID scams are still running or have they found other means to extract money or important information from us all? So please be careful and trust no-one.

One of our Easry NHW Co-ordinators contacted me to say that two parcels had been sent to him which he did not order. This is yet another scam so just ignore the delivery and don't accept or sign for the goods.

Sheila Smith

Be aware of these three current and very widespread SCAMS

British Gas - supposedly offering you a refund and asking you to click on a link.
DO NOT CLICK ON IT!

The Post Office - supposedly saying there is a problem with a delivery and you need to click on the link.
DO NOT CLICK ON IT!

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute - supposedly claiming you are the victim of a scam by Verge Capital. You are told to call 0203 633 2307 to make a refund claim however they want you to transfer £5000 to cover legal costs.
DO NOT PAY IT!

LOST & FOUND - A very nice ring was found in the village which has still not been claimed even after notices were put in the shop and chemist. If it's yours I can be contacted on 01304761467 or 07749849176. *Christine Beeching.*

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Our Honey Bees - Ray Checksfield

What a month April was. I can never remember such a cold month and of course the bees could not get out to gather the nectar and pollen that is so essential at this time. It is early May as I write this and we still have this bitterly cold wind and I reckon the hives are at least three weeks behind schedule. Ah well, good old mother nature. Sadly I do think colony losses in the UK will be pretty high this year. I have been feeding my bees for close on six weeks now.

To help clarify any confusion identifying our bees I am including a few helpful photos.



Pictured left is a Queen honey bee, (marked with green dot) and her attendants. Below centre is our European hornet - not normally nasty. On the right is the dreaded Asian hornet. A nasty devil who preys mainly on honey bees. If this does arrive here in numbers...lets hope not as it doesn't bear thinking about the possible damage it could cause!



Below left is our familiar bumble bee, then a honey bee worker and finally our wasp.



Last year I had honey for sale for my regulars but alas nothing so far and I think it will be a few weeks yet. 'Til next time - take care.

Ray

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Biodiversity

Over the next few EVN magazines I would like to address the really pressing issues in relation to the health of the earth we all need to survive and hopefully love.

First, Biodiversity loss. Biodiversity is a measure of the number of species of wildlife present, possibly all wildlife but more commonly the plants and animals of all types present, excluding micro-organisms. It is a term which can be applied to any **habitat** but most commonly it is applied to the whole world.

How has it come about? Biodiversity is the result of two conflicting factors, **speciation**, that is the formation of new species, and **extinction**, the total loss of species.

How does speciation occur? This is a consequence of the **struggle for survival**. For example, A pair of Blackbirds typically produce about 5 eggs in a clutch, two clutches a year and breed for two consecutive years only, so they potentially produce 20 new birds throughout their lives. If the native population of blackbirds is constant, as it usually is here in the UK, then only two of the twenty birds, on average, will survive to breeding age, replacing the two parents. Thus mortality from egg to maturity is around 90%. In many species the survival percentage is far less than this. Reproduction involves the copying of the DNA of each parent to produce sex cells (in animals, eggs and sperms). This copying is generally very accurate but errors do occur. Most of these are damaging and the sex cell or the resulting offspring does not survive, but occasionally they produce an **adaptive** characteristic, one which gives the individual offspring an advantage, so it is more likely to survive to breed and, potentially, pass on the new characteristic, so that, gradually, a new population of better adapted individuals appears. Slowly, by further such events, a population appears which is so different genetically that it can no longer breed with the others. A new species has been formed.



What causes extinction? Often a new species has evolved which is better adapted and takes all the resources so gradually all the original species die out. Alternatively if the members of a species are subject to damaging new conditions (too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry, lack of suitable food etc. etc.) and are unable to **adapt** to the changes they gradually die out. **These processes have gone on since life on earth began, so what is the problem?**

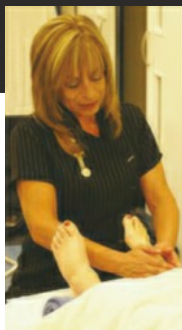
By examining the fossils found in many of the rocks on earth it is possible to estimate the rate of extinction at any given time in the earth's history and compare it with the rate in modern times. The extinction rate today is many tens of times faster than ever before and this is due to human activities, mostly destroying the **habitats** populations need to survive but also by hunting, which has occurred since human life began but is now so much more destructive through use of modern weapons.

