

The  
**Eastry**  
Village News



August  
September  
2021



*'The Warrior' in Eastry Caves - John Waring photo*

## Village Contacts

**Ambulance, Fire, Police**      **999**

**Police Community Support**      101  
*and non-emergency Police*

**PCSO** - Sarah McGuinness  
[sarah.mcguinness@kent.police.uk](mailto:sarah.mcguinness@kent.police.uk)

**Community Warden**  
Peter Gill      07703 454190

[Peter.Gill@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.eastry-pc.gov.uk)

[www.facebook.com/EastryPC](https://www.facebook.com/EastryPC)

Chairman: Mark Jones

Vice-Chairman: Deborah Russell

**Clerk to Council**

Mrs. Joanna Jones      01304 746036

[clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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**

Steve Booth      07864 925289

[email: 27srb@sky.com](mailto:email: 27srb@sky.com)

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## **Eastry Young People's Contacts**

**EASTRY YOUNG PEOPLES CLUB**  
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### **Meetings - NOW OPEN**

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
for 12-19 year olds - 7pm to 9pm**

**Contact** - For party bookings or hall hire -  
Monica in Bubbles Nursery on 07902 303397

**BUBBLES NURSERY - Contact Monica on 01304 615487**

### **Sandwich Amateur Boxing Club**

At Eastry Young Peoples Club - Monday and Thursday  
Evenings 6pm to 8.30pm

**Contact: Mac McCarthy on 07749 760520**

### **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 Monica 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](mailto:Sandwichdivisiongg@gmail.com) or via  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/)**

### **10<sup>th</sup> 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

## Dick Laslett MBE (1940-2021)



The passing of Dick Laslett will leave a huge hole in the life of our village. That familiar, cheerful figure, often seen in his large white van on his way to Bickers or to the Young Peoples Club, finally lost his courageous fight against cancer on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Dick was born into a farming family and grew up, with his younger brother Bill and elder sister Elizabeth, on his parents farm at Great Selson. He was in his mid teens and studying at Kent College when both his parents died after an horrific car accident on the outskirts of Canterbury. Sadly the loss of their parents also meant the loss of the tenancy on their farm at Selson but Bill and Dick managed to buy Weddington Farm in Ash to continue their farming lives and later Dick lived and worked at Eastry Court Farm for many years where part time work was always available for youngsters. Ironically the crash happened only a spit away from what is now the fantastic Polo Farm Sports Club that Dick co-founded in the 1970's. He led the development at Polo Farm, "a man of vision, who was instrumental in setting up one of the finest centres of hockey in the country." (*Richard Goodenough*)

Dick was a talented sportsman especially as a hockey player for Canterbury Hockey Club and was 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain from 1962 until 1969, progressing rapidly through the club administration and was made a life member in 1988. He served on the Kent Committee for over 20 years and was elected President of Kent County Hockey Club. He was instrumental in getting up a side of "Laslett's", from within the larger family, to play against a club side on Boxing Day. This even attracted a mention in the Daily Telegraph and is a tradition that continues to this day (Covid permitting!). A good cricketer, he was captain of Ash Cricket Club for several years with at least a handful of good cricketer "Laslett's" in every team and would often be found running the bar, once his playing days were over, with his usual bonhomie and willingness for a chat - a position he would often assume at Polo Ground as well.



Eastry village too has benefitted from Dick's drive, energy and enthusiasm. He, through the various committees on which he served, established the Eastry Young Peoples Club for the growing number of young people in the village, helping to secure some of the funding for our splendid club house from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Eastry Parish Council helped the fund raising by agreeing to sell some land to build an extension to Swaynes Way. Dick was very much hands on throughout the building stage and, after completion, he continued as Chairman and Youth Club Leader. He showed amazing leadership of this Club yet was always very modest in his work for the club. He also secured the funding to establish Bubbles, a much needed private nursery in our growing village.



The fact that both of these facilities are thriving today is a tremendous legacy to his many years of hard work and often single-minded determination. "He dedicated his time to ensure young people had a place to call their own, to meet and socialise in our community. Dick has played a huge part in many generations of young peoples lives, always giving them time, attention, advice and never excluding any young person. The doors of the club have always been open to them all. He is a true legend who will be greatly missed by so many." *(Joanne Barham -EVF)*



The culmination of Dick's contribution to so many of our lives was the well deserved award of MBE in November 2009 - for outstanding achievement to the community. It is an award which sums up Dick's lifetime contribution perfectly." *(Richard Goodenough)*

"Dick was young at heart and could see the potential in every young person. Stern but fair, caring and quick witted, he has been a constant figure and a role model to many. He may be gone in body, but will always be here in our hearts and minds. Our doors will always be open, as he would want, and we will continue his work for future generations of young people." *(Joanne Barham -Eastry Village Forum)*

## The East Kent Ploughing Match

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

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



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## Eastry Spring Clean

Well, what a great turn-out we had on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July for the first Eastry Spring Clean, with around 30 villagers coming together to pick up litter.



The litter pick was organised by Eastry Parish Council with equipment from Dover District Council. Despite the inclement weather, our hardy teams managed to cover most of the village and collected around 10 large bags of rubbish, which will make a significant difference to the village.

We also had a great time, met old and made new friends of all ages, as we had a diverse mix of young and old, with one family bringing three generations to help. We finished off with a lovely bacon buttie and a cuppa at The Five Bells (thanks Mary and team), and a good chat, knowing we had done something worthwhile.

Thanks to everyone who came, a good mornings work. Hopefully we will see you again next time! *Deb Russell and Jo Jones on behalf of Eastry Parish Council*



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## Don't get the HUMP!

Many of you will have seen our Community Speedwatch volunteers monitoring traffic and speeds at different locations and times throughout Eastry. And whilst we've mostly received support, we've also had our critics. Fair enough, for there is nothing more irritating than having a speed gun pointed at you as you're rushing home, or stressing about where you're supposed to be when you're not going to make it on time. We've all been there. But let's rewind to remind you of **why** we're doing this.

Back in the thick of winter lockdown, a car came hurtling down Lower Street and had to brake hard to miss something crossing the road. It skidded, did a 360-degree turn, ploughing into two parked cars in the process, and came to a halt literally inches from the windows of someone's living room where they were peacefully watching evening TV. The dazed young bloke driving was shocked to the core, not to mention the owners of the wrecked cars. Enough was enough, said the house owners surveying the accident two feet away from their armchairs. It was one too many near misses caused by speeding motorists and an accident waiting to happen. So the Lower Speed Street (**LSS**) campaign began, first with artwork designed by concerned pupils of Eastry Primary School to plead with people to **SLOW DOWN** and latterly with **Community Speedwatch**. It's not that we love being out there. Yes we have better things to do, but let's face it: it's no good saying what are "they" going to do about it. Who are "they"? The Parish Council? Kent Country Council? The Police? **WE**, all of us who live in this village, are **"they"**. Public organisations are underfunded and under-resourced and anyway, they can't make any changes to our road traffic systems or anything else until they have proof that changes are needed.

Anecdotes aren't enough. They need data - the number of vehicles passing through the village, the speed of those vehicles and who are persistent speedsters. Data has to be collected over many months, then it is analysed. And if it proves we need traffic calming measures, or new roads, or improvements to signage, or lower speed limits, only then will the funding and workforce be made available by local government to undertake the work. Remember too that Eastry is in for a LOT of housing development under the new Dover District Plan. So far, Eastry has **no** planned public funding for any extra infrastructure – roads for example – to take all the traffic this new housing will generate. But if we have the traffic data to support our case, we have a fighting chance of getting the extra dosh to right that wrong. So thanks to those who support The Community Speedwatch group – we'll keep you all updated.

And **please, we're supported by the Parish Council, but we need more volunteers.**

**Eastry kids say please SLOW DOWN!**

Join in by emailing [clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk).

To our critics: Hopefully this article will help to explain why we're doing what we're doing.

Speeding isn't clever. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN!**

**Eastry's Lower Speed Street (LSS) Campaign**



## Eastry Horticultural Society - Eastry Gardeners

With fingers crossed we are now at that magic moment when we can start to return to something like normality, but having said that and having waited so long for it to come around I feel that we should still remain diligent and very careful. Anyone who really thinks that because the restraints have been eased the virus has gone away are, sadly, living in a little dream world. Unfortunately the current virus, or any of the multitude of it's probable variants, are now very likely to be with us long term.

But back to gardening. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June saw an excited 24 of our members coming in to have their Club competition potatoes weighed. Having all started off with the same variety grown in the same size pot one would have expected the weights to be similar. To a certain extent that assumption was correct with only 500g separating the first seven places. Top of the tree was John Bradley with a splendid 1.63Kg congratulations John, but remember that win puts a target on your back for next year, we will all be out to get you. Next in order in the merit table came Sandra Surridge very closely followed by Jacki Betts, John Surridge, Rob Betts, John Trainer and Wendy Guillianio with a mere 180g difference between 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. Next in line came Brenda Burton, Trevor Burton, Glynn Rees, Wendy Rees, Steve Pitcher, David Stewart, Bob Barwick, Graham Wright, Lynn Wright, Rosemary Barwick, Ruth Wilson, Jim Wilson, Sheila Smith, Rob Bishop, Pauline Bishop and jointly wining the wooden spoon with equal weights were Olive Foreman and Dennis Foreman. A very pleasant morning was enjoyed by all those attending, not only because of the competition but also the sheer pleasure of meeting up and having a friendly chat once again. Brenda Burton enjoyably worked hard on a small well stocked plant stall she had there as a result of which many members went home with some excellent new additions for their garden. The weighing in team of Rob, Jacki, Trevor and John did a really professional job with refreshment supplied to those in need by Jacki.

The Committee will be holding their meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> followed later in the month by the Annual Show when, hopefully, we will all be able to get back together. Jacki as usual will keep you all updated with any dates, times and news, in the meantime I'm sure that there are still plenty of jobs to keep you occupied out in the garden. So why not get out there with a nice cup of tea or an even better glass of wine and enjoy the flowers, veggies and fruit and admire viewing the accomplished labours of the day.



*My marigolds!!*

John S.

**Eastry village hall has available limited financial help for any 'not for profit group' who would be interested in renting the village hall.**

**Contact details - Peter Bailey - booking clerk - 01304614184**

## Possible new allotments

The last available allotment plot in the village is in the process of being let and the Parish Council are considering opening up some new plots in the triangular allotment site behind the Centenary Gardens wooden play area, please let the Clerk know if you would be interested in a plot.