Terry Wood

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The School Badge and Village Emblem

When John Gabriel became Headmaster of the Eastry Primary School he wanted a badge for the school uniform. After seeing the medallions above the chancel in



the Church he obtained permission to use one. It was then adopted by the school and quickly developed to become our widely used Village emblem. (J. Waring)

"The seven 13th Century medallions above the Chancel Arch were discovered between 1857 and 1903. Painted while the mortar was still wet they remained in a dilapidated state until the Canterbury Cathedral Wall Paintings Department brought them to life.

Each medallion contains one of four motifs - the Trefoil Flower (perhaps a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary), the Lion (standing for Resurrection), the Dove, either singly or in pairs (representing the Holy Spirit) and the Griffin (representing Evil over which victory is won by the power of the Resurrection and the courage of the Christian)."

from St. Mary's Church, Eastry - Medieval Frescoes

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Eastry WI



Eastry WI has been planning, over the last couple of weeks how we can return to some sort of normality.

We are restarting our craft mornings but in small groups in members homes. Hopefully in June/July we will be able to return to our normal groups in the Church Hall. Our lunch club restarts in June, and will then hopefully be monthly. If the weather stays good we may be able to return to our much enjoyed 'Picnics in the Park' too.

If anyone is curious about Eastry WI and would like to come to a picnic get in touch with me on 01304 619414.

At the moment we are looking towards restarting our normal monthly meetings in the Village Hall in September, but as we all know plans are very fluid for most activities at the moment'. Hope you enjoyed the Easter post box decoration outside Bickers?

Sue Hankins

The Natural Flower Arrangement Day

The Natural Flower Arrangement Day was on May 7th. In Eastry two table decorations were put in the marquee behind the Five Bells each with a note from Dover Flower Club inviting the finder of the flowers to take them home. It is hoped that the flowers brightened up the lives of a couple of people for a day or two.

Many thanks to Mary at the pub!

Sheila Smith

Wild Pink Campions

On a recent trip to Dover along the A256 I encountered a drift of bright pink flowers around the new roundabout at Whitfield (where the new houses are being built).

The flowers were a joy to behold and I wondered if they were growing where there had been recent soil disturbance. We all know that poppies grew in the First World War battlefields and still do on building sites as the seeds can last up to 100 years undisturbed so may be the lovely bright pink campions are also the result of soil disturbance when the roundabout was constructed.

Whatever the reason for their growth these flowers are appreciated and obviously cope with the dry, chalky, impoverished soil.

Sheila Smith

Out of the mouths of babes....

A four year old was greeted by his primary teacher on the first day back after the Easter holidays. She said "I am so pleased to see you I have really missed you" "How much did you miss me?" said the small boy. "A thousand" said the teacher. The small boy thought for a moment before saying "That's no good Miss...I only count up to one hundred!"

Bird Watching with Big Nick

What with lockdown and spring being pretty cold this year I've not ventured out as much as usual so have missed a lot of the birds arriving. Writing this in early May, things are already almost in full swing. We have a recently fledged Collared Dove in the garden; the adults were incubating through all the cold weather. About a week ago I noticed a Goldfinch in a crab apple tree in the front garden. At first I didn't pay much attention as there are lots of Goldfinches around at the moment, but it seemed to be there a lot, so I watched more carefully.



Goldfinches in a crab apple tree

The bird in the tree was acting as a lookout for its mate who was constructing a nest in a nearby shrub. The nest was much lower than I'd expected, probably only 4 feet from the ground – and only about 3 feet from the front window. We can sit on the couch and watch them come and go. We got a bit concerned as they seemed to stop coming and we wondered if they had abandoned the nest. On Monday evening as I wheeled the dustbin past the shrub I took a quick look into the nest as I went past, there were 3 tiny eggs.

Small passerines like these only begin incubation when the clutch is complete. It seems a little strange to leave the eggs exposed to the elements until the whole clutch is laid but that way all the eggs hatch at roughly the same time. Goldfinches usually lay from 4 to 6 eggs so I'll have to wait to see what the final total is.

Away from Eastry I took a trip to Blean Woods to see if I could see the Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers that had been reported there. I got lucky and found one, a female. Although less colourful than the male which has a red cap, they are smart little birds and I was lucky to see it; others arriving after me that morning didn't.