Clerk's details:

Jo Jones: [clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk) 07903739792

### Eastry Parish Council

welcomes applications for Parish Council Small Grants for Village Organisations 2021/22, criteria and application forms are on the website, [www.Eastry-pc.gov.uk](http://www.Eastry-pc.gov.uk)



## Northbourne & Betteshanger Horticultural Society

*The Society plans to restart meetings and their Annual Show in the Parish Hall, just beyond the Church.*

On **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August** Jenny Birch will be demonstrating how to arrange flowers without the use of Oasis (floral foam) as it will soon be banned as it is non degradable. We will all have to revert to the tried and tested methods of yesteryear or learn some new techniques. On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September** the Annual Flower Show is planned. All are welcome to participate or just come along to view the exhibits between 2pm and 4pm.

Show schedules will soon be available from Sheila Smith 01304 611580 or Ian Denne 01304 374975.

## Dover Flower Club is BACK!

We are very pleased to announce that Dover Flower Club will be returning to Whitfield Village Hall on Monday Sept 27th at 7.15 p.m.

To celebrate our coming together after such a long time we have a fabulous floral demonstration by Ellouise Hasler-Stott. She is a young Demonstrator who has visited us before. She won a Gold Medal at Chelsea Flower Show, when she made a floral throne. It featured on the front page of Flower Arranger. The demonstration title is "Autumn Leaves".

Entry for Flower Club members is free, **we are reducing the visitors' entry fee to £6 for September ONLY** as a gesture to welcome our visitors back. We look forward to welcoming you all.

For further information contact Maureen Edmond [emond.randm@talktalk.net](mailto:emond.randm@talktalk.net)



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Debbie will look after your clothes - She once worked entirely on bridal gowns, but now is happy to do anything to keep you looking smart and comfortable in your clothes. [www.ruralrepairs.com](http://www.ruralrepairs.com)

*I would like to thank Keith for helping to solve a computer problem that was driving me mad!* Editor

## St.Mary's Events Updates

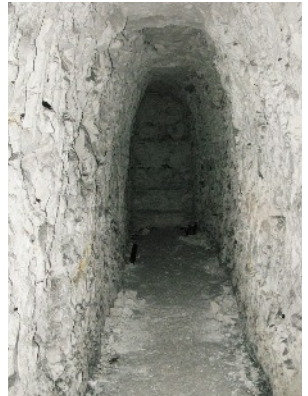
There's advanced news of a Son et Lumiere at Eastry Court on the history of the famous house in aid of St Mary's Church on Friday September 3rd evening.

Tickets will be just £10 in advance. £15 on the door if any space available.

Further info from **Alastair Carnegie**.

## Eastry Caves

There is much speculation as to the origin of the labyrinth of caves, which are beautifully carved and extend in galleries to nearly 700ft. It is possible that they may have been used for secret worship in times of religious persecution or were possibly used as grain storage chambers. It is said that Thomas Becket hid in the caves before making his escape to France in 1164.



Eastry Caves lie under "Beckets" in Gore Road, were probably started around 1811 when Abraham Foord, a bricklayer, started to extract chalk to burn into lime. The Foord family continued to mine chalk until 1907 when there was concern from local villagers that the tunnels were undermining their houses and property although this was not the case at all. The passages were cut with a small tool, maybe a small pickaxe, and are narrow with arched roofs and are often only 5ft in height. They lead round in elongated quadrant shapes to a deep well just behind the cottage. Each quadrant gets smaller and closer to the well and each has an opening into the well. In later years these passages were used for festivities on Eastry Fair days, fortune tellers and the like and the well was used as a wishing well. They began to make a folly of the passages - rooms appeared - one is known

as the Chapel and another is the Picture Gallery. Coffin boards were nailed to the walls but only the rusting iron nails now remain. In World War II the caves were used by the local Home Guard and the long gallery was used for target practice with .22 rifles.



Depicting the "foule" murder of the two princes at the palace of the Kings of Kent

The caves were opened to the general public in the 1960's and two huge stained glass windows were painted (*the imposing warrior on the front cover and the "murder window" on the left*). It cost 1/6 for adults and 6d for children but it was not a successful business venture and the caves reverted back to private ownership.

Sources - Nick Smith, IKS, Rod LeGear, G.B.Moncur







15

A smart repair by Kemp Bros.

Old Graffiti

Photos - Nick Smith, John Waring

## Gardening on the other side of the fence (2)

The weather has continued to dominate the news since my last article with a record-setting wet May and then an extremely dry June and then gales on the 6<sup>th</sup> July following on from the late, cold spring. Nationwide reports of 50-60% of blue and great tit nests failing this year due to the chicks hatching before the caterpillars had appeared due to their trees being late coming into leaf. Our climate continues to change and nature can't always adapt. Now many gardeners are concerned about insects spoiling the appearance of various plants and shrubs but with a different approach to the way you view your gardening, you can double your enjoyment of your space by realising that you are contributing to your local biodiversity by not reaching for the bug spray at the first sign of aphids. Most pesticides are indiscriminate and will kill beneficial predators as well as the intended 'pests' but it takes longer for the predators to recover and you will then have increased numbers of pests in subsequent months or years.

This spring I have seen black aphids in large numbers on newly planted spindle, elder and some thistles I have allowed to grow. All three have been completely cleared by ladybird larvae in the space of 10 days. However a very bold Wood Pigeon ate all my peas which are only about 8 feet from our back door and two varieties of kale are requiring night-time slug patrols. Otherwise the local hedgehogs appear to be doing a good job

In green gardening news two recent announcements will affect home gardeners: Slug pellets containing metaldehyde will be banned from Spring 2022. This is a second ban after a previous one was overturned. And also peat will be banned for home use from 2024. This was also previously announced in 2011 with a voluntary phase out to be completed by 2020. This has been a complete failure and there is a lot of work to be done to achieve this new target. It isn't that there aren't viable alternatives but there are concerns that the industry can't produce enough of the new product. Some large stores have already said they will bring in bans sooner. It will be these big players that will drive the change but you can contribute by continuing to ask for peat-free composts. The local garden centres and nurseries do stock them. And from next year, Which Gardening magazine will only be testing peat-free for their Best Buys.

This year the Wildlife Trusts have been promoting projects to help beetles. I have installed a beetle bucket ( a hole in the ground filled with woodchips or old timber debris!) with the intention of providing egg-laying habitat for Stag Beetles and I have just commenced digging a pond and the spoil will be heaped to create a beetle-bank. These raised grassy areas are used in farming to give these predators refuge and provide a variance of habitat in a wildlife-friendly garden.

*Jeff "the Bee-Friendly Gardener"*

**Eastry kids say please SLOW DOWN!**



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**Perform in Motion Theatre School** is opening in September 2021 at Sandwich Technology School, Deal Road, Sandwich CT13 0FA and Sandwich Leisure Centre, Deal Road, Sandwich (next to Sandwich Technology School).

To find out more about this amazing new theatre school you can email us at [performinmotion.pa@gmail.com](mailto:performinmotion.pa@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook [@performinmotion](https://www.facebook.com/performinmotion)

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## Eastry WI



Eastry WI is looking forward to a summer where members can meet face to face, maybe masked maybe not! We have already had a picnic in the park opposite the church on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Further planning is underway for an August event and hopefully we will return to indoor meetings in September.

Although we have yet to know the voting result of the latest resolution, it seems likely that it will be carried with a large majority, so I'm going to take the chance of writing about it here. I feel it is an important issue for all women and husbands or partners should also be aware that sometimes niggling symptoms their wives or partners complain of can be sometimes be indicative of a more serious problem.

Our resolution is **A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer**. The symptoms of ovarian cancer include: feeling constantly bloated; a swollen tummy; discomfort in your tummy or pelvic area; feeling full quickly when eating; and/or loss of appetite; and needing to pee more often than normal.

However, because the early signs of ovarian cancer are similar to conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS), it is often not diagnosed immediately. Sometime women are embarrassed to revisit a GP with seemingly vague symptoms and doctors are now becoming more aware of the need for early diagnosis.

The earlier ovarian cancer is diagnosed the easier it is to treat and so public awareness and understanding of the symptoms is really important.

**Sue Hankins** email: [eastrywi@gmail.com](mailto:eastrywi@gmail.com) Telephone: 01304 619414

### Dover District Council - Bin Collections 2021 New Dates 2021\*

#### Non recyclable waste

*Black topped wheelie bin, food bin & green/garden waste*

**Tuesdays** 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> August      14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> September

#### Recyclable Waste *Blue topped wheelie bin and Food Bin*

*Plastics, tins, bottles, paper and cardboard.*

**Tuesdays** 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> August      7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> September

**\*PLEASE NOTE - SINCE THE CHANGES SOME PROPERTIES IN THE VILLAGE MAY HAVE A DIFFERENT DAY TO THESE SHOWN.**

Dover District Council are unable at this time to give us a list of post codes that are different so please check your printed 'Revised Waste Collection Calendar' or you can check online via the DDC website. Apologies for any confusion and we will try to update this information asap.

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## **A letter from Bishop Rose, Bishop of Dover, about the recent changes within our Benefice.**

During the last 18 months, we have experienced so many changes not only nationally in our country, but also in the life of our Church and in our communities. Here in Canterbury Diocese, we too have been exploring how best to serve our communities in a changing world. A particular area that we continue to address is how best to serve all our communities with fewer and fewer resources. Going forward however, we do have a vision for a church that is flourishing and sustainable. This vision will only become a reality if all God's people begin to work together to build up the body of Christ in the places where we live and worship. This vision will become a reality when we pray for God to raise up local leaders lay and ordained to serve amongst us. Here in the benefice of Eastry and Woodnesborough, we too are experiencing this change first-hand. There has been change with more people working alongside David and Sandra to serve the people of these communities.

Over the next few weeks and months, we will be going up a gear with Sandra moving to her first incumbency, and David moving to a fresh challenge. Their leaving will lead to us beginning an interregnum and during this vacancy we will have to look at different ways of doing services at least for a time. Losing our full-time clergy within the same time frame is not ideal. However, we face this change with God's grace and the hope that we will be guided by the Spirit as we discern together what God has in store for us. I am thankful that here in Eastry and Woodnesborough, we have an able group of churchwardens and other ministers. Having met you, I am impressed by your vision and confidence in serving the benefice. The Churchwardens now have the task of working with me and the Archdeacon to recruit a new parish priest to lead in ministry going forward. That new priest will be someone who can work collegially, enabling the gifts of everyone to be used in ministry and making the benefice vision a reality.

Over the next few weeks, the churchwardens and others will be putting together a benefice profile which will put that vision into words, explore what the deanery plan means for the benefice, and describe what these communities need from a new parish priest, not only for each of our churches but for the wider community as well. There will be a special joint meeting of the church councils to adopt the profile and to elect representatives to the recruitment process. All of this will happen in time for the post to be advertised over the summer and interviews to take place in the early autumn. If all goes to plan, a new parish priest could be in place early in 2022.

I know that the process of clergy moving amidst so much change is difficult-but I also know that God is with us. God is a God of change, able to support us, work with us, and help us be his people. I believe that God will work through this time of change to refresh and renew us and our service that our Church may flourish and make a difference to all of those around us.