Female lesser spotted woodpecker

These are quite tiny, about the size of a Greenfinch and certainly not common. The RSPB estimates 1,000 to 2,000 pairs in the UK, and are found usually high up in the canopy making them difficult to see. In fact, I had never knowingly seen one before, [as my friend called them – Seldom Spotted Woodpecker!] so I felt very privileged to have got some good views and a few photos as well.

Nick

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The Royal British Legion

Eastry Branch - Founded 18th November 1931



**Centennial
1921 - 2021**

At 9.00 am on Saturday, 15 May, 2021, a small contingent of socially-distanced Eastry Branch members commemorated the Centennial of the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial. Founded by Field Marshall Earl Haig on 15 May, 1921, the RBL has been supporting ex-Service personnel and their families for 100 years. In 1921 the first Poppy Appeal raised £106,000 (£5.21 million today). The First Festival of Remembrance was held at the Royal Albert Hall in 1927. The first Field of Remembrance appeared on

on the lawns outside Westminster Abbey a year later. The British Legion was granted the "Royal" prefix in 1971.



In 1931, the original meeting to set up the Eastry Branch was held at The Five Bells, where Branch Meetings have been held ever since. The original Branch membership allowed for army and naval personnel only – no air force or merchant navy members for some reason. The original officers were Mr M. Pittock (Chair), Mr B. Town (Treasurer) and Mr H. Harvey (Secretary).



Michael Kinns took this excellent picture of the Supermoon with his Canon Powershot SX260 at 10.00pm on 27th April 2021 when it was just above the rooftops in Peak Drive. It is the brightest moon seen this year and in spite of the colour it is known as a "Pink Moon".

Rose Beer - Off Line

Just in case anyone would be interested in reminicing about life in the fifties I have published a new booklet and it's on sale at Eastry Pharmacy for £4.00. My other two booklets are still on sale there too. Looking back over years past can be a lovely thing to do at this moment in time for I feel we are becoming victims of our own progress. I got married when I was 17 and started starting having deliveries from the milkman. I am 80 now and still receive them so I have had a milkman for 63 consecutive years! Now I fully understand the implications of not paying at the door anymore as I did when the milkman, in full Unigate livery, came on a Saturday to collect his money so I now pay by direct debit. However I recently received a leaflet telling me that if I still wanted to have my milk delivered I would have to do it "on-line"!

Like a lot of people of my age I am not computer literate so I left a note saying that I was not going to go "on-line" just for a few bottles of milk. In return he left another leaflet informing me of a course to go on to learn how to do it. Really!! All I want is to leave a note in the empty bottle not go "on-flipping-line". I know I can get milk from a supermarket but 'the milkman' is part of a way of life that I don't wish to change.

Years ago we had the rent man, the insurance man, the coal man, the veg man, a fishmonger, a baker, a butcher and a good few more and we managed perfectly well then without a computer. I wonder if the milk delivery company really want any customers at all? In the meantime my blue car badge expired by two days (my fault) but if I didn't wish to renew it "on-line" it would take up to 3 weeks for a new one to arrive and ten weeks to process - WHY? When the renewal form arrived it was 18 pages to fill in (including my mother's maiden name!)

So I'm sorry but I think the world has gone crazy, so stop it I want to get off! I'm sorry to be a whinger but I'm going to go to bed now without saying my prayers "on-line".

God Bless - Rose

The Good Old Days!

I'd like to jog the memories
of people past their prime
and take them on a journey a
little back in time.

Programmes on the wireless
with songs you understand
two way Family Favourites
and Bill Cotton and his band.

'Orrible warm school milk
from bottle tops with holes
cut out bits of cardboard
put in my shoes for soles.

Loads of heavy darns
tho' barely any socks
Fair Isle knitted jumpers
and smocking on our frocks.

A dose of syrup of figs that
kept you going all week thro'
only to run outside
to find newspaper in the loo!

Carbolic soap and soda,
a copper poked with a stick,
sweet puds and spotted dicks
you ate until you were sick.

Tin baths by the fire when
just one side of you got hot,
cod liver oil and malt and
the smell of the old Wick pot.

Fruit that was only bought
for those who felt unwell
pens with only half a nib were
dipped in a messy ink well.

Styes upon our eyelids.
Chilblains made it hard to walk.
Shop assistants that would help you
and had the time to talk.

Good morning and good afternoon,
manners slipped from our tongue.
Oh they were the nicer days,
well they were when I was young!

And nothing "on-line"!!!

Rose Beer

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