## Rectors Letter

*“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”*  
A.A. Milne (*Winnie-the-Pooh*)

This is my last ‘Rector’s Letter’ before leaving the parishes of Eastry, Northbourne, Staple, Tilmanstone and Woodnesborough. I guess I am not alone in finding saying goodbye difficult, and struggling to find the appropriate and consequential words to mark the occasion.

Perhaps the quote from Winnie-the-Pooh summarises it all very well – saying goodbye is hard when you are letting go of something which has been very special.

Being a Parish Priest is an immense privilege in offering the opportunity to share a period of one’s life on a journey in partnership with a community of people. They are not people you have necessarily chosen – that in a sense they are a gift from God; but we must try to work out together how to travel well in a way that is life-enriching and life-enhancing. There are inevitably highs and lows, joys and sorrows; but what is of enduring importance is how we journey through those different experiences in a way that enables mutual growth.

I have been here for a total of eight years now: it is a length of time in which it is possible to make something of a difference, but not so long, I hope, that things become stale – so probably the right time to move on.

It is now a new start for me as I take up my post in Sittingbourne at the beginning of August, but I am so immensely grateful for the nurture, support and love I have received in these villages, which will continue to resource me on my new adventure. At the same time, our parish churches face a time of change, but change always offers new opportunities to grow and flourish.

I shall finish with another quote: *“Goodbyes make you think. They make you realize what you’ve had, what you’ve lost, and what you’ve taken for granted.”* – Ritu Ghatourey.

I am deeply thankful for the many ways in which I have been enriched during my time here, and for all that so many have given, and I trust I have not taken too much for granted. May God bless you in all that you do

*David Ridley*

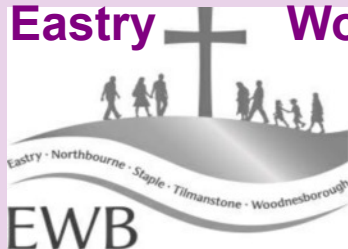
*Goodbye and Good Luck David.*

### Volunteers Needed Interested in Streaming or Zooming?

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# Eastry Woodnesborough Benefice



## Services in August & September

### First Sunday

10am Holy Communion (CW)  
6.30pm Evensong at Northbourne

### Second Sunday

10am Come and Worship Team

### Third Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion (CW) at Tilmanstone (August)  
10am Holy Communion (CW)

### Fourth Sunday

10am Holy Communion (traditional) at Northbourne  
10am Family Service Team at Staple  
10am Morning Prayer at Woodnesborough  
6.30pm Evensong at Tilmanstone

### Fifth Sunday

10am Benefice Service at Northbourne (August)

*Services are at Eastry unless otherwise specified  
(CW) = Common Worship Order 1, Traditional = Common Worship Order 2*

## 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*

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

Alastair Carnegie email: [amcarnegie@hotmail.com](mailto:amcarnegie@hotmail.com)  
Jo Slater email: [slater\\_jo@hotmail.com](mailto:slater_jo@hotmail.com)

Benefice Office Tel: 01304 611323 - ansaphone checked daily.  
email: [eastry.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:eastry.benefice@gmail.com) (checked 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](http://www.EWBchurches.org.uk) and share your  
thoughts on progress so far to 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](http://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

**The Church Registers**

**Baptism**

27/06/21 Peter Langdon

**Funerals**

09/06/21 Richard Wilford (*Charing*)  
Olive Beagley (*Barham*)



## Eastry F.C 1969-70



*Ian Parker photo*

*Back L to R:* T. Vine, Ray Stephens, B. Summers, K. Hunt, N. Friend, J. Summers, I. Parker.

*Front:* D. Castle, E. Couchman, K. Austin, N. Clark.

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## Beacon View Vets Update

Hi everyone! We hope you are all well and enjoying life returning to some sense of normality. We have been able to welcome you back inside the practice with your pets for several weeks now and it's been wonderful to see you all.

We have recently been made aware by the British Veterinary Association that they have seen an increase in cases of blue-green algae. This is something that all dog parents should be aware of – especially those with dogs who enjoy a good swim! Blue green algae, or cyanobacteria, are a group of bacteria that can contain dangerous toxins which can be harmful and potentially fatal to pets, livestock and birds if ingested even in small quantities.

Blue green algae is often present in still bodies of water such as ponds and lakes which we have quite a few of around Sandwich and Deal. During spells of hot dry weather, the algae rapidly multiplies and blooms appear. These blooms can cause the water to become cloudy, blocking sunlight to plants and organisms below and the water may also take on a blue or green tinge. You may also spot a scum around the edges of infected water. Dogs can swallow it by drinking water from an affected lake, river or pond or while licking their fur after going for a swim.

Symptoms of exposure can appear within a few minutes or hours and can include vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, disorientation, breathing issues and even seizures. If left untreated, it can cause liver damage and ultimately be rapidly fatal. Please contact your vet if you are concerned that your dog may have been exposed.

We have also seen a huge surge in the number of dogs getting grass seeds stuck in their eyes, ears and feet. Grass seeds can cause a lot of irritation and are problematic if they manage to pierce the skin as their barbed prongs mean that they can only travel in one direction and drive themselves deeper into the skin and underlying tissues. We advise checking for any plant matter between your dogs toes, in their ears and around their eyes after each walk to help avoid problems.

Thank you for all your support so far in 2021, we have two new team members joining us in August and we look forward to introducing you to them in the next newsletter.

As always if you have any questions please get in touch by phone or social media channels. Wishing you and your pets a happy and healthy summer from all at Beacon View,

*Claire*

**Please remember not to leave your pet in a car  
during periods of hot summer weather!  
Opening the windows will not help to keep it cool!**

**The End of Lockdown**

When it began, it was a shock for sure  
 No need to wash dishes, or sweep the floor  
 Stay in the pyjamas, no reason to dress  
 No one to visit, no one to impress

Listening to the news, like never before  
 People were dying, some breaking the law.  
 Stay home we were told, one walk a day  
 Don't cuddle your family, or the price you'll pay.

The months went by, history was in the making  
 The virus was vicious, cruel, life changing!  
 Indiscriminate and bold, like a raging storm  
 It caused anxiety and anguish, a scary new norm.

But help is at hand the vaccines arrived  
 With jabs in the arm we will survive.  
 Thank you NHS, scientists and more  
 We're forever in your debt, you unlocked the door.

**Summer's here to stay!**

The duvet seems too heavy, so I'm throwing it off at night,  
 I no longer need hot chocolate; a juicy melon is in sight!  
 My feet scream to be rescued; and I need my cool flip flops,  
 I'm kicking off my shoes and ditching those itchy socks!  
 Something seems to be happening, but, I'm not sure what  
 But like the sausages on the barbecue, I'm feeling sizzling hot!  
 I don't have a temperature, in fact I feel at ease,  
 I'm skipping like the lambs, and buzzing like the bees,  
 So what is my problem as I call out hip hip hooray?  
 Yes, I know what's happening, summer's here to stay!



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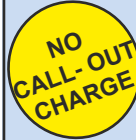
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## Our Honey Bees - Ray Checksfield

Amazing. In the last EVN I posted a few of our bees that we see mostly around Eastry but I did forget one that seems to be very prominent in our village most years. That is the Red Minor bee, also called a Mining bee and Mortar bee. I had a visit from a local lady. She had bees entering under cladding on the house and would I have a look as she had called in the vermin people and he said they were honey bees and he could not destroy them. I did visit, definitely not honey bees and these were this mortar bee and were obviously tunneling into the insulation.

This queen is a solitary bee, no nest as such, and she will excavate a tunnel some 6 to 10 inches long, in a sandy bank or in walls with soft mortar, lay an egg along with nectar and pollen, seal it and then lay another egg, pollen etc until the tube is full. Move on to the the next place and so on. Amazingly the young all hatch and fly out at the same time. They love old houses with just sand and lime between the bricks and years ago they reckon that these mortar bees were responsible for demolishing walls? Even houses?



May was a dreadful month weather wise for the bees. June came good. The bees flying in between the rain and cold, building up the colony and managed to bring me home a few jars of honey. Did you notice along the Sandwich bypass where the two tea vans park. The white blossom on those cherry plum trees and blackthorn was amazing but the bees stayed in and these flowers never got pollinated due to the adverse cold weather and now, no fruit at all along there. We need our pollinators for sure.

Til next time. Keep planting the flowers in any little place.

*Ray*

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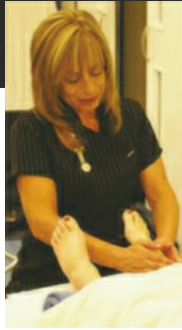
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## The significance of biodiversity loss

**Does it matter?** Yes, a lot. For a start it is unethical of humans to bring about the, often needless, destruction of plants and animals, unfair to the species made extinct and to our children who will be unable to enjoy them. It is also very damaging to our interests now: The widespread use of insecticides to protect our crops has resulted in loss of insect life of all types. These chemicals are often non selective, killing the insect predators of pest insects. This, and the growing of **monocultures**, huge fields growing just one sort of crop, means pest numbers actually increase, causing more pesticide use. Many of the insects killed are valuable **pollinators** needed for many crops to mature. Without pollinators a large proportion of our food would be lost.

If the biodiversity in a habitat is high each species has a range of food species, so if one becomes scarce others are available. Similarly each species has a range of predators, so if one declines others will take more of the prey species so the size of each species population remains stable. Where biodiversity is low food shortages cause predator population declines causing the prey population to increase enormously, eat all the food available and starve. The whole system is unstable. Sometimes this has a negative effect upon mankind, for instance when vast swarms of locusts or weaver birds devastate all the crops over a wide area, causing starvation.

Many new medicines are first discovered in plants or animals. The fewer species around the less chance of finding a medicine. Increasingly, crop plants or animals are improved by introducing genes from other, wild, species, either by selective breeding or gene therapy. The fewer species around the less scope for this.

All species have pathogenic bacteria and viruses which are well adapted to life in that species so do limited harm to their hosts, which continue to survive and provide them with food and shelter. If a species declines its pathogens, with fewer suitable hosts, will increasingly occur in other species, having more serious effects upon their new hosts. Increasingly, as wild mammal populations decline and human activity penetrates even remote areas some of these pathogens enter humans and may cause serious epidemics.

***Arguably, Covid 19 is one such, probably infecting humans either directly from bats or indirectly via, possibly, pangolins sold for human consumption.***

**How do human activities cause so much extinction?** In the natural world death of individuals is due to **starvation**, **disease** or **predation**. If predation increases competition for food decreases and, with smaller numbers present, spread of disease is reduced, so the population recovers. For this reason primitive tribes have survived for generations, living as hunters. Only with the invention of guns and transport to rapidly seek out prey have human hunters managed to kill so many of a species as to upset the natural recovery mechanism. Extinction of the Dodo and the almost extinction of the North American Bison are well known examples.

Far more significant is **habitat destruction**. We build on natural habitats, cut down forests to create grazing land or for growing arable crops, drain marshes for the same uses etc. This is what drives most extinction. **Climate change** causes habitats to become unsuited to some species, which either move or become extinct. It may allow others to increase their range; many species from southern Europe are spreading into the UK, but overall the effect of climate change is to further increase extinction rates.

*Terry Wood*



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## Bird Watching with Big Nick

My inspiration this month came when I was stopped in the High Street by a Tilmanstone man who asked if I were the “Nick Smith who wrote the bird column”, I had to admit I was! I had previously commented, either in this column or elsewhere, that although the Nuthatch is relatively common and widespread bird in the UK, I’d never seen one locally – the nearest being in Blean Woods near Canterbury. That was until last summer when I saw a pair in woods near Adisham - they’re getting closer to Eastry!

The Tilmanstone man, referring to my comments regarding the lack of Nuthatches, said that a pair had been seen in woods near him, by a reliable birdwatcher, and he thought, - correctly - that I would be interested to know. I checked back through my reports but could see no mention of Nuthatches and am now left wondering how he knew about my lack of sightings if I’d not written it in the EVN?

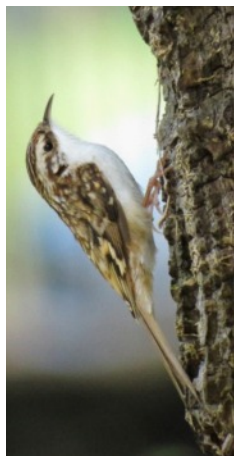
Anyway, it is good to know that they have been seen locally and it is worth keeping a lookout for them. An attractive bird, they are about the size of a Great Tit with a slate grey back and pinky front and a very pronounced black eye stripe.



Near Boughton

They’re often ‘upside down’ (as seen in the photo), working their way down a tree trunk, looking for insects and grubs in the bark.

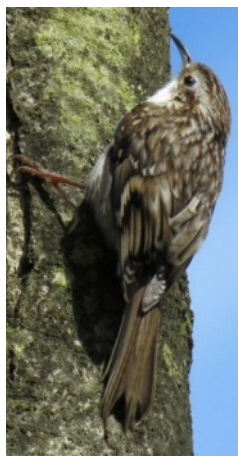
Where they do occur more commonly, they are frequent visitors to bird feeders



Another bird occupying a similar niche is the Tree creeper, smaller and less brightly coloured than the Nuthatch, they also search for insects in tree bark - but their habit is to **always go up the tree**.

They will fly down to the base and then work their way up the tree looking for food. Occurring locally wherever there are established trees – I have seen them in the recreation ground in Church Street on a few occasions- they are rather mouse like when scurrying up the tree.

Nick



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## Neighbourhood Watch 2021 AGM Report



**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 10.45am  
**Ref: Minutes of Eastry NHW Committee Meeting**  
**in “Infinitea” Cafe**

**It was not possible again to have a physical AGM this year so this is the 2021 AGM report**

**Present:** Chairman. Mrs S. Smith, **Vice Chairman.** Mr. S. Dundas. **Treasurer.** Mr. R. Bishop. **Secretary.** Mr. M. Kinns. **Minutes** of meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 were approved by the NHW committee

**Chairman’s Report:** Sheila Smith, thanked all Eastry NHW members for their continued interest and vigilance. We are grateful for the support of our KCC Community Warden, Peter Gill, and former PCSO, Richard Bradley. Our new PCSO is Sarah McGuinness. We understand the reasons for the low visual contact with these people, due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Until this year Eastry NHW had a Treasurer’s Trust account with the Nationwide Building Society. Due to widespread fraud charity accounts cannot be used at present. Our account closed in March 2021 and a total of £194.72 was transferred by a cheque to our Treasurer, Rob Bishop. He proposed that we could use some of this money to organise an Eastry NHW event to publicise the work of the organisation. He will retain the money until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and we can relaunch Eastry NHW.

**“Alert” NHW Reports:** Simon Dundas will put “Alert” messages on the most appropriate forum website so they are easily available to Eastry villagers.

**AOB:** Rob Bishop recommended using a plastic box to store parcels left outside a front door. This would help to prevent theft. Many people in the village do not know who is their local Eastry NHW member to contact if they have a query. Simon Dundas suggested that Eastry NHW members should be asked to provide their NAME and STREET, so they can help local residents. The meeting finished at 11.45 am.

### **WARNING - Do not burn treated wood!**

Do not burn treated wood. Determine if the wood is treated because it usually contains stains or dyes in different shades of green or brown. Today, CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate) treated wood is no longer sold in residential settings, however, it may still be available in older buildings or structures.

This type of wood should not be burned. In many places, burning treated wood is illegal because treated wood releases carcinogenic and toxic components to the air which can seriously annoy your neighbours!. These harmful substances can also affect the groundwater by ash leaching with dioxins and arsenic.

## Eastry C of E Primary School

Weird, wacky ,wonderful outfits were recently the order of the day for staff and children at Eastry Primary. The school council led a fundraiser which helped raise £111 in cash as well as a collection of 21 carrier bags full of vital supplies for Deal Foodbank. Thank you to everybody who supported this day and just to remind you, that we have a foodbank collection point in our reception area for any future donations.



### Do you have some time to spare each week?

Or do you have a friend or relative who might be looking to do some voluntary work? We are looking for volunteers to come in to our school to listen to our wonderful children read. This is a great opportunity to increase your skills, meet staff, help children with this vital part of their learning and gain an insight into the running of the school day. Support and training will be given to all volunteers, who will be subject to a DBS check before they start.

Please contact the school office or Mrs Inglis, Family Liaison Officer, on **01304 611360** for a chat and more details. We look forward to hearing from you.

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## **Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Rose Beer and thank you for 20 years of poems and stories for the EVN!**

Rose Beer has been writing poems since she was 11 years old at Secondary School. Having been given 50 lines for dipping the plaits of the girl in the desk in front of her in her inkwell she wrote them in her best handwriting. Her teacher was so impressed that she asked her to copy out Keats' poem "Meg Merrilies" to be submitted as a piece of school work for a local exhibition. Rose enjoyed this so much that she would forever after write snippets of poetry and has so far self published three books of her work.

Her husband Mick sent some of her work to Radio Kent and, for the next 8 years, Rose became the Resident Poet on the Pat Marsh Show. Then Donald Eldridge invited her to write a poem for the Eastry Church Magazine which was about Hilda Smith who worked in the Chemist for 100 years. Ever since she has been sending witty, humorous and topical poems and anecdotal stories, covering a vast range of subjects. Rose has no intention of hanging up her pen so there will be much more of her 'bringing up the rear' of this magazine. Thank you Rose for all your efforts.

## **Rose Beer - Such a troubled child!**

How on earth I have reached the age of 80 after having been such a troubled and strange child I just do not know! For example, about 10 years ago when I worked at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury, I got chatting with a man doing a few odd jobs there. He told me he was a Methodist minister and when he told me where I was astonished because, as a child, I lived for that Church. I told him I remembered a boy called Ron who was at the same Sunday School as me and said I felt sure he would become a Minister one day. Lo and Behold this Ron was his lay preacher and he put me in touch with him and we are regularly in contact with each other.

Last month I sent Ron a copy of my recently published little booklet because it was all about life in the fifties and had a picture of me, aged 10, on the cover. Ron phoned to thank me for the book and said the photo is exactly how he remembers me and said I was "a funny little girl" who would pester the teacher about having a story about Noah and his ark! Every few minutes my hand would go up to ask "are there any elephants Miss? And were there giraffes? And if there were only two of each what happened to rest of the animals?". He also said that when we were told that bats hang upside down I asked what happens when they go for a wee!

Now if that isn't enough for a couple of years I was in a Children's Home and every Friday we would have to queue up to be given a tablespoonful of 'Virol', a thick dark brown treacle like mixture that was apparently full of goodness. I loved it but the boy in front of me hated it so the nurse, who had a strong Irish accent, would say to him "Come on lad it'll put hairs on your chest!" Now as much as I loved it I was worried that, when it got into my tummy, it wouldn't know if I was a boy or a girl so I would check my chest for hairs for hours!



So yes I was a troubled child but I have reached the age of 80 with not a single hair on my chest - not that this is of any interest I am sure! God Bless to Ron, Noah and his ark and, of course, the poor bats.

*Rose Beer*

## Sweet Innocence

When I was a little girl of five or six or seven  
I used to think that babies were all made up in heaven.

But, as I grew a bit, I was told by my Mummy  
that she had got a baby growing in her tummy.

She said it started as a seed and was put there by my dad.  
Well 'that's never right' I thought she must be going mad!  
Everyone knew that seeds grew in the garden in flower pots and beds.  
Nah that's never right, she's going off her head!

Then after a little while she seemed to be growing a bump.  
It made her frock go up at the front. God! It was a lump.  
One day she told my dad to go and get the nurse.  
She said she'd got a lot of pains and they were getting worse.

When the nurse had been and gone Dad said 'Come and see what we have got'  
and there was a blooming baby lying in my old cot.  
Well, mum won't like that I thought not with that bump stuck in the way,  
but when she got out of bed, the lump had gone away!

*Rose Beer*

## Overgrown vegetation in Eastry

Eastry Parish Council are concerned that the village is very overgrown with vegetation at the moment. Richard our lovely Caretaker is off after an operation and it has made us all realise how much he does to keep the footpaths and roadways clear of vegetation, thank you Richard, we wish you a speedy recovery.

The Parish Councillors are disappointed that DDC and KCC are behind in maintaining the areas that they are responsible for, and we are writing to them to express this. The Clerk is reporting the overgrown areas using the various reporting tools, but this is the same method of communication available to everyone else. We urge parishioners to report overgrown footpaths to KCC by using the **'Report a problem on a right of way'** tool on the KCC website ([kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)) and overgrown areas that DDC are responsible for (such as the village Car Park next to the Vet practice, DDC housing areas, DDC garages, bank along Gore Lane) to Dover District Council ([dover.gov.uk](http://dover.gov.uk)), it is well hidden on the DDC website go to 'Parking and Streets', 'Report a problem', 'Parks and open spaces', Begin this form.

In the meantime the Parish Councilors have started to cut back the vegetation themselves, along the road in Church Street and the trees overhanging the Recreation Ground and are getting quotes to trim the trees in the Recreation ground and around the streetlights in the Gun Park. We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that if you have a hedge and it is on the boundary of a footpath or road, **it is your responsibility** to cut the outside that grows over the footpath or road.

**Jo Jones - Clerk to Eastry Parish Council**

